



Lecture

The Political Attitudes of Ordinary Men and Women in the Arab World

by

Prof. Mark Tessler, University of Michigan

Place: Zentrum Moderner Orient, GWZ,
Jägerstrasse 10/11, 10117 Berlin-Mitte

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Analyses of politics in the Arab world usually focus on the actions of national leaders or on important political movements and institutions. Attention to the political attitudes and values of ordinary citizens, though equally important, is much less frequent. Drawing upon public opinion surveys conducted in six Arab countries between 2000 and 2004, Professor Tessler will explore the nature, determinants, and implications of the views about governance and political life held by ordinary men and women. He will give particular attention to attitudes toward democracy, the political role of religion, and international affairs and to such dimensions of political culture as tolerance, civic engagement, and political trust. He will also assess the role of various factors in shaping these attitudes and values, including individual-level characteristics and experiences on the one hand and country-specific circumstances on the other. In addition, Professor Tessler will briefly describe his collaborations with scholars and institutions in the Arab world and the public opinion training programs he has helped to organize.

MARK TESSLER is Samuel J. Eldersveld Collegiate Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan, where he is also Vice Provost for International Affairs. He previously served as Director of the Center for Political Studies of Michigan's Institute for Social Research. Professor Tessler has attended university and/or conducted research in Tunisia, Israel, Morocco, Egypt, and Palestine (West Bank and Gaza). He is the author or coauthor of eleven books, including *Area Studies and Social Science: Strategies for Understanding Middle East Politics*; *Democracy, War and Peace in the Middle East*; and *A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Professor Tessler's current research, funded by the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Institute of Peace, and the U.S. Department of State, deals with the attitudes and values of ordinary citizens in the Middle East toward issues of peace, democracy, religion, and gender. Recent reports of this research appear in *Comparative Politics*, *World Politics*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Democracy*, and *Public Opinion Quarterly*. Professor Tessler's professional service contributions include the presidency of the American Institute for Maghrib Studies, an American Overseas Research Center affiliated with the Smithsonian Institution, and the editorship for Indiana University Press of a scholarly book series in Middle East Studies. He is also past president of the Association for Israel Studies and has served on the steering committee of the Palestinian-American Research Center.

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