

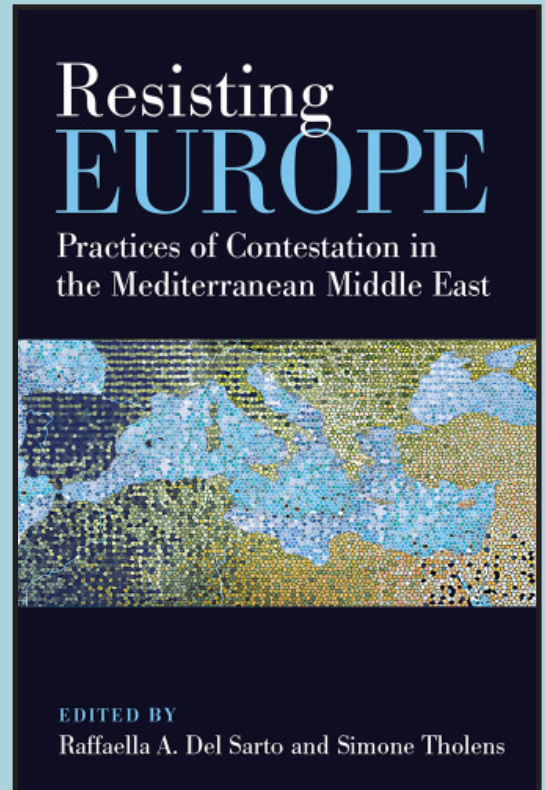
Resisting Europe

Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East

Resisting Europe conceptualizes the foreign policies of Europe—defined as the European Union and its member states—toward the states in its immediate southern “neighborhood” as semi-imperial attempts to turn these states into Europe’s southern buffer zone, or borderlands. In these hybrid spaces, different types of rules and practices coexist and overlap, and negotiations over meaning and implementation take place. This book examines the diverse modalities by which states in the Mediterranean Middle East and North Africa (MENA) reject, resist, challenge, modify, or entirely change European policies and preferences and provides rich empirical evidence of these contestation practices in the fields of migration and border control, banking and finance, democracy promotion and telecommunications. It addresses the complex question of when and how MENA states capitalize on their leverage and interdependence in their relationships with Europe and contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of Europe-Middle East relations, while engaging with broader debates on power and interdependence, order and contestation in international relations. While a contribution on the practices of resistance and contestation of MENA states vis-à-vis European policies and preferences in this geopolitically significant region was overdue, this volume leads the way for subsequent studies that seek to overcome the constraints of exceptionalism so characteristic of research of the Middle East, Europe/the European Union, and certainly of their relationship.

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Table of Contents

List of contributors

Preface and Acknowledgements

Introduction

Resisting Europe: Practices of Contestation in the Mediterranean Middle East

Raffaella A. Del Sarto and Simone Tholens

Part I: Conceptualizing a Contested Relationship

Petits arrangements avec l'Empire: Reflections on Imperial Power at its Fringes

Magali Gravier

Creating Order in the MENA Neighborhood: The Enlargement of the European International Society and Its Contestation

Yannis Stivachtis

Part II: Contestation in Practice

Domesticating Egypt, Domesticated by Egypt? Cooperation and Contestation in EU-Promoted Banking Supervision Reform

Roberto Roccu

Leapfrogging the EU: Telecommunications Regulation in Morocco

Véronique Wavre and Tina Freyburg

The European Union and Turkey: Negotiating the Management of Europe's Extended External Borders

Asli Okyay

Leverage and Contestation in Refugee Governance: Lebanon and Europe in the Context of Mass Displacement

Tamirace Fakhoury

Contesting Europe's Policies of Migration Control: The Case of Morocco and Tunisia

Mohamed Limam and Raffaella A. Del Sarto

From "Imperial Overreach" to "Blowback": The EU, the Mediterranean Borderlands and the Syrian Crisis

Raymond Hinnebusch

Conclusions

The Power to Contest in Europe-Middle East Relations

Raffaella A. Del Sarto and Simone Tholens