

The documents has been produced in the framework of the strategic partnership between IAI and The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMFUS), a program aimed at exploring the possibilities of cooperation between the United States and Europe in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

The chapters in this report, written by Silvia Colombo, Paola Caridi and Jane Kinninmont, analyze a number of features of each of the three socio-political actors (civil society, economic actors, and Islamist parties) in North Africa: their role in the current phase of transition, the extent to which they can be defined as “new” actors, and their relationship with other components of the state and society, including the remnants of the old authoritarian systems. These features highlight their relevance, whether and how these actors have changed in light of the Arab Spring, their goals and instruments, and the main challenges they face in promoting democratic change.

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