



Model Arab League

Annotated Bibliography for Egypt

ncusar.org/modelarableague

National
Council
on US-
Arab
Relations



This annotated bibliography was created to serve as a research resource for students taking part in the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Model Arab League Program. With the understanding that research can be intimidating and time consuming, an effort was made to find a set of scholarly articles that give a detailed background and thorough account of the current situation for this League of Arab States member. Included are annotations designed to give a description of the source with the intention of students completing the research on their own. There has been an attempt to focus on more contemporary scholarship, specifically post-9/11 and post-2011 (so-called "Arab Spring") where possible, as these are two phenomena that fundamentally changed politics in the Arab world. These sources should provide students with a solid basis for understanding the country they are representing in both regionally and globally significant issues as well as the interests of other countries within the League of Arab States.

1. Solava Ibrahim, "A Tale of Two Egypts: Contrasting State-Reported Macro-Trends with the Micro-Voices of the Poor," *Third World Quarterly*, Volume 32, Number 7, 2011, pp. 1347-1368. •• Besides what are considered obvious reasons for the revolution in Egypt like government corruption and lack of political access, there were various historic economic and social conditions that led up to Egypt's part in the so-called "Arab Spring". Many of the problems Egypt faced throughout Mubarak's reign sound strikingly similar to those the United States face today, namely a widening gap between the poor and the wealthy, poor education systems that do not prepare students for available jobs, high rates of college educated yet unemployed youth, and lack of access to basic necessities like health care. Egypt had been viewed internationally as a stable and growing Arab state, but this image was largely due to a policy of ignoring the poor.
2. Amr M. Kandeel, Maha Talaat, Salma A. Afifi, Nasr M. El-Sayed, Moustafa A. Abdel Fadeel, Rana A. Hajjeh, Frank J. Mahoney, "Case Control Study to Identify Risk Factors for Acute Hepatitis C Virus Infection in Egypt," *BMC Infectious Diseases*, Volume 12, Number 294, 2012. •• As countries develop, quality of healthcare becomes an issue of interest for the population, and Egypt is no exception. Hepatitis C is the cause for a large amount of illnesses in Egypt as it can be the basis for many secondary symptoms and infections. Considering the fiscal situation Egypt is in, the authors of this article make policy recommendations that may help alleviate the issue of Hepatitis C transmission, as well as suggestions for improving Egypt's healthcare system overall.
3. Nathan J. Brown, "Contention in Religion and State in Postrevolutionary Egypt," *Social Research*, Volume 79, Number 2, Summer 2012, pp. 531-550. •• Questions about the role of religion in Egyptian government remain pertinent as the country is continues to navigate its new identity. Throughout Mubarak's rule, religious organizations were repressed in order to prevent them from becoming a consolidated political opposition to

the state. Now that religious organizations have more political freedom however, they have begun to divide politically instead of unify. This article will help the reader in understanding the nuance between the various Islamic religious groups in Egypt including the Muslim Brotherhood, Salafis, and the Sheikhs of al-Azhar, and how each align politically.

4. Mehmet Ozan ASIK, "Contesting Religious Educational Discourses and Institutions in Contemporary Egypt," *Social Compass*, Volume 59, Number 1, March 2012, pp. 84-101. •• Although this article is about conflicts between state and private education in Egypt under Mubarak, the issues it presents are likely to remain topics of debate in post-Mubarak Egypt. In the past, the Mubarak government pursued a policy of controlling educational and religious discourse by including its own state approved classes on religious topics. This policy had some peculiar results illustrated by varying societal opinion. The more radical Islamist elements found the policy to be abhorrent of course, and sought to create their own religiously focused education in order to purify Egyptian society. In post-revolution Egypt, the character of state and private education remains to be seen.
5. Rabab el-Mahdi, "Does Political Islam Impede Gender-Based Mobilization? The Case of Egypt," *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions*, Volume 11, Issue 3-4, 2010, pp. 379-396. •• Egypt certainly has its own local women's movements, but they are not "feminist" in the Western Liberal sense. Still, Egypt's women's movements are not without their own internal divisions and problems, and they are forced to navigate an awkward discursive space as they are often accused of being implicitly influenced by Western notions of women's liberation. For these reasons it has been very difficult for Egyptian women to create their own discourse that is acceptable to wider Egyptian society. This author argues that gender-based movements in Egypt inevitably run into framing issues in their very beginning.
6. "Egypt 2005: Results from the Demographic and Health Survey," *Studies in Family Planning*, Volume 37, Number 4, December 2006, pp. 299-304. •• This report shows a wide range of statistical data on family planning and health issues in Egypt. Fertility rates, knowledge and use of birth control methods, infant mortality, and knowledge of diseases are included. The large amount of graphs presented here may be useful in determining health related policies.
7. Joe Stork, "Egypt: Human Rights in Transition," *Social Research*, Volume 79, Number 2, September 2012, pp. 463-486. •• Just after the deposition of Mubarak, Egypt was still experiencing protests under the transitional military government and there were various human rights violations that were made very public. These events shed light on the

history and development of human rights in the Egyptian context, including media repression/censorship, torture, and arbitrary detentions. As the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) consolidate power, one would expect them to hastily create laws preventing these practices, as during the Mubarak years they were largely the recipients of human rights violations. This article also outlines key issues that the new Egyptian government will have to address in the near future.

8. Juan Cole, "Egypt's New Left Versus the Military Junta," *Social Research*, Volume 79, Number 2, Summer 2012, pp. 487-510. •• After Egyptian protesters forced the ousting of Hosni Mubarak, the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) took over as a transitional military government. Due largely to the continuation of various human rights abuses and violent crackdowns on protesters however, the SCAF's governance did not satisfy the revolutionaries. In this case both left and right wing opposition forces agreed that the military's monopoly of power had to be curtailed. The author argues that had the protesters not remained vigilant, Egypt's revolution may have come to an abrupt end. In the future, Egyptian citizens will most likely demand a military that can be held accountable to the citizens.
9. Kathryn M. Yount, "Like Mother, Like Daughter? Female Genital Cutting in Minia, Egypt," *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, Volume 43, Number 3, September 2002, pp. 336-358. •• Although illegal in most places including Egypt (since 2007), Female Genital Cutting or Mutilation (FGM) remains a problematic cultural practice. FGM is maintained due to cultural notions of feminine identity and societal roles which are explained in this article. Furthermore, statistical correlations are shown between prevalence and intention to have FGM done to a daughter and various factors like the father's and mother's education, urban vs. rural living, economic well-being, age, and birth order. Given the statistical findings, the author makes some recommendations as to how to reduce the cultural acceptability of the practice in part of Egypt where FGM is carried out.
10. Gaurav Datt, Dean Jolliffe, "Poverty in Egypt: Modeling and Policy Simulations," *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, Volume 53, Number 2, January 2005, pp. 327-346. •• Poverty lines and levels are different in most countries, and Egypt has its own unique determinants of economic welfare and food security. This study examines data in areas like consumption, education, and access to health facilities as determinants of poverty levels in Egypt, and predicts how increasing these figures may affect changes.
11. H. A. Hellyer, "The Chance for Change in the Arab World: Egypt's Uprising," *International Affairs*, Volume 87, Number 6, 2011, pp. 1313-1322. •• Prior to Egypt's revolution in 2011, academics had largely ignored Egypt's internal politics due to an

image of immobility, and many even dismissed the idea of Egypt getting sucked into the Arab Spring. Nevertheless, Egypt experienced its revolution, and as one of the most politically important Arab countries that also shares a border with Israel, political scientists are scrambling to analyze how Egypt's new government will handle past agreements and treaties. Most notable among these agreements are the Camp David Accords, which Israel fears may be disregarded by the new Egyptian government dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood.

12. Andrew Heiss, "The Failed Management of a Dying Regime: Hosni Mubarak, Egypt's National Democratic Party, and the January 25th Revolution," *Journal of Third World Studies*, Volume 29, Issue 1, Spring 2012, pp. 155-171. •• The so-called Arab Spring took everyone by surprise including Middle East experts in academia. Even though the Arab Spring began and spread in a very rapid manner, there were definite events and policies that led up to its commencement. This article describes the Mubarak regime and how it evolved over time to adapt to ever changing political issues and opposition. Specifically, the author shows through a series of charts the increasing number of external factors that the Mubarak regime was forced to deal with over time, leading to its eventual fracture and demise. Future Arab governments will need to have an understanding of these factors in order to choose a better path of governance.
13. Jeffrey T. Kenney, "The New Politics of Movement Activism: The Society of Muslim Brothers After Egypt's Arab Spring," *Nova Religio: The Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions*, Volume 16, Number 3, February 2013, pp. 95-104. •• Following the Egyptian revolution, the Muslim Brotherhood changed from an opposition party to the government into the dominant political party within the government. As such, the Muslim Brotherhood has to navigate a narrow path between satisfying the Islamists as well as the rest of Egyptians that they are now tasked with watching over. The Brotherhood has chosen to tackle seemingly mundane issues in the beginning which has drawn both praise and criticism for various reasons explained in the article. As much as the FJP may want to differentiate itself from recent history, they now have to deal with political and economic realities that may be stifling their goals.
14. Atef Said, "The Paradox of Transition to 'Democracy' Under Military Rule," *Social Research*, Volume 79, Number 2, Summer 2012, pp. 397-434. •• As Egypt transitioned from the Mubarak regime to apparent democratic governance, the Egyptian military acted as the governing body. This article gives a detailed account of Egypt's post-revolution transition and a thorough explanation of how and why in the Egyptian case the military mostly sided with the protestors, at least during the revolution. After the revolution however, the military government had to take on many responsibilities which inevitably changed its character. Now Egypt has elected its government, but protests continue as the

leftist youth feel disenfranchised from the right wing, religious, and dominant Muslim Brotherhood.

15. Julia Zinkina and Andre Korotayev, "Urbanization Dynamic in Egypt: Factors, Trends, Perspectives," *Arab Studies Quarterly*, Volume 35, Number 1, Winter 2013, pp. 20-38. •• After 1952, Egypt experienced rapid population growth, modernization, and urbanization. In many cases in other countries, urbanization at a pace like Egypt's typically led to socio-economic instability and political risk. Interestingly enough however, Egypt's trend of urbanization tied to growth took a detour which the authors argue was parallel to the oil boom in the 70's. This deviation may have saved Egypt from some instability issues, but wars in the 80's and 90's would force many Egyptians to return home from oil rich Arab states, repopulating Egypt's urban centers. Recent UN indicators predict a return to the steep urbanization trend of the 60's and 70's out to 2050 and may correlate to increasing instability in the long run.
16. Tarek Osman, "Young Egyptians: Their Society and Future," *Social Research*, Volume 79, Number 2, Summer 2012, pp. 299-322. •• While economics and politics were the most cited reasons for the so-called Arab Spring and within that context the Egyptian revolution, there were a myriad of social and cultural issues that contributed to Egyptians' willingness to partake. Problems associated with education, population growth, gender inequalities, urbanization, suburbanization, and cultural disconnection to the past all added their own portions to the wave that swept over Egyptian citizens during the Arab Spring. Most recently, along with continuing economic and political woes, Egypt's population is facing a generational divide between the elderly and the youth which is fracturing Egyptian society and may be inhibiting post-revolution success.
17. Sharon Meraz and Zizi Papacharissi, "Networked Gatekeeping and Networked Framing on #Egypt," *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, Volume 18, Number 2, January 2013, pp. 138-166. •• Increasingly, social networking websites like Facebook and Twitter are becoming indispensable tools for revolutionary movements. Improvements in technology and availability of the internet are becoming more widespread, leading to a greater democratization of political participation due to ease of access. Furthermore, networks like these contribute to the viral potential of political movements with the ability to instantly copy, repost, and distribute messages to a wide audience. This article looks at the recurrence of Twitter posts throughout the Egyptian revolution and shows that the overthrow of the state may have actually been inspired by a small group whose messages were spread creating the appearance of an instant groundswell.
18. David Fielding and Anja Shortland, "An Eye for an Eye, a Tooth for a Tooth: Political Violence and Counter-insurgency in Egypt," *Journal of Peace Research*, Volume 47,

Number 4, pp. 433-448. •• Egypt has a history of violent riots, many of which can be seen within a cycle of violence framework which follows a sort of action/reaction escalating pattern. Alternatively, some internal and external factors may also have motivated the violence, including the removal of food subsidies and spillover of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. Many times, these conflicts were given an undertone of government vs. the religious elements of Egyptian society. Given these two statistical links, the authors provide policy recommendations that may reduce incidences of violent outbursts in Egypt.

19. Mark Purcell, "A Place for the Copts: Imagined Territory and Spatial Conflict in Egypt," *Cultural Geographies*, Volume 5, Number 4, October 1998, pp. 432-451. •• Coptic Christians are native to Egypt and are the largest Christian population in the Middle East. As a distinct religious community within Egypt, the Copts have at times encountered difficulty finding their place in society and creating an identity. At times, Copts have been driven to appeal more to their religious identity or their Egyptian identity depending on the political situation. Historic tensions between the Copts and Egypt's Islamists have sometimes left the Copts feeling as if they are discriminated against, especially when the government has not come to their defense. This article gives a modern historical background of the Copts relationships with the Egyptian government and Islamists, and will help in understanding the current issues the Copts face. In a more general sense, treatment of Egypt's Christians is a good indicator of religious tolerance and freedom in the country.
20. Eltigani E. Eltigani, "Childbearing in Five Arab Countries," *Studies in Family Planning*, Volume 32, Number 1, March, 2001, pp. 17-24. •• This article compares the rates and frequency of childbearing among women of five Arab countries: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, and Yemen. In doing so, the reader is given insight into these countries' population demographics, industries, rights for women, and levels of economic and social development. Algeria is a specifically interesting case because of its unique birthrates and frequencies relative to the other Arab states.