Record Nr. UNINA9910790258203321
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Titolo Islamist opposition in authoritarian regimes [[electronic resource]]: the

Party of Justice and Development in Morocco / / Eva Wegner

Pubbl/distr/stampa Syracuse, N.Y., : Syracuse University Press, 2011

ISBN 0-8156-5112-0

Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (232 p.)

Collana Religion and politics

Disciplina 324.264/082

Soggetti Political parties - Morocco

Islam and politics - Morocco

Morocco Politics and government 1999-

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto Political institutions, political parties, and the Islamist movement in

Morocco -- Party institutionalization and emancipation from the Islamist movement -- The regime game -- Elections and parliament --

Comparing Islamist strategies in Jordan and Morocco.

Sommario/riassunto What electoral mobilization choices do Islamist opposition parties

make? How do they relate to authoritarian incumbents? Which key factors influence the choices these parties make? Islamist Opposition in Authoritarian Regimes explores the answers to these questions by studying the path of the Islamist Party of Justice and Development (PJD) in Morocco from 1992 to 2007. Wegner traces the party's choices through an analysis of organizational, ideological, and institutional constraints. Adopting a simple but novel perspective, Wegner distinguishes Islamist parties from other opposition parties because of their connection to a powerful social movement. The author shows how the PJD initially made major progress in electoral politics by building up a strong party organization, sustaining full support of the Islamist movement, and positioning itself as the only credible opposition party. Ultimately, the failure of the PJD to win elections was due to political concessions it made to secure its legality combined with a distancing from the Islamist movement. Based on extensive field research in

Morocco in 2003 and 2007 and drawing upon personal interviews with

members, candidates, and leaders of the PJD, Islamist Opposition in Authoritarian Regimes presents a meticulous and enlightening case study. Wegner enriches our understanding of electoral authoritarianism in Morocco and throughout the Arab- Islamic world. -- Book jacket.