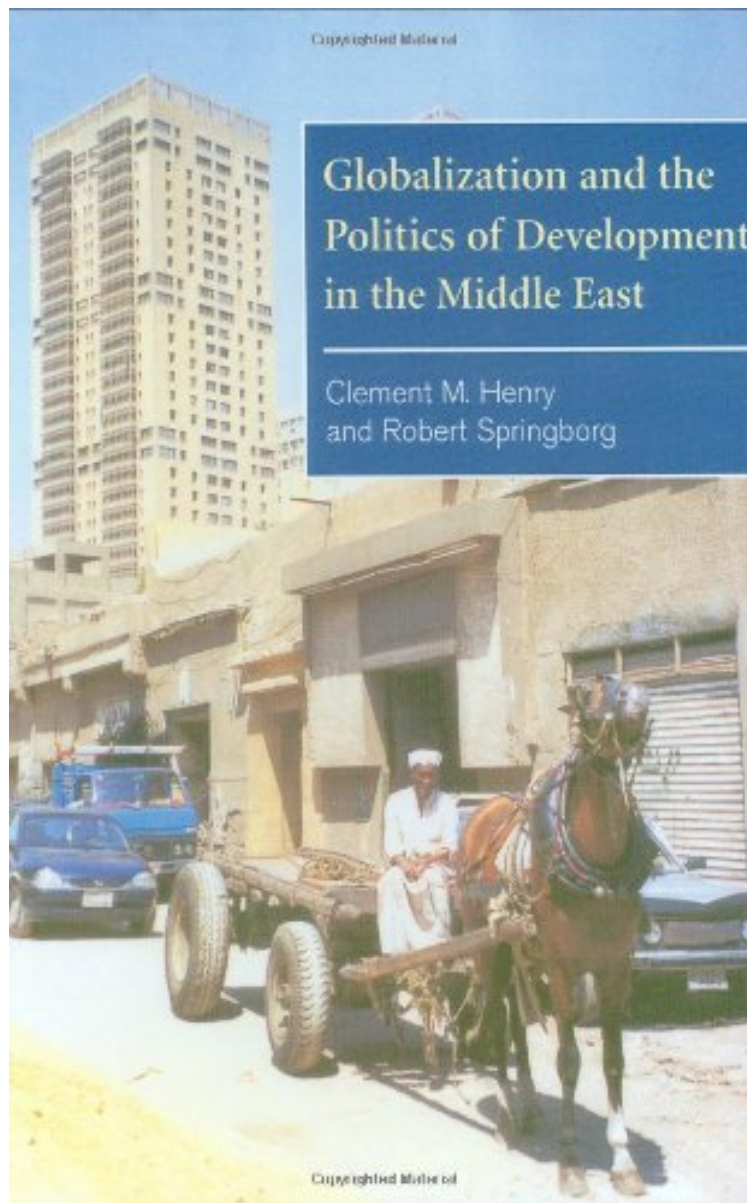


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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good but not easyBy Leon LamThis book is a systematic study of the political and economic development of the MENA region. Henry and Springborg argue that democratization is conducive to economic growth in the area. The two authors give good insights on the region. Their comparative analysis of various states according to their regime types (bunker states, bully praetorian states, monarchies, and democracies) is solid and sound. The layout of the book, however, is questionable. The first three chapters deal with the general picture, while the subsequent four investigates the four types of states. It is quite hard to follow the former part without any prior knowledge. Start with Chapters 4-7 then return to the first three chapters.4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Not for the UninitiatedBy Benjamin A. PlotkeA book with excellent content and miserable writing. The content deals with how economics and politics have effected the economic development in the middle east. The problem is the writing. It somehow manages to be complex and yet boring at the same time. It relies heavily on obscure academic terms and concepts. For example, take this quote from chapter One, "Schematically the colonial dialectic describes three basic stances (or Hegelian "moments") of a native elite towards the colonizers culture" I mean, cuz, like everyone knows what a "Hegelian 'moment'" is, rite? To me such a reference would seem more fitting in a philosophy text. Anyways, if you're considering assigning this to your poor undergrads, please reconsider. Thank you.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century countries in the Middle East and North Africa contend with the threats and opportunities of economic globalization, the driving force of change in the contemporary world. As the authors confirm in their straightforward and, at times, irreverent analysis of the regions' response to these challenges, it is globalization which is the key to an understanding of economic reform. Through an investigation of the structures of state and civil society, including financial systems, they also demonstrate that there is a direct correlation between economic performance and democratization. In other words, the more liberal the polity, the more effective is its economy in responding to globalization. With its interesting and incisive approach to the politics and economics of the Middle East and North Africa, this will be an essential purchase for students and policy-makers and anyone trying to come to grips with economic globalization generally.

"Clement Henry and Robert Springborg's book, in particular, represents a serious attempt to build a typology of Arab authoritarianism, and one that maps remarkably well onto the outcomes of the Arab revolts so far ... stimulating, innovative, empirically rich and highly relevant for all students of authoritarianism and political transition." Steffen Hertong, *Perspectives on Politics* "... the book provides readers with a deep analysis of economic decision-making processes in a number of country cases, and it is particularly successful in highlighting the reasons behind the economic success of democratic countries vis-...-vis authoritarian regimes. The framework the authors establish throughout the study is useful for comprehending the political economy of development in the MENA region." Yusuke Kawamura, *New Middle Eastern Studies*About the AuthorClement Moore Henry is Professor of Government at the University of Texas, Austin. His publications include *The Politics of Islamic Finance* (2004) and *The Mediterranean Debt Crescent: A Comparative Study of Money and Power in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Turkey* (1996).Robert Springborg is Professor of National Security Affairs at the Naval Postgraduate School. Until August, 2008 he held the MBI Al Jaber Chair in Middle East Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, where he also served as Director of the London Middle East Institute. Professor Springborg's publications include *Legislative Politics in the Arab World* (1999), *Mubarak's Egypt: Fragmentation of the Political Order* (1989) and *Family Power and Politics in Egypt* (1982).