



PACTUM

Projecting Academic Capacities with Tunisian Universities through Master courses

PACTUM

Reasoned Bibliography on Mediterranean Politics

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About this Bibliography

This bibliography has been compiled by the coordination team of the Pactum project as an initial tool to be offered to the instructors of the courses in the Master's program in Social Sciences, which constitutes the ultimate aim of the project itself. Specifically, the texts selected in the following bibliography will be used to compose syllabi and to produce basic teaching materials useful for defining a quality standard to be used in the courses of the Master's program in a cross-cutting subject that we define as Mediterranean Politics.

The underlying idea is to assist instructors of the various editions of the master's program – which ideally develops a series of different curricula at the various Tunisian locations where the project intends to experiment with an innovative course of study in social sciences – with a series of teachings that are "horizontal" with respect to the typical disciplines represented and "introductory" in every context, thus usable in all locations where the master's program will be implemented. These courses will complement the cross-cutting courses – those in methodology, history of international relations, theory of international relations, comparative law, and public policies. The choice has been made for a series of teachings focused precisely on the concept of Mediterranean politics.

Although the Mediterranean region is often the focus of abundant literature, we cannot count on a multitude of manuals, and popular books that truly consider the region as a unified area rather than a crossroads of cultures, civilizations, and types of regimes are not very numerous. Therefore, we have attempted to select readings driven by the need to identify an authentically Mediterranean approach to the study of certain social and political phenomena.

The bibliography consists of five sections. The first section aims to provide some general readings on the idea of the Mediterranean region. These are just a few recent general introductions that, we believe, may constitute an example of minimum common denominator to be shared among the students of Mediterranean politics at the master level.

The second section focuses on political and institutional aspects, developing a few typical concepts of comparative political science, that will be applicable at the Mediterranean context. The first concept is that of "political regime". Then we must cover the notion of "representative democracy", followed by that of "governance" (which also includes administrative systems at both local and national levels and the main channels of interest representation). Finally, we will deal with the

concept of the “electoral process”. These aspects may be approached both under a purely legal approach and through the lens of comparative politics and the empirical analysis of decision making. Under this point of view, a particularly relevant issue to be covered in our courses is that of anti-corruption policies and the quest for transparency within the political and administrative elites.

The third section focuses on the geopolitics of the Mediterranean area and the role of this area at the global level. Namely we focus here on recent works published in English that have analyzed the balance of power between Mediterranean countries and their ties with external powers: from the roles played by the USA and the USSR during the Cold War to the competition that many medium and large powers – among the other Russia, China, US and, obviously, the European Union – are currently playing on the Mediterranean chessboard.

The fourth section is dedicated to priority themes for the political agenda of the Mediterranean: the massive migration of segments of the population from many African countries and from countries in the Middle East and Asia passing through the Mediterranean in search of a wealthier society. But also, the problems related to desertification, climate change, and other factors that contribute to the Mediterranean being the stage for a dramatic exodus of millions of economic migrants and refugees. A few readings are selected on another policy priorities which is relevant on all the sides of the Mediterranean basin: the analysis of gender balance and anti-discrimination policies, with specific attention to the quest for equal opportunities within the context of labour policy and within the political and administrative elites.

Finally, we have included in this annotated bibliography a section dedicated to the solutions that all the Mediterranean countries are putting to the test to overcome the economic and social problems that plague them. In particular, we have focused on recipes of political economy, on the economic governance of Mediterranean countries, and finally on those policies that can use the natural and cultural resources of the Mediterranean basin as a catalyst for realizing a new cycle of policies centred not only on the traditional comprehensive goals of political modernity (liberalization; participation; democratization, etc.) and on those goals related to social control and prosperity (welfare, zero hunger, employability for all, etc.) but also on a shared and sustainable idea of economic and cultural development.

Tourism is especially an example of an untapped and inherently "shareable" resource since tourism will be genuinely Mediterranean only when all regimes on the various shores of the Mare Nostrum are committed to promoting the natural and cultural resources of neighbouring countries.

Unlike other bibliographies, which are more inclusive and exhaustive but essentially overabundant and unusable for the common effort of building a didactic program, this bibliography has followed an opposite, selective, and representative logic.

More precisely, the compilers of this document started from a comprehensive list of many bibliographic items (articles, reports, monographs, collective books) appearing in syllabi and bibliographies provided by scholars of the network and other sources recognized by the network itself as credible examples. Compared to this mass of sources, a selection process was carried out with the support of network experts to arrive at a rather limited but representative list of readings, which we recommend to all potential students of a master's program in "Mediterranean politics" today.

A second criterion was the availability of an updated literature corpus. For this reason, with very few exceptions, sources produced before 2015 were excluded.

The method used aims to constitute a method for the formation of new bibliographic tools in other disciplinary areas not covered by this document, and therefore to continue producing a set of tools usable in master's programs that aim to become an example of excellence and ideal candidates for joint programs and new forms of inter-university cooperation in the Mediterranean.

(1) Mediterranean Politics

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(2) Democracy, governance, electoral processes and transparency

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