

## **Project title**

***“How does the institution of monarchy make Arab states stable?”***

### **1. Research project objectives/Research hypothesis**

In December 2010 begun “Arab Spring” passed through the Arab world. In consequence governments have fallen in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Yemen, and in Syria broke out the civil war. The disorder that occurred in republican authoritarian regimes, was milder for monarchies, which remained relatively stable. The most intensive protests occurred in Bahrain, but the government of Bahrain remained unchanged. After five years Libya, Yemen and Syria are still in state of civil war, and monarchies kept their stability.

The general research objective is to identify the reason of stability of Arab monarchies, through the learning of the political and constitutional systems of Arab monarchies, in particular the system of power. The project will allow to test my research hypothesis which reads:

**Heterogenic forms of legitimacy, institutionalisation of power and self-limitation of power compose, that the institution of monarchy acts as a stabiliser.**

The project will cover study of political and constitutional systems of chosen Arab monarchies. In particular it will cover analysis of the system of power of Arab monarchies, monarchs prerogatives, and their place in the constitutional structure of the state. Moreover the study will include also the importance of legislative assembly and consultative councils. Also the problem will be carried out in relation to classical and contemporary Muslim theory of politics and governance, what will enable in-depth study of the process of evolution of monarchies and their legitimacy.

The analysis will cover Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia which are representative for other Arab monarchies. Kuwait is fairly representative for other Arab monarchies, such as Bahrain, Qatar and United Arab Emirates, which also originated from tribal shaykhdoms. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia originated from the alliance between the ruler of the dwelling of Al-Diriyya and a Muslim, Hanbali cleric Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab. The catalyst that helped to create the state was religion – the establishment of Wahhabi community was among the key drivers in the establishment of Saudi state. Such a role of religion in state-building represented similar dynamics to those at work at the birth of Arab state in 7th century, later the establishment of Oman, or currently, to the ideological foundations of the so-called “Islamic State”. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, created as a result of division of the Middle East according to the mandate system and was under strong European influence. It is also important that the Jordan ruling family tracks its roots from the Prophet Muhammad, as well as it is not a rentier state and the government cannot mitigate social unrest by using oil revenues, is similar to the Kingdom of Morocco (which lies outside of the Middle East region). The above mentioned states are also representative from the perspective of the characteristic of the type of government. Saudi Arabia, as an authoritarian state, is close to Oman and Qatar. Jordan and Kuwait, as liberal monarchies, are close to Bahrain and Morocco.

The reason of undertaking of the project is the situation in the Middle East caused by the developments of “Arab Spring” and the rise of the so-called “Islamic State”, which was missed by part of researchers. Also Arab monarchies remained relatively stable (what does not mean that monarchies was free of protests and civil disorder). The question stated in the project is aimed to answer what was the reason of their stability. Moreover in the area of Arab monarchies, as well in broader context of Arab world, the reason of undertaking the subject is intention to draw near issues related to the Middle East region, in particular in frames of political and legal systems, which originate from political, constitutional and legal culture that is different from the European tradition, and is not commonly known and understand. It is also noteworthy that states of this region are important for global peace and security, and their proper understanding will enable better tool for analysis of further developments in the Middle East.