

**WK 7: “Paths of Regime Change: Democratization and persistent authoritarianism in the Middle East”
with Melani Cammett**

1 Understanding Variables, Relationships, and Causality

Group 1: Bellin

Group 2: Brownlee et al.

Group 3: Diamond

- (1) What is/are the causal (independent) variable(s)? What is/are the outcome (dependent) variable(s)?

- (2) What time period is the author examining? How far back do the variables extend?

- (3) What is the article’s main point, or the stated relationship between the independent and dependent variable(s)?

- (4) What is the mechanism through which the independent variable affects the dependent variable? [for example, putting my foot on the gas in a car causes it to move; the mechanism through which this occurs is the operations within the car – engine, etc.]

- (5) What are the implications of this argument? Specifically, what does this argument imply for democratic transitions? What about for democratic consolidation (or stability)?

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2 Activity

You are an NGO in [*choose a country in the MENA region*]. You and your members want to advocate for a democratic transition. How do you focus your efforts and resources?

Given time and resource constraints, you must prioritize 1 to 3 possible strategies. For each choice, explain which reading (if any) would support the intervention.

1. Cooperate with opposition parties (within the country)
2. Organize educational and mobilization campaigns to engage fellow citizens (within country)
3. Advocate for/implement programs to strengthen media institutions, particularly internet access
4. Advocate for/implement programs to favor female literacy and new schools
5. Advocate for foreign aid tied to strengthening existing government institutions (like the judiciary)
6. Advocate for economic investments in large, private industries
7. Attend a UN summit to build ties to international partners
8. Advocate for technical assistance to government for economic reforms (e.g. privatization)
9. Invite protest leaders from other countries to train your organization’s staff
10. Advocate for military interventions from foreign (Western) powers
11. Advocate for foreign military supplies to armed opposition movements (within the country)
12. Other (specify)