

What Arab Publics Think

Findings from the Fifth Wave of Arab Barometer

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About Arab Barometer

- ▶ Arab Barometer is a nonpartisan research network that provides insight into the social, political, and economic attitudes and values of ordinary citizens across the Arab world
- ▶ Arab Barometer goals
 1. Track attitudes & behavior
 2. Build institutional capacity
 3. Disseminate knowledge about ordinary citizens living in MENA

About the surveys

- ▶ More than 70,000 face-to-face interviews to date
- ▶ 48 nationally representative surveys conducted in respondent's place of residence using area probability sampling
- ▶ Five waves across 14 countries
 - ▶ Wave 1 (2006-7) in 7 countries
 - ▶ Wave 2 (2010-11) in 10 countries
 - ▶ Wave 3 (2012-14) in 12 countries
 - ▶ Wave 4 (2016-17) in 7 countries
 - ▶ Wave 5 (2018-19) in 12 countries
 - ▶ Wave 6 to be fielded in 2020
- ▶ Data are publicly available for download and analysis at arabbarometer.org

Surveys by wave

Country	2006-9	2010-1	2012-4	2016-7	2018-9
Algeria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bahrain	✓				
Egypt		✓	✓	✓	✓
Iraq		✓	✓		✓
Jordan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kuwait			✓		✓
Lebanon	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Libya			✓		✓
Morocco	✓		✓	✓	✓
Palestine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Saudi Arabia		✓			
Sudan		✓	✓		✓
Tunisia		✓	✓	✓	✓
Yemen	✓	✓	✓		✓

Question Areas

- ▶ Economic issues & personal well-being
- ▶ Evaluation of political institutions & political attitudes
- ▶ Engagement in politics
- ▶ Traditional & new media
- ▶ Governance
- ▶ Culture & religion
- ▶ International relations
- ▶ Current affairs
- ▶ Special topics
- ▶ Demographics

Key findings wave 5

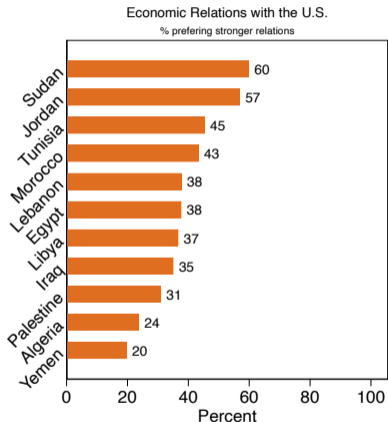
- ▶ Half of Arabs want better ties with China while roughly four-in-ten want stronger relations with the U.S & Russia.
- ▶ Many want an increase in foreign aid, but are largely indifferent to whether it comes from the E.U. or other countries.
- ▶ Few favor Iran while Saudi favorability has declined since 2016, leaving Turkey as the most popular regional power.
- ▶ Trust in government, parliament, & civil society are low and have fallen since the Arab uprisings.
- ▶ Corruption is viewed as endemic across the region.

Key findings wave 5

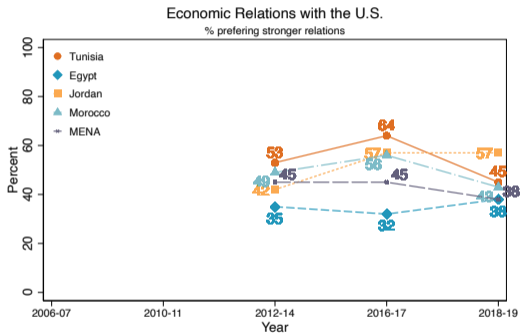
- ▶ Perceptions of the degree to which basic freedoms are guaranteed has dropped precipitously over the last five years.
- ▶ After a decade-long decline, the desire to emigrate is now increasing.
- ▶ Support for democracy remains high, but relatively few Arab publics understand democracy in primarily procedural terms.
- ▶ Citizens across MENA largely affirm that women should have equal *rights* to men, but question if they should play equal *roles* in society.

International Relations

Declining support for relations with the U.S. since 2016

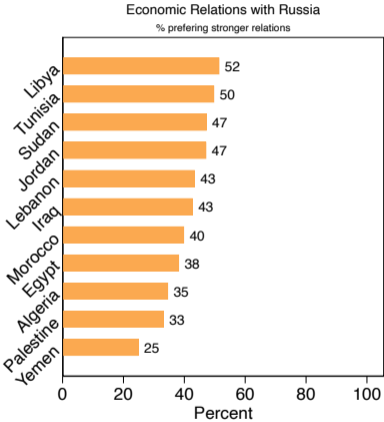


Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

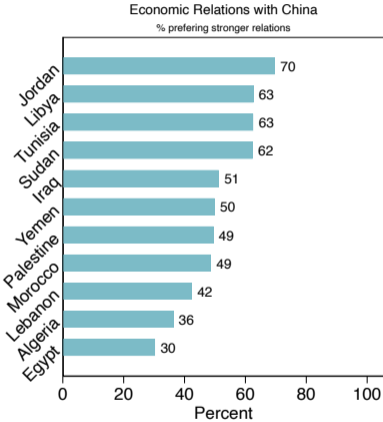


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Support for relations with Russia & China

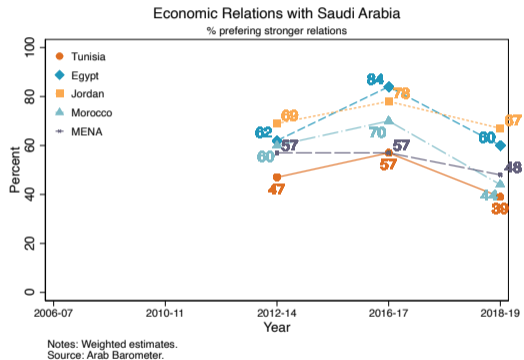
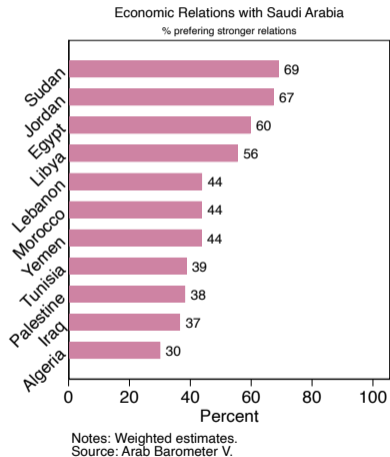


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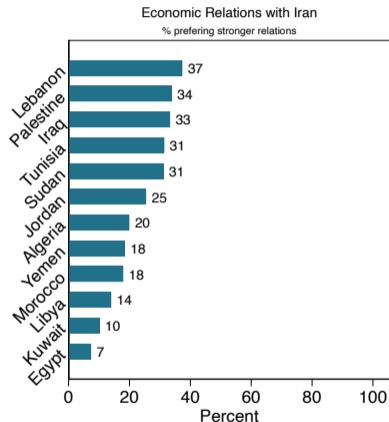


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Source: Arab Barometer V.

Views of Saudi Arabia have deteriorated since 2016



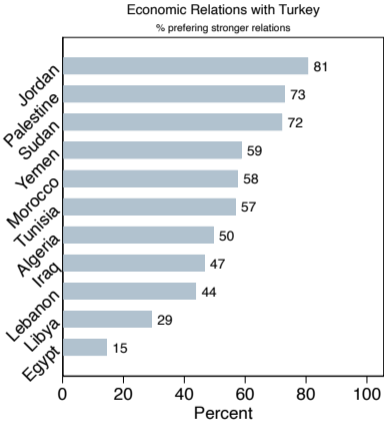
Consistently low support for Iran



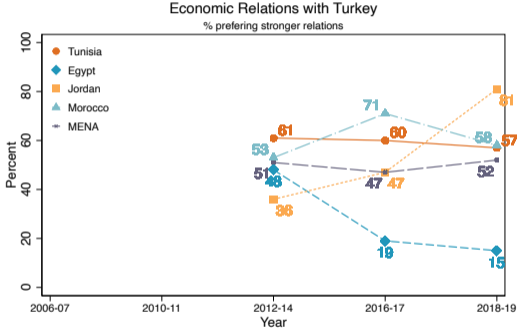
Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

- ▶ Since 2013 Iran's favorability has fallen from a third to a quarter across MENA.
- ▶ In Lebanon, two-thirds of Shias want stronger relations compared with 44% of Christians & 16% of Sunnis.

Strong and (generally) growing support for Turkey



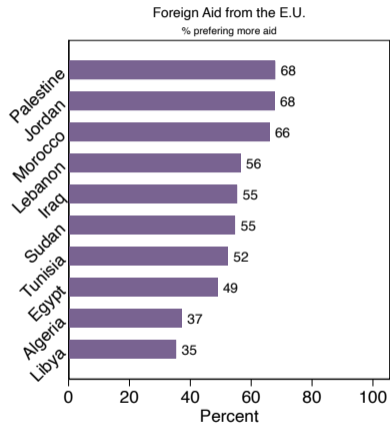
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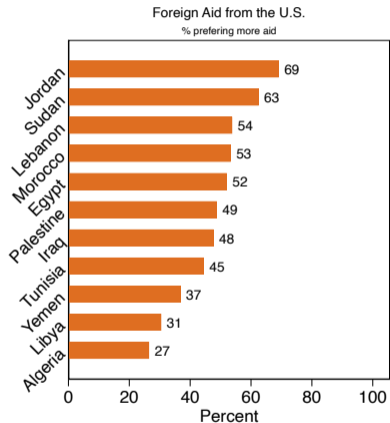
Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer.

International Assistance

Support for Western aid

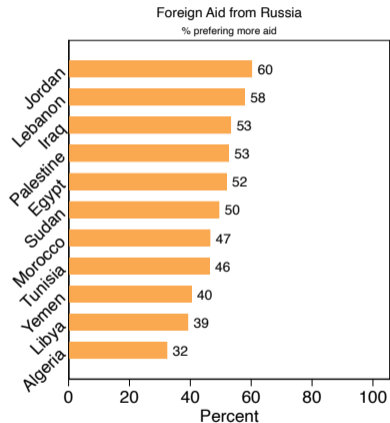


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Source: Arab Barometer V.

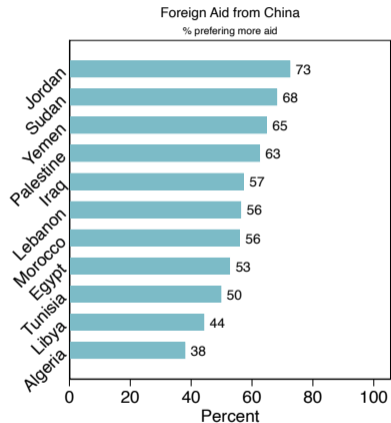


Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

Aid from other powers

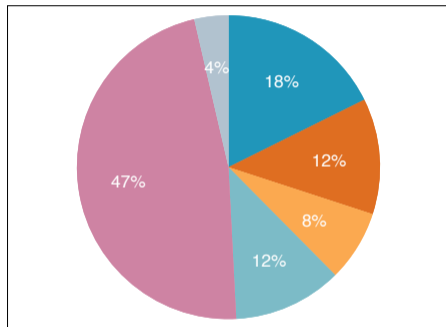


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Source: Arab Barometer V.



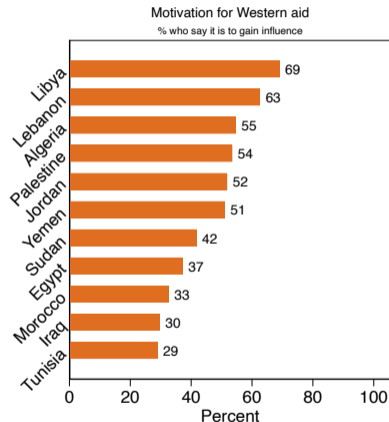
Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

Widespread suspicion about Western motivations for aid



■ economic development ■ internal stability
■ empowering CSOs ■ improving citizens' lives
■ gaining influence ■ don't know/refused

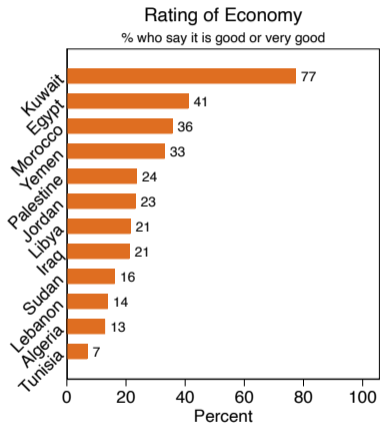
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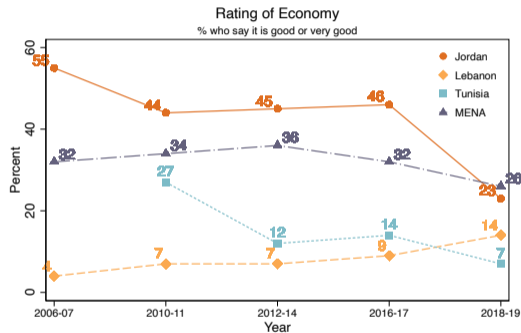
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Domestic Challenges

Declining ratings of economic conditions

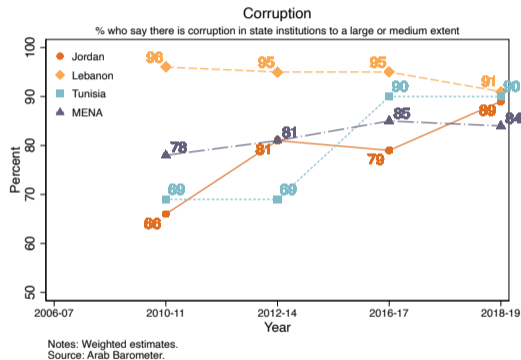
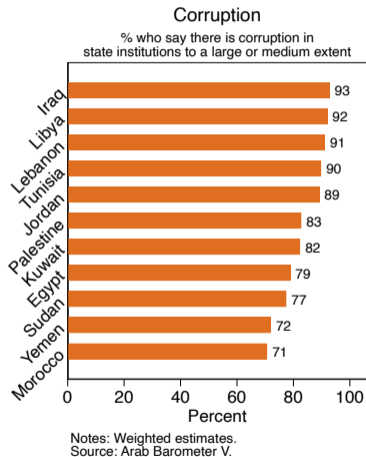


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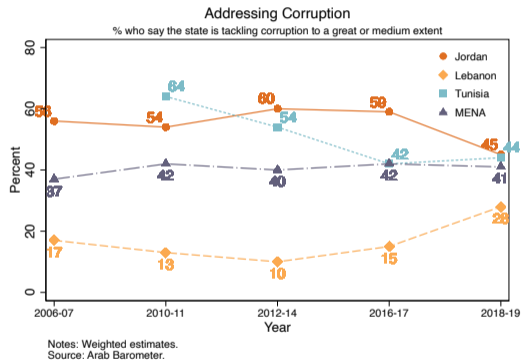
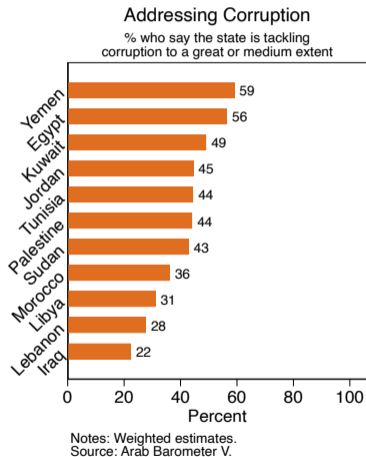


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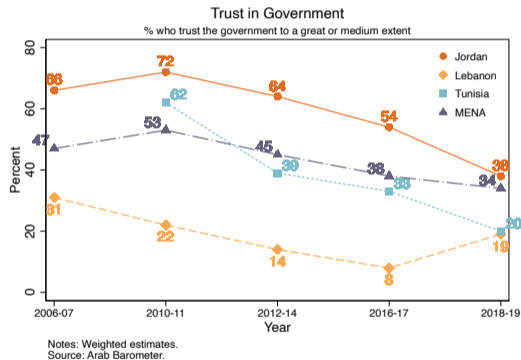
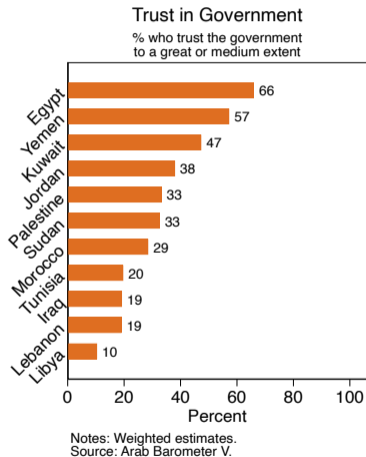
Corruption is perceived as rampant



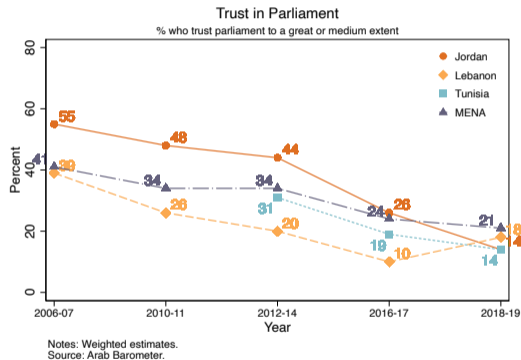
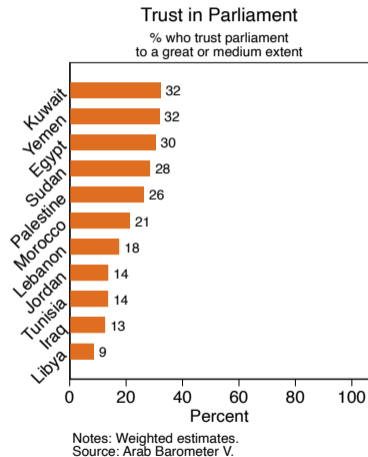
Minority say the government is tackling corruption



Trust in government is falling

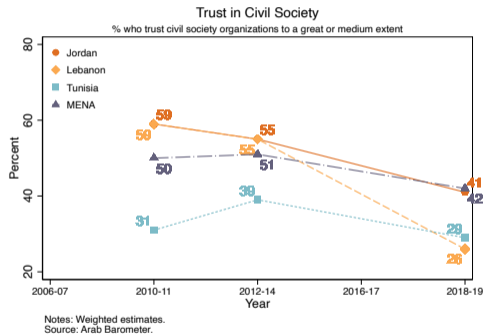
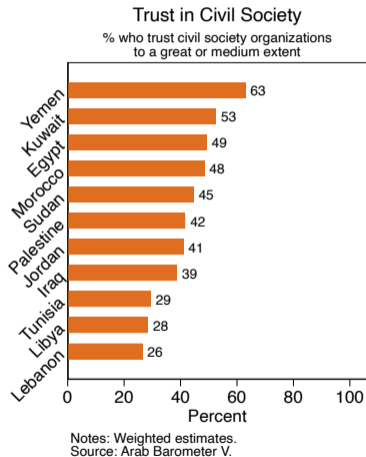


Trust in parliament is even lower



Civil Society & Political Freedoms

Trust in civil society is declining



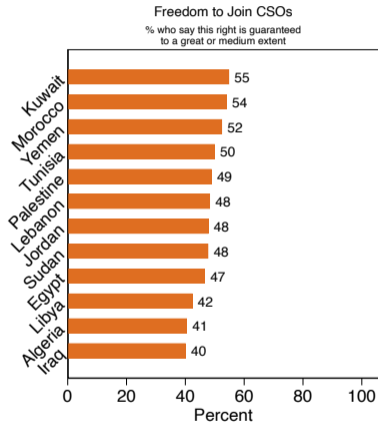
View of civil society vs. government

Does ... do all it can to provide citizens with necessary services?

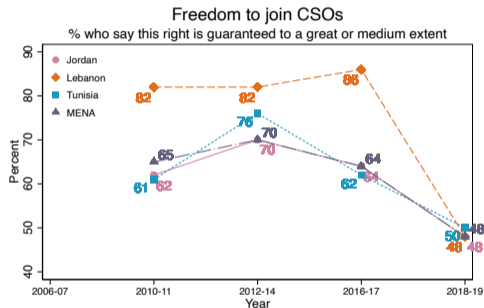
Country	Civil Society	Government	<i>Diff.</i>
Iraq	71	30	+41
Libya	60	33	+27
Lebanon	47	20	+27
Yemen	80	56	+24
Sudan	67	44	+23
Morocco	53	31	+22
Algeria	58	38	+20
Egypt	71	53	+18
Tunisia	67	49	+18
Palestine	55	39	+16
Jordan	54	45	+9
Kuwait	59	60	-1

Source: Arab Barometer V.

Freedom of association

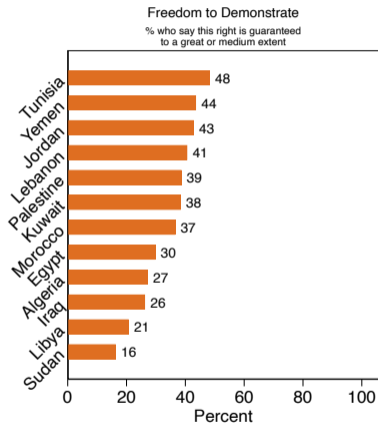


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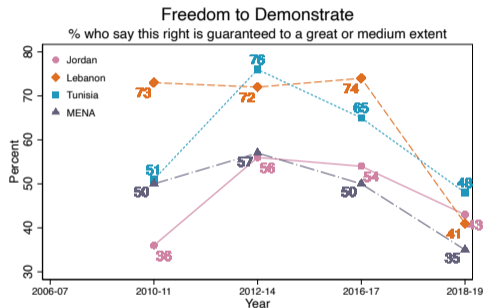


Notes: Weighted estimates. Number of countries surveyed varies by wave.
Source: Arab Barometer.

Freedom of assembly

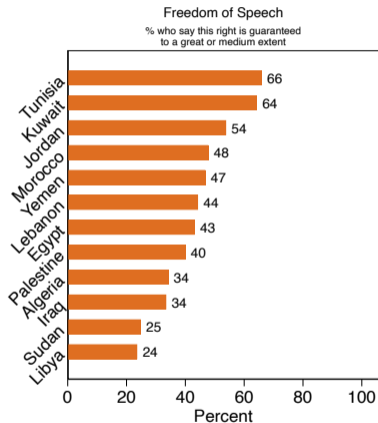


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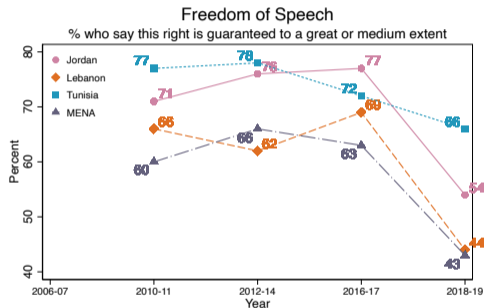


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Freedom of speech



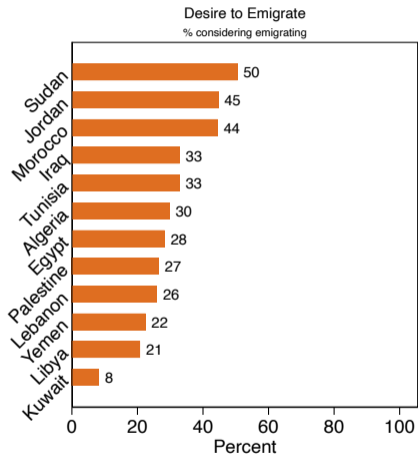
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Emigration

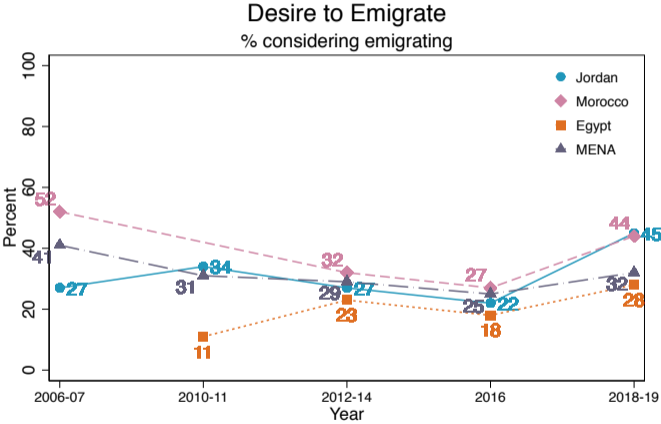
Many want to leave their country



Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

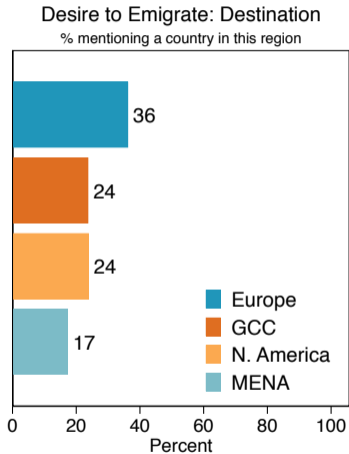
Highly educated youth, particularly men, are the most likely to want to leave their homeland.

Increasing desire to emigrate since 2016



Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer.

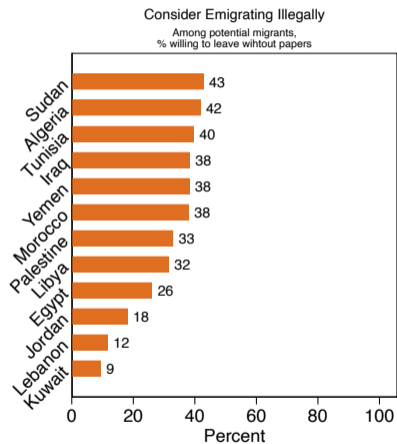
Preferred destinations



Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.

- ▶ Those in the Maghreb prefer Europe.
- ▶ Those in Egypt, Sudan & Yemen favor the GCC.
- ▶ A plurality in the Mashreq opts for North America.

Many willing to leave illegally

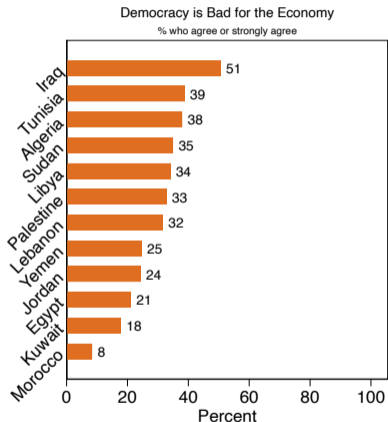


Notes: Weighted estimates.

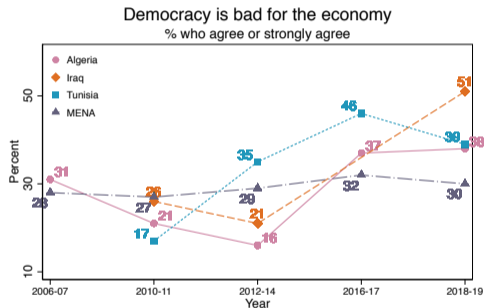
Source: Arab Barometer V.

Views of Democracy

Democracy and the economy

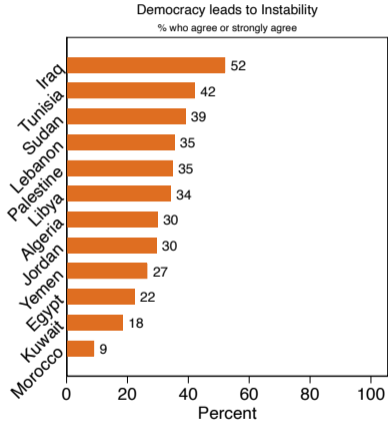


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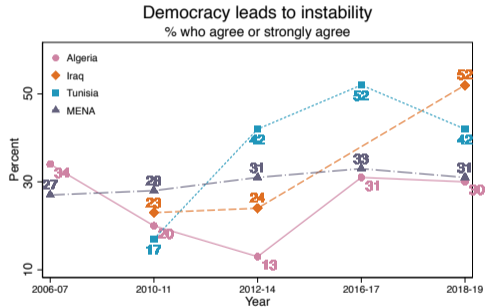


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Democracy and stability

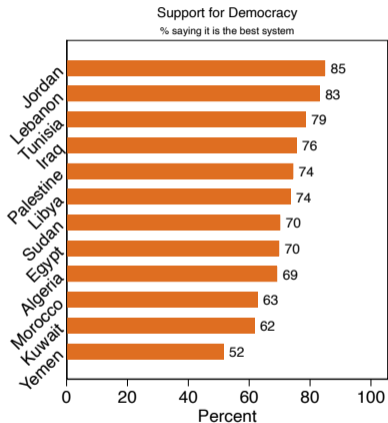


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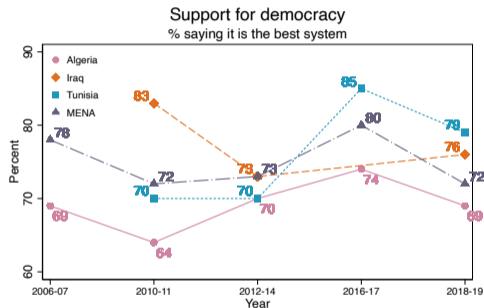


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Support for democracy



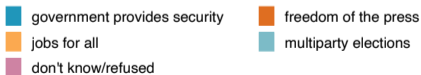
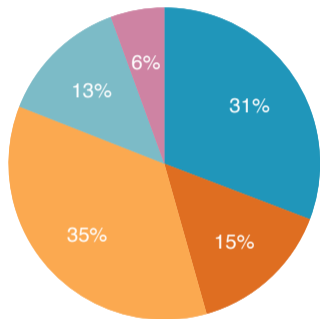
Notes: Weighted estimates.
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Concept of democracy

Primary definition of democracy
% across MENA saying...

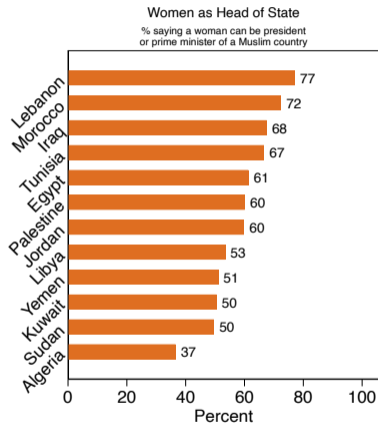


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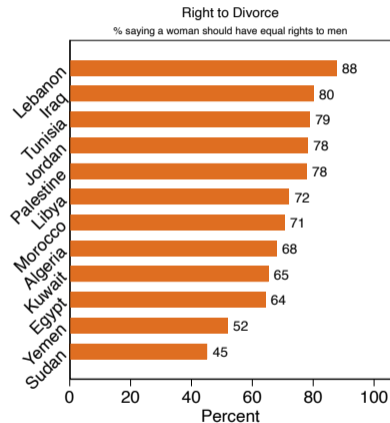
- ▶ 55% in Tunisia & 51% in Iraq say jobs for all is the primary definition of democracy.
- ▶ 40% in Algeria say government provides security

Gender in MENA

Most believe women should have equal rights

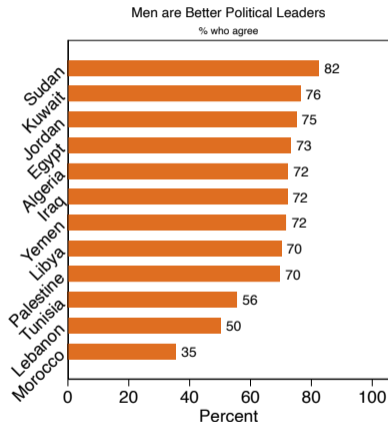


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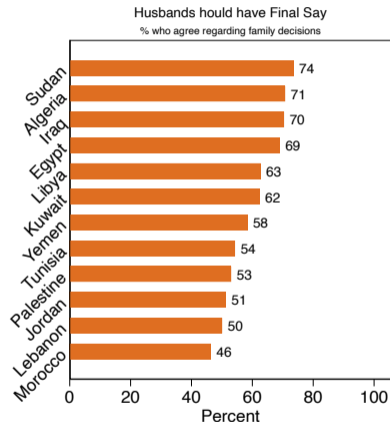


Notes: Weighted estimates.
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Fewer believe women should have equal roles in society



Notes: Weighted estimates.
Source: Arab Barometer V.



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