Adaptable Autocrats: Comparing Egypt & Syria

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The Puzzle:
Autocracies & The Challenge of Popular Mobilization

Outcome:
- Egypt: Incumbent Ejection & Changed Ruling Coalition
- Syria: Unified Coalition vs. Society

Argument:
- Centralized vs. Decentralized Executive Authority affects the ability to change the ruling coalition

Past as Prologue: Long & Short power configurations

Applicability
The Arab Uprisings

- Enough! Protest Diffusion in the Arab World
- Explaining Similarities & Differences
- Dumping Mubarak, Keeping Asad
Mapping the Revolts
Centralized & Decentralized Executives

EGYPT

Centralized Executive Authority -> Ruling Coalition Change -> HIGH Adaptation

SYRIA

Decentralized Executive Authority -> United Ruling Coalition -> LOW Adaptation
Long Histories

Egypt: Executive Autonomous from State, State autonomous from Society

Syria: Executive “one of the equals, not first among them,” State autonomous from Society
Recent Histories

**Egypt**: The Case of Amr Mosa

**Syria**: al-Asad & the Party

Pattern holds across the state’s institutions: Ruling Parties, Security Services, Militaries
Change of Leader or Destruction?

Coalition Change = Adaptation

Coalition Unity = Protracted Conflict