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Introduction

Egypt has been one of the most volatile countries for the past decade. The establishment of a structured democratic/presidential government in Egypt is relatively new (depending on perspective), and thus the country has been in a state of near-constant change. Our story of Egypt’s great change starts from Hosni Mubarak, Egypt’s longest serving ruler since the 1800s. Mubarak’s presidency was not entirely a terrible one. He was able to bring Egypt back into the Arab League in 1989, take part in the allied coalition of the Gulf War, and he also increased the production of affordable housing, clothing and medicine. To some extent, Mubarak’s rule was a double-edged sword: he provided positive changes to Egypt’s economic and social status in the 1980s, yet his extended time in power ultimately corrupted him and brought the country back into an economic downfall. Starting from the 21st century, Egypt started showing rising unemployment rates, police brutality, low wages etc. that aroused the 2011 Egyptian Revolution to overthrow Mubarak. After Mubarak’s resignation, the country hoped for better domestic affairs when Mohammed Morsi was elected president in June of 2012. However, Morsi’s rule was also soon met with criticism as Morsi authorized himself to unlimited powers to legislate and act. Morsi tried to back himself up by saying that he was going to ‘protect the country from the old regime”, but this was not enough to gain support for what he did afterwards. Morsi started creating Islamic-backed constitutions and asked for a referendum, by this point people as well as minor government officials feared the imposition of a new Islamic order. Morsi was soon met with protests, and the Military body of Egypt required an ultimatum for the protests. Failing to give a justifiable reply, Morsi was soon ousted in June of 2013, accused of espionage, tyranny, and act of violence. Since then, the government of Egypt has been a concentrated around anti-Islamic sectors backed by the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces.

Definition of Key Terms

Post-Morsi

Although this term may sound pretty self-explanatory, the term must be addressed in order for us to start considering the solutions. The term is basically describing the political, economic and social status of Egypt right now. Hence, we need to talk briefly about the current political regime in Egypt. Political unrest is still present in Egypt, and there are still extremely volatile areas that can become an issue. First off, the military still holds
relatively considerable strength in the government. Furthermore, the Muslim Brotherhood has been greatly suppressed by the government due to Islamist oppositions, who took major powers after Morsi’s failure to bring religious reform in the country. Currently, people in Egypt still fear the new political era, for it is starting to show Mubarak characteristics. Moreover, members of the Muslim Brotherhoods are also planning protests for the oppression of the government on the organization. Also, the social status of Egypt has declined as economic status declined. Thus, we need to think about the possible ways we can intervene as an international body to support the living standards of individuals in Egypt.

Ultimatum

An ultimatum is demand for a response, statement or a stance of terms for a particular issue. The demand usually carries a certain time frame in which one must reply by. The failure to provide an acceptable statement could result in a termination of certain terms or relationships. An ultimatum is usually backed up by a certain threat, thus if one party fails to comply with the ultimatum, then depending on the situation, the other party can take actions due to noncompliance.

Background

A lot of the general history of Egyptian government and presidency has been skimmed in the introduction above. The aftermaths of the long Egyptian turmoil is should be one of the most important things we should consider when discussing the establishment of peace. There is still aggression in the political state of Egypt, yet we must find ways to provide social developments for the citizens. Moreover, the conciliation between the state and the Muslim Brotherhood should be also discussed, as we must try to analyze the possibility of reconciliation before another political crisis.

Social Stability

The economic downfall of Egypt, as well as the long era of governmental suppression has completely degraded the social standards of Egyptian citizens. Unemployment has not seen changes since Mubarak’s rule; in fact youth unemployment rate has increased now since July 2013. Low wage and economic instability has also stricken the country with poverty. Furthermore, Egypt was once extremely reliant on tourism for foreign reserves and employment, yet after political unrest, tourism has also dropped drastically. This is important to mention because during Mubarak’s regime, 10% of the workforce was dominated by tourism.

The governmental suppression is also a big issue for members of the Muslim Brotherhood. Although, the Supreme Council of Armed Forces and El-Sisi (current ruler) declared to uphold the rights of peaceful protests, there have been cases of violent reaction from the government to demonstrations from the Muslim Brotherhood, and other Islamic sectors that are fighting for Morsi’s return. Lives have been lost in some of these methods of dealing with domestic opposition, and this can be a big issue concerning social stability.

The concern for Egypt should now be more towards rebuilding economy and thus stabilizing social unrest, rather than solving political conflicts.
**Economic Issues**

The primary root of social instability starts from the economic downfall, and thus it is important for us to discuss the economic rehabilitation of Egypt. First off, the lack of foreign investments and disintegration of domestic business has shown dramatic depreciation of Egyptian pound, making it even harder to procure imports. However, Egypt is still extremely dependent on foreign imports for food and fuel. Furthermore, interest payments on domestic debts has been a monetary pressure for private sectors, hence discouraging growth, worsening unemployment rates, and hampering investments, all of which are vital for economic alleviation.

As of right now, untied foreign funding and aid are needed to bring short-term stopgap to the socio-economic status. After Morsi was ousted, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) also stalled the negotiations for an IMF loan, thus reducing the ability for Egypt to solve urgent social issues. The main economic supporters for Egypt right now are the Gulf States, as IMF failed to provide them with immediate funding. Saudi Arabia and UAE are both major supporters of Egypt’s economic aid, as they are both in support of the new El-Sisi regime and the suppression of the Muslim Brotherhood. The continuous financial aid from Saudi Arabia is to some extent preventing the Egyptian economic crisis from going to the extreme, yet this is not sustainable, and hence Egypt must work towards rebuilding and sustaining a more independent economic system.

**Political Disputes**

The growing tension between the current anti-Islamic government and the Islamic supporters is the major issue that needs to be addressed. Due to the inner conflicts of these two governmental parties, the citizens are suffering from the lack of a well-structured government. Moreover, the tension has often led to violent disputes between the parties involved, hence sacrificing more lives. Reconciliation between the two sides are currently analyzed to be hard to reach, yet if this is not solved through an international body the tension can rise to a bigger scale.

Currently, the Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF) has taken control over the government and has appointed an interim president, El-Sisi. Through a civilian government, the Supreme Council is reconstructing the constitution. The Military has taken quite a large hold on the government right now, as it gives them the right to preserve autonomy, and enables them to process military trials on civilians.

The EU and US are also no longer considered major supporters of Egypt’s development. The US-Egyptian partnership has become shaky since Morsi’s removal, and the economic aid from the US is no longer central to Egyptian reform. The military support from US is also significant, however has met restriction due to the recent aggression from the Egyptian Military. As for the EU, its influence is very limited on Egypt, as EU is also reviving from a large economic blow. Moreover, Egypt seems uninterested in trade with EU and the ENP (European Neighborhood Policy) after the Arab uprising. Overall, Egypt’s foreign relationships are not showing strong progress in the West, rather Egypt is receiving more help from the Gulf Nations who are in support of the new regime in Egypt.
Major Parties Involved

Egypt

Not mentioning Egypt for this issue is just not possible. Egypt is relatively a new country. The presidential records and history for Egypt is not as deep as other nations. Indeed, there are other countries that are more unformed, but Egypt is still extremely volatile after its establishment of a democracy, and the elimination of Morsi. What Egypt now needs is not another chaotic reform, but a more peaceful progress towards rebuilding the shattered social and economic policies of Egypt.

Supreme Council of Armed Forces (SCAF)

When Morsi was faced with large domestic opposition, SCAF or simply the Military demanded an ultimatum from Morsi with the threat that the military was going to take measures to strip power away from Morsi, if he failed to reply. After Morsi’s failure to provide a governmental reaction, SCAF ousted Morsi and took almost full power of the government. Although SCAF has openly stated that this was not a coup d’etat, the military did force Morsi out of power to enforce a new structure of government. Currently, the SCAF is under reconstruction of the constitution, and fighting off large protests from the Muslim Brotherhood. The SCAF has appointed El-Sisi as the temporary president, and has switched the government into a civilian-based regime.

Muslim Brotherhood

The Muslim Brotherhood is a transnational Islam organization that was found in Egypt in 1928. It’s one of the biggest and most influential Islamic organizations across the Middle East. In Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood has substantial powers in the government. The group’s main objective is to simply enforce Islamic ideas through social services. The Muslim Brotherhood currently is the major opposition to this new change in government and the charges against Morsi. Protests from Islamic groups are stirring, as they demand the return of Morsi to power. It is important to be aware of Morsi’s active participation in the Muslim Brotherhood, because this will provide you with Morsi’s general political ideology, and the eventual religious controversies that he showed.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

As this is issue is very current, there are no official UN resolutions or documentations that fully tackles the issue of rebuilding Egypt. However, UN’s Secretary General (Ban Ki-Mun) has issued a statement urging the parties of Egypt to come to quick and peaceful reconciliation. The UN has explicitly urged Egypt to take responsibility before more lives are lost from the constant conflicts between the two opposing bodies. There have been recent discussions between Ban and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR), about the protection of Human Rights in domestic conflicts. The discussion led to urging the Egyptian government to ensure that all measures are taken to apply order when dealing with domestic oppositions. Furthermore, UNOs such as UNICEF, has shown open concerns about the protection of women and children during the time of aggressive development.
Possible Solutions

• The first thing that is most important to address and solve is the impact of political disputes on the civilians. The continuous aggressions between religious sectors and the government have left many innocent civilians under hardship and poverty. More importantly, the economic struggles following political unrest has dramatically decreased the living standards of Egyptians. Moreover, you can also consider the protection of non-combatants, especially women and children, when looking to resolve social issues.

• Economic aid is also vital to Egypt right now. Although, Egypt still gets support from bordering nations, it is important to strengthen the western involvement, while also strengthening the interests of organizations that are willing to provide aid to the country. As of right now, no organizations are explicitly helping Egypt’s socio-economic status. Hence, gathering interest and building cooperation amongst external aid may be a key issue to address. Remember that transparency should also be discussed when talking about economic solutions.

• As an international body, we must ensure that peaceful interactions are sustained between the political parties. If we can provide the religious sectors and the main government with a possible method of reconciliation, there can be hope for change and improvements in socio-economic policies. Think about using the international body as a method of providing peaceful agreement between the two opposing sides of the political dispute in Egypt.

Bibliography


