

sources without discounting a whole body of opposing voices from the gambit of international scholarship.

Overall, *Angry Nation: Turkey since 1989* is written in nice prose and can be easily read in one sitting. The fact that Öktem minces his words at no place throughout the book serves as added value in certain sections. However, it is hard to claim that the book, which is written more with freely-floating concepts and unfounded assertions than one expects to come across in a scholarly publication, is a great service to scholarship on Turkey.

Robert Bowker, *Egypt and the Politics of Change in the Arab Middle East* (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2010)

Kawu Bala
Bauchi State Judiciary

The last two years have seen a transformation in the Arab world that stunned several regimes after the eruption of protest in Tunisia. When the first signs of the protest began to unfold in the Arab world's major cities, the world no doubt was skeptical as even some keen observers were caught saying the protesters would be dispersed with the "usual iron fist" by the Arab regimes' internal security apparatus. Though each country in the Arab world is unique, the Egyptian protest could be said to be the most dramatic. Robert Bowker's *Egypt and the Politics of Change in the Arab Middle East*, sounds like a futuristic study whose seeds germinated recently as it came to the reading stand a few months before the inevitable reforms that will have to take place despite the problems of "accommodation, reaction and resistance" under way (p. 1) in the corridors of power in the Middle East.

According to Bowker, any curious observation of the Middle East should start with Egypt. The Middle East is a restless region as a chunk of its population will, in a short time, reside in the cities and we know what this entails in social parlance: urbanization. Other "dynamics" that have characterized the region for many years and which continue to make headlines daily include "foreign occupation, rise of nationalist, secular leftist and Islamist reform movements," (p. 3); all of these suggest uncertainties on a large scale. These are factors that cannot exist devoid of the types of power structures in the Middle East which create "disconnection" between the Arab population and their leaders. If it is not a leadership change from father to son, it will surely then be what critics may call a "camouflaged democracy," a kind of democracy with no elections or with elections consistently dismissed as flawed. This, to Bowker, has created an absence of "political transparency or accountability" (p. 5). When rulers do as they wish, then you should expect trouble

sooner or later to rear its head because, for generations, a culture of "non-accountability" has been entrenched.

Readers do not need to go further to appreciate the Arabs political landscape: Egypt and Syria have been under the "state of emergency" (p. 19) for decades and, ironically, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack and its aftermath has given the Arab rulers an opportunity to crack down on popular dissent. What do you expect from regional political rulers that are hell bent in exercising their authorities at all cost? There are, however, some regimes that came into being as "nationalist" which removed monarchies but there systems are more "authoritarian" (p. 77). In this context, the trouble with Arabs, to put it colloquially, is like a case of people moving from the frying pan to the fire.

Bowker reveals that while all this was happening the Arab rulers have not paid attention to the fact that a substantial proportion of the population in the Middle East are under "14 years of age" and they could be "volatile", indeed as the world is now witnessing (p. 83).

In some of the succinct discussion in the pages of the book, Bowker provides an understanding as to what led to the present protests in Egypt and many other countries where the voices of the people are being heard for the first time, even if the book was written at a time before the "Arab Awakening". Changes have been witnessed in many countries of the Middle East in areas like literacy and mass communication (p. 167) so the era of "limiting the political space" against popular governance that should carry on board all and sundry is not going to be possible because this touches on the Arab's leaders' "credibility" as well as their legitimacy as some of the regimes are now battling to curtail the people's anger upon them (p. 184).

There are certain fundamental reasons why this book deserves to be read. To begin with, when people have risen from years of "misrule" governments have no choice but to listen and make amends instead of politicizing reforms critically needed in the Middle East. Like other analyses Bowker's book is useful at a time for the Arab rulers to heed warnings clearly written on their walls. Cosmetic changes have their limit and only genuine reform will save the situation. Youths are still demonstrating at the Tahrir Square and changes dearly needed are said not to have been coming, at least the way people wanted to see.

Secondly, the nature of the book brings to light the power struggle in the Middle East. Various actors are in the interplay currently as "key indicators" of the line of politics the Arab Middle East will be engulfed in (p. 187). This conveys to the world the need to widen its scope so that it benefits from the uncertainties in Egypt and other countries not just in the Middle East but beyond. The implication is enormous.

China, we read in the news, is studying the situation as it discovered its people were planning to take to the streets and, interestingly, it is followed by Africa, where some leaders do what they can to stay in power, yet now they seem jittery.

Much of the criticism of the Arab rulers have also been extended to Western countries, with America always taking the largest share of blame for dilly-dallying with the need for genuine democracy. Bowker is clear on this as he states that United States has no “coherent policy approaches and concrete steps” (p. 184). It is not, therefore, hard to find the reason. Mubarak, for example, was a darling and an ally until he was kicked from power by the people. The politics in the Middle East should be well studied as the region is the hot spot for now and indeed many years to come. This is the valuable insight the book should have addressed and tabled to the global policy makers and powerful nations so that the world should be cautious and do the right thing in supporting genuine change from Egypt. It is understandable, to some extent, as Bowker is a diplomat but this is the reality and there is no middle way.

Neil Rollings, *British Business in the Formative Years of European Integration* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Simone Selva
German Historical Institute Washington DC

Neil Rollings' book targets the historical dynamics of Great Britain's entry into the European community (EC) from the early steps of the European economic integration process at the turn of the 1940s through to the country's final access to the EC in 1973. It provides us with a reconstruction of this history from the vantage point of the British business community's economic initiatives and attitudes, dealt with in part one and part two of the book respectively, toward the country's move towards entry into the common market during these decades. Both the subject and the time period covered, as widely known, have been much discussed and reconstructed in the literature. The author ventures towards adding a new kind of reconstruction on this topic in two ways. On the one side he attempts to draw up a truly interdisciplinary history cross-cutting economic and political history of European integration; on the other, he investigates the role of British business in this history through the initiatives and policies of the micro and meta-level business organizations and of single groups of companies and enterprises, rather than the peak-level business associations' role, mostly researched by historians so far.

Accordingly, Rollings founds his reconstruction on a mixture of macroeconomic quantitative sources and data, used in part one to offer a snapshot of British foreign trade and foreign direct investments (FDI) trends and dynamics throughout these