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Fragmentation; 2.1.2 Loss of Momentum; 2.1.3 The Colonial Era; 2.1.4 The Blended Regions of the World; 2.1.5 What Characterises the Middle East Middle East? What Characterises the Middle East Middle East? 2.2...The Era of Change Era of Change and the Arab Spring Arab Spring 2.1 The Varying Record of Governments Governments; 2.2.2 New Generations New Generations: The Arab Spring Arab Spring; 2.3... Economic Structure, Development and Demography Demography; 2.3.1 On the Economic Structure; 2.3.2 The Backlash; 2.3.3 The Demographic Issue; 2.4...The Spectre of Unemployment Unemployment; 2.5... Education Education and Employment; 2.6...Concluding Remarks; Acknowledgments; 3 Capacity Building, Rationale and Learning from Best Practice; 3.1...Technology Technology ICT ICT and Human Capital 3.2...A Systemic Approach to STI STI and Education Education 3.2.1 The Evasive and Multifaceted Concept of Innovation Innovation; 3.2.2 Inter-Related Success and Leverage Factors; 3.3...On the Rationale for Research and Innovation Innovation Policy; 3.4...MNEs, SMEs and Entrepreneurship Entrepreneurship; 3.5...Addressing Context-Specific Systems; 3.6...Resource Wealth: A Blessing or a Curse Curse?; 3.7... Towards a Relevant Policy: Searching for Best Practice; 3.8...On the Application of Best Practice; Acknowledgments; 4 Basics on Benchmarking Benchmarking; 4.1...Types of Benchmarking Benchmarking 4.2...Issues in Benchmarking Benchmarking 4.3...On Points of Reference and Types of Comparison; 4.4...Types of Economy in Focus; 5 Examining Performance; 5.1...Introduction; 5.2...Points of Reference; 5.3...Level of Development; 5.4...Towards the Knowledge-Based Society Knowledge-based Society; 5.5...Concluding Remarks on Policy; 6 Measuring Performance in GCC GCC and Selected MENA MENA Countries: In-Depth Considerations of Implementation; 6.1...On the Rationale for In-depth Benchmarking Benchmarking; 6.2...Output Analysis and Performance Benchmarking Benchmarking in STI STI; 6.2.1 High-Technology Technology Exports 6.2.2 Registered Patents Patents 6.2.2.1 Company Awareness of Local Patent Services and Tax Incentives; 6.2.2.2 Alternative Modes of Protection and Strategic Issues; 6.2.3 Foreign Direct Investment and Technology Technology Transfer; 6.3...Input Analysis and Policy Benchmarking Policy Benchmarking; 6.3.1 Absorptive Capacity; 6.3.1.1 Absorptive Capacity at Company Level; 6.3.1.2 Absorptive Capacity of the Research System: Public Funding; 6.3.2 Private Sector and Company Spending on R&D R&D; 6.3.3 Venture Capital Venture Capital; 6.3.3.1 Availability of Venture Capital Venture Capital 6.3.3.2 Venture Capital Venture Capital and Capacity for Innovation Innovation

## Sommario/riassunto

The wave of protests and populist uprisings in the Middle East has heightened the focus on a volatile region. But the emphasis on political issues has obscured underlying issues concerning education, infrastructure, research, innovation, entrepreneurship and sustainable environmental and social development. This volume, emerging in the aftermath of a conference and workshop on science and technology in the region, presents contributions from a range of experts from the Middle East, Europe, and the world to provide fresh new insights and perspectives on the challenges and prospects for regional development in the changing global context of our time. The authors explore such topics as: the role of information and communication technologies; mindset change in support of investment in intangible assets and risk-taking; how to approach cultural issues, institutions and governance; collaborations with other regions, and; benchmarking performance while drawing lessons of relevance for the special local context.

Ultimately, they offer a number of precise policy recommendations and practical insights for creating an enabling environment for capturing economic, political, and social opportunity.

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