

# 10 Years After the Arab Spring: Challenges to Full Democratic Consolidation in Tunisia

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# Abstract

**Puzzle: What are the current challenges preventing the full consolidation of Tunisia's democracy?**

★ **Dependent Variable: Hindrances to Full Democratic Consolidation in Tunisia**  
Democratic Consolidation: “A political regime in which democracy as a complex system of institutions, rules, and patterned incentives and disincentives has become, in a phrase, ‘the only game in town’... combines behavioral, attitudinal, and constitutional dimensions” -Linz & Stephen

★ **Independent Variable 1: Authoritarian Regional Actors**

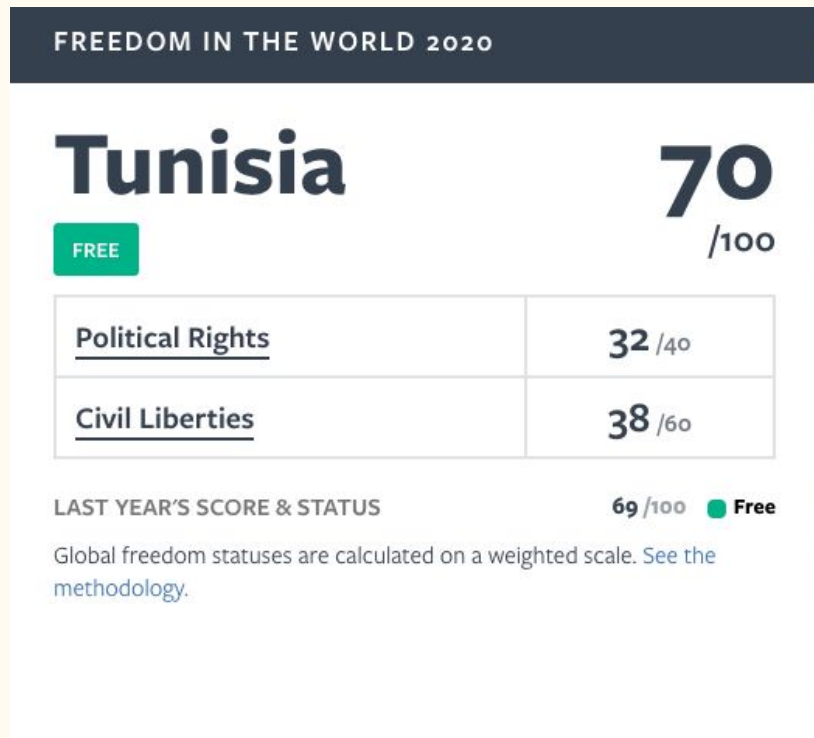
★ **Independent Variable 2: Economic inequality**

# Brief Background: The Arab Spring

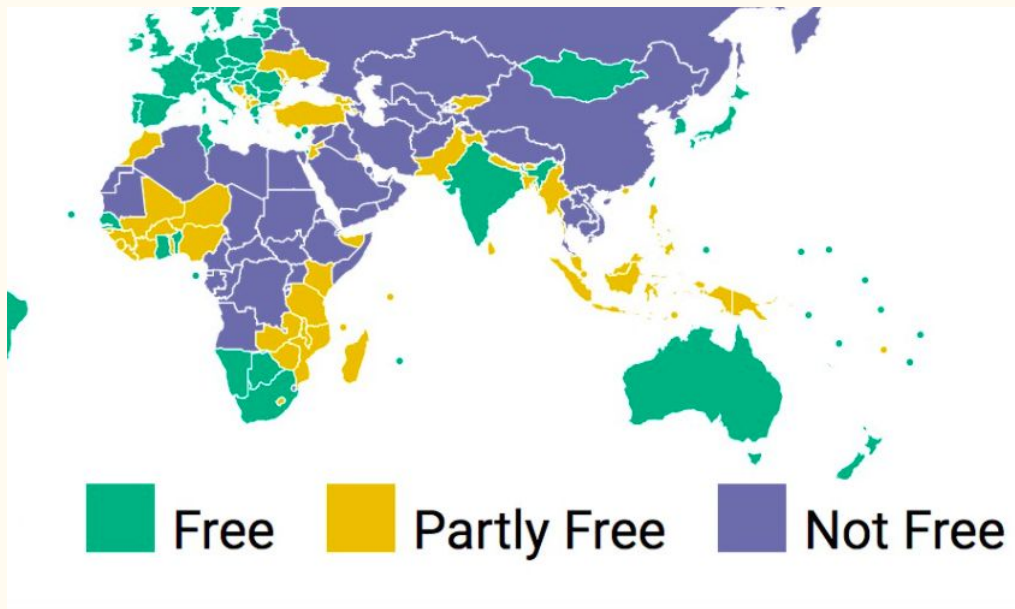


“Since violence implies an enormous loss of human life (without any certainty of victory), opposition groups will risk a civil war only if inequality is substantial — that is, if the existing elite owns a considerable fraction of the economy.” - Boix









# Current State of Tunisian Democracy



# Variable 1: Authoritarian Regional Actors



Number of Tunisian migrants to MENA countries

North Africa and Middle East		110,385
 Libya		68,952
 United Arab Emirates		39,238
 Algeria		21,420
 Saudi Arabia		21,086
 Qatar		17,750
 Oman		5,693
 Morocco		4,570
 Kuwait		3,500
 Egypt		3,413

# Variable 1: Authoritarian Regional Actors

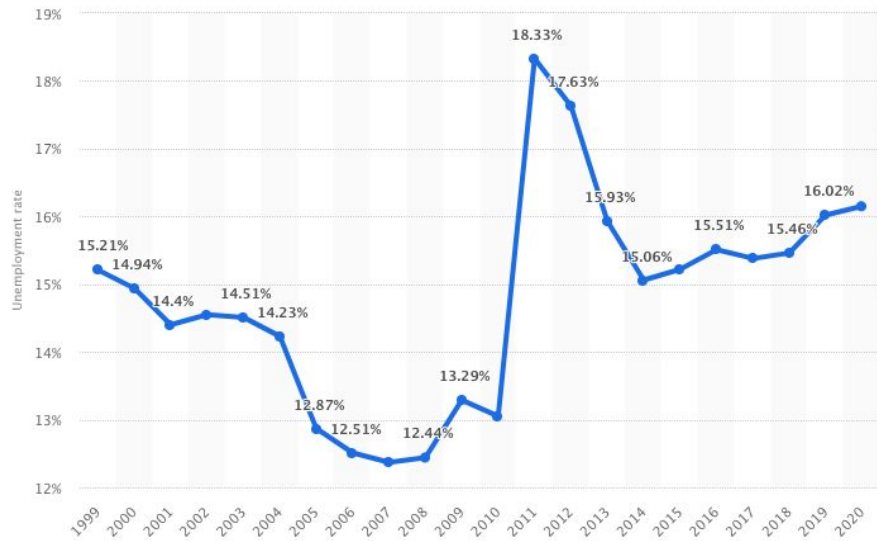
“Non-rentier states are politically and economically dependent on rentier neighbors through aid and remittances. Powerful rentier or semi-rentier states such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Russia, have promoted authoritarian allies in their regions” -Kuru

Saudi Arabia's 2018 visit to Tunisia



# Variable 2: Economic Inequality

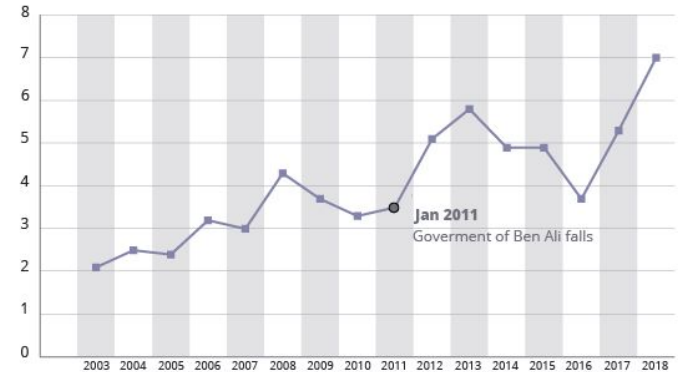
## Tunisia: Unemployment rate from 1999 to 2020



## Tunisian inflation rate

Inflation has steadily increased since early 2016 and is now at its highest since 1991

### Inflation rate (%)



Source: IMF

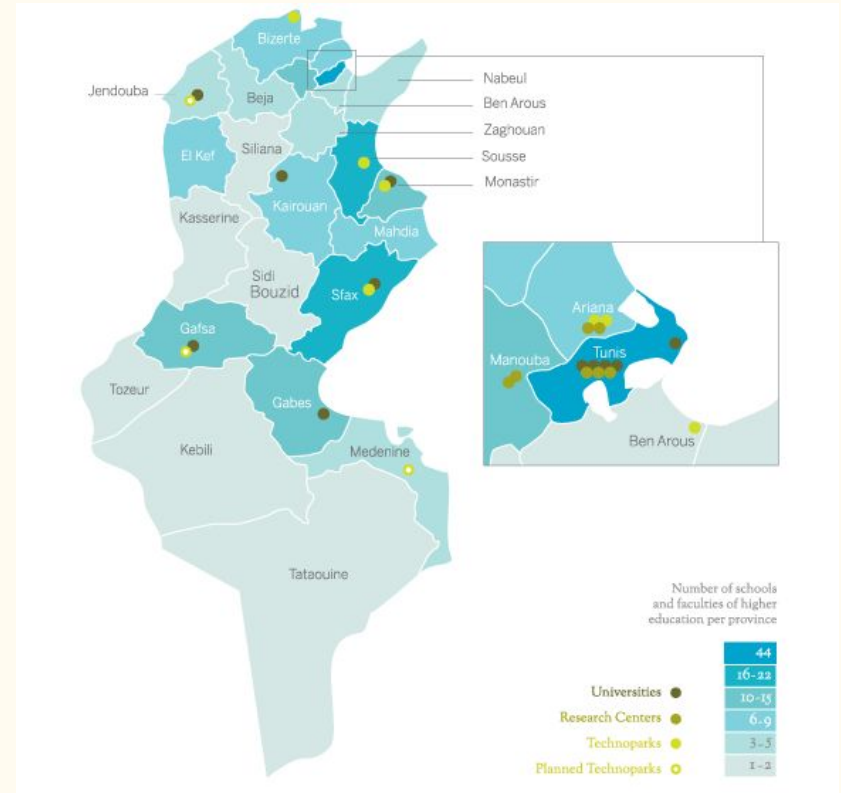
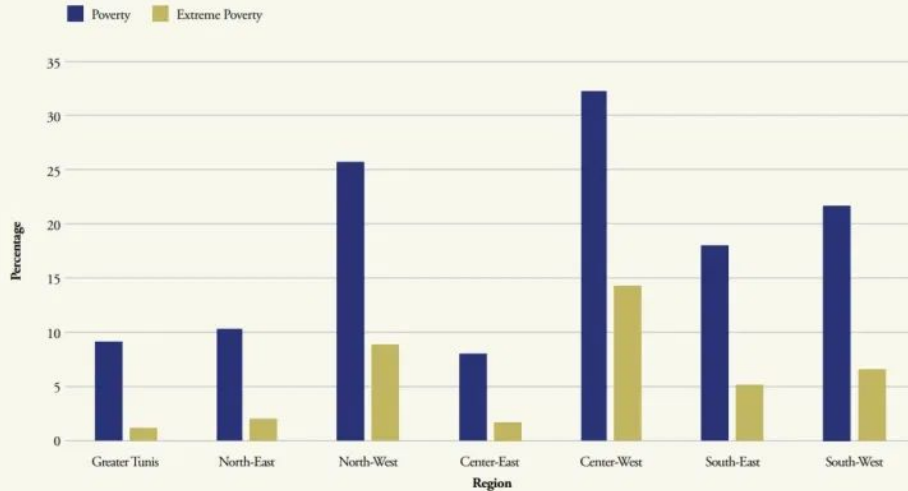


# Variable 2: Economic Inequality: Regional Disparities within Tunisia

★ Unemployment in South East: 26.6%

★ In the South West: 22.3%

2010 Poverty and Extreme Poverty Rates by Region





# Sources

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- ★ Kuru, Ahmet. (PDF) *Authoritarianism and Democracy in Muslim Countries: Rentier States and Regional Diffusion*  
[www.researchgate.net/publication/265606088\\_Authoritarianism\\_and\\_Democracy\\_in\\_Muslim\\_Countries\\_Rentier\\_States\\_and\\_Regional\\_Diffusion](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265606088_Authoritarianism_and_Democracy_in_Muslim_Countries_Rentier_States_and_Regional_Diffusion).
- ★ Boix, Carles *The Roots of Democracy*