

Conclusion

This book has presented the findings of an in-depth qualitative study of narratives on politico-ideological mobilisation and violence in relation to causes and conflicts in the Arab World. Based on a study conducted in three countries with 58 individuals engaged in various forms of politico-ideological mobilisation and violence, and using the methodology of Grounded Theory, I have analysed the ways in which feelings of injustice emerge in the form of grievances that travel across space and time, and how they can come to mobilise individuals for action.

Crucial insights may be gained from engaging with the narratives of those who are the primary subjects and can best narrate their motives and their emotions, while critically analysing the narrative performances and constructions at play. The findings presented here shed light on the iterative processes at play when grievances emerge and individuals engage with them. They confirm much of the existing literature in relation to moral shocks and collective memory, the role of collective identity and combat masculinity, as well as thrill-seeking, adventurism and the importance of contextual and situational factors. Some novel aspects have been discovered such as the tension between the taste of radicality and ideological convictions for engagement, the role of rebelliousness and the figure of the underdog, the rupture that individuals operate from the hegemonic narrative after moments of betrayal and epiphany, and the central function of the logic of *jusqu'au-boutisme* in justifying, promoting and calling for mobilisation and violence.

While the ambitious design and scale of the study has brought with it the advantage of a transversal and cross-cultural/contextual lens on the phenomenon, focusing on one single context could have had the advantage of complementing the findings with a study of the contextual specificities, the history of the place and the role of social networks (both on- and offline), thereby allowing for greater depth. Future research might benefit from exploring various forms of grievance-based engagement in micro-settings such as Tripoli, while keeping a focus on grievances and the way they form and are acted upon. Furthermore, the tentative findings on the factors that play a role in disengagement processes could be further developed in the literature in this field, which remains underdeveloped. It would also be interesting to complement the interview-based approach with a more comprehensive and long-term immersion in the terrain under study, to

further triangulate and diversify the perspectives on the narratives that circulate and the ways in which they impact the formation of grievances and individuals' engagement with them.

Overall, the research findings invite us to rethink the way the phenomenon of radicalisation, radicality and politico-ideological violence is studied and engaged with. The largely punitive and vindictive reflexes that transpire through many of the policies that are put in place to deal with the phenomenon and individuals involved in it, are deserving of our utmost concern. They have proven to be counterproductive, and the narratives collected here demonstrate the lasting and devastating repercussions of the Global War on Terror, which continue to nurture grievances and create powder kegs that may sooner or later ignite and explode. Academia plays an important role in policymaking in the field of counter-radicalisation and counter-terrorism. The orientalist, state-centrist and depoliticising tendency of this field of research has obscured much of the complexity of the phenomenon, for the sake of actionable and supposedly pragmatic recommendations on how to lead the fight against terrorism. The world and the academe are witnessing a critical moment in history. The events of 2020 have shaken many institutions and hopefully contributed to constructive discussions about the role of the social sciences in speaking truth to power, in highlighting dysfunctionalities and dynamics of oppression and, crucially, in recognising their own role in reproducing and perpetuating them. Many critical voices are being raised right now. And even if many of them may sound too loud or too aggressive; even though they may cause discomfort: It is perhaps the most important time to listen.