



Call for Papers: MENA Yearbook of Social Sciences 2026

Volume Theme:

MENA at a Global Turning Point: Security, Economic Shocks, and the Future of Democracy

Proposed Publisher: *De Gruyter Brill*

I- MENA Yearbook of Social Sciences

The **MENA Yearbook of Social Sciences** is an interdisciplinary academic book dedicated to advancing research and scholarship on the Middle East and North Africa. It provides a platform for rigorous analysis of political, economic, and societal developments across the region, with particular attention to state society relations, governance, security, social change, and the impact of global dynamics.

Managed by the Social Sciences Lab MENA, a European research institute based in Tallinn, Estonia, the yearbook is guided by an international community of senior scholars spanning North America, Europe, Asia, and the MENA region. By bringing together established experts, emerging researchers, and policy practitioners, the MENA Book fosters cross-disciplinary perspectives, comparative insights, and critical discussion. Each annual volume addresses current regional challenges, including political transitions, economic transformations, security issues, social mobilization, and the evolving role of democracy, offering both academic rigor and relevance for policymakers, civil society, and the wider public.

The MENA yearbook of Social Sciences is planning to be published with Brill. While formal confirmation is pending, authors are invited to submit manuscripts following Brill's standard guidelines for yearbooks and edited volumes. Submissions should be original, unpublished research in the social sciences, focusing on political, economic, and societal developments in the Middle East and North Africa. Full chapter and formatting details will be provided once Brill confirms the publication.

II- Volume I, 2026:

MENA at a Global Turning Point: Security, Economic Shocks, and the Future of Democracy

The Middle East and North Africa are experiencing a period of profound transformation shaped by recent global and regional developments. The Gaza war, the economic consequences of the Ukraine conflict, and shifts in international politics including changes in US foreign policy have influenced security, governance, and economic stability across the region. These crises are reshaping state-society relations, political legitimacy, and the prospects for democracy.

This volume brings together interdisciplinary research in political science, sociology, economics, and security studies to examine these challenges. Key areas of focus include regional security and conflict, economic shocks and social consequences, governance and democracy under global pressures, and societal responses, including youth engagement and digital activism. By exploring the intersection of security, economic pressures, and political order, the volume aims to provide timely insights for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners on the evolving dynamics of the MENA region.

Rationale

Recent events have exposed the vulnerability of MENA states to both regional and global shocks. The Gaza war has altered security calculations and regional alliances, while the Ukraine conflict has created cascading economic effects, including energy and food insecurity, inflation, and growing social inequality. In parallel, global political shifts such as the changing posture of the United States under Trump and the growing influence of alternative powers affect governance strategies and democratic prospects across the region.

There is a pressing need for a comprehensive, interdisciplinary volume that situates these developments within broader historical, political, and economic frameworks. This volume will provide a critical platform for analyzing how regional actors respond to external pressures, manage internal challenges, and navigate the competing demands of security, economic stability, and democratic aspirations.

III- Proposed Sections

Part I – Security and Conflict

- The Gaza war and regional security recalibration;
- Militarization, non-state actors, and state strategies;
- Regional power shifts and security architectures.

Part II – Economic Shocks and Social Consequences

- Global crises, inflation, and food/energy insecurity;
- Debt, austerity, and social inequality;
- Economic pressures and political mobilization.

Part III – Governance, Democracy, and Global Influence

- Authoritarian resilience and democratic prospects;

- US policy, Trumpism, and regional implications;
- Russia, China, and alternative governance models.

Part IV – Society, Media, and Political Futures

- Public opinion, youth activism, and digital engagement;
- Cultural and societal responses to crises;
- Pathways for reform, resistance, and resilience.

IV- Submission Guidelines

Submissions should be original, unpublished work in the social sciences, with abstracts of approximately 300 - 400 words. Full chapters, if invited, are expected to be **7,000–10,000 words**. Manuscripts should be prepared according to Brill's style and formatting standards (available at <https://www.brill.com/authors>).

Authors are encouraged to focus on interdisciplinary research related to the Middle East and North Africa, addressing topics such as governance, security, social transformation, economic development, and global/regional dynamics. Additional guidance on chapter submission and peer review will be provided directly to selected authors, including detailed formatting and review procedures.

V- Important Dates:

- Abstract Submission Deadline: **15 May 2026**
- Notification of Acceptance: **15 June 2026**
- Full Chapter Submission: **15 August 2026**
- Expected Publication: **December 2026 - January 2027**

Scholars from all disciplines of the social sciences, political science, sociology, economics, security studies, and related fields are encouraged to contribute. Interdisciplinary and comparative approaches are particularly welcome.

Please submit your abstract (300–400 words) together with a brief biography by email to menabook@ssl-mena.org no later than 15 May 2026.

For inquiries, please contact: menabook@ssl-mena.org

Further information is available at: <https://www.ssl-mena.org/mena-yearbook>