

Call for Papers for a special issue of the *Review of Radical Political Economics* on the political economy of the Arab Spring

In December of 2010, an unemployed street vendor, Mohammed Bouaziz, in a small town in Tunisia set his body ablaze in protest of abuse and harassment by municipal officers, which sparked the so-called Arab Spring of revolutions in 2011. Since then the revolutions have spread from Tunisia to Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Syria, and Jordan and continue to inspire and mobilize movements and peoples both inside and outside the region. However, while the current revolutions sweeping through the Middle East and North Africa have generally been portrayed as revolts against authoritarianism, there has been limited research on the economic roots of these revolts. In particular, given that media coverage and academic studies have underplayed the role of economic policies in setting the stage for the uprisings, it is time to re-introduce political economy to analyze the causes and effects of these revolutions, both regionally and globally.

We invite submissions that address *political economy* aspects of the Arab Spring such as:

What caused the revolutions? In particular, what roles were played by neoliberal economic reforms? The demise of welfare states and central planning? The decline of particular social structures of accumulation? Youth unemployment? The labor movement, the women's movement, and Islamic movements? The Israeli-Palestinian conflict in general, or the example, in particular, of past Intifadas?

In turn, what were the causes of each of these? For example, what caused the decline of the welfare state and central planning? To what extent were neoliberal reforms part of a general drive toward "modernization" motivated by an Orientalist view of Arab countries as intrinsically backward?

What were the political economy dynamics between the autocrats, the business elites, the secular middle class, and the working class in the region?

Why did revolutions happen in some countries and not others? In countries where protests did not lead to regime change, or only limited protests took place, why was this so? For example, what role did the Gulf Cooperation Council play in insulating countries from the spread of the uprisings?

What have been the effects of the revolutions? For example, have they imposed new roles of the game upon the World Bank, the IMF, and the EU in their interactions with the countries of the region?

How have economic policies changed since the revolutions, and what policies should be followed now?

Submissions are due by October 31, 2012, and must follow the Instructions to Contributors available in each issue of the *RRPE*, on the *RRPE* section of the *URPE* website, or at <http://www.sagepub.com/journals/Journal201656#tabview=manuscriptSubmission>, or from the Managing Editor. All submissions are subject to the usual review procedures and they should not be under review with any other publication. Send an electronic version in Word (.doc) to Hazel Dayton Gunn, Managing Editor, *Review of Radical Political Economics*, hg18@cornell.edu.