Arab Spring
Video
“The Tragic Life of a Street Vendor”

• What do you think Tunisia was like before the revolution?

• Do you think it would be fair to call the President of Tunisia and the military/police officers “bullies”?

• Do you think Bouazizi is a martyr?
Characteristics

• Lower classes, Students, Laborers, Military

• Social Media – Facebook and Twitter

• Civil Resistance (strikes, protests, and demonstrations)
Causes

- Dictatorship & authoritarian regimes: Want democracy
- Human rights violations
- Government corruption
- Economic problems
- A young, educated population
Iran 2009

- Protests about the 2009 Iranian Presidential Election
- Re-election of President President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
- Ahmadinejad: “divine assessment”
Iran cont’d

• Foreign Intervention

• Green Revolution: protests in Iran and around the world protest the election

• “Twitter Revolution”
Egyptian Revolution

- President Mubarak ruled Egypt for 30 years
  - Resigned Feb. 11th, 2011
- governed by the military
- Revolution
  - 18 days of protest
  - High poverty rate
  - Low literacy of population
  - High unemployment
Libyan Revolution

• 1969- overthrow of the monarchy
  – Led by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, in power for 40 years

• Dictatorship

• August 2011- Gaddafi fled Tripoli
  – Captured in October and killed

• Revolution
  – Most people live in overcrowded cities
    • 1 in 5 people are farmers, but only 1% of the land is farmable
  – Government very controlling-little freedom
Tunisia

• President of Tunisia- Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, ruled Tunisia for over 25 years and forced from power

• Revolution
  – Protestor’s suicide (angry with the government’s neglect for human welfare)
  – Over 300 citizens died during the revolution
  – Revolution goals- to end poverty, unfair treatment of citizens, gain human rights and political power for the people

• President and wife sentenced to 35 years in jail
Social Media

• What is social media?
• What role did social media play?
• Could this have happened without social media?
  – 1990s, 1980s, 1970s, etc.?

• Government control
• Iran and China’s experience with control
U.S. Responses

• Should the U.S. support democratic elections in historically autocratic states?
• Should the U.S. support autocratic leaders in order to maintain stability?
• Should the U.S. support the protestors by offering moral support against the use of violence by the regimes?
• Encourage Arab leaders to cancel emergency laws
• Encourage control of the security forces to end corruption w/little violence
• Encourage the development of civic advocacy
• Economic aid
• Trade
U.S. Responses cont’d

- U.S. supported the Tunisian and Egyptian people. Sec. of State Hilary Clinton pledged $150 million in emergency aid to Egypt.
- U.S. Export-Import Bank $80 billion in letters of credit to Egypt.
- US AID $50,000 to Tunisia for disaster relief.
- Recently, UN Security Council drafted a resolution calling on Assad to step-down or face “harsher” measures in 15 days.
Impact of the Arab Spring

• Do you recognize the impact of these events globally?
  – Europe
  – Central Asia
  – East Asia
  – Africa
  – America

• Roles of the Western powers?

• Economic effects?
Questions?

• Why now?
• Why this region?
• Is it over and/or was it successful?
• How does this affect you?
• What was/is the significance?
Cartoon #3
الاحتجاج السلمي يصنع التغيير

شبان التنغيث

أكاذيب وراء إرهاب يصنع التغيير

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