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DEMOCRACY RISING IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA?

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Marcella Simoni graduated in Contemporary European History at the University of Florence in 1995 and obtained her Ph.D. at the University of London in 2004. She is Research Fellow in the Department of Studies on Asia and North Africa at the University of Venice, where she also teaches Israel studies. She is also affiliated with NYU Florence, where she teaches the History of Italian Jews. In 2010-2011 she has been visiting scholar at the Centre de Recherche Francais in Jerusalem (2009-2010), at INALCO, Paris (2010-2011), and has been the beneficiary of the Alessandro Vaciago Prize of the Accademia dei Lincei. In 2010 Marcella Simoni published two books *A Healthy Nation*: *Zionist Health Policies in British Palestine* and *At the Margins of Conflict*: *A Social Perspective on Arabs and Jews*, both for Cafoscarina Editions, Venice. Ms. Simoni is among the founders of the editorial board of the online journal of Hebrew history "Quest – Issues in Contemporary Jewish History" (www.quest-cdecjournal.it/).