

## **POLITICAL DYNAMICS OF SAUDI ARABIA IN RESPONDING THE ARAB SPRING**

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### Abstract

*This research is motivated by the revolution that happen to the Middle East states since the end of 2007 to the present day. The wave of so called democratization started from Tunisia and continued to Egypt, Libya, and Syria. Interestingly, the revolution happened in the countries that are economically low and politically under the republic system. The rich countries that are under monarchy system succeeded to handle their political dynamics. However, the Gulf countries in particular Saudi Arab, has started to worry since the revolution that hit some countries in the Middle East also influence their countries.*

*In general Saudi has experienced international social and cultural changes. For instance thousands of Saudis are studying in Europe and US who are expected to come home. The wave of intellectuals will bring new dynamics in Saudi. Moreover the Saudi's foreign affairs has showed its intervention to foreign contries. Its support to the military cup in Egypt and assistance to opositions in Syria will bring consequences to Saudi's internal politics. Of course the internal dynamics of Saudi and its involvement Egypt and Syriria has called the revolution will come to the Saudi home land. The research will analyze the responses of Saudi toward the Arab Spring and how it has adjust it by providing internal political change. Before further political event happen to its country, Saudi should some reform steps in order to maintain its political legitimacy.*

Keywords: Democracy, Saudi Arabia, Arab Spring and Middle East