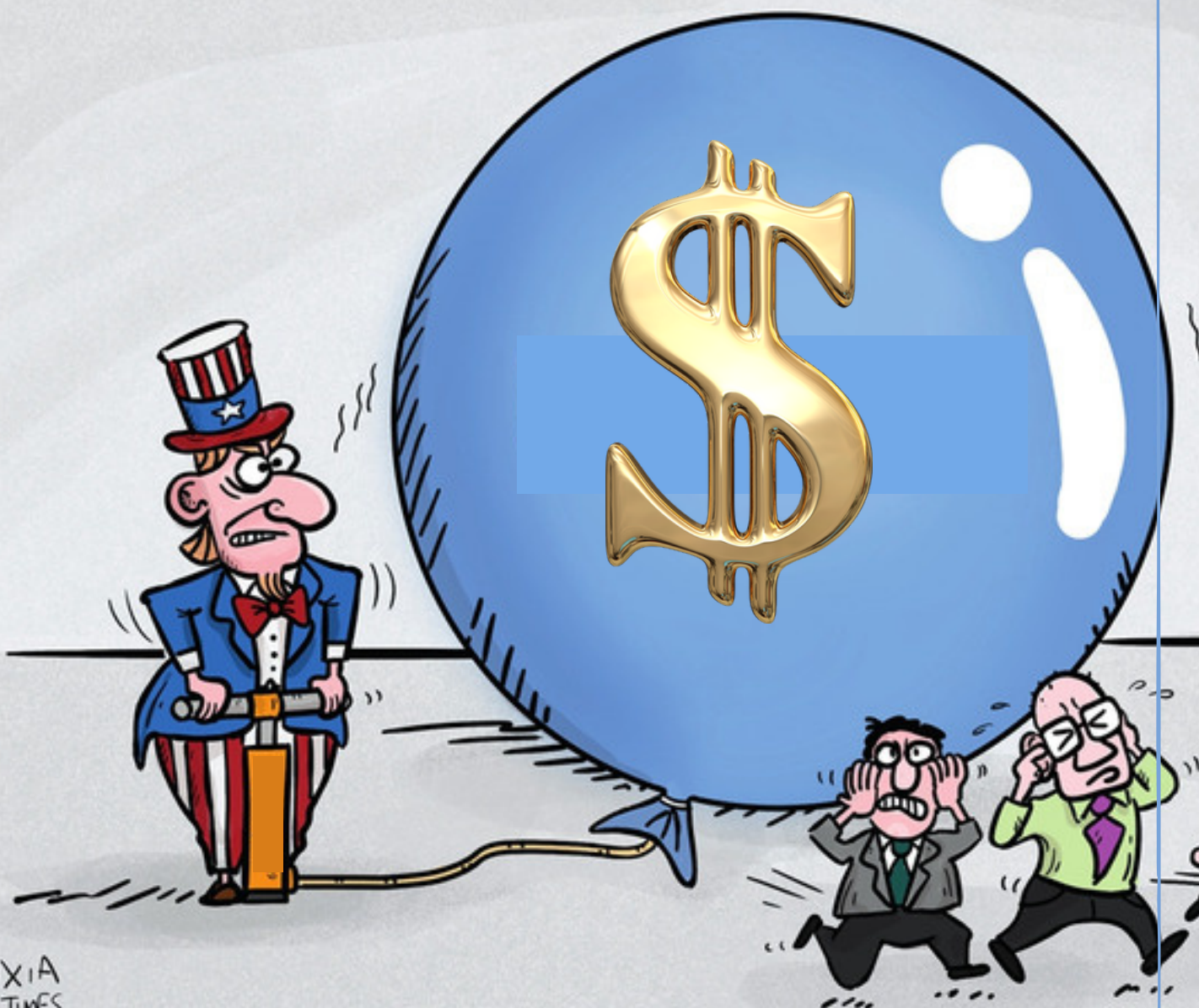




ELITE



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ELITE

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Hosting Dr. Amany Kandil

Special Interview

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The Editor-in-Chief's word

Al-Bahbahany's Time

Ramy Magdy

"In the famous Egyptian comic play "Eleyal Kebret", the name of Al-Bahbahany gets cast on our ears by the protagonist Sultan al-Sukkari. It sounds like a name of a sheikh or a cleric who indoctrinates Sultan and his friends on religion, until one of Sultan's brothers asks him "Who is Al-Bahbahany ?" then we know that he is just a barber who brings them together and instructs them in religion without specialization, guidance or understanding. Al-Bahbahany reminds me of our current context in which many come out to us through all means talking about religion without sufficient credence. They preach in all strange and incomprehensible ways without any qualification, unjustified except to achieve more fame, traffic and viewership. May God protect us from Al-Bahbahany "



Interview with Dr. Amany Kandil, Pioneer of Arab Civil Society Studies

Ramy Magdy, Jomana Khaled, Maram Mofreh, Mariam Younes and Malak Ashraf

Civil society... the story of the year, how did it start? Who plants its seed and who reaps its harvest? How has it coped with changing events and coalesced with conflict? What is its current position? What about its future? All this and more we tackle and analyze in this issue's report.

Let us first warmly welcome our honorable guest, Dr. Amani Kandil, Dean of Civil Society Studies and founder of the Arab Network for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's).

With Dr. Kandil as our guide, we will embark on a fun, interesting, and equally informative tour, throughout which she will recount for us the most important stations of her journey alongside the stories that touch the heart and begs you to reconsider things you thought you knew.

How did your relationship with the Faculty of Economics and Political Science Start? Why did you choose to join it?

In a spontaneous talk, Dr. Amani Kandil displayed before us a wide spectrum of her memories. She spoke of her academic excellence and diligence with regard to her studies in her pre-university years, her family's optimistic foresight of her good future, and her passion and eagerness when it came to reading -- particularly on topics related to her homeland and the world amidst an era where news of internal and external conflict was frequent. Naturally, she was insistent on following up on daily newspapers, which had an immense impact on forming her inner core and shaping her interests. At that point, she decided, in her heart, to enroll in the Faculty of Economics and Political Science which had only been established a few years prior. With a goal in mind,

Dr. Amani excelled as she gained her General Secondary Certificate and ranked first in her governorate. At that time, those ranking first across the country scored, at most, 85 percent, and our faculty only accepted the country's top 50. As one of them, Dr. Amani's hope of joining the faculty was fulfilled and within its walls, she spent unforgettable times to which many wish to return!

You were often known for your special interest in the issues of volunteer work and the civil sector, which was later named the civil society. How did this interest start and how did it develop?

Dr. Amani lead us up the ladder up which she climbed, specifying the first step back to the time of her doctoral thesis preparations. The thesis, whose topic was on economic policymaking during the 1970s and 80s, coincided with the state's reorientation towards economic openness at that time. Consequently, the thesis' contributions can be considered a turning point of change in the school of political science in Egypt. Not to mention that Dr. Amani was also the first student to focus on policymaking, which paved the way for the launch of the School of Public Policy, as documented. Her thesis was also the first to be supervised by our great professor, Dr. Aley El Din Helal.

This was followed by some important details; Dr. Amani mentioned that she was the first student to base her main sources on conducting personal interviews with senior leaders, as she conducted an interview with the then Prime Minister Abdel Aziz Hegazy alongside other ministers and members of the Economic Group, and she expressed her keenness to conduct such interviews.



At that time, it was common at the time to specialize in either international relations or comparative politics, but our guest has never been just one or the other. Rather, she has chosen to follow a multidisciplinary approach. Sharing with us an excerpt of the overall tenor of her thesis, the doctor explains that it revolved around the informal forces affecting decision-making, which back then was a completely unfamiliar topic. Commenting on that, Dr. Amani asserted that it was time to broaden our focus lens to include also the informal forces affecting decision-making, which is why she devoted an entire chapter to businesspersons' associations and to details about them, some of which were personal. She also added details on how they affected and were affected by the economic open-door policies. Refraining from exaggeration, which was indeed the first time for anyone to shed light on businesspersons, not to mention the trade unions and the chambers of commerce and industry. To rephrase Dr. Amani's words, civil associations or civil society had not been even mentioned up until that point, not even as a footnote or a byline!

Providing us with more and more, Dr. Amani mentioned that her thesis had a profound impact on several matters, starting from the steps towards expansion and the deep dive into a discourse on businessmen as one of society's forces, through the unions that take upon themselves the rights of their members, ending with the establishment of a special department for the study of NGOs. With further research, it was found that they are rich in interactions and blending with political axes and dynamics. Here is what we can also consider a starting point, for Dr. Amani to start studying the cultural and social history of NGOs in Egypt, and she was most committed to these two terms: associations and NGOs. All this effort and commitment came to fruition when the American University of Johns Hopkins in Maryland contacted Dr. Amani to work as part of a 15-member research team from several international countries, with the doctor representing the Arab world. Commencing by the end of 1989, a number of meetings were held in America and several European capitals, lasting until 2000, crowned with abundant efforts and equally fruitful results.

She followed her talk with the outcomes of that experience. The title of the research that was worked on was: "The International Comparative Project for Civil Society Organizations," and it dealt with the various criteria that govern work under the umbrella of civil society. They are six criteria, the most important of which are: non-politicization, work for the public interest, autonomy (albeit relatively), and an organizational structure in accordance with the law. At that time, when the concept of civil society emerged, confusion occurred between it and the concept of political parties. That is why Dr. Amani has been keen to focus on those aforementioned criteria, as it is not correct to put political parties side by side with civil society.

Even if we say that it does not enjoy complete independence, there is still a difference between the former that seeks power and the latter that works directly on society -- though both do seek public good.

From another corner and to reaffirm the criteria, Dr. Amani's team wanted to include professional syndicates as part of civil society, but she strongly objected, arguing that professional syndicates violate the condition of volunteering. For example, for a doctor or engineer to practice his profession, the main condition is to register in a professional union.

Assuming everyone under the umbrella of civil society volunteers in at least one place -- and this is our main criterion and not theirs -- should a doctor be listed in the Physicians Syndicate without obtaining a certificate of completion of his studies? The same thing applies to civil society, and therefore it was agreed that the professional syndicates are a borderline case. Moreover, Hopkins University had published three booklets in English by Dr. Amani, and other researchers had also had their chapters published on this topic in international books. Meanwhile, the demand for the work of and in NGOs increased, whether under the pressure of globalization, successive women and population conferences, partnerships, international summits, or international documents that began to be concerned with the development and sustainable development and the role of civil society in it. This actually had a major role in forming the focus of Dr. Amani on NGOs and civil institutions.



Dr. Amani added that that momentum coincided with Prince Talal bin Abdulaziz's intention - may God have mercy on him - to establish an Arab network that would support and animate NGO's, and that would work on studying them and introducing their role. At that time, the Prince was in America and announced said intention to some American professors, and their reactions indicated that Dr. Amani Kandil was the right person for this job, not them.

Indeed, it was communicated and then contracted with them and the United Nations provided that Dr. Amani would be the founder of the Arab Network for NGOs, headquartered in Cairo and that it would focus its interests on developing the capabilities of NGOs and Arab civil society. This was a significant move because its work at that time started encompassing all Arab countries, so it was imperative to conduct a survey, research, and study in all Arab countries and also build a strong research network. Additionally, Dr. Amani worked on training and upgrading the capabilities of the members of that network; she taught them a lot, from attracting professors of sociology and politics to conducting many studies that were published under the name "The Arab Network for NGOs." She also paid great attention to training, enriching knowledge, and experiences, which are inseparable from each other.

Dr. Amani continued, explaining that working on the continuous diligent development of the capabilities of the research team and its knowledge and awareness of the issues of the country in which it is working is necessary. Accordingly, an excellent training and knowledge program was devised to prepare qualified trainers. Despite the long and fruitful trip that benefited our guest, she decided to retire from regular work and travel and to resign from the Arab Network in 2016. The doctor commented that since her resignation, the network has unfortunately not been quite as active or influential.

Dr. Amani directed some advice to any researcher who would like to break into the field of NGOs, urging them to have a broad, comprehensive, critical and comparative vision, because we are not talking about a single, homogeneous entity, but rather an entity that reflects a branching cultural, social and political phenomenon par excellence!

There are those who say that the concept of civil society is western in nature and that those who focus on voluntary non-governmental organizations overlook the special nature of civil and voluntary work in the Arab world and the related phenomena of charitable societies, endowments, and various forms of solidarity that are of a religious and sometimes tribal nature. What do you think about the extent of the comprehensiveness of the concept of civil society in describing and understanding these phenomena?

Dr. Amani refuted our inquiry by mentioning her 2011 published book "What role does civil society play?" in which she talks about how the role of civil society in Western societies is to contribute to achieving social stability and a balance between interests. However, the hypothesis regarding Egypt says, for example, that it is civil society that will achieve democracy and political reform as if it were a magic wand, and that for it Egypt was given millions of dollars before and after the January revolution. In reality, it would be a complete omission of the fact that civil society is a cultural, socio-political entity par excellence, and is not subject to import. She followed, elaborating that the Western literature we read and benefit from is undoubtedly important, but it must be adapted to the living reality. It should not stand still in its place, rather it should continue developing.

Our interview touched upon another stage in the life of our guest when a higher authority asked her to conduct a study on civil associations in Upper Egypt. Its subject was extreme poverty, deplorable health, and deteriorating social conditions, all of which created a fertile ground for Muslim Brotherhood groups to sow their seed and plow it. An example of this can be found in seven of the governorates of Upper Egypt, where about eight thousand civil associations were established after the January revolution with the aim of imposing hegemony on the poor by securing their food and expenses!

That is why Dr. Amani values the Hayah Karima (Decent Life) Program, which cares about Upper Egypt so that people do not fall into the clutches of those who traffic their religion and their lives. Therefore, she has presented parts of the Decent Life Program in her book, which will be published soon.

In your career, there are two interesting stations: your work on the radio and your work with the the Center for Social and Criminological Research. How have these two stations formed the background and interests of Dr. Amani Kandil?

We were introduced by Dr. Amani to another spectrum of her memories other than the one in the beginning of our conversation. She told us that her love for radio work had first emerged back when she was one of the shining lights of her school's morning broadcast, as testified and praised by many of her teachers. She followed in this passion of hers, impacted by senior media figure, Mr. Hamdi Kandil - May God have mercy on him - her cousin, until the opportunity came to apply for radio tests, through which she was accepted.

اي دور يلعبه المجتمع المدني؟

قراءة نقدية للواقع والأدبيات

د/ أماني قنديل



She succeeded brilliantly, and she ended up coming and going, frequenting conferences and events. All of this culminated in one of the programs that she presented being awarded by the Arab Broadcasting Union. That program, which talked about and documented the basin area in Al-Sayeda Zainab in 1977 and 1978 before it was surrounded and covered with slums, conveyed the horrifying picture of how the people of demolished lands live in gutters, shelters that do not a shelter, with humans and animals fighting alike...

Resuming, Dr. Amani said that she had spent more than twenty days trying to empty that image in her mind into another stylized image to be broadcasted on the program, given how horrifying the first one was. Using her own words, and our guest is one of the tongues of the truth, boredom from media work had crept its way to her, especially after the events of 1981 and the tightening restrictions on the written and audible word. The matter even developed to the point of arresting many prominent media professionals. Hamdi Kandil had commented then saying: "Nothing will remain but the written word."

Afterward, Dr. Amani moved to talk about academic work. She recalls that she saw while browsing a newspaper, an advertisement for the position of a teaching assistant or assistant professor at the Center for Social and Criminal Research, so she applied for it. She was accepted and worked in the Public Opinion Department, and it was not long before she left her job to take the aforementioned position of Secretary-General of the Arab Network for Organizations.

-Dr. Amani also conveyed to us something that touched both her heart and ours! She told us that it is worth mentioning that what she has accomplished on this journey has been mixed with components, some of which are hidden. One is to be patient and another to be thankful; as although God did not endow her with children, He, in His infinite wisdom, bestowed upon her a husband, a generous and kind companion, from whom she gained more strength and in whom she leaned. May God have mercy on the benevolent and the virtuous doctor and place him in the vastness of his gardens.

The middle class in Egypt, since the seventies with the beginning of openness policies, has been the subject of consideration and concern from various researchers in the social sciences. Now after several decades of privatization followed by economic reform programs and flotation – how do you assess the situation of the middle class in Egypt in terms of its challenges and opportunities?

Dr. Amani answered that she has individually issued a book in 2019 entitled "The Middle Class and Social Mobility." Perhaps no one else from FEPS or other faculties has dealt with this field recently, as it witnessed a great apathy and reluctance among students and professors in handling it, which resulted in a large gap in the literature. Moreover, she presented to us some parts from her book, in which she analyzed the middle class into a group of different segments and categories according to the nature of their work and income, affiliation, and aspiration for advancement. From this, we conclude that the middle class is not homogeneous, but is divided into strands or segments: an upper middle segment, a middle-middle segment, and a lower-middle segment.

Dr. Amani sees that this class is increasing day by day; for instance, the number of members of professional unions increases day after day. Therefore, from the perspective of quantity, it is not expected or considered that the middle class is eroding or disappearing. From the qualitative perspective, we can put forward more ideas in this regard. For example, there is what is called "the underground tunnel of corruption," for corruption in all its colors is able to elevate the individual from his lower or middle class to the upper privileged class.

Yet, in any case, the middle class suffers from disparities in income and education due to the different educational streams of this class. It is possible for us to mention that there is movement from time to time in the middle-class segments; for one segment might almost descend into a lower one, and a lower one might descend steadfastly to another, even less privileged one, to withstand the bitter economic conditions that the country is going through. Other than that, we can only say that the middle class stands as the backbone of the country, and reflects its social, economic, and cultural conditions.



Certainly, volunteer work in Egypt, as in the Arab world, faces several challenges related to the culture of volunteer work and the political structure of those societies. Tell us about your actual experience with those challenges. What opportunities have become available to strengthen interest in volunteer work?

Dr. Amani sees that the culture of volunteer work is regressing significantly. Successive field studies over the span of the past ten years have proven that one of the most important problems of volunteering is the apathy causing people to refrain from volunteering due to their exposure to economic pressure, the lack of time for many, and the confusion of concepts and values, etc... That is in addition to the tension in the relationship between the state and voluntary organizations, but we are now on the verge of an environment not only conducive to the re-planting of civil society, but also welcoming of political discourse, and an enacted law.

On the other side, we find that we are still in the midst of a dreary cultural and social environment that does not embrace volunteerism and discourages it. This is one of the outputs of studies and field research, so we can be certain by saying that our problem is a cultural and not a material one.

Our guest proceeded, to communicate that there were several excellent volunteer teams and promising organizations in Lebanon, but unfortunately, they have retreated and disappeared amidst the current situation, especially in the last five years. Similar ones also existed in Morocco but retreated for the same reasons. However, we conclude that volunteering differs from one country to another. An example of this is that the Emirates enjoys strong resources, and its sheiks and princesses finance civil institutions and attract and embrace professionals in such work. In any case, we can only say that the culture of volunteering suffers from a critical crisis. The family has almost erased it from its educational dictionary! That is why Dr. Amani included in her book, which she is currently working on, some concepts related to the culture of volunteering and refuting the incorrect ones.

Everyone undoubtedly knows about the President's call to make 2022 the year of civil society. Now that a third of this year has passed, how do you assess the feasibility and gains of civil society from the government's implementation of this new orientation?

Dr. Amani Kandil said that this matter requires more attention and efforts from organizations and institutions to seize such a great opportunity. She praises the renewal of that call during the "Egyptian Family Iftar" ceremony as well as the call of all community forums to a national dialogue, which was attended by several civil society figures, indicating that it will have an effective and audible role in the new republic. In addition to its involvement in some issues, such as the activation of the "Presidential Pardon Committee".

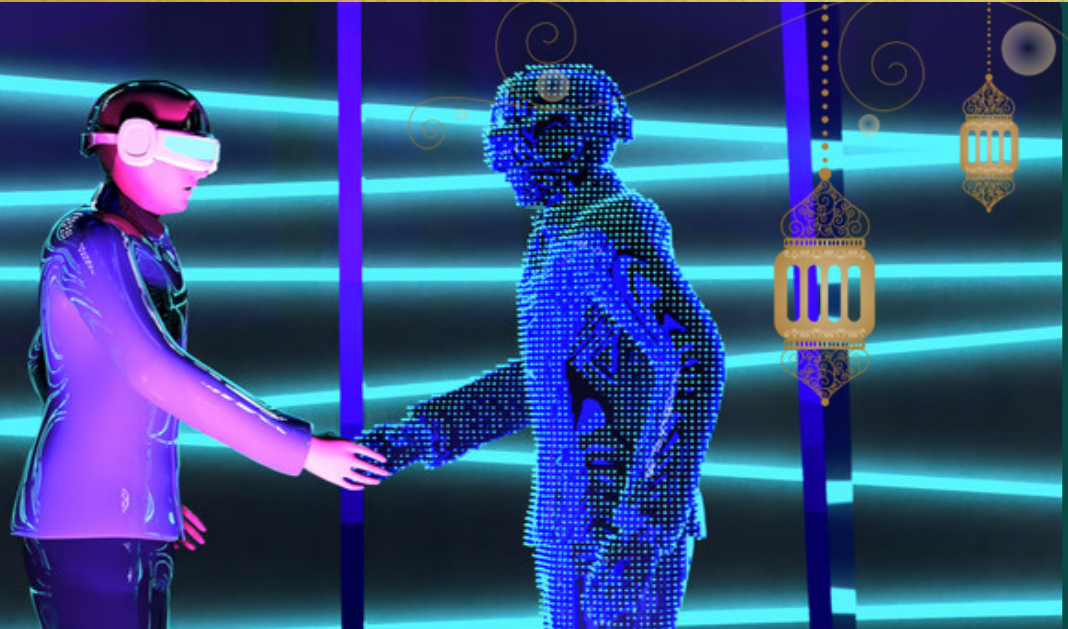
Finally, what do you advise researchers on civil society issues in Egypt?

Dr. Amani Kandil advised and urged more hard work and more contact with the land and people! Just as a chemist belongs in his lab, a researcher in civil society issues belongs on the street. A researcher cannot study this society from their desk.

And now, after this long prosperous journey, on which our guest took us, the author of twenty-seven works, of which no less than fourteen are related to civil work. Without her tremendous efforts, that work would have been entirely different from what it is now.

-If, like us, you are interested in reading the works of our dear doctor, make sure to check her website which contains works from 2010 to 2022. The books there can be downloaded directly without restrictions; you can access them through this link: <https://amanikandil.com/>

Finally, we can only applaud warmly and extend our thanks and gratitude to our dear guest, and sincerely pray for further progress, excellence, and advancements.



Twins in the Metaverse Era

Prof. Hanan Hanan M. Aly, FEPS V. dean for Education & Students' Affairs

Translated by : Yvette Maher

Time: 2029

Place: One of the smart cities, called META
Meta cities

Where the glass houses called capsules...
Their walls are equipped with screens. On
four sides... There are many devices, buttons
and machines... All houses have the same
spaces... and the distance that keep them
away from each other is the same...

The streets are quiet... No cars... But only
food carts and garbage collection trolleys.

Here a person wears a thick suit and gloves...
He is putting on his glasses... and his
headphones.

He never hears any voices... And debates or
dialogues are not possible...

Work is limited to 12 hours per day... Don't
increase and don't decrease... Neither
apologies nor vacations are permitted... All
working hours are spent in front of devices
and screens...

The nature of the work in this era, varies
between software engineering, capsule
construction, computer maintenance, file
management...

Sleeping is set for eight hours... Screens go
dark... The headphones are automatically
separated... The accessories and gloves are
taken off.

And the remaining four hours... are
distributed by one hour's dining, divided by
three thirds, for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Food is canned. It contains a lot of fruit and
vegetables... Whipped in blenders...
Specified in quantities and calories... So that
it fits with one's age in years. Length, weight
and previous injuries...

The other three hours are distributed as one
hour's rest between each 4 working hours,
spent attending ceremonies, virtual visits and
events, or exercising hobbies electronically
without leaving capsules...



In these capsules, everyone lives alone in isolation, and can form their own virtual worlds as they wish. Each person has an identity with a serial number out of all people in the world. This identity contains his 3D image, genetic descriptions, genetic fingerprint, personal characteristics, basic occupation and subhobbies.

Each individual is allowed to choose only a maximum of three virtual characters, which are different from his main character, and are also registered with identities according to the nature of the virtual world of his or her choice.

A person may be fond of ancient monuments, spending all your time between museums and archaeological places.

Or he may be passionate about reading in libraries, spending all his time traveling between books, manuscripts, magazines and periodicals.

And whoever sees himself as an acting talent can communicate with amateurs, represent characters, and shoot shots.

And whoever loves to travel, the world in front of him is available, wandering around as his will. He only has to ask for permission by booking an e-ticket to walk around a particular place, according to the number allowed, by his virtual personality, without overcrowding and congestion.

In this smart city, there was one of the major software companies that designed a number of new virtual worlds, set entry conditions and the mechanism for dealing within them.

Software engineers worked very meticulously according to established plans, periodically detecting them, by making measurements, a number of radiators, pulling samples through devices installed in the capsules in which they lived, and administering the drug mixed with water.

If surgical intervention is required, accessories and gloves are automatically separated from the body, and a robot proceeds to perform the surgery by stopping the brain sensation centers until the surgery is completed, without the need for anesthesia.

Over the years, according to periodic medical reports, programmers have been observed with depressive signs, having crying attacks, feeling weak without organic reasons, suffering from low concentration and poor mind, and having been identified as fatal errors, which may cause the work system to be completely paralysed.

Here, doctors and psychoanalysts had to examine changes in behaviour, the effects of concentration, and developments in the psychological state, through personal interviews with programmers.

In the large-space capsule where the company is managed, interviews were held, one by one, and in one interview, when a programmer entered the psychoanalyst, the latter nailed in his place. And stuttering at his word. And he tried to control his emotion...

But it came out of his mouth with a word of surprise, saying, "Joseph!!..



The programmer calmly looked at him, saying, "So you are Yahya."

The psychiatrist shook his head in the affirmative, raising both hands, rushing towards him embracing him, and in an embarrassing voice: Joseph... My twin... Seeing you today after all these years. We hurt after you. And we thought you were dead.

Joseph showed no regret, and said, "I had the opportunity to work here, and you know it was my dream from a young age.

"My twin... Mom and Dad's son... My longtime companion... I missed you so much... And I have been looking for you for a long time.

He invited him to sit down, while looking at a small screen on the desk in front of him, to see his medical reports, his laboratory measurements, and then he decided to start the session.

Yahya: Joseph, tell me about you.

Joseph replied briefly: I work here at this company designed for virtual people, we receive requests from users, and we design the virtual person with the required sizes and characteristics that are appropriate for both the user and the place where he wants to be.

Yahya said, looking at Joseph, paying attention to his words... Focusing on his expressions... scrutinizing his movements... Do you remember our childhood, do you remember our mother's features and our father's ones? Do you keep pictures of our uncles and aunts?

Joseph replied resentfully: I have forgotten such things, I do not need such memories, I focus all my thoughts only on the present and the future, and I have nothing to do with the past.

Yahya said: The present is the completion of the path of the past, and the link to the future.

He added, "Then tell me about your future plans... and your personal dreams."

Joseph replied fidgeting: My dream is that we can turn everything real into virtual... But we still have places that cannot be visited... and obstacles that cannot be crossed... and dimensions that cannot be measured....

Yahya asked him while writing on the screen in front of him some notes: Would you explain to me with examples...

Joseph replied: Places are planets and stars... Mountain peaks and deep seas. Inside molecules and around atoms.

The obstacles may be epidemics and diseases... Wind and rain... Earthquakes and volcanoes...

For dimensions, space-time is the most accurate example.

Here, Yahya asked him: What do you think of a saying that has been repeated in the media a lot: "Since we knew the meta verse, truth has been mixed with assumptions... reality with imagination... and constants with variables."

Joseph quickly replied: Wrong saying. Without meta verse, we would not have reached this scientific progress in many fields.



Yahya asked him: What about this saying, "We started with social communication, then we entered the virtual world, and we ended up with collective discord."

Joseph, angry: wrong saying too.

Yahya tried to change the rudder of the conversation, and said with a smile, "My beloved brother... Obviously, you've had a lot of successes. Your company has gone a long way. Now you need to spend time with parents and friends, restore old feelings and emotions, he added: How about you and I meet together, and invite some friends and family?"

Joseph seemed to disagree with his speech, and looked at his brother as if he were recognizing him for the first time, and said, "I don't need to meet anyone. What is this shit? What feelings and emotions are you talking about? It is old stuff... they are outdated... they no longer exist now..."

Yahya surprised him by asking: Do you have a wife? do you have children?

Joseph shook his head in denial.

Yahya said pleadingly: My beloved twin.. If you don't need me, then I need you most..

If you're busy, I'm here to crave...

And if I'm a therapist... You are a balm and a cure for me.

Looking at the ground, Joseph said, "I'm not going to leave my tight system that I'm used to here.

Here Yahya said, trying to beg his brother: You left me a few years ago... And you cut off the means of communicating sharply... Today we return to each other with love and affection.

Meanwhile, Joseph was pressing a number of buttons on his watch, and if he comes out with a small roll, it looks like a folded, stands up and singles it out with both hands, so it becomes like a big screen, he points to it and tells his brother: Look..

Yahya looked impressed, amazed over his face, and said, "Who are these!?"

Joseph replied while he is smiling: Hadi, Shady, Fadi, my twins.. I had this idea now.

He added: They seem to be more like me than you, and he pointed to each of them explaining:

- Hadi took my mom's face round, with my dad's eyes.. I fed his brain with all the places that humans could visit on the simple.

- And Shady has my mom's hair and my dad's nose.. His brain contains all forms of clothing and accessories that a person can wear

- But concerning Fadi, he took the same face as my dad and he has my mom's eyes... His brain contains the history of nations and people since the date's registration began.

And here Yahya almost screamed at him, but he controlled himself, and turned to him, saying: The interview is over!

Joseph laughed, and said mockingly, after he were about to go out: Goodbye, my brother.

Here Yahya shook his hand, and said with sadness on his face:

Say peace to the world... and goodbye to the brothers... What kindness between us is to blame!!



ELITE at NCHR's Seminar With Mr. Eamon Gilmore

Hania Bahaa - Reem Omran - Zeina Marie

Level3 - Major Economicas

FEPS has always been keen to provide its students with unique experiences, and so, under the supervision of Dr. Hanan Hassan, Vice Dean for Education & Students' Affairs for Education & Students' Affairs, a group of FEPS students and Elite's editor were given the chance to attend a seminar at the National Human Rights Council of Egypt, that took place on the 13th of April. The visit was organized by Dr. Nevine Mosaad, who besides being an esteemed Political Science professor at FEPS, is also the president of the cultural committee in the council.

The seminar was titled "The Human Rights in the 21st century from a European Perspective", and it was highlighted by the presence of the guest speaker Mr. Eamon Gilmore, who serves as the European Union's special representative for human rights. The discussion panel also included Dr. Mosheera Khattab, the president of the NCHR, H.E. Mr. Mahmoud Karem, vice president of NCHR, and Ambassador Christian Berger, the head of the EU's Delegation to Egypt.

First off, Dr. Mosheera gave the opening speech, where she welcomed Mr. Eamon Gilmore, Ambassador Christian, and all the esteemed attendees, before headlining how important cooperation, between the EU and Egypt, is. She then proceeded to stress the importance of human rights in the Egyptian agenda, and highlight the astonishing accomplishments in the field, which included; Criminalizing Female Genital Mutation, sexual harassment, and most recently under the authorization of the President Abdelfattah El Sisi, criminalizing child marriage

Dr. Mosheera also emphasized that there's no such thing as "impossible" and that miracles do in fact exist, just like the ones she had witnessed in her field; A couple of years ago, it would've been "impossible" to reach where we are in terms of human rights improvements and achievements.

The floor was given to Mr. Eamon, who expressed how happy he was to be in Egypt and hold this seminar, and his speech went on to be extensive and extremely informative. Mr. Eamon first started articulating how necessary human rights are, by describing them as part of the DNA of the European Union; Despite that, implementing them is by far one of the greatest challenges there is. He highlighted his mission in The European Union as working on promoting human rights in every country in the world. Moreover, Mr. Gilmore also thoroughly presented the 5 main pillars of work in his area, and they were as follows:

1. Protecting and empowering people
2. Building democratic resilience
3. Support and defend humanitarian institutions, like the UN
4. Developing and implementing new human rights agenda that puts areas like the private sector, technological advancements, and laws into consideration
5. Working in partnership



Finally, Mr. Gilmore concluded his speech with heartfelt advice to all the students who were in the audience; Based on his life experiences, he assured everyone to have confidence that the changes they seek will come. He also expressed how, growing up, he had always had the drive to change, and urged everyone with the same drive to accept that it's okay for change to occur slowly.

Moving on, the seminar was open to questions, and there were plenty of interesting ones that created enlightening discussions between the attendees and the panel; Without a doubt, FEPS's students were among the askers. The first question from our side was "Doesn't the seminary's title "Human rights from a European perspective"? defy the principle of human rights' universality that we learn and seek to implement?". The question was answered by Dr. Mosheera, who believed that the universality of human rights doesn't in any way contradicts having different perspectives and priorities,

as per the region's current status. The second question from FEPS's student revolved around the global pandemic, whereas we've seen some governments prioritizing the national interest over the well-being of their citizens, and thus, affecting their legal human rights to access proper health care. Therefore, we were eager to know their views on that matter. Mr. Gilmore argued that such a case of states deprioritizing their citizens was in fact rare, and he believed that governments had actually taken extreme unimaginable measures in order to protect their populations. He then continued to stress the importance of listening to an organization like WHO more often, as they have been calling and predicting that outbreak for quite some time now; we could've avoided a lot of obstacles if we had followed them in the first place.



Finally, the seminar was concluded by thanking speeches from both Mr. Gilmore and Dr. Mosheera; They both stated how fruitful of a seminar this had been, before heading for a group photo with all the attendees.

On behalf of the students who were a part of this visit, we, as Elite's editors, would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Hanan, Dr. Neveen, and Dr. Ramy for giving us the chance to attend this event; it was a one-of-a-kind experience, and definitely an eye-opener over the critical topic of human rights.



"BDS & Resisting Israel"

Mayar Adel Kassab -Level3 -Political Science

Since the Zionist entity occupied the Palestinian territory, It has continued its violations against the Palestinian people, It carries out crimes against the principles of humanity by arresting, torturing, and deporting people, raping rights, and other cruel policies and flagrant injustice that deprive Palestinians of their fundamental rights.

But the Palestinian people never gave up ... they began their journey of struggle to protect their territory, defend their freedom, and confront the occupying forces from the very first moments of this occupation, Through popular movements that seek to resist Israeli occupation and create freedom and equality in a country that has suffered for years from its depletion by the Zionist entity, Calls for an end to Israeli persecution and support and respect for the rights of the Palestinian people, Palestinian factions are numerous in the area of resistance, The tools and forms of Palestinian resistance movements were numerous.

Among these movements was a Palestinian movement that extended to the entire world with its influence, It is a form of popular peaceful resistance that has begun from within and evolved but has become universal and exists in several Western countries, It posed a serious security threat to Israel

and even became a nightmare threatening the existence of the Zionist entity, Described as a 'strategic danger', Israel directed its force to fight its activities... the BDS movement. A movement to boycott, divest and punish Israel A popular movement calling for the boycott of Israel, Israeli companies, and all companies, institutions, and activities in support of the Zionist entity and the cessation of their engagement with them, and pressure on investors and contractors of Israeli companies to withdraw their investment and terminate such engagements, sanctions, cessation of military cooperation, trade agreements and expulsion of Israel from international forums, and to isolate the Israeli entity academically, culturally, politically and economically.

The Movement is pressing peacefully to stifle and isolate Israel, Until it recognizes the rights of the Palestinians, This movement is aware that Israel's strength lies in its diplomatic relations with the great Powers that help and support it. Without such support, this regime cannot continue, That's where the idea came in, which is to highlight the popular forces to cut off this collusion.

Although official support for Israel remains strong, the boycott movements have succeeded in making



a radical change in Western public opinion towards Israel, reinforcing its isolation, It strengthens the pressure of people on their Governments to hold Israel accountable and to impose sanctions against it in solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people, The provincial movement has thus become a powerful tool for ending Western official support, The Movement was able to leave a clear mark in its response to Israeli aggression, and their multiple successes and achievements towards the goal, There was solidarity from different States with the Movement, Foreign direct investment in Israel was reduced by 47% in 2014. See the withdrawal of major companies such as Viola, Orange, and CRH from the Israeli economy all together. American company Ben & Jerry's also announced that it would not renew its contract with Israeli companies, and Canadian company Bombardier, French company Alstom, Siemens, Australian Macquarie, and a Greek consortium withdrew from an illegal Israeli railway expansion project.



Other companies have announced that steps have been taken to stop their involvement in Israel's crimes. International investors withdrew their investment in support of Israel, Some artists have also refused to hold art concerts in Israeli cities "Broklen Kota" canceled a show in Tel Aviv. An Emmy Award-winning actor also rejected an offer with "Netflix" in support of the boycott movement. The solidarity of many athletes with the Palestinian people and the shaking of stadiums around the world... " Let's interrupt Puma". It has also adopted academic institutions and student federations around the world for the Israeli boycott movement.



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We must only step up our struggle for the rights of the Palestinian people and play a role in assisting and supporting such movements, boycotting all Israeli support companies To stop the suffering of the Palestinian people and put an end to the violations suffered by Palestinians living under Israeli occupation...



The Other face of the Russian-Ukrainian war "Caricature war"

Mayar Saber, third year, political science

The French Foreign Ministry said in a press conference that the Russian ambassador in France was called because of that post which the Russian embassy has posted earlier on its official page on Twitter and said that “ it was an unacceptable act “ The Russian Embassy in Paris on post Twitter included that , a body that lying down on a table and with the word "Europe" written on it and two doctors One of them represented the United States of America and was called (Empire of Lies), and the other represented the European Union and was called (European Reich) inject it with Russophobia , New Nazism , Covid-19 and NATO. The French President Emmanuel Macron has expressed his anger towards this caricature described it as "unacceptable act” and it would lead to more escalation in the Russian crisis with the European Union. He added, "We try to keep a channel of dialogue with Russia and these acts are not appropriate."

In addition to criticizing French Minister of European Affairs, (Clement Beaune) to the caricature and he described it as a "shame". The Russian response came to remind France with the famous ‘ Charlie Hebdo ‘caricature , which France published and it was considered as an offensive act toward Islamic religion, which was later denounced by the Director of the Information and Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation” Maria zakharova” , on its official channel on Telegram.



She said "Truly? Is not the French Ministries of Foreign Affairs in France who taught us that any drawings are normal, even the awful Charlie Hebdo ones? We decided to follow their advice and use satire that they saw as evidence of freedom of expression, and now they don't like anything." The Russian Embassy, in an interview, with France press said that the issue of posting tweets was, among other issues, and it was removed the next day after being published. , "We have the attention of our French colleagues on provocations and vandalism against Russian diplomatic missions in France," they added.



It is worth mentioning that since the beginning of the Ukrainian Russian crisis and coinciding with the development of war events, many caricatures embodied the crisis , the most famous of these is that one which showing the Russian President Vladimir Putin next to the Most Famous Russian socialists and the leaders pre-disintegration of the Soviet Union , Karl Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin and Putin comes to complete the picture and indicates this caricature to the desire of Putin to combine Ukraine , they thought this is as an attempt to back in the Soviet Union again. The Arab world also took part in showing the impact of this crisis on the prices of commodities and the economic repercussions that affected global markets, as they appeared in some Arab caricatures as well. Some caricatures also showed the economic sanctions imposed on Russia by the United States and the European Union and by showing the Russian Bear with a small game tied on its arm, and it look as if it never care, this is actually the case in reality, where the Russian president show a big carelessness toward those sanctions and did not prevent him from keeping what he started in Ukraine. The Russian war continues and its repercussions at the global level are still happening, and on the other hand the other face of the war is continues as well which is ‘The Caricature War’.





THE RUSSO-UKRAINIAN HISTORY AND WAR

Mostafa Maher, L2, ECONOMICS

Today we are going to talk about a sensitive and highly controversial topic: the Russo-Ukrainian war. But before we delve deeper into the topic we must first visit the historical roots of the subject. During the 9th century we see that a mix between nomadic, slavs and nordic tribes come together to found Kievan Rus which would come to be known as Ukraine in our modern days. Why does the word rus sound familiar you might ask? Well because it became the big old russia we all know today, so yes, the origins of russia are rooted in Ukraine which makes for an interesting argument that we will see later on. Centuries later in 1921, and Ukraine got its independence which makes things a bit more resemblance of today's geographie. Nonetheless, their independence wasn't long lived as in 1922, they were annexed into the soviet union only getting their liberty in 1991 with the collapse of the soviet union. But that wasn't long since the annexation of Crimea and the war in 2022 have shown us. So now the long awaited question: is Ukraine a region or a country? Sadly the answer isn't that simple at all as to be yes or no. Nonetheless we are going to try to take it from these two perspectives and leave you to decide.

One of the first arguments that we are going to tackle is that Russia's origin was Ukraine so if anything Ukraine is the country and Russian is but an extension of regions. Since the fall of the soviet union, Ukraine has been an independent country with its set of legislative and judicial laws, in addition to that it has had its own executive branch. Even after the fall of the soviet union, Ukraine didn't want to be a part of russia it even exchanged the nuclears warheads it had for a fake promise of not attacking or infringing upon their territory wich we all know how that went

But now let's see Ukraine from another perspective, one in which it is a region or more specifically part of russia. Well first of all, throughout the better part of the 20th century, Ukraine along with many other countries didn't exist on the map it was a part of russia or as it was known the soviet union, we see that russia posses far more resources and wealth than Ukraine so does this mean that it would better if Ukraine was part of Russia? Well again the answer isn't that simple... from a political point of view this is completely and utterly unacceptable, but from an utilitarian point of view it could gain some benefit which leads us to our next point which you have probably been waiting for: the Russo-Ukrainian war.



It all started on the 20th February 2014 with the russian annexation of crimea which was would be later regarded as just the beginning of the integration of Ukraine into Russia. Almost a decade later on the 24th February 2022 a full invasion was struck upon Ukraine with the full might of the Russian army. But why is this happening, by who and what does it mean? Well it is happening because there was a threat to Russia when Ukraine was about to enter into the European Union where foreign powers would be able to plant their weapons at the borders of Russia hence Putin(which for him Ukraine is part of Russia) invaded Ukraine to create a buffer zone which means that the war will keep on going until Ukraine is seized.



Game Over FEPS

Belal Gamal, 4th Year, Political Science

Martina Nabil, 4th Year, Political Science



The university study journey at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University is about to end, as the days have passed in succession and fast, leaving us with memories that fill our hearts with joy and happiness whenever they pass through our imagination and remember them. And mixed, a mixture of a feeling of happiness and achievement to end our educational path and the beginning of a new process in which each of us strives to reach his passion and goal, and another feeling of a little sadness lurking in our depths because we will leave a place where we stayed for several years and where we have many memories and weave the most wonderful dreams.

The experience of studying at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science was a rich and enjoyable experience, despite the difficulties in its beginning, everything was not easy in the beginning, the first year in college wasn't easy, due to the transition from one stage to another completely different

different stage that we seek to adapt and adapt to, but since the end of the first year, our passion for studying in the college has increased, especially in the field and field of political science, in which we have acquired many skills, experiences and information.

Studying at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science is one of the things that we will never pass over or pass unnoticed, our morning is warm, but a little stumbling. We take our quick steps in college, passing by the "Gedo" smile and apologies for arriving to the lecture late, a strange paradox between the faces of the students in the first squad, until we called them our friends in the first squad, and they leaned on our hands to assure us that everything would be fine As long as we are here together, the details of those days are as precious as their special owners. There is no college student who has not spent hours in the library looking for reference with a colleague or group Deadlines evenings and summarizing the uncountable courses. It is not possible to limit



the hours we spent together in the long discussions of life and political matters and the great flow of ideas between us to announce the openness and breadth of our minds as much as we were not aware of it. In fact, we find that the more we falter in this great place, the more we learn in return how to rise and commit ourselves to become more mature and ready to face life.

“We are here” whenever we set foot in the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University, and whenever we express ourselves in a field that allows us to do so; We have learned that we are here as long as we have that voice that speaks out and in return performs its duties perfectly, and there are also what we have learned from great professors that others will need a whole life to realize the truths of these things; We know nothing but that every moment was precious with people we would never meet like them.

"Our college friends are a treasure we've reaped"

We used to share sweet and bitter moments in college, the joy of success, anticipation, and anxiety about the exam. We learned from you many values such as cooperation and assistance. Our hearts were united on the meaning of love, you were the hope that made these moments of our life, , and you will become the dream and wish that we cherish. Dear friends, our love is like a spring breeze, and you are in our path, the scent of jasmine and the zeal of rhymes.

The days passed quickly as if they were moments because of the deliciousness that melts the heart with longing, for the memories of yesterday are how sweet they are! I wish it would remain forever. Dear friends, you were a title for friendship, and you were and will always be our heartbeat.

"ELITE is the gateway to free expression of opinions"



One of the most interesting and rich experiences that we had in this edifice was the experience of writing in the elite newspaper, which is considered as a vast arena full of diversity and richness, and is also considered as an ancient and authentic edifice that the individual can enter through its gate and step towards education and increase from the experiences inside it The elite gives the opportunity to its students to talk and discuss extensively in social, political, economic and other matters. It also tries to find solutions to existing societal problems by presenting ways and means through which problems can be uprooted or even prevented.

The journey is about to end, dear friend, but its impact will continue to extend inside each of us.



The Beggars' drama

Youssef Adel

During your daily life and your moving through the streets, alleys and squares you will find a common factor among all Egyptian streets in the Great Cairo which is the existing of people of all ages asking you a charity and financial aid to solve their endless problems, to back to their far away town or for a surgeryetc

Beggars are widely distributed on the streets of the capital and Great Cairo in important and touristic areas , me and two Australian persons were exposed to an urgent attempt for money by a 9 years old girl in front of the Egyptian Museum in Tahrir square and once again in The Nile Palace bridge ,not to mention the existing chaos in The Mohandessin and Dokki area, which is famous for being a center for Arab housing in Great Cairo where beggars approach thugs and thieves taking the money from you by the violence , urgent ,pressure or trying to get your attention to something more important than the money like being harassed or accused of harassing this poor girl who persuading hard to get her lunch, you human wolf ,over time beggars in Mohndessin and Dokki area became targets the Arabs more than Egyptians but there is no objection to trying to get money from Egyptians too, as sea loves to increase

It did not stop at Mohandessin, Dokki and downtown, so we always see beggars in front of Cairo University, whether from the side of the main door of the university or from the side of the traffic light. All this happens in front of one of the oldest universities in the Middle East.

I live in Hada'k el Ahram area - close to the Grand Egyptian Museum and the Pyramids of Giza - and the area has turned into a new chapter of the beggars play, because the area has become inhabited by people with a good social status, and with the opening of the museum it will be a

place with many foreigners of different nationalities, as it is a good opportunity and a new market to the begging industry, and on your way to Hada'k el Ahram or October area , if you take the ring road , you will find a group of strong-willed young men at the beginning of the road begging and chasing cars, especially modern and expensive cars, asking for money and charity for help! You will find them in October, Sheikh Zayed, Nasr City and Heliopolis, and it has become an industry for everyone and does not know the meaning of racism. Sometimes I encounter Syrians asking for charity because they are refugees.

For something that is surprising here, most of these areas are not slums and areas with a presence and a good concentration of the Egyptian police forces. I do not know what prevents them from dealing firmly with the situation. I do not attack the police and the Ministry of the Interior, I know that begging and beggars in Egypt have become cancerous cells that Reproducing hysterically and run by gangs and groups that divide work tasks among their members as if you were in a large corporation, but this problem must be placed on the priorities of the Egyptian state and its various agencies in the coming period, It is a problem no less dangerous for development in Egypt and the tourism sector than the threat of terrorism, which we all faced as a people and state agencies with the utmost decisiveness.. The problem of beggary in Egypt is linked to more than one problem whose repercussions will appear directly in the future, such as street children, illiteracy and organized crime.



From Authoritarianism to Democracy "Apricity"

Mariam Elsafty, Sophomore, political science
mariam.yasser2020@feps.edu.eg

It is the year of 3100, when the Earth was unfortunately destroyed by a huge asteroid that led to its end. Luckily, NASA predicted this collapse and so, a huge spacecraft was created to carry some of the Earth's ex-residents from all over the globe. And since life on Earth was not fair, those who were only able to afford saving their lives were able to move to Mars; where a new life begins. Mars is now filled with people, all with different cultures, religions, and races. Right after the Prince successfully united all of us by using absolute power and force, and after he had established a strong and firm foundation, he wanted to create a desired country for everyone different than that of the state of nature. A country where everyone is having equal rights and enjoying the new life he has paid for. Through asking for my advice, as his political advisor, the prince wants to gradually transform this authoritarian state to a democratic one. In addition to that, he wants to do this transformation through avoiding the major mistakes that can lead to a mere façade of democracy. To transform to a democratic system, I advise him to avoid listening to and be influenced by the ultra-elite, those who were able to have a normal flow of life after everything has changed, and they do not need to start from zero, they want to have power, and because we now have ex-elites, who are to be considered as people trying to afford a living, they cannot be considered dangerous anymore Hence, it was much easier to keep balance. But what about the ultra-elites?

Luckily, they are just five, so agreements with them will be much easier. However, because we are not living in paradise yet, those five can cause a form of disunity in the country, just as what happened in Italy many years ago. The prince should be more diplomatic with them and make use of their smart minds to preserve the public interest. There is no problem in affording the facilities that will help them in having power in their own fields of specialization, in return, they should stay away from intervening in the political decision making. And to diminish their power, I advise the prince to follow Machiavelli's democracy which is based on controlling elites with ferocious populism. In addition to that, I advise him to avoid using pseudo-democratic institutions for the sake of his own self-interests, as these manipulated institutions give him the legitimacy that he can use over people domestically.





The prince should permit the presence of multiple parties so that they can criticize a lot without the intervention or manipulation of the prince. He should not control the media directly or indirectly (could be through one of the elites who has a channel and promotes his ideas through it). I believe that he should avoid propagating a specific ideology to let the people believe in it and manipulate them to think that without following this ideology, their country will go back to the state of nature. And this is something very manipulative as it plays on the emotions of fear and anxiety that the people have since they hate feeling insecure. The prince should avoid transitioning to an illiberal-democracy; where there are free and fair elections but combined with systematic constraints on citizens' rights. These illiberal practices could lead to the corruption of the desired democracy like: electoral frauds and violence, political vigilantism, judicial corruption and selective justice.

Hence, the prince should be careful not to fall into the trap of the winner-take-all, known as zero-sum, political system, as this leads to giving all the power, other than that owned by the prince, into one hand, which will be try to rule every institution in the country in a way that will add to their benefits and not the public interest. The prince should not be forgiving when people commit political mistakes and he should punish them in a firm way as those people, including the ultra-elite. In the end, these are some advice that I can give to the prince of the established country on Mars, where I made the major mistakes that he can avoid clear so he can successfully transform our country to a fully-functioning democracy, and in hopes to live a better life where everyone is equal and not oppressed. Ah! We call this country Apricity.

