[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Other uses2](/wiki/Template:Other_uses2) [Template:Pp-semi-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-indef) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country)

**Egypt** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell); [Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar) [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl), [Template:Lang-arz](/wiki/Template:Lang-arz) [Template:Transl](/wiki/Template:Transl), [Template:Lang-cop](/wiki/Template:Lang-cop) *Khemi*), officially the **Arab Republic of Egypt**, is a [transcontinental country](/wiki/Transcontinental_country) spanning the [northeast corner of Africa](/wiki/North_Africa) and [southwest corner of Asia](/wiki/Western_Asia), via a [land bridge](/wiki/Land_bridge) formed by the [Sinai Peninsula](/wiki/Sinai_Peninsula). It is the world's only contiguous [Eurafrasian](/wiki/Eurafrasian) nation. Egypt is a [Mediterranean country](/wiki/Mediterranean). It is bordered by the [Gaza Strip](/wiki/Gaza_Strip) and [Israel](/wiki/Israel) to the northeast, the [Gulf of Aqaba](/wiki/Gulf_of_Aqaba) to the east, the [Red Sea](/wiki/Red_Sea) to the east and south, [Sudan](/wiki/Sudan) to the south and [Libya](/wiki/Libya) to the west. Across the Gulf of Aqaba lies [Jordan](/wiki/Jordan), and across from the Sinai Peninsula lies [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia), although Jordan and Saudi Arabia do not share a land border with Egypt.

Egypt has [one of the longest histories](/wiki/History_of_Egypt) of any modern country, arising in the tenth millennium BC as one of the world's first [nation states](/wiki/Nation_states).[[1]](#cite_note-1) Considered a [cradle of civilisation](/wiki/Cradle_of_civilisation), [Ancient Egypt](/wiki/Ancient_Egypt) experienced some of the earliest developments of writing, agriculture, urbanisation, organised religion and central government. Iconic monuments such as the [Giza Necropolis](/wiki/Giza_Necropolis) and its [Great Sphinx](/wiki/Great_Sphinx_of_Giza), as well the ruins of [Memphis](/wiki/Memphis,_Egypt), [Thebes](/wiki/Thebes,_Egypt), [Karnak](/wiki/Karnak), and the [Valley of the Kings](/wiki/Valley_of_the_Kings), reflect this legacy and remain a significant focus of archaeological study and popular interest worldwide. Egypt's rich cultural heritage is an integral part of its national identity, having endured, and at times assimilated, various foreign influences, including Greek, Persian, Roman, Arab, Ottoman, and European. Although [Christianised](/wiki/Christianization) in the first century of the [Common Era](/wiki/Common_Era), it was subsequently [Islamised](/wiki/Islamisation) due to the [Islamic conquests](/wiki/Islamic_conquests) of the seventh century.

With over 90 million inhabitants, Egypt is the most populous country in [North Africa](/wiki/North_Africa) and the [Arab World](/wiki/Arab_World), the third-most populous in Africa (after [Nigeria](/wiki/Nigeria) and [Ethiopia](/wiki/Ethiopia)), and the fifteenth-most populous in the world. The great majority of its people live near the banks of the [Nile](/wiki/Nile) River, an area of about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), where the only [arable land](/wiki/Arable_land) is found. The large regions of the [Sahara](/wiki/Sahara) [desert](/wiki/Desert), which constitute most of Egypt's territory, are sparsely inhabited. About half of Egypt's residents live in urban areas, with most spread across the densely populated centres of greater [Cairo](/wiki/Cairo), [Alexandria](/wiki/Alexandria) and other major cities in the [Nile Delta](/wiki/Nile_Delta).

Modern Egypt is considered to be a [regional](/wiki/Regional_power) and [middle power](/wiki/Middle_power), with significant cultural, political, and military influence in [North Africa](/wiki/North_Africa), the [Middle East](/wiki/Middle_East) and the [Muslim world](/wiki/Muslim_world).[[2]](#cite_note-2) Its economy is [one of the largest and most diversified](/wiki/Economy_of_Egypt) in the Middle East, with sectors such as tourism, agriculture, industry and services at almost equal production levels. In [2011](/wiki/Egyptian_Revolution_of_2011), longtime President [Hosni Mubarak](/wiki/Hosni_Mubarak) stepped down amid mass protests. Later elections saw the rise of the [Muslim Brotherhood](/wiki/Muslim_Brotherhood), which was ousted by the [army](/wiki/Egyptian_Armed_Forces) a year later amid mass protests.

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## Names[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The English name *Egypt* is derived from the [Ancient Greek](/wiki/Ancient_Greek) [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), via [Middle French](/wiki/Middle_French) *Egypte* and [Latin](/wiki/Latin) [*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang). It is reflected in [early Greek](/wiki/Mycenaean_Greek) [Linear B](/wiki/Linear_B) tablets as *a-ku-pi-ti-yo*. The adjective *aigýpti-, aigýptios* was borrowed into Coptic as [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl)*,* and from there into [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic) as [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl), back formed into [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl), whence English [*Copt*](/wiki/Copt). The Greek forms were borrowed from [Late Egyptian](/wiki/Late_Egyptian) *(Amarna) Hikuptah* "Memphis", a corruption of the earlier [Egyptian](/wiki/Egyptian_language) name

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([Template:Angbr](/wiki/Template:Angbr)), meaning "home of the [ka](/wiki/Egyptian_soul) (soul) of Ptah", the name of a temple to the god [Ptah](/wiki/Ptah) at [Memphis](/wiki/Memphis,_Egypt).[[3]](#cite_note-3) [Strabo](/wiki/Strabo) attributed the word to a [folk etymology](/wiki/Folk_etymology) in which [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)) evolved as a compound from [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl) ([Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang)), meaning "below the [Aegean](/wiki/Aegean_Sea)".

[*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl) ([Template:IPA-ar](/wiki/Template:IPA-ar) or [Template:IPA-arz](/wiki/Template:IPA-arz); [Template:Lang-ar](/wiki/Template:Lang-ar)) is the [Classical Quranic Arabic](/wiki/Classical_Arabic) and modern official name of Egypt, while [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl) ([Template:IPA-arz](/wiki/Template:IPA-arz); [Template:Lang-arz](/wiki/Template:Lang-arz)) is the local pronunciation in [Egyptian Arabic](/wiki/Egyptian_Arabic). The name is of [Semitic](/wiki/Semitic_languages) origin, directly [cognate](/wiki/Cognate) with other Semitic words for Egypt such as the [Hebrew](/wiki/Hebrew_language) [Template:Hebrew](/wiki/Template:Hebrew) ([*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl)). The oldest attestation of this name for Egypt is the [Akkadian](/wiki/Akkadian_language) 𒆳 𒈪 𒄑 𒊒 **KURmi-iṣ-ru** *miṣru,*[[4]](#cite_note-4)[[5]](#cite_note-5) related to *miṣru/miṣirru/miṣaru*, meaning "border" or "frontier".[[6]](#cite_note-6)

The ancient Egyptian name of the country was

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[**Template:Transl**](/wiki/Template:Transl), which means black ground or black soil, referring to the [fertile](/wiki/Fertile) black soils of the [Nile flood](/wiki/Nile_flood) plains, distinct from the *deshret* ([Template:Angbr](/wiki/Template:Angbr)), or "red land" of the [desert](/wiki/Desert).[[7]](#cite_note-7) This name is commonly vocalised as *Kemet*, but was probably pronounced [Template:IPA](/wiki/Template:IPA) in ancient Egyptian.[[8]](#cite_note-8) The name is realised as [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl) and [*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl) in the [Coptic](/wiki/Coptic_language) stage of the Egyptian language, and appeared in early Greek as [Template:Lang](/wiki/Template:Lang) ([*Template:Transl*](/wiki/Template:Transl)).[[9]](#cite_note-9) Another name was [Template:Angbr](/wiki/Template:Angbr) "land of the riverbank".[[10]](#cite_note-10) The names of [Upper and Lower Egypt](/wiki/Upper_and_Lower_Egypt) were *Ta-Sheme'aw* ([Template:Angbr](/wiki/Template:Angbr)) "sedgeland" and *Ta-Mehew* ([Template:Angbr](/wiki/Template:Angbr)) "northland", respectively.

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

### Prehistory and Ancient Egypt[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) There is evidence of [rock carvings](/wiki/Rock_carvings) along the [Nile](/wiki/Nile) terraces and in desert oases. In the [10th millennium BC](/wiki/10th_millennium_BC), a culture of [hunter-gatherers](/wiki/Hunter-gatherer) and [fishers](/wiki/Fishing) was replaced by a [grain](/wiki/Cereal)-grinding [culture](/wiki/Culture). Climate changes or overgrazing around 8000 BC began to desiccate the pastoral lands of Egypt, forming the [Sahara](/wiki/Sahara). Early [tribal peoples](/wiki/Tribal_people) migrated to the Nile River where they developed a settled agricultural [economy](/wiki/Economic_system) and more centralised [society](/wiki/Society).[[11]](#cite_note-11) By about 6000 BC, a [Neolithic](/wiki/Neolithic) culture rooted in the Nile Valley.[[12]](#cite_note-12) During the Neolithic era, several predynastic cultures developed independently in [Upper and Lower Egypt](/wiki/Upper_and_Lower_Egypt). The [Badarian](/wiki/Badarian) culture and the successor [Naqada](/wiki/Naqada) series are generally regarded as precursors to [dynastic Egypt](/wiki/Ancient_Egypt). The earliest known Lower Egyptian site, Merimda, predates the Badarian by about seven hundred years. Contemporaneous Lower Egyptian communities coexisted with their southern counterparts for more than two thousand years, remaining culturally distinct, but maintaining frequent contact through trade. The earliest known evidence of [Egyptian hieroglyphic](/wiki/Egyptian_hieroglyphs) inscriptions appeared during the predynastic period on Naqada III pottery vessels, dated to about 3200 BC.[[13]](#cite_note-13) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Giza_Necropolis.jpg) [Giza Necropolis](/wiki/Giza_Necropolis) is the oldest of the [ancient Wonders](/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World) and the only one still in existence. A unified kingdom was founded c. 3150 BC by King [Menes](/wiki/Menes), leading to a [series of dynasties](/wiki/List_of_Egyptian_dynasties) that ruled Egypt for the next three millennia. [Egyptian culture](/wiki/Culture_of_Egypt) flourished during this long period and remained distinctively Egyptian in its [religion](/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_religion), [arts](/wiki/Art_of_Ancient_Egypt), [language](/wiki/Egyptian_language) and customs. The [first two ruling dynasties](/wiki/Protodynastic_Period_of_Egypt) of a unified Egypt set the stage for the [Old Kingdom](/wiki/Old_Kingdom) period, *c*. 2700–2200 BC., which constructed many [pyramids](/wiki/Egyptian_pyramids), most notably the [Third Dynasty](/wiki/Third_dynasty_of_Egypt) [pyramid of Djoser](/wiki/Pyramid_of_Djoser) and the [Fourth Dynasty](/wiki/Fourth_dynasty_of_Egypt) [Giza pyramids](/wiki/Giza_Necropolis).

The [First Intermediate Period](/wiki/First_Intermediate_Period_of_Egypt) ushered in a time of political upheaval for about 150 years.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Stronger Nile floods and stabilisation of government, however, brought back renewed prosperity for the country in the [Middle Kingdom](/wiki/Middle_Kingdom_of_Egypt) *c*. 2040 BC, reaching a peak during the reign of Pharaoh [Amenemhat III](/wiki/Amenemhat_III). A [second period of disunity](/wiki/Second_Intermediate_Period_of_Egypt) heralded the arrival of the first foreign ruling dynasty in Egypt, that of the Semitic [Hyksos](/wiki/Hyksos). The Hyksos invaders took over much of Lower Egypt around 1650 BC and founded a new capital at [Avaris](/wiki/Avaris). They were driven out by an Upper Egyptian force led by [Ahmose I](/wiki/Ahmose_I), who founded the [Eighteenth Dynasty](/wiki/Eighteenth_dynasty_of_Egypt) and relocated the capital from [Memphis](/wiki/Memphis,_Egypt) to [Thebes](/wiki/Thebes,_Egypt).

The [New Kingdom](/wiki/New_Kingdom) *c*. 1550–1070 BC began with the Eighteenth Dynasty, marking the rise of Egypt as an [international power](/wiki/Power_in_international_relations) that expanded during its greatest extension to an empire as far south as [Tombos](/wiki/Tombos_(Nubia)) in [Nubia](/wiki/Nubia), and included parts of the [Levant](/wiki/Levant) in the east. This period is noted for some of the most well known [Pharaohs](/wiki/Pharaoh), including [Hatshepsut](/wiki/Hatshepsut), [Thutmose III](/wiki/Thutmose_III), [Akhenaten](/wiki/Akhenaten) and his wife [Nefertiti](/wiki/Nefertiti), [Tutankhamun](/wiki/Tutankhamun) and [Ramesses II](/wiki/Ramesses_II). The first historically attested expression of [monotheism](/wiki/Monotheism) came during this period as [Atenism](/wiki/Atenism). Frequent contacts with other nations brought new ideas to the New Kingdom. The country was later invaded and conquered by [Libyans](/wiki/Ancient_Libya), [Nubians](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Kush) and [Assyrians](/wiki/Assyria), but native Egyptians eventually drove them out and regained control of their country.[[15]](#cite_note-15) In 525 BC, the powerful [Achaemenid Persians](/wiki/Achaemenid_Empire), led by [Cambyses II](/wiki/Cambyses_II_of_Persia), began their conquest of Egypt, eventually capturing the pharaoh [Psamtik III](/wiki/Psamtik_III) at the battle of [Pelusium](/wiki/Pelusium). Cambyses II then assumed the formal title of [pharaoh](/wiki/Pharaoh), but ruled Egypt from his home of [Susa](/wiki/Susa) in Persia (modern [Iran](/wiki/Iran)), leaving Egypt under the control of a [satrapy](/wiki/Satrap). The entire [Twenty-seventh Dynasty of Egypt](/wiki/Twenty-seventh_Dynasty_of_Egypt), from 525 BC to 402 BC, save for [Petubastis III](/wiki/Petubastis_III), was an entirely Persian ruled period, with the Achaemenid kings all being granted the title of pharaoh. A few temporarily successful revolts against the Persians marked the fifth century BC, but Egypt was never able to permanently overthrow the Persians.[[16]](#cite_note-16) The [Thirtieth Dynasty](/wiki/Thirtieth_dynasty_of_Egypt) was the last native ruling dynasty during the Pharaonic epoch. It [fell to the Persians again](/wiki/History_of_Achaemenid_Egypt) in 343 BC after the last native Pharaoh, King [Nectanebo II](/wiki/Nectanebo_II), was defeated in battle. This [Thirty-first Dynasty of Egypt](/wiki/Thirty-first_Dynasty_of_Egypt) however did not last long, for the Persians were toppled several decades later by [Alexander the Great](/wiki/Alexander_the_Great).

### Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|upright|The Greek Ptolemaic queen](/wiki/File:Denderah3_Cleopatra_Cesarion.jpg) [Cleopatra VII](/wiki/Cleopatra_VII) and her son by Julius Caesar, [Caesarion](/wiki/Caesarion) at the [Temple of Dendera.](/wiki/Dendera_Temple_complex) [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The [Ptolemaic Kingdom](/wiki/Ptolemaic_Kingdom) was a powerful [Hellenistic](/wiki/Hellenistic_civilization) state, extending from southern [Syria](/wiki/Syria) in the east, to [Cyrene](/wiki/Cyrene,_Libya) to the west, and south to the frontier with Nubia. [Alexandria](/wiki/Alexandria) became the capital city and a centre of [Greek](/wiki/Hellenistic_Greece) culture and trade. To gain recognition by the native Egyptian populace, they named themselves as the successors to the Pharaohs. The later Ptolemies took on Egyptian traditions, had themselves portrayed on public monuments in Egyptian style and dress, and participated in Egyptian religious life.[[17]](#cite_note-17)[[18]](#cite_note-18) The last ruler from the [Ptolemaic](/wiki/Ptolemaic_dynasty) line was [Cleopatra VII](/wiki/Cleopatra_VII), who committed suicide following the burial of her lover [Mark Antony](/wiki/Mark_Antony) who had died in her arms (from a self-inflicted stab wound), after [Octavian](/wiki/Octavian) had captured Alexandria and her mercenary forces had fled. The Ptolemies faced rebellions of native Egyptians often caused by an unwanted regime and were involved in foreign and civil wars that led to the decline of the kingdom and its annexation by Rome. Nevertheless, [Hellenistic culture](/wiki/Hellenistic_culture) continued to thrive in Egypt well after the [Muslim conquest](/wiki/Muslim_conquest_of_Egypt).

Christianity was brought to Egypt by [Saint Mark the Evangelist](/wiki/Saint_Mark_the_Evangelist) in the 1st century.[[19]](#cite_note-19) [Diocletian's](/wiki/Diocletian) reign (from 284 to 305 AD) marked the transition from the [Roman](/wiki/Roman_Empire) to the [Byzantine](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire) era in Egypt, when a great number of Egyptian Christians were persecuted. The [New Testament](/wiki/New_Testament) had by then been translated into Egyptian. After the [Council of Chalcedon](/wiki/Council_of_Chalcedon) in AD 451, a distinct [Egyptian Coptic Church](/wiki/Coptic_Orthodox_Church_of_Alexandria) was firmly established.[[20]](#cite_note-20)

### Middle Ages (7th century–1517)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The Byzantines were able to regain control of the country after a brief [Sasanian Persian](/wiki/Aegyptus_(Roman_province)#Persian_and_Arab_conquests) invasion early in the 7th century amidst the [Byzantine–Sasanian War of 602–628](/wiki/Byzantine–Sasanian_War_of_602–628) during which they established a new short-lived province for ten years known as [Sasanian Egypt](/wiki/Sasanian_Egypt), until 639–42, when Egypt was invaded and [conquered by the Islamic Empire](/wiki/Muslim_conquest_of_Egypt) by the [Muslim](/wiki/Muslim) [Arabs](/wiki/Arabs). When they defeated the Byzantine Armies in Egypt, the Arabs brought [Sunni Islam](/wiki/Sunni_Islam) to the country. Early in this period, Egyptians began to blend their new faith with indigenous beliefs and practices, leading to various [Sufi](/wiki/Sufism) orders that have flourished to this day.[[19]](#cite_note-19) These earlier rites had survived the period of [Coptic Christianity](/wiki/Coptic_Orthodox_Church_of_Alexandria).[[21]](#cite_note-21) Muslim rulers nominated by the [Caliphate](/wiki/Caliphate) remained in [control of Egypt](/wiki/History_of_Arab_Egypt) for the next six centuries, with [Cairo](/wiki/Cairo) as the seat of the [Fatimid Caliphate](/wiki/Fatimid_Caliphate). With the end of the [Kurdish](/wiki/Kurdish_people) [Ayyubid dynasty](/wiki/Ayyubid_dynasty), the [Mamluks](/wiki/Mamluk), a [Turco](/wiki/Turkic_people)-[Circassian](/wiki/Circassians) military caste, took control about 1250. By the late 13th century, Egypt linked the Red Sea, India, Malaya, and East Indies.[[22]](#cite_note-22) The mid-14th-century [Black Death](/wiki/Black_Death) killed about 40% of the country's population.[[23]](#cite_note-23)

### Ottoman Egypt (1517–1867)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|The 1803](/wiki/File:Cedid_Atlas_(Egypt)_1803.jpg) [Cedid Atlas](/wiki/Cedid_Atlas), showing [Ottoman Egypt](/wiki/Ottoman_Egypt). [Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Egypt was conquered by the [Ottoman Turks](/wiki/Ottoman_Turks) in 1517, after which it became a province of the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire). The defensive militarisation damaged its civil society and economic institutions.[[22]](#cite_note-22) The weakening of the economic system combined with the effects of plague left Egypt vulnerable to foreign invasion. Portuguese traders took over their trade.[[22]](#cite_note-22) Between 1687 and 1731, Egypt experienced six famines.[[24]](#cite_note-24) The 1784 [famine](/wiki/Famine) cost it roughly one-sixth of its population.[[25]](#cite_note-25) Egypt was always a difficult province for the Ottoman [Sultans](/wiki/Sultans) to control, due in part to the continuing power and influence of the [Mamluks](/wiki/Mamluks), the Egyptian military caste who had ruled the country for centuries.

[thumb|250px|Napoleon defeated](/wiki/File:Louis-François_Baron_Lejeune_001.jpg) [Mamluk](/wiki/Mamluk) troops in the [Battle of the Pyramids](/wiki/Battle_of_the_Pyramids), 21 July 1798, painted by [Lejeune](/wiki/Louis-François,_Baron_Lejeune).

Egypt remained semi-autonomous under the Mamluks until it was invaded by the [French](/wiki/First_French_Republic) forces of [Napoleon I](/wiki/Napoleon_I) in 1798 (see [French campaign in Egypt and Syria](/wiki/French_campaign_in_Egypt_and_Syria)). After the French were defeated by the British, a power vacuum was created in Egypt, and a three-way power struggle ensued between the [Ottoman Turks](/wiki/Ottoman_Turks), Egyptian [Mamluks](/wiki/Mamluk) who had ruled Egypt for centuries, and [Albanian mercenaries](/wiki/Arnauts) in the service of the Ottomans.

### Founding of the Muhammad Ali dynasty[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|200px|](/wiki/File:ModernEgypt,_Muhammad_Ali_by_Auguste_Couder,_BAP_17996.jpg)[Muhammad Ali Pasha](/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_of_Egypt) was the founder of the [Muhammad Ali dynasty](/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_dynasty) and the first [Khedive](/wiki/Khedive) of Egypt and [Sudan](/wiki/Sudan).

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

After the French were expelled, power was seized in 1805 by [Muhammad Ali Pasha](/wiki/Muhammad_Ali_of_Egypt), an Albanian military commander of the Ottoman army in Egypt. While he carried the title of [viceroy](/wiki/Viceroy) of Egypt, his subordination to the Ottoman porte was merely nominal.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Muhammad Ali established a [dynasty](/wiki/Dynasty) that was to rule Egypt until the revolution of 1952.

The introduction in 1820 of long-staple [cotton](/wiki/Cotton) transformed its agriculture into a cash-crop [monoculture](/wiki/Monoculture) before the end of the century, concentrating land ownership and shifting production towards international markets.[[26]](#cite_note-26) Muhammad Ali annexed [Northern Sudan](/wiki/Northern_Sudan) (1820–1824), [Syria](/wiki/Syria) (1833), and parts of [Arabia](/wiki/Arabian_Peninsula) and [Anatolia](/wiki/Anatolia); but in 1841 the European powers, fearful lest he topple the Ottoman Empire itself, forced him to return most of his conquests to the Ottomans. His military ambition required him to modernise the country: he built industries, a system of canals for irrigation and transport, and reformed the [civil service](/wiki/Civil_service).[[26]](#cite_note-26) He constructed a military state with around four percent of the populace serving the army to raise Egypt to a powerful positioning in the Ottoman Empire in a way showing various similarities to the Soviet strategies (without communism) conducted in the 20th century.[[27]](#cite_note-27) Muhammad Ali Pasha evolved the military from one that convened under the tradition of the [corvée](/wiki/Corvée) to a great modernised army. He introduced conscription of the male peasantry in 19th century Egypt, and took a novel approach to create his great army, strengthening it with numbers and in skill. Education and training of the new soldiers was not an option; the new concepts were furthermore enforced by isolation. The men were held in barracks to avoid distraction of their growth as a military unit to be reckoned with. The resentment for the military way of life eventually faded from the men and a new ideology took hold, one of nationalism and pride. It was with the help of this newly reborn martial unit that Muhammad Ali imposed his rule over Egypt.[[28]](#cite_note-28) The policy that Mohammad Ali Pasha followed during his reign explains partly why the numeracy in Egypt compared to other North-African and Middle-Eastern countries increased only at a remarkably small rate, as investment in further education only took place in the military and industrial sector.[[29]](#cite_note-29) Muhammad Ali was succeeded briefly by his son [Ibrahim](/wiki/Ibrahim_Pasha_of_Egypt) (in September 1848), then by a grandson [Abbas I](/wiki/Abbas_I_of_Egypt) (in November 1848), then by [Said](/wiki/Sa'id_of_Egypt) (in 1854), and [Isma'il](/wiki/Isma'il_Pasha) (in 1863) who encouraged science and agriculture and banned slavery in Egypt.[[30]](#cite_note-30)

### End of Ottoman Egypt and the European intrusion (1867–1914)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[Egypt under the Muhammad Ali dynasty](/wiki/History_of_Egypt_under_the_Muhammad_Ali_dynasty) remained nominally an Ottoman province. It was granted the status of an [autonomous vassal state](/wiki/Vassal_and_tributary_states_of_the_Ottoman_Empire) or [*Khedivate*](/wiki/Khedivate_of_Egypt) in 1867, a status which was to remain in place until 1914.

The [Suez Canal](/wiki/Suez_Canal), built in partnership with the French, was completed in 1869. Its construction led to enormous debt to European [banks](/wiki/Bank), and caused popular discontent because of the onerous [taxation](/wiki/Tax) it required. In 1875 Ismail was forced to sell Egypt's share in the canal to the British government. Within three years this led to the imposition of British and French [controllers](/wiki/Dual_control_(politics)) who sat in the Egyptian cabinet, and, "with the financial power of the bondholders behind them, were the real power in the Government."[[31]](#cite_note-31) Other circumstances like epidemic diseases (cattle disease in the 1880s), floods and wars drove the economic downturn and increased Egypt’s dependency on foreign debt even further.[[32]](#cite_note-32) In later years, the dynasty became a British puppet.[[26]](#cite_note-26) [Isma'il](/wiki/Isma'il_Pasha) and [Tewfik Pasha](/wiki/Tewfik_Pasha) governed Egypt as a quasi-independent state under Ottoman suzerainty until the [British occupation](/wiki/British_occupation_of_Egypt) of 1882.

[thumb|upright|right|Female nationalists demonstrating in](/wiki/File:Cairo-Demonstrations1919.jpg) [Cairo](/wiki/Cairo), 1919

Local dissatisfaction with Ismail and with European intrusion led to the formation of the first nationalist groupings in 1879, with [Ahmad Urabi](/wiki/Ahmad_Urabi) a prominent figure. Fearing a reduction of their control, the UK and France intervened militarily, bombarding Alexandria and crushing the Egyptian army at the [battle of Tel el-Kebir](/wiki/Battle_of_Tel_el-Kebir).[[33]](#cite_note-33) They reinstalled Ismail's son [Tewfik](/wiki/Tewfik_Pasha) as figurehead of a *de facto* British protectorate.[[34]](#cite_note-34) In 1906, the [Dinshaway Incident](/wiki/Dinshaway_Incident) prompted many neutral Egyptians to join the nationalist movement.

### British protectorate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The [Khedivate of Egypt](/wiki/Khedivate_of_Egypt) remained a [de jure](/wiki/De_jure) Ottoman province until 5 November 1914,[[35]](#cite_note-35) when it was declared a [British](/wiki/British_Empire) [protectorate](/wiki/Protectorate) in reaction to the decision of the [Young Turks](/wiki/Young_Turks) of the Ottoman Empire to join [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I) on the side of the [Central Powers](/wiki/Central_Powers).

In 1914, the Protectorate was made official, and the title of the head of state was changed to [*sultan*](/wiki/Sultanate_of_Egypt), to repudiate the vestigial suzerainty of the Ottoman sultan, who was backing the [Central powers](/wiki/Central_powers) in World War I. [Abbas II](/wiki/Abbas_II_of_Egypt) was deposed as khedive and replaced by his uncle, [Hussein Kamel](/wiki/Hussein_Kamel_of_Egypt), as sultan.[[36]](#cite_note-36) After World War I, [Saad Zaghlul](/wiki/Saad_Zaghlul) and the [Wafd Party](/wiki/Wafd_Party) led the Egyptian nationalist movement to a majority at the local [Legislative Assembly](/wiki/Legislative_Assembly). When the British exiled Zaghlul and his associates[Template:Dubious](/wiki/Template:Dubious) to [Malta](/wiki/Malta) on 8 March 1919, the country arose in its [first modern revolution](/wiki/Egyptian_revolution_of_1919). The revolt led the [UK government](/wiki/United_Kingdom_coalition_government_(1916–1922)) to issue a [unilateral declaration of Egypt's independence](/wiki/Unilateral_Declaration_of_Egyptian_Independence) on 22 February 1922.[[37]](#cite_note-37) [thumb|right|upright|British infantry near](/wiki/File:1stAlameinBritDefense.jpg) [El Alamein](/wiki/First_Battle_of_El_Alamein), 17 July 1942

The [new government](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Egypt) drafted and implemented a [constitution](/wiki/1923_Constitution_of_Egypt) in 1923 based on a [parliamentary](/wiki/Parliamentary_system) system. Saad Zaghlul was popularly elected as [Prime Minister of Egypt](/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Egypt) in 1924. In 1936, the [Anglo-Egyptian Treaty](/wiki/Anglo-Egyptian_Treaty_of_1936) was concluded. Continued instability due to remaining British influence and increasing political involvement by the king led to the dissolution of the parliament in a military [*coup d'état*](/wiki/Coup_d'état) known as the [1952 Revolution](/wiki/Egyptian_Revolution_of_1952). The [Free Officers Movement](/wiki/Free_Officers_Movement_(Egypt)) forced King [Farouk](/wiki/Farouk_of_Egypt) to abdicate in support of his son [Fuad](/wiki/Fuad_II_of_Egypt). British military presence in Egypt lasted until 1954.<ref name=factbook>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

### Republic (1953–)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Following the [1952 Revolution](/wiki/Egyptian_Revolution_of_1952) by the [Free Officers Movement](/wiki/Free_Officers_Movement_(Egypt)), the rule of Egypt passed to military hands. On 18 June 1953, the [Egyptian Republic](/wiki/Republic_of_Egypt_(1953–1958)) was declared, with General [Muhammad Naguib](/wiki/Muhammad_Naguib) as the first President of the Republic.

#### Reign of president Nasser (1956–1970)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|right|Egyptian President](/wiki/File:Nasser_in_Mansoura,_1960.jpg) [Gamal Abdel Nasser](/wiki/Gamal_Abdel_Nasser) in Mansoura, 1960

Naguib was forced to resign in 1954 by [Gamal Abdel Nasser](/wiki/Gamal_Abdel_Nasser)[Template:Spaced ndashthe](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) real architect of the 1952 movement[Template:Spaced ndashand](/wiki/Template:Spaced_ndash) was later put under [house arrest](/wiki/House_arrest). Nasser assumed [power](/wiki/Political_power) as President in June 1956. British forces completed their withdrawal from the occupied Suez Canal Zone on 13 June 1956. He [nationalised](/wiki/Nationalised) the Suez Canal on 26 July 1956, prompting the 1956 [Suez Crisis](/wiki/Suez_Crisis).

In 1958, Egypt and Syria formed a sovereign union known as the [United Arab Republic](/wiki/United_Arab_Republic). The union was short-lived, ending in 1961 when [Syria](/wiki/Syria) seceded, thus ending the union. During most of its existence, the United Arab Republic was also in a loose [confederation](/wiki/Confederation) with [North Yemen](/wiki/Mutawakkilite_Kingdom_of_Yemen) (or the Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen), known as the [United Arab States](/wiki/United_Arab_States). In 1959, the [All-Palestine Government](/wiki/All-Palestine_Government) of the Gaza Strip, an Egyptian client state, was absorbed into the [United Arab Republic](/wiki/United_Arab_Republic) under the pretext of Arab union, and was never restored.

In the early 1960s, Egypt became fully involved in the [North Yemen Civil War](/wiki/North_Yemen_Civil_War). The Egyptian President, Gamal Abdel Nasser, supported the Yemeni republicans with as many as 70,000 Egyptian troops and chemical weapons. Despite several military moves and peace conferences, the war sank into a stalemate. Egyptian commitment in Yemen was greatly undermined later.

In mid May 1967, the Soviet Union issued warnings to [Nasser](/wiki/Gamal_Abdel_Nasser) of an impending Israeli attack on Syria. Although the chief of staff [Mohamed Fawzi](/wiki/Mohamed_Fawzi_(general)) verified them as "baseless",[[38]](#cite_note-38)[[39]](#cite_note-39) Nasser took three successive steps that made the war virtually inevitable: On 14 May he deployed his troops in Sinai near the border with Israel, on 19 May he expelled the UN peacekeepers stationed in the Sinai Peninsula border with Israel, and on 23 May he closed the [Straits of Tiran](/wiki/Straits_of_Tiran) to Israeli shipping.[[40]](#cite_note-40) On 26 May [Nasser](/wiki/Gamal_Abdel_Nasser) declared, "*The battle will be a general one and our basic objective will be to destroy Israel*".[[41]](#cite_note-41) Israel re-iterated that the [Straits of Tiran](/wiki/Straits_of_Tiran) closure was a [Casus belli](/wiki/Casus_belli). In the 1967 [Six Day War](/wiki/Six_Day_War), Israel attacked Egypt, and occupied [Sinai Peninsula](/wiki/Sinai_Peninsula) and the [Gaza Strip](/wiki/Gaza_Strip), which Egypt had [occupied](/wiki/Occupation_of_the_Gaza_Strip_by_Egypt) since the [1948 Arab–Israeli War](/wiki/1948_Arab–Israeli_War). During the 1967 war, an [Emergency Law](/wiki/Emergency_law_in_Egypt) was enacted, and remained in effect until 2012, with the exception of an 18-month break in 1980/81.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Under this law, police powers were extended, constitutional rights suspended and censorship legalised.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

At the time of the fall of the Egyptian monarchy in the early 1950s, less than half a million Egyptians were considered upper class and rich, four million middle class and 17 million lower class and poor.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Fewer than half of all primary-school-age children attended school, most of them being boys. Nasser's policies changed this. Land reform and distribution, the dramatic growth in university education, and government support to national industries greatly improved social mobility and flattened the social curve. From academic year 1953–54 through 1965–66, overall public school enrolments more than doubled. Millions of previously poor Egyptians, through education and jobs in the public sector, joined the middle class. Doctors, engineers, teachers, lawyers, journalists, constituted the bulk of the swelling middle class in Egypt under Nasser.[[43]](#cite_note-43) During the 1960s, the Egyptian economy went from sluggish to the verge of collapse, the society became less free, and Nasser's appeal waned considerably.[[44]](#cite_note-44)

#### Reign of president Sadat (1970–1981)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[thumb|250px|Egyptian tanks advancing in the Sinai desert during the](/wiki/File:Egyptian_Armor.jpg) [Yom Kippur War](/wiki/Yom_Kippur_War), 1973. In 1970, President Nasser died and was succeeded by [Anwar Sadat](/wiki/Anwar_Sadat). Sadat switched Egypt's [Cold War](/wiki/Cold_War) allegiance from the Soviet Union to the United States, expelling Soviet advisors in 1972. He launched the [Infitah](/wiki/Infitah) economic reform policy, while clamping down on religious and secular opposition. In 1973, Egypt, along with Syria, launched the [October War](/wiki/Yom_Kippur_War), a surprise attack to regain part of the Sinai territory Israel had captured 6 years earlier. It presented Sadat with a victory that allowed him to regain the Sinai later in return for peace with Israel.[[45]](#cite_note-45) [thumb|Celebrating the signing of the 1978](/wiki/File:Begin,_Carter_and_Sadat_at_Camp_David_1978.jpg) [Camp David Accords](/wiki/Camp_David_Accords): [Menachem Begin](/wiki/Menachem_Begin), [Jimmy Carter](/wiki/Jimmy_Carter), [Anwar Al Sadat](/wiki/Anwar_El_Sadat). In 1975, Sadat shifted Nasser's economic policies and sought to use his popularity to reduce government regulations and encourage foreign investment through his program of Infitah. Through this policy, incentives such as reduced taxes and import tariffs attracted some investors, but investments were mainly directed at low risk and profitable ventures like tourism and construction, abandoning Egypt's infant industries.[[46]](#cite_note-46) Even though Sadat's policy was intended to modernise Egypt and assist the middle class, it mainly benefited the higher class, and, because of the elimination of subsidies on basic foodstuffs, led to the [1977 Egyptian Bread Riots](/wiki/1977_Egyptian_Bread_Riots).

Sadat made a historic visit to Israel in 1977, which led to the 1979 [peace treaty](/wiki/Israel-Egypt_Peace_Treaty) in exchange for Israeli withdrawal from Sinai. Sadat's initiative sparked enormous controversy in the [Arab world](/wiki/Arab_world) and led to Egypt's expulsion from the [Arab League](/wiki/Arab_League), but it was supported by most Egyptians.[[47]](#cite_note-47) [Sadat was assassinated](/wiki/Assassination_of_Anwar_Sadat) by an Islamic extremist in October 1981.

#### Reign of president Mubarak (1981–2011)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Hosni Mubarak](/wiki/Hosni_Mubarak) came to power after the assassination of Sadat in a referendum in which he was the only candidate.[[48]](#cite_note-48) [thumb|Egyptian President Anwar Al Sadat and Vice-President](/wiki/File:Sadat_-_Mubarak.jpg) [Hosni Mubarak](/wiki/Hosni_Mubarak) in 1981, on the day [of Sadat's assassination](/wiki/Assassination_of_Anwar_Sadat). Hosni Mubarak reaffirmed Egypt's relationship with Israel yet eased the tensions with Egypt's Arab neighbours. Domestically, Mubarak faced serious problems. Even though farm and industry output expanded, the economy could not keep pace with the population boom. Mass poverty and unemployment led rural families to stream into cities like Cairo where they ended up in crowded slums, barely managing to survive.

In the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, terrorist attacks in Egypt became numerous and severe, and began to target Christian [Copts](/wiki/Copt), foreign tourists and government officials.[[49]](#cite_note-49) In the 1990s an [Islamist](/wiki/Islamist) group, [Al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya](/wiki/Al-Gama'a_al-Islamiyya), engaged in an extended campaign of violence, from the murders and attempted murders of prominent writers and intellectuals, to the repeated targeting of tourists and foreigners. Serious damage was done to the largest sector of Egypt's economy—tourism[[50]](#cite_note-50)—and in turn to the government, but it also devastated the livelihoods of many of the people on whom the group depended for support.[[51]](#cite_note-51) During Mubarak's reign, the political scene was dominated by the [National Democratic Party](/wiki/National_Democratic_Party_(Egypt)), which was created by Sadat in 1978. It passed the 1993 Syndicates Law, 1995 Press Law, and 1999 Nongovernmental Associations Law which hampered freedoms of association and expression by imposing new regulations and draconian penalties on violations.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) As a result, by the late 1990s parliamentary politics had become virtually irrelevant and alternative avenues for political expression were curtailed as well.[[52]](#cite_note-52) [thumb|](/wiki/File:2011_Cairo_5339252807.jpg)[Cairo](/wiki/Cairo) grew into a [metropolitan area](/wiki/Metropolitan_area) with a population of over 20 million

On 17 November 1997, [62 people, mostly tourists, were massacred](/wiki/Luxor_massacre) near [Luxor](/wiki/Luxor).

In late February 2005, Mubarak announced a reform of the presidential election law, paving the way for multi-candidate polls for the first time since the [1952 movement](/wiki/Free_Officers_Movement_(Egypt)).[[53]](#cite_note-53) However, the new law placed restrictions on the candidates, and led to Mubarak's easy re-election victory.[[54]](#cite_note-54) Voter turnout was less than 25%.[[55]](#cite_note-55) Election observers also alleged government interference in the election process.[[56]](#cite_note-56) After the election, Mubarak imprisoned [Ayman Nour](/wiki/Ayman_Nour), the runner-up.[[57]](#cite_note-57) Human Rights Watch's 2006 report on Egypt detailed serious human rights violations, including routine [torture](/wiki/Torture), arbitrary detentions and trials before military and state security courts.[[58]](#cite_note-58) In 2007, [Amnesty International](/wiki/Amnesty_International) released a report alleging that Egypt had become an international centre for torture, where other nations send suspects for interrogation, often as part of the [War on Terror](/wiki/War_on_Terror).[[59]](#cite_note-59) Egypt's foreign ministry quickly issued a rebuttal to this report.[[60]](#cite_note-60) Constitutional changes voted on 19 March 2007 prohibited parties from using religion as a basis for political activity, allowed the drafting of a new anti-terrorism law, authorised broad police powers of arrest and surveillance, and gave the president power to dissolve parliament and end judicial election monitoring.[[61]](#cite_note-61) In 2009, Dr. Ali El Deen Hilal Dessouki, Media Secretary of the National Democratic Party ([NDP](/wiki/National_Democratic_Party_(Egypt))), described Egypt as a "[pharaonic](/wiki/Pharaonic)" political system, and democracy as a "long-term goal". Dessouki also stated that "the real center of power in Egypt is the military".[[62]](#cite_note-62)

#### Revolution and aftermath[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Celebrations in](/wiki/File:Tahrir_Square_on_February11.png) [Tahrir Square](/wiki/Tahrir_Square) after [Omar Suleiman's](/wiki/Omar_Suleiman) statement announcing [Hosni Mubarak's](/wiki/Hosni_Mubarak) resignation On 25 January 2011, [widespread protests](/wiki/Egyptian_revolution_of_2011) began against Mubarak's government. On 11 February 2011, Mubarak resigned and fled Cairo. Jubilant celebrations broke out in Cairo's [Tahrir Square](/wiki/Tahrir_Square) at the news.[[63]](#cite_note-63) The [Egyptian military](/wiki/Egyptian_military) then assumed the power to govern.[[64]](#cite_note-64)[[65]](#cite_note-65) [Mohamed Hussein Tantawi](/wiki/Mohamed_Hussein_Tantawi), chairman of the [Supreme Council of the Armed Forces](/wiki/Supreme_Council_of_the_Armed_Forces), became the *de facto* interim [head of state](/wiki/Head_of_state).[[66]](#cite_note-66)[[67]](#cite_note-67) On 13 February 2011, the military dissolved the parliament and suspended the constitution.[[68]](#cite_note-68) A [constitutional referendum](/wiki/Egyptian_constitutional_referendum,_2011) was held on 19 March 2011. On 28 November 2011, Egypt held its [first parliamentary election](/wiki/Egyptian_parliamentary_election,_2011–2012) since the previous regime had been in power. Turnout was high and there were no reports of major irregularities or violence.[[69]](#cite_note-69) [Mohamed Morsi](/wiki/Mohamed_Morsi) was [elected president](/wiki/Egyptian_presidential_election,_2012) on 24 June 2012.[[70]](#cite_note-70) On 2 August 2012, Egypt's Prime Minister [Hisham Qandil](/wiki/Hisham_Qandil) announced his 35-member cabinet comprising 28 newcomers including four from the Muslim Brotherhood.[[71]](#cite_note-71) Liberal and secular groups walked out of the [constituent assembly](/wiki/Constituent_Assembly_of_Egypt) because they believed that it would impose strict Islamic practices, while Muslim Brotherhood backers threw their support behind Morsi.[[72]](#cite_note-72) On 22 November 2012, President Morsi issued a temporary declaration immunising his decrees from challenge and seeking to protect the work of the constituent assembly.[[73]](#cite_note-73) The move led to massive protests and violent action throughout Egypt.[[74]](#cite_note-74) On 5 December 2012, tens of thousands of supporters and opponents of president Morsi clashed, in what was described as the largest violent battle between Islamists and their foes since the country's revolution.[[75]](#cite_note-75) Mohamed Morsi offered a "national dialogue" with opposition leaders but refused to cancel the [December 2012 constitutional referendum](/wiki/Egyptian_constitutional_referendum,_2012).[[76]](#cite_note-76)[Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

On 3 July 2013, the military removed President [Morsi](/wiki/Morsi) from power in a [coup d'état](/wiki/2013_Egyptian_coup_d'état) and installed an interim government.[[77]](#cite_note-77) The move came 3 days after [mass protests](/wiki/June_2013_Egyptian_protests) were organised across Egypt for and against [Morsi's](/wiki/Morsi) rule.

On 4 July 2013, 68-year-old Chief Justice of the [Supreme Constitutional Court of Egypt](/wiki/Supreme_Constitutional_Court_of_Egypt) [Adly Mansour](/wiki/Adly_Mansour) was sworn in as acting president over the new government following the removal of Morsi. The military-backed Egyptian authorities cracked down on the Muslim Brotherhood and its supporters, jailing thousands and [killing hundreds of street protesters](/wiki/August_2013_Rabaa_massacre).[[78]](#cite_note-78)[[79]](#cite_note-79) Many of the Muslim Brotherhood leaders and activists have either been sentenced to death or life imprisonment in a series of mass trials.[[80]](#cite_note-80)[[81]](#cite_note-81)[[82]](#cite_note-82) On 18 January 2014, the interim government instituted a [new constitution](/wiki/Egyptian_Constitution_of_2014) following a referendum in which 98.1% of voters were supportive. Participation was low with only 38.6% of registered voters participating[[83]](#cite_note-83) although this was higher than the 33% who voted in a referendum during Morsi's tenure.[[84]](#cite_note-84) Some major economic reforms undertaken by the government since 2003 include a dramatic slashing of customs and tariffs. A new [taxation law](/wiki/Tax_law) implemented in 2005 decreased corporate taxes from 40% to the current 20%, resulting in a stated 100% increase in [tax revenue](/wiki/Tax_revenue) by the year 2006.

[Foreign direct investment](/wiki/Foreign_direct_investment) (FDI) in Egypt increased considerably before the removal of Hosni Mubarak, exceeding $6 billion in 2006, due to [economic liberalisation](/wiki/Liberal_theory_of_economics) and [privatisation](/wiki/Privatisation) measures taken by minister of investment Mahmoud Mohieddin.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Since the fall of Hosni Mubarak in 2011, Egypt has experienced a drastic fall in both foreign investment and tourism revenues, followed by a 60% drop in foreign exchange reserves, a 3% drop in growth, and a rapid devaluation of the Egyptian pound.[[170]](#cite_note-170) Although one of the main obstacles still facing the Egyptian economy is the limited trickle down of wealth to the average population, many Egyptians criticise their government for higher prices of basic goods while their [standards of living](/wiki/Standard_of_living) or purchasing power remains relatively stagnant. Corruption is often cited by Egyptians as the main impediment to further economic growth.[[171]](#cite_note-171)[[172]](#cite_note-172) The government promised major reconstruction of the country's infrastructure, using money paid for the newly acquired third mobile license ($3 billion) by [Etisalat](/wiki/Emirates_Telecommunications_Corporation) in 2006.[[173]](#cite_note-173) In the [Corruption Perceptions Index](/wiki/Corruption_Perceptions_Index) 2013, Egypt was ranked 114 out of 177.[[174]](#cite_note-174) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:USS_America_(CV-66)_in_the_Suez_canal_1981.jpg) [Suez Canal](/wiki/Suez_Canal). Egypt's most prominent multinational companies are the [Orascom Group](/wiki/Orascom_Group) and Raya Contact Center. The information technology (IT) sector has expanded rapidly in the past few years, with many start-ups selling outsourcing services to North America and Europe, operating with companies such as Microsoft, Oracle and other major corporations, as well as many small and medium size enterprises. Some of these companies are the Xceed Contact Center, Raya, E Group Connections and C3. The IT sector has been stimulated by new Egyptian entrepreneurs with government encouragement.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

An estimated 2.7 million Egyptians abroad contribute actively to the development of their country through [remittances](/wiki/Remittances) (US$7.8 billion in 2009), as well as circulation of human and social capital and investment.[[175]](#cite_note-175) Remittances, money earned by Egyptians living abroad and sent home, reached a record US$21 billion in 2012, according to the World Bank.[[176]](#cite_note-176) Egyptian society is moderately unequal in terms of income distribution, with an estimated 35 – 40% of Egypt's population earning less than the equivalent of $2 a day, while only around 2–3% may be considered wealthy.[[177]](#cite_note-177)

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[thumb|Al Muizz Street has the greatest concentration of medieval architectural treasures in the Islamic world.](/wiki/File:Al_Moez_Street.jpg) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Pyramid_of_Menkaure.jpg) [Pyramid of Menkaure](/wiki/Pyramid_of_Menkaure). Tourism is one of the most important sectors in Egypt's economy. More than 12.8 million tourists visited Egypt in 2008, providing revenues of nearly $11 billion. The tourism sector employs about 12% of Egypt's workforce.[[178]](#cite_note-178) Tourism Minister Hisham Zaazou told industry professionals and reporters that tourism generated some $9.4 billion in 2012, a slight increase over the $9 billion seen in 2011.[[179]](#cite_note-179) [thumb|White Knight Bay,](/wiki/File:Sharm_el_Sheikh_R01.jpg) [Sharm el Sheikh](/wiki/Sharm_el_Sheikh) The [Giza Necropolis](/wiki/Giza_Necropolis) is Egypt's most iconic site. It is also Egypt's most popular tourist destination since antiquity, and was popularised in Hellenistic times when the Great Pyramid was listed by [Antipater of Sidon](/wiki/Antipater_of_Sidon) as one of the [Seven Wonders of the World](/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World). Today it is the only one of those wonders still in existence.

Egypt has a wide range of beaches situated on the Mediterranean and the Red Sea that extend to over 3,000 km. The Red Sea has serene waters, coloured coral reefs, rare fish and beautiful mountains. The Akba Gulf beaches also provide facilities for practising sea sports. Safaga tops the Red Sea zone with its beautiful location on the Suez Gulf. Last but not least, [Sharm el-Sheikh](/wiki/Sharm_el-Sheikh) (or City of Peace), [Hurghada](/wiki/Hurghada), [Luxor](/wiki/Luxor) (known as world's greatest open-air museum/ or City of the ⅓ of world monuments), [Dahab](/wiki/Dahab), [Ras Sidr](/wiki/Ras_Sidr), [Marsa Alam](/wiki/Marsa_Alam), [Safaga](/wiki/Safaga) and the northern coast of the Mediterranean are major tourist's destinations of the recreational tourism.

With a lot of touristic activities in Egypt it's considered a fun place for historical, religious, medical and entertainment tourism. To enter Egypt, it is necessary to have a valid passport and in most cases a visa.[[180]](#cite_note-180)

### Energy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|Oil refinery at lake Mariout](/wiki/File:Oil_refinery_at_lake_Mariout.jpg) Egypt was producing 691,000 [bbl/d](/wiki/Bbl/d) of oil and 2,141.05 Tcf of natural gas (in 2013), which makes Egypt as the largest oil producer not member of the [Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries](/wiki/Organization_of_the_Petroleum_Exporting_Countries) (OPEC) and the second-largest dry natural gas producer in Africa. In 2013, Egypt was the largest consumer of oil and natural gas in Africa, as more than 20% of total oil consumption and more than 40% of total dry natural gas consumption in Africa. Also, Egypt possesses the largest oil refinery capacity in Africa 726,000 bbl/d (in 2012).[[168]](#cite_note-168)Egypt is currently planning to build its first nuclear power plant in [El Dabaa](/wiki/El_Dabaa) city, northern Egypt.[[181]](#cite_note-181)[[182]](#cite_note-182)[[183]](#cite_note-183)

### Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Transport in Egypt is centred around Cairo and largely follows the pattern of settlement along the Nile. The main line of the nation's 40,800-kilometer (25,400 mi) railway network runs from Alexandria to Aswan and is operated by [Egyptian National Railways](/wiki/Egyptian_National_Railways). The vehicle road network has expanded rapidly to over 21,000 miles, consisting of 28 line, 796 stations, 1800 train covering the Nile Valley and Nile Delta, the Mediterranean and Red Sea coasts, the Sinai, and the Western oases.

[thumb|right|The Cairo Metro (line 2)](/wiki/File:Metro-1-l.jpg) The [Cairo Metro](/wiki/Cairo_Metro) in Egypt is the first of only two full-fledged metro systems in Africa and the Arab World. It is considered one of the most important recent projects in Egypt which cost around 12 billion Egyptian pounds. The system consists of three operational lines with a fourth line expected in the future.

Egypt is considered one of the pioneer countries in using air transport having established its most important and main flag carrier airline of Egypt, [EgyptAir](/wiki/EgyptAir) in 1932, 100% owned by the Egyptian Government. The airline is based at [Cairo International Airport](/wiki/Cairo_International_Airport), its main hub, operating scheduled passenger and freight services to more than 75 destinations in the [Middle East](/wiki/Middle_East), [Europe](/wiki/Europe), [Africa](/wiki/Africa), [Asia](/wiki/Asia), and [the Americas](/wiki/The_Americas). The Current [EgyptAir](/wiki/EgyptAir) fleet includes 80 aeroplane.

#### Suez Canal[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Capesize_bulk_carrier_at_Suez_Canal_Bridge.JPG) [Suez Canal Bridge](/wiki/Suez_Canal_Bridge). The Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway in Egypt considered the most important centre of the maritime transport in the [Middle East](/wiki/Middle_East), connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. Opened in November 1869 after 10 years of construction work, it allows ship transport between [Europe](/wiki/Europe) and [Asia](/wiki/Asia) without navigation around [Africa](/wiki/Africa). The northern terminus is Port Said and the southern terminus is Port Tawfiq at the city of Suez. Ismailia lies on its west bank, 3 km (1.9 mi) from the half-way point.

The canal is 193.30 km (120.11 mi) long, 24 m (79 ft) deep and 205 metres (673 ft) wide [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of). It consists of the northern access channel of 22 km (14 mi), the canal itself of 162.25 km (100.82 mi) and the southern access channel of 9 km (5.6 mi). The canal is a single lane with passing places in the "Ballah By-Pass" and the Great Bitter Lake. It contains no locks; seawater flows freely through the canal. In general, the canal north of the Bitter Lakes flows north in winter and south in summer. The current south of the lakes changes with the tide at Suez.

On 26 August 2014 a proposal was made for opening a [New Suez Canal](/wiki/New_Suez_Canal). Work on the New Suez Canal was completed in July 2015.[[184]](#cite_note-184)[[185]](#cite_note-185) The channel was officially inaugurated with a ceremony attended by foreign leaders and featuring military flyovers on 6 August 2015, in accordance with the budgets laid out for the project.[[186]](#cite_note-186)[[187]](#cite_note-187)

### Water supply and sanitation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Drinking [water supply](/wiki/Water_supply) and [sanitation](/wiki/Sanitation) in Egypt is characterised by both achievements and challenges. Among the achievements are an increase of piped water supply between 1990 and 2010 from 89% to 100% in urban areas and from 39% to 93% in rural areas despite rapid population growth, the elimination of [open defecation](/wiki/Open_defecation) in rural areas during the same period, and in general a relatively high level of investment in infrastructure. Access to an [improved water source](/wiki/Improved_water_source) in Egypt is now practically universal with a rate of 99%. About one half of the population is connected to [sanitary sewers](/wiki/Sanitary_sewer).[[188]](#cite_note-188) Partly because of low sanitation coverage about 17,000 children die each year because of [diarrhoea](/wiki/Diarrhoea).[[189]](#cite_note-189) Another challenge is low cost recovery due to water tariffs that are among the lowest in the world. This in turn requires government subsidies even for operating costs, a situation that has been aggravated by salary increases without tariff increases after the [Arab Spring](/wiki/Arab_Spring). Poor operation of facilities, such as water and wastewater treatment plants, as well as limited government accountability and transparency, are also issues.

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[thumb|Egypt's population density (people per km2).](/wiki/File:Egypt_2010_population_density1.png) [Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations) Egypt is the most populated country in the Middle East, and the third most populous on the [African continent](/wiki/African_continent), with about 88 million inhabitants [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of).[[190]](#cite_note-190) Its population grew rapidly from 1970 to 2010 due to [medical advances](/wiki/History_of_medicine#Modern_medicine) and increases in agricultural productivity [[191]](#cite_note-191) enabled by the [Green Revolution](/wiki/Green_Revolution).[[192]](#cite_note-192) Egypt's population was estimated at 3 million when [Napoleon](/wiki/Napoleon_I_of_France) invaded the country in 1798.[[193]](#cite_note-193) Egypt's people are highly urbanised, being concentrated along the Nile (notably Cairo and Alexandria), in the Delta and near the Suez Canal. Egyptians are divided demographically into those who live in the major urban centres and the [fellahin](/wiki/Fellah), or farmers, that reside in rural villages.

An estimated 2.7 million Egyptians live abroad. Approximately 70% of Egyptian migrants live in Arab countries (923,600 in [Saudi Arabia](/wiki/Saudi_Arabia), 332,600 in [Libya](/wiki/Libya), 226,850 in [Jordan](/wiki/Jordan), 190,550 in [Kuwait](/wiki/Kuwait) with the rest elsewhere in the region) and the remaining 30% reside mostly in Europe and North America (318,000 in the United States, 110,000 in Canada and 90,000 in Italy).[[175]](#cite_note-175) Among the people of the ancient Near East, only the Egyptians have stayed where they were and remained what they were[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed), although they have changed their language once and their religion twice. In a sense, they constitute the world's oldest nation[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed). For most of their history, Egypt has been a state, but only in recent years has it been truly a nation-state, with a government claiming the allegiance of its subjects on the basis of a common identity.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Ethnic groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

Ethnic [Egyptians](/wiki/Egyptians) are by far the largest ethnic group in the country, constituting 91% of the total population.<ref name=factbook/> Ethnic minorities include the [Abazas](/wiki/Abaza_people), [Turks](/wiki/Turkish_people), [Greeks](/wiki/Greeks), [Bedouin](/wiki/Bedouin) Arab tribes living in the eastern deserts and the [Sinai Peninsula](/wiki/Sinai_Peninsula), the [Berber](/wiki/Berber_language)-speaking [Siwis](/wiki/Siwis) ([Amazigh](/wiki/Berber_people)) of the [Siwa Oasis](/wiki/Siwa_Oasis), and the [Nubian](/wiki/Nubian_people) communities clustered along the Nile. There are also tribal [Beja](/wiki/Beja_people) communities concentrated in the south-eastern-most corner of the country, and a number of [Dom](/wiki/Dom_people) clans mostly in the Nile Delta and [Faiyum](/wiki/Faiyum) who are progressively becoming assimilated as urbanisation increases.

Egypt also hosts an unknown number of [refugees](/wiki/Refugees) and asylum seekers, estimated to be between 500,000 and 3 million.[[194]](#cite_note-194) There are some 70,000 [Palestinian refugees](/wiki/Palestinian_refugee),[[194]](#cite_note-194) and about 150,000 recently arrived [Iraqi refugees](/wiki/Refugees_of_Iraq),[[195]](#cite_note-195) but the number of the largest group, the [Sudanese](/wiki/Sudanese_refugees_in_Egypt), is contested.[[nb 1]](#cite_note-196) The once-vibrant and ancient [Greek](/wiki/Greeks_in_Egypt) and [Jewish communities in Egypt](/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Egypt) have almost [disappeared](/wiki/Jewish_exodus_from_Arab_lands), with only a small number remaining in the country, but many Egyptian [Jews](/wiki/Jew) visit on religious or other occasions and tourism. Several important Jewish archaeological and historical sites are found in Cairo, Alexandria and other cities.

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The [official language](/wiki/Official_language) of the Republic is [Modern Standard Arabic](/wiki/Modern_Standard_Arabic).[[196]](#cite_note-197) Arabic was adopted by the Egyptians after the Arab invasion of Egypt.[[197]](#cite_note-198) The [spoken languages](/wiki/Spoken_language) are: [Egyptian Arabic](/wiki/Egyptian_Arabic) (68%), [Sa'idi Arabic](/wiki/Sa'idi_Arabic) (29%), [Eastern Egyptian Bedawi Arabic](/wiki/Bedawi_Arabic) (1.6%), [Sudanese Arabic](/wiki/Sudanese_Arabic) (0.6%), [Domari](/wiki/Domari_language) (0.3%), [Nobiin](/wiki/Nobiin_language) (0.3%), [Beja](/wiki/Beja_language) (0.1%), [Siwi](/wiki/Siwi_language) and others. Additionally, [Greek](/wiki/Greek_language), [Armenian](/wiki/Armenian_language) and [Italian](/wiki/Italian_language) are the main languages of immigrants. In [Alexandria](/wiki/Alexandria) in the 19th century there was a large community of [Italian Egyptians](/wiki/Italian_Egyptians) and Italian was the "[lingua franca](/wiki/Lingua_franca)" of the city.

The main foreign languages taught in schools, by order of popularity, are [English](/wiki/English_language), [French](/wiki/French_language), [German](/wiki/German_language) and Italian.

Historical [Egyptian languages](/wiki/Egyptian_languages), also known as Copto-Egyptian, consist of ancient [Egyptian](/wiki/Egyptian_language) and [Coptic](/wiki/Coptic_language), and form a separate branch among the family of [Afroasiatic languages](/wiki/Afroasiatic_languages). The "[Koiné](/wiki/Koiné)" dialect of the [Greek language](/wiki/Greek_language), though not native to Egypt, was important in [Hellenistic](/wiki/Hellenistic) Alexandria. It was used extensively in the [philosophy](/wiki/Philosophy) and [science](/wiki/Science) of that culture. Later translations from Greek to Arabic became the subject of study by Arab scholars.

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Template:Bar box](/wiki/Template:Bar_box) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Mohamed_Ali_Mosque_HDR.jpg) [Mosque of Muhammad Ali](/wiki/Mosque_of_Muhammad_Ali). Egypt is a predominantly [Sunni](/wiki/Sunni) Muslim country with [Islam](/wiki/Islam) as its state religion. The percentage of adherents of various religions is a controversial topic in Egypt. An estimated 90% are identified as Muslim, 9% as [Coptic Christians](/wiki/Coptic_Christians), and 1% as other Christian denominations.[[nb 2]](#cite_note-199) [Non-denominational Muslims](/wiki/Non-denominational_Muslims) form roughly 12% of the population.[[198]](#cite_note-200) Although Egypt was a majority Christian country before the 7th Century, after Islam arrived, the country was slowly Islamified to become a majority Muslim country.[[199]](#cite_note-201)[[200]](#cite_note-202) Egypt emerged as a centre of politics and culture in the [Muslim world](/wiki/Muslim_world). Under [Anwar Sadat](/wiki/Anwar_Sadat), Islam became the official [state religion](/wiki/State_religion) and [Sharia](/wiki/Sharia) the main source of law.[[201]](#cite_note-203) It is estimated that 15 million Egyptians follow [Native Sufi](/wiki/Sufism) [orders](/wiki/Tariqah),[[202]](#cite_note-204)<ref name=HuffPost15Million>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>[[203]](#cite_note-205) with the Sufi leadership asserting that the numbers are much greater as many Egyptian Sufis are not officially registered with a Sufi order.<ref name=HuffPost15Million/>

There is also a [Shi'a](/wiki/Shi'a) minority. The [Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs](/wiki/Jerusalem_Center_for_Public_Affairs) estimates the Shia population at 1 to 2.2 million[[204]](#cite_note-206) and could measure as much as 3 million.[[205]](#cite_note-207) The [Ahmadiyya](/wiki/Ahmadiyya) population is estimated at less than 50,000,[[206]](#cite_note-208) whereas the [Salafi](/wiki/Salafi) (ultra-conservative) population is estimated at five to six million.[[207]](#cite_note-209) [Cairo](/wiki/Cairo) is famous for its numerous [mosque](/wiki/Mosque) [minarets](/wiki/Minaret) and has been dubbed *"The City of 1,000 Minarets"*.[[208]](#cite_note-210) [thumb|The Church of The Virgin Mary, Ismailia.](/wiki/File:Virgin_Mary_Church.jpg) Of the [Christian minority in Egypt](/wiki/Christianity_in_Egypt) over 90% belong to the native Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria, an [Oriental Orthodox](/wiki/Oriental_Orthodox) Christian Church.[[209]](#cite_note-211) Other native Egyptian Christians are adherents of the [Coptic Catholic Church](/wiki/Coptic_Catholic_Church), the [Evangelical Church of Egypt](/wiki/Evangelical_Church_of_Egypt_(Synod_of_the_Nile)) and various other [Protestant](/wiki/Protestantism) denominations. Non-native Christian communities are largely found in the urban regions of Cairo and Alexandria, such as the [Syro-Lebanese](/wiki/Syro-Lebanese_in_Egypt), who belong to [Greek Catholic](/wiki/Melkite_Greek_Catholic_Church), [Greek Orthodox](/wiki/Greek_Orthodox), and [Maronite Catholic](/wiki/Maronite_Catholic) denominations.[[210]](#cite_note-212) Ethnic [Greeks](/wiki/Greeks) also made up a large [Greek Orthodox](/wiki/Greek_Orthodox) population in the past. Likewise, Armenians made up the then larger [Armenian Orthodox](/wiki/Armenian_Orthodox) and [Catholic](/wiki/Armenian_Catholic) communities. Egypt also used to have a large [Roman Catholic](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism_in_Egypt) community, largely made up of [Italians](/wiki/Italian_Egyptians) and [Maltese](/wiki/Maltese_in_Egypt). These non-native communities were much larger in Egypt before the Nasser regime and the nationalisation that took place.

Egypt hosts two major religious institutions, the [Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria](/wiki/Coptic_Orthodox_Church_of_Alexandria), established in the middle of the 1st century CE by [Saint Mark the Evangelist](/wiki/Mark_the_Evangelist), and [Al-Azhar University](/wiki/Al-Azhar_University), founded in 970 CE by the [Fatimids](/wiki/Fatimid_Caliphate) as the first[Template:Dubious](/wiki/Template:Dubious) Islamic School and University in the world.

Egypt recognises only three religions: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. Other faiths and minority Muslim sects practised by Egyptians, such as the small [Bahá'í](/wiki/Bahá'í_Faith) and [Ahmadi](/wiki/Ahmadiyya) community, are not recognised by the state and face persecution since they are labelled as far right groups that threaten Egypt's national security.[[211]](#cite_note-213)[[212]](#cite_note-214) Individuals, particularly Baha'is and atheists, wishing to include their religion (or lack thereof) on their mandatory state issued identification cards are denied this ability (see [Egyptian identification card controversy](/wiki/Egyptian_identification_card_controversy)), and are put in the position of either not obtaining required identification or lying about their faith. A 2008 court ruling allowed members of unrecognised faiths to obtain identification and leave the religion field blank.[[126]](#cite_note-126)[[127]](#cite_note-127)

### Largest cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Largest cities of Egypt](/wiki/Template:Largest_cities_of_Egypt)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumbnail|left|](/wiki/File:Azhar_Park_Cairo_View.jpg)[Al-Azhar Park](/wiki/Al-Azhar_Park) is listed as one of the world's sixty great public spaces by the [Project for Public Spaces](/wiki/Project_for_Public_Spaces) [thumb|](/wiki/File:LibraryAlexandria1-Omar.jpg)[Bibliotheca Alexandrina](/wiki/Bibliotheca_Alexandrina) is a commemoration of the ancient [Library of Alexandria](/wiki/Library_of_Alexandria) in Egypt's second largest city. Egypt is a recognised cultural trend-setter of the Arabic-speaking world. Contemporary Arabic and Middle-Eastern culture is heavily influenced by Egyptian literature, music, film and television. Egypt gained a regional leadership role during the 1950s and 1960s, giving a further enduring boost to the standing of Egyptian culture in the Arabic-speaking world.[[213]](#cite_note-215) Egyptian identity evolved in the span of a long period of occupation to accommodate [Islam](/wiki/Islam), [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity) and Judaism; and a new language, [Arabic](/wiki/Arabic_language), and its spoken descendant, [Egyptian Arabic](/wiki/Egyptian_Arabic) which is also based on many Ancient Egyptian words.[[214]](#cite_note-216) The work of early 19th-century scholar [Rifa'a al-Tahtawi](/wiki/Rifa'a_al-Tahtawi) renewed interest in [Egyptian antiquity](/wiki/Ancient_Egypt) and exposed Egyptian society to [Enlightenment](/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment) principles. Tahtawi co-founded with education reformer [Ali Mubarak](/wiki/Ali_Mubarak) a native [Egyptology](/wiki/Egyptology) school that looked for inspiration to medieval Egyptian scholars, such as [Suyuti](/wiki/Suyuti) and [Maqrizi](/wiki/Maqrizi), who themselves studied the [history](/wiki/History_of_ancient_Egypt), [language](/wiki/Egyptian_language) and [antiquities](/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_architecture) of Egypt.[[215]](#cite_note-217) Egypt's renaissance peaked in the late 19th and early 20th centuries through the work of people like [Muhammad Abduh](/wiki/Muhammad_Abduh), [Ahmed Lutfi el-Sayed](/wiki/Ahmed_Lutfi_el-Sayed), [Muhammad Loutfi Goumah](/wiki/Muhammad_Loutfi_Goumah), [Tawfiq el-Hakim](/wiki/Tawfiq_el-Hakim), [Louis Awad](/wiki/Louis_Awad), [Qasim Amin](/wiki/Qasim_Amin), [Salama Moussa](/wiki/Salama_Moussa), [Taha Hussein](/wiki/Taha_Hussein) and [Mahmoud Mokhtar](/wiki/Mahmoud_Mokhtar). They forged a [liberal](/wiki/Liberalism) path for Egypt expressed as a commitment to personal freedom, [secularism](/wiki/Secularism) and faith in science to bring progress.[[216]](#cite_note-218)

### Arts[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[thumb|380px|The weighing of the heart scene from the](/wiki/File:BD_Hunefer.jpg) [*Book of the Dead*](/wiki/Book_of_the_Dead). The Egyptians were one of the first major civilisations to codify design elements in art and [architecture](/wiki/Ancient_Egyptian_architecture). [Egyptian blue](/wiki/Egyptian_blue), also known as calcium copper silicate is a pigment used by Egyptians for thousands of years. It is considered to be the first synthetic pigment. The wall paintings done in the service of the [Pharaohs](/wiki/Pharaoh) followed a rigid code of visual rules and meanings. Egyptian civilisation is renowned for its colossal [pyramids](/wiki/Egyptian_pyramids), [temples](/wiki/Egyptian_temple) and monumental tombs.

Well-known examples are the [Pyramid of Djoser](/wiki/Pyramid_of_Djoser) designed by ancient architect and engineer [Imhotep](/wiki/Imhotep), the [Sphinx](/wiki/Sphinx), and the temple of [Abu Simbel](/wiki/Abu_Simbel). Modern and contemporary Egyptian art can be as diverse as any works in the world art scene, from the vernacular architecture of [Hassan Fathy](/wiki/Hassan_Fathy) and [Ramses Wissa Wassef](/wiki/Ramses_Wissa_Wassef), to [Mahmoud Mokhtar's](/wiki/Mahmoud_Mokhtar) sculptures, to the distinctive [Coptic iconography](/wiki/Coptic_art) of [Isaac Fanous](/wiki/Isaac_Fanous). The [Cairo Opera House](/wiki/Cairo_Opera_House) serves as the main performing arts venue in the Egyptian capital.

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:Necip_Mahfuz.jpg)[Naguib Mahfouz](/wiki/Naguib_Mahfouz) the first Arabic-language writer to win the [Nobel Prize](/wiki/Nobel_Prize) in Literature. Egyptian literature traces its beginnings to [ancient Egypt](/wiki/Ancient_Egypt) and is some of the earliest known literature. Indeed, the Egyptians were the first culture to develop literature as we know it today, that is, the [book](/wiki/Book).[[217]](#cite_note-219) It is an important cultural element in the life of Egypt. Egyptian novelists and poets were among the first to experiment with modern styles of [Arabic literature](/wiki/Arabic_literature), and the forms they developed have been widely imitated throughout the Middle East.[[218]](#cite_note-220) The first modern Egyptian novel [*Zaynab*](/wiki/Zaynab_(novel)) by [Muhammad Husayn Haykal](/wiki/Muhammad_Husayn_Haykal) was published in 1913 in the [Egyptian vernacular](/wiki/Egyptian_Arabic).[[219]](#cite_note-221) Egyptian novelist [Naguib Mahfouz](/wiki/Naguib_Mahfouz) was the first Arabic-language writer to win the [Nobel Prize in Literature](/wiki/Nobel_Prize_in_Literature). Egyptian women writers include [Nawal El Saadawi](/wiki/Nawal_El_Saadawi), well known for her [feminist](/wiki/Feminism) [activism](/wiki/Activism), and [Alifa Rifaat](/wiki/Alifa_Rifaat) who also writes about women and tradition.

Vernacular poetry is perhaps the most popular [literary genre](/wiki/Literary_genre) among Egyptians, represented by the works of [Ahmed Fouad Negm](/wiki/Ahmed_Fouad_Negm) (Fagumi), [Salah Jaheen](/wiki/Salah_Jaheen) and [Abdel Rahman el-Abnudi](/wiki/Abdel_Rahman_el-Abnudi).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Popular culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

Egypt's media industry has flourished, with more than thirty satellite channels and over one hundred motion pictures produced each year.

[Egyptian media](/wiki/Media_of_Egypt) are highly influential throughout the [Arab World](/wiki/Arab_World), attributed to large audiences and increasing freedom from government control.<ref name=bbc>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>[[220]](#cite_note-222) Freedom of the media is guaranteed in the constitution; however, many laws still restrict this right.<ref name=bbc/>[[221]](#cite_note-223)

### Cinema[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[thumb|200px|](/wiki/File:Suad_Husni.jpg)[Suad Husni](/wiki/Suad_Husni), film star.

[Egyptian cinema](/wiki/Egyptian_cinema) became a regional force with the coming of sound. In 1936, Studio Misr, financed by industrialist [Talaat Harb](/wiki/Talaat_Pasha_Harb), emerged as the leading Egyptian studio, a role the company retained for three decades.[[222]](#cite_note-224) For over 100 years, more than 4000 films have been produced in Egypt, three quarters of the total Arab production.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Egypt is considered the leading country in the field of cinema in the [Middle East](/wiki/Middle_East). Actors from all over the [Arab World](/wiki/Arab_World) seek to appear in the Egyptian cinema for the sake of fame. The [Cairo International Film Festival](/wiki/Cairo_International_Film_Festival) has been rated as one of 11 festivals with a top class rating worldwide by the International Federation of Film Producers' Associations.[[223]](#cite_note-225)

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[Egyptian music](/wiki/Music_of_Egypt) is a rich mixture of indigenous, Mediterranean, African and Western elements. It has been an integral part of [Egyptian culture](/wiki/Culture_of_Egypt) since antiquity. The ancient [Egyptians](/wiki/Egyptians) credited one of their gods [Hathor](/wiki/Hathor) with the invention of [music](/wiki/Music), which [Osiris](/wiki/Osiris) in turn used as part of his effort to civilise the world. Egyptians used music instruments since then.[[224]](#cite_note-226) Contemporary Egyptian music traces its beginnings to the creative work of people such as [Abdu El Hamouli](/wiki/Abdu-l_Hamuli), Almaz and [Mahmoud Osman](/wiki/Mhmoud_Osman), who influenced the later work of [Sayed Darwish](/wiki/Sayed_Darwish), [Umm Kulthum](/wiki/Umm_Kulthum), [Mohammed Abdel Wahab](/wiki/Mohammed_Abdel_Wahab) and [Abdel Halim Hafez](/wiki/Abdel_Halim_Hafez) whose age is considered the golden age of music in Egypt and the whole Middle East and North-Africa. Prominent contemporary Egyptian pop singers include [Amr Diab](/wiki/Amr_Diab) and [Mohamed Mounir](/wiki/Mohamed_Mounir).

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Al_Tannoura_Troupe_(Wekalet_el_Ghoury,_Cairo)_2.jpeg)[Tanoura](/wiki/Tanoura_(dance)) dancer performing in Wekalet el Ghoury, Cairo.

### Dance[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

Today, Egypt is often considered the home of [belly dance](/wiki/Belly_dance). Egyptian [belly dance](/wiki/Belly_dance) has two main styles – [raqs baladi](/wiki/Raqs_baladi) and [raqs sharqi](/wiki/Raqs_sharqi). There are also numerous folkloric and character dances that may be part of an Egyptian-style belly dancer's repertoire, as well as the modern shaabi street dance which shares some elements with [raqs baladi](/wiki/Raqs_baladi).

### Museums[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|300px|](/wiki/File:The_Egyptian_Museum.jpg)[The Egyptian Museum](/wiki/The_Egyptian_Museum). Egypt has one of the oldest civilisations in the world. It has been in contact with many other civilisations and nations and has been through so many eras, starting from prehistoric age to the modern age, passing through so many ages such as; Pharonic, Roman, Greek, Islamic and many other ages. Because of this wide variation of ages, the continuous contact with other nations and [the big number of conflicts](/wiki/List_of_conflicts_in_Egypt) Egypt had been through, at least 60 museums may be found in Egypt, mainly covering a wide area of these ages and conflicts.

[thumb|upright|Tutankhamun's burial mask is](/wiki/File:Tutmask.jpg) [The Egyptian Museum's](/wiki/The_Egyptian_Museum) major attraction

The three main museums in Egypt are the [The Egyptian Museum](/wiki/The_Egyptian_Museum) which has more than 120,000 items, the [Egyptian National Military Museum](/wiki/Egyptian_National_Military_Museum) and the [6th of October Panorama](/wiki/6th_of_October_Panorama).

The [Grand Egyptian Museum](/wiki/Grand_Egyptian_Museum) (GEM), also known as the Giza Museum, is a planned museum of artefacts of ancient Egypt. Described as the largest archaeological museum in the world,[[225]](#cite_note-227) the museum is scheduled to open in 2015. The museum will be sited on [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of land approximately two kilometres from the Giza Necropolis and is part of a new master plan for the plateau.

### Festivals[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

Egypt celebrates many festivals and religious carnivals, also known as *mulid*. They are usually associated with a particular Coptic or Sufi saint, but are often celebrated by Egyptians irrespective of creed or religion. [Ramadan](/wiki/Ramadan) has a special flavour in Egypt, celebrated with sounds, lights (local lanterns known as *fawanees*) and much flare that many Muslim tourists from the region flock to Egypt to witness during Ramadan.

The ancient spring festival of [Sham en Nisim](/wiki/Sham_El_Nessim) ([Coptic](/wiki/Coptic_language): [Template:Coptic](/wiki/Template:Coptic) *shom en nisim*) has been celebrated by Egyptians for thousands of years, typically between the [Egyptian months](/wiki/Egyptian_calendar) of [Paremoude](/wiki/Paremoude) (April) and [Pashons](/wiki/Pashons) (May), following [Easter](/wiki/Easter) Sunday.

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Cairo_koshary.jpg)[Kushari](/wiki/Kushari), one of Egypt's national dishes. Egyptian cuisine is notably conducive to vegetarian diets, as it relies heavily on vegetable dishes. Though food in Alexandria and the coast of Egypt tends to use a great deal of fish and other seafood, for the most part Egyptian cuisine is based on foods that grow out of the ground. Meat has been very expensive for most Egyptians throughout history, so a great number of vegetarian dishes have been developed.

Some consider [koshari](/wiki/Koshari) (a mixture of rice, lentils, and macaroni) to be the [national dish](/wiki/National_dish). Fried onions can be also added to koshari. In addition, [ful medames](/wiki/Ful_medames) (mashed fava beans) is one of the most popular dishes. Fava bean is also used in making [falafel](/wiki/Falafel) (also known as "ta'meyya"), which may have originated in Egypt and spread to other parts of the Middle East. Garlic fried with coriander is added to [mulukhiyya](/wiki/Mulukhiyya), a popular green soup made from finely chopped jute leaves, sometimes with chicken or rabbit.

### Sports[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

[thumb|300px|A crowd at Cairo Stadium.](/wiki/File:Crowd_in_Cairo_Stadium.jpg) [Football](/wiki/Association_football) is the most popular [national sport](/wiki/National_sport) of Egypt. The [Cairo Derby](/wiki/Cairo_Derby) is one of the fiercest derbies in Africa, and the BBC picked it as *one of the 7 toughest derbies in the world*.[[226]](#cite_note-228) [Al Ahly](/wiki/Al_Ahly_SC) is the most successful club of the 20th century in the African continent according to CAF, closely followed by their rivals [Zamalek SC](/wiki/Zamalek_SC). [Al Ahly](/wiki/Al_Ahly_SC) was named in 2000 by the [Confederation of African Football](/wiki/Confederation_of_African_Football) as the "[African Club of the Century](/wiki/CAF_Clubs_of_the_20th_Century)". With twenty titles, Al Ahly is currently the world's most successful club in terms of international trophies, surpassing Italy's [A.C. Milan](/wiki/A.C._Milan) and Argentina's [Boca Juniors](/wiki/Boca_Juniors), both having eighteen.[[227]](#cite_note-229) The [Egyptian national football team](/wiki/Egypt_national_football_team) known as the "Pharaohs" won the [African Cup of Nations](/wiki/African_Cup_of_Nations) seven times, including three times in a row in 2006, 2008, and 2010. Considered the most successful African national team and one of the very few African teams that reached the 9th ranking on the FIFA world ranks, Egypt has only qualified to the [FIFA World Cup](/wiki/FIFA_World_Cup) two times only though. The Egyptian Youth National team "Young Pharaohs" won the Bronze Medal of the [2001 FIFA youth world cup](/wiki/2001_FIFA_World_Youth_Championship) in Argentina.

[Squash](/wiki/Squash_(sport)) and [tennis](/wiki/Tennis) are other popular sports in Egypt. The Egyptian squash team has been known for its fierce competition in international championships since the 1930s. [Amr Shabana](/wiki/Amr_Shabana) and [Ramy Ashour](/wiki/Ramy_Ashour) are Egypt's best players and both were ranked as "World's Number One Squash Player".

Among all African nations, the [Egypt national basketball team](/wiki/Egypt_national_basketball_team) holds the record for best performance at the [Basketball World Cup](/wiki/FIBA_Basketball_World_Cup) and at the [Summer Olympics](/wiki/Basketball_at_the_Summer_Olympics).[[228]](#cite_note-230)[[229]](#cite_note-231) Further, the team has won a record number of 16 medals at the [African Championship](/wiki/FIBA_Africa_Championship).

In 1999, Egypt [hosted](/wiki/1999_World_Men's_Handball_Championship) the [IHF World Men's Handball Championship](/wiki/IHF_World_Men's_Handball_Championship), and in 2001, the [national handball team](/wiki/Egypt_national_handball_team) achieved its best result in the tournament by reaching the fourth place. Egypt has won first place five times in the [African Men's Handball Championship](/wiki/African_Men's_Handball_Championship), five times second place, and four times third place. In addition to that, it also championed the [Mediterranean Games](/wiki/Egypt_at_the_2013_Mediterranean_Games) in [2013](/wiki/Handball_at_the_2013_Mediterranean_Games), the [Beach Handball World Championships](/wiki/Beach_Handball_World_Championships) in [2004](/wiki/2004_Beach_Handball_World_Championships) and the [Summer Youth Olympics](/wiki/Egypt_at_the_2010_Summer_Youth_Olympics) in [2010](/wiki/Handball_at_the_2010_Summer_Youth_Olympics_–_Boys'_tournament).

[Egypt has taken part](/wiki/Egypt_at_the_Olympics) in the [Summer Olympic Games](/wiki/Summer_Olympic_Games) since 1912 and hosted [the first](/wiki/1951_Mediterranean_Games) [Mediterranean Games](/wiki/Mediterranean_Games) in 1951, [Alexandria](/wiki/Alexandria).

Egypt has hosted several international competitions. the last one was [2009 FIFA U-20 World Cup](/wiki/2009_FIFA_U-20_World_Cup) which took place between 24 September – 16 October 2009.

On Friday 19 September of the year 2014, [Guinness World Records](/wiki/Guinness_World_Records) has announced that [Egyptian scuba diver](/wiki/Scuba_diver) *Ahmed Gabr* is the new title holder for deepest salt water [scuba dive](/wiki/Scuba_dive), at 332.35 metres.[[230]](#cite_note-232) Ahmed set a new world record Friday when he reached a depth of more than 1,000 feet. The 14-hour feat took Gabr 1,066 feet down into the abyss near the Egyptian town of [Dahab](/wiki/Dahab) in ther [Red Sea](/wiki/Red_Sea), where he works as a diving instructor.[[231]](#cite_note-233) On 1 September 2015 [Raneem El Weleily](/wiki/Raneem_El_Weleily) was ranked as the world number one woman squash player.[[232]](#cite_note-234) Other Egyptian squash player women are [Nour El Tayeb](/wiki/Nour_El_Tayeb), [Omneya Abdel Kawy](/wiki/Omneya_Abdel_Kawy), [Kanzy Emad El-Defrawy](/wiki/Kanzy_Emad_El-Defrawy) and [Nour El Sherbini](/wiki/Nour_El_Sherbini).

## Telecommunication[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) The wired and wireless telecommunication industry in Egypt started in 1854 with the launch of the country's first telegram line connecting [Cairo](/wiki/Cairo) and [Alexandria](/wiki/Alexandria). The first telephone line between the two cities was installed in 1881.<ref name=te>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> In September 1999 a national project for a technological renaissance was announced reflecting the commitment of the Egyptian government to developing the country's IT-sector.

### Cellular[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

Cellular [GSM](/wiki/GSM) services were first launched in Egypt in 1996.<ref name=te/> It is currently offering 2G/3G service, while LTE is under trials.[[233]](#cite_note-235) Egypt has 3 companies offering cellular services;

* [Mobinil](/wiki/Mobinil) owned by [Global Telecom Holding](/wiki/Global_Telecom_Holding) and [Orange S.A.](/wiki/Orange_S.A.).
* [Vodafone Egypt](/wiki/Vodafone_Egypt) owned by [Vodafone](/wiki/Vodafone) and [Telecom Egypt](/wiki/Telecom_Egypt).
* [Etisalat](/wiki/Etisalat_Egypt) owned by [Emirates Telecommunication Corporation](/wiki/Emirates_Telecommunication_Corporation).

### Post[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [Egypt Post](/wiki/Egypt_Post) is the company responsible for postal service in Egypt. Established in 1865, it is one of the oldest governmental institutions in the country. Egypt is one of 21 countries that contributed to the establishment of the [Universal Postal Union](/wiki/Universal_Postal_Union), initially named the General Postal Union, as signatory of the [Treaty of Bern](/wiki/Treaty_of_Bern).

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [thumb|300px|](/wiki/File:CairoUniv.jpg)[Cairo University](/wiki/Cairo_University). The illiteracy rate has decreased since 1996 from 39.4 to 25.9 percent in 2013.The adult literacy rate as of July 2014 was estimated at 73.9%.[[234]](#cite_note-236) The illiteracy rate is highest among those over 60 years of age being estimated at around 64.9%, while illiteracy among youth between 15 and 24 years of age was listed at 8.6 percent.[[235]](#cite_note-237) A European-style education system was first introduced in Egypt by the Ottomans in the early 19th century to nurture a class of loyal bureaucrats and army officers.<ref name=edu-chatham/> Under British occupation investment in education was curbed drastically, and secular public schools, which had previously been free, began to charge fees.<ref name=edu-chatham/>

In the 1950s, president Nasser phased in free education for all Egyptians.<ref name=edu-chatham/> The Egyptian curriculum influenced other Arab education systems, which often employed Egyptian-trained teachers.<ref name=edu-chatham/> Demand soon outstripped the level of available state resources, causing the quality of public education to deteriorate.<ref name=edu-chatham/> Today this trend has culminated in poor teacher–student ratios (often around one to fifty) and persistent gender inequality.<ref name=edu-chatham>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

Basic education, which includes six years of primary and three years of preparatory school, is a right for Egyptian children from the age of six.<ref name=oecd-edu>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> After grade 9, students are tracked into one of two strands of secondary education: general or technical schools. General secondary education prepares students for further education, and graduates of this track normally join higher education institutes based on the results of the [Thanaweya Amma](/wiki/Thanaweya_Amma), the leaving exam.<ref name=oecd-edu/>

Technical secondary education has two strands, one lasting three years and a more advanced education lasting five. Graduates of these schools may have access to higher education based on their results on the final exam, but this is generally uncommon.<ref name=oecd-edu/>

[Cairo University](/wiki/Cairo_University) is ranked as 401–500 according to the [Academic Ranking of World Universities](/wiki/Academic_Ranking_of_World_Universities) (Shanghai Ranking)[[236]](#cite_note-238) and 551–600 according to [QS World University Rankings](/wiki/QS_World_University_Rankings). [American University in Cairo](/wiki/American_University_in_Cairo) is ranked as 360 according to [QS World University Rankings](/wiki/QS_World_University_Rankings) and [Al-Azhar University](/wiki/Al-Azhar_University), [Alexandria University](/wiki/Alexandria_University) and [Ain Shams University](/wiki/Ain_Shams_University) fall in the 701+ range.[[237]](#cite_note-239)Egypt is currently opening new research institutes for the aim of modernising research in the nation, the most recent example of which is [Zewail City of Science and Technology](/wiki/Zewail_City_of_Science_and_Technology).

## Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Egyptian life expectancy at birth was 73.20 years in 2011, or 71.30 years for males and 75.20 years for females. Egypt spends 3.7 percent of its gross domestic product on health including treatment costs 22 percent incurred by citizens and the rest by the state.[[238]](#cite_note-240) In 2010, spending on healthcare accounted for 4.66% of the country's GDP. In 2009, there were 16.04 physicians and 33.80 nurses per 10,000 inhabitants.[[239]](#cite_note-241) As a result of modernisation efforts over the years, Egypt's healthcare system has made great strides forward. Access to healthcare in both urban and rural areas greatly improved and immunisation programs are now able to cover 98% of the population. Life expectancy increased from 44.8 years during the 1960s to 72.12 years in 2009. There was a noticeable decline of the infant mortality rate (during the 1970s to the 1980s the infant mortality rate was 101-132/1000 live births, in 2000 the rate was 50-60/1000, and in 2008 it was 28-30/1000).[[240]](#cite_note-242) According to the [World Health Organization](/wiki/World_Health_Organization) in 2008, an estimated 91.1% of Egypt's girls and women aged 15 to 49 have been subjected to [genital mutilation](/wiki/Female_genital_mutilation).[[241]](#cite_note-243) The Egyptian government has been keen on extending the coverage of health insurance. The total number of insured Egyptians reached 37 million in 2009, of which 11 million are minors, providing an insurance coverage of approximately 52 percent of Egypt's population.[[242]](#cite_note-244)

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Index of Egypt-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Egypt-related_articles)
* [Outline of ancient Egypt](/wiki/Outline_of_ancient_Egypt)
* [Outline of Egypt](/wiki/Outline_of_Egypt)

## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=52)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=53)]

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## Sources[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=54)]

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=55)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

Government

* [Egypt's Government Services Portal](http://www.egypt.gov.eg/english/) (Arabic, English)
* [Egypt Information Portal](http://www.eip.gov.eg/) (Arabic, English)
* [Egypt Information and Decision Support Center](http://www.idsc.gov.eg/) (Arabic, English)
* [Egypt State Information Services](http://www.sis.gov.eg/) (Arabic, English, French)
* [Chief of State and Cabinet Members](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/world-leaders-1/world-leaders-e/egypt.html)
* [Egyptian Tourist Authority](http://www.egypt.travel/)

General

* [Country Profile](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/middle_east/country_profiles/737642.stm) from the [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Egypt](http://www.africa.com/egypt/) profile from [Africa.com](/wiki/Africa.com)
* [Template:GovPubs](/wiki/Template:GovPubs)
* [Egypt news](http://www.tahrirnews.com/)
* [Template:ArabDecision](/wiki/Template:ArabDecision)
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Template:Osmrelation-inline](/wiki/Template:Osmrelation-inline)
* [Egypt Maps](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/egypt.html) – [Perry-Castañeda Library](/wiki/Perry-Castañeda_Library) Map Collection, [University of Texas at Austin](/wiki/University_of_Texas_at_Austin)
* [Template:Wikivoyage-inline](/wiki/Template:Wikivoyage-inline)

Trade

* [World Bank Summary Trade Statistics Egypt](http://wits.worldbank.org/CountryProfile/Country/EGY/Year/2012/Summary)

Other

* [*History of Egypt, Chaldea, Syria, Babylonia, and Assyria in the Light of Recent Discovery*](http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/17321) by Leonard William King, at Project Gutenberg.
* [Egyptian History (urdu)](http://www.ibtada.com/ibtada.php?cur_page=main&sub=submain&mainpage=ajaib_ghar&page=qadeem_mesar&pgno=1)
* *By Nile and Tigris* – a narrative of journeys in Egypt and Mesopotamia on behalf of the British museum between 1886 and 1913, by Sir [E. A. Wallis Budge](/wiki/E._A._Wallis_Budge), 1920 ([DjVu](http://fax.libs.uga.edu/DS49xB8x1920/) and [layered PDF](http://fax.libs.uga.edu/DS49xB8x1920/1f/) formats)
* [Napoleon on the Nile: Soldiers, Artists, and the Rediscovery of Egypt](http://arthistory.about.com/od/from_exhibitions/ig/Napoleon-on-the-Nile/Joseph--1874.htm).

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[Template:Geographic location](/wiki/Template:Geographic_location)

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