

Ultimately, I understand Tuğal's argument to be about the failure of Islamic neoliberalism to satisfy the demands of many of its previous supporters, both at home and abroad. But without a clear definition of the causal agent and the ultimate outcome—what could be called the independent and dependent variables—it is difficult to understand what his argument has to say about the crisis of neoliberalism beyond the Turkish case. At times, Tuğal seems to indicate that Islamic neoliberalism was initially successful and then collapsed, whether under its own weight or as the result of some international hegemonic shift. At others, quantitative and qualitative evidence describes a system that was flawed—undemocratic and unequal—from the start. By the end, it is unclear whether the Gezi Park protests were a symptom of the system's decline or one of its (many) consequences.

In his discussions of the role of political society in supporting the development of Islamic neoliberalism, I believe Tuğal may be right to focus on the fragmentation of the Islamic movement when explaining the consolidation of a particular political and economic model, whether neoliberal, corporatist, or otherwise. But the sharp line he draws between political society, on the one hand, and (state) institutions, on the other, relies on a definition of institutions that may be too narrow. Following the work of Douglas North, political scientists and economists often define an institution as any human construct that structures political, economic, or social interactions. This broader view of institutions serves to highlight the ways in which state power structures interact with nonstate organizations and even informal institutions to constrain individuals' choice of strategy. In treating the state as something distinct from or outside of political society, Tuğal underestimates, for example, the role of electoral democracy in consolidating the Islamic movement in Turkey and how its absence may have encouraged the fragmentation of the movement elsewhere.

In this expanded view of institutions, the Turkish model becomes one: a set of constraints on human interaction that has been, at times, more or less democratic, more or less neoliberal, and more or less Islamic. In highlighting the difficulty of transplanting this model elsewhere, Tuğal joins a growing literature in political science that questions the exportability of some overarching institutions where the underlying ones—including culture, an informal institution—are different. Ultimately, *The Fall of the Turkish Model* makes an important contribution by raising these questions in the case of Islam and the Middle East. In addition, in tracing the arc of Islamic neoliberalism in the Turkish case, Tuğal challenges the future of this institution even where it first developed. The book is therefore well placed to contribute to a global discussion of Turkey and its position in the Middle East and in the international community.

JEAN-PIERRE FILIU, *From Deep State to Islamic State: The Arab Counter-Revolution and Its Jihadi Legacy* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015). Pp. 311. \$24.95 cloth. ISBN: 9780190264062

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In *From Deep State to Islamic State*, Jean-Pierre Filiu has produced an original account that puts the ferocity of the post Arab Spring “counter-revolution” into historical and comparative perspective. The same author had, in May 2011, written a hastily produced short book entitled *The Arab Revolution: Ten Lessons from the Democratic Uprising*, which projected a message of hope. Four years later, with Libya split among warring militias, Egypt riven by domestic conflicts, and Syria destroyed by war, Filiu begins by acknowledging how “I thought I had seen it all from the Arab despots: their perversity, their brutality, their voracity. But I was still underestimating

their ferocity and their readiness to burn down their country to cling to the absolute power” (p. x). Filii proceeds to unpack the reasons for the durability of what he calls “the modern Mamluks” (pp. 47–48) in a wide-ranging analysis that, at times, sacrifices depth for breadth and covers too much ground all at once.

The crux of Filii’s argument is that the presence of a substantial “deep state” across much of the Arab world (and Turkey) explains “how the nucleus of the ruling cliques could strike back with such unbridled violence” that constituted a “systematic war” of regimes against their peoples (p. x). While the borrowing of the concept of the “deep state” from its conventional Turkish understanding adds nuance to Filii’s analysis, it risks buttonholing very different sets of ruling elites into a square peg in ways that do not always convince. Additionally, readers picking the book by its title will find very little on the rise of the so-called Islamic State, one half-chapter notwithstanding, and will gain far more from Charles Lister’s superlative account *The Syrian Jihad: Al-Qaeda, the Islamic State and the Evolution of an Insurgency* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016). And yet, the granular examination of the networks of power and violence that undergird the maintenance of autocratic rule merit close reading for the value they add to the emerging scholarship of the Arab Spring and its turbulent aftermath.

Filii divides his analysis roughly into three sections and opens with a lengthy account of the “deep state” in action in Turkey. Defining the concept of *dawla ‘amiqa* as an area of “murky cooperation between state intelligence, corrupt justice, and organized crime” (p. 1), Filii examines at length the ramifications of the unraveling of the shadowy structures of the Turkish variant of the deep state after its inadvertent exposure following a car crash in Susurluk in 1996. This opening section includes the “Ergenekon” scandal of the late 2000s and the “Sledgehammer” plot of 2010 that pitted the AKP government of Prime Minister Erdogan against sections of the Turkish military and security apparatus. These skirmishes, conducted when Erdogan was at the height of his popularity, hallowed out the independence of the Turkish judiciary and, Filii suggests persuasively, polarized “a country bitterly divided between AKP supporters and their secular opponents, both claiming that law and the nation were on their side” (p. 12). Filii acknowledges that, as president, Erdogan has assumed “authoritarian tendencies” of his own, but pressures of space prohibit him from examining in greater detail whether the replacement of one set of elites in favor of another has merely shifted, rather than eliminated, the contours and composition of the “deep state” in Turkey.

Filii proceeds to expand at length on his identification of a modern class of “Mamluks”—the spiritual successors, in his view, of the emancipated slaves who ruled the Ottoman Empire for two and a half centuries. Ranging from Algeria to Yemen by way of Egypt and Syria, Filii guides the reader through a sometimes chaotic jumble of people, places, and events, in a not-altogether coherent attempt to explain precisely what he means by the plethora of “Mamluk authoritarian regimes” which he also places in a separate category from “the aspiring totalitarian regimes” put in place by Colonel Qaddafi in Libya and Saddam Husayn in Iraq (p. 80). One of the most important points to arise from Filii’s historical approach is the potency of individual rivalries both for political power and for localized influence that shaped the distinct evolution of the security state in each instance, which Filii addresses in detail in a chapter he entitles “The Rise of the Security Mafias.” Here, Filii makes the point that while “the military clique could be divisive and unstable... they stood as one united body when their core interest was attacked” (p. 116) and, over the decades, “morphed into multi-faceted protection networks, far beyond the realm of security concerns” (p. 118).

Turning to the specific events of the Arab Spring uprisings that resulted in the downfall of four regional leaders in 2011, Filii struggles at times to draw together a coherent narrative that at once explains the differences in each outcome within the confines of the “modern Mamluk” argument. In Tunisia, he argues, “the security mafia was too centered on the presidential family” and “too police-oriented to see of the challenge of civilian protests” (p. 150). By contrast, in Egypt, just

three weeks later, the “strong cohesion” within the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces was “a significant advantage for the Egyptian Mamluks in a country agitated by revolutionary fervor” (p. 155). Moreover, during the Muslim Brotherhood interregnum, which left “the Egyptian Mamluks in a state of shock,” Filiu argues that a “tripartite alliance between militarized intelligence, a politicized judiciary, and criminal gangs” gradually formed and ensured that Mamluk power was reasserted in the countercoup of July 2013 that toppled President Mursi (p. 167). However, two subsequent sections, entitled “Sisi the Superstar” and “Mamluks United” fail to capture the elite-level fractures among the various military, police, and intelligence agencies that since have emerged in a sea of shifting sands under President Sisi (pp. 180, 185).

For a book that features the name prominently in its title, the rise of the so-called Islamic State is given only a brief and relatively perfunctory analysis in the context of a chapter that deals with the rise of jihadi terrorism in Syria and Yemen. Filiu labels this chapter “Evil Twins in Yemen and Syria,” which he claims represent “the dictators and the jihadis” whose interests—both in Yemen and in Syria—aligned after 2011 in a determination to crush the mass and largely peaceful protest movements that had rocked the political and security establishment in each state (p. 194). Both ‘Ali Abd ‘Allah Salih in Yemen and Bashar al-Asad in Syria used “the jihadi joker” in this way (p. 194), but scholars seeking an in-depth analysis of how and why the mass movements gave way to an elite-driven transition in Sana’a and militarized factionalism in Syria will not find it in the seven pages that Filiu devotes to Yemen and the six to Syria.

Readers seeking a 30,000-foot perspective on the Arab Spring and its aftermath will appreciate *From Deep State to the Islamic State* for its broad-based approach, but scholars seeking a deeper analysis of the dynamics of formal and informal structures of power, authority, and consent will feel unfulfilled. Nuggets of valuable insight, such as the observation that “Yemen stands as a sinister illustration of how irrelevant it is to oust a despot while keeping his repressive apparatus in place” are few and far between (p. 252), and are not sufficiently unpacked. And yet, Filiu’s uncompromising analysis of the “Mamluks” has, at least, shone a probing light on the obscure security networks that, one suspects, would rather continue to operate in the twilight zone and as a law unto themselves.