

## **Voting methods and party system in Tunisia since 2011**

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Voting methods such as elections had no real impact on the party system before 2011. In an authoritarian regime characterized by the closure of the political system, elections did not influence the birth and disappearance of political parties. The political parties were born by the sole will of the President of the Republic who selected the parties which were intended to be in the opposition. In general, the dominant political culture in Tunisia was not favorable to political parties that were considered dangerous for national unity.

This culture of mistrust concerning political parties is still prevalent in Tunisia and the anti-political discourse does not encounter any real opposition in the subconscious of the Tunisian political elites. Despite this political culture, the political landscape was characterized by the existence of a party dominating the RCD and a multitude of political parties which participated in the elections and whose law reserves several seats shared at the national level.

After the 2011 revolution, there was an explosion in the number of political parties in Tunisia, which at the end of the 2011 elections was close to 118 political parties.

The 2011 law on political parties of very liberal inspiration, the option of electing a national constituent assembly, the dissolution of the RCD party of the deposed president by a court decision, and the proportional voting system with the largest remainders failed to establish the foundations of a governable political party system in Tunisia.

The nature of the "hybrid" political regime of dominant parliamentary logic, the advent of a President of the Republic elected by direct universal suffrage but outside the political parties, and the poor performance of the Assembly of People's Representatives ended up discrediting political parties, the parliamentary system and the 2014 constitution.

It is currently planned to adopt a new constitution by referendum, to change the balance of the political regime towards the balance of the presidential regime, and to establish a two-round majority uninominal voting system.

We will try in this communication to measure the influence of voting methods on the partisan configuration in Tunisia since 2011.

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