

[\(Japanese Version\)](#)

[\(Arabic Version\)](#)

[\(contents\)](#)

The Peace on The Horizon - 75 Years after The World War 2 in the Middle East (168)

Chapter 7: The "Arab Spring" - A fleeting dream (1)

168 Enough already! The masses are tired of long-term dictatorship (1/4)



The Middle East and North Africa region is collectively called MENA. It may sound strange to say that MENA region hardly had radical political change before so-called "Arab Spring" in 2011. But from Ramadan War (Yom Kippur War) in 1973 to Arab Spring in 2011, most of Arab countries had no experience of the political change for nearly 40 years because the dictatorship continued so long in most of Middle Eastern countries. The long-dictatorship was not only by secular military power in Egypt, Syria but also by monarchic regime by the Gulf countries.

Most of the MENA countries are ethnically Arabs except Turkey, Iran and Israel. And Muslim occupies a majority religious group including Turkey and Iran. It is difficult to answer that whether the long-dictatorship regime is due to the ethnicity of Arabs or the religion of Islam. It might be said that both of them brought about the long-term dictatorship. Ethnicity and religion are inevitable two facts of Middle Eastern dictatorship. Anyhow it could be the right answer that the political stability had been maintained by dictatorship.

In addition, it can also be pointed out that the political stability in MENA countries could not bring about the progress of science and technology and the economic prosperity of every countries except the Gulf countries which achieved economic prosperity by oil. Despite being a similar authoritarian politics, Southeast Asian countries such as Thailand and Indonesia had in reverse enjoyed progress of industries and economic prosperity during the same period.

(To be continued ----)

Areha Kazuya

(From an ordinary citizen in the cloud)