“Post-Coloniality Revisited: the US and the Making of the New Arab Order”

Miloud Barkaoui, Prof. Dr.
Badji Mokhtar-Annaba University, Algeria
miloudbarkaoui@hotmail.com

The “Arab Spring” has inaugurated a new round of contestation of the postcolonial order, notably after the failure of the anti-colonial movements of the last century to accomplish full decolonization, and to remove the “mimic” regimes that ensured colonial continuity. This epochal event offers an historic opportunity to dismantle the flawed binary “Islam and the West.” It also inaugurates a new semantic era in relation to the long-blurred image of the Arab in Western settings, integrating Muslim geography into the global political landscape. The proposed paper probes into how the US, caught in its classic Success/Virtue quagmire, envisions the new Arab order in the making. Juxtaposing Washington’s response to MENA’s post-WW II bids for independence from European colonialism against its handling of the current wrestling of the anti-authoritarian movements with internal colonization, the paper negotiates the question of whether the US reluctant support for change is merely a calculated move to “shepherd” the Arab world into the Euro-American vision of “democracy,” “universality,” and “modernity.” Such a vision is reproached for upholding the US unilinear mold of cultural evolution, and of disfiguring the outcome of the revolutionary domino for geo-strategic reasons in the name of national/global interests.