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After a brief moment during the 2010-11 Arab Uprisings in which the EU and major Western governments admitted that their support for Middle Eastern autocrats had destabilised regional states and the Mediterranean generally, those same governments quickly returned to defending allegiances with new autocrats in the name of Realpolitik and the pursuit of 'national interests'.

This chapter picks apart such claims, showing that, far from being a 'beacon of stability', the Egyptian regime's ferocity barely papers over structural instability in the short term. Moreover, it increases instability in the longer term, turning MENA autocracies into a kind of 'security sinkholes'. In the name of 'controlling' migration and 'countering' terrorism, EU support for Egypt is likely to destabilise both Egypt and already-fragile Mediterranean.

More information

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