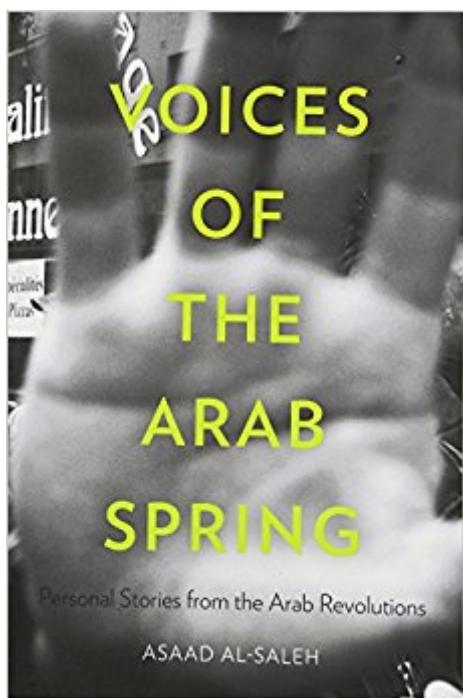


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# Voices Of The Arab Spring: Personal Stories From The Arab Revolutions



## **Synopsis**

Narrated by dozens of activists and everyday individuals, this book documents the unprecedented events that led to the collapse of dictatorial regimes in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen. Beginning in 2011, these stories offer unique access to the message that inspired citizens to act, their experiences during revolt, and the lessons they learned from some of the most dramatic changes and appalling events to occur in the history of the Arab world. The riveting, revealing, and sometimes heartbreaking stories in this volume also include voices from Syria. Featuring participants from a variety of social and educational backgrounds and political commitments, these personal stories of action represent the Arab Spring's united and broad social movements, collective identities, and youthful character. For years, the volume's participants lived under regimes that brutally suppressed free expression and protest. Their testimony speaks to the multifaceted emotional, psychological, and cultural factors that motivated citizens to join together to struggle against their oppressors.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Very valuable... [and] exhilarating to read.(David Burr Gerrard, Biographile) "Al-Saleh opens the door for readers into a new understanding of the social, political, and cultural changes in the Arab world ushered in by the Arab Spring." — Laura McCarter, Virginia TechThere's a wonderful, cumulative power to reading these personal narratives. They are gripping, extremely poignant, often heartbreakingly, and astonishing. It is long overdue to finally have unmediated access to 'regular'

citizens' experiences and recollections. (Mona El-Gobashy, Baheyya, of blogblogblog.com) This collection is of enormous importance. The speakers in these narratives are not specialist scholars but participants in the process of change and, all too often, victims of the regimes in the countries and regions covered. Their accounts provide the reader with vivid images of events that may have already been 'covered' by the world's media but have not, thus far at least, emerged with the kind of crystalline reality and sheer variety that is to be found within the covers of this book. (Roger Allen, professor emeritus, University of Pennsylvania) Al-Saleh brings together personal stories from the democratic uprisings.... The cumulative effect of the pieces is to insist that leaders, in the Middle East and outside of it, must listen to and heed the voices of the Arab Spring before lasting positive change can take place. (Publishers Weekly) Through the accumulation of personal stories, the reader begins to experience the larger narratives of the Arab Spring. (National Journal) Valuable... Exhilarating to read... (Biographile)... Humane and sensitive storytelling... (New Statesman)

Asaad Al-Saleh is Assistant Professor of Arabic Literature, Comparative and Cultural Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, Indiana University. His research focuses on issues related to autobiography and displacement in Arabic literature and political culture in the Arab world. Peter Sluglett is director of the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore.

Voice of the Arab Spring is a unique account of the Arab Revolutions. Instead of writing about these events from the perspective of those who create and implement policy, it is written by Arab citizens themselves who up until these revolutions could not have their voices heard. The book itself is divided into chapters, with each chapter covering a different country of the Arab spring (starting with Tunisia and ending with Syria) and within each chapter is a number of personal narratives written by people who were participating in the revolutions. The real value of the book, however, is found within its diverse narratives, with one chapter containing the accounts of a graduate student, a expat nurse, a heart surgeon and more. This diversity provides a varying account of how people in different places of society were able to witness and participate in overthrowing a common enemy. This book should be required reading for anybody who is interested in the history of the Arab world.

What a prospective.... Great read

excellent book!

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