The Arab Experience of Democracy: Between Absolutism and Imperialism

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4:30 p.m.

Sam Noble Oklahoma
Museum of Natural History’s Kerr Auditorium

Democracy activists are more engaged today than at any point in modern Middle Eastern history – in Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, and most dramatically in Iran. They face tremendous opposition – from the authoritarian rulers they wish to displace, from religious authorities who deem democracy anti-Islamic, and from the apathy of masses fearful of the risks of taking on the state. The prospects for democracy in the region are still constrained by the struggle between absolutism and imperialism.

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