Negotiating Women's Rights: Secular and Islamic Associations in Tunisia

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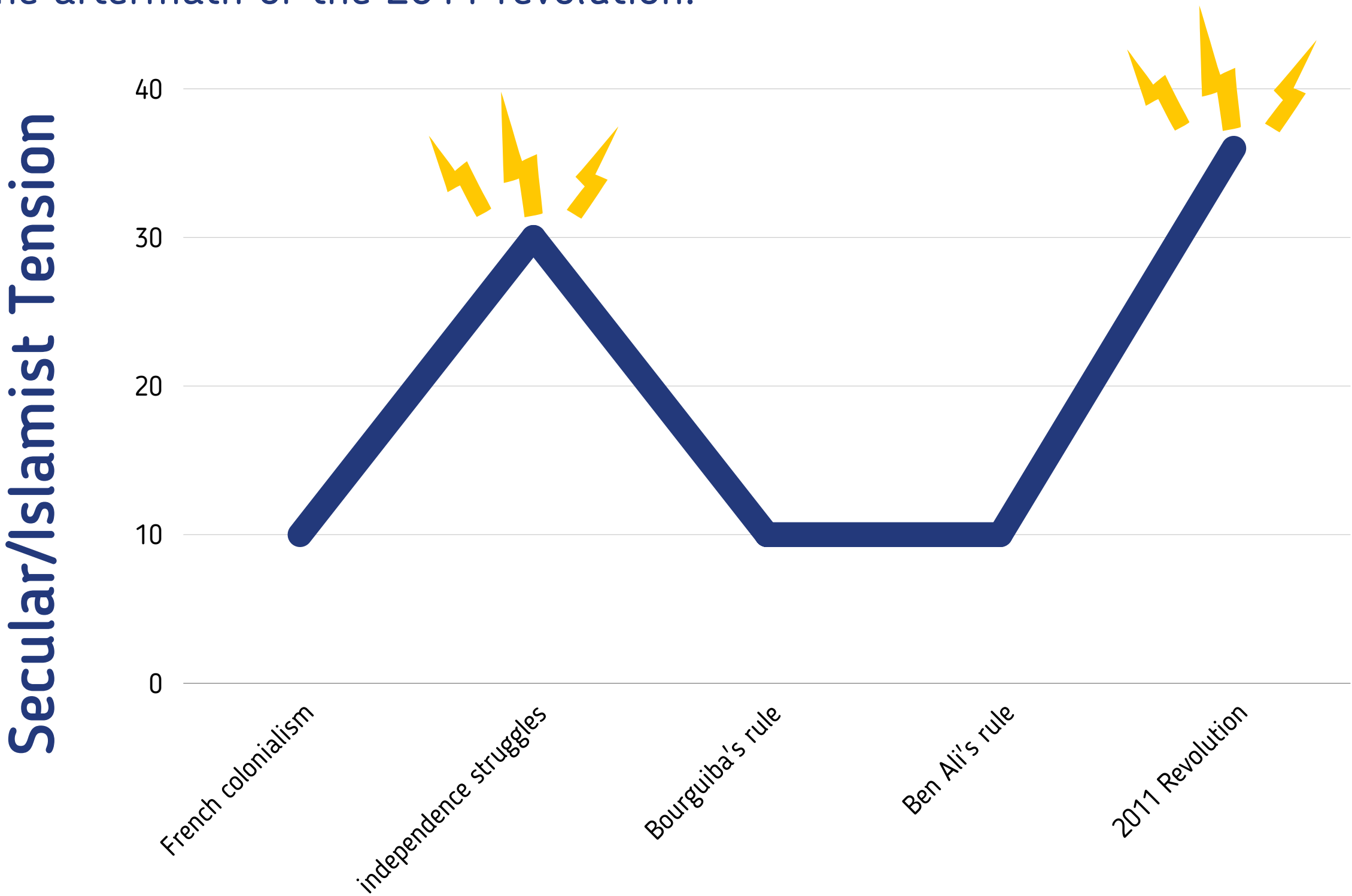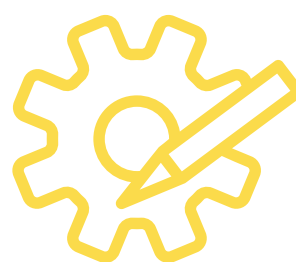
Are women's rights best defended by faith, secular ideals, or both?

This provocative question is not rooted in stirring controversy, but rather in the charged history of women's rights debates in Tunisia, and of religious and secular powers in general, from the struggles for independence to the resurfacing of the issue six decades later, in the aftermath of the 2011 revolution.

Research Objecktive

This study aims to understand the different perspectives of secular and Islamic women's rights associations in Tunisia, as well as the historical and contextual realities that have shaped their differences.

Research Methods

Qualitative study | Thematic analysis.

Results and Findings

Language
- Language that centres the equality of all human beings.
- The use of the concepts complementarity and equity instead of equality.

Identity
- National identity mentioned as an abstract value of shared principles or having a common goal.
- National Identity expressed in terms of an Arab-Muslim identity.

Civil Society
- A sense of belonging to feminist civil society through feminist coalitions.
- A sense of underrepresentation, lack of visibility and marginalisation within civil society.

frame of reference
- Outward perspective on women's rights.
- Inward perspective on women's rights.

CONTACT