In December 2010, Tunisia became the birthplace of the phenomenon that soon came to be known as the Arab Spring. The Tunisian public’s cry for democracy after decades of dictator rule spread to its Middle Eastern and North African neighbors. Unfortunately, Tunisia is now considered as an outlier of success from the Arab Spring; a country that was able to democratize without falling into civil war or reverting back to the previous regime. It is now “the first Arab country listed as “free” by the U.S.-based democracy advocacy group Freedom House in over 40 years.” However, treating it as a success story would be a pitfall that could lead to policy-makers taking its stability for granted. Indeed, exclamations of success are tempered by a great deal of turmoil and political violence that could derail the progress Tunisia has made. Conflict has put a strain on the delicate balance between freedoms and security. It has also tempted policy-makers to use a heavy-handed security approach which diverts attention from the country’s economic necessities. There are many scenarios that can threaten this still-fragile state, including incidents of violence and terrorism. Internal conflict from its bordering neighbor Libya has also spilled over to imperil the country’s stability.

**REFERENCES**