



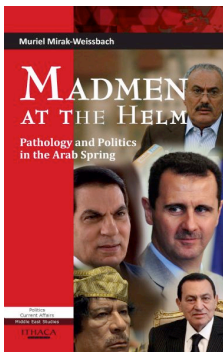
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Pathology and Politics in the Arab Spring

Author Muriel Mirak-Weissbach, Professor Roger Owen and Dr. Jack Danielian
Explore the Enigma of the Arab Spring

In 2010, one singular protest sparked a political uprising known today as the Arab Spring.



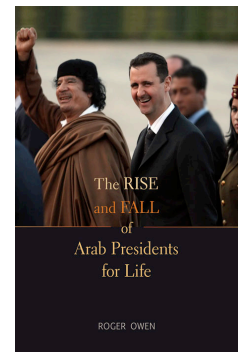
Boston, MA--- In 2010, one singular protest sparked a series of demonstrations and civil uprisings that caused a great political upheaval in the Arab world. **It has been called the Arab Spring.** A watershed in Arab history, the Arab Spring gave young protesters the impetus to challenge established and entrenched dictatorial regimes for the first time and to demand representative government.

Now, on **Tuesday, October 16 at 6:30 pm**, authors **Muriel Wirak-Weissbach** and Professor **Roger Owen** present their analyses of the current developments in the Arab world. Owen will explore how lifetime presidencies are like monarchies. How did these regimes emerge and why have they come under pressure to either initiate reforms or cede power? Mirak-Weissbach will examine the Arab leadership in the context of personality disorders such as narcissism and paranoia. Can psychological factors explain the behavior of the Arab dictators during this time of political confrontation? What are the implications for the future of democracy and power in the Middle East

and elsewhere?

Says Mirak-Weissbach, "Convinced that economic, political, and cultural factors alone cannot adequately explain the nature of the revolutionary process as it unfolded, I have examined tumultuous developments from the subjective standpoint, treating the responses of the besieged leaders as psychologically or clinically significant."

The evening's discussion will be moderated by **Dr. Jack Danielian**. The program is free and open to the public as part of the *Partners in Public Dialogue* program of Old South Meeting House.



ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Muriel Mirak-Weissbach has worked for thirty years as a political journalist, specializing in economic, political and cultural developments in the Arab and Islamic world. She is author of *Madmen at the Helm: Pathology and Politics in the Arab Spring*. Dr. Roger Owen is A.J. Meyer Professor of Middle East History at Harvard University. He is author of *The Rise and Fall of Arab Presidents for Life*. Dr. Jack Danielian, psychologist and psychoanalyst, will moderate the discussion.

OLD SOUTH MEETING HOUSE AT A GLANCE

Old South Meeting House is a non-profit museum and National Historic Landmark dedicated to continuing its proud tradition of free speech and assembly. Built in 1729 as a Puritan meetinghouse, this historic site is a living symbol of our country's quest for freedom and justice.

Open daily. Old South Meeting House is open 9:30-5:00 pm through October 31. For more information about Old South Meeting House, visit www.osmh.org. Follow on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube (OSMHBoston).