

Democracy in the Arab World

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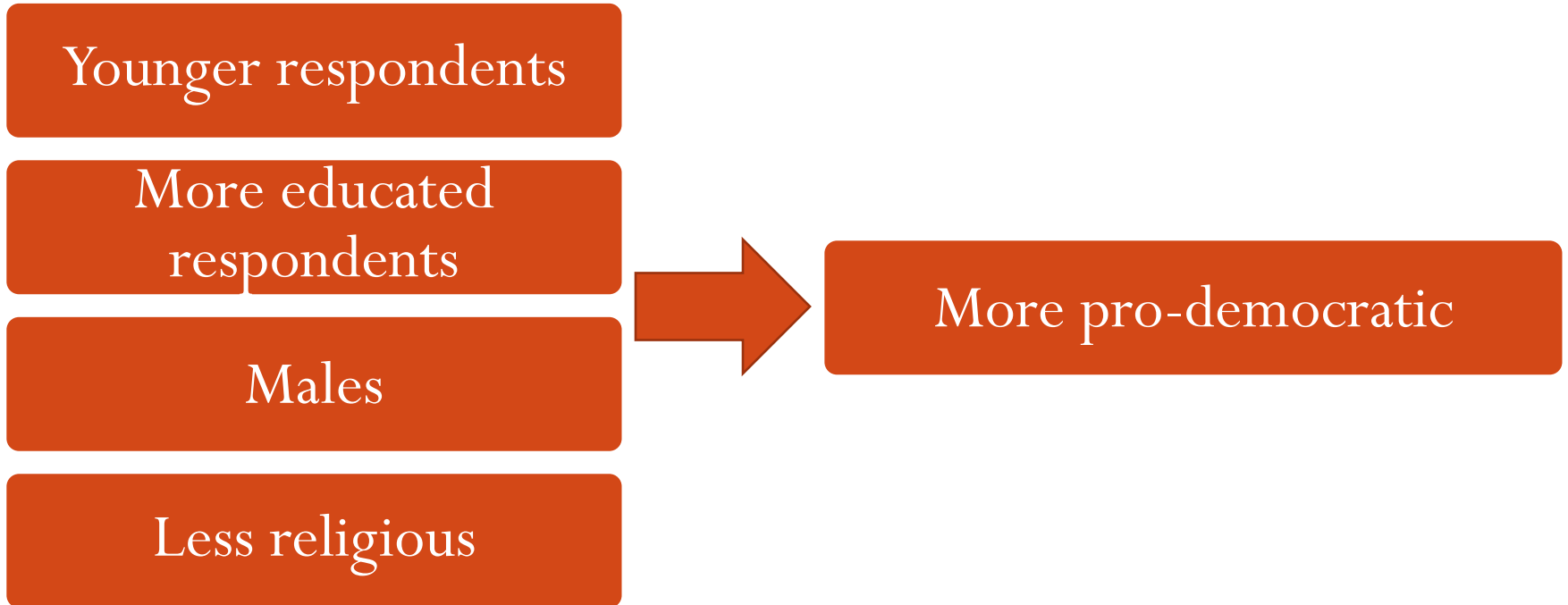
Puzzle to Solve

- Lack of the actual democracy (Freedom House, Polity IV Project)
- Up to 80% of the population in the Arab countries support democracy (Tessler, 2010)

Theoretical Framework

- Revised modernization theory
(Inglehart, Welzel)
- “The Clash of Civilizations”
(Huntington)

Hypotheses I



✓ Islam is a barrier for developing democracy in the Arab countries.

Hypotheses II

Different understanding of democracy

For example:

There is a group of non-educated young respondents who perceive democracy differently from the Western understanding of democracy

Dataset

- Arab Barometer
- www.arabbarometer.org
- Published in 2009
- 7 countries (Jordan, Palestine, Algeria, Morocco, Kuwait, Lebanon, Yemen)
- 8122 cases pooled

Constructing democracy index

- q2451 Democratic political system (public freedom, equal political and civil rights, balance of power, accountability and transparency)
- q2452 A strong non-democratic leader that does not bother with parliament and elections
- q2461 Parliamentary system in which nationalist, left-wing, and Islamic political parties all compete in elections
- q2462 A parliamentary system in which only Islamic political parties and factions compete in elections
- q2463 A system with a strong president and military in which elections and competition among political parties are not important

Constructing democracy index

- q2464 A system governed by Islamic law in which there are no political parties or elections
- q4013 Men of religion should have influence over the decisions of government
- q4021 The government and parliament should make laws according to the wishes of the people
- q5042 Islam requires that in a Muslim country the political rights of non-Muslims should be inferior to those of Muslims
- q4022 The government should implement only the laws of the sharia

Factor analysis I

	1	2	3
q4022n	0.75	-0.16	0.07
q2464n	0.65	0.09	-0.01
q4013n	0.62	-0.01	0.03
q2462n	0.51	0.25	-0.03
q2463n	-0.02	0.71	-0.10
q2452n	0.01	0.47	0.08
q2451n	-0.03	0.08	0.84
q2461n	0.11	-0.12	0.31

Factor analysis II

- F1: shows whether religion and sharia should have an effect on political decisions
 - ✓q2462 A parliamentary system in which only Islamic political parties and factions compete in elections
 - ✓q2464 A system governed by Islamic law in which there are no political parties or elections
 - ✓q4013 Men of religion should have influence over the decisions of government
 - ✓q4022 The government should implement only the laws of the sharia

Factor analysis III

- F2: shows whether people prefer a strong leader
 - ✓q2452 A strong non-democratic leader that does not bother with parliament and elections
 - ✓q2463 A system with a strong president and military in which elections and competition among political parties are not important

Factor analysis IV

- F3: shows attitude towards the parliamentary system and the competitive democratic system
 - ✓q2461 Parliamentary system in which nationalist, left-wing, and Islamic political parties all compete in elections
 - ✓q2451 Democratic political system (public freedom, equal political and civil rights, balance of power, accountability and transparency)

Factor analysis V

- ×q4021 The government and parliament should make laws according to the wishes of the people
- ×q5042 Islam requires that in a Muslim country the political rights of non-Muslims should be inferior to those of Muslims

3 indexes

- 1) whether religion and sharia should have an effect on political decisions (*Sharia*)
- 2) whether people prefer a strong leader (*Authoritarianism*)
- 3) attitude towards the parliamentary system and the competitive democratic system (*Competitive*)

Sharia index

Var	Estimate	T value	Pr(> t)
Female	0,01032	0,654196	
age 25-34	0,04832	0,132042	
age 35-44	0,15708	3.12e-06	***
age 45-54	0,15865	5.73e-05	***
age 55-64	0,17339	0,000998	***
age 65 and older	0,1249	0,059171	.
Education Primary	0,15119	0,013046	*
Education Secondary	0,28776	3.94e-06	***
Education 2 year college	0,31163	3.45e-06	***
Education BA	0,31237	8.94e-07	***
Education MA+	0,37224	2.16e-05	***
Palestine	0,31565	<2e-16	***
Algeria	-0,0591	0,162542	
Kuwait	0,56114	<2e-16	***
Lebanon	1,52993	<2e-16	***
Yemen	-0,12246	0,0041	**

R-squared: 0.3875

Authoritarianism index

Var	Estimate	T value	Pr(> t)
Female	-0,0342	0,2176	
age 25-34	-0,05029	0,1928	
age 35-44	-0,02415	0,551	
age 45-54	-0,02815	0,5527	
age 55-64	0,00505	0,9365	
age 65 and older	-0,09695	0,2236	
Education Primary	0,06495	0,3755	
Education Secondary	0,16477	0,028	*
Education 2 year college	0,18046	0,0254	*
Education BA	0,30094	8.33e-05	***
Education MA+	0,20774	0,0487	*
Palestine	0,24758	3.14e-08	***
Algeria	0,40771	1.48e-15	***
Kuwait	0,83501	<2e-16	***
Lebanon	0,87546	<2e-16	***
Yemen	0,63177	<2e-16	***

R-squared: 0.1103

Competitive index

Var	Estimate	T value	Pr(> t)
Female	-0,13513	2.74e-06	***
age 25-34	0,02233	0,577368	
age 35-44	0,09238	0,028007	*
age 45-54	0,10808	0,028104	*
age 55-64	0,12527	0,056877	.
age 65 and older	0,02046	0,804496	
Education Primary	-0,06291	0,408141	
Education Secondary	0,05528	0,477441	
Education 2 year college	0,05704	0,49591	
Education BA	0,18595	0,019084	*
Education MA+	0,3748	0,000614	***
Palestine	0,05157	0,266021	
Algeria	-0,10034	0,057701	.
Kuwait	0,26122	2.94e-06	***
Lebanon	0,37953	1.15e-15	***
Yemen	0,09576	0,0723	.

R-squared: 0.04062

To Do List

- Second wave will be published soon
- Multiple imputation
- Structural equation modeling
- Look at the WVS

Thank you!