

Undergraduate Problems: Middle East Issues
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U.S. Foreign Policy in Egypt

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Egypt Overview

- Population: 82m; largest in the Arab World
- Religion: 90% Muslim (mostly Sunni); 9 Coptic
- Natural Resources: Oil, nat. gas, minerals
- Politics: Mubarak resignation; Constitution dissolved; Supreme Council of Armed Forces in control; continued State of Emergency; police force disbanded; elections promised.
- Challenges: limited arable land; dependence on the Nile; poor living conditions; desertification; high unemployment

Bilateral Relationship

- Egypt a leading US regional ally in seeking and maintaining regional peace, countering extremism, and developing solutions to local and regional challenges of pol and econ reform.
- Despite differences & frictions with the U.S., relationship evolved under Mubarak beyond the MEPP to an independent bilateral friendship
- Egypt represented moderate voice in Arab councils, relationship w/ Israel. It could persuade other Arab councils/states to join Peace Process & normalize relations w/U.S. & Israel
- Pres. Obama's 2009 New Beginnings Speech
 - Focal point for US engagement w/ Arab and Muslim world (entrepreneurship, S&T, and education)

Bilateral Relationship cont'd

- Econ and Mil Assistance
 - Anchored strategic partnership & contributed to Egypt-Israel peace for > 30 yrs
 - FY 2011 – FY 2013 total assistance to Egypt - 1.55b decreasing in real terms, purchasing power, and econ impact.
 - 1.3 b FMF (acquisitions, upgrades, modifications & training)

Bilateral Relationship cont'd

- Mil-to-Mil Relationship
 - Probably the strongest aspect of the strategic partnership
 - Gen. Zinni “Egypt most important country in AOR because of access to the region.”
 - Clinton Admin – “Most prominent player in Arab world & key US ally in Middle East.”

Bilateral Relationship cont'd

- Mil-to-Mil Relationship
 - Egypt 2nd largest non-NATO recipient of aid, after Israel.
 - Most powerful military on African continent, 2nd largest in the Middle East, after Israel.

Bilateral Relationship cont'd

- Tensions
 - Egyptian unwillingness to send troops to Iraq & Afghanistan in peace stabilization missions
 - Strongly backed U.S. CT efforts after 9/11, but refused to send troops to Afghanistan.
 - Opposed U.S. mil intervention in Iraq; occupation after war
 - Refused to send troops under UN umbrella
 - Sense of betrayal as Mubarak abandoned
 - Opposed direct assistance to NGOs/Civil Society

U.S. Goals & Interests in Egypt

- Peace and Security
 - Partner w/ Egypt to address regional challenges, including promoting peace w/ Israel and its neighbors
 - Partner w/ Egypt on regional issues such as stabilizing conditions in Gaza, Sudan, Iraq, and Lebanon, and confronting challenges from Iran and regional terrorist groups
 - Ensure secure staging rights and priority U.S. military passage thru Suez Canal & Egyptian airspace
 - Modernize Egyptian military w/ U.S.-origin defense systems & training of Egyptian mil ofcrs to improve interoperability of our mil forces.

U.S. Goals & Interests cont'd

- Governing Justly and Democratically
 - Work w/ GOE and civil society partners to consolidate and strengthen political reform gains, including freedom of expression and freedom of association
 - Expand direct support to Egyptian civil society to ensure it is an independent, effective voice for the needs and aspirations of Egyptian people.
 - Expand civic education and citizen participation in the political process
 - Strengthen local governance through decentralization
 - Strengthen the independence of judicial institutions

U.S. Goals & Interests cont'd

- Investing in People
 - Help Egypt create human capacity it needs to compete globally
 - Focus on education, particularly access for Egyptian children to quality education relevant to marketplace needs (emphasis on S&T)
 - Broaden access to education for girls and children in rural areas
 - Improve teaching at all levels
 - Provide opportunities for advanced study in science & math
 - Help Egypt to address inequalities of health services to its poor

U.S. Goals & Interests cont'd

- Help Egypt to reduce dramatic poverty rates and continue economic reforms (dealing with subsidies and privatization)
- Thru Strategic Economic Dialogue, seek to liberalize bilateral trade and investment

U.S. Goals & Interests cont'd

- Public Diplomacy
 - Broaden engagement with Egyptians, including on issues such as science, education, democracy, and civil society
 - Expand outreach to young, non-elite audiences thru innovative and decentralized programming
 - Increase opportunities for English language training to non-traditional targets
 - Expand opportunities for study in the U.S.