The geopolitical map of the Middle East has changed dramatically in the aftermath of the Arab Uprisings of 2011: Numerous countries, such as Syria and Yemen, are caught in protracted violent conflict and affected by political turmoil and the decay of state order. On top of that, the region is affected by various regional and global rivalries. The lecture discusses challenges, but also opportunities for the MENA region and sheds light on the roles of Saudi-Arabia and Iran, but also examines the roles of the United States and Russia, and it explores Jordan’s position and potential amidst these various conflicts.

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