

Samir Makdisi

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University Degrees

PhD in Economics, Columbia University
MA in Economics, American University of Beirut
BA in Economics (with distinction), American University of Beirut

Administrative Experience

Minister of Economy and Trade, 1992 (Lebanon)
Deputy President, American University of Beirut, 1993-1998 (Recipient of the American University of Beirut Medal for distinguished service to the University, 1998)
Chair, Board of Trustees, Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran, and Turkey (1993-2001)
Member of Governing Body, Global Development Network, 2000
Member of the Steering Committee, Forum of Euro-Mediterranean Economic Institutes (FEMISE), 1999

Research Interests

International Economics, Monetary Economics, Development and Middle East Economics

Current Research Projects

-- "Democracy and Development in the Arab World: Case Studies"

In an earlier work I. Elbadawi/S. Makdisi estimated an extended a "modernity" model of democracy for a global sample of countries, including most of the Arab countries (see completed research no. 3). They find that after controlling for a host of economic, social and historical variables a negative and highly significant Arab region effect (exemplified in a democracy deficit) remains to which we refer as the Arab Dummy. This finding suggests that the Arab World appears to be experiencing a "democracy deficit" relative to its level of economic development and other historical, social and cultural characteristics and that the dominance of oil in the economies and societies of the Arab

region and its openness to conflict appear to provide an explanation for this phenomenon.

Building on the above work, this project, co-managed by S. Makdisi and E. Elbadawi, further probes the issue of democracy and development in the context of an in depth 8 Arab case studies that reflect varieties of experiences from the Arab region. Established researchers from a number of universities and research institutes are participating in this project which is co-managed by I. Elbadawi and S. Makdisi (supported by an IDRC research grant extended to the Institute of Financial Economics at AUB).

--"Democracy and Development in Lebanon" (with F. Kiwan, M. Marktanner)

This paper analyzes the various determinants of Lebanon's democracy status (consociational democracy) and in the process develops a simple model for the purpose of quantifying the impact of various domestic and external variables on Lebanon's polity, thereby attempting to shed light on their relative importance in this regard.

Recent and Forthcoming Publications

Recent book

The lessons of Lebanon: the economics of war and development, London IB Tauris (2004) Translated into Arabic and published by Dar Annahar, Beirut, December 2004. (Recipient of the Suad Al Sabbah First Prize award for 2005).

Forthcoming Articles

"Rebuilding Without Resolution: The Lebanese Economy and State in the Post-Civil War Period", L. Binder (ed.), *Rebuilding of Devastated Economies in the Middle East*. (Palgrave, 2007)

Recent Articles

(With I. Limam and Z. Fattah), "The Determinants of Economic Growth in the MENA Region", J. Nugent and H. Pesaran (eds), *Explaining Growth in the Middle East* (North Holland/Elsevier, Contributions to Economic Analysis Series), first edition, (2007).

(With I. Elbadawi), "Explaining the Democracy Deficit in the Arab World", *The Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance* - V. 46, Issue 5, (February 2007).

"Developmental Thought and Arab Development", N. Ferjani et.al (eds), *Horizons of Arab Development*, volume in memory of Mervat El Badawi-Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (2006).

"The Lebanese Civil War, 1975-1990", (With R. Sadaka), P. Collier and N. Sambanis (eds), *Understanding Civil War: Evidence and Analysis, vs I and II* (The World Bank 2005).

"Modernity and the Modernization of the Arab Economies", in G., Tarabishi (ed), *Modernity and Arab Modernity*, published by Arab Institute of Modern Thought, (Beirut 2005).

"Development of Financial Markets in the Arab World", in the *Financial Sector and Economic Growth*, The Arab Monetary Fund, 2004.

"On the Lebanese Civil War and Post Conflict Trends and Policies", *Forum*, ERF Newsletter, V. Elev., no. four, winter 2004.

"Lebanon's Public Debt: A Political Economy Analysis", in *The Public Debt*, proceedings of a conference held at University La Sagesse, (Beirut 2004) .