

The Forgotten Diaspora: Arab Gulf Activists in Exile Between Perils and Promises

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論 文 内 容 の 要 旨

This dissertation questions why the Arab Gulf opposition left the Arab Gulf region despite its somewhat politically stable environment and socio-economic prosperity during and after the Arab Spring in 2011. The dissertation finds out the perils and promises of the Arab Gulf diaspora's collective activism across borders and the factors hindering or enforcing their ability to affect change in their countries of origin. While state-led transnational repression is declining in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries that experienced large-scale demonstrations and witnessed severe aftermaths, this dissertation discovers why and how the Arab Gulf States (AGSs) are still maintaining a tight grip on their diasporic communities, even after more than a decade since the Arab Uprisings. The dissertation reveals that the dual strategy of transformation and repression deployed by the AGSs, mainly following the populace's calls for change in 2011, facilitates the success of the regimes' control of their opposition around the globe. Moreover, this dissertation argues that emerging diaspora communities resist transnational repression by mobilizing on a broader scale. Arab Gulf diaspora organizations and activists are rallying for women's rights, different religious sects' rights, and non-Arab Gulf freedom. Also, the Arab Gulf diaspora is overcoming the ideological, gender, and generational differences between the various groups of diaspora members as a mechanism to combat the transnational reach of regimes. This dissertation clarifies the gap in the discourse on transnational authoritarianism and the long arm of authoritarianism in the MENA region. It paves the way for conducting a comprehensive analysis of diverse case studies in the MENA region and around the world.