

EGYPT - GOVERNMENT

Party Portrait

Following the upheaval of the 2011 Tahrir Square protests, which led to the ouster of former President Hosni Mubarak, Egypt underwent a tumultuous political transition process. This resulted in the election of the Mohamed Morsi, the leader of the Freedom and Justice Party (the Muslim Brotherhood's political arm) in 2012. Thereafter in 2013, a military coup led to the removal of Morsi from office, and the emergence – and subsequent consolidation of power – of General Abdel Fattah al Sisi as President.

Key Interests

- Reassert full political control, thereby eliminating the Muslim Brotherhood as a major political threat;
- Attract foreign investment and boost economic growth;
- Drive back ISIS-linked groups out of the Sinai Peninsula;
- Restore Egypt's regional leadership role, and
- Maintain strong ties with the United States and the West.

Sources of Leverage

Convening Power - The Camp David Accords provide Egypt with significant leverage over the US and Western allies, given its role as an Arab ally and potential broker in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations

Geography - As the largest Arab country with critical geo-strategic importance, Egypt holds sway in persuading international partners that large-scale economic instability or civil unrest cannot be permitted

Political - Historic regional influence allows the country to act as a power broker in bilateral relations and multilateral fora such as the League of Arab States

Regional Strategy

Reestablish its regional leadership role, particularly through regional institutions such as the Arab League, as well as through the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. As a result of its regional influence, Egypt seeks to maintain, and increase, its leverage over Western actors who provide substantial military and economic support.

Powerful Individuals

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi (President), Sedki Sobhy (Minister of Defense), Mohammed Morsi (former President and leader of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party), Mohammed Badie (Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood)

Potential Negotiation Moves

Strengthen Military Ties - Partner with the United States, Israel and Western states to fight jihadist militant groups in the Sinai

Monitor Muslim Brotherhood - Seek partnership with Israel and Western countries to deepen monitoring and surveillance of Muslim Brotherhood activities

Lead Regional Negotiations - Lead the negotiation of a fair water distribution agreement for the Nile Basin with Israel, Sudan, Nile Basin Countries, as well as international financial institutions and the United Nations

Increase Regional Influence - Gain greater international and regional influence, for example by playing a leading role in negotiating a more sustainable framework for refugees fleeing from conflicts.

Internal Conflicts

The Egyptian government's main internal conflict is with their domestic political rival, the Muslim Brotherhood. Since ousting former President Morsi in a coup in July 2013, President Sisi has aggressively pursued repressive tactics against the group, arresting thousands and labelling the group a "terrorist organization". In addition, the government is facing armed conflict from ISIS-linked factions in the Sinai.

Memberships

ARAB LEAGUE, AU, IAEA, MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE, OIC, UN (Security Council – term ends 2017)

Allies

Given the recent political tumult experienced by Egypt, the country does not currently have any stable, extensive relationships with other states which could be classed as a firm alliance.

Partners

CHINA, EUROPEAN UNION, ISRAEL, RUSSIA, SAUDI ARABIA, UNITED STATES

Rivals

QATAR, IRAN, SUDAN, SYRIA Government, TURKEY

Adversaries

EGYPT Muslim Brotherhood

Active Armed Opponents

ISIS (especially militants based in the Egyptian Sinai and Libya), AQAP, YEMEN Houthis

Proxy

N/A

External Sponsor

N/A

Aid Recipient

N/A

Aid Donor

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (IMF, World Bank), SAUDI ARABIA, UNITED STATES, UAE