

Diploma thesis focuses on the role of the Civil Society in the processes of transition to democracy as a part of the possible democratization wave in the Middle East also known as the Arab Spring. For the purposes of the thesis the author examines three case studies of countries with successful revolutions - Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia. Using the method of process-tracing with focus on the path-dependency it traces the changes in the dynamics of the Civil Society in the pre-revolutionary period, concretely during Mubarak's regime in Tunisia, Qaddafi's rule in Libya, and Ben Ali's regime in Tunisia, through the revolutions to the post-revolutionary period. Moreover, the main assumption is that the initial non-democratic regimes have been significantly influencing the transformation process of all three countries and this also applies to the Civil Society as such. The Civil Society, in this thesis, is based on two paradigms. The first is based on the liberal modernization framework and the second is connected with stagnation and socio-economic deprivation. This unique combination contributed to the transformation of Egypt, Libya, and Tunisia. The dynamics of the Civil Society is then determined by several factors, which are: Civil Society organizations, social media and networks, youth education, economic deprivation, political environment, and social capital. All these factors are analyzed over time. To illustrate the overall picture of the state of the Civil Society the author applies the graphical method of the Civil Society Diamond. Ultimately, by confirming the presence of the causal mechanism, by which is meant the dynamics of the Civil Society, the author deals with the current process of democratization in the examined countries.