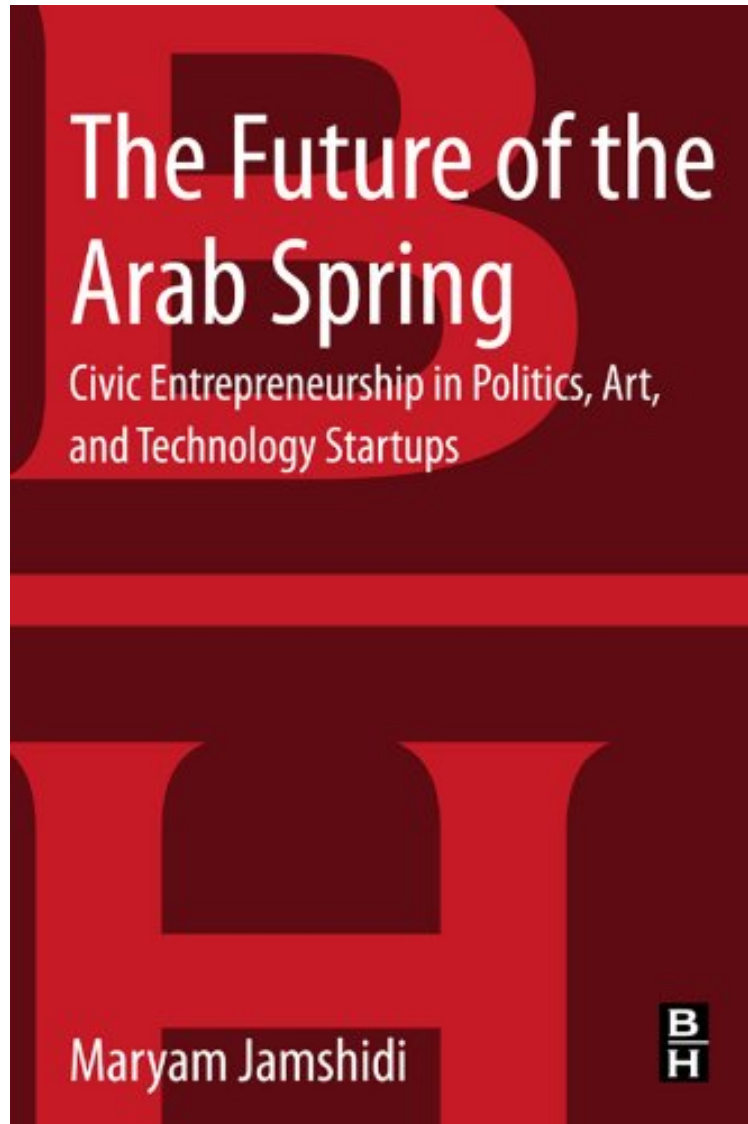


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# The Future of the Arab Spring: Civic Entrepreneurship in Politics, Art, and Technology Startups

Maryam Jamshidi

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**Maryam Jamshidi : The Future of the Arab Spring: Civic Entrepreneurship in Politics, Art, and Technology Startups** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Future of the Arab Spring: Civic Entrepreneurship in Politics, Art, and Technology Startups:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. WOW - An extremely well-written and engaging read By Julia CA friend recommended that I read this book and what a fascinating read it has been. This is the first book I've been able to find that is devoted exclusively to understanding the transformations happening at the grassroots level in Arab

Spring countries. I wish pundits, commentators, and politicians who all focus exclusively on political and economic developments in the region would explore this more hopeful side of the Arab Spring. This is shaping people's behaviors, hopes, and dreams in ways that are as important as the outcomes of parliamentary elections. I especially loved the thirty first-hand interviews with various civic entrepreneurs. Their work is truly inspiring and plays a critical role at this historical junction in the region. Jamshidi shares their stories beautifully, examining their grassroots initiatives across the political spheres, the artistic and cultural sectors, and the region's rising tech start-up scene. The book is very engaging and easy to read. I hope we see more literature like this on the subject that invites the experts as well as the masses in the discussion. I'd also love to follow the work of these pioneers over the next few years. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Captivating and original By SNNI finished this book in a day--just couldn't put it down! "The Future of the Arab Spring" is a rich resource for understanding the Arab Spring through the lens of the grassroots actors who have been at the heart of the region's transformation. Maryam Jamshidi's original and thoughtful analysis is well-written and captivating. The chapters are bite-sized and bursting with stories, characters, and creative struggles. In similar spirit to the forward-thinking entrepreneurs interviewed in the book who are pioneering original and inclusive approaches to social justice, Ms. Jamshidi offers a new framework for understanding the Arab Spring--one that looks beyond traditional political and economic indicators that, standing alone, fail to properly account for the hopes, challenges, and opportunities facing the Middle East. In doing so, she captures the region's reverberating pulse. In fact, the best part of the book is that it introduces readers to dozens of individuals and groups who are using the arts, social media, civic mobilization, and technology to fight for social and political change in their respective societies. As someone who has been in Cairo's Tahrir Square during protests, I was particularly drawn into the work of OpAntiSH (Operation Anti-Sexual Harassment), a volunteer group that provides physical protective to women during protests in Tahrir. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Invaluable Resource Highlights Civic Entrepreneurship in the Middle East and North Africa By Ayat S. Mneina Maryam Jamshidi's Future of the Arab Spring seeks to give readers an overview of a phenomenon hallmark of the Arab Spring; civic entrepreneurship. These grassroots efforts are the cornerstone of the nascent democratic nations in which they reside, and it is these grassroots efforts that will help safeguard the direction of these transitions moving forward. Miss Jamshidi has picked up on a distinct paradigm shift in the region in which the masses feel empowered to develop and craft elements they wish to see flourish in their societies. Performing a study of these local and regional efforts--an exhaustive feat in its own right--has really garnered a comprehensive look into what has emerged in these transitioning nations at the very core. While many studies and texts often look at the region as a product of its elite power dynamics, few lend a voice to what communities are doing to realize their potential. The Future of the Arab Spring is brimming with the innovation, passion, and creativity that not only fuelled the Arab Spring but continues to take it forward. It refuses to adopt the traditional dismissive tone that other scholars have adopted which gloss over this subset of society, a predominantly young demographic across the region. This book is an invaluable resource to academics, experts, and enthusiasts in the region. It has successfully captured the essence of what will truly shape the years to come, a landscape once barren has begun to blossom. I personally use this text as a resource and have recommended it to family, friends, and scholars on the region. A well-written and researched testament to an ever-growing force across MENA!

Civic entrepreneurship lies at the heart of the Arab Spring. From the iconic image of an occupied Tahrir Square to scenes of dancing protesters in Syria and politically conscious hip hop in Tunisia, people across the Middle East and North Africa continue to collaborate and experiment their way out of years of dictatorship and political stagnation. The Future of the Arab Spring examines the spirit of civic entrepreneurship that brought once untouchable dictators to their knees and continues to shape the region's political, artistic, and technology sectors. Through interviews with some of the region's leading civic entrepreneurs, including political activists, artists, and technologists, Maryam Jamshidi broadens popular understandings of recent events in this misunderstood region of the world. Features first-hand interviews with some of the most important political, cultural, and economic players on the ground in Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia, and other Arab Spring countries Offers a window into a region often misunderstood in the United States Illuminates the potential for positive, grassroots change in the social, political, and economic systems of Arab countries

"Here, [Jamshidi] profiles some of the 'most inspirings'; new civic entrepreneurial groups, focusing her discussion on groups in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, and Syria, and basing her profiles primarily on first-hand interviews with members of the groups. She has organized the material into three sections: civic entrepreneurship in politics and society, civic entrepreneurship in art and culture, and civic entrepreneurship in technology startups." --Reference Research Book News, December 2013 "Contrary to the media reports, the Arab revolutions have not failed, and this book demonstrates why. By focusing on the grassroots, Maryam Jamshidi illustrates how countless organizations are keeping the Arab Spring alive. Her book is a must read for anyone interested in understanding the reasons to be hopeful about the future of this troubled region." --Reza Aslan, author of

No god but God and Zealot "A fascinating and forward-looking book that stresses the positive aspects of the Arab Spring, emphasizing the extraordinary mobilization and cooperative effort of the youth as the instigators of the revolutions and their continuous participation in a movement of civic entrepreneurship that is expanding rather than contracting in the post-revolution period." --Haleh Esfandiari, Director of the Middle East Program, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

About the Author Maryam Jamshidi is the founder of Muftah.org, a digital magazine focusing on domestic and international issues confronting countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Maryam received a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Brown University, a Master's degree in Political Theory from the London School of Economics, and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Specializing in the legal issues pertaining to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, domestic Iranian politics, and international criminal law and transitional justice as they relate to the region, she recently completed five months of travel in the areas affected by the Arab Spring.