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FINDINGS

Civil society is one of the most contested concepts in social sciences. It means many things to different intellectuals at the same time. One of difficulties surrounded the analysis of civil society is to adopt universalist view supposing that civil society should have same features in all contexts. In contrast to universalist view, there is a contextual perception according to which civil society is embedded in a meaningful mixture of social, political, and historical place. My thesis adopts the second perception which is contextual one. It supposes that there are many contexts of civil society. Each context has different characteristics. In my research I focus on two contexts of civil society; Arab context and European context. It compares two contexts. In the European context, civil society developed in connection with civil rights and contractual formation of society. In the Arab.