

The role of Egypt

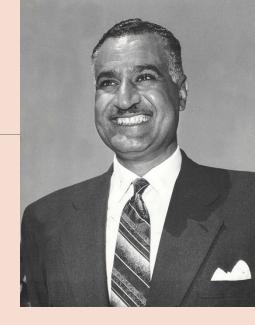


Topics

- The legacy of Nasser
- The Muslim Brotherhood
- The relationship with the US
- The peace with Israel
- ☐ The view of Palestine

Decolonization of Egypt

- ☐ British colonial rule (1882-1952): King Farouk as figure head
- Egyptian revolution of 1952 led by Nasser: toppled King Farouk
- 1956: Nationalization of Suez Canal Company (owned by France, UK and Kingdom of Egypt)
- ☐ Failed invasion of Israel, France and UK to topple Nasser in 1956
- 1967: six day war Israel against Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Nasser stepped down after defeat
- Banned Muslim brother: secularism versus Islam



Muslim Brotherhood

- 22-year old founded pan islamist Society of Muslim Brothers in 1928; Sunni-islam
- Anti-imperialist and anti-colonial
- Build an islamic state: social justice, eradicate of poverty, anti-corruption, ethical economics, political freedom
- Build international network: Hamas, Freedom and Justice Party in Egypt and in Turkiye

Hassan al-Banna (1906-1949)



War and peace

- 1967: Six days war on Suez Canal
- 1973: Surpise attack by Egypt and Syria on Israel Yom Kippur War. Israel prevailed
- 1978: Camp David Accord: Anwar Sadat Egypt and Menachem Begin Israel: framework for peace in the region
- UN rejects accord because PLO was excluded
- 1979: peace treaty Egypt Israel: normalizing relations
- 6 October 1981: Saddat assasinated by a military officer as protest against peace treaty

Relations with USA

- USA leading role in brokering deal Egypt Israel
- Since 1978, the United States has provided Egypt with over \$50 billion in military and \$30 billion in economic assistance.
- 2012 presidential elections: Mohamed Morsi from the Freedom and Justice Party (Muslim Brotherhood) won.
- Morsi supports Hamas and Free Palestine: The land of Palestine belongs to the Palestinians, not to the Zionists
- July 2013: demonstrations against Morsi ending in a military coupled by general Abdul Fatah al-Sisi. US and Israel had prevailed
- Morsi on trail, died during the trial.

Relations with Israel

- Operates as prison guard of Gaza open air prison at the Rafah crossing.
- Security operations with Israel
- Mediator between Hamas and Israel in prisoner exchange
- Against Israel plan to relocate 2,2 million Palestinians from Gaza into Egypt
- In favor of two state solution for Palestine

Egypt is part of Africa Union

- Egypt founding member of the Organization of African Unity in 1963. Charter AU: against apartheid and colonialism.
- July 2021, the AU Commission Chair, Moussa Faki Mahamat, made the unilateral decision to grant Israel observer status.
- Supported by: Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda
- Opposed by Algeria, Nigeria, and South Africa
- Israel provides many African countries with military hardware, technology an training



South Africa and Palestine

- Strong relationship between Mandela and Arafat
- Jews in ANC openly against Zionism during apartheid struggle
- Link between struggle against apartheid in South Africa and in occupied Palestine
- 23 October Julius Malema (Economic Freedom Fighters) outside the Israeli embassy: we are going to arm Hamas and make sure Hamas has the necessary equipment to fight for its freedom.

Mohamed Ghadaffi (Lybia) and Palestine

- Does not recognize Israel
- Support for Hamas and on-state solution
- Against Palestinian Authority
- Financial and military support

An assessment of the relationship of forces

- There is a regional war growing in Western Asia between Israel, Turkiye, Iran, Hezbollah and the axis of resistance
- The immediate goal of pre October 7 war with Israel was defensive: react to Israel aggression, defeat Israeli invasion of Lebanon and Gaza.
- October 7: there is a real chance to bring the Israeli regime down and break the apartheid state: a one state solution
 - The audacity and capacity of the Palestinian resistance
 - The internal weakness of the Israeli state: military, intelligence, social fabric and political instability

Key and secondary players

- Key players: Iran, Turkiye, Hamas c.s, Hezbollah
- Secondary players: Suadi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and the rest of the Arab states, African Union
- Once the belief grows that Jerusalem/Al Quds can be liberated, the secondary players might cease their support for Israel and the West
- Question: how will the USA and the West stand in the regional war: would they allow Israel to use nuclear weapons?

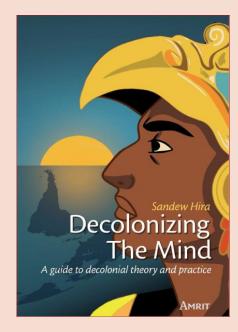
Next episode: the role of USA/Western Europe

- Types of Western colonialism
- The legacy of the Holocaust
- The Western support for Israel
- Western position on nuclear war in Western Asia



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