

Type: Paper

Title: Why Hong Kong? Protest, Success, And Resistance In The Face of Overwhelming Odds

Authors:

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Overview:

A cross-country comparison of protest movement success of authoritarian states who underwent destabilizing political protests between 2010-2016.

Abstract:

Tunisia's fight for democratization seems to have stalled in the aftermath of the Arab Spring. The inability to convert the movement into legislative victories or political concessions has allowed the state to successfully repress and marginalize the groups and political parties that vanguarded the ousting of Ben Ali. Subsequent protests have been small in nature and centered on oil revenues and jobs. Meanwhile, Hong Kong, under the jurisdiction of one of the most powerful authoritarian states in the world, has shown renewed momentum this summer when political repression and judicial retaliation was exerted over former protest leaders-turned legislative representatives. Why was Hong Kong, unlike Tunisia, able to convert their movement into actual legislative victories, as well as reignite the flames of protests when those seats were threatened? When protests center on democratization goals rather than issues of oil revenues and employment, are movements more successful and sustainable? A cross-country comparison of protest movement success, as characterized by the conversion of legislative seats, government concessions to stated protest goals, and ability to re-initiate additional protests if demands are unmet, will be conducted across authoritarian states who underwent destabilizing political protests between 2010-2016.