

d·i·e



Deutsches Institut für  
Entwicklungspolitik

German Development  
Institute



## Introduction to the Panel

### ***“Towards New Social Contracts in MENA Countries?”***

**DIE-MENA-Team**

Panel on *“Towards New Social Contracts in MENA Countries? Prospects for Economic and Social Policy Reform, better Governance and National Dialogues”*, organised by DIE, Annual DAVO Conference, University of Hamburg, 03-05 October 2019

# „Social contract“ concepts



*Source: own design*

„Social contract“  
as a  
**normative concept**  
(Grotius, Hobbes,  
Locke, Rousseau:  
to overcome natural  
state of anarchy)

„Social contract“  
as an analytical concept  
(to compare old and new settings  
of state-society relations)

social contracts  
as a means to  
make state-  
society relations  
**transparent**

**normativity**  
in how  
new social  
contracts should  
be

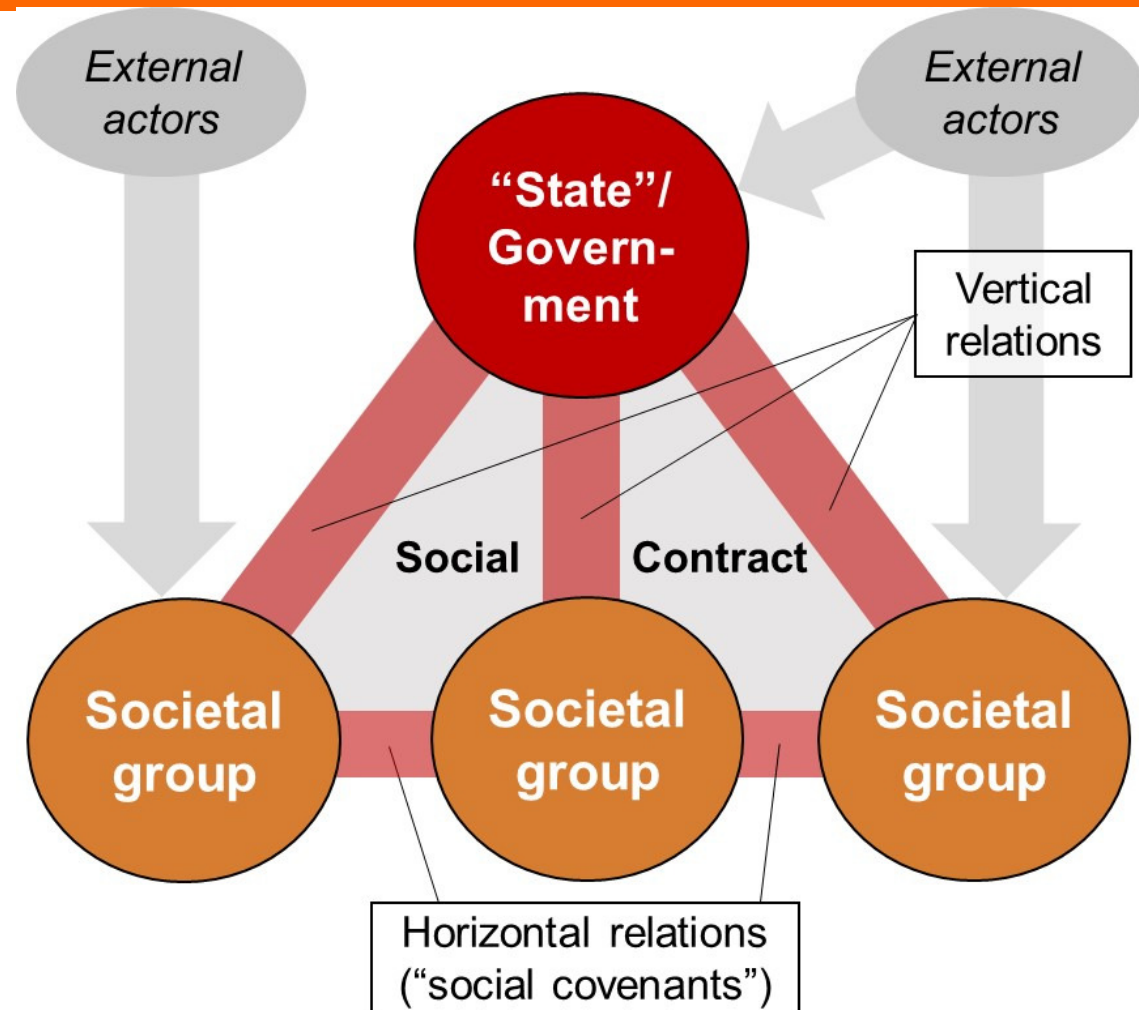
# What is a social contract?



**“set of explicit and implicit, agreements of the various groups of society**

- **with each other**
- **and with the government**  
(or any other actor in power)

**defining rights and obligations towards each other.”**



**Source:** Loewe and Zintl (forthcoming)

# What is a social contract?



**“set of explicit and implicit, agreements of the various groups of society**

- **with each other**
- **and with the government**  
(or any other actor in power)

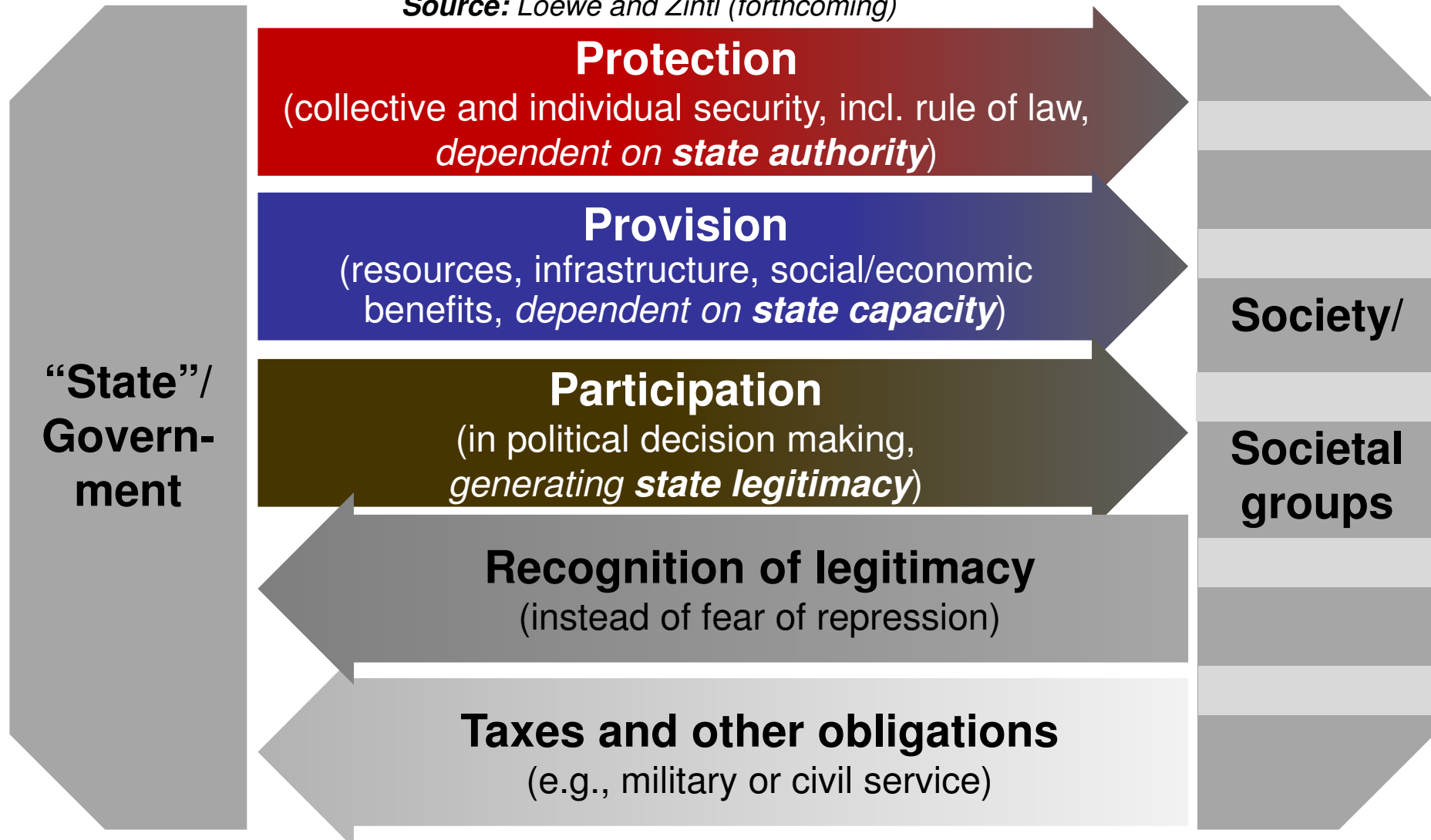
**defining rights and obligations towards each other.”**

- **partly implicit**  
(informal institution)
- **exist in every country**
- **but can look very differently**
- **are often asymmetric**  
(reflecting distribution of power between government and social groups)
- **can treat social groups differently**
- **not static**  
(can be renegotiated or terminated)

# What are the deliverables?



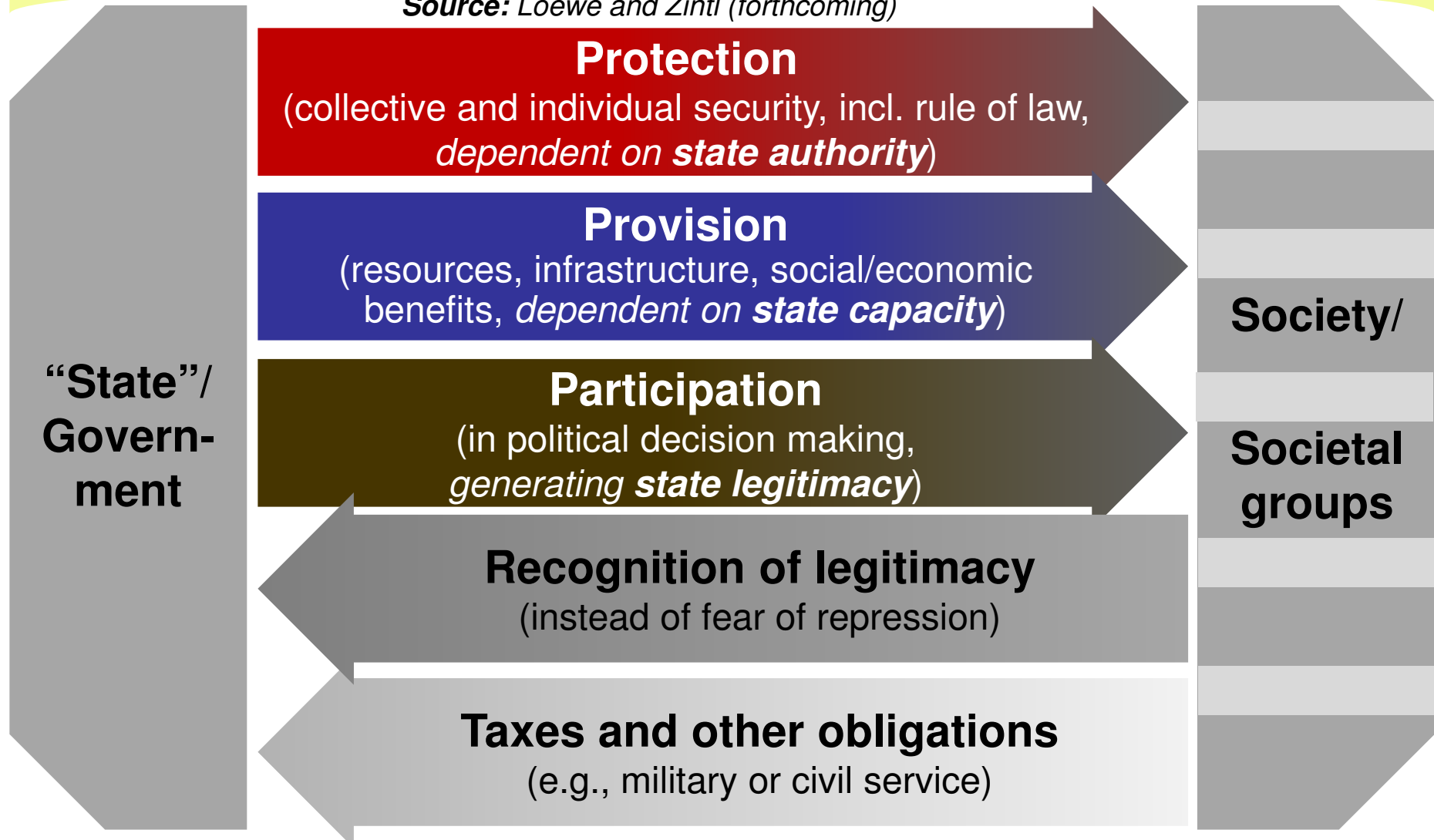
Source: Loewe and Zintl (forthcoming)



## Narrative

*(national narratives can generate identity, social cohesion, and stability for the social contract)*

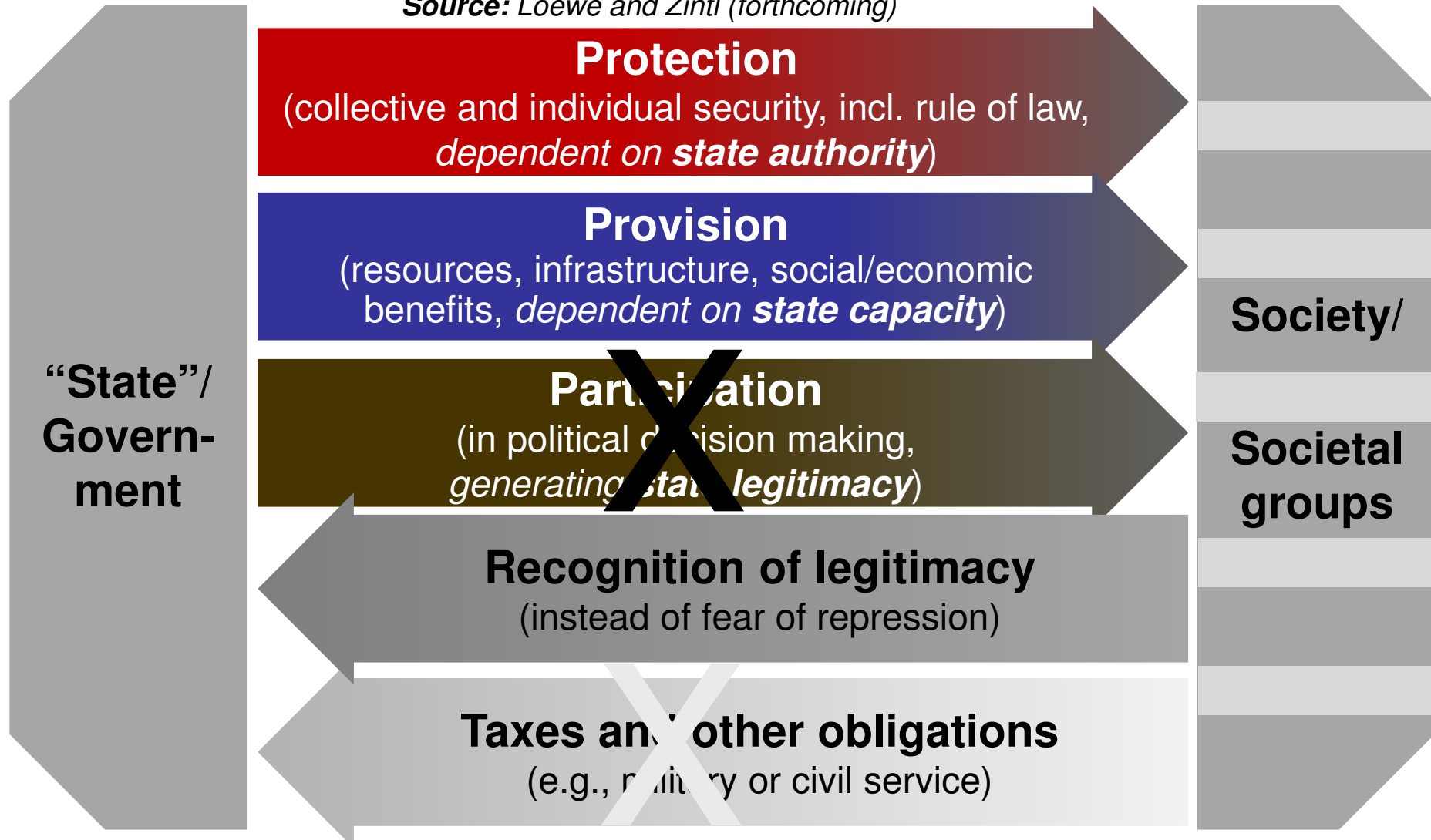
Source: Loewe and Zintl (forthcoming)



# What was the ,old‘ social contract in MENA?



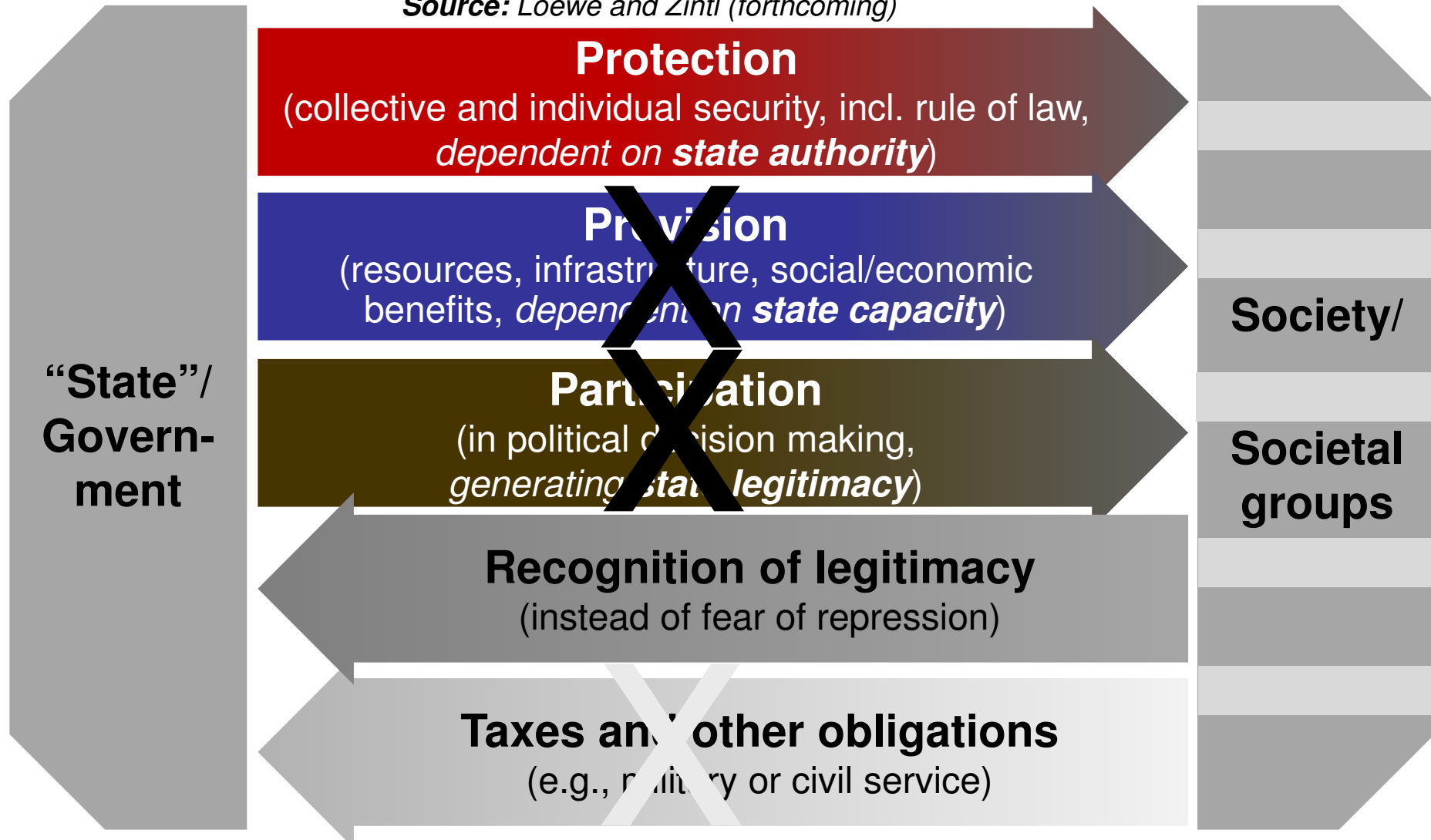
Source: Loewe and Zintl (forthcoming)



# How has the social contract changed in Egypt?



Source: Loewe and Zintl (forthcoming)

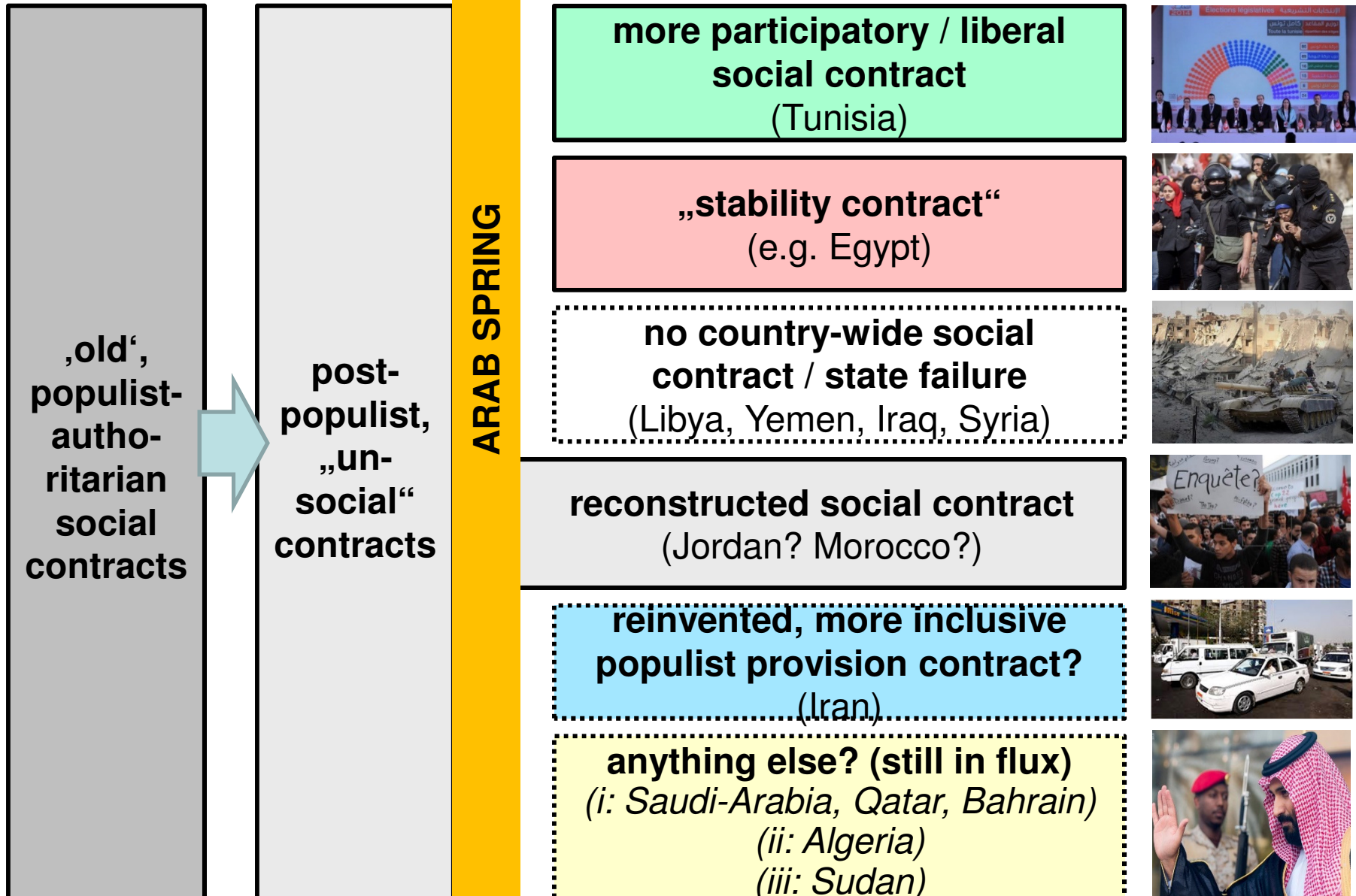




# MENA countries after the Arab Uprisings 2011



Source: Loewe and Zintl (forthcoming)



# A more sustainable social contract?



## Question:

Can we imagine reforms in MENA countries that

- improve the well-being of **citizens** on the short and long term
- improve the long-term potential of **sustainable development**
- but are also acceptable to the **regimes**
- and therefore good for short-term and long-term **stability**?

These changes/ reforms would thus lead to yet another 'social contract' that

- is not necessarily 'perfect' by any criterion
- but **pareto-superior** to the current / 'old' social contract
- and hence good for longer term **stability**

# A more sustainable social contract?



## Possible policy areas to start with:

- **Public administration and judiciary:**  
more accountability and transparency, e.g. by e-government
- **Social spending:**  
better targeting  
(universal direct cash transfers replacing subsidies)
- **Economic policy making:**  
no isolated decision making of ignorant governments  
no state capture by influential business people  
rather participatory policy-making: “**embedded autonomy**”  
“**social pacts**” by governments, employers and trade unions
- **Agricultural policy:**  
equitable access to land, water and related subsidies and credits;  
better embedding of agricultural policies in rural development and vice-versa;  
sustainable management of natural resources;  
more participative and accountable, transparent decision-making

d·i·e



Deutsches Institut für  
Entwicklungspolitik

German Development  
Institute



**Thank you very much  
for your attention!**

***[www.die-gdi.de/mena/](http://www.die-gdi.de/mena/)***



# Session C1: 09.00h-11.00h



*Chair:* Bernhard Trautner (University of Tübingen and German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, Bonn)

- **Markus Loewe (DIE):** Introduction to the panel
- Melani Cammett (Harvard University), **Ishac Diwan (Harvard University)**, and Irina Vartanova (Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm): The Effects of Insecurity on Political Values in the Arab World
- **Erin McCandless (The New School in New York):** Forging Resilient and Inclusive Social Contracts to Achieve and Sustain Peace: Drawing Lessons from Tunisia for the MENA Region
- **Laryssa Chomiak (Centre d'Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis):** State/Society/Protest in Contemporary Tunisia
- **Zafiris Tzannatos (Lebanese Center for Policy Studies):** The Youth Bulge than was not The Mismeasured, Misunderstood and Mistreated Arab Youth => **second session**



*Chair:* Amirah El-Haddad (Cairo University and German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, Bonn)

- **Zafiris Tzannatos (Lebanese Center for Policy Studies):** The Youth Bulge than was not The Mismeasured, Misunderstood and Mistreated Arab Youth
- **Wael Khatib (independent researcher, Jordan),** and Sean Yom (Temple University): The Social Contract in Jordan at 100 Years: Revisiting Identity
- ~~**Tina Zintl (DIE):** Divide and Rule in the Taxi Business? How the car-hailing services Uber and Careem illustrate Jordan's shifting social contract~~
- **Martin Hvidt (University of Southern Denmark):** The Dubai Model of Development - Changing the social contract
- **Ingrid El Masry (University of Marburg):** No lighthouse in sight? Post-2011 Tunisia and the need for sustainable development



*Chair:* Markus Loewe (German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, Bonn)

- Georgeta Vidican Auktor (University of Applied Science Nürnberg), and **Markus Loewe (DIE)**: Rationalising public transfer spending in the Middle East and North Africa: Strategic options to deal with challenges
- **Amirah El-Haddad (Cairo University and DIE)**: Redefining the social contract in the wake of the Arab Spring: the experiences of Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.
- **Hania Sobhy (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity)**: Education and the Lived Social Contract in Egypt before and after the Uprisings
- **Annabelle Houdret (DIE)**, and Hichem Amichi (Ecole d'Ingénieurs de Purpan, Toulouse): The rural social contract in Morocco and Algeria: reshaping through economic liberalization and new rules and practices



*Chair:* Annabelle Houdret (German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, Bonn)

- **Fabio Coriolano (Warsaw University):** Healthcare Systems in Selected Islamic Countries
- **Bernhard Trautner (DIE and University of Tübingen):** Supporting new social contracts for dysfunctional Middle Eastern states - instead of fictitious nation building
- **Mark Furness (DIE):** The German guidelines on crisis prevention and peacebuilding, and Germany's responses to conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa
- **Gubara Said Hassan (Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat):** Sudan's Uprisings: For Hurriyyah (Freedom), Salam (Peace) and Adalah (Justice)

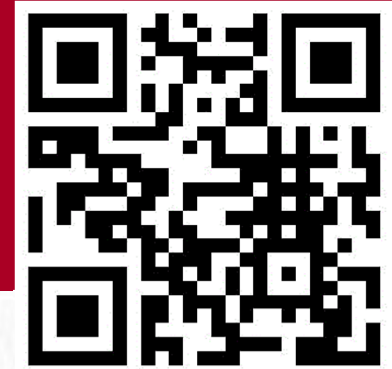


d·i·e



Deutsches Institut für  
Entwicklungspolitik

German Development  
Institute



**Thank you very much  
for your attention!**

***[www.die-gdi.de/mena/](http://www.die-gdi.de/mena/)***

