



## **From One Arab Spring to Another: A Regional Revolutionary Process**

Starting from Tunisia in December 2010, a revolutionary shockwave engulfed the Arabic-speaking countries of Africa and the Middle East. The label Arab Spring initially reflected the belief that this was going to be a relatively smooth democratic transition. However, the upsurge eventually gave way to a counter-revolutionary backlash, and the euphoria turned into gloom. Beyond such impressionistic reactions, the 2011 regional upheaval stemmed in fact from a deep structural crisis and was therefore but the initial phase of a long-term revolutionary process with many other phases to follow. The new regional upsurge that started in Sudan in December 2018 and spread to Algeria, Iraq and Lebanon was indeed promptly called Second Arab Spring by the global media. This lecture will assess the roots and dynamics of this regional process, the commonalities – occupation of public spaces in particular – and differences – modes or organisation in particular – between its initial upsurge and the ongoing one, and the main impediments that it faces.

### **Related writings by G. Achcar:**

#### **Articles:**

June 2019: “The Seasons after the Arab Spring”, online at  
<<https://mondediplo.com/2019/06/05sudan>>.

December 2019: “The Undying Revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa”, online at  
<<https://newpol.org/the-undying-revolutions-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/>>

#### **Books:**

2013: *The People Want: A Radical Interpretation of the Arab Uprising* (Beverly: University of California Press, and London: Saqi Books)

2016: *Morbid Symptoms: Relapse in the Arab Uprising* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, and London: Saqi Books)