THE ARAB SPRING IS A TERM USED TO DESCRIBE THE SERIES OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND REVOLUTIONS THAT ROCKED THE ARAB WORLD BEGINNING IN DECEMBER, 2010
The Ottoman Empire controlled the area for over 500 years until the end of WWII.

The Europeans colonized the area before and after WWII.

After independence, most countries had monarchies established by the Europeans which were quickly “overthrown” with authoritarian leaders taking power!

Remember... these are “young, recently independent countries”
Mohamed Bouazizi- in Tunisia!

Self- Immolation!

Mohamed actions spark revolutions throughout North Africa.

Spark that started the revolutions!
Tunisian street vender..
Who was the leader in Tunisia?
Why did he set himself on fire?

Mohamed’s actions spark massive protests throughout Tunisia and the Middle East!
Tahrir Square, Egypt
Who was the Egyptian Leader?
Who was the leader of Libya?
Many causes... discontent with autocratic leaders
Corruption & Authoritarian Leaders

- Lack of Liberties
  - basic freedoms of political expression, speech, press and due process.
  - Repression by government
  - Internet censorship
  - Humiliation and lack of respect to citizens!
  - political rights of all their citizens, men and women.

- One Party Rule
  - Leaders in power for decades,
  - Police Brutality,
  - State of emergency laws,
  - Electoral fraud,
  - Political censorship,
  - Widespread corruption,
Causes...poverty and unemployment
Lack of opportunities & economic crisis

High unemployment: even higher for youth

Unemployment rate, 2008 (percent)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Youth 1/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
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Sources: National authorities; IMF, World Economic Outlook; staff estimates; and International Labor Organization.
1/ 2008, or most recent year for which data are available.
2/ Unemployment rate reflects data from Urban Labor Force survey.
Causes ... Rising Food Costs

PRICE, POPULATION AND THE SEEDS OF A REVOLUTION

Politics Across the Middle East and North Africa food prices have been a huge issue for a generation, and the rising cost of staples was one of the pressures that led to the Arab Spring. For farmers being one-off, it’s something that we will see more and more in coming years in the world’s poorer regions, writes Mike Scott.

Causes ... Rising Food Costs

30 THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES THAT EXPERIENCED BOTTLENECKS TO RISING FOOD PRICES IN 2005/9

36% RISE IN FOOD PRICES THIS YEAR, ACCORDING TO THE WORLD BANK

44m NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN POVERTIZED SINCE JUNE 2010

All the MENA countries will take steps to increase food subsidies this year in a bid to stem further popular unrest.

Charles Rice, "All of the regional governments had spent a long time planning and building food silos for these types of shocks. But they are still not ready for the next one."

Another reason for the supply shocks is the rise in staple prices. "When you have high food prices, you see that people have less money to buy other things," says Rice. "People need to eat, and they need to eat now."

Food prices may well spark unrest in Cameroon, Liberia and the DRC as elections approach.

The long-term solution is to make food more diverse. "If you have a diet that is too dependent on one or two crops, you'll see that prices are going to fluctuate," says Rice. "But if you have a diet that is more diverse, you'll see that prices are going to be more stable."

The World Bank and World Health Organization (WHO) have warned that the current food crisis is likely to last longer than expected, and that the effects will be felt for years to come.

Political instability may be the key to the future of the world's food systems, as the planet faces unprecedented challenges to food security.
What are the economic causes of the revolutions?

- “The rich becomes richer and the poor poorer is apt for these countries”.
  - No good jobs in country
  - Shortage of food
  - High unemployment rates, (especially young people)
  - Lack of good education or hope for a better life.
  - The wealth is concentrated only in the hands of a few

- You should use statistics to support this information
  - GDP Per Capita
  - Unemployment rates
  - Poverty levels

- Use CIA Fact Book for this information.
How did technology help the protestors?
Which protests led to the resignations of the rulers that had held power for decades?

Which leaders refused to resign leading to armed rebellions?
In Libya, protests grew into a full-scale rebellion. With the help of the United Nations and international air support, the rebels toppled and killed Muammar Gaddafi.
In Syria, protests developed into a civil war.

Tens of Thousands have been killed and hundreds of thousands have become refugees.

Image: Azaz, Syria during the Syrian civil war. 16 August 2012, Azaz residents pick up after aerial bombings. Bombed out buildings.

Date 3 September 2012
Manoubia Bouazizi, mother of Mohamed Bouazizi, the Tunisian man who set himself on fire in an act of protest which inspired the Arab Spring, gestures after casting her ballot at a polling station in Marsa district.

90 per cent of eligible voters in Tunisia participated in a free election for the first time in 55 years on 23 October.

Post- Revolution Election in Tunisia
Elections in Tunisia and Egypt have put moderate Islamic political parties in power. Religious minorities and secular Muslims are wary of their new leaders.