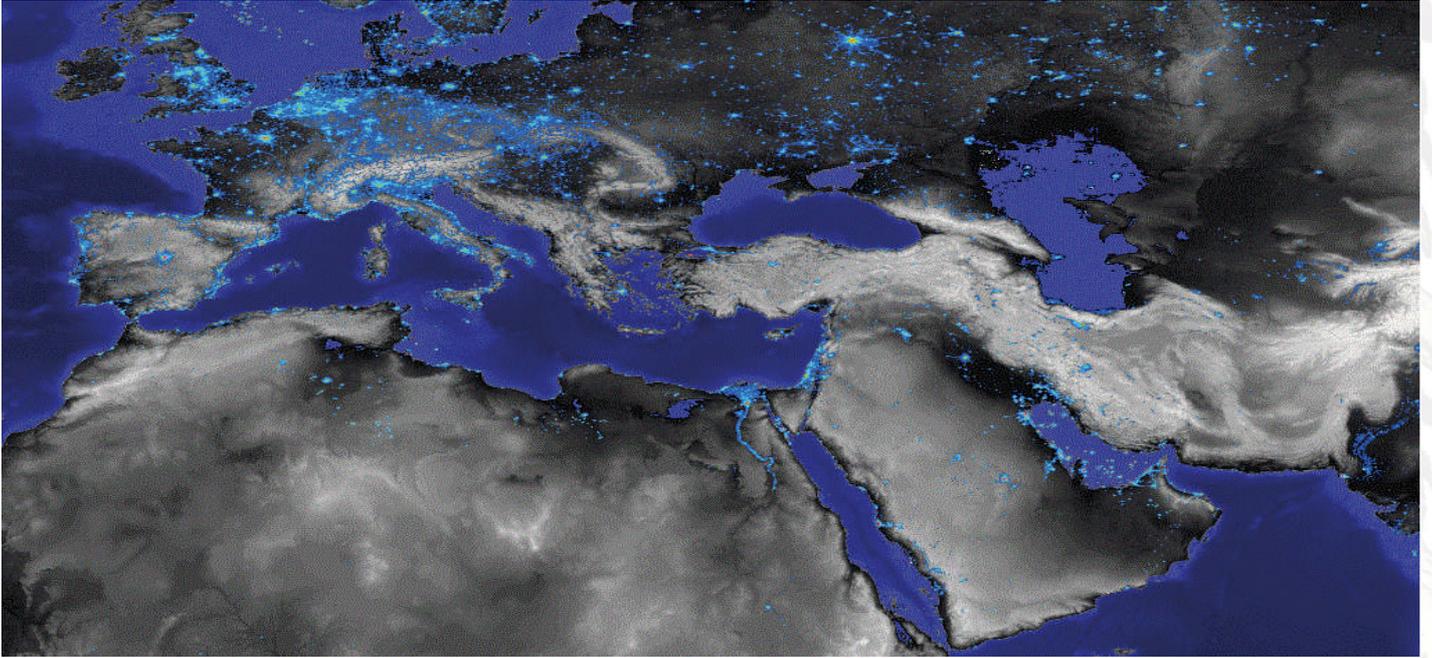




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# The Revolutionary Process in the Middle East and North Africa

By **Gilbert Achcar**, SOAS, London



Less than two years after the first wave of uprisings in 2011, the euphoria of the “Arab Spring” gave way to the gloom of backlash and descent into mayhem and war. The revolution was overwhelmed by clashes between rival counter-revolutionary forces: resilient old regimes on the one hand and Islamic fundamentalist contenders on the other. Understood as an ephemeral bid for democracy, the “Arab Spring” seemed over. However, grasping its deep socio-economic roots informed a different view: that of a long-term revolutionary process that will be going through successive phases of upsurge and backlash in a region that will remain in turmoil as long as its development potential is not freed from its shackles. The persisting eruption of social-political protests over the whole region and the new uprisings in Sudan and Algeria fully confirm this perspective.

**ALL WELCOME!**

**Gilbert Achcar** is Professor of Development Studies and International Relations at SOAS. Prof Achcar has degrees in Philosophy (ESL, Beirut), Social Sciences (UL, Beirut) and a PhD in Social History/International Relations (University of Paris-VIII). Before joining SOAS in 2007, he taught and/or researched in various universities and research centres in Beirut, Berlin and Paris. His many books, published in a total of 15 languages, include: *The Clash of Barbarisms: The Making of the New World Disorder* (2002, 2006); *Perilous Power: The Middle East and U.S. Foreign Policy*, co-authored with Noam Chomsky (2007, 2008); *The Arabs and the Holocaust: The Arab-Israeli War of Narratives* (2010); *Marxism, Orientalism, Cosmopolitanism* (2013); *The People Want: A Radical Exploration of the Arab Uprising* (2013); and *Morbid Symptoms: Relapse in the Arab Uprising* (2016).

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