

Egyptian Politics in the 21st Century

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Abstract

Egypt is a presidential republic. The head of the country is the president of Egypt who is elected once every 4 years in direct elections. Under the president, the parliament elected in separate elections once every 5 years operates and consists of two houses: the upper Egyptian Senate, which serves as the body that advises the president, and the lower, which is called the People’s Assembly. Egyptian politics knew many upheavals in the second decade of the 21st century. The main political and social struggle was between the religious-extremist parties in the form of the “Muslim Brotherhood” parties and the Salafist parties and the more pragmatic parties in the form of the army and Al-Sisi’s party. If in the past, the main agenda of Egyptian politics was a war against external enemies, today it mainly concentrates on reaching political and economic stability. The army remains the most powerful factor in the country and sees its role as excluding religious factors from undermining the internal stability of the country.

Keywords: Egypt, Egyptian politics, the Muslim Brotherhood, Al-Sisi.

1. Introduction – Hosni Mubarak period

After the assassination of Anwar Sadat, Hosni Mubarak was the president of Egypt from October 14, 1981, until his resignation on February 11, 2011. Mubarak was the leader of the National Democratic Party that led Egypt starting in 1978. Despite the boycott, the Arab League imposed on Egypt following its signing of the peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, the League's permanent offices returned to Cairo in 1990.

Egypt is holding multi-party elections, but international human rights observers are raising concerns about freedom of expression. As part of this concern, in April 2007, the Amnesty organization published a report that in Egypt there is torture in the prisons where opponents of the regime are imprisoned.

The elections in Egypt are not free and are structured so that the ruling party wins anyway. Despite this, democratic reforms made due to the American pressure for democratization in 2003 and 2004, caused the entry of members of parliament who are not from the ruling party (mainly from the Muslim Brotherhood), into the Egyptian parliament as independents. Some researchers define the Egyptian government as a liberal autocracy (Kassem, 2004).

The loosening of American pressure, following its decline in Iraq and its need for assistance from Egypt mediated by Hamas, and the need to create a united Arab front against the Iranian nuclear program caused Mubarak to stop his steps towards democratization, and formulate far-reaching reforms that are supposed to ensure the stability of his party’s rule.

In this way, 34 amendments were introduced to the Egyptian constitution in March 2007, which strengthened Mubarak's position and increased his possibility of transferring the presidency to his son Gamal Mubarak, like the way things were done in Syria in 2000. These amendments state that it will not be possible for a party of a religious nature to compete in the elections in Egypt and that the president of the country, that is, Hosni Mubarak, will be able to dissolve the parliament without the need for a referendum, as was customary until now.

Due to these changes, the opposition circles in Egypt opposed the changes in the constitution. The amendments to the constitution were approved in a referendum held on March 28, 2007. According to the Egyptian regime, the percentage of participation reached one-third of those entitled to vote and the amendments were supported by approximately 75 percent of the voters. According to opposition circles that boycotted the referendum, only six percent of Egyptian citizens participated in the referendum, the results of which were falsified. After the results were published, senior judges in Egypt announced that they would not back the new amendments to the constitution (Hatem, 2010).

2. After the end of Mubarak's regime

On January 25, 2011, huge demonstrations began in Egypt, following which on February 11, 2011, Mubarak resigned and left power in the hands of the army.

On June 21, 2012, the presidential elections were held in which the candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood, Muhammad Morsi, won. The Egyptian presidential elections in 2012 were considered the first free Egyptian presidential elections. Following his intention to promulgate a constitution that was seen by many as undemocratic, further demonstrations began, following which the army seized power a second time.

Morsi was ousted in a military coup in 2013 led by General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi. The head of the Constitutional Court was appointed as the temporary president of Egypt.

In January 2014, a referendum was held on a new constitution. Al-Sisi resigned as Minister of Defense and after democratic elections was elected President of Egypt. The presidential elections were held in 2014 and General Sisi ran as an independent candidate.

The "Muslim Brotherhood" movement and its supporters, as well as the secular April 6th youth movement (who were partners in the demonstrations and the revolution against Mubarak), boycotted the vote, and this reduced the turnout.

The Egyptian presidential elections in 2018 also ended in a crushing victory for al-Sisi, who faced only an opponent who praised his rule after the other candidates withdrew for various reasons (Koehler, 2018; Schwartz & Galily, 2021).

3. The Revolution of 2011

The revolution in Egypt (also called the January 25 Revolution, the Youth Revolution, and the Lotus Revolution) occurred on February 11, 2011, after continuous street demonstrations, mass protests, and civil unrest that began in Egypt on January 25.

The organizers of the protest were inspired by the revolution in neighboring Tunisia as part of the wave of protests in the Arab world, which was nicknamed the "Arab Spring."

The demonstrators clashed with the security forces, protested the regime of President Hosni Mubarak, and called for his ouster against the backdrop of extreme poverty, governmental corruption, and the violation of freedom of expression and other fundamental rights. The main focus of the demonstrations, which took place all over Egypt, was Tahrir Square in central Cairo.

After 18 days of non-stop protests and although Mubarak announced that he would work to carry out reforms and new elections within a few months, he was forced to resign and hand over power to the army.

A few weeks later, Mubarak was arrested along with his wife Suzanne, his two sons, and other senior ministers in the previous government on suspicion of acts of corruption, mainly regarding the supply of natural gas to Israel, and their responsibility for the violent suppression of protesters.

Also, the Supreme Court ordered the dissolution of the ruling party and thus put an end to the possibility of continuing its political or public activity. An Egyptian commission of inquiry determined after the events that at least 846 people were killed.

Although sporadic demonstrations took place in the years leading up to the revolution, the protests leading up to it were unprecedented and were the largest in Egypt since the “Bread Riots” of 1977.

It was the first time that people from all walks of Egyptian society joined the demonstrations and protests, including activists of the Muslim Brotherhood movement. The slogan of the protests was “bread, freedom, social justice.”

In the elections held in June 2012, Mohammed Morsi, from the Muslim Brotherhood, was elected president of Egypt. At the end of June 2013, on the anniversary of Morsi's election, mass demonstrations were held in Egypt calling for his resignation.

On July 3, at the end of an ultimatum given by the Egyptian army led by the Minister of Defense appointed by Morsi, General Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, Morsi was ousted. Al-Sisi was elected president of Egypt about a year later, in an election in which he had no real opponent since the Muslim Brotherhood movement was outlawed and designated a terrorist organization (Korotayev & Zinkina, 2011).

4. “Bread, freedom, social justice”

“Bread, freedom, social justice” is the main motto and slogan used during this revolution.

This slogan gained great popularity during the wave of protests Mubarak and after them when it was used as an election propaganda slogan for some of the campaigns of the presidential candidates after the revolution, as well as for parliamentary candidates and other parties in Egypt.

The Egyptian singer Rami Essam, who is known as one of the most prominent artists of the protest wave and was named “the voice of Egypt”, published a song with this name, which also gained great popularity.

5. The course of events

5.1 *January 25 - Day of Rage*

In the morning, a mass protest began near the Supreme Court in the center of the capital city of Cairo, which continued from there towards the parliament building. The police and security forces, numbering about 30,000 soldiers, used water cannons and tear gas to try to disperse the protesters. Demonstrations were also held in the cities of Alexandria, Mansoura, Ismailia, Aswan, Assiut and Madhya. About 500 activists were arrested in Cairo and about 350 were arrested in the rest of the country.

In the city of Suez, the police opened fire on the demonstrators, and two were killed. Another protester, about 45 years old, was hit in the stomach by rubber bullets and died of internal bleeding in a hospital. A policeman was killed in the protests in Cairo.

5.2 January 26-27

Access to the social network Facebook and the micro-blogging site Twitter was blocked after thousands of protesters began using them. In the mass demonstrations in Suez, 55 demonstrators and 15 policemen were injured by throwing stones. An angry mob set fire to the police station and other public buildings. The building of the ruling party, the National Democratic Party, was also set on fire.

In an article he published in *Newsweek*, Mohamed ElBaradei hurled serious accusations at Secretary of State Hillary Clinton for the restrained criticism voiced by the United States regarding the rigged elections for the Egyptian parliament in late 2010.

On January 27, the Muslim Brotherhood declared support for the protesters. The leader of the opposition, Mohammed al-Baradei stated that he will return to Egypt for Friday's protests. He also stated that if asked, he would take over the leadership reins of Egypt's presidency during the transition period, if Mubarak leaves the country.

Later that day, a Bedouin protester was shot dead by the police in Sharm el-Sheikh in Sinai, bringing the death toll to seven. In Suez, the uprising continued as more buildings caught fire, including police stations. The population of the city of Suez and the Sinai region armed themselves with guns which led to violent riots by demonstrators.

Hundreds of people were arrested throughout Egypt. Over 120 people were arrested in Assiut, most of them members of the Muslim Brotherhood, and about 600 people were arrested in Cairo, including eight Egyptian journalists who were protesting government restrictions on reporting on domestic or Middle Eastern issues.

5.3 January 28 – Friday of Rage

The demonstrations on this day were the most violent since the beginning of the mass protest.

At various points, the Egyptian government forbade gathering for Friday prayers, in order to make it difficult to organize protests. According to reports, Nobel Peace Prize winner Mohammed al-Baradei has been placed under house arrest. After violent clashes between the police and protesters, the government imposed a night curfew, but the protesters ignored it. In the early evening, the headquarters of the National Democratic Party in Cairo was set on fire. In the evening, armored military vehicles passed through Cairo, which among other things secured the burning party headquarters in front of the Egyptian Museum, in front of the museum protesters stood in a human chain and protected it from looting.

Al-Wafd party leader Saeed Al Badawi called for the establishment of a transitional government until new elections and the amendment of the constitution.

In a speech given by Mubarak on television late at night, the president justified the measures taken by the security forces and announced a change of men in the government and democratic and economic reforms. The protests continued even more strongly after the speech, and the protesters again called for the resignation of the president. According to the official data, 35 people were killed in the clashes on Friday. According to the media, there were about a hundred dead and thousands injured.

Barack Obama, Angela Merkel and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for an end to the violence and to respect the rights of citizens – especially the right to freedom of expression and information and freedom of association. In the days that followed, these statements became Obama and Merkel's explicit call for Mubarak's immediate resignation.

Following Mubarak's speech, the Muslim Brotherhood came back and demanded the resignation of the president and the intervention of the Egyptian army. Sheikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi also called on Mubarak to leave the country and claimed that his speech showed that he "has no connection to reality." On the same day, Mubarak appointed Omar Suleiman as vice president of Egypt, a position that had not been filled since the assassination of Anwar Sadat, and appointed a new government led by former air force commander Ahmed Shafiq.

On January 30, due to the weakening of the police force, the prison system was also silent and thousands of prisoners, including 30 Muslim Brotherhood activists, escaped. Mubarak decided to stop the activities in Egypt of the Qatari television network *Al Jazeera*, which encouraged and inflamed the mass protests in Egypt.

5.4 February 1-6 - after Mubarak's speech

On February 1, Mubarak announced that he would end his term in September 2011 and would not run in the next elections. This announcement did not end the protests of the demonstrators, who continued to call for his immediate resignation. The new vice president, Omar Suleiman, was entrusted by Mubarak with conducting negotiations with the opposition elements. One of the main ideas put forward as a compromise was that Suleiman would receive all the powers of the president for a time-limited transitional period, while Mubarak would serve as president in title only, until new elections were held.

On February 5, a station of the pipeline for transporting natural gas from Egypt to Jordan and Syria, near El Arish, was hit. As a result, the supply of gas from Egypt to Israel was also temporarily stopped. On the same day, senior officials of the ruling party, the National Democratic Party, including Gamal Mubarak, son of Hosni Mubarak, resigned from their positions in the party.

On February 6, after 13 days of protest, opposition elements began to negotiate with the vice president, Omar Suleiman. As part of the discussions, it was agreed that a committee would be established that would work to change the constitution.

5.5 February 10-11 - Transfer of powers to Suleiman and resignation of Mubarak

On February 10, Mubarak announced in his speech that he would transfer his powers to his deputy Suleiman, but this announcement did not put an end to the protests. The following day, on February 11, a short message was read from the Vice President, Omar Suleiman, allegedly delivered from the President's office, in which it was stated that Mubarak had decided to resign from his post, and that the government in Egypt was being transferred to the Supreme Council of the Egyptian Armed Forces, headed by the Minister of Defense. Muhammad Hussain Tantawi.

The leader of the al-Aad party, Amin Noor, stated that the period of the Camp David agreement has ended.

5.6 March 2011

On March 3, Prime Minister Ahmed Shafik resigned, and his place was taken by Issam Sharp, the former Minister of Transportation.

5.7 April-May 2011

Mubarak was arrested at his home in Sinai, and after he felt unwell during the interrogation, he was taken into custody and continued interrogation at the hospital in Sharm el-Sheikh. His two sons and his wife were arrested and interrogated, as well as ministers in the previous government, on charges of committing acts of corruption, mainly regarding the supply of natural gas to Israel, and their responsibility for the violent suppression of protesters. The Supreme Court ordered the dissolution of the ruling party.

5.8 June 2011

On June 6, Egypt's official news agency announced that the extreme Islamic organization of the Muslim Brotherhood, which was outlawed in 1954, during the reign of Gamal Abdel Nasser, received official permission to operate as a political party according to the law. The movement plans to field many candidates on its behalf in the general elections expected to be held in Egypt in September. The official name of the party will be "The Freedom and Justice Party".

5.9 July 2011

The Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mohammed Al-Orabi, resigned about a month after taking office. A new Egyptian government was sworn in, and Issam Sharif was appointed prime minister.

5.10 August 2011

On August 3, Mubarak's trial in Egypt began live. Mubarak was on a bed in a cage along with his two sons, former interior minister Habib al-Adli and other police officers, who were accused of governmental corruption and shooting at unarmed protesters. Mubarak pleaded not guilty to the charges brought against him.

5.11 September 2011

On September 10, Egyptian protesters gathered at the Israeli embassy in Cairo, an event that worsened and turned into an attack on the Israeli embassy in Egypt (2011).

The Egyptian security forces did not try to prevent the protesters from storming the building and they even managed to enter the inner rooms of the embassy. The Israelis who remained in the embassy were threatened with their lives, but the Egyptians did not respond to appeals from the Israeli side, not even from the Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who was forced to seek the help of the President of the United States, Barack Obama.

After Obama appealed to the commander-in-chief of the Egyptian army, special forces were finally sent to the scene, which succeeded in rescuing the Israeli diplomats and their security guards. The attack on the embassy was condemned by the Western countries who called on Egypt to comply with the Geneva Convention and protect the embassies in their country.

5.12 October 2011

On October 9, Coptic Christians protested the burning of a church in the city of Aswan and clashed with the Egyptian security forces. 2 soldiers and 22 Egyptian citizens were killed in

the clashes. The clashes were condemned by Egyptian Prime Minister Essam Sharaf, who said that “instead of stepping forward, Egypt is stepping backwards.”

5.13 November 2011

On November 18, about a week before the elections for the Egyptian Parliament (2011-2012), the riots in the country resumed under the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamist extremists. The protesters claimed that the supreme military council that controls Egypt headed by Mohammed Hussein Tantawi is not working to promote democracy in Egypt, and because of the riots, the Egyptian interim government submitted its resignation to the military council. The demonstrators came out this time in a special way against the army and against Tantawi who is at the head of the country until the elections and the establishment of an elected government.

On the other hand, this time there was also a demonstration of solidarity with the army – the “demonstration of the silent Egyptian voice” – in Abbasiya Square, not far from the Egyptian Ministry of Defense and the seat of the Supreme Military Council (Bassiouni, 2016).

6. First round of parliamentary elections – December 2011

On December 3, the round of parliamentary elections in post-coup Egypt, which began at the end of November, ended. The Central Election Commission in Cairo published the election results, according to which the “Freedom and Justice Party” of the Islamist “Muslim Brotherhood” movement won 36.6% of the votes, the extreme Salafist Islamist An-Noor party won about 24.4% of the votes, the relatively moderate Islamic Al-West party received about 4.3% of the votes, the list of parties of the liberal bloc in Egypt won about 13.3% of the votes and the liberal Al-Wafed party received about 7% of the votes. This round was held for about 30% of the parliamentary seats, the total number of which is 498, and two more election rounds were held after it, in which both parties and independent candidates (some of whom were also unofficially identified with different parties) competed.

7. The Egyptian presidential election (2012)

In January 2012, the three rounds of elections for the lower house of the Egyptian parliament ended, with the Islamist camp of the Muslim Brotherhood winning about three-quarters of the votes.

On January 25, 2012, many protesters gathered in Tahrir Square to mark the first anniversary of the coup, claiming that it was not yet over and that the actual rule of the Supreme Council in Egypt should be abolished.

On January 28, 2012, deposed President Hosni Mubarak wrote letters to the leaders of the Arab world, European countries, and the United States, in which he asked them to help him not to receive the death penalty in his trial.

On June 2, 2012, the Supreme Court in Cairo sentenced Mubarak to life imprisonment for his involvement in suppressing the riots. The Egyptian interior minister in the Mubarak administration was also sentenced to life imprisonment, and Mubarak's two sons, Alaa and Gamal Mubarak, were acquitted. Following the sentence, demonstrations and violent clashes erupted in Tahrir Square in Cairo, between Mubarak's supporters and his opponents, who called for the death penalty.

On June 16 and 17, 2012, the second round of Egyptian presidential elections took place. The two candidates for the presidency were Ahmed Shafik, a secularist who served as prime minister during the Mubarak administration; and Mohammed Morsi, a devout Muslim from the Muslim Brotherhood. Morsi won 52% of the votes and won the elections. On June 30, 2012, he was sworn in as president.

8. Deposing the heads of the Supreme Military Council

Since the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces adopted a temporary constitution (Egypt's Provisional Constitution, 2011), on March 30, 2011, no new constitution was established, the powers of the incumbent president were unclear, and the Supreme Military Council retained a great deal of political power, especially control over the army and the ability to declare war and thus determine Egypt's foreign relations.

In early August 2012, following the terrorist attack at the Israel-Egypt-Gaza Strip border crossing, Morsi dismissed the head of Egyptian intelligence, Murad Mawafi, who was responsible on behalf of Egypt for the negotiations for the release of Gilad Shalit and had good relations with Israel. Morsi appointed Mawafi's deputy, Mohammed Rafat Shahata, to the position of head of intelligence.

Morsi also dismissed the governor of North Sinai and the head of the presidential guard from their positions. On August 12, 2012, Morsi deposed the head of the Supreme Military Council and Minister of Defense, Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, who served as the liaison between Israel and Egypt after the collapse of the Mubarak administration; Deputy Head of the Supreme Military Council and Chief of the General Staff Sami Anan; Commander of the Air Force, General Riza Abdel-Magid; the commander of the air defense, General Abdel-Aziz Seif al-Din; and the commander of the navy, General Mahab Muhammad Namesh. For the position of vice president of Egypt, which Mubarak did not fill during his presidency, Morsi appointed the former judge, Mahmoud Mohamed Maki. Morsi appointed Abdel-Fattah Sisi (who was the head of military intelligence) as Minister of Defense and head of the Supreme Military Council; General Sidki Sobhi to Chief of Staff and Deputy Head of the Military Council; and General Muhammad Al Aser to Deputy Minister of Defense.

In addition, Morsi issued a presidential decree, canceling the "supplementary constitutional declaration." This declaration was established by the Supreme Military Council in June 2012, which stripped the President of Egypt of security and political powers, and therefore Morsi could not depose or appoint individuals to positions in the army. Following its cancellation, his powers were expanded and the removals and appointments he made became possible. According to the presidential decree he published, Morsi will have the sole authority over all matters of security, internal policy, foreign relations, the approval of the budget and its implementation, until the publication of Egypt's new constitution. Morsi also took into his hands the authority to choose the individuals who will be on the committee that will draft the new constitution, thus actually being able to determine and influence its content.

In a speech at Al-Azhar Mosque to senior Muslim clerics in Egypt, Morsi said his goal is "the good of the people and the nation" and "preserving the achievements of the revolution." In response to the measures, senior officials of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafist parties announced that "Tantawi and Anan, like other senior officials in the Egyptian security system, were metastases of the old regime who supported cooperation with the Zionist enemy." The Muslim Brotherhood called on the public to take to the streets and show support for the president's actions and emphasized in its announcement that "behind the president there are men who will protect him." Following the call, hundreds demonstrated in front of the presidential palace in

Cairo, while at the same time, in “Nasser” square, others demonstrated against Morsi and called for the overthrow of the rule of the Muslim Brotherhood.

9. The Coup in Egypt (2013)

The coup in Egypt (2013) is a military coup carried out by the Egyptian army in the country when it deposed the elected president of Egypt Mohamed Morsi and appointed in his place Adli Mansour as interim president. The coup followed a wave of public protests and demonstrations by millions against the rule of Morsi, the representative of the Muslim Brotherhood. These demonstrations, which have been described as “greatest in the history of Egypt,” and Morsi’s disapproval of responding to the protesters’ demands led the Egyptian Minister of Defense Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi to announce the coup.

The first mass demonstrations of Egyptians against Morsi began on November 22, 2012, after he decided to fire the Attorney General of Egypt.

A month later, demonstrations were held in Egypt against Morsi’s intention to hold a referendum to approve a new constitution. An agitation developed in the Egyptian public and the demonstrators protested the extensive powers that Morsi assumed for himself, at the expense of the justice system and contrary to the spirit of the constitution and the deterioration of the economic situation in the country.

Following the pressures and demonstrations against him, Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi decided to freeze his plan to raise prices.

To calm the public’s anger, Morsi canceled the decree granting him broad powers but refused to cancel the referendum on the new constitution.

10. The sequence of events that led to Morsi’s ouster

On June 29, 2013, the youth group leading the fight against Morsi announced that it had collected over 22 million signatures from the country’s residents on a petition calling for Morsi’s removal from office. That day, many protesters began to fill Tahrir Square. The next day, millions of people took to the streets in Cairo and other cities to demonstrate against him. In the demonstrations, five were killed and hundreds were injured by shots fired at the demonstrators. Morsi rejected the protesters’ demands to resign and announced that there would not be a second revolution in Egypt.

On July 1, 2013, the Egyptian army announced that it was giving a 48-hour ultimatum to the decision-makers and politicians, during which they would have to agree among themselves, and would not intervene in what was happening and present a “new road map.” Morsi rejected the ultimatum. On July 3, at the end of the ultimatum, the army informed Morsi: “You are no longer the president of Egypt.” Defense Minister Abdel Fattah al-Sisi announced the suspension of the constitution and the appointment of the head of the Constitutional Court, Adli Mansour, as interim president. A temporary government of professional elements was formed which will formulate a new constitution and based on which new elections will be held for the presidency and parliament. Morsi was arrested by the Egyptian army and transferred to a military facility.

11. The events after Morsi’s ouster

The next day, Adli Mansour, president of Egypt’s Supreme Constitutional Court, was sworn in as interim president of Egypt in place of Morsi. At the same time, the Egyptian army arrested the supreme leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Mohammed Badie, and his deputy Khirat

al-Shater, due to their involvement in the killing of eight protesters in the clashes that took place outside the party's headquarters in Cairo.

Other senior members of the Muslim Brotherhood were also arrested. In the three days between July 5 and July 7, 40 people from Morsi's supporters and opponents were killed in the riots and more than 1,400 were injured. On July 8, riots occurred in Cairo during which approximately 53 Muslim Brotherhood supporters were killed and approximately 600 injured, when fire was fired at them during the demonstrations near the headquarters where Morsi is being held, after which a closing order was issued to the Muslim Brotherhood headquarters.

On July 9, 2013, Hazem al-Bablawi was appointed Prime Minister of the Transitional Government, and shortly before the appointment of President Adli Mansour, he announced an emergency plan according to which presidential and parliamentary elections would be held in early 2014.

Hamas, a terrorist organization that began as the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, began sending fighters through the smuggling tunnels of the Gaza Strip to the Sinai Peninsula, and these carried out terrorist and guerilla operations against Egyptian forces. Dozens of Hamas operatives were killed and arrested in countermeasures by the Egyptian army in Sinai.

On July 26, 2013, huge demonstrations of Morsi supporters were held. The army responded by shooting at the protesters, killing hundreds of protesters.

In the massacre on August 14, hundreds of people were killed in the army's operation to disperse the protesters in Cairo (mainly in the Rabia al-Adawiya mosque), and the riots throughout Egypt spread to other areas. A night curfew was imposed on Cairo. Vice President Mohamed ElBaradei announced his resignation. On August 15, 2013, Morsi's detention was extended by a month. On August 20, Muhammad Badie, the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, was arrested. On November 4, 2013, Morsi's trial began, accused of murder and incitement to the murder of protesters.

12. 2014 – The rise of Al-Sisi

In January, a new constitution was approved in a referendum. The trial of ousted President Morsi has begun. Defense Minister Abdel Fattah al-Sisi resigned from his post to run in the 2014 Egyptian presidential election.

In March, 529 Muslim Brotherhood activists were sentenced to death.

On June 8, 2014, al-Sisi was sworn in as president. A position he held until the third decade of the 21st century (Resta, 2024).

13. Conclusion – The quest for stability

Egypt is a presidential republic. The head of the country is the president of Egypt who is elected once every 4 years in direct elections. Under the president, the parliament elected in separate elections once every 5 years operates and consists of two houses: the upper Egyptian Senate, which serves as the body that advises the president, and the lower, which is called the People's Assembly.

If in the past, the main agenda of Egyptian politics was a war against external enemies, today it mainly concentrates on reaching political and economic stability.

The army remains the most powerful factor in the country and sees its role as excluding religious factors from undermining the internal stability of the country.

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