

Jannis Julien Grimm

Contested Legitimacies

Repression and Revolt in Post-Revolutionary Egypt

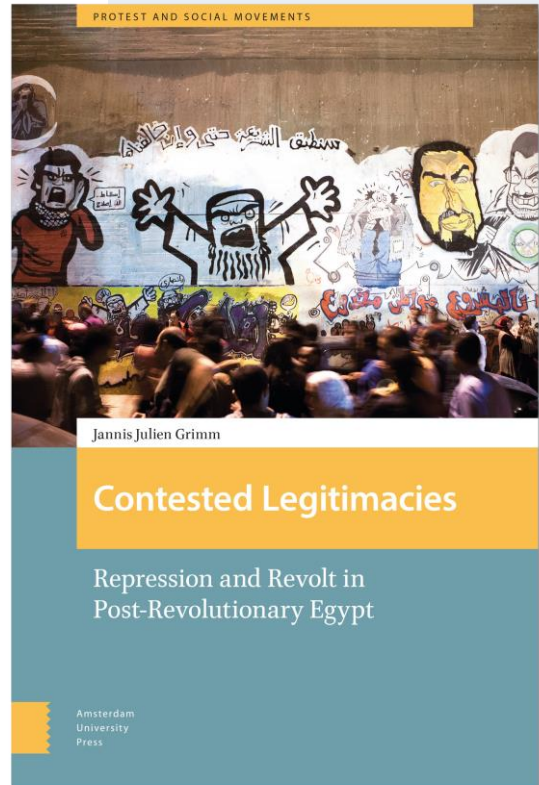
Since the overthrow of President Mursi in mid-2013, Egypt has witnessed an authoritarian rollback and shrinking spaces for civil society. Nationalist discourses have villified popular protest and channelled pressure for reform into a state-centric model of governance. Despite this hostile environment for social mobilization, protest has persisted. *Contested Legitimacies* explores this resilience of contentious politics through a multimethod approach that is attuned to the physical and discursive interactions among key players in Egypt's protest arena. Drawing from a unique archive of sources, it investigates the rise and fall of different coalitions of contenders, from the Tamarod uprising against Mursi, to the Anti-Coup resistance against the military coup, to the challenges posed by the Tiran and Sanafir island campaign to Al-Sisi's regime. It highlights the decisive impact of battles fought in a discursive arena on the conditions of possibility for street politics: In postrevolutionary Egypt, a contest over the meaning of political legitimacy cemented political polarization, limited social movements' coalition choices, and ultimately paved the way for a restoration of autocracy.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Jannis Julien Grimm heads the research group "Radical Spaces" at the Center for Interdisciplinary Peace Conflict Research at Freie Universität Berlin.

"Contested Legitimacies fully exploits the potentials of mixed-methods designs. Combining event analyses with the richness of qualitative process-tracing and discourse analysis it pushes the boundaries of strategic-interactionist approaches in social movement studies."

- Swen Hutter, Center for Civil Society Research, WZB Berlin



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments

Preface

1 Introduction

History in the Making

Interactionist Approaches and the Arab Uprisings

The Egyptian Revolution as the Result of a Hegemonic Crisis

Political Subjectivation and the Emergence of New Contentious Alliances

Situating this Project

2 Conceptual Choices and Theoretical Framework

Players and Arenas

Contentious Interaction at Critical Junctures

Making Events Transformative

A Discourse Theoretical Perspective on Contentious Politics

3 Brothers and Rebels

The Polarization of Egyptian Society

Rebellion against Mursi

The June 30 Uprising

A Crisis of Legitimacy

4 Coup and Anti-Coup

From Government to Opposition

The Constitution of the Anti-Coup Alliance as a Political Player

Constructing the Antagonist Other

The Republican Guard Massacre

A Popular Mandate for Repression

Setting Course for Violence

5 Myths and Martyrs

The Making of a Massacre

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The Rabaa Salute
The Rabaa Martyrs
Backlash to the Rabaa Massacre
Tactical Adaptation
Discursive Path Dependencies

6 New Sheriff in Town

Anti-Coup Resistance from Abroad
Victors' Justice
The Rehabilitation of the Armed Forces
Shrinking Spaces
A Winning Formula for Popular Support

7 A Tale of Two Islands

Reshaping the Protest Arena
The Limits of Securitization
The Popular Campaign to Protect the Land
Sinai Liberation Day
Turning the Nationalist Discourse Inside Out
Harnessing the Memory of January 25 for Coalition Building

8 Conclusion and Implications

Autocratic Restoration through the Lenses of Contentious Politics
From a Relational to an Interactionist Perspective on Protest and Repression
Conceptualizing the Discursive Arena of Contentious Politics
Prospects for Resistance in Egypt

Appendix: A Mixed-Method Approach to the Study of Contentious Interaction

Combining Protest Event and Discourse Analyses in a Nested Research Design
Event Data and their Limitations
Political Discourse Analysis
Source Selection
Data Collection and Ethical Dilemmas

Bibliography

Index

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