

The so-called Arab spring, now in its sixth season, was a wave of popular uprising sparked by the self-immolation of street vendor Mohamed Bouazizi in the western Tunisian uplands. The movement then spread to Tunis where it toppled a dictator, and inspired series of protests in 17 Arab nations, nine of which are still ongoing. The Tunisian revolt was in many ways a tale of two revolutions, one born of the other, and both continuing, as evidenced by tensions in the south and the surprising anti-establishment outcome of the October election. The Libyan revolt was also a tale of two revolutions, one a pacific February 17 movement that won half the battle and engendered a crushing crackdown, the other an armed civilian backlash to regime ruthlessness, manned mainly by youth volunteers and supported by NATO bombing, the narrative of which has been largely lost in the fog of a war and war reporting.

The never-ending Algerian *protesta*, ramped up during the last year, has certainly gotten the attention of the regime, leading to an end of the 19-year-old state-of-emergency and a partial unraveling of 19-year-old narratives and justifications. The Moroccan February 20 movement is alive and well, having extracted political concessions from the monarchy including a new constitution and early elections, which produced the expected victory for the Islamist pro-monarchy PJD party; recently, slogans and actions of the movement, its ranks swelled by unemployed university graduates, have apparently taken a more revolutionary turn.

With strong participation by women, Amazigh activists, and Islamists of varying stripes, the 'Arab spring' protests have reinvigorated familiar debates over issues of national identity, debates with constitutional implications, which are then amplified in the Western media and academia. However on the ground, these heterogeneous, youthful, 'dignity revolutions' mix local, regional, and international content to seek to redefine economic, social, and international relations.