

Editor's note – summer 2011

This new issue of *IJAS* features a most timely and appropriate article contributing to the discussion on the future of a Palestinian State. As Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas pushes his government's application for recognition through the United Nations, a number of topics surface as vital for the ambitious strategy. The question of 'citizenship' in the context of the Arab Middle East is not new, but we now witness a re-emergence of consciousness as result of the Arab Spring tsunami that began in Tunisia. All youth-led movements through Arab North Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and Levant are constructing new awareness among Arab populations on what it means to be a citizen of the Nation-State.

Much of the literature addressing the phenomenon of the Arab Spring has focused on its supposed origins, but very few focus on the socio-political implications from incomplete revolutions. Our feature article raises a topic beyond the simplicity of the impact of social media networks. The Revolutions has proven as movements more complex than youth gatherings to protest tyranny. Movements have exposed deeper rooted demands such as constitutional reform, gender equity, freedom of religion and association, role of religious groups, as well as values contributing to the construction of democratic societies. We hope that as the one year anniversary of Ben Ali's resignation nears academics and young researchers delve further into such topics.

We will continue to encourage young and experience researchers to produce high quality literature on topics of increasing importance to the region of the Arab Middle East. The Arab Spring has not turned into a 'Winter', but rather continues develop as it confront new challenges at the local, regional and international level.

Editors-in-Chief

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