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# Analysis Of The Development Of Egyptian Statehood Based On The Traditions Of Religiousness And Secularism

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**Abstract:** This article discusses issues such as the role of the Arab Republic of Egypt in regional and global international relations, the country's strategic location, rich cultural heritage, and balanced foreign policy, its policy aimed at creating strong regional and global alliances, attracting foreign investments, and developing trade.

**Keywords:** Egypt, Global, International Relations, Cultural Heritage, Global Alliances, Foreign Investments, Politics

## Introduction

The Suez Canal, which connects the Mediterranean and the Red Seas, is an important shipping route that has turned Egypt into an international trade hub. The country's proximity to the Middle East has also made it a key mediator in regional conflicts, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Egypt's role in international relations is also linked to its political and economic power in the region. As the most populous state in the Arab world, Egypt's political influence extends beyond its borders. This influence was vividly demonstrated in its role during the Arab Spring uprisings, which played a crucial part in the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak and the subsequent transition to a democratic government (Minovvarova, 2024, p. 248).

## Methodology

Egypt's economic power is also significant; the country has one of the largest economies in Africa. Its natural resources, including oil and gas, have made it a key player in the global energy market. Furthermore, Egypt's tourism industry contributes greatly to its economy, attracting millions of tourists each year who come to see its ancient ruins and cultural monuments.

From a security dynamics perspective, Egypt's role in the region is very important. The country plays a decisive role in shaping the political, economic, and security dynamics of the Middle East. Egypt has been a key mediator in regional conflicts, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the Syrian civil war. Additionally, Egypt is a strong proponent of regional stability, playing a crucial role in combating terrorism, particularly against extremist groups like ISIS.

The Ministry of Religious Endowments has overcome institutional barriers and is on the path to establishing full control over all mosques in Egypt. However, this policy may have negative consequences, including the potential loss of trust in official religious institutions among the Egyptian people. Egyptians may later seek independent religious discourse, potentially leading to the emergence of a parallel religious sphere through social networks or religious research outside of mosques (Minovvarova, 2024, p. 30).

Historical examples can serve as a reference for this. During the tenure of former President Gamal Abdel Nasser, strict regulations weakened the influence of official religious institutions, leading to a loss of trust in these institutions, which seemed like a mouthpiece for the political regime. This allowed religious organizations, including the "Muslim Brotherhood," to spread informally in the religious sphere during the 1970s by engaging in charitable activities, education, and da'wah. Through these activities, they directly interacted with citizens, thereby increasing public support for them. Even though state religious institutions were seen as unreliable and ineffective, Islamic participants proved to be independent and well-organized.

## Result and Discussion

The Islamic religious sphere is characterized by a diversity of ideas and organizational structures, making it impossible to apply a unified nationalization policy. The state's desire to control leaves some people, especially the youth, space to express their views and beliefs, potentially leading them to other avenues.

The emerging parallel religious spheres—state-sponsored and independent—could lay the foundation for newly emerging violent religious movements such as Ayn al-Sham (Soldiers of Egypt), which have claimed responsibility for several attacks on police forces in recent months (Minovvarova, 2024, pp. 34, 159).

Egypt's foreign policy is shaped by its history, culture, and strategic location. The country pursues a balanced and independent foreign policy, striving to maintain good relations with all countries while protecting its national interests. Egypt has acted as a mediator and peace broker in several regional conflicts, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Sudanese civil war, and the Lebanese civil war. It also played a decisive role in the peace process between Israel and its Arab neighbors, becoming the first Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Egypt is also a leading voice in the Non-Aligned Movement, advocating for the rights of developing countries and promoting South-South cooperation.

Regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Egypt has been a key mediator since the 1970s, when it negotiated the Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt in 1978. Since then, Egypt has played an important role in mediating peace negotiations between Israel

and the Palestinian Authority. In 2011, Egypt helped broker a prisoner exchange agreement between Hamas and Israel, resulting in the release of over 1,000 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit (Minovvarova, 2024).

In the Sudanese civil war, Egypt played a crucial role in mediating peace negotiations between the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). In 2005, Egypt hosted the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the two sides, ending decades of conflict that claimed the lives of more than two million people.

During the Lebanese civil war, Egypt served as a mediator in the early 1970s. Egypt facilitated negotiations between different factions in Lebanon, leading to the 1969 Cairo Agreement, a ceasefire agreement between the Lebanese military and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Furthermore, in 1976, Egypt sent troops to Lebanon as part of the Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF), a peacekeeping force deployed to help end the conflict. This force was established by the Arab League, in which Egypt played a leading role.

## Conclusion

Over the years, Egypt has built strong regional and global alliances. Egypt is a founding member of the Arab League, promoting cooperation and solidarity among Arab states. It also plays an important role in the African Union, a continental organization seeking to revitalize peace, security, and development in Africa. Egypt is a key partner of the United States and other Western countries, receiving significant military and economic assistance. The country has also developed close ties with China and Russia, both emerging global players.

Egypt is truly a developing country, with a population of approximately 100 million people and a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of about \$300 billion as of 2021. In recent years, the AfCFTA was first launched in March 2018, aiming to increase intra-African trade by eliminating tariffs on 90% of goods, harmonizing trade policies, and facilitating cross-border trade (Minovvarova, 2024).

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