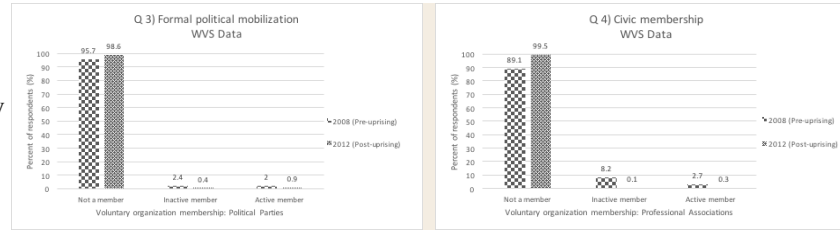


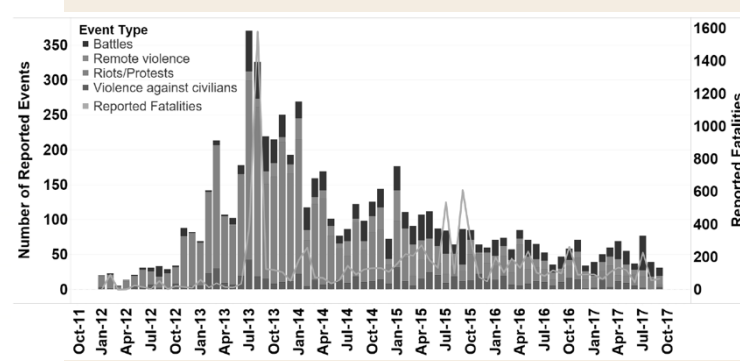
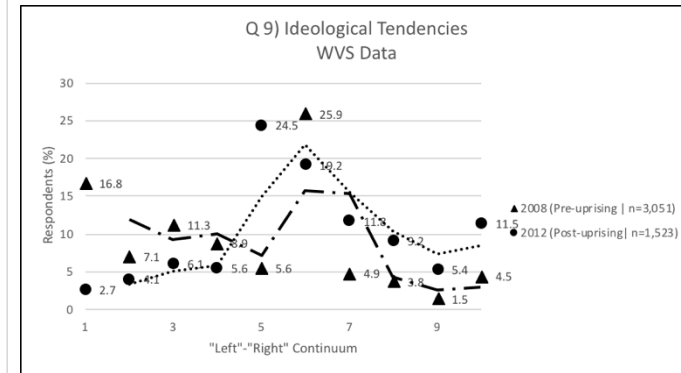
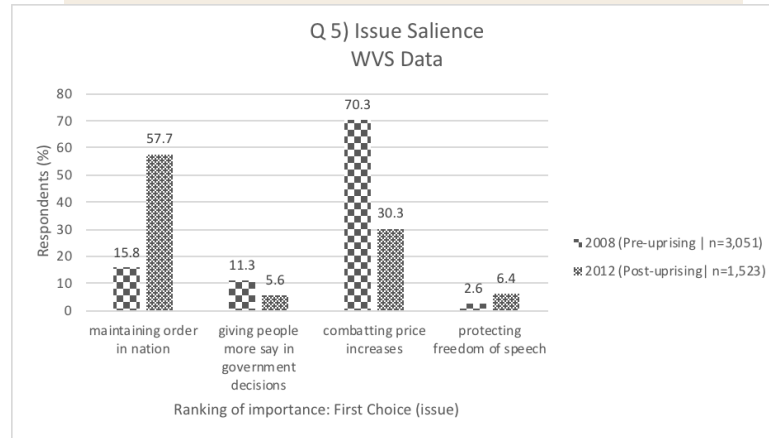
# Instability and Illiberal Politics in Post-Mubarak Egypt

Ahmed Khattab, Ph.D. Student,  
 Department of Government, Georgetown University

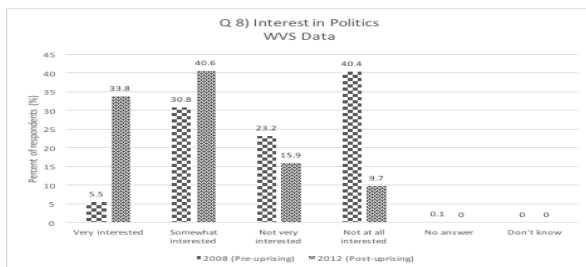
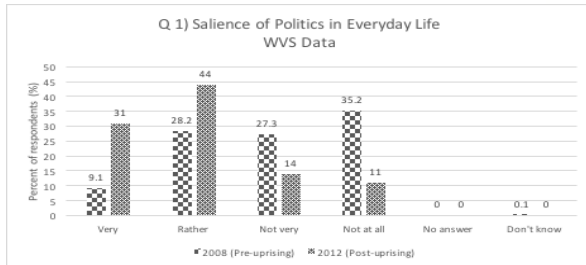
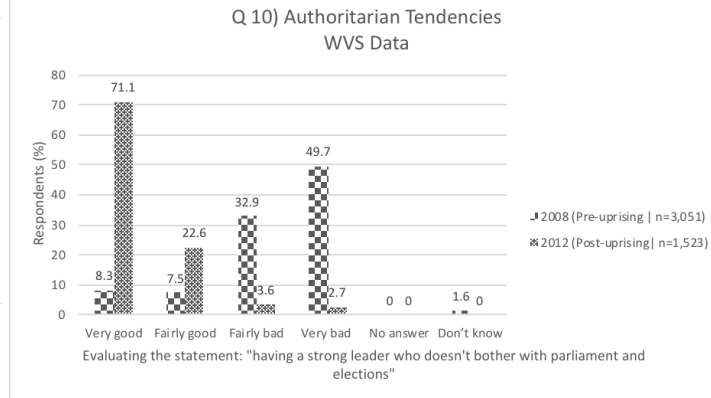
**Abstract:** The Cold War's end coincided with a surge in regimes that intertwined authoritarian and democratic patterns of behavior. Semiauthoritarian regimes prolong their survival through a combination of political liberalization and repression strategies. Autocratic practices often erode formal channels of political representation and competition. Prodemocratic civil society may become an alternative arena of political contestation and activism. Egypt's 2011 uprising brought hopes for deep-rooted democratization. Yet, the empirical data suggests that security concerns trump liberal democratic aspirations. The uprising created an unprecedented interest in politics, but this was not complemented by the necessary *political infrastructure* – the formalization of political mobilization in political parties and civic associations. Instead, heightened security concerns driven by political and economic instability led to increased authoritarian tendencies and ideological shifts at the non-center. Further research warrants an extended examination of why a gradual resurgence in political and economic stability has thusfar failed to resurrect liberalized autocracy.



This project seeks to explain the Egyptian regime's ability to rapidly crack down on prodemocratic civil society after the January 2011 uprising. It utilizes the 2008 (pre-2011 uprising) and 2012 (post-2011 uprising) WVS responses, and measures political instability by observing incidence of political violence through ACLED data.



Source: (Batten-Carew 2017) based on ACLED data



The empirical evidence suggests that political instability and its ramifications facilitates a shift away from semiauthoritarianism towards embracing full autocracy. In their efforts to restore political stability, nondemocratic regimes are more successful aborting democratic transitions and find it easier to adopt increasingly autocratic practices.

### Select Bibliography

- Batten-Carew, M. (2017). Egypt – October 2017 update. Armed Conflict Location and Event Dataset - ACLED.
- Brownlee, J. (2007). Authoritarianism in an age of democratization. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Brumberg, D. (2002). The trap of liberalized autocracy. *Journal of Democracy*, 13(4), 56-68.
- Christensen, D. and Weinstein, J. M. (2013). Defunding dissent: Restrictions on aid to NGOs. *Journal of Democracy*, 24(2), 77-91.
- Howard, M. M. (2003). The weakness of civil society in post-Communist Europe. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Levitsky, S. and Way, L. (2010). Competitive authoritarianism: Hybrid regimes after the cold war. New York: Cambridge University Press.
- WORLD VALUES SURVEY. (2008; 2012). Wave 5 2005-2008; Wave 6 2010-2014 OFFICIAL AGGREGATE v.20140429. World Values Survey Association (www.worldvaluessurvey.org). Aggregate File Producer: Asep/JDS, Madrid SPAIN.