

In the Picture: Mohamed Morsi, one year on

Aaron Hagstrom [Author alerts](#)  Jul 02 2013 12:22 [Comment](#)



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Mohamed Morsi (Getty)

Mohamed Morsi's presidency is teetering on the brink. Egypt's first democratically elected president, Morsi moved into the presidency a year ago. But the anniversary has drawn millions of protesters into the streets and the intervention of the military, which has instructed the country's political classes to address the "people's demands".

When he first came to power, Morsi was a relatively unknown, 61-year-old engineering professor and leader of the Muslim Brotherhood. But in the year since he took power we've learned a lot about him. Here's some of the best background reading out there on the Egyptian president and his Muslim Brotherhood.

In the FT

- The day he became Egypt's first democratically elected president in June, Mohamed Morsi appeared on a stage in Cairo's Tahrir Square to address euphoric crowds. Opening his jacket to reveal that he was not wearing a bulletproof vest, he shouted over deafening applause: "I feel safe because of God's favour and yours." So begins this very good profile of Morsi by our Roula Khalaf and Heba Saleh.
- His biggest challenge has been an economy that is struggling with the transition to democracy and in negotiations with the IMF over a \$4.8bn bailout. Foreign reserves have dwindled, banks have been downgraded into junk territory and businesses have

- struggled, while poverty and shortages have increased. But his government has failed to agree the terms of a bailout with the IMF.
- In the year since Morsi has had some political success abroad – brokering an Israeli-Palestinian peace truce.
 - But his efforts to unite Egypt have been less fruitful. Morsi has faced opposition from both the left and right to his plans to change Egypt's legal framework. He has also offended the ultra-conservative Salafis by not implementing Sharia law to the degree they had hoped.
 - A contentious new constitution that favoured the cabinet's Islamist majority drew the ire of liberals. He has also been criticised for appointing Islamist governors in key provinces, triggering protests throughout the country. The appointment of Adel al-Khayat in Luxor was one of the more controversial, since he was a former member of the radical Islamist Group Al-Jamaa Al-Islamiya that murdered 62 tourists in Luxor, 16 years ago.
 - The EU recently accused his government of fraud and mismanagement in the handling of €1bn of aid money, after an audit failed to find 60 per cent of the funds.

The Best of the Rest

- In January of this year the New Yorker's Peter Hessler took this look at the Muslim Brotherhood and how it was dealing with power after decades in the political wilderness.
- History weighs heavily on Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood as they seek to preserve power at all costs, which may explain his grab for temporary, authoritarian power last November.
- Morsi has promised but failed to reconcile opposing political forces – one that says his party has heroically battled to the top against opposition and persecution, the other that he has failed to deliver on promises to end sectarianism and rejuvenate the economy, according to Foreign Policy.
- Shadi Hamid, a director of research at the Brookings Institution, looked at how Morsi and his government isolated the liberals by reshuffling the cabinet in favour of the Muslim Brotherhood.
- He also argues that while Tamarrod has the right to call for Morsi's overthrow, it hasn't acknowledged that the massive internal problems facing the state are not his fault.
- Egyptian cartoonists have had a field day with Mohamed Morsi. This post from the New Yorker points to some of the best cartoons, which have featured Morsi as a cowboy, Godzilla and a pharaoh.

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