



Egypt

Introduction

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Chart 1: Political map of Egypt



Chart 1 is a political map of Egypt.

Egypt is one of the 24 lower-middle-income countries in Africa, it is a transcontinental country spanning the northeast corner of Africa and the southwest corner of Asia. It is bordered by Israel, including the Gaza Strip after its occupation by Israel in 1967, Sudan and Libya, as well as the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. With a rich legacy, and often referred to as the “cradle of civilisation”, the nation thrives on tourism from all over the world, and has a population of over 113 million people as of 2023. Its official language is Arabic.

Egypt is considered a regional power in Africa and the Middle East. Geographically, it is the world's 30th-largest country in terms of land mass, but 99% of the population makes use of only 5.5% of the land (along the Nile river), yielding one of the most densely-populated countries in Africa. Its landscape is mostly desert with some oases, with averagely very little rainfall, and a hot, sunny and dry climate. Its largest cities include Cairo, the capital, Alexandria and Giza, all popular tourist cities.

General Gamal Abdel Nasser assumed Egypt's presidency in 1954 following the 1952 revolution until he died in 1970, when he was succeeded by Anwar Sadat who was assassinated in 1981. The assassination of President Sadat paved the way for Hosni Mubarak to assume Egypt's Presidency, who ruled the country until his resignation in February 2011 following the Arab Spring that had started in Tunisia in 2010. In Egypt, the Arab Spring was characterised by massive street protests

against President Mubarak for allegations of corruption, poor governance, poverty and political oppression, among others. After the resignation of President Mubarak, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces **suspended** the Constitution, dissolved the People's Assembly and constituted a transitional body to supervise the country's democratisation process.

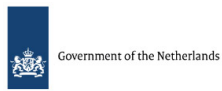
The transitional process continued until June 2012, when Mohamed Morsi was declared president. However, his regime came to an abrupt end in the wake of massive protests in June 2013 calling for his immediate resignation, by people disgruntled by the direction in which Egypt was heading. The subsequent military intervention following the popular uprising sought to rectify the course of Egypt's democratic transition after being hijacked by Islamist groups. In May 2014, another election was held in which President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi was declared the winner. His leadership has reduced the social turbulence that characterised the last decade. In 2018, President Al-sisi won a second term with 97% of the vote. A 2019 constitutional amendment extended the tenure of office of the president to six years though it maintained the term two-term limit. However, provisions were made to allow President Sisi to run for a third six-year term. The December 2023 election saw President Sisi win 89.6% of total votes to secure another six-year tenure.

Administratively, Egypt is divided into 27 governorates though power is still highly centralised. The President appoints governors and other executive officials. Thus, decentralisation is limited to administrative functions without devolution of substantive authority powers.

Approximately 90% of the population is Sunni Muslim and 10% is Christian. Shia Muslims comprise approximately 1% of the population.

Egypt has suffered from terrorism for decades, with attacks targeting government officials, security forces, tourists, religious minorities and civilians. The main perpetrators are Islamic extremist groups, prominently the Ansar Beit Magdis in Sinai, however recent developments suggest that Egypt has succeeded in defeating these terrorist groups. After the 1973 war with Israel, Egypt has not been at war with others, but has sought to protect itself from terrorism.

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About the authors

Mr Enoch Randy Aikins joined the AFI in May 2021 as a Researcher. Before that, Enoch was a research and programmes officer at the Institute for Democratic Governance in Accra in charge of local governance reforms, poverty and inequality and public sector reforms. He also worked as a research assistant (economic division) with the Institute for Statistical Social and Economic Research at the University of Ghana. Enoch's interests include African politics and governance, economic development, public sector reform, poverty and inequality. Enoch is a Young African Fellow at the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute in Florence and has an MPhil in economics from the University of Ghana, Legon.

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