



The Political Economy of Wasta: Use and Abuse of Social Capital Networking

By Mohamed Ramady

Springer-Verlag GmbH Nov 2015, 2015. Buch. Condition: Neu. Neuware - The term 'wasta' stems from the Arabic root for 'middle' or 'medium' and describes the phenomenon of using 'connections' to find job, government services or other favors to circumvent bureaucracy or bypass the system as a whole. The effects of 'wasta' may be both positive or negative, and is not a phenomenon that is particular to the Arab or Muslim world, but also to many other cultures and regions of the world, with similar concepts popularly known as ubuntu, guanxi, harambee, naoberschap, or 'old boy network' used in African, Chinese and European societies. By its very nature 'wasta' is an area of grey or even black information, and, like corruption to which it is most often associated, is hard to assess although country corruption perception indexes attempt to provide a quantifiable basis. In the final analysis such ratings are based on perceptions of corruption, and this perception may vary strongly depending on different societal structures and cultural modes, whether these are extended family systems, tribal, clans or more atomized societies where relationships are essentially transactional and rule based. In a western perspective where 'wasta' may be...



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