

## Abstract – English

Title	Definitional Struggles, Field Assemblages, and Capital Flows: A comparative Sociogenesis of Post-independence States in Morocco and Tunisia
Name	Khalil Dahbi

This dissertation has two main goals. First, it is an attempt at introducing a new approach to the study of the emergence and transformations of authoritarian states. Second, it aims at providing a better account of the sociogenesis of the authoritarian state in Morocco and Tunisia. To do so, it analyzes the cases of post-independence Morocco and Tunisia, investigating them through a theoretical framework that builds principally upon Pierre Bourdieu's insights on the state. Using the notion of political field as an analytical point of entry, this study attempts to analyze the emergence of the political and its development in each case, while also avoiding the reification pitfalls associated with the adoption of more politically loaded and emergent analytical categories. It also strives to include both the material and symbolic levels of analysis, along with their mutually-constitutive interplay, within the scope of its analysis and the explanatory account it produces.

Therefore, instead of starting with an inferred category such as "an authoritarian political system" or a specific emergent regime type and investigating its 'ingredients' retrospectively, this dissertation tries to focus on the interplay of factors that ends up taking that specific form. This is pursued through a sociogenetic tracing of the processes which brought the state into existence and perpetuated it as this sort of holistic entity, as a bank of both physical and symbolic violence in the Bourdieusian sense. It also attempts to highlight the contingent and emergent nature of the object as a product resulting from the complex interplay of various processes and fluctuating relations amongst actors who are in turn constrained by their structurally-shaped personal trajectories through the social space and relative positions within relatively autonomous

fields. These fields, with their sets of rules and logics, are also viewed as spaces of struggle, both materially and symbolically, are in turn situated within a meta-“field of power”. Processes of struggle, and attempts at ensuring the reproduction of the sources of domination, then ensure the emergence of variable assemblages of fields and inter-field relations that construct and transform the state and its performances.

After reviewing the relevant literature and introducing its theoretical framework, and situating it in light of the existing theoretical debates that it relates to; this dissertation proceeds in a primarily chronological way, with the relevant explanatory processes traced and highlighted empirically. These are then analyzed and compared for recurrences, similarities, and differences. The dissertation is divided into three main parts. The first part is comparative and analyzes the emergence of the political field in Morocco and Tunisia. The second part is focused solely on Morocco and traces the evolution of the political field and the state until the *alternance* period. Each part consists of empirical chapters, followed by an analytical one. They are then followed by a concluding chapter that highlights and draws the theoretical implications and potential generalizations that can be extracted from the dissertation and their prospective implications for the study of authoritarian states and their politics.