

Panel I: Contemporary Politics and Economics

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Major: International Studies

Paper Title: *Challenges of a Post-Revolution Tunisia*

Abstract: Tunisia is perched upon the precipice that could alter the future of the region. Often regarded as the most promising country from the Arab spring for democratization and initially viewed with great optimism, Tunisia faces many challenges in the wake of its revolution in 2011. The political climate is rapidly changing in Tunisia and the country will soon face decisions regarding its constitution, elected officials, and even the government structure. Because many Tunisians feel the political parties are disingenuous and some members of the old regime still remain, they are torn between a left leaning secularist and a more Islamic centered government. Additionally, it appears that Salafi groups are growing. Tunisia also struggles with a high unemployment, particularly of those who are educated. This population is being targeted and recruited by violent religious extremists. The Ennahda must find a balance between the moderate Islamists and the secularists and build a government with equal representation. The government must also find a way to deal with violent Salafis and other extremist religious groups. This paper will analyze the challenges modern Tunisia must face which will determine the post-revolution government and affect the region. .