

What Do Arab Reformers Want?

by [Robert Satloff \(/experts/robert-satloff\)](#)

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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One of the more pleasant surprises to emerge in 2002—an exceptionally dreary year in the Middle East—was the inaugural volume of the Arab Human Development Report (AHDR). That path-breaking document, prepared by a group of courageous Arab researchers under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program, broke the mold of Arab scholarship (and of UN documents!) in speaking about the failings of Arab societies. Titled *Creating Opportunities for Future Generations*, it highlighted core problems—or “deficits”—in the three areas of education, freedom, and the status of women, and it challenged Arab regimes to change the way they do business lest the world’s 280 million Arabs be effectively shut out of the 21st century. . . .

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