

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910791936303321
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Titolo	The rise and fall of Arab presidents for life [[electronic resource] /] / Roger Owen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Mass., : Harvard University Press, 2012
ISBN	0-674-06541-7 0-674-06981-1
Edizione	[First edition]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (273 p.)
Disciplina	352.230917/4927
Soggetti	Authoritarianism - Arab countries Authoritarianism - Middle East Monarchy - Arab countries Monarchy - Middle East Presidents - Arab countries - History Presidents - Middle East - History Arab countries Kings and rulers Arab countries Politics and government 1945- Middle East Kings and rulers Middle East Politics and government 1945-
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 (p.203-226) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Preface -- Introduction -- 1. The Search for Sovereignty in an Insecure World -- 2. The Origins of the Presidential Security State -- 3. Basic Components of the Regimes -- 4. Centralized State Systems in Egypt, Tunisia, Syria, and Algeria -- 5. Presidents as Managers in Libya, Sudan, and Yemen -- 6. Constrained Presidencies in Lebanon and Iraq after Hussein -- 7. The Monarchical Security States of Jordan, Morocco, Bahrain, and Oman -- 8. The Politics of Succession -- 9. The Question of Arab Exceptionalism -- 10. The Sudden Fall -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Acknowledgments -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The monarchical presidential regimes that prevailed in the Arab world for so long looked as though they would last indefinitely—until events

in Tunisia and Egypt made clear their time was up. The Rise and Fall of Arab Presidents for Life exposes for the first time the origins and dynamics of a governmental system that largely defined the Arab Middle East in the twentieth century. Presidents who rule for life have been a feature of the Arab world since independence. In the 1980's their regimes increasingly resembled monarchies as presidents took up residence in palaces and made every effort to ensure their sons would succeed them. Roger Owen explores the main features of the prototypical Arab monarchical regime: its household; its inner circle of corrupt cronies; and its attempts to create a popular legitimacy based on economic success, a manipulated constitution, managed elections, and information suppression. Why has the Arab world suffered such a concentration of permanent presidential government? Though post-Soviet Central Asia has also known monarchical presidencies, Owen argues that a significant reason is the "Arab demonstration effect," whereby close ties across the Arab world have enabled ruling families to share management strategies and assistance. But this effect also explains why these presidencies all came under the same pressure to reform or go. Owen discusses the huge popular opposition the presidential systems engendered during the Arab Spring, and the political change that ensued, while also delineating the challenges the Arab revolutions face across the Middle East and North Africa.

2. Record Nr.	UNIORUON00506848
Titolo	Comedias burlescas del Siglo de Oro / edicion de Ignacio Arellano Ayuso e Ignacio D. Arellano-Torres
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Madrid, : Cátedra, 2020
ISBN	978-84-376-4127-0
Descrizione fisica	439 p. ; 18 cm
Disciplina	868.308
Lingua di pubblicazione	Spagnolo
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia