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“Religious Dimensions of Democratization
Processes in Muslim-Majority Nations”

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ABSTRACT – Keynote Address

“The Arab Spring and Democracy”

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This presentation will address the following questions: (1) What social and political forces drove the upheavals in the Arab world of 2011-2012? (2) What main achievements have they accomplished so far?, and (3) What accounts for their successes and failures? This address will emphasize that these political changes were driven by Arab youth, by youth culture and youth political organizations. I will argue that the youth felt economically, socially and politically blocked by these, cartel-like elite groups driven with nepotism and cronyism, and that among the main accomplishment of the revolts has been the end of the peculiar institution of republican dynasticism.