

# **Memories of Economic Justice: Distributive Politics and the Arab Uprisings**

# Broad Patterns in Arab State Formation, 1940s-1960s

- The rise of dominant single-party, ruling party governments and their monarchical equivalents;
- New, post-independence constitutions that enshrined interventionist and redistributive principles in the basic laws;
- A wave of agrarian reform programs to redress inequalities in the rural economy (esp. in Egypt, Syria, Algeria, Iraq);
- Sweeping nationalizations of industry, banking, insurance, and trade in the late 1950s and early 1960s, producing a dramatic expansion in the scale of public sectors;
- The introduction of state-corporatist models of associational and trade union governance (see slide 3);
- The consolidation of import-substitution industrialization as a strategy for establishing domestic industrial sectors;
- Programs for state provision of social services, including education, housing, health care, food subsidies, and other benefits.

Government Share as Percentage of GDP, 1960-2005 (Source: World Bank)

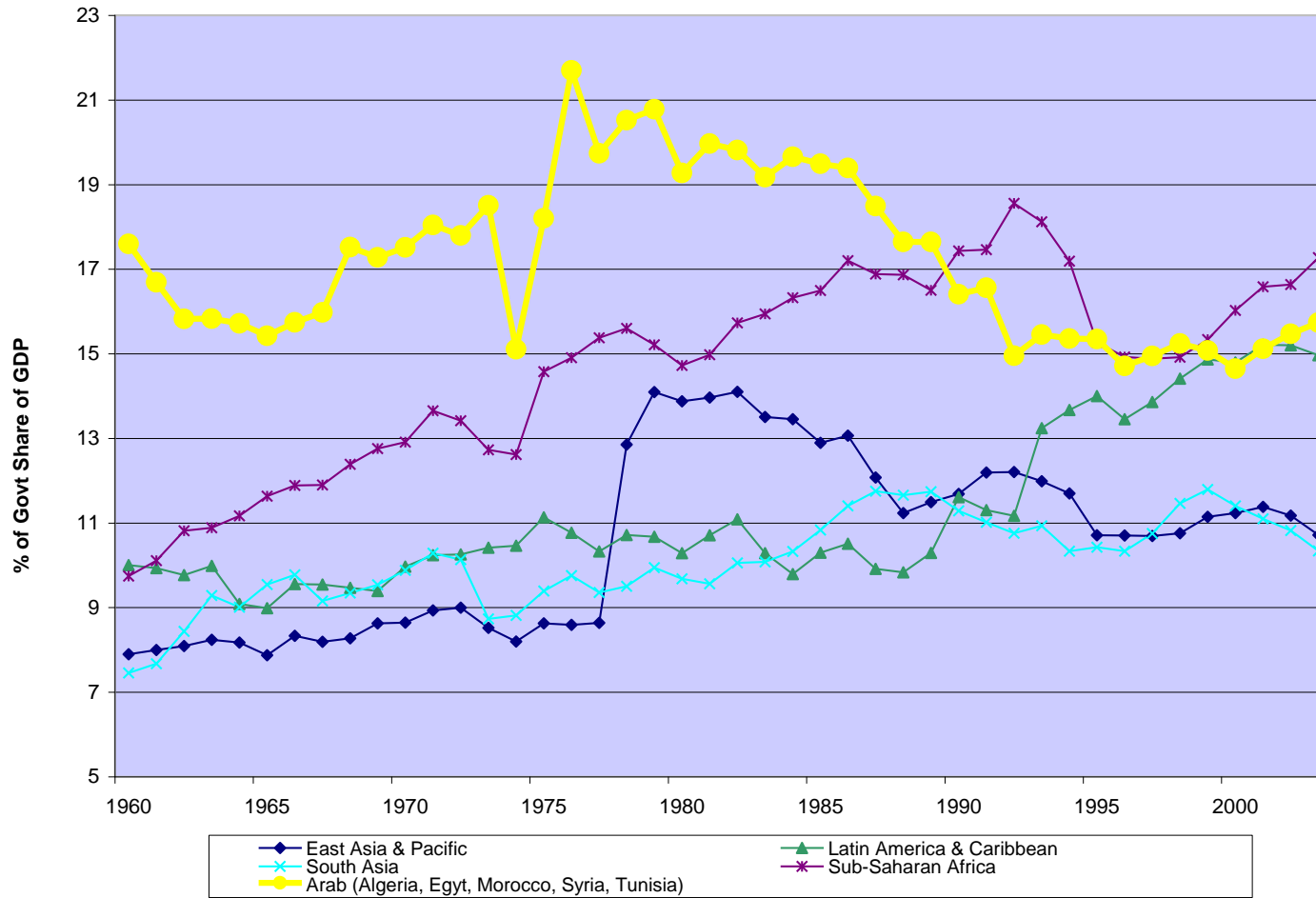
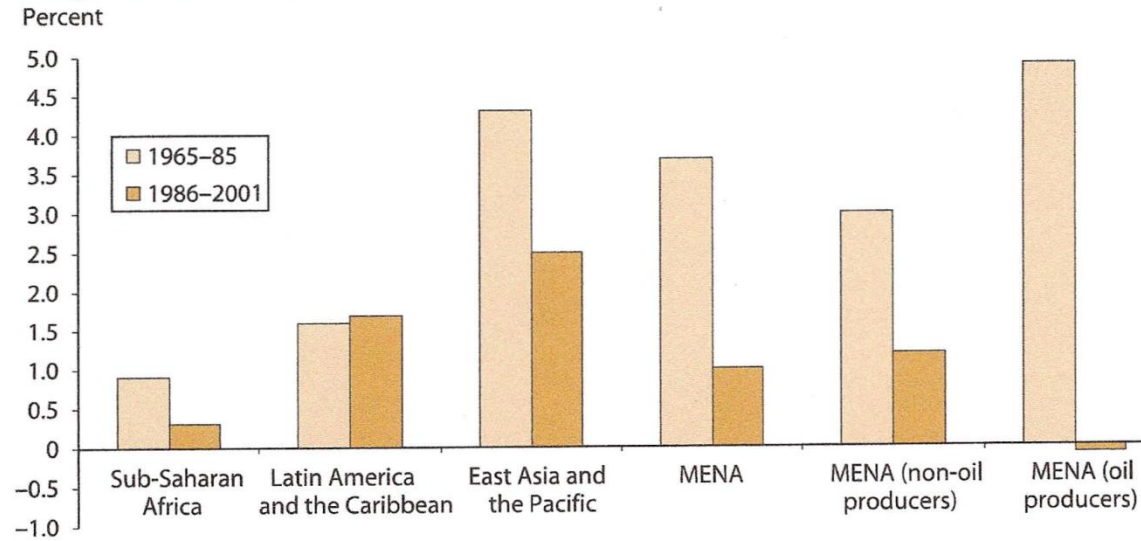


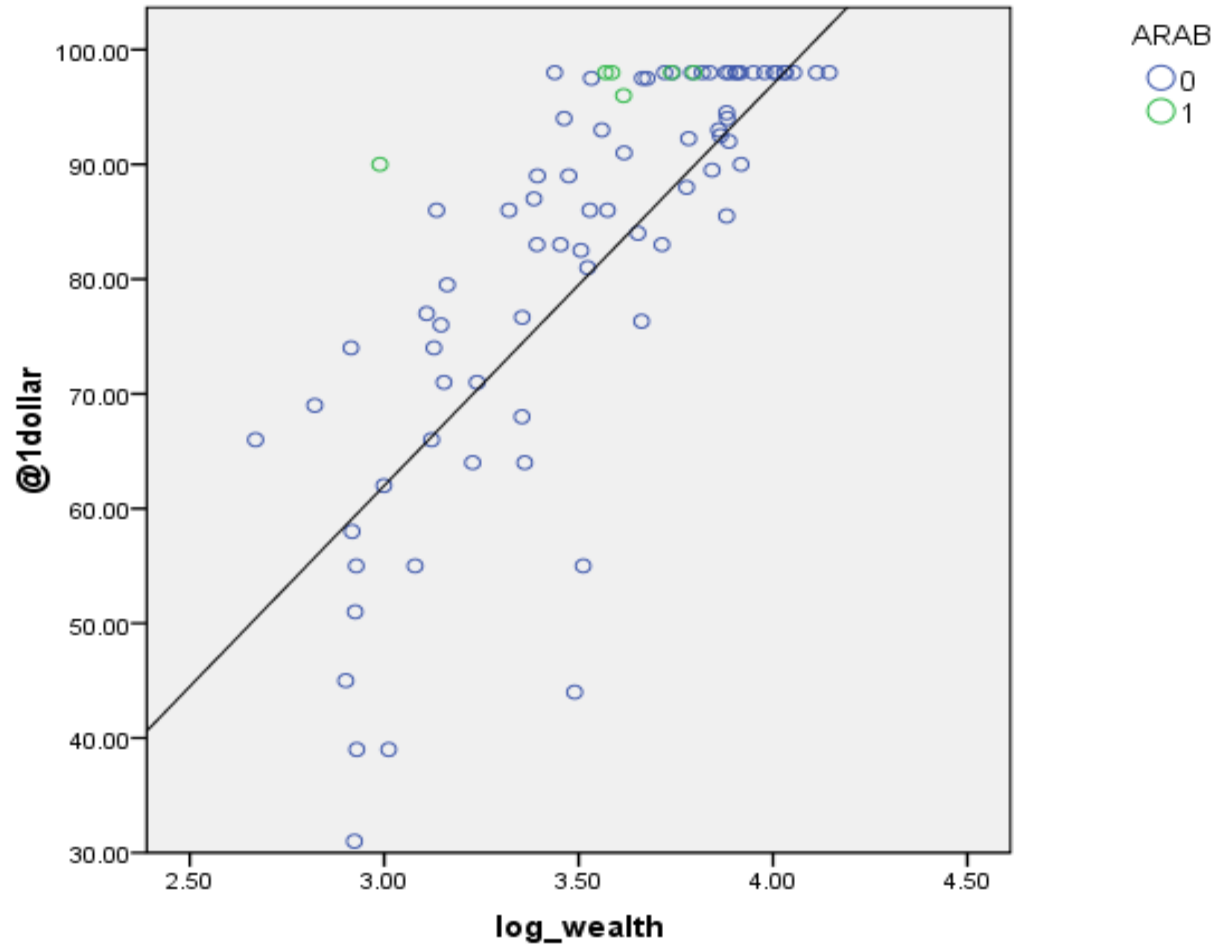
FIGURE 2.4

**Average Annual Change in Real Gross Domestic Product Per Capita, by Region**



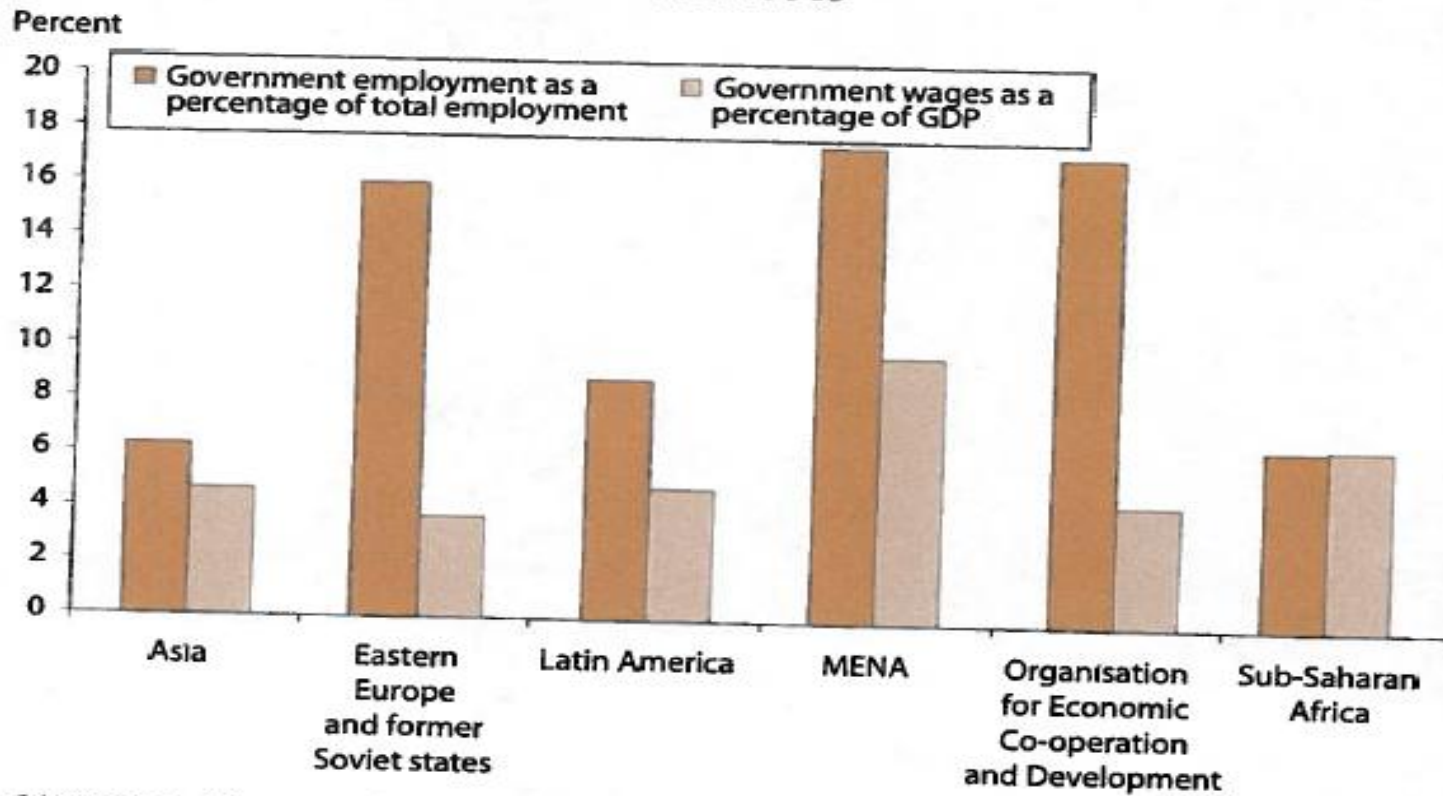
Note: Non-oil producers are Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, and Tunisia; oil producers are Algeria, Kuwait, Oman, and Saudi Arabia.  
Source: World Bank 2003h.

**Percentage of the Population Living Above \$1/ Day versus Per Capita GDP**  
(Source: WDI, Penn World Tables)



**FIGURE 4.5**

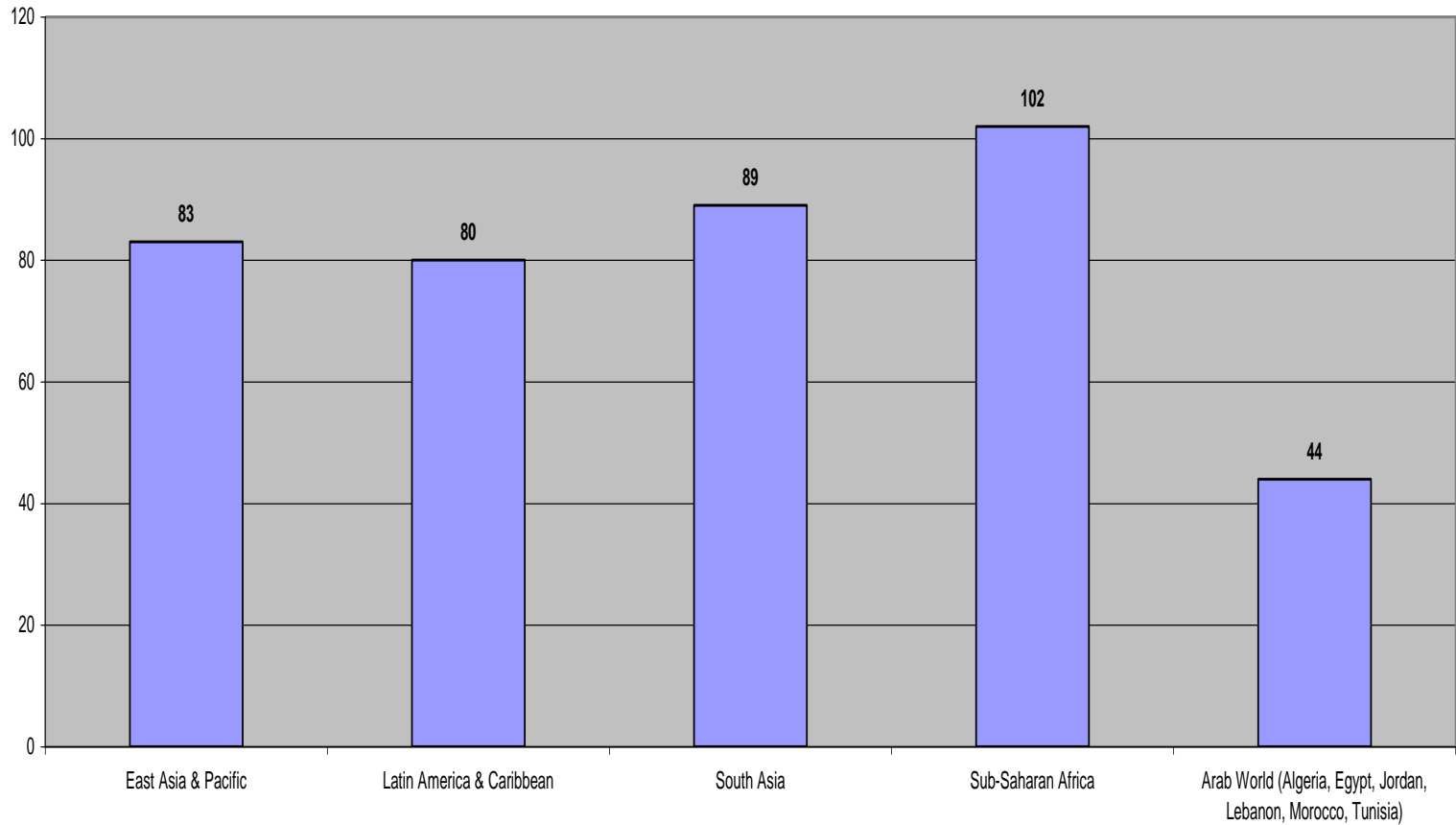
**Size of Government around the World in the 1990s**



Source: Schiavo-Campo, de Tommaso, and Mukherjee 2003.

### Number of Privatized Firms by Region, 2000-2005

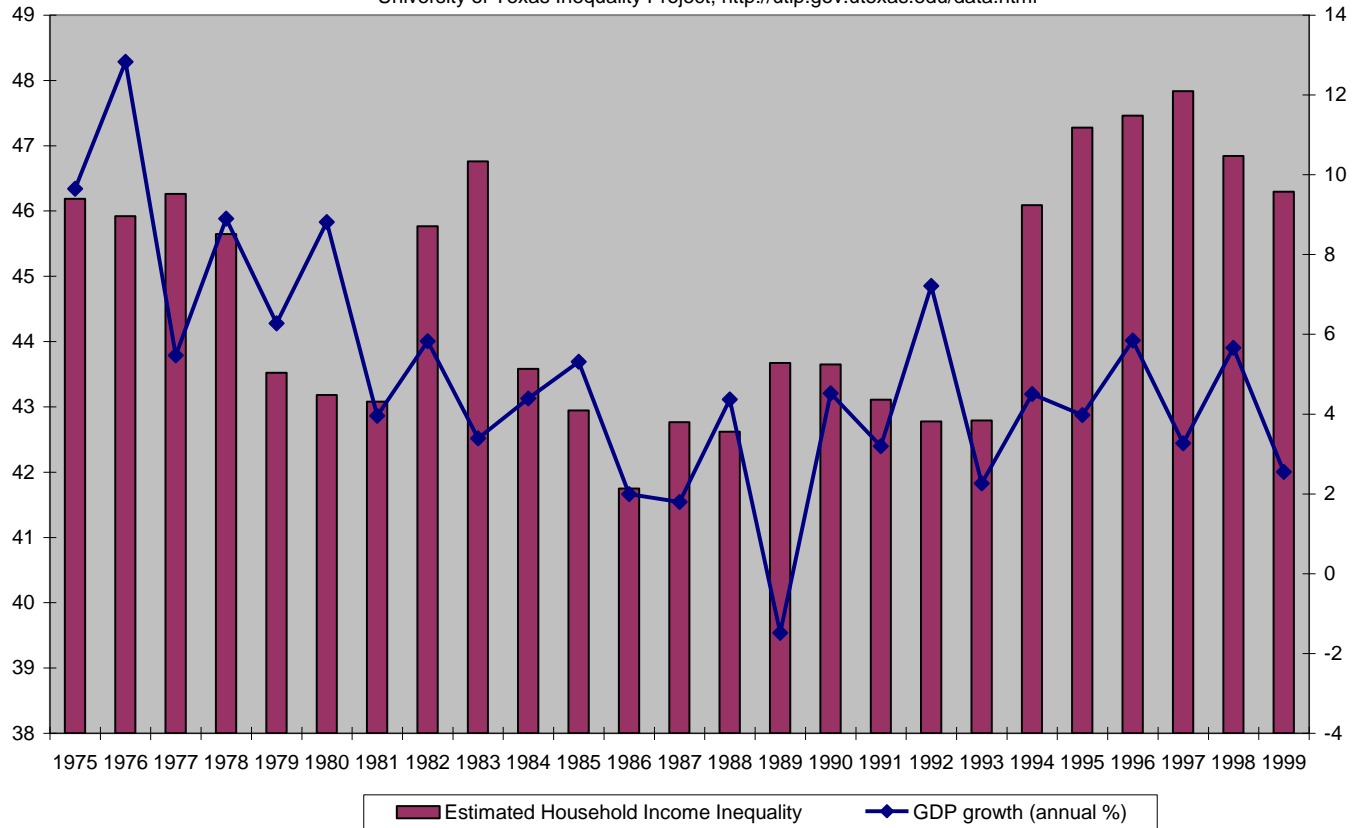
Source: World Bank, <http://rru.worldbank.org/Privatization/Region.aspx?regionid=436&view=number>



**GDP Growth and Income Inequality in the Arab World  
(Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen)**

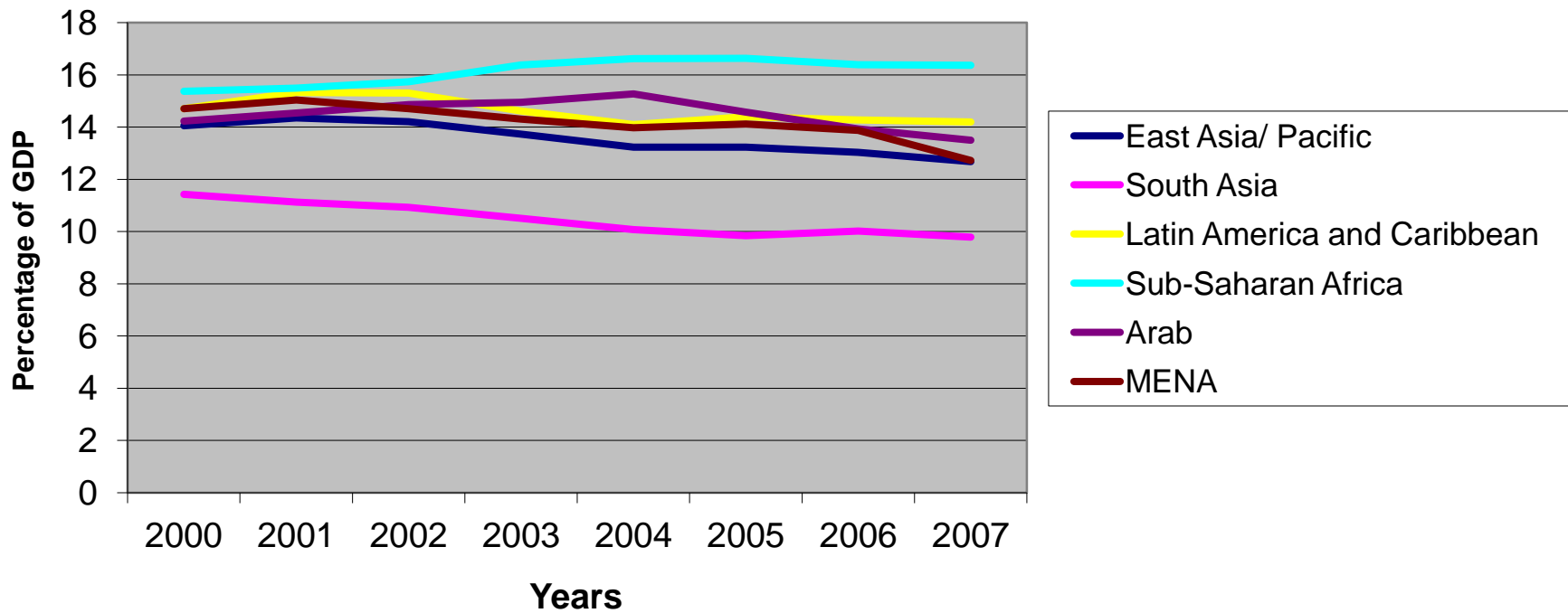
Source: World Development Indicators;

University of Texas Inequality Project, <http://utip.gov.utexas.edu/data.html>

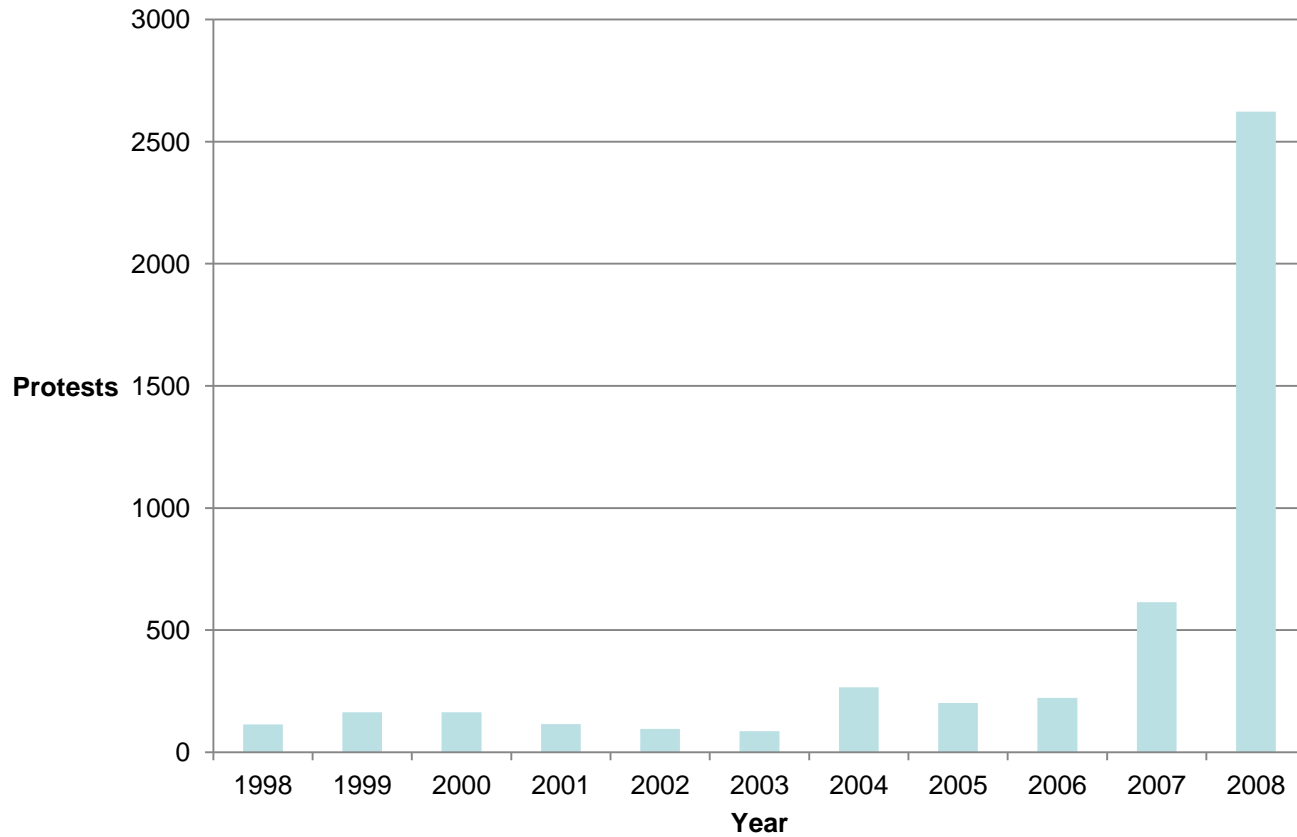




## Government Spending as percentage of GDP



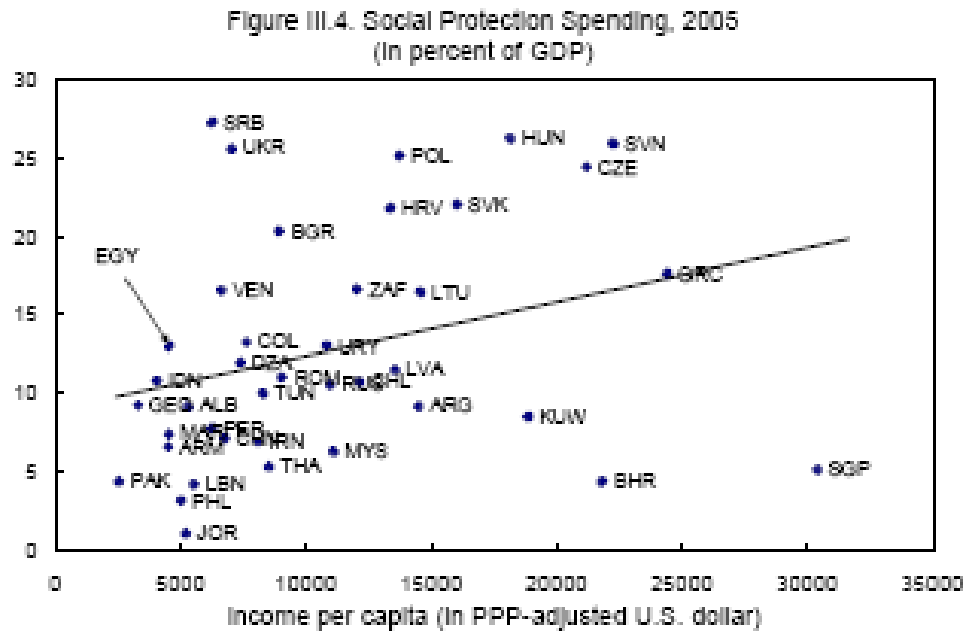
## Egyptian Protests, 1998-2008



Joel Benin, *Justice for All: The Struggle for Workers Rights in Egypt* (Solidarity Center, 2010), pp.17-18

# Redistributive Legacies: Egypt Social Protection Spending 2005

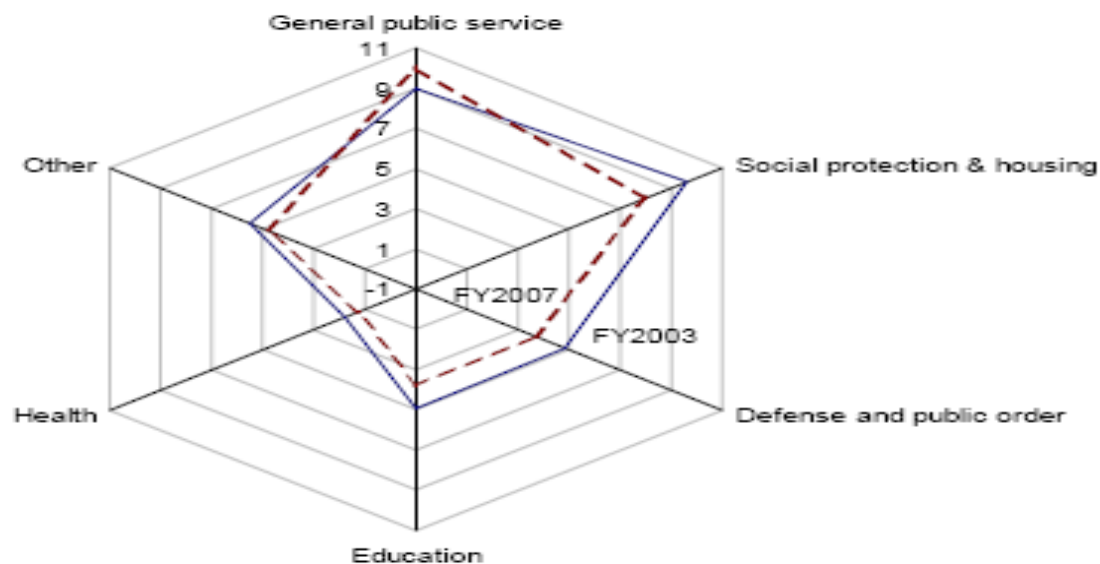
(IMF Country Report No. 07/381; 2007)



# Decline of Redistribution in Egypt 2003-2007

(IMF Country Report No. 07/381; 2007)

Figure III.5. Egypt: Composition of the Expenditure Adjustment,  
FY2003–07  
(In percent of GDP)



Sources: Egyptian authorities; and Fund staff estimates. Data refer to the central government.