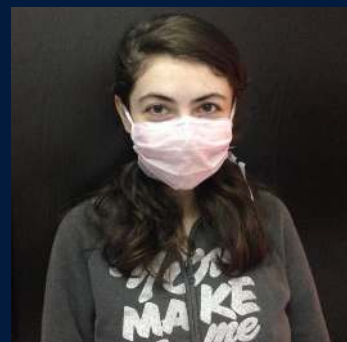


# ELITE



# TILL FURTHER NOTICE..





Board Chairman:

**Prof. Dr. Mahmoud El Said**

Editor in Chief:

**Ramy Magdy Ahmed**

Issued by the Faculty of  
Economics and Political  
Science, Cairo University

# ELITE

*FEPS, where elites are made..*

Volume 1 - Issue 19 - May 2020

Designed by Ramy Magdy Ahmed in October 2018



Ramadan  
Kareem



## May 2020 Guests : Dr. Nazli Moawad & Dr. Hussein Abdelaziz

### HIGH BOARD

Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Alsaïd (Chairman) --- Prof. Dr. Hanan M. Ali (Member) --- Prof. Dr. Samy Elsayyed (Member) --- Prof. Dr. Mazen Hassan (Member) --- **Mr. Ramy Magdy Ahmed (Editor in chief)**

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Mrs. Silvana Sobhy, --Ms. Sara Nasreldine, Ms. Carolin Sherief, --Ms. Nermine Tawfik

### EDITORS (THIS ISSUE)

Jasmin Nabil, Farah Fayez, Israa Awaad, Yasmine Gamal Hussein, Omar Alaa, Habiba Atef, Mohamed Abdel-Azim, Habiba Diaa El Din, Mayar Tarek, Yasmine Tariq, Abdel Rahman ElHadidi, Salma Bayoumi, Ruqayya Al Jaafari, Hana Zakaria, Hanya Bahaa, Maryam Hefny, Jozeph George, Farah Ezzeldin, Aliyaa Assem, Rana Doss, Assile Mostafa, Mirna Ossama, Farah Islam, Maryam Sultan and Nada Hosny, Norhan Adel, and Mohamed Rostom



## Prof. Emeritus Dr. Nazli Moawad in an exclusive interview with ELITE Challenges of Population, Corruption, Class inequalities and Digitization are our Country's Biggest Internal Dilemmas

Cairo : Ramy Magdy, Jasmin Nabil and Farah Fayez

In an electronic interview, the first of its kind in the newspaper, we conducted a dialogue with Professor Dr. Nazli Moawad, an Emeritus at the Department of Political Science at Cairo University. She has been a representative of Egypt in UNESCO, the Vice Dean for Student Affairs, and she has also been awarded the National Order of the Legion from the French President, which is the highest honor in France.

In this conversation, she told us about experiences from her personal as well as her practical life, her professional opinions about the domestic and international situations, passing through some of her fondest memories and concluding with precious advice to the faculty's future generations.

-How did your relationship with the Faculty of Economics and Political Science start and why did you choose it?

I think my relationship with it started ever since my infancy. I grew up in what you can call a political family. My parents were always discussing politics. With my father supporting the "Saadian Party," and my mother supporting "Al-Wafd," I always heard their discussions about political matters such as elections and their results.

I was only but 8 years old when the 1952 revolution came and heard the different opinions people had to say about it. As such, I grew more and more interested in and aware of the public sphere. I grew up in the Nasserian era which was rich with events, contradictions and influential turning points. These events created extremes on both sides generating debates and arguments. I lived through it all within my own house. That is when I became interested in the relation between the ruler and the ruled; the core of Political Science.

At the time, I was a student at the Lycee Francais, accordingly it was normally expected from me to continue my studies in French Arts and Literature. However, due to personal reasons, my studies were halted from the year 1961 until 1965. During these years, the educational system had been changed so that private schools were not allowed to grant graduation certificates, therefore, I decided to go back and finish the 3-year General Education Degree in 1 year, finishing 27 exams in only 9 days.



## I am wholeheartedly grateful for Prof.Dr. Mahmoud Alsaied for his irreplaceable support efforts during my sickness

Alongside such changing situations, the newly established faculty of Economics and Political Science was renowned for its excellence, and for enrolling an elect few top students. I enrolled not seeking a diplomatic career but intent on exploring the science itself, that which I grew up with. Henceforth, my academic passion for political science has been rooted and the relationship with the beloved faculty began.

- How did the mentorship of Professor Boutros Boutros Ghali influence your life? And, what are the most memorable situations you have during your college years?

I would have to start with a person I consider to be my godfather who is Professor Boutros Boutros Ghali. I would like to highlight here the interpersonal aspect of his character with the students that is rarely explored publicly. He taught me three times during the time I was at the faculty. At the time he was the head of the Political Science department and the head of "International Politics" magazine.

After being appointed as a teaching assistant, I consulted with him at his office and told him that if he agreed to be my mentor and supervisor I would like to continue my career in the academic path. He didn't stop at the promise to be my mentor but his favors towards myself were numerous. In the academic field, he was a mentor to me and even entrusted me with teaching some of his classes, monitoring, giving instructions and feedback on improving my teaching skills.

He played another important role in my life through supervising my Masters and PhD theses. His supervision was not only academic but personal as well. He was always considerate to the different circumstances without being unjustifiably strict.

I remember assisting him in writing 3 of his books. However, being the great man he was, he did not exploit his student but insisted on writing a contract with the Anglo publishing to get a share of the sales returns. Aside from all that, he was the creator of my career abroad and outside Egypt, academically and in the UNESCO. I was sent on two academic missions, both times, he sent handwritten recommendation letters for his old colleagues in my favor.

With regards to my career in UNESCO, when Prof. Ghali was appointed as the UN Secretary General in 1993, I was vice dean at the time. I received a call from the UNESCO Secretary General at the time Federico Mayor, informing me that Prof. Ghali has left two empty seats in UNESCO and that he recommended I take his place representing Egypt in the International Committee for Peace Research as well as the Committee for Democracy and Human Rights.

As such, Prof. Ghali did not have a just a role in my life but he was foundational and the creator of my academic and public life.

- In your opinion, How does the faculty shape the lives and personalities of its students?

First of all, the institutional character of the faculty plays a great role in shaping its students. Being established on valuable principles and pillars



allowed the faculty to be unique and a lighthouse to those around it. I can capsulize these pillars into four main principles. Firstly, seriousness and hard work. Secondly, commitment to values and ethics. Thirdly, refinement in manners, values and behaviors. Finally, honest patriotism. This character has been reflected on the majority of its students and graduates granting them a sense of particularism and distinction anywhere they are. They carry themselves with dignity and a sense of pride in themselves, their colleagues and even their alumni. It furthermore fosters a sense of camaraderie among its students, giving rise to a unified entity.

Such influence is exerted through three major channels. The first channel is the professors themselves, even young ones, inheriting this legacy of values and transferring it to the following generations. The second channel, the employees and workers even administratively. The faculty imprints its values and distinguishes those who interact within its sphere. The third channel is the societal and mental perception that distinguishes the faculty and creates a motive within the students to live up to these standards.

- For whom is Professor Nazly grateful?

Speaking of gratitude, our gratitude for the people that have helped us along our lives can't be compressed into one article but I shall speak of my gratitude in the current moment to be as precise as possible. Here, we shall separate between personal humane emotional gratitude and objective scientific gratitude. In regards to the first type, I must give credit to everyone who has stood by me in my medical crisis since 2016 whether by care or by support and above them all Dr. Mahmoud Alsaid not for being the dean of the faculty but for being a good son and a noble chivalrous person that offered me a lot of great health care and personal services as the excellent young dean for whom I wish all health and success in his exceptional roles in elevating this faculty. I shall not mention in detail the health services he has provided for me but he, beyond a shadow of a doubt, has cared for me in my sickness, supported me, and to this day remains

consistent in asking for updates on my health thus I remain grateful to him and admit to his nobility and chivalry as a good son to his mother. Moreover, the dean is a graduate of the class of 1992 when I was the faculty vice dean for education and students' affairs as I recall handing him an excellence and valedictorian certificate over his peers.

Aside for Dr. Mahmoud Alsaid's support, I can't forget my beloved ones all over the faculty starting from students to the academic and administrative staff to the officials and even the labor workers for what they provide of a clean and health environment for all of us. And so, I'm grateful for everyone in the faculty with the exceptions that have not checked on me in my sickness but the judgment is by the majority not by the exceptions. I am thus thankful for the entire faculty and all its members that have supported me emotionally, physically, and humanely as it was the greatest treatment. No doubt, I am better than many others and God is to thank for that.

Also I shall not forget that for the period of my first health services in 2017 that the head of the university at the time Dr. Gaber Gad Nassar responded to all the requests of the dean of the faculty Dr. Mahmoud Alsaid in transportation and other logistics that have the capacity to provide me comfort in my sickness as I lived in the "Dar-El-Diyafa" (a CU hostel for staff) for an entire year which gave me a chance to contact all of my beloveds to whom I remain indebted and for whom I wish health.





But when it comes to the objective scientific gratitude, it also goes to the dean Dr. Mahmoud Alsaïd with no fake courtesies, hypocrisy, or flattery but on an unbiased basis that relies on real incidents as my kin the dean Mahmoud Alsaïd was handed the torch by the previous dean whom I consider my daughter Dr. Hala Alsaïd as she preserved this gem of a faculty in tough conditions and he took more care of it. His work as a dean doesn't require saying as his achievements speak for themselves in front of witnesses. Thus, I owe him as he exerts great effort in maintaining our lighthouse amongst the university, our leading faculty in the Egyptian and Arab social sciences, aided by a huge team of qualified and powerful people upon whom the dean doesn't hesitate to rely on included my dear daughter Dr. Hanan Hassan, the Vice dean for education and students affairs, for she is the dynamo of the faculty with a waking conscious and an exceptional competence within a team lead by the dean and his aides and also the entirety of the vice-deans , teaching staff, administrators, and workers as they are extraordinary through the blessing of God. At the end, I admit my gratitude to the generosity of Dr. Mahmoud Alsaïd and his merit in conserving this faculty with the help of his team and in helping it to shine brighter through his reliance in the qualified and his appreciation for the excellent and there is no greater proof of this than that Elite newspaper through which I'm talking to you now is very distinguished as the faculty has never had a magazine with this caliber of merit, uniqueness, and brilliance

- Being awarded the National Order of the Legion certainly is a significant event in your career, Can you tell us more about this honor?

I was awarded this honor exactly one year ago on the 22nd of April 2019 by the French Republic. The ceremony took place at the French Embassy in Egypt in the presence of my beloved colleagues and students in the faculty. I was sincerely surprised to be awarded such a medal, especially with it being the highest awarded in France ever since Napoleon Bonaparte. My surprise was further deepened due to the fact that only a very few non-French nationals are awarded this medal, with most of them having either a military background, or an extremely specific and technical scientific background, and rarely ever women.

I was left contemplating what could be the reasons that would lead them to award me this honor. I found out I was one amongst thousands of human ties connecting Egypt and France over more than 250 years, could this be a sufficient reason?

I tried to view my life from the French perspective. I discovered that the French influence and presence has been present in my life significantly personally, professionally, and practically. This presence extends back to my primary education in the "Ecole De SainteFamille," and then followed by my education in the "LyceeFrancais." My love for the French arts and literature continues and its values influenced me intensively.

I can divide my life into different phases of French influence. The first phase being influenced was my education and upbringing, I lived through French novels and with them grew within me a hope to see France and know more about it. I had a passion for everything French at the time, I was thus influenced by the French finesse. The second phase is the professional one. During which, I got my PhD in Political science and was able to travel on two separate academic missions to France and lived there for two years. These years shaped and enriched my academic knowledge and research. At the time I was very integrated with the French academic community, this helped build up my career. The last phase, which I may say is the most important, is the time between 1992-2015(. This phase was one of maturity on both the





professional and personal sides. I was lucky enough to be able to play a role in the Franco-Egyptian relations. In 1992, I was vice dean for student affairs, at the time, the establishment of a French section was suggested to Cairo University, the idea was initially resisted but eventually it got through. Ever since, the French section has had the strongest elements academically, scientifically and on the personal level as well. I was keen on teaching in the section regularly between 1993 and uptill 2015.

Another aspect in my relationship with France was the period between 1994 and 2012 when I headed The Center for Research and Political Studies. During this time, and continuing till now, there was an annual Franco-Egyptian symposium held in each of the countries alternatively. This created a channel of communication between professors in each country.

The third tie was my presence in UNESCO (1993-2002), representing Egypt as pre-mentioned. As such, I frequented Paris at least two times a year, and thus my ties to Paris and France grew even tighter.

- The world is currently undergoing a major challenge with the spread of the Corona pandemic, and there are some sayings about changing the international system after the passage of that crisis. How do you see the impact of this crisis internationally?

It must be stated that in such a situation, no arguments or predictions can be ascertained. All we have to go on are the published facts and numbers. Therefore, no one can say who or what is behind this and what their motives could be. We are facing biological warfare, a small virus destroying great powers.

Thus, the question becomes what could happen after this pandemic ends? What could be the structure of the international system? The international system is an organizational umbrella that sets the rules and regulates interactions between states. This structure has passed through different phases and structures, from multi-polarity, bi-polarity, semi uni-polarity, and lastly it has been undergoing a transitional phase to what seems to be a

multipolar system, especially with the rise of potential powers such as China and India. There is a plethora of interpretations rising about what could happen. There are trends that support the possible cooperation between the United States and China, while there are others that support that they would remain in a phase of complex interactions that do not give rise to clear poles and a clearly defined system.

In my opinion, this crisis has revealed the fragility of the current system and great powers. Accordingly, I turn my attention towards the BRICS group. This group has been present since 2006, it has held 10 summit meetings, and established the New Development Bank. In their founding agreement, the group declared that one of their goals is to create a new international system that opts for cooperation and equality rather than competition. With their rising power, one should ask whether the re-creation of the international system to be centered on this group is possible. In such a scenario the leading countries would be variant. Russian power would be at the top of such a system alongside other great powers such as China, India, Brazil and South Africa. The question would be whether the group would include major rising regional powers such as Egypt, Argentina, Indonesia, and Japan. A system belonging to the "Global South", facing Western Europe and the US. In case of materialization of such a system, it would be one that is based not on military might but rather on economic ties and cooperation. With such cultural variability, inclusion is important.

Such vision requires caution and awareness of its weak points. Firstly, one should be aware of the Russian cultural europeanness. The second point that would need caution is the challenges that would be created from the remnants of the former international system as well as cooperation possibilities with its major powers.





In the end, despite the different scenarios one may present, there are some basic facts that should be kept in mind. First of all, that the US would never be completely gone or destroyed. It is the newly discovered world that is laden with stored resources and potentials. The second fact is, the risethe natural Chinese titan that is rising with steady and firm steps. Accordingly, those two powers cannot be ignored in the aftermath of the pandemic. Thus, despite the unclear future of the international system, it is clear that the Global South and Asian sides are amassing weights on the international arena. What could happen beside this Asian-South entity, no one can say with certainty.

Before wrapping up my reading to the international system, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to my colleague Prof. Abdul Monem Al Mashat, for his article that was published on the 5th of April in the Economic Ahrammagazine discussing the possibility of a new Asian world order which made me consider this prospect as well.

Finally, I have to say that the Egyptian way of tackling the pandemic has been a remarkable one that proved to the whole world the strategic value of Egypt and re-established its place at the heart of the world.

- Egypt has been in a sensitive international environment that is full of crises for nine years, in your opinion what are the challenges and opportunities available to Egypt today?

This is one of the most straight-forward, yet hardest questions. Currently, Egypt faces many challenges that I would describe as dilemmas, and rather than saying opportunities -which are momentary and unexpected-, I would use the term 'potentials' because these are rooted and established within it.

There are four major domestic dilemmas that Egypt is faced with. Firstly, the increasing population which defeats many development attempts. Although there have been numerous efforts for more than 70 years, and despite the many social and cultural aspects interacting that complicate the matter; the true solution lies in the hands of the Egyptian woman.

The second dilemma is one that tires the local and administrative bodies, namely corruption. Monetary corruption can be solved through laws, however, it may be attributed to personal characteristics and as such would not be an easy way to solve. In due time, with economic development and improving living conditions as well as the elimination of the defective elements, corruption can be solved.

The third dilemma is the vast disparities between the different strata of the society. These disparities are not exemplified in the living situations alone, but also in the mindsets and values of the people. Due to many considerations, you can find both types, those who live within the 21st century with all that it has to offer, and others who still interact with medieval mindsets.

The fourth dilemma, is that of digitization and incorporation of digital technologies in the different aspects of the public life.

As for the external dilemmas, the first of which is the agitated regional context. Regional crises in the different countries such as Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, and Iraq create a regional furnace of raging fires strangling the Egyptian efforts for development. The second pressing dilemma is that of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam; which is not one of water conflict but of international political affairs and foreign policy. Especially with the intervention of other powers utilizing the conflict to exert pressures on Egypt. Thirdly, those who left Egypt and joined adversary regimes that seek to halt Egypt's prosperity and block its path. Such elements are shameful elements, they are divided into two groups the first is one that uses Islamic religiosity, and the other belongs to secular liberalism, both attempting to promote false adverse knowledge about Egypt.

I now turn to the untapped potentials that Egypt possesses in tackling the previous dilemmas. It has a historical and strategic existence throughout time, a natural, material reality, a creation of the Almighty not through competition between different powers. It is the strategic heart of the world. Egypt has four main strengths that are rooted in its structural being, elements that form the Egyptian truths and reality.





Firstly, natural powers; the people, the land, and the resources. The strategic and rich context has shaped and enriched the character of the Egyptian citizen who is infused with the richness of the land and its history. This gave rise to the strong Egyptian character that is able to face all types of hardships without failing.

The second is the military power. It has been indeed truly said that the Egyptian soldiers are earth's finest soldiers. Egyptian military men are truly patriotic with undivided loyalty. This has been proven over the course of history. Before the time of Mohamed Ali, the role of the Egyptians was limited to farming, trade and Al-Azhar. Military enlistment was limited to foreigners for 1500 years of roman, Greek, Turkish and Arab domination. At the time of Mohamed Ali, the enlistment of Egyptian peasants became mandatory because of his might. Within 15 years with this army, Ibrahim Pasha was able to conquer the region till he reached the borders of the Astana. This proves that the Egyptian military men are extremely patriotic and loyal to their homeland. They do not get side-tracked with primary or regional identities, but they remain focused and loyal to their country.

The third is the modern scientific power. We have in Egypt significant and systematic scientific entities that foster some of the world's greatest scientific minds that have been able to generate scientific advancements all around the world.

Finally, the fourth power is that of faith and spirit. Ever since the times of the Pharos, there has been this power that seeks the relation between the creator and the created. This force is one that pushes the Egyptians forward with the knowledge that there would be a time of judgment and reward.



- What advice would you give to students of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science?

If I have to say anything to the students of the faculty, it would be to tell them to appreciate the faculty and how exceptional and unique it is in all aspects. Seize every opportunity you get to make the most out of your college experience, ask the professors and the teaching assistants as much as you can. The opportunity to be within the environment of the faculty is a great one, you should not let it go by without investing in yourself through interacting with it.

My second recommendation is to deal with society from the perspective of the elite that you are, not out of ego-centrism or vanity, but rather being the refined model of the Egyptian youth.

Thirdly, make use of the available information and modern technology to develop your knowledge. Don't take all things for granted but rather question and apply self-administered mental filtering.

My final advice, keep your mind focused that during your four years at the faculty that you are seekers of knowledge and thus should attempt to maximize your scientific gains and mental benefits in order to develop your character.





## Prof. Dr. Hussein Abdelaziz, Statistics Professor and CAPMAS consultant : FEPS Graduates are the backbone of Egypt's censuses

Cairo : Silvana Sobhy, Israa Awwad, Yasmine Gamal Hussein

We would like to begin our dialogue with Dr. Hussein Abdel Aziz – professor of statistics and consultant in the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), by identifying the two most important points that our discussion will revolve around. Firstly, your relationship with the Faculty of Economics and Political Science as a student before, and your relationship with the Faculty as one of the pioneers of statistics in Egypt. So we would like to start this dialogue by asking about the beginning of your relationship with the college or perhaps we could go even further back and ask why you chose the Faculty of Economics and Political Science in particular and then discuss your choice to specialize in statistics later on.

As you know, Egypt started development plans in the 60's, so it was in need of highly qualified human force, and that is where the idea of establishing a college of economics and political sciences came from. It was intended to follow the model of its predecessor in England, The London School of Economics, and it was supposed to be established in the early 1960s. But for some reason it was postponed for a year. The college began with two classes, the first year students were from high-school graduates, and the second year students were selected from the outstanding students in the faculties of law and commerce. It was also possible for the students from the Faculty of Commerce to specialize in any of the three disciplines but my tendency towards mathematics enabled me to specialize in "Statistics".

Now we would like to know your relationship with the professors at FEPS and who had an impact on you on the academic and personal level.

As one of the first batches to join FEPS, which ranged from forty-five to fifty students, it made it possible for all of the professors, even the dean of the faculty, Dr. Mohammed Zaki Shafei, to know us personally. This made us have a good relationship that extended outside the college as a kind of social interaction. Of the professors who had a great influence in our lives was Dr. Madani Dsouki and Dr. Mohammed Abdul Rahman Al Badri.

Was there harmony between the three departments of the college in the sense that a student of statistics, for example, was familiar with economics and politics?

Of course, the choice of the statistics department from the beginning to be one of the departments of the college was not an absurd decision, but it was to add the quantitative study to all the other sections, therefore the three sections were better integrated. I also remember that since we were students, we were well trained when it comes to practical life. For example, between the second and third years, the Bank of Alexandria conducted a study of economic conditions in all the governorates of Egypt and asked students from the statistics and economics departments to participate in this research, which increased my interest in statistical work.

And what advice would you give to the college's students?

I advise them that the professional life is a place to apply their theories to reality which makes it different from the academic life. So they should prepare for it well and they should know that the job market is currently very interested in technology and languages thus they should develop themselves in these sectors.

As we know, you are a consultant in the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), and you are a supervisor of the two most important censuses in Egypt's statistical history, namely the population and economic censuses.



## Today's job market searches for those interested in Technology and mastering foreign languages

These two censuses are important because they are the first electronic censuses in Egypt, we would be more than pleased if you could talk more about them.

We were supposed to do them in 2016 and at the same time, we were celebrating the 100th anniversary of CAPMAS. In addition, a conference was held to discuss the role of the agency for large-scale meetings. One of the most important suggestions taken into consideration was to make two forms, one of which is long, applied to a sample of society and another short one applied to the whole population. We looked at many countries that have implemented technological transformation, such as Brazil and Jordan. At this time, Mr. Abu Bakr al-Jundi, head of the agency, requested that I carry out the general supervision of the census. We have really benefited from this technological shift, so we used 45,000 tablets instead of a 120,000 which we would've used if we used one form instead of two. This transformation was not easy. We have done serious work in cooperation with the Ministry of Communication and many other companies, we decided not to leave this project completely to private companies - as they did in Jordan - but we participated in the process because we have a further goal which is to prepare future qualified personnel for this task within the Agency.

The advantages of this shift were a higher level of quality for the data gathered as well as its preciseness; it also forced all of the respondents to answer all of the questions without skipping any, as they could not move to the next question without answering the one before. The most noticeable advantage was cutting out multiple unneeded steps in the process, which helped save time as well, for example, the 2006 census we conducted took approximately 18-24 months to be completed. But when it came to the 2017 census, we finished collecting data in July and were able to publish the results in September. Lastly, we mustn't forget that this new methodology allows the creation of a priceless database which could be used by any other sector of the government very easily.

You also mentioned in advance that the results of the census benefit decision makers in all parts of the state, what protocols do each sector of the state follow after the census results are presented?

The results of the census were presented at a conference in the presence of the President, who in turn ordered all state agencies to study these results and their implications for the activities of each ministry.

For example, the Ministry of Planning has carried out studies on the labour market and the Ministry of Population has studied different aspects in the population surveys. Therefore, each ministry takes its own perspective on the results of the census in a way, which could help them.

If we go to the economic census, what are the most important indicators that the census studies and what is its importance to investors?

The economic census studies every economic activity that contributes to GDP and shows the relative importance of each activity. It also gives indicators and an overall image of the facilities, value added, profits, losses and the structure of economic activities. This is done by general studies, studies of activities and then geographical studies for each province. Profit and loss indicators, inputs and outputs are displayed for each activity of the state, which helps the investor to make his decision.

Are these indicators indicating progress in economic activity?

Yes, for example, the number of facilities in the public besides the public facilities has reached 3.7 million facilities. As for employment, there are 13.5 million workers and the total production of these facilities is 3.9 trillion pounds, the total wages are 358.7 billion pounds, the value added is 2.2 trillion pounds and the capital formation is about 472 billion pounds, which compared to the previous census are very promising results.

As a consultant in the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, do you think that the graduates of the faculty in the Agency have an influential role to play?

Yes, FEPS graduates, especially students of the statistics section, have been the backbone of census rooms, in addition to their role in data analysis, as they are proficient in using the knowledge they acquired in the college and applying it into practice.

We end our meeting with the great Dr. Hussein Abdulaziz, thank you very much for his great efforts in the field of statistics in Egypt.



## FEPS MEASURES FOR CONCLUDING THE SPRING SEMESTER

By: Mayar Tarek and Yasmin Tarek

Under the current circumstances the country faces, many procedures and decisions were taken to keep pace during the outbreak of the new global Coronavirus pandemic, the educational process has a share of these decisions to keep up with the crisis so that students can complete their semester.

On Saturday, April 18, 2020, after a month of the study suspension, the Supreme Council of Universities adopted a series of decisions concerning the e-learning and the proper ways to conduct exams for the next period; the Council decided to continue e-learning process and curriculum explanation to be finished on April 30, 2020.

It also decided to cancel the writing and oral exams for all university students except seniors, and to be replaced by; either research of students in each subject, such as their counterparts from some basic education students, or conducting electronic exams under several conditions;

First, each college infrastructure allows for these exams. Second, there should be a limited number of students in the college. Third and the most important, is the availability of the Internet for each student.

The choice of one alternative is left to the Council of each college for what it deems appropriate.

Seniors were excluded from these decisions, yet their exams were not scheduled till now, and they will resume after the end of the suspension period.

The Council has also called for the concerned parties to overcome all obstacles that will face these students due to the delay of their graduation.

As for postgraduate students, the Council decided that their examinations would also be suspended, like seniors.

Faculty of Economics and political Science confirms the Council's statement, and decided to carry out research for all years of transport for each subject, and at the end of the current week all professors will have decided on the type and format of their research materials.

As for seniors that will be graduating at the spring 2020 or in the summer of 2020, as the Council decided, their written exams will be postponed until the end of the suspension period even in the courses they share with other levels students.



## TOUGH APRIL: Egypt Covid updates and Governmental Measures

by: Omar Alaa & Habiba Atef

It won't be an exaggeration if we said that April was one of the most difficult months that passed in Egypt in its modern history. Over the past month, we have witnessed the Egyptian government fight the Corona virus on all levels from health, economy and education. This month has helped reveal the Egyptians' strength and hardness through hardships and how Egyptian leaders deal with crisis.

In April's first week, we started off with number of cases almost reaching one thousand; only for the number of cases to rapidly increase in the third week till it reached more than 3000 corona cases. However, despite the rapid spread of the virus and the increase in number of cases, the situation in Egypt is considered relatively stable even with the alarming number of cases.

According to Doctor Omar Abu-Al-Atta the World Health Organization's surveillance officer, despite the steady increase in the number of cases, Egypt is yet to reach the peak number of Corona virus cases. Unfortunately, this indicates that we are not to return to our normal daily life any time soon.

Egypt not reaching the peak of cases is because of the precautionary measures that the government has taken in order to try and control the virus from spreading. Those measures started with imposing a curfew in late march from 7 pm till 6 am, later on there was a change in the curfew hours to change from 7pm to 8 pm as to facilitate things as there was an issue with working citizens to get home after work hours. Furthermore, those measures included closing some shops, restaurants, clubs and malls but not markets and bakeries.

In April, we usually celebrate Easter, which is an original pillar of the Egyptian heritage, it is celebrated by going on picnics and visiting relatives. Nevertheless, Egyptians succeeded in passing this time by avoiding any gatherings and followed the instructions set by the ministry of health. The Egyptians have once again set a wonderful example to show the level of commitment needed to pass such a hardship time.

On that day, there were no cases of violations of the decisions of the council of ministries to implement a complete ban on Easter day. The governors also closed off all public parks, beaches and any places where gatherings could take place publicly. Those procedures have won the approval of the World Health Organization as said by its representative here in Egypt, Doctor John Jabbour, who indicated earlier after the announcement of the corona virus how the Egyptian government has taken serious measures to fight this virus.

The precautionary measures to fight the virus was not only on the health level but it also included the economic aspect. Those measures included an initiative by president Abdelfattah Al-sisi to pay grants to one million and 400 thousand dues to irregular employment in the amount of 500 pounds for a period of three months. This procedure was preceded by a package of decisions of the Central Bank of Egypt to reduce the economic loss due to the corona pandemic.

Egypt is always known for its social work and the social solidarity between members of the society. In April, as a result initiative as 'the challenge of goodness' started among charitable institutions, companies and public figures from



different fields, such as sports and art, in order to support those affected by the consequences of the corona.

Egyptian universities stood in the front lines in order to fight the pandemic as the ministry of higher education announced that 7 dormitory areas have been equipped in order to act as isolation hospitals. Cairo university has intensified its scientific resources in order to find a treatment for corona virus, which, according to Doctor Muhammad Othman Al-Khosht announcement, President of Cairo University, led to the initial approval of a treatment protocol for people with the virus.

The Egyptian religious institutions were not absent from the scene, as the religious institutions also played a responsible and respectable role as they did not express any opposition to closing the places of worship,

Even during festive times, and with the advent of the glorious Easter feast, the churches of the three Egyptian Orthodox, Catholic and Evangelical churches held the mass without mass attendance, in a first precedent of its kind.

And with the continued closure of Muslim and Christian places of worship and the suspension of all prayers and activities in it, since March 22, on the other side, the fatwas from Sheikh Al-Azhar Ahmed Al-Tayeb, aimed at raising people's awareness, he announced that he is committed to the measures to limit the spread of the epidemic is a legitimate duty, and in the incident That shook public opinion in April in which the people of the village of Shubra Al-Baho, Dakahlia Governorate, refused to bury a doctor who died from the virus. The Sheikh of Al-Azhar expressed his disapproval and his anger towards the behaviour that the people of the village followed, indicating that it is neither



Islam nor hypocrisy not to receive the corpses of corona victims.

As the holy month enters, a state of controversy arises among citizens over the continued closure of mosques. On one hand, the Ministry of Awqaf insists on suspending all group activities during the month of Ramadan, to prevent the spread of infection and the establishment of Tarawih prayers in homes, others are with calling for the establishment of Tarawih prayers in mosques without the presence of worshipers And broadcast it with loudspeakers to preserve the continuity of Ramadan rituals accompanying the holy month.

It seems that the corona chapter in Egypt has not yet come to an end, it started first on February 14 with the discovery of the first case of corona virus in Egypt, and it is not known when life will return to normal and when the economy will revolve again. Which calls for more caution and responsibility on the part of all citizens for the passage of that crisis unprecedented in the history of modern Egypt.



## DEPRAVED & UNLUCKY : HOW 2020 EGYPTIANS RECIEVED HOLY RAMADAN AMID COVID19 ?

By: Mohamed Abdelazim  
Translation : Habiba Diaa

The Egyptian Dar Al Ifta' announced that Thursday 23rd of April is the last day of the Month Shaaban and that Friday 24th of April is the first day of Ramadan for the Islamic year 1441.

Last years, Muslims used to pray Taraweh, mosques used to be full of dates and aromas, mosques were used to be open all day long for the sake of spiritual feelings of Ramadan.

Egyptian families get ready for Ramadan by buying much commodities that markets used to be full of dates and dried fruits which are very accompanied in our minds with Ramadan. Al Mo'ez streets gets crowded, as the most important monumental street full of Islamic heritage. In that street, one can see a variety of people as well as a variety of commodities. Visits to the mosques of Al Sayeda Zainab and Al Hussien increase. Also, there is the area of "Bab Al Khalq" which is a pioneering area in producing "Fawanees".

However, in those days of Corona, the Egyptian government took special measures concerning daily life rituals and religious rituals especially in order to stop the proliferation of the pandemic from one hand and to facilitate life on the other hand..

The Ministry of Awqaf issued several measures regarding the daily religious life in this regard, according to a statement of the Council of Ministers that includes the following:

After taking the opinion of the health minister, they assured that fasting is still obligatory on all Muslims and that Corona doesn't stop fasting. However, only those who suffer from chronic diseases or got infected from the virus don't fast.

Stop all forms of social gathering, including prayers in mosques, this in order to save humans' lives which is also an integral part of the Islamic religion. The ministry insisted on that- as the ministry of health said- that danger is in gatherings.



so, social distancing and protection measures are very important. And in order to facilitate life for citizens, the ministry of culture has an important role in this regard:

The minister of culture Dr. Inas Abdel Dayem announced a cultural program which comes under the campaign of "Stay Home.....Culture is within your hands".

This program is transmitted through the ministry's official YouTube channel and social media accounts. And it includes activities such as competitions which aims at enriching knowledge for all Egyptians with their different age groups as well as special ones to children. And she assured that all shows aim at maintaining the Egyptian identity and helps in increasing general awareness. Moreover, different ministers cooperate to facilitate life during those hard times which are witnessed by all the world.

And in relation to the partial curfew issued by the government, Dr. Mustafa Madbouly, the Prime minister, announced several new measures.

Curfew will start at 9 PM till 6 AM and that malls and shops who were obliged to close in Saturdays and Fridays are allowed to open all week along till 5 PM. Also, citizens are allowed to buy what they want from restaurants. This comes with special protection measures. The minister clarified that those measures came to give citizens the opportunity to buy their essentials both before and after Iftar as to avoid crowdedness and gathering and to pave the way for the returning of normal life and to let citizens adapt with those circumstances.

The Prime Minister added that it was agreed with the Minister of Interior and Justice on the return of some of the main government services that the citizen needs, which were suspended for about a month, which is reopening the real estate offices starting from next week to provide specific services, and the courts returning to work only in the inheritance notification sessions, in order to avoid



To disrupt the interests of many groups.

Madbouly added that it was agreed to start next week in allowing traffic departments to license new vehicles, to solve the problem of new vehicles that their owners have purchased, and they need to complete procedures to use them.

The Prime Minister directed the governors of the importance of strict adherence to the implementation of the measures of the partial curfew that was announced, which reflects an image of seriousness and commitment during the holy month of Ramadan, with the need to impose greater regulation on traffic, and to develop clear plans to coordinate with the various services in the governorate.







## Updates on Corona's impact on local and international economy

**\*Salma Bayoumi, 2nd Level, Economics.**

Corona didn't only infect humans, but also affected the global economy as a whole. There is no doubt that this was reflected on all life aspects, whether politically or socially, locally or internationally.

If we looked closer at the Egyptian economy after the spread of the Corona virus, we will see the ramifications of this epidemic as this virus affects the growth rate in the second half of the current fiscal year and this impact will increase by the end of the year.

The most economic sectors affected by the crisis are tourism, real estate, exports in addition to the industrial sectors. The tourism sector is the most affected, because the air traffic stopped so there are no tourists. Unlike other sectors, such as the agricultural sector, that has limited damage as the demand for its products can be considered as constant.

We can't deny that there are other sectors, such as the pharmaceutical industry which witnessed prosperity in the beginning as pharmaceutical companies gain a lot of money because demand for their products increased, but this may lead to shortage of raw materials for the same reason and the weakness of international trade. This may lead to deterioration of this sector.

All of this made the Egyptian government take some steps to eliminate the effects of the crisis, the central bank allocated 50 billion for real estate financing for people with middle income, raising purchasing power by reducing the interest rates in banks and enhancing local demand. Those steps support the Egyptian Stock Exchange and facilitating access to banking services and to support the affected sectors specially the tourism sector. there are also some news about Egypt seeking a new IMF deal.

Certainly, the spread of the Corona virus in various countries has ramifications on the world as well. Many international institutions have lowered their expectations regarding the growth rates of the global economy after the spread of this epidemic in addition to the possibility of entering the global economy in a recession which may be worse than the economic recession that occurred in 2009, if not the worst at all. This is due to lower global trade rates and lower FDI (foreign direct investment) inflows.

The crisis got worse on 20 April, when oil prices reached below zero. This is the worst crisis that the global oil market had faced ever. This will complicate the role of central banks while facing the crisis. Of course, this will lead to the destruction of the global industry and a significant economic downturn in the coming period, however the global economy is expected to start recovering again by 2021 after the end of the Corona crisis.

This made the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development invite policy makers around the world to do their best to stop the spread of the disease due to its bad effects.





## Experiencing e-learning : Discussion with CU students

Carolin Sherief, Hana Zakareyya, Mariam Hefny, Omar Alaa and Hanya Bahaa

Just as the new Corona epidemic "Covid 19" invaded the barriers of time and space, the calls for "distance learning" - which accompanied the spread of the virus - came to sweep all the barriers. Thanks to these invitations, we were able to test the feeling of being deprived of the routine of the regular school day, and to use modern technology in the educational stage.

In this context, the elite team decided that the phenomenon of distance learning should be the subject of a questionnaire for this edition, taking into account the variation in the ratio of males and females, and to ensure that The views of students of theoretical and practical colleges.

Accordingly, the questions posed to various students at Cairo University revolved around the nature of the measures taken by the college after the decision to suspend studies at universities, and about their preference for distance learning or routine study in the college.

They were also asked about the advantages and disadvantages of e-learning from their point of view, and the extent of their response to it, and how to develop from it in case of the continuity of this crisis. And their opinion on the best way to evaluate students, whether through paper exams, research content, or online exams.

From the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, students have stated that the college was quick to respond to the government's decision, where the dean of the college participated in a link to its YouTube channel, in addition to providing CDs for students facing difficulty in connecting to the Internet, and the Student Union had a great role in educating students about how to work with the distance learning system. The students expressed their preference for the college in its traditional way, as the college is not only lectures and curricula but also has a social dimension, as it is a place for interaction through student activities and various activities such as seminars.

And they stated that what distinguishes distance learning is the diversity of teaching methods, as there are professors who use the technique of video conference, and some of them publish lectures on the YouTube channel, and those who seek to install sound on the "PowerPoint Slides", as well as the flexibility of this system in terms of browsing the lectures and the possibility of repeating any part if it is not well absorbed. As for the disadvantages, it is that this system cannot be applied in all colleges. Fortunately, the college was cooperative, especially as it provided students with their own e-mail, and therefore students have a greater ability to adapt to the situation, but for other colleges it is not easy.



From Commerce-Georgia College, one of the students said that the college has established a site where all the lectures are published, and some teachers have used video conferencing technology to communicate with the students. And personally, he expressed his preference for the college as a platform for learning, as it allows students to hear the explanation from more than one doctor and not only the one who records the lecture. As for the advantages, one of the most important the availability of the scientific material throughout the day, thus increasing the ability to understand. But an important drawback to this feature is the lack of practical application necessary to understand some of the materials, which was available through sections in the college.

And to maintain fairness, the best way to evaluate is paper exams, because in the case of relying on research, we will find that students will use the Internet or their friends without paying attention to the importance of understanding the content of the research. In order not to forget the practical colleges, we asked students from the College of Medicine and the College of Physical Therapy so their response was that the two colleges resorted to uploading videos and audio recordings on the college site instead of the online lectures that obliged them to adhere to certain dates. And in terms of their preference for studying at the college or online,

some preferred the college because the practical nature of their college requires permanent interaction with teachers, which is not provided by distance learning, and on the other side, the opinion of others was that distance learning is more comfortable for early years' students due to their lack of need to go to hospitals because most of Their studies are theoretical and based on knowing the basics of different subjects.

Regarding the advantages, they indicated the possibility of repeating one part more than once and taking notes while watching the videos. As for the faults, the student's burden is increased and the necessity of being persisting should be added, in addition to that the recorded lectures do not give the student an opportunity to discuss and thus they lost an important element that was helping to understand the subject clearly and thoroughly. They disagreed about the method that should be followed to evaluate the students, so some of them were with the idea of research because there is more room for cheating if the exams were conducted online.

In contrast, others were against the idea of research because the materials are accumulated over the years and therefore who depends on the Internet or Any other means of assistance instead of studying will have lost a bulky and important part of the scientific material, so online examinations are the best solution, especially since the college will support

those who face any problems from the internet connection to how to perform the exams.

In the end, they wanted to send an important message to the people and the government about the necessity of appreciating the role of doctors and the medical profession being one of the most important professions in any society, as we always find them in the first lines of defense to face any crisis - even if their lives will be the cost -

In conclusion, it can be seen that students have differed opinions about their ability to keep pace with this system, which they have never been familiarized throughout their educational career, especially with the presence of factors that hinder focus, such as poor internet speed, worn out electronic infrastructure, and the fear of the virus, which made most of them unable to The completion of the semester with the same passion.

But we can only pray that the crisis will be resolved soon so that we return to our normal life - which was in spite of being routine at times but it is a grace for us - taking into account that such a shift in the educational system can be the beginning of a new chapter of our life that we use technology where it is only beneficial to us.



by: *Mirna Ossama*

## STUDENTS' OPINION ON THE JUSTICE OF DISTANT EVALUATION METHODS

In the light of the current situation and following the outbreak of the Coronavirus epidemic, all schools and universities have been closed, therefore studies should be continued online through many sites and different applications which allow students to be able to communicate with their professors in order to continue their courses and terminate their programs.

Also, in the light of the decision of the Minister of Higher Education announced on Saturday, 18 April 2020, according to which the dilemma of the evaluation of the second semester was resolved, declaring that each student will be evaluated either through researches or online exams, and that each faculty has the right to choose the method that suits it, provided they do not take these exams unless the necessary means are guaranteed, excluding senior years.

We conducted a survey at the level of all faculties of economics and political science in Egypt, to find out the opinions of the students of all years, departments and sections concerning the form of evaluation they prefer as students. And there, opinions differed.

Although the Supreme Council of Universities decided to settle the dilemma of exam or research, choosing research, this report remains a guide for students' preferences in order to take them into consideration during any evaluation.

242 students from the faculties of Economics and Political science participated in, where 142 people from Cairo University, 20 from Alexandria University, 39 from Suez University and 38 from Beni Suf University, where most of them agreed to apply the research system by up to 80,58% for several reasons that are summarized in poor infrastructure and internet connection, as some students consider it the best way to benefit, more effective and efficient, some believe that they will have enough time to do it perfectly and revise it before it is delivered unlike online exams.

Taking into consideration the high rates of cheating and the stress to which students are exposed, in case of online exams. Moreover, some students noted the ineffectiveness of the online education and that the content provided was insufficient to prepare them for the final exam. As for those who prefer online exams, they see it as the best way to evaluate the student as the fixed evaluation - right or wrong - not the normative ones. Some also touched on another important point, concerning the subjects that might be difficult to present researches in; such as mathematics and statistics. Therefore, we move on to those who do not prefer generalization, those who think that research represents the best way of evaluation for theoretical courses like political science and that online exams represent the best way of evaluation for practical subjects such as mathematics and statistics.



On the one hand, we deal with the form of exams, most students - 91.73% - prefer the exam to be multiple choice questions than essays, being easier and faster since typing on a keyboard takes much more time than writing, taking into consideration the rhythm of writing which differs from one person to another. In addition to their ability to manage their time and to split it by each question easily. Also, in this way, the extent of understanding, not memorizing, is measured.

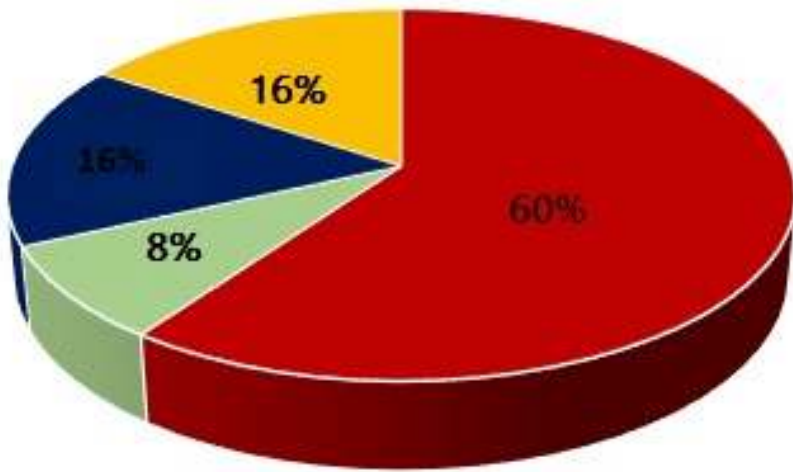
Likewise, the correction is done online, so students think it's better since they do not let themselves to unknown criteria that differ from one professor to another, which makes them unable to meet them, it also makes the correction fair. Otherwise, the essay questions cover a specific part of the program unlike the multiple-choice questions which cover the entire program. Not only that, but also students face many problems in the exams that require steps and calculations. Requesting, in this case, that the number of questions vary between 10 and 100 questions. But this does not prevent that there are those who preferred essay questions where they find no tricks, even clearer. In addition to their belief that the final answers, in mathematical problems, do not distinguish the students but the steps do, that is why they see that each step must be written. Also, it makes cheating more difficult. Requesting, in this case, that the number of questions vary between one to 25 questions, depending on their size.

Regarding the duration of the exam, 94.21% of the students want it to be not only long enough to solve the questions but also to revise their answers. Not only for this reason but also in anticipation of any problem in the internet connection or in the computer itself, asking to take into account that looking at a device is more tiring than a paper, and asking not to determine one minute for each question since there are questions that require additional time.

On the other hand, we deal with the research proposition, where 71.49% of the students prefer teamwork than individual one, since they motivate them and allow them to save effort and time. Similarly, to share their ideas and to enhance their experience, which is beneficial to them, thus being able to present perfect researches, saying that it is more professional to interact and think together to get the best result, since not all students are qualified to do professional researches.

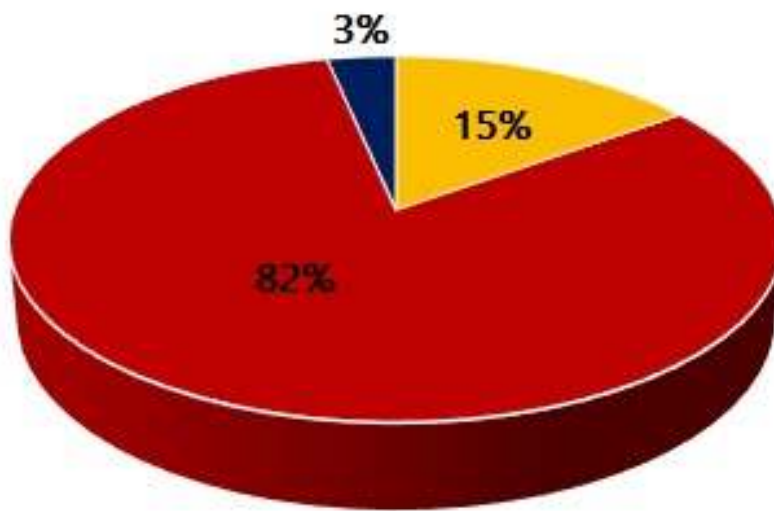
Also, to be able to finish the researches of all the courses on time, due to time constraints. Besides, others prefer individual researches because it evaluates the effort and the level of each person, which makes them safe from injustice, having worked with an uninterested group or who does not take work seriously.

Not only that, but there are those who prefer to work alone, believing that there is no understanding among students, in general.



survey participation rate

- Cairo University
- Alexandria University
- Suez University
- Beni Suef University



Evaluation methods

- Online exams
- Researches
- By subject

There are also those who touched on an important point, which is the difficulty of communication via Internet, which could hinder this collective work. As well as it helps the person to collect as much information as possible, making the most of it, unlike group research, where there can be mis-division and distribution of the parts of the research. 59.5% of students prefer to be evaluated by number of pages and not words.

Finally, 88.84% of the students unanimously asked that the submission of the researches be postponed after May 9, including those who want to submit them by the end of May, which gives them enough time to think and search about the chosen topics, then to present their researches in the best possible quality, especially since there are many assignments that have not been submitted yet.



## FEPS SU Efforts amid COVID19

**ABDELRAHMAN ALHADIDI, FEPS SU PRESIDENT**

We all have been following the crisis of the new Coronavirus which became a global pandemic in a few months, and the inability of doctors and scientists finding a suitable cure so far, which pushed most of the countries around the globe - including Egypt - to postpone economic and social activities and events establishing limits on people gathering and even curfews.

This caused a real damage to the education system especially among University students, it was easy to cancel a school semester and make it up later, but Universities are attached to other systems in the state which makes it harder.

Distant learning , or online learning , was the best solution in order to preserve the safe social distance and continue the semester, but since the beginning of the digitalization of the education system a lot of students and teachers were facing many problems as they didn't have enough time to get used to it or to get prepared

Fortunately, problems with students of faculty of economics and political science are nothing compared to other students.

Our faculty , faculty of economics and political science , had the honor to be the first faculty to test the new system through the students' Union , it was like an operation room having the Dr Khaled Abdulghaffar - the Minister of high education and scientific research, and Dr Mohamed al-khosht - President of Cairo University, to follow up with the IT team in the faculty headed by Dr Shahinaz Gamal, but of course there still were some problems.

And here comes the role of the Students' union who insisted on collecting all the problems facing their colleagues by different ways, surveys, questionnaires and even personal interviews for every single student. On the other hand, the administration of the faculty didn't compromise in cooperating with the students' Union , as Dr Mahmoud Al-Said was a role model in crisis management and responded to the students' problems rapidly in order to get them used to the new system and checked the quality of the uploaded content frequently.

At the same time , the faculty was working on providing tablets and compact discs (CDs) for the students who had problems connecting to the internet or even didn't have a computer at all , the students' union worked hard on gathering the names of the students who really deserve the tablets and CDs , and in order to maintain the social distancing , the major role of the students Yousif Ahmed - a student in the first level in feps and member in the scientific committee in students' Union - appeared , his mission was to deliver the tablets and the CDs to the students on appointment to prevent gathering in the faculty and decrease the infection, in one week he managed to successfully deliver forty-two tablets and nine CDs contain the necessary educational content.

In those scenes, the students' union and the faculty administration formed a harmonic model in representative democracy and risk management in order to minimize the students' struggles with the crisis, this effort didn't just end there, as the students' union launched an online awareness campaign through their page on Facebook which got backed up by the Dean himself and a lot of the teachers to encourage the students to stay at home and prevent public gatherings.

Some individual initiatives raised from some feps students to help each other, For example a student in level two political science called " Mayar Moharram " announced that she could help student of the IGCSE high school in five subjects related to her study in the faculty , while another man called "Omar Khaled" - a student in level three economics , offered his help to get the elderly what they need every day to protect them from the danger of infection in the streets, Also the students' union announced a cooperation with " Masr Al-kheir" charity and invited all of feps students to participate and to donate for the charity Which is concerned with helping the broke people, and as we all know, the psychological state is as important as the biological one, the students' Union announced a series of posts hashtagged Feps talents, where students can share their interests with other colleagues through the Facebook page of the students' union and it worked, dozens of students shared their drawings, singings, photographing etc. to spread a feeling of optimism among their colleagues.

Faculty of economics and political science had always been a special place, not because of the educational content only, but because of the spirit which collects all of us like a one big family.



## SOCIAL MEDIA : FREE COMPETITION, MONEY AND PROBELMS !

**\*LAMIA ELGAMMAL**

**Political Communication Officer at "Support Egypt Caolition"**



The social media became recently an indispensable part in our lives, all of us spend more than two hours daily on one or more of the social media platforms such as:- (Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, Tiktok, and Snapchat), maybe this dependence has a lot of consequences, but one of the significant is that it releases a big social business that can be used by a great portion of the society whom we call (influencers, content creators, and bloggers) to make money from the views, shares, and subscribes, or marketing for products on their accounts, but what matters here is how this business invert many scales in the society; it gives money and popularity for empty people with worthless content just for the views they gain, while gives the rich content lower value due to the lack of attraction.

And this is triggered by many reasons most importantly:- the effortlessness of the social media usage which produce a large group of uneducated users attracted by any nonsense content, the second reason is the provoking motivation the more provocative the content is the more the viewer will be willing to continue , the third is the sexual motivation to follow any sexy woman or man no matter what they present, the fourth is the herd behavior if the content is able to gain a large number of views at first, it can be spreading faster, as the viewer is always keen to follow up what is trendy, to not feel in danger and strange by unknowing something, even if it's unimportant at all.

The question is "Is it back to the society's decay and it's just reflected on the social media?", or "the media affects the society?",

it's like the chicken and the egg causality dilemma, but what concerns us is that should it be any intervention to modify the general trend to follow up more worthy contents, or it's wrong due to a number of reasons, first:- it's against the freedom that was given by the internet to share anything anytime anywhere, second:- there is no specific clause that prevents sharing valueless content on social media, third:- there is no certain definition for the "valueless content" what is worthy for me maybe considered as nonsense for others, forth:- the virtual world connects the whole cultures so it should represents what suits all tastes as well, fifth:- the purpose from the social media is connecting people and achieving entertainment not gaining knowledge so what makes me happy is certainly worthy content.

Sixth: - due to the new free capitalist thought which emphasizes on that demands not the quality is the thing that determines the value and price of the commodity, consequently what is more demanded is more valuable, therefore number of views on any influencer is the thing that determines his price not the quality of his content, this freedom is exactly what rule our today's virtual and actual world.





## Political Ecology & Corona Crisis (1)

*\*Dina Ibrahim Hassan  
Assistant Lecturer of Political Science*

The recurring global events and its circumstances concerning Corona crisis have drawn the attention of individuals around the world once again to nature and redirected their attention to the environment and its issues. Some people have a sense of shame for the devastating human practices that Humans have committed in the right of nature dealing with their environments and resources as a space that is separated from them. So, nature surprised them by its response to all human beings with this epidemic. It has not only become a fundamental threat to the individual person on the level of daily life, but it has also affected the whole world at the economic, political and social levels.

On the academic level, the Corona crisis has triggered my motivation to explore its implications for the controversies and theoretical frameworks interested in studying the environment and its issues from a political perspective, especially political ecology. It is a relatively recent subfield, and relatively rare within the Egyptian School of Politics. This article also seeks to reaffirm the importance and necessity of interdisciplinary studies and intersectional approaches in understanding the complicated human phenomena and their effects. It assures the need to direct research efforts to this field as a response to the global change we face today and the new challenges it imposes on development.

This requires the presentation of multi-scale models depending on the aggregation of the integrated picture of the phenomena with the social, local and global interactions and their effects. These effects will certainly contribute in devoting difference and social inequality according to the difference in strength and degree of influence on the environment. This ultimately leads to a redefinition of power relations and the difference in interactions between human groups and their biophysical environments.

This article seeks in its first part to provide a definition of political ecology and the concept of politics within it, as well as provide the basic and common concepts within the approaches of political ecology.

Blake and Brookfield define as political ecology as the subfield that brings together the common interests of both ecology and

political economy in its broad sense. This makes society, the resources associated with the land, the classes and the different groups constantly changing elements within the debates of political ecology. This definition focuses on the concept of power as a social relationship based on the symmetrical distribution of resources and risks which plays a central role in the interactions between individuals to access and control resources.

Perhaps one of the most prominent results of these arguments, which take into account the focus on the problematic factors of power relations between different groups and their effects on their interactions with their environments, is the challenge of the prevailing interpretations of the causes of environmental degradation. It also challenges the presented solutions to this deterioration.

Among the most important common concept is the concept of marginality. It is a main concept interpreting the ecological, economic and political changes, for example: land degradation is the cause and result of social marginalization. The second concept is production pressure on resources, transferred through social relationships that cause excessive demands on resources. The last concept that this article presents is related to the collective awareness of individuals and groups with collective interests and their importance when dealing with the environment. This means that the individual gain can become a complete loss for the whole world.

Perhaps the most important questions that should be raised in the conclusion of this article, which may be of concern to those who wish to rethink the importance of political ecology and its location in political science now, and especially among those interested in studying political ecology from an environmental perspective are: How can political science be redefined in a more challenging way within the framework of environmental analysis? What kind of approaches and methods that can seriously help us in locating what is political within the ecological research? What are the applications these efforts provide to address development challenges in practice?

This article sought to introduce the political ecology and its main concept and the next articles will be devoted to analyze Corona crisis using the frame work of political ecology.



## PANDEMICS & POLITICAL SYSTEMS : AN ENDLESS DUEL

**\*LAYLA AMR GALAL**

**Political Communication Officer at "Support Egypt Coalition"**

Confronting a common risk is by no means a novel precedent, as the history of mankind has witnessed countless crises and epidemics that have accompanied humanity since the very beginning of its existence; such events exhausted the economic and political systems and depleted loads of their resources in order to triumph over them and diminish their potential consequences. Whilst the most prominent crisis that is garbing the explicit attention of all regimes at present is the Corona pandemic – as named by WHO, such crisis that has confused the whole globe and made the political systems stagger and crumble. And it is strange to reveal that although we have reached the third decade of the 21st century, we still lack the existence of a unified international entity capable of imposing a legitimate authoritative power over all states evenly to face the pandemic in a cooperative manner and through genuine common obligatory measures, this entity which all states have been calling for its activation since the second world war and the new world order post 1945.

Consequently the international organizations' responsibility is limited to following up, offering universal recommendations and guidelines upon which states ultimately have the final decision of whether to regard or not, accordingly political systems have taken dissimilar individual routes to contain this epidemic, that have led to diverse results in the conditions of those systems, as for example Asian countries such as China, Singapore and Taiwan have sought more crucial and quick measures to halt the disease's spread compared to the European countries which took them too long to identify the true magnitude of the threat surrounding them, and unfortunately such delay has led to reaching massive consequences that made them the epicenter of the epidemic in the world. Owing to the partial absence of a common international structure, each state bears the

responsibility of managing crises upon its shoulder in order to protect its people from danger and annihilation, and this responsibility is philosophically speaking the chief rationale behind the state existence and the essence of the social contract signed between the state and its citizens, and what makes a state succeed over others is its capability to overcome the crisis with a minimal level of influence on its citizens or even without them noticing any change on their daily lives or involvement in danger from such crisis, Hence any crisis is generally an embarrassing test for any political system in front of its citizens. That's why the political systems have developed several procedures and measures to control Coronavirus spread, but in their endeavor they are still burdened by an essential constraint which is the political system's type...

Because the democratic systems cherish individualism and prioritize the individual over the state, and their constitutions have established the fundamental individual rights and freedoms as untouchable and inviolable guarantees that cannot be comprised by the ruling regime, the notion of patriarchy and the protecting state which imposes on its citizens what to do and what to refrain from is on no account acceptable to such systems, and this justifies the late reaction of the European systems to Coronavirus spread and their delay to enforce strict measures for the crisis containment such as restricting the freedom of movement and imposing complete lockdowns, furthermore, the prevailing culture steeped in such states is absolute unconditional freedom and the shrinkage of the state intervention in the citizen's private sphere. Even though this mentality has been nurtured in these societies by time, it contradicts another right higher in the hierarchy of individual rights in democracies which is the right to life itself, this sole right whereby individuals shall waive their freedoms in order to protect their lives and others from perishing.



Another obstacle facing democratic systems is the presence of an open environment of information and freedom of media and press, which boost the employment of conspiracy theory against such systems, as media carefully tackles the accusations and charges levied against the system from other states or other actors inside the state, which impedes the crisis management process in a way or another especially when the local public opinion gets involved and starts to show curiosity to know more about those charges. A final obstacle lies in the division of such political systems into semi-equal institutions in power with the existence of a balance of power between the authorities and a robust competitive party system, it is nearly impossible to reach decisive and quick solutions agreed by all to manage the crisis particularly since constitutions of these systems disperse the decision making process between various institutions.

While on the other hand, authoritarian systems do acquire the competence and ability needed to reach quick and decisive decisions in shorter time ranges without listening to the countless considerations that democracies shed their lights on while taking any decision, This is because of the decision-making process of these systems which is subject to a fewer number of authorities and institutions, Likewise, the personal sphere offered to the citizen and the scope of his freedom vis-à-vis the state is not as wide as those designated for the citizen by a democratic system, Therefore, the folks of those regimes are more receptive and welcoming to the idea of prohibiting some freedoms in order to manage the crisis and for the survival of the state at the expense of individual freedom.

Bearing in mind that those systems have a strong incentive to preserve the lives of their citizens and professionally overcome the crisis, despite being systems that do not bless individualism as much as democracies do, they still obtain their legitimacy and

guarantee their continued existence as regimes only from the results of their performance, so the cost of enduring the authoritarian regime by its citizens depends upon its success in containing crises, while perhaps the most salient example for such claims is China, which was able by its communist regime to shift from a state that had exported the pandemic to the world stage to a successful country in controlling the epidemic wisely and in a short period of time, while also it has started to offer assistance to the affected countries to benefit from its experience. Despite the efficiency of the authoritarian regimes, they are usually treated with suspicion in the fear of taking the crisis as a pretext to expand their authoritative space and adopt emergency measures while containing the crisis that work to reduce the rights and freedoms prescribed for its citizens, and to consolidate the bases of their systems for goals that go beyond facing the crisis, thus, the fear that this temporarily shaped area of state intervention will not shrink and return to its normal status after the end of the crisis is the biggest challenge facing these regimes.

To put it briefly, the democratic system is put in a real dilemma in times of crises, since it is obliged to tradeoff between the democratic principles and guarantees that distinguish it and the immediate unconditional containment of the crisis, consequently, confronting the Corona epidemic requires a purposeful wisdom from such type of system, as If the people of those regimes had accepted the idea of dispensing some of their freedoms in order to control the matter, they will not accept it for a long time or without a future plan and an accurate timetable presented by the system to deal with the crisis. Whereas the authoritarian system has a permissive opportunity to take an advantage from the crisis to consolidate its legitimacy and achieve gains of general satisfaction with its performance especially that it is not bound by the many guarantees that the democratic system bears and has more space to act and more options to choose between. In other words, the key matter that the authoritarian regime is accountable for is how successful it is in controlling the crisis.





## YOUR MENTAL HEALTH DURING QUARANTINE

Assile Mostafa

Due to the implications of Covid 19 virus, the governments are forced to extend the duration of lockdown and the quarantine, and people are asked to stay at home in isolation for a longer period. Here we are, in May, as weeks keep passing by, turning into months, we seem to have no idea whether this situation will continue for years or it will end soon. We hope it ends soon, yet nothing can be predicted at this moment. All we know is that we were forced to stay at home, and a new lifestyle was forced upon us: work from home, attending online classes, communicating over the internet, by telephone or any other remote communication tool. We are unable to leave our houses except in emergencies, besides being deprived of some of the routines we used to practice, whether it is to grab your coffee before work or visiting a friend in the weekend. All flights have been canceled, nonetheless there are many plans which have been delayed until the quarantine ends, waiting for your graduation or you wedding or any other private event. Imagine the number of activities that have been all of a sudden removed from your daily routines, and replaced with absolute free time, boredom and unluckily, potential depression.

These circumstances introduce us to a new lifestyle that not all people can keep up with. The lifestyle which some may consider unusual or even strange may however be the normal lifestyle of others. This is the explanation for the number of people who embraced this new quarantined boring lifestyle, or simply didn't feel that it differs much from their normal lifestyle. This depends on the nature of the people (they may be introverts), their work social background (they work from behind a screen, or unemployed), in addition to other factors. However, regarding the majority of people who don't accommodate to this new lifestyle, this quarantined lifestyle is really challenging to them, and they may be the most affected. They become forced to continue their lives as it was: so if they used to go to the gym, now they have to train at home. If they used to go to the university or school, now they are forced to attend classes over the internet. There are also many people who lost their jobs, and they have to search for new jobs, or anything to do for a living. We are basically supposed to normally continue the usual course of our life but with using new tools and methods. Yet this is not very easy, as we aren't robots or machines that can accommodate to a new environment like this. Maybe there were these little details in the past that pushed you to work properly, or that helped you go through it all.

Maybe the interaction with your friends is what made you continue the tiring university or school life, maybe your graduation party which awaits you pushed you to study harder. Maybe it was going to the gym or practicing your favorite sport or any other entertaining activity that you are no longer able to practice.

Seeing that the internet had become the main source of communication between people, we have to point out the fact that not all people have access to the internet, also not everyone likes social media platforms. In reality, we are witnessing nowadays viral trends and lines of thought which suggest that everyone can easily continue living their lives normally and even take advantage of this period. There is this pressure of "living your best quarantine days". Even though these suggestions may be calls for positivity, but they are actually negatively affecting the minds of the people by destroying their self confidence.

You can try to benefit from the free time, but don't let it affect your mental health. Don't compare yourself to others, except if it was a constructive comparison, that will make you a better person, not a comparison which will disappoint you, or make you feel that you are not exerting enough effort, or a comparison that will make you regret the time you wasted when you were in a bad mood, or the time you simply want to spend doing nothing. Searching for things to encourage you is a good thing but you have to rest. It's a matter of survival. Families are apart and far from each other, friends are separated, people are losing their jobs, businesses and small companies are collapsing, people are dying without having a chance to say goodbye. That is why this article had been written to comfort you: even though you don't have to give up on everything, you have to know that this period isn't a competition, and the winner isn't the one who achieves the most. The winner is actually the person who will get out of these hardships a normal healthy person, even stronger. We are in a crisis, we aren't in a vacation. But don't take this as a call for laziness, or an excuse to give up on your responsibilities. This is for the people who had plans and activities which they used to practice and it made them feel better about themselves and feel that their lives had a meaning, but now, during these circumstances, feel helpless and couldn't find alternatives to make them feel better. Forget about the social pressures, we will be grateful if you can be in a good health while you are trying to accommodate for the sake of survival these hard times.



## Is political theorization a Western science which the 3rd world is unfit for ?

By: Ahmed Adel Al-Saudi, International Negotiations Diplome

Weeks ago, many Arab writers and others wrote about the world order after Corona, on the same matter, after which former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger wrote, and everyone praised, although he did not offer anything new about what was written. It seems that we are looking at ourselves that we are unable to compete in the field of political science and not only the western view of us, with the rapid development of international relations several theories that explain these relations came out mostly from the United States of America and not from the third world or from the Arab and Islamic world, so what is the reason? Rather, what is the reason that the West looks at us that we are not qualified to write something that benefits political science as well as to formulate political theories The other question is whether we are really able to compete.

A large part of the answer to the first question may be the culture of the victor. The victor claims that he is the most capable of adding and producing scientific ideas that keep pace with events.

To the United States of America after the Corona crisis and also the decline of its economic power even before the crisis, it appears that many American theories that prove incorrect, such as the clash of civilizations, It proves that it is not only the first world that can formulate political theories.

Indeed, many Arab writings predicted the theory's error, but are we able to develop corresponding theories? The rich Arab heritage in sciences in various fields confirms that we are able to compete, but even if Arab theories are available, it may not receive any attention unless it is matched by academic and scientific development. And development forces the other to look at us with consideration, because intellectual renaissance is inseparable from material renaissance. Perhaps also among the reasons are the material and military superiority of the West and the United States, which made them in the place of leadership made the third world a field of experiments for them, and called for the need for specialized western research centers that provide good opinion, and this confirms that political thought and theory will only arise in vital societies that develop economically and scientifically, and militarily.



## WOULD DEMOCRATS REGRET THEIR BET ON BIDEN IN NOVEMBER?

**\*Mohamed Elsayyed**  
FEPS GRADUATE, CLASS2018

In spite of being strongly opposed locally, massively criticized in the media and widely condemned internationally, we can still see a Donald Trump second term in office up to 2024. Though it may not be so easy to answer the question with what we know for sure today, the Trump-Hilary 2016 saga has educated us a little bit more about how the US elections can always surprise. While Trump's political discourse has proven to be extremely odd to what has been used to in US politics, it found a solid base of support. From now on, politicians are asked to look for these unusually non-participating voters and bring them in into the process.

The scene is much different in this year's election, as it has been overwhelmed by the COVID-19 nation spread when thousands of US citizens are dying. For the Democratic Party, it has been a two-man race between former VP Joe Biden and senator Bernie Sanders for months. Until the Democratic National Committee has decided to go all in for Biden, preferring his moderate views and solid shape as an American statesman to Sanders' radical views. Democrats are relying now more on Trump to fail the virus challenge more than it does on Biden to make any significant move himself.

To the party's misfortune, Biden has suffered since very early stage from weak media presence and inactive grassroots organization, on the contrary to what it was for Sanders' campaign. In a time of crisis, a weak presence is simply what makes politicians lose support, while a strong confident frequent appearance alone might win you an entire election. In the same way we can understand the

rising popularity of the NYC governor Andrew Cuomo whose daily press briefings are widely followed in the country. According to several pollsters nationwide among democrats, large percentage prefers Cuomo on the democratic ticket on Biden. Surprisingly, in same way we can understand how Trump's support has reached its maximum in April, regardless of accusations of underestimating the crisis in its cradle. Peoples in time of crises, like to see their leaders strong, confident and a symbol of national unity rather than seeing them as they really are.

On the other hand, Democrats lost their possible chance to invest in Sander's universal healthcare system on which he built his whole candidacy. As what was considered to be radical before by some, might gain a huge amount of support with medical facilities being heavily pressured recently. The democrats could have even made the whole election looks like a referendum on the program.

It's fair to say that the upcoming months would have a great say over who to sit in the oval office, with Trump alone decides what happens to him in November. If he could manage to successfully re-open the economy, although against advice of top US medical advisors, he would boost his chances of getting himself re-elected. On the contrary, if his policies and instructions got influenced by his own narcissism and proved to be irresponsible, even his supporters would have no chance to prove voters incentivized to oust him wrong.



## SELF CARE AS SURVIVAL

**\*Menna Sobhy Goma, Third Level, Political Science**

One fact that is undeniable is that we as human beings are always comparing ourselves with others, seeking to be as productive as the other people are and pushing ourselves to limits that exceed our potentials. We are linking any progress to the idea of constant work on a daily basis even if it comes at the expense of our wellbeing. Rest has always had a bad rap in our culture, where most of us think about rest as merely the absence of work, not something valuable in its own right, although you get more done when you work less.

If we took a closer look at a country like the UK, one would see people who do care about their wellbeing as much as, or maybe a little more than, they do care about their work. One would look around and see elders who are fitter and slimmer than a teenager, professors giving breaks during lectures, asking about their student's well beings and for how long they need to rest, and universities sending regular mental wellbeing surveys. Simply, the picture is not as it seems at the first sight, the secret is not in tiring yourself out till all of your energy are drained to have a sense of accomplishment and meet impossible standards of perfection that might be far away from the standards that actually fit you, rather the secret is in letting time loose a bit, having good care of yourself and investing in your wellbeing.

With everything happening now and with the collective trauma we are going through, maybe it is the time for many to accomplish things they have been putting aside for so long, which they couldn't do because of whatsoever. That is totally fine. But you know what? It is totally fine as well if all that we have got from this quarantine is time. Time to care about yourself, embrace your wellbeing, and support others in whatever they choose to do.

Self-care should not be something we resort to because we are so absolutely dead-tired that we need some reprieve from our own internal pressure. It is to accept yourself so that you're not constantly exhausted from trying to be everything all at once. It is letting go, choosing new and letting yourself be normal. Regular. Unexceptional. Start trying to take care of yourself rather than trying to fix it and maybe then you will find that taking care, lovingly, attends to a lot of the problems you were trying to fix in the first place.

You don't have to make the best out of this time, you don't have to check out the useful things that you have done throughout the quarantine, and you don't have to unfairly blame yourself for relieving your consciousness from everything happening around. But you have to be the hero of your life, a life that feels good not a life that looks good. Self-care isn't always luxury, but a mean for survival!



SHORT STORY

# THE LOST SHIP

MOHAMED ROSTOM, FEPS GRADUATE CLASS2019

The spirit of adventure is one of the most important causes of the pleasures in life, as it carries a feeling in which fear mixes with the curiosity of getting to know everything new. So, There were many individuals quickly booked a seat on the cruise announced by a prestigious company to embark on an adventure on the high seas. On the promised day, passengers began arriving on the ship, in the adventure that will continue for a month in the Indian Ocean, and once the number was completed, the ship moved at six in the morning.

The ship moved towards its designated location, and in the meantime, the passengers were enjoying the sight of the frightening enjoyable water, the large fishes that rise above the surface of the sea and re-dive to the depths.

While the cruise was going as planned without any obstacles, the captain felt that there was something wrong with the direction, the compass stopped working without preceding alert, and the ship went astray in the darkness of the sea. The captain and the crew of the ship tried to fix the compass, but to no avail.

The ship's crew asked the captain to move based on his previous experiences, but the captain did not want to sacrifice any of the passengers, who thought this stop was part of the program to enjoy these stunning landscapes. And Because the captain did not know the fate of the ship in this pandemic, he did not want to hide the seriousness of the situation on the passengers. So, the captain "Khaled" came out and informed the passengers of the situation, and asked the frightened passenger faces, saying: "Do you prefer to move according to the experience of the ship crew, or wait for the possibility of success in repairing the compass, or the port may wonder about our delay, and then finds us using satellites?".

Many passengers preferred to wait, as the Indian Ocean is full of pirates, as well as the unplanned move may lead to the collide in one of the rocks, that will result in the igniting, violating, or malfunctioning the ship engine. On the other hand, a few passengers asked to move, as the port's loss to the ship will not be before a month from now, And next month will witness the seasonal Indian Ocean storms. Moreover, the food is continuously decreasing, and if it runs out, some may die of hunger instead of drowning, or most of the ship may die due to the fighting on the food.

Here, "Hassan"- one of the supporters the movement - added: "I think that the movement is better, because if we move we can approach any port, or even a sandy beach, and the captain Khaled is an experienced man, and we will not lose thanks to his wisdom, as well ..."; but captain interrupted him, saying: "I prefer to hear your opinion without flattery, we are in danger whether we stay or move". Whereas, Mr. "Syed"- pro-stay- said: "As long as both alternatives are dangerous, staying at the present time is better, in order to ensure the life for as long as possible, perhaps the ship's crew succeeds in reaching a studied solution, rather than the death of us"; and because the majority supported Mr. "Syed", the captain Khalid agreed and worked with the ship's crew to find a solution.

Passengers shared food for the first three days, and economized in it, but with the lack of food, passengers were partisan in groups that share food; each of them includes passengers who are close to each other in opinion. But all the groups agreed on one thing, which is the necessity of sending food to the captain and the crew of the ship to encourage the captain to respond to their request by either moving, or staying.

The captain was sending the extra food to those who had run out of food, especially after two weeks of the ship broken down. But then, everyone suffered from a lack of food, and the food sent to the captain was no longer more than needed, and because life is the most precious thing for a person, the captain only cared to feed himself.

While everyone who had little food left choose a strong man from the ship's passengers to share his food, either to secure his evil, or to protect him from the rest of the passengers if there is a fight on the food.

The captain from the control room was looked at this unfortunate sight, everyone is hungry, some die, and the weather is bad to worse, and he asks: Does passengers Can patient for another four days, or death have another opinion? What if the port Doesn't loss us? was the move the best option? Was the minority right? Can we find the solution?

On the whole, regret will not serve us, and it is better now to return and try to think with the crew about the solution.