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## **THE ARAB SPRING AND ITS CONSEQUENCES**

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### **Abstract**

This paper defines the Arab Spring, identifies the rationale and discusses the consequences of the Arab Spring. While a wave of socio-political and economic change seems to come in the Arab world, regime change (as in Egypt) could be obvious with adequate reforms such as new constitution or elections. How democracy would be established in the 'no democracy region' is a matter of concern. If democracy is introduced in the Arabian Peninsula without its true exercise, the Arab Spring could produce uncertainty, insecurity, civil war, human rights violations, terrorism and so on. The other concerns lie with the relations between the 'global war on terror' and the Arab Spring, and between Israel and the Arab Spring. The consequences of the Arab Spring also depend on internal dynamics. Whatever the responses from the global forces, the real fact regarding the consequences of the Arab Spring is that the West would play a vital role in the Arabian Peninsula. Therefore, it is too early to have a comprehensive consequence about the Arab Spring.

### **1. Introduction**

Protests in Tunisia and Egypt, civil war in Libya and continuous uprising in some other Arab states such as Yemen, Syria and Bahrain in 2011 and 2012 could be termed as the 'Arab Spring'.<sup>1</sup> The Arab Spring influences many to think why it is originated. Various literature on the Arab Spring simplify some assumptions that could be highlighted under three specific points: (i) public dissatisfaction to the then governments owing to various fundamental causes, (ii) public demand for democracy with a constitutional system as a common goal and (iii) public enthusiasm, irrespective of men and women, to participate in their socio-economic development processes.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Tareque Shamsur Rahman, "Arab Bishwer Rajnity Kon Pathe (In Which Way the Politics of the Arab World is)", *The Daily Ittefaq*, 20 June 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Shawon Shyla, "Post Arab Spring Realities", *The Daily Star*, 05 May 2012.

Some critics argue that the Arab Spring would not have significant impact for the Arabian Peninsula. Rather, some countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) are assumed to be included in the list of nearly-failed states.<sup>3</sup> The question is why do the critics think so? A set of literature provides some causes in line with the above mentioned thoughts. These are intentions of the heads of states to contain power for long, conflict between religion and democracy, lack of democratic culture and media, torture, deprivation, mutilations and so on. Another set of literature states that the atrocities are the sign of the then autocracy or continual oligarchy, not just incidental mistakes.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, international community is now aware of the consequence of the Arab Spring. They are keen to observe whether any ambiguity manipulates the demands of the Arab Spring or not.

Why is the Arab Spring? What are the consequences of the Arab Spring? How do the West and the United States respond to the Arab Spring? Is there any relation between the Arab spring and the ‘global war on terror’? Is there any link between Israel and the Arab Spring? This paper makes an endeavour to address the questions. In doing so, this paper reviews secondary literature such as books, journals, electronic journals, working papers, conference papers, different websites, etc. A limitation of this paper is to draw a conclusion on the Arab Spring and its consequences because of regular and rapidly changing information about the topic and that leads to portray a new scenario of the Arab Spring in future. Therefore, this paper limits incorporating information by 30 June 2012.

The structure of this paper is as follows. Section one is introduction of this paper. Section two describes the causes of the Arab Spring. Section three illustrates the consequences of the Arab Spring. Section four discusses the responses of the West and the US to the Arab Spring. Section five looks at the links between the Arab Spring and the ‘global war on terror’. Section six concentrates on the relations between Israel and the Arab Spring. Section seven concludes the paper.

## 2. The Causes of the Arab Spring

The causes of uprising in the Arab world vary from country to country. The variation was not only based on social goals but politico-economy oriented factors also. Each revolution had its own pace in each country with specific demand. The unrest in Egypt and Tunisia became public very fast though the regimes of both the countries took cautious attempts with their alliances and institutional power. However, the divergent views between the alliances and the institutional power and in particular, the young people’s continuous protest and

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<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> F. Gregory Gause III, “Why Middle East Studies Missed the Arab Spring The Myth of Authoritarian Stability”, *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 90, No. 4, July/August 2011, pp. 81-90.

discontent towards the regimes defeated the undemocratic forces ruled for many years in Egypt and Tunisia. On the other hand, politically or historically in some countries where ethnic, sectarian, regional or ideological collaborations have continued, the downfall of prevailing regimes meant an end to their supporting institution's gains. This kind of situation led to an elongated crisis and an increase of disagreement, uprising, actions and reactions to a level that brought each party under a line and enforced them in allowing concessions and cooperation, as in Yemen.<sup>5</sup>

In case of Syria, it seemed that both existing regime and their oppositions focused on continuing revolution. As a matter of fact, it is to be prolonged for achieving individual objectives and existence. Even the international power houses are now in divergent views on whether existing regime should continue or the disputes between the two contradictory forces should be settled. In this regard, the United Nations initiatives also failed. Therefore, Syria is in crisis. However, if the global responses in particular the super power and the emerging powers are in a same tone, it could give a better scenario for Syria.<sup>6</sup> On the other hand, the situation in Libya could be underscored as a fusion of Egypt and Syria. The uprising in Libya against the Gaddafi regime was a consequence of the aggressive expression of the general mass and the Islamist ideologies.

The West claims that the Arab Spring is not the result of policy decisions taken by them; rather, it is because of indigenous politico-economic and social factors of the Arab world. By contrast, some argue that the Arab revolts are because of strategic and commercial interests of the power houses to remove the old and unreliable dictators, containing oil reserves for some decades.<sup>7</sup> However, popular views are that the MENA for long is puzzled with the authoritarian regimes of various kinds such as monarchies, dictatorships, religious posture republics, etc. Likely proto-democracies in some cases are ousted and substituted by the dictators.<sup>8</sup> Any potential for alternative voices is assumed as political violence.<sup>9</sup> Therefore, the divergent grievances and dynamics<sup>10</sup> along with the responses from the United States and its allies make the Arab revolts complicated.

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<sup>5</sup>Abdullah Omar, "Features and Consequences of the Arab Spring", 23 April 2012, available at <http://english.dohainstitute.org/Home/Details/5ea4b31b-155d-4a9f-8f4d-a5b428135cd5/1d8abf07-c22d-4d0e-8bf4-243bf567ce6b>, accessed on 27 May 2012.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> F. Gregory Gause III, *op. cit.*

<sup>8</sup> Paul Rivlin, "Behind the Tensions in Syria: The Socio-Economic Dimension", available at <http://global-security-news.com/2011/07/15/behind-the-tensions-in-syria-the-socio-economic-dimension/>, accessed on 20 September 2011.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> Lisa Anderson, "Demystifying the Arab Spring Parsing the Differences Between Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya", *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 90, No. 3, May/June 2011, pp. 2-7.

### 3. The Consequences of the Arab Spring

In the Arabian Peninsula, Islamism or the Islamists are well-known to all. However, the Arab Spring has given the notions a new posture.<sup>11</sup> The people, in particular the youth, have been a strong force for the region. Even though some critics argue that the actual goal of the Arab Spring (i.e. establishing the rule of law in the Arab world) would not be so easy. The Libyan case could be an example of that argument. The dispute between the Gaddafi groups and the existing regime in Libya is a challenge to have a democratic orientation with efficient management of the country. In other case, massive anti-regime demonstrations along with killing of civilians by the Syrian government forces have questioned the Arab Spring. Therefore, some states in the region have recently advanced from proto-democracies to nearly-failed ones with continuous undemocratic practices.<sup>12</sup> In fact, stability in the Arabian Peninsula would depend on how the states such as Turkey, Syria, Libya or Egypt respond to their public sentiments in the days to come.

For the positivists, it seems that the era of family rule with endemic corruption, clinging on to power without any accountability, blatant violation of civil rights, subjugation of judiciary and a captive media is coming to an end in the Middle East (ME). That is, the Arab Spring appears to render a new wave of change, leaving the long-run authoritarian regimes aside and reinvigorating the democratic aspiration of the general mass forefront.<sup>13</sup> For the realists, by contrast, there are so many hegemonies, overall as well as issue-based.

The realists argue that some countries which observed inconsistency in their national politics since 2011 would not have a quick democratic wave. Also, they would not have transparent government, secure environment for their populace and a situation which may provide with adequate work or sources of earnings for self-improvement as well as national progress. Democratisation could address the issues in the Arab world well, though inadequate exercise of the democratic aspects is a common problem to the region. As a result, the Arab Spring could produce short-lived governments, conflicts among the social and political entities, disputes among diverse racial groups, severe economic crisis with stagflation and so many other problems that may segregate the state. Even after that, some critics argue that there will be elections and a less charismatic leader (such as in Egypt) but it would offer immense divergence on national and regional politics.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Shawon Shyla, *op. cit.*

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> Tareque Shamsur Rahman, 20 June 2011, *op. cit.*

<sup>14</sup> Anthony H. Cordesman, "Next Step in Libya (Egypt, Tunisia, and Other States with New Regimes)", available at <http://csis.org/publication/next-steps-libya-egypt-tunisia-and-other-states-new-regimes>, accessed on 22 August 2011.

The reformists argue that the Arab Spring could give rise to inconsistent reforms in economic aspects, some degree of developments in government system, fresh challenges with civil-military relations and public demands. These factors could remind the spark of the Arab Spring again and then there might be a new unrest between the public and the new administration. For some states, there could be a new regime with traditional repression and suppression, waiting for a charismatic leader.<sup>15</sup> On the other hand, establishing fundamental human rights for the mass people and reaching their economic demands in the Arab world could take several years or some decades.

Not only the overall consequences but also the issue-based outcomes of the Arab Spring seem to be controversial. The issue of democracy could be taken first. Tribalism or oligarchy is an issue of concern in the Arab world.<sup>16</sup> State power for long has there usually been confined by individual community. Direct and indirect presence of military, family rule, monarchy or Sultanistic regime – all are very common scenario in the Arab world. Besides, retaining friendly dictators (e.g. in Bahrain, Jordan and Saudi Arabia) and ousting unfriendly ones (e.g. in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Syria) by the wave of the Arab Spring have been frequent in the MENA. But the uncommon factors are: regular election for changing government through voting, criticising government decision, freedom of press, strong voices from democratic parties, capital-based economy, etc. All these hegemonies trigger a question whether absolute democratisation in the MENA is too early to expect without having any form of democratic practice, structure or institution. The existence of other forces could then be more visible.

The early wave of the Arab Spring was on Tunisia and then on Egypt. Still, the military within the previous government structure is found the prime decision-making authority in the two countries.<sup>17</sup> In Egypt, initiatives have already been taken to make a constitution. Some observers are in doubt about the role of military in making the constitution. The provisional military administration that exercised power in the recent past wanted their representation secured in the new constitution. Now the fact is how the constitution-making committee, at the end, deals with the pressure. On the other hand, the role of Bashar al-Assad in Syria and that of armed forces in Yemen instigate some critics to re-think and re-examine the role of military in the Arab politics.

The Arab Spring has already taken the dictatorial regimes away from power in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia. The uprising has also given a message to the authority of Syria and Yemen. If the countries can adopt practicing democratic norms and form democratic governments, representation from the Muslim

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<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>16</sup> Tareque Shamsur Rahman, 20 June 2011, *op. cit.*

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

brotherhood will be adequate, as is now in Egypt.<sup>18</sup> Likewise, if traditional politics in the Arab world is exposed to a significant extent, the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and like-minded Islamist groups in Tunisia will have a chance to enter the ruling alliance or coalition regime.<sup>19</sup> It is perceived that the Islamist groups are in active protests against President Ali Abdullah Saleh. All these may substantiate that during the euphoria of the democratic transition, the Islamist organisations might flourish and the Muslim Brotherhood would set the parameters of a new political system in the Arab world.<sup>20</sup>

The Muslim Brotherhood, known as the typical Islamist organisation in the Arab world, at its core has powerful and practical trends. Whenever endurance of the Muslim Brotherhood is in dilemma, it could manipulate its ideological directions.<sup>21</sup> This may lead the Muslim Brotherhood to support any unexpected alternatives. There is a doubt that democracy could make the ME unstable. To guide the new and rapidly evolving region in a favourable direction, there would be no charismatic leader for long. Until or unless the leadership vacuum will be resolved, the region will have to lose much toll for that. By the time, the opportunistic forces will be gainer, which is observed in Iraq. It raises a question whether Libya is likely to be Iraq or not?<sup>22</sup>

Frank Gardner, a BBC Security Correspondent, asserts that the problem in Yemen and possibly other Arab countries is that the transition process could lead to instability.<sup>23</sup> The existence of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the ongoing and elongated civil war, initiatives by a provisional administration to make a constitution immediately and to have national election within less than two years, have given rise to social insecurity for the Libyans. The situation in Syria is getting worse; civil war has caused thousands of deaths and millions of refugees. Therefore, humanitarian issues in the Arab world are now in great concern.

Uprising in the Arab world could give rise to some new synergies. The prolonged crisis between Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) might be

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<sup>18</sup> Shadi Hamid, "The Rise of the Islamists How Islamists Will Change Politics, and Vice Versa", *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 90, No. 3, May/June 2011, pp. 40-47.

<sup>19</sup> Dina Shehata, "The Fall of the Pharaoh How Hosni Mubarak's Reign Came to an End", *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 90, No. 3, May/June 2011, pp. 26-32; Tareque Shamsur Rahman, 20 June 2011, *op. cit.*

<sup>20</sup> Tareque Shamsur Rahman, *ibid*; Tareque Shamsur Rahman, "Libyar Adau Samjhata Habe Ki (Whether Any Way Out at All for Libya)", *The Daily Ittefaq*, 12 April 2011; Shadi Hamid, *op. cit.*

<sup>21</sup> Shadi Hamid, *ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> Tareque Shamsur Rahman, 20 June 2011, *op. cit.*

<sup>23</sup> Frank Gardner, "Is the Arab Spring Good or Bad for Terrorism", available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-13878774>, accessed on 22 June 2011.

in the forefront. On the other hand, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Turkey could look for local allies as an endeavour to secure their concerns and meet the challenges. With inadequate law and order situation, some areas in the MENA could be a hub of terrorism, fundamentalism and extremism. The threats in North Africa could be severe and there should be considerable efforts to address the threats.

Another assumption by several critics is that the groups with direct lenience to Islamism could oust the parties aligned with the traditional international power houses, owing to their various socio-economic breakdowns. However, a different situation may also occur. In this aspect, the positivists might argue that the crises originated from the Arab Spring would not be so prolonged and there would be a beginning of ending autocracy in the Arab region. It is in fact too early to have a comprehensive consequence about the Arab Spring. At least general considerations and issues raised aforesaid demonstrate that the future of the Arab world would depend on its internal dynamics. At present, how the Arab politics would develop requires realistic assessment of the triangle – the US involvement, the European response and the wave of Arab Spring.

#### **4. The European Response to and the US Involvement with the Arab Spring**

A recent concern for the Western world is to significantly respond to the beginning of transition originated from the Arab Spring in the MENA. No doubt, the Arab Spring has given a chance to Europe to be associated with the transition. The major demand of Europe in the region is to see the Arab world enthusiastic to democracy as well as politically and economically stable. The European Union (EU) responded earlier to any crisis in the MENA proactively as well as reactively. This time, the EU has been vocal and also innovative to the issue of the Arab Spring, providing a message that it respects the values of the unrests successively occurred in the region. Therefore, the EU would be keen to the emerging process of transition, either for democracy or a new government instead of existing regimes in the Arabian Peninsula.

By contrast, the response from the United States to the Arab Spring seemed to be country specific and a bit confusing. The democratic forces while came up in Egypt and Tunisia, the US response was obvious only when the consequence became irretrievable. On the other hand, the US response for Bahrain and Libya was mixed and now for Syria is ambiguous. The super power seems to lose its initial strategic goals: having more weight in the region and moving regional solidarity forward. The US strategy to become a facilitator to the most important crises in the MENA is now blended with addressing internal threats to have regional stability.

However, several public speeches and announcements, diplomatic responses as well as comments from the US President Barack Obama and his state representatives in a number of places in different times throughout the year 2011

authenticate that the United States is fully aware of the Arab Spring and it will be watchful to the issue of human rights and democracy across the Arab world. For the United States, democracy in the ME has always been a hard choice to make. Since the politico-economic geography of the ME has global significance, it will be unlikely that the United States will not keep its eyes on the region, though its diplomacy is now more focused on the Asia-Pacific region.

The important aspects of the uprising in the Arab world embrace applying an interesting technique of regime-change-game as well as observing how the outcome of the Arab Spring is gripped by the United States. Some critics argue that the US has not only fuelled the Arab unrest but at the same time also facilitated the demise of its unfriendly autocrats or unruly regimes in the Arabian Peninsula.<sup>24</sup> The US attitude to the Arab Spring is however mixed; in favour of retaining existing regimes of the KSA, Jordan and Bahrain but extremely antagonistic to overthrow Gaddafi regime and strongly upset the Assad rule.

The United States and its allies have played dual role to the Arab uprising. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the NATO were used to implement their own agenda. One may be confused to find the reasons as to why the NATO is not being used for Bahrain but for Libya. In Bahrain, the existing regime was harsh to the unrest, although the protesters specified their demand – a change towards democracy. It is worth mentioning that the case of Bahrain was so severe that the KSA was permitted to assist the Bahrain government in order to control the unrest. The West in general may consider that the Libyan ex-leader was one of the odious personalities and also odd administrators in the Arab world.<sup>25</sup> In line with this view, there is no rationale that one should support his regime.<sup>26</sup> The fact that has stunned the world is the double standard of the West and its allies to deal with the unrest-oriented concerns.

Some critics link the Libyan issue with oil and give explanation in this regard.<sup>27</sup> They argue that the Western energy companies ran towards Libya when the interim government just came into power and it was owing to oil. On the other hand, they criticise the controversial role of the UNSC. Also, they argue that the UNSC may have a different look to the international crisis like the Arab Spring.<sup>28</sup> Therefore, the Council needs to be more efficient to address the issue of the Arab Spring in the Arabian Peninsula.

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<sup>24</sup> Tareque Shamsur Rahman, 20 June 2011, *op. cit.* Abdullah Omar, *op. cit.*

<sup>25</sup> Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, “Arab Spring, Libyan War and Exporting Democracy”, *The Daily Star*, 17 September 2011

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> Tareque Shamsur Rahman, 20 June 2011, *op. cit.*, Abdullah Omar, *op. cit.*; Frank Gardner, 22 June 2011, *op. cit.*

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*



It would not be very erroneous if some scholars<sup>29</sup> assume that the US involvement in the Arab spring is predefined in the name of ‘new regime change game’. Others may disagree with the fact, though one of the findings of Michael Scott Doran<sup>30</sup> clearly indicates the fundamental interest of the US in the Arab world – promoting democratic reform in a way that bolsters the US-led order in the region. The evidence may corroborate that the US involvement to the Arab world will be available as long as their strategic interests are secured. Michael Scott Doran in his write up also discloses some of the key strategic interests: protecting key allies especially Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia as well as countering terrorism and political violence.

### 5. The Relations between the Arab Spring and the ‘Global War on Terror’

After the fall of Tunisian and Egyptian governments, al Qaeda did not raise its voice strongly, while the US high officials seemed to link the revolt and al Qaeda’s muffled reaction as triumphs in the move against terrorism. On 27 February 2011, Senator John McCain in his speech in Egypt argued the revolt as a refutation of al Qaeda.<sup>31</sup> There is thus an attempt to link the Arab Spring and al Qaeda, a sign of the notion - ‘global war on terror’.

Frank Gardner<sup>32</sup> states that the crisis in the Arabian Peninsula could give rise to political vacuum, render a chance for the terrorists in particular for al Qaeda to increase its weight and strengthen its existence in the region. On the other hand, Daniel Byman<sup>33</sup> supports the remarks and asserts that the existing Syrian head of state and al Qaeda both in the Arab world are unfriendly to the demonstrators demanding a democratic change in the region and there would be no contradiction between the two.

Frank Gardner again argues that Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), al-Qaeda’s influence in Sahara and the southern part of Algeria, is very keen to have a chance from the Libyan unrest.<sup>34</sup> The comment is substantiated by the assumption of Tareque Shamsur Rahman that “Gaddafi has already unlocked his stock of arms and ammunitions. It is assumed that two Islamic terrorist groups linked with al Qaeda, *Al jamaa al Muqatilah bi Libya* and *Libya Islamic fighting*

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<sup>29</sup> Tareque Shamsur Rahman, “Arab Bishwer Ganatantra (Arab World’s Democracy)”, *The Daily Ittefaq*, 30 May 2011; Ilan Berman, “How to Help Sink Assad’s Syria”, available at [http://www.afpc.org/publication\\_listings/viewArticle/1246](http://www.afpc.org/publication_listings/viewArticle/1246), accessed on 19 August 2011.

<sup>30</sup> Michael Scott Doran, “The Heirs of Nasser Who Will Benefit From the Second Arab Revolution”, *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 90, No. 3, May/June 2011, pp. 17-25.

<sup>31</sup> Daniel Byman, “Terrorism After the Revolutions How Secular Uprisings Could Help (or Hurt) Jihadists”, *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 90, No. 3, May/June 2011, pp. 48-54.

<sup>32</sup> Frank Gardner, 22 June 2011, *op. cit.*

<sup>33</sup> Daniel Byman, *op. cit.*

<sup>34</sup> Frank Gardner, 22 June 2011, *op. cit.*

*group (LIFG)*, have owned the stock. Essential to mention that the *LIFG* was identified by the UNSC in 1999 as an organisation that has link with al Qaeda. If they truly owe the stock of arms and ammunitions, there will be serious panic for the ME”<sup>35</sup>.

The evidence reveals that al Qaeda and its allies, who were once away from the uprising, might take a chance to associate them with the post-Arab Spring era. They might find out some pockets to take advantage from further turmoil in the years to come. Therefore, any relation between the Arab Spring and the ‘global war on terror’ remains to be observed in future. Another critical sentiment is now to be examined: whether there is any relation between Israel and the Arab Spring or not?

## 6. The Relations between Israel and the Arab Spring

There is an argument that Israel is going to lose the great support of its two traditional allies, Egypt and Turkey.<sup>36</sup> Is it the outcome of the Arab Spring? The Arab Spring has ousted the ex-Egyptian ruler and now Mursi, the new leader from the Muslim Brotherhood, is expected to be friendly with the public sentiment. Some months ago, public sentiments against the Israelis were so aggressive that the Ambassador of Israel and his staffs had to flee from Egypt. Being very young in his tenure, how his government would bargain with Israel is yet to be assessed. On the other hand, in 2011, Turkish leader Erdogan in a speech in Egypt pronounced that “supporting the Palestinian request for statehood was an obligation and that the Palestinian flag must fly high at the United Nations”<sup>37</sup>. Besides, Jordan, another Israeli ally, also openly expressed its support to the Palestinians and agreed with Erdogan’s statement.<sup>38</sup> At the same time, the international community was in an uncomfortable state at the UN owing to the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’s official demand for the statehood to the UNSC and the General Assembly.

The relations between the Arab Spring and Israel could render another outcome. Since, some of the Egyptian and Jordanian Muslim Brotherhoods made a statement that they would value their state’s peace agreements with Israel.<sup>39</sup> Others, by contrast, have strongly denied the statement. However, with the rise of Muslim Brotherhood in power, it is assumed that moderation appears to succeed and Camp David Peace Agreement between Israel and Egypt signed in 1979 would have its belated recognition.

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<sup>35</sup> Tareque Shamsur Rahman, 20 June 2011, *op. cit.*

<sup>36</sup> Martin Khor, “Palestinian Quest Goes to UN”, *The Daily Star*, 20 September, 2011.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>38</sup> Shamima Nasreen, “Israel in the Changing Geopolitical Situation”, *The Daily Star*, 24 September 2011.

<sup>39</sup> Shadi Hamid, *op. cit.*

## **7. Conclusion**

This paper describes various aspects of the Arab Spring, in particular the rationale and the consequence of the issue. The important causes of the Arab Spring are: some decades of repression by the dictators, lack of harmony between and among the different groups of people for their individual demands, elongated socio-political impact of autocracy or oligarchy and lack of consistent negotiation between the then regimes and the international power houses, in particular the US and its allies. Whatever the responses from the global forces, the real fact regarding the consequence of the Arab Spring is that the West would play a vital role to have their benefits. On the other hand, a wave of socio-political and economic change seems to come in the Arab world.

The consequences of the Arab Spring are yet to be exposed but regime change (as in Egypt) could be obvious with adequate reforms such as new constitution or elections. If democracy is introduced in the Arabian Peninsula without its true exercise, the Arab Spring could produce uncertainty, insecurity, civil war, human rights violations, terrorism and so on.

Not only the general mass but the international community also is in high aspiration that there would be a beginning of democracy in the Arab region. But how the democracy would be established in the 'no democracy region' is a matter of concern. The other concerns lie with the relations between the 'global war on terror' and the Arab Spring and between Israel and the Arab Spring. Whether al Qaeda would find something from the Arab Spring to make a new game and whether the Muslim Brotherhood or the Islamists would compromise or rationalise their demands with Israel and its lobby would be the important aspects to be observed in the near future. Therefore, time will be the real defining factor to see how the Arab Spring evolves in the Arabian Peninsula and how the region gains knowledge from the event.