Significant attention has been paid to the revolutions in Egypt and Tunisia and the promise that the “Arab Spring” holds in ushering in a new age of democratic governance in the Middle East. In this paper, however, I argue that although these are hopeful movements, they are endangered by a strong counterrevolutionary current driven by reactionary regimes across the region and with covert and at times overt support from the United States. Indeed, I assert that this revolutionary period resembles the late 1950s and early 1960s, when Arab nationalist movements inspired by Egypt’s Gamal Abdel Nasser overturned or threatened to overthrow their governments leading to an Arab Cold War between “conservative” and “radical” regimes. Drawing on Arabic and English archival and published sources, this paper compares and contrasts the revolutions and coups of 1957-1958 with those of 2011. I contend that after the Arab Spring, the borders of the Middle East will be defined in part by “reactionary” and “democratic” governments with Washington offering open support for the latter while actively working to undermine their success with the former. These borders will build in part on previous attempts by the U.S. and its allies to isolate and contain Iranian influence in the region. Yet the Arab world and people have agency, choosing to accept or contest the policies of the United States and its reactionary allies. Thus, I conclude, that the Arab Spring need not be a singular moment, but rather a continuing effort for freedom and justice, whose borders will redefine and exceed the area called “the Middle East.”