The Failed “Arab Transition”: What Went Wrong?
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Yemen's accession to Libya and Syria, after the control of the Houthis on the capital of Yemen Sanaa in 2014, was the latest chapter in the so called "Arab Spring", which turns into full autumn precisely four years after its beginning.

Why have most of the Arab Spring States, such as Egypt, Syria, Libya and Yemen, failed to accomplish the political transition towards democratic and liberal systems as compared to other regions in the world like Eastern Europe and Latin America? How has the democratization process in the Arab region failed? Why has the “Arab Spring” failed to achieve the much needed transition from military or authoritarian regimes into more responsive and multiparty systems? Most of the Arab Spring countries fall or end up in civil wars, and it is hard to predict when it will end. Do these countries return to the traps of military rule like Egypt or do they become failed states and fall into chaotic and full absence of public institutions like Syria, Yemen and Libya?

There are several reasons for this failure which do not stem from characteristics pertaining specifically to the Arab region, or from lack of similarity to other parts of the world. Instead, it stems entirely from the elements of the modern Arab state that ruled in those countries. It is because these countries never addressed the issue of sectarianism.

I will also address the role of regional organizations like the Arab League and consider reasons why they were unable to play the same role as the EU did during Eastern Europe’s transition.