The explosive events occurring in 2011, collectively known as the “Arab Spring”, has changed the political and social landscape of North Africa and West Asia. Due to its cultural and religious affiliation with the Muslim heartland, Malaysia finds itself greatly concerned with these events. Is this a popular demand for democratisation, and is Islam not capable of accommodating it?

In response to these concerns, the International Institute of Public Policy and Management [INPUMA], University of Malaya, held an International Conference on 18 November 2013 in Kuala Lumpur entitled “Can Peace and Stability be Restored in North Africa and West Asia? Apocalypse and the Hope of Renewal”. The chapters presented in this book is an outcome of that Conference, and that they originated as papers presented, which were later revised and edited for publication.

This book is divided into three sections, namely: (i) Politics (ii) Economics (iii) Socio-Cultural Changes. In each of these sections, the authors deal with the various contemporary issues and challenges facing the Muslim world in North Africa and West Asia from the respective vantage points, offering their own analyses, diagnosis, and in some cases, prognosis of the future. Events of the last decade or so seems to form a turning point, a watershed, in the Muslim world, and that we are now witnessing a further unfolding of those events. The scholarly works on the topical subject made available in this book, will help to provide an understanding of the forces that gave rise to those events, where they might be heading, and the prospects they hold.

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