

## THE ARAB SPRING – REGIONAL AND GLOBAL EVOLUTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

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*The article briefly presents the developments in the Arab World between December 2010 and February 2012, epitomizing on: the international context, the geopolitical and economic importance of states from Northern Africa and the Middle East, causes, goals, characteristics and consequences of the „Arab Spring”, the implications of these movements in the repositioning of the great powers and regional actors in the following period.*

**Keywords:** Arab Spring; geopolitics; oil production; causes; goals; characteristics; consequences.

**2011** was marked by the revolutions in the Arab world and by the fall of the dictatorial (authoritarian) regimes from Tunisia, Egypt and Libya and also by the onset of some partial reforms in many other countries from the North of Africa, the Middle East and the adjacent areas.

Although the more or less violent popular events from the aforementioned countries were presented as heroic acts of a population craving for liberty and democracy, last year's analysis strongly questions the real target of revolutions and riots.

**Many analysts and observers** of diverse orientations from the Occidental world, Russia, China and the Arab countries try and often manage to design a complex spectrum of interests and conditionings leading to geopolitical, geo-strategic and economic power games (the race for oil and other strategic raw materials),

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