



ELITE



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ELITE

FEPS, WHERE ELITES ARE MADE

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Prof. Hanan M. Aly to become FEPS Acting Dean

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Part 2



"Elite's Guest"

Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Al-Ahram Newspaper, Salah Salem (2)

Mariam Elsafty, Youssef Grant. and Treaze Hossam

1. We certainly congratulate you on receiving the State Appreciation Award in the field of social sciences, tell us about this important experience and the most important factors that contributed to winning this award?

-Praise be to God, Lord of the Worlds, thanks to God, I have received 8 awards, and this may be due to the fact that I am a person who tends to compete, and despite this, I was not diligent in studying for courses, while I saw that culture and knowledge are the most important, and for this the Faculty of Economics and Political Science was the best refuge, because it weighs you down with general culture and links you strongly to the love of knowledge, but in any case, the exam period, which is the period of high competition, is the most beloved to my heart, it is worth mentioning here that I was fond of Zaki Najib Mahmoud ,

I loved him and dealt with his writings in particular, and that insatiability continued for a long time, and I remember when I was in grade 12, a year of a special nature, I had reached my desire to enrich my cultural outcome, so I did not pay attention to my studies, and I remember that my mother, one month before the high school exams, took book "Our Culture in the Face of the Times" and torn it by her insistence to that I leave the books and study my lessons. In general, I loved the competition, and I loved culture as well, so that I participated in cultural student activities as a member of the press group, a member of the Cultural Committee, and a member of the Genius League team, and I have participated in all of them until I served as the head of those activities in a period between the third and fourth years, in addition to writing my articles in some local newspapers next to my training at Al-Ahram, so it was a rich period, and I was eager to publish my first writings. I remember that after publishing them and that I had received them from the publishing house, I grabbed them in my arms and cried.

2. You have important writings on the relationship of the Arab world with Turkey on the one hand, and the development of the Arab conflict with Israel on the second... How do you assess the situation of these issues for the Arab world?

The experience with Turkey was a happy experience, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Youssef was the director of the Institute of Arab Research and Studies at the time, and I wrote this book in 1998, at the moment when Necmettin Erbakan, the symbol of the Islamic awakening, and the fierce warrior against extremist Turkish secularism, he had the experience of the being the prime minister with Tansu Çiller and this experience was aborted in what looks like a white coup; by dismissing him from the presidency of the government by military orders, accordingly, I decided to write a book dealing with the Islamic awakening in Turkey at this moment, and I addressed Prof. Dr. Ahmed Youssef, informing him of the idea, and he welcomed it clearly, so that he set me a date to be published in the last issue of 1998, but it came to light in 1999. At that time I had read a share of philosophy, and I was associated with Hegel for a while, and therefore I embarked, in an idea similar to fiction, to employ Hegel's dialectical approach to the Turkish case, the Turkish case and how it moves from the old negative Turkish identity (Ottoman) to the opposite, which is radical secularism as a violent reaction to the old violent Ottoman formula, and I predicted that there will be reconciliation between the two parties until a moderate Islam grows that carries liberal features, and I wrote that book and Dr. Ahmed Youssef was enthusiastic about it, it was published quickly, and it remained in my office for two years until one of my friends spoke to me: "Why not submit it to the State Incentive Award?" Indeed, I began to believe in his speech and presented it, and thanks to God, it was crowned with the State Encouragement Award, despite being my second book, and this was my experience with Turkish affairs. As for the Arab-Israeli conflict, I classify myself as an Arab nationalist intellectual, I love Gamal Abdel Nasser and his experience, even if he found some reservations regarding freedoms or the Egyptian political administration system, but automatically

I had to be interested in the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the truth I wrote about it more than once, my first book "Manifestations of the political mind and the future of the Arab system", which I had produced it immediately after the signing of the Oslo Accords, in light of the escalation of political scenarios such as: the interaction of normalization, the Gulf money triangle, the Jewish mentality, Egyptian labor, and the big Middle Eastern dreams, so I wrote that book and warned against being drawn into that dream, calling it a false dawn, and I also talked about the future of the Arab regime, including the three most tragic scenarios in the event of drift, and perhaps the worst of them are those



that end with the dismantling of the region and that Israel becomes the first prize and the center of action and influence, if we comply with these dreams. Unfortunately, something happened after that time, in which it seemed as if Israel was already the center of the region, although this had declined in recent years, as the region exceeded this point, but before that Israel was the destination for the Egyptians and the Gulf, but soon the region was able to overcome that crisis, and Israel remains, in my opinion, the biggest enemy, so that I have produced a book entitled: "The Cave of Islamization: The Sunni-Shi'aa Debate over Power, Identity, and Violence". My biggest goal was to clarify in light of the aberration suffered by the region to reaffirm that Iran is an integral part of this region and this is not the real enemy of the Arab world and I call for dealing with it through dialogue and containment, and Israel is the first enemy of Egypt and the region, and I called for a strict national response to the Israeli project, which some are trying to market as an ally and that the real enemy is Iranian not Israeli, so I was obsessed with the need to confirm that Iran is not the enemy even if there are some differences, Israel is the enemy no matter what agreements we have.

3. The issues of the Islamic world are an important concern in your various contributions, in light of our current world, how do you assess the situation of the Islamic world, its most important problems and its strongest potential?

I will try to clarify something simple that makes it easier to answer this topic, the Islamic world is a loose concept, just as the concept of the West is a loose concept, so that if you notice in my writings protesting against the theory of the clash of civilizations by Samuel B. Huntington, I would have seen this theory as an adaptive theory, based on racism, claiming that there is a complete West, and a complete East, describing it succinctly, neither Western unity is a total unit, nor Eastern unity is a total unity. When you think about the current conflict in the first place, it is a conflict that is not Eastern-Western, even

in terms of challenges, not every Islamic or Eastern state is on the same foot and leg if we look at the challenges, what Egypt faces is not the same as the one that stands in the way of Saudi Arabia, and enemies in Asian countries such as the Pakistani-Indian conflict are not generalized to the countries of the Islamic world, so talking about one Islamic world is inaccurate, but in general, there are issues that affect Islam with regard to Islam - as a religion and belief - even in my writings, I had a book entitled "The Universality of Islam.. A vision of existence, knowledge and the other", which was crowned as





the best book in the Islamic world in 2009, and also won the Mubarak Prize in Islamic Studies, and I also wrote a book entitled: "Muhammad is the Prophet of Humanity", I also wrote a book: "Common monotheism and human conscience" on the relationship of the three religions, and I have a book in theology entitled "Historical theology and the upward path of monotheistic rationality", and I have a book on theology entitled "Historical Theology and the Evolutionary Path of Monotheistic Rationality", so my interest is in religion, and I have concluded from my readings and my convictions that Islam is a great faith, a great civilization, and an integral part of human history that there is no fear at all, and there are no conspiracy theories that are fighting over our existence, etc. The real problem of Islam is its problem with itself with its convictions, as I am sure that there is more than one formulation of Islam, related not to societies, but I can say that it is related to some cultural ranges, there is Islam that has a character in the Arab-Islamic world, has a special understanding in Islam, but there is an Iranian Islam that has its Shiite doctrine and has a jihadist ideology, so you can talk more about an Asian-Pakistani-Bangladeshi-Indonesian Islam, which has the most Sufi influence that exists and influences, As for the future of Islam, as I explained, the biggest danger to Islam is not the West, as some Muslims imagine, but the biggest danger is political Islam, political Islam is the biggest enemy of civilized Islam, because civilized Islam is basically supposed to be an Islam reconciled with its Jewish and Christian roots, and this is the idea of my book "Common Monotheism and

Human Conscience". Islam is just a third law in a monotheistic religion rooted in Judaism and Christianity. This does not mean that we are one religion as some promote, and this does not negate the existence of differences, but these differences are not a reason for differences, but rather a reason for dialogue and dealing, and they are not a reason for hostility, even if we notice, the main reason for Israeli hostility is not Judaism, but Zionism, that settler state that has taken land from its owners and still shows contradictions, arbitrariness and grievances with the Arab world. On the other hand, political Islam portrays itself as a closed virtue group as it depicts the Muslim Brotherhood, and considering them a supreme group over other Muslims, represents a restoration of Jewish thought, towards considering them God's chosen people, and acquiring a kind of charity and selection, so that they are not considered a missionary religion, so they were not missionaries of the Jewish religion as a closed religion, the advent of Christianity opened the Abrahamic religion to be considered a universal human religion, the idea of returning to the concept of selectivity or charity is a setback and a return to the path of the Jewish idea, that idea that the monotheistic religion overcame with the advent of Christianity because the Messiah had come to change that closed doctrine, gaining the hostility of the Jews in order to open the Abrahamic religion to serve as a human religion, as this return is the greatest danger to the Islamic religion as a faith, and he declared it again, that the largest wave of atheism that touched the Islamic world are the moments of the emergence of political Islam

in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen and Arab societies swept by the waves of the Arab Spring, There has been a change in morality by those groups that represented Islam, and young people with little freedom and awareness should not have pronounced Islam in order to pronounce these acts.

In fact, this meeting will remain distinguished in the history of the elite, and the graduates of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science will remain a shining beacon and flags in the history of Egyptian thought, of course you noticed the depth of the talk and the sincerity of the answers, and the spaciousness of the chest to answer all the details of the question at length, we hope that we have succeeded in editing that meeting, and we will meet you in the next issue.





CONGRATULATIONS TO DEAN FROM THE SECOND HOME TO THE DOME

YOUSSEF MOUSA - 4 YEAR - POLITICAL SCIENCE

our sincere congratulations to Dr. Mahmoud Al-Saeed , Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, after he was promoted by a presidential decree to become Vice President of Cairo University for Graduate Studies and Research. His Excellency was chosen based on his excellence in scientific and practical life and the experiences he obtained throughout his previous career, in addition to being an academic, and he had many important activities .

Dr. Mahmoud rose to various academic positions at the college after he obtained a bachelor's degree in statistics from Cairo University to become a teaching assistant in the Statistics Department in 1992, then an assistant lecturer in 1997. He also obtained a master's degree in statistics from Cairo University, but he obtained his doctorate from the college. Science, Virginia

Polytechnic Institute and Virginia Tech State University in the United States of America in 2004. He assumed the position of Assistant Professor in the Department of Statistics in 2010, then Professor in the Department of Statistics, then Vice Dean for Student Affairs in 2015 and Dean of the College in 2018, reaching the current position of Vice President of Cairo University for Graduate Studies and Research in 2023.

He has many awards and certificates of appreciation, which made him the most suitable and competent for this position, as he initially received a scholarship to complete his doctorate in the United States, in addition to the Cairo University Award for International Publishing, the Scientific Excellence Award in the field of social sciences in 2014, and the Scopus Award. In 2019, for his research contribution in the field of science

management and economics, in addition to the Cairo University Award because he is the only researcher who obtained the largest number of reference citations in the field of social sciences for the year 2020.

Dr. Al-Saeed's ranking was not limited only locally, but also internationally. According to the Stanford University list, he is considered one of the best 2% of scientists and researchers around the world, out of 396 Egyptian scientists. All of these appreciations for his sovereignty are the result of the effort he has made, as he had previously established a scientific school. New in the Statistics Department in the field of statistical quality control. The volume of citations he has so far, according to Google Scholar, has reached about 3234 citations, which indicates confidence in the scientific authority.

Dr. Mahmoud also has many contributions to peer-reviewed international research, and his role also in scientific books and attendance at important conferences. He has many activities within the field of the college, and he spares no effort in participating in national projects, the most important of which was his role in the national anti-corruption strategy, where He was the strategy coordinator for Cairo University in 2018, and the coordinator of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for the 2023 national anti-corruption strategy. There are also efforts to participate in national research projects and his role as Cairo University coordinator in the Youth for Development Initiative under the supervision of the

Ministry of Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for the year 2022.

These are all efforts exerted by His Excellency that make him worthy of trust and deserving of the new position. We ask God Almighty to grant him success and guide his steps in what is coming.





PROF. HANAN M. ALY TO BECOME FEPS ACTING DEAN

A special and heartfelt congratulations from ELITE team new and old editors, primary among them is the magazine's editor-in-chief, Dr. Ramy Magdy, to the direct supervisor of the Magazine's work and the supporter of its various activities (Prof. Dr. Hanan M. Aly, FEPS Vice dean for education and student affairs, on the occasion of choosing her by Prof. Mohamed Othman Elkhosht, President of Cairo University, to be the Acting Dean of the College.

we are deeply confident that she is always up to the challenges and that her administrative, scientific, and professional excellence will contribute positively and with more excellence to the journey of our dear college. Sincere congratulations!



SUCCESSIVE SOUNDS

Prof. Hanan M. Aly, FEPS Acting Dean

Translated by: Mariam Ismail

A narrow, dark, secluded place.
It is shrouded in calm, shrouded in mystery,
dominated by suspicion.
Is it a deep well in the ground?
Or a secluded cave in the hollows of the
mountains?
Or a remote island on the outskirts of the sea?

While he was wondering about the nature of the
place, and the reason for his presence at this
time, alone without family or friends..

He heard a strange sound, with a great
resonance.

Cracking! Smashing!

Collapse! Explosion!

Then there was a sound like radio vibrations.

His heart palpitated, his eyes dimmed, and his
thoughts faltered.

He asked: Is anyone trying for help? Or someone
is running away?

Then came a terrible silence, an outrageous calm.

Suddenly, deafening sounds were heard,
followed by echoes that shook the place.

His confusion increased, his heartbeat increased,
and thoughts raced in his head.

Is someone clinging to something to lift him
from the depths of the well?

Is someone digging a corridor out of the curves
of the cave?

Is someone building a ship to take him from the
secluded island?

He couldn't control himself.. he started calling
out.. screaming.. groaning..

No one answered him, no one heard him, and no
one supported him.

The sounds were repeated in the same order...
they came from the right sometimes... and are
heard from the left at other times...

It seems mild at first..then it gets more intense at
the end..

They accelerate, then slow down...

They come closer, then move away...

Finally.. the voices fell silent.. quiet prevailed
around.. and he found himself getting out of this
place little by little.. and saw a glimmer of light
coming from far away..

He heard someone speaking to him: the report
will be received after a week.

He opened his eyes in astonishment.. He looked
at her in surprise.. He held his head up..

And before he wonders..

"The MRI report," she said calmly.

CHINA

TAIWAN



Will it stay a cold conflict or an escalation is on the way ?

Mirna Osama - Political Sciences - Merna.Osama2019@feps.edu.eg

During various tensions between China and the United States over many files, most of which stem from the South China Sea region, the conflict between China and Taiwan is foremost. The beginning of their conflict dates back to the 1950s, when tensions between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, also known as "the Republic of China", led to an armed conflict over strategic islands in the Taiwan Strait. The basis of the conflict is, on the one hand, that China considers Taiwan to be an integral part of it and its unequivocal refusal to establish any diplomatic and political relations with any other State, and, on the other hand, that China's conduct negates its rights as a State itself and deliberately attempts to establish its dependence on it, as well as its adherence to its independence from China. Thus, it is not surprising that Taiwan, as an independent nation, has been recognized by a few countries, of which the United States is not one.

Given the relations that the United States has with China, the former committed not to establish formal relations with Taiwan, but this does not prevent it from complying with its agreement with China, as it currently has informal relations with Taiwan, thereby supporting it in attempts to counter China. The conflict between China and the United States began to worsen years ago because of the disagreement over the Taiwan issue, which has progressively intensified since 2016 as the United States, under Donald Trump, began to support Taiwan, contrary to the 1979 U.S. policy of severing official ties with the island. In 2022, these tensions worsened dramatically after the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan, which tightened China's position and was followed by a series of sanctions imposed on Taiwan by the latter, including economic sanctions to prevent the export of a number of products and to stop the import of other products.



In addition to China's launch of the largest-ever military manoeuvre around Taiwan and its pledge to recover it by force, if necessary. China has not only taught Taiwan a lesson about its attempts to get closer to the United States, but also turned to the latter to respond to it. China has therefore suspended cooperation with the United States on a number of key issues in response to this unjustified visit, in addition to Beijing's sanctions on Pelosi and her family. However, these tensions began to be addressed under US President Joe Biden and the exchange of visits between the two countries, which contributed to calming the situation and easing tensions between them. But, as part of a planned visit this month to the United States by Taiwan's separatist Vice President William Lai, China was outraged after attempts to calm down between the Chinese front and the United States. In response to this outrage, Blinken noted that this visit is only a routine procedure and that there is no reason for Taiwan to use this transit as an excuse for provocative actions.

The visit was expected to have several reasons, including the deepening of cooperation with America, which, in their opinion, would be an important step in strengthening Taiwanese-American relations, especially after Taiwanese forces tracked 11 military aircraft and 6 Chinese warships around Taiwan. This is a fundamental reason for Taiwan to make such visits as it needs to be assisted by the United States to be able to stand in front of China, because it cannot respond to them alone, and therefore such visits are necessary to deepen cooperation from the United States.

In addition to asserting independence, as it tries to demonstrate to China that it is not a part of it and that it is not right to prevent any kind of exchange of diplomatic relations between Taiwan and any other country, that which is supposed to be done through China, only for the reason that Taiwan is considered being represented with China as a "single state". Moreover, while they have been prevented from exchanging talks and relations with other States, there are still States that support Taiwan's independence. Therefore, Taiwanese presidents and vice presidents traditionally cross the United States on trips to the few remaining countries that still recognise Taiwan to maintain formal diplomatic relations with the Chinese-claimed island. Finally, Taiwan's internal landscape is a key catalyst for this visit, as, in January 2024, Taiwan's presidential elections will be held, in which a number of candidates, including Lai himself, who is expected to have the best chance of winning. Accordingly, this visit could serve his election platform or victory, especially since it is customary for presidential candidates, generally, to visit the United States before the elections to discuss their candidacy with officials there. Because Lai is considered a separatist and his Democratic Progressive Party also espouses this ideology, it is likely to be in its crossing, a U.S. petition for its support against China that opposes the victory of any of the "separatists", what appeared in Beijing's statement when current President Tsai won, indirectly saying "opposition to any form of independence for Taiwan."

On the Chinese side, it believes that this visit is essentially a covert support by the United States against it that supports Taiwan's independence policy and challenges Beijing's territorial claims. In addition, the visit would be one of the United States' defiance against China, while the relationship between them was not stable or consensual, but rather in a calming phase, in which many efforts from the two countries had contributed. Consequently, China would have reacted, it would have tried to prevent this visit from being groundless but it failed to do so, and it can therefore turn to some punitive action to discipline Taiwan and respond to the United States.

China carried out its occupations to prevent this visit, which it had already begun by expressing its anger and criticism of the visit and stating that it firmly opposed any form of collusion by the United States to support the separatists in Taiwan's independence. It had already filed a United States diplomatic complaint about Lai's suspension, to which the United States had expressed its rejection by appealing to China not to be subjected to his cessation in the United States during his trip to Paraguay. It is therefore expected that China will take some punitive measures for each of the two countries. For Taiwan, China is expected to conduct new and tight military exercises around Taiwan. That's what she did in 2020 after Pelosi's visit to Taiwan and she also did war games, in April, after Tsai, President of Taiwan, met with the United States with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in Los Angeles while on her way back from Central America, which is similar to the one that was scheduled for this month.

In this case, these manoeuvres are a threat to Taiwan, which could also confuse the United States if it offers the latter's support and intervention.

As for the United States, it is expected that this visit will have an impact on the quiet attempts by China and the United States, as China has established the requirement of respect for the "one China" principle as a key condition and a political basis for China to develop friendly relations with all nations of the world. Therefore, China's exasperation is expected to irritate because this cooperation between the United States and Taiwan is considered a kind of encroachment on this principle. Not only this, but also China's explicit and clear objections to preventing direct communication or any talks or any informal or formal relations with Taiwan Island because it is considered a part of China, and the latter considers such initiatives to be interference in China's internal affairs and it will not allow it. "China will pay close attention to the evolution of the situation and take firm and robust measures to protect national sovereignty and territorial integrity," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mao Ning said, posing an explicit threat to the United States and a challenge that highlights the next steps in China's relations with it.



Therefore, we can say that this visit will ignite further tensions between the United States and China and that it is not conducive to calming the situation, especially as the two countries continue to have many files and issues on which to meet, especially the issues of cooperation between them. However, China and the United States are not expected to separate their conflict file on the Taiwan case from the rest of the files. On the contrary, these tensions on this file are expected to affect other files commending cooperation between the two sides. This is similar to the steps taken by China against the United States and Pelosi as part of last year's visit to Taiwan, through which it is clear that there is no intention for China to separate Taiwan's file from other files, but rather to use other files as a mean of pressing the United States on this one. Thus, by not separating the file of Taiwan from the others, it is easy for China to put economic pressure on the United States, especially as it enjoys economic relations with the world's nations, and with the ongoing trade war between the two countries in which Beijing is stepping up as a major threat to Washington's global status and influence. The seriousness of these threats has emerged with China's accession to Russia, which is the current main opponent of the United States, especially in the context of the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian conflict. It has also become very difficult to separate China economically from the world's nations in general and European countries, in particular, being the ally of the United States.

In the end, despite China's fears of United States support for Taiwan, the United States continues to pursue a policy of strategic ambiguity with Taiwan, where it maintains an ambiguous position on whether or not to defend it in the event of China's invasion of Taiwan. This confirms Blinken's statement: "We have no desire to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. Our policy has not changed ". Thus, specifically to the position of the United States on Taiwan's independence, we can say that the United States may not interfere in their conflict to preserve its interests, which have been given an opportunity by adhering to the "one China" policy, thereby, standing against Taiwan's ideology of secession from China because of its opposition to the interests of the United States. Accordingly, it is believed that the United States continues to weigh its potentially changing position, which appears to be unstable, while still giving gestures of cooperation with Taiwan through this visit. But, despite this, such a visit is not expected to create a war between the two countries, especially since it is not worse than Pelosi's visit last year, for China, but surely, it will negatively affect attempts to calm down between the two countries.





NIGER ... AND THE FRENCH DARKNESS

Youssef Mousa - Political Science - fourth year

As a continuation of the series of military coups taking place in West African countries, the state of Niger witnessed a military coup by the commander of the presidential guard, Abd al-Rahman Chani, gaining the support of the armed forces for this coup against the elected president, Muhammad Bazoum, that coup took place with the aim of preserving the unity within the territory of Niger and the non-occurrence of conflicts and divisions within it. This coup was also supported by the people of Niger, who came out carrying the flag of Russia, which raises great fears for the West. After Muhammad Bazoum was arrested, this means that there will be a change in Niger's internal and external policies, and on top of those changes is the cessation of uranium exports to France. Which led to the indignation of France and Western countries, especially the United States, demanding the speedy release of President Muhammad Bazoum and a return to the constitutional order, taking into account that this decision has no legitimacy because it was not issued by the main authority in the country.

Some countries, on the top the United States, represented by its President Biden and Secretary of State Blinken, who are calling for the speedy release of the president, they are seeking meetings with French President Macron to discuss ways to release Bazoum. France is going through a period full of

anxiety and turmoil, and the bad conditions in the French capital, Paris, since the start of a series of withdrawals from Africa, as this constitutes a threat to French interests and the strength of the French economy. Especially after France withdrew from Mali last year.

The French economy depends heavily on African resources, where France obtains uranium from Niger to generate electricity, and gets iron that goes into the automobile industry from Mauritania, and reliance on fuel from Gabon, and cobalt that goes into the manufacture of phones and smart devices from the Congo, And the cocoa that you get from the Ivory Coast to make chocolate, so a large number of industries, if not most of the French economy, depend on African resources. So does France's exit from Niger mean that the rest of the African countries unite for France's exit from its lands and cooperation from the East, especially after it established the people burned the French flag and raised the Russian flag, which is a great insult to France.

The European Union strongly condemns the military coup and its repercussions in Niger

The ECOWAS organization (the Economic Community of West African States) went to work for the return of the former president, and the ECOWAS organization threatened that it might use force against the coup forces in Niger if power was not returned to Bazoum. At the same time, the coup forces in Niger requested the assistance of Wagner's forces, which had already begun to study the matter.



Western countries began to apply sanctions to Niger, where the World Bank stopped financing operations that were taking place in Niger, and the United States demanded the evacuation of diplomatic missions from Niger, which indicates the severing of American relations with Niger, and also Britain's fear for its citizens in Niger, in addition to stopping financial support Al-Kindi to Niger, on the other hand, the coup forces refused to enter into negotiations with the ECOWAS delegation, which exacerbates the situation.

Opinions differ on the recognition of this coup in Niger, including supporters such as Mali and Burkina Faso, where these three countries are on France's red list, and countries that want the return of legitimacy and the non-occurrence of disputes, such as Algeria, but the people of Niger still strongly support the decisions of the military. How will the next scenario be, will military intervention by ECOWAS occur at any moment, or will the West intervene indirectly by increasing sanctions? Will Wagner forces really help Niger ?

This situation is the most complex in the crisis, the countries neighboring Niger and the disagreement over the idea of military intervention to save and return Bazoum to power while countries such as (Mali and Burkina Faso with Niger) have already formed an alliance that will enter into a dispute with the countries of the ECOWAS group that have already begun to imposing sanctions on Niger's economy, Chani explained that any military intervention in Niger would be considered

occupation and that some countries in ECOWAS want to divide Niger. And that some countries, such as Senegal, Ivory Coast and Nigeria, are fully prepared for military intervention in Niger, and they are all countries surrounding Niger.



This region (the Sahel region of Africa) is the region that will bear most of the losses, if not all of them. Therefore, the First Vice-President of the ECOWAS Parliament rejected the idea of military intervention. And the African Union also rejects that idea because if this war begins, how can it be stopped? Russia and Ukraine are the best proof of that.

Russia's role lies in the apparent role and the subconscious role: as Russia outwardly supports a peaceful solution and the president's return to power. As for Russia's hidden position, it supports the Niger coup, as happened in Mali and Burkina Faso, through Wagner mercenaries who will intervene to help the Nigerien military forces in return for obtaining They have economic privileges, and indeed a group of Wagner's forces have arrived in the capital, Niamey, and a large Russian military unit has also arrived in Mali to provide all kinds of assistance to the Niger forces, especially focusing on the Lizanga sector, this joint unit between Mali and Russia, as it will work to provide Full support in the event of any military intervention in the territory of Niger.

The United Arab Emirates condemns this coup and the bad conditions in Niger, and calls for preserving security and safety in the country, calling for preserving the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Niger.

Indeed, it is a disaster for France if it cannot stop the military rule and darkness will prevail over all of France. Will France re-examine its accounts and stop supporting the Ukrainians in order to win the favor of the East? The next few days will witness important matters, but the best scenario is to solve matters diplomatically and peacefully, because war has a butterfly effect in spreading so that wars do not spread in Africa, and African countries must cooperate and look at the interest of African countries as a whole and not each country separately in obtaining Personal interests only.



Civil Society in Egypt depends on Relationships or development?

Alaa Yasser ElShaer - Level 3 Political Science

Although civil society institutions and organizations in Egypt have become more effective than any time ago especially in 2022 called the Year of Civil Society by the President, there are still obstacles and challenges facing civil society in Egypt. Perhaps the biggest problem is not in government or civil society, but in the people who control it! Before we address this problem, I will first briefly define the importance of civil society's role.

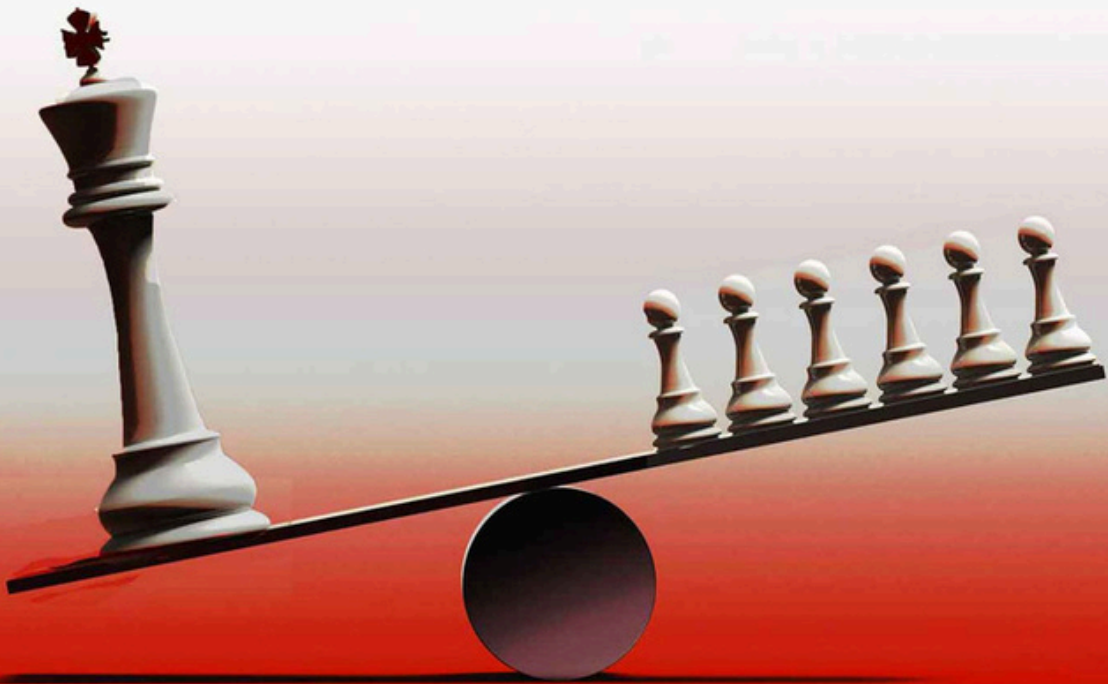
Civil society plays a crucial role in the promotion and development of democracy and promotes citizens' participation, enabling them to participate effectively in decision-making and the control of power, as well as the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms and works to promote social justice, protect vulnerable and marginalized groups, promote participation and communication. Civil society is expected to provide a platform for citizens to express their views, share their interests, communicate with government and other institutions, and contribute to

building bridges of communication and cooperation between different groups and individuals in society. In addition, it is supposed to promote genuine interaction between citizens and officials.

Civil Society in real life!

Despite the advantages that civil society brings to the State, we find the opposite on the ground where there is always a missing link between officials and citizens even though organizations already exist, which makes us wonder why this link was lost! Perhaps the main reason for its loss is nepotism. relationships and a preference for the personal interest of the citizen himself, resulting in the ineffectiveness of these organizations. They only work to earn money for personal interests and prefer people who are close to the founder or the manager of the organization to experience and efficiency. We are wondering How is the place that should fight the corruption of officials become corruption itself?

Also, because of the preference of personal interests, large organizations have come to



monopolize Egypt's development sector in order to obtain substantial external financing and improve the sources of income of their founders and have become far from the primary objective for which these organizations were built, and because of this monopoly, these organizations or individuals have formed closed networks in civil society, which made it difficult for small or emerging organizations to participate effectively in civil society.

The subordination of civil society

In some cases, strong relationships between civil society actors and government officials can lead to subordination. When organizations rely heavily on government support or funding, they may become less willing to challenge government policies that could threaten their relationships or sources of funding. This can undermine the independence of civil society organizations and diminish their role in monitoring officials and fighting corruption.

All of this has eroded public confidence, as the perception that decisions are made based on personal interests rather than on the basis of society's best interests has led to suspicion and diminished belief in the

effectiveness and legitimacy of civil society efforts.

Recently, development work has become a mere "snapshot" in order to document their work. There is no follow-up or evaluation after implementation or in more accurate words "after taking the picture", resulting in a waste of financial resources only, no effective real results on the ground, and no real development.

Although limited funding is a major problem for civil society, mismanagement of funds is much bigger. As all that has been mentioned above is an image of mismanagement of funds and implementation. Civil society needs more experienced and efficient people instead of people who rely solely on their relationships and monitoring funding methods and where they are disbursed more firmly and follow up on development projects after implementation and have more opportunities to freely express their views.



NINO..

A climatic phenomenon surrounding the Earth

Rodaina Nader - Political Science

The Earth suffers from extreme heat, especially nowadays. Our Earth is witnessing a sharp rise in temperatures that it has not seen in many centuries.

In this article, we will refer to what is Niño, that is, what is the Niño phenomenon, the causes of this climatic phenomenon, and its impact on the world and the Arab world.

What is the Niño phenomenon?

The Niño phenomenon is a weather phenomenon, which is a rise in the accelerating ocean temperatures around the world. Increasing ocean temperatures kill marine life.

This phenomenon is the strongest fluctuation in the climate system anywhere on Earth.

Where the temperature of the seawater has not reached this hotness before with this acceleration, and many scientists believe that the world is expected to witness in the coming months the effects of the Niño phenomenon on the climate.

Niño refers to widespread decreases in ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, along with changes in tropical atmospheric circulation, such as winds, pressure, and precipitation.

Experts say that the phenomenon is likely to make 2024 the hottest year in the world, and scientists fear that this will help push the world beyond the stage of a temperature rise of 1.5 degrees Celsius





Causes of Nino phenomenon:

One of the reasons for Nino phenomenon is the presence of hot currents in the Pacific Ocean heading east to reach the coasts of South America as a result of the heating caused by a group of these currents at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean.

The Nino phenomenon occurs, according to expectations, in different regions of the world, where the occurrence of the El Nino phenomenon leads to different effects. In South America, whose coasts are located on the Pacific Ocean, for example:

1. Droughts are more likely in South America.
2. It may reduce the ability of the Amazon forest to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
3. The worsening of global warming.

In addition to the Australian example, where in Australia, after 3 years of record rainfall, the El Nino phenomenon is expected to radically reverse this trend, so that heat waves and droughts become more widespread, especially during the winter and spring seasons. The Niño phenomenon leads to a rise in heat, global warming, drought, and frequencies in the beginning of the seasons



When does the Niño phenomenon occur?

The World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) Global Centers for Long-Range Forecasting indicate that there is a 70% chance that Niño will extend into the early winter of 2022-2023 for the Northern Hemisphere. In addition, it continues with us, we're past halfway through 2023.

The effect of the Nino phenomenon on the climate:

The effect of the Nino phenomenon on the climate is to increase global warming in several regions of the world. This global warming leads to global warming. And that the warming reached 1.23 degrees Celsius at the end of 2022, and Niño is constantly increasing, which makes the possibility of it exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius possible by 2024. It will witness the hottest year 2024.

The impact of the Niño phenomenon on the Arab world:

Several studies confirmed that 71% of the drought years in the southern and southwestern parts of the Arabian Peninsula during the period from 1981 to 2015 were associated with the Niño phenomenon, while 38% of the flood years in this region were associated with the Niña phenomenon. (And the Niña is the opposite of Niño: it is a cooling phase in the Pacific Ocean.)

After all, we see a lot of recommendations, and a lot of action to avoid global warming, droughts, and extreme weather changes. Where we can see this, through conferences concerned with climate and climate change, as well as the presence of many awareness for young people regarding the preservation of the climate and the environment.

DELIVERED CLIMATE FINANCE BY WORLD BANK

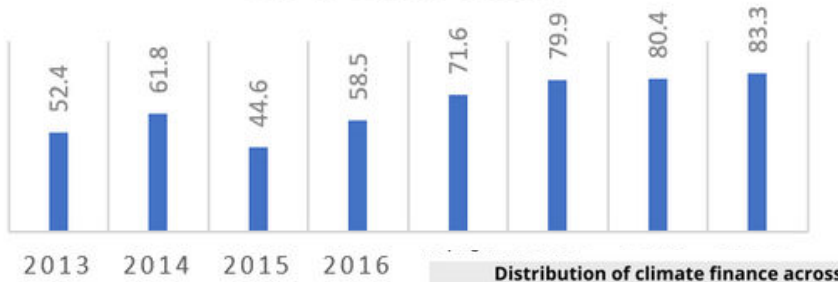
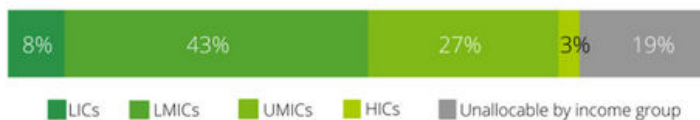


figure 1. Source: World Bank

Distribution of climate finance across income groups (%)



Note: This figure does not fully reflect developing countries' differences in terms of size, population, and other socio-economic conditions. Source: Based on Biennial Reports to the UNFCCC, OECD DAC and Export Credit Group statistics, complementary reporting to the OECD.



NO MAN LEFT BEHIND

Abdelrahman Mohamed Ismail, 2nd Level, Economics

In his speech during “the new financial pact,” President Abdelfattah El-Sisi addressed President Macron at the end of his speech, saying ‘Pioneership is a responsibility.’ Developed countries have failed to deliver their promises regarding financing 100bn USD a year for climate action in developing countries by 2020, reaching only 83.3bn USD. Harder it is now for developed countries to meet their promises as tougher challenges emerge. They now face tight budgets, caused by schemes of subsidizing domestic production in sectors that are regarded as national security, along with higher defence spending, higher pension bills, high inflation and interest rates. This Leaves little to be given away.



As time to curb climate change is running out, a painful - but not inevitable- trade-off is looming. Developed countries see two paths ahead. Either finance climate action in middle income countries that contribute to emissions, or aid development and adaptation in poor countries that contribute next to nothing. And as governments spending is highly increasing, accompanied with high cost of finance, rich countries are starting to cut development aid to concentrate on climate change. To be clear, the developed world does not have much of a choice, if it does not finance climate action it will be greatly affected by climate change impacts on both the developed and the developing countries. Financing mitigation in middle-income countries helps curb climate change since middle-income countries contribute to emissions the most after developed ones. Also, financing adaptation in middle-income countries helps reduce shocks and impacts of climate change on middle-income countries which have strong links with developed countries through trade and have a greater share in global GDP than low-income countries do. As a result, giving more money to middle-income countries will result in a global economy that is greener and more resilient. On the other hand, if they chose to aid development or adaptation in poor countries, which contribute less to both international trade and emissions, developed countries would benefit a little, needless to mention the damage done by climate change.



Countries directly affected by the disaster will have an immediate effect on their exports and consumption, leading to a decrease in their GDP. After the disaster, their external and internal trade might still be harmed if logistics and transportation were damaged, further decreasing their GDP. On the long run, their loss in human capital and capital stock will decrease their potential and actual GDP. According to Grantham Research Institute, a think tank, extreme weather can disrupt supply chains, damage the transport infrastructure necessary for trade in goods, and restrict people's ability to travel. Unfortunately, low-income countries are the most vulnerable to climate change, according to IMF. Along with the harm that will be done to the economy of each country directly because of climate change impacts on it, each country will be also affected by the impacts of climate change on other countries. In a report by The World Bank Group, the assessed indirect impact of a “perfect storm” on global GDP under completely free trade would be a decrease of 12.43% in case of a small flood, 12.64 in case of a medium flood, 13.71 in case of a large flood.

The degree to which the disaster affects the global economy depends on each country's contribution to international trade and global GDP. As mentioned before, low-income countries contribute the least to both. This means that it is more practical to finance adaptation in middle-income countries, in order for developed countries to sustain their trade and the global economy. Moreover, the more mitigation finance delivered to countries that contribute the most to emissions, the less adaptation in low-income countries will be needed in the long run. Unfortunately, low-income countries will be the most affected by climate change, they either lose development aid in the short run, or face a worse nightmare of climate change damaging their economy. The former can be faced later, the latter cannot. In short, developed countries are in need of middle-income countries which they have bigger trade-relationships with that they need to finance adaptation there. And in order to curb climate change they need to finance mitigation there. But they don't need low-income countries that much.

It seems a choice has been made already. According to The Economist, last year bilateral aid to sub-Saharan Africa fell by 8%. And Janet Yellen, America's treasury secretary, has been arguing that The World Bank, an entity that its primary goal is poverty alleviation, climate action finance quality is not good enough. Ajay Banga, the World Bank's new president, is suggesting ideas about guarantees and insurance schemes that need concessional finance, most of it will be given to middle-income countries. According to The Economist, In 2021, less than a quarter of grants and cheap loans from development outfits went to the poorest countries. A decade before, the share of the poorest countries was almost a third. Lower-middle-income countries and Upper-middle-income countries already receives 70% of climate finance while lower-income countries receive just 8%. Receiving only 8% of climate finance, being cut of aid, and higher interest rates and debt crises, all this risks leaving the poorest countries behind. Some will be willing to help them develop if they depend on green energy, but no one is helping them do so.



Availing both climate finance for middle-income countries and development finance for low-income ones is possible. In order to save everyone and for no man to be left behind, the pioneers must be responsible. Few people think that is likely to happen. For this requires more debts restructuring, an end for the trade war between China and US, and the new arms race between the NATO and China and Russia to stop, needless to mention the war in Ukraine. This might even need cooperation as in the case of debt restructuring. While they should be cooperating, US is “decoupling” from China, Russia is threatening to use nuclear weapons, China is stalling the debt restructuring process, and European leaders are asking poor countries to rely less on fossil fuel while reopening their coal-power plants to face energy-shortages after the Russian-Ukrainian war. For all what politics has taught humanity so far, this is the most important lesson; life is not fair!



THE STRANGE LINK SERIES (1): THE MANIFESTO - THE MIDDLE AGES - MIGRATION - CHRISTIANITY

Youssef Grant - Third Year - Political Science

The political phenomenon is a complex one, and perhaps that's what crosses my mind, and yours too, whenever you begin to read about any of the daily political topics. This is due to the clear dissonance between different fields of knowledge, which weakens the understanding of the phenomenon. Hence, the idea for this series - "The Strange Link Series" - was born. It aims to broaden the horizons of political science scholars and those interested in reading about it.

I didn't invent the title, but if you followed the Spacetoon channel during your childhood, you would definitely know what "The Strange Link" series is. In brief, it's a program that establishes a connection between words and things that initially seem unrelated. This is precisely what we'll do.

So what's the connection between the Manifesto, the Middle Ages, and the role of migration in all of this? Does Christianity play a part in this relationship? Perhaps the answers to these questions will become clear in the upcoming paragraphs.



Note: The key term for this part of the series is 'Migration.'

Human beings have never ceased to move from one place to another, carrying with them their languages, beliefs, religions, heritage, knowledge, and arts. We can summarize all of this by saying that they 'carry their cultures with them.' To emphasize, the concept of migration itself is a legitimate and fundamental right.

However, with the increasing numbers of migrations and refugees, along with displacement that reached nearly 108.4 million in 2021 due to deteriorating conditions in the entire region, especially the Arab region since the 'Arab Spring' movements in 2011, followed by wars like the Russo-Ukrainian War, the conflict between the right-wing and left-wing has intensified regarding migration.

Leftists argue for migration, citing the continent's need for human labor and youth in particular, as the continent is heading towards depopulation. Fertility rates have dropped to 1.615 children per family nowadays after being 2.664 children per family between 1950 and 1957. Additionally, there is a need for cultural exchange with assured integration and other slogans that carry their weight and significance. While right-wing groups insist on the necessity of limiting or reducing immigration, often the selection process is based on religion.



Missionary groups in Europe have taken advantage of the conditions and situations of Muslim immigrants to European countries, especially Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, and others. They entice them to convert to Christianity to facilitate their asylum claims. Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Poland have accepted refugees on the condition that they are Christians only, refusing entry to Muslims due to the prevailing anti-Islamic sentiment in Europe. Speaking of this atmosphere, let's recall the story of the New Zealand terrorist, the extremist who carried out a terrorist attack against mosques in New Zealand, resulting in the death of 51 worshipers. If we look at the weapon he used, it was filled with racist phrases and terms that summarized his entire philosophy. Among them were phrases like 'Refugees, welcome to Hell.' Some phrases referenced historical battles, such as '1571,' which the Ottomans lost, and '1683 Vienna,' which marked the end of Ottoman expansion into Europe.



In these phrases, there were also references to the book 'Le Grand Remplacement,' which is known as the manifesto of the far-right. It is a right-wing theory that claims European white Christian populations are being systematically replaced by non-Europeans, particularly Arab Muslim populations, through mass migration and population growth. This theory believes that the presence of Muslims in France poses a potential threat and is one of the primary factors in the destruction of European culture and civilization. But why is there this hostility towards Muslims? Is it really hostility towards Muslims? In my opinion, European countries are fundamentally secular states that have long liberated themselves from religious inclinations. European countries do not deal with Islam or Muslims as an opposing religion, but as a contrasting culture and ideology.

This becomes evident when you read about the reasons for rejection by the right-wing. You'll find that these reasons range from security concerns due to Islam's association with terrorism in the past two decades, perhaps since 2001, to cultural factors. European countries have grappled with integration issues, as advocated by the left. They have struggled to integrate Arab, and specifically Muslim, descendants of second and third-generation immigrants. This has resulted in the persistence of religious tendencies among these groups, as evident in clothing, dietary habits, ideology, culture, identity, and more. These issues are not directly related to religious reasons. Europe is not fighting Islam as a religion; instead, it is combating a divergent ideology and culture that threatens its secularism. This is highlighted by the French law on 'separatism.' Prime Minister Jean Castex emphasized that the law is not 'against religions' but targets 'malevolent ideologies that bear the name of extremist Islam.' I agree with this perspective. Europe has moved beyond its darker periods, such as the Middle Ages, and embraced secularism with the Enlightenment era in 1685. As for the 'separatism' law, it is primarily derived from President Macron's speech expressing his concerns about Islamic separatism, stating, 'What we need to fight against is Islamic separatism... The problem lies in an ideology that claims its laws should prevail over the laws of the Republic.'



In summary, recent migration has represented a significant threat from the perspective of the right-wing. However, even from a fair and realistic standpoint, the left is also leaning towards concerns related to culture and security. This is evident in the rise of right-wing parties in European countries such as Italy and Hungary. We have discussed the concept of 'selective migration,' which European countries are attempting to activate, often challenging liberal principles, particularly regarding how to engage with Muslims. We have also addressed security crises resulting from extremist Islam, as perceived by some, as well as cultural crises and challenges related to integration. We hope you find this reading enjoyable, and Stay Tuned for part two!



The 'Barbenheimer' Phenomenon and Eras Tour are Actually Helping The Economy

Hana Bishr-Major: Economy- 4th Level- hana.beshr2020@feps.edu.eg

A good film can do many things for struggling industries and even national economies. While not yet at that level of success, the double theatrical whammy known as "Barbenheimer" released in theaters July 21 has already managed to show up in economic data. Both Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" and Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" film about the "father of the atomic bomb" have collectively brought in more than \$500 million on the opening weekend in the biggest theatrical hit since the 2019 release of "Avengers: Endgame."

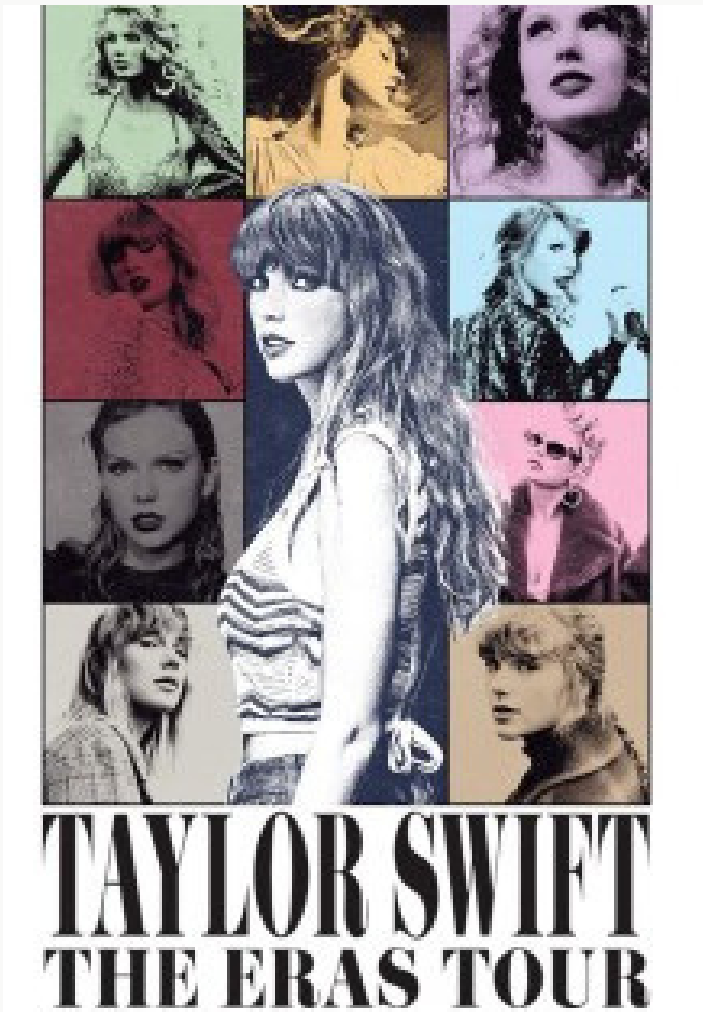
As first reported by CNN, Bank of America (BACXL) data shows that its cardholders spent 13.2% more on entertainment in the week ending on July 22 than they had in 2022. During the other weeks in July, spending in this category was roughly equivalent to the past year. Overall spending on everything excluding car gas was only up by 1.9% during the same period. The numbers are, according to the bank, no coincidence but "likely partially

driven by the release of the much-anticipated movies, 'Barbie' and 'Oppenheimer'. As Known, Neoclassical economists generally consider consumption to be the final purpose of economic activity, and thus the level of consumption per person is viewed as a central measure of an economy's productive success. Macroeconomists are interested in aggregate consumption for two distinct reasons. First, aggregate consumption determines aggregate saving, because saving is defined as the portion of income that is not consumed. Because aggregate saving feeds through the financial system to create the national supply of capital, it follows that aggregate consumption and saving behavior have a powerful influence on an economy's long-term productive capacity. Second, since consumption expenditure accounts for most of the national output, understanding the dynamics of aggregate consumption expenditure is essential to understanding macroeconomic fluctuations and the business cycle. While inflation



has been slowing down and fell to the lowest level since March 2021, months of price jumps have generally pushed consumers to be more careful in their spending. Entertainment and other "fun" expenditures are usually the first to take a hit during rough economic periods. An earlier survey by CNBC found that more than 92% of Americans cut back spending in some form amid inflation while 58% of those did so in their entertainment budgets. The success of "Barbie" and other movies also has wider implications for the rest of the economy. their snowballing popularity helps with sales of not only the tickets themselves but also everything from toys, clothing, and other themed merchandise. The success of one fuel spending in the other. In addition, in the latest release of the Fed's Beige Book, the Philadelphia Fed highlighted Taylor

Swift's three-night stop at Lincoln FinanciaField as a boost to the local economy. Despite the slowing recovery in tourism in the region overall, one contact highlighted that May was the strongest month for hotel revenue in Philadelphia since the onset of the pandemic, in large part due to an influx of guests for the Taylor Swift concerts in the city." Analysis from Moody's shows Swift's impact wasn't just a one-off in Philadelphia, either. Moody's had seen an increase in revenue per available room in every city Swift has stopped in that the firm tracks through its report's publication July 21. Eras is set to become the highest-grossing musical tour in history, boosting the economy of the cities in which Swift alights. More than just a series of concerts, it's become, like Barbie, a major cultural event, with fans also showing up in carefully curated outfits and then making TikToks of their ecstatic tears.





MAHRAGANAT MUSIC: ORIGINS AND EFFECTS

AHMED MOSTAFA, THIRD YEAR – POLITICAL SCIENCE

Egypt has had a pioneering musical to reconsider the effects of this artistic experience in the Middle East and the Arab world, especially after the 1919 revolution. Egyptian music began to express the new Egyptian national identity that constituted the artistic and cultural views form the Egyptian nation's conscience later on, and enabled the Egyptian state to benefit from this artistic experience as a soft power. On the other hand, no one today can deny the widespread of Mahraganat music within Egyptian society, which has become an artistic culture. Large segments of the Egyptian people were fascinated by it with admiration and listening, without stopping and wondering about the implications of this culture, which formed a very wide and large mass background. This is why this article will focus on the phenomenon of Mahraganat music to

reconsider the effects of this phenomenon on the Egyptian society.



Mahraganat music began to appear prior to the Egyptian January revolution, as a response to the social and economic issues that are happening in the Egyptian slums.

And soon it interacted with the Egyptian revolution with enthusiastic songs. It formed large audiences during this period, as a result of the youth's aspirations for change in all fields, whether political or artistic fields. However, the emergence of this type of music was linked from its inception to a group of youth who did not study music and belonged to the poor classes and saw themselves presenting a new type of fast-tempo music, similar to Rap or techno music, and they called it "Electro Shabii".

To this extent, it seems acceptable and reasonable, as some young people present a new kind of music and developing it into telling a social story that expresses the reality of the Egyptian neighborhood, in a way that does not spoil or harm public taste. This type of songs achieved wide fame, and spread among groups of children and youth within all classes of Egyptian society, and it spread easily through the Internet, in addition to the adoption of the Egyptian film makers in one way or another.



But soon its essence was spoiled by the second generation of performers of these Mahraganat songs, Because they wanted quick fame and money, and forgot the concepts launched by the first generation To legitimize the existence of this music, and those concepts such as "popular artistic message" or "appropriate renewal."

This new generation of Mahraganat performers used bold expressions that the Egyptian artistic community was not used to. With the aim of rapid access and wide spread.

Without paying attention to the societal message of the artistic content in itself. In addition, this artistic content has begun to spread a set of negative values within Egyptian society, such as bullying resulting from bold words, and meanings that suggest imposing a vision of imposition on those around it by force. so is the spread of savings; As often reference is made in these songs to the use of drugs of various kinds.

In addition, the themes of these songs spread negativity and conspiratorial views, as all human beings are characterized by treachery, which enables the conspiratorial thinking method of the youth's mentality towards society, whether its individuals or institutions. And with the growing popularity of the makers of this artistic content and their huge amounts of money; The spirit of despair spreads among holders of higher technical and non-technical qualifications by comparing their conditions with the conditions of festival content makers who did not

study music and in most cases did not obtain an above middle certification.

Overall, if we look at these songs; We will find that it presents a group of negative values that negatively affected the Egyptian artistic community, and harmed public taste a lot, and we must stand in front of this phenomenon, and deal with it critically in order to mitigate its damage.





Barbenheimer

Salma El Bukhari - Junior - salma.elbokhary2021@feps.edu.eg - Political Science

Our story starts fifteen years ago, when Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* hit the cinemas worldwide alongside of *Mamma Mia!* in a showcase of true dichotomy of taste. Now in 2023, Christopher Nolan's new philosophical biopic *Oppenheimer* faced off Greta Gerwig's *Barbie*. This isn't Greta's first retelling of a famous creation; she previously wrote and directed "Little Women".

The release of *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer* on the same day was bound to cause the same realization of how different inclinations could be. People thought that *Oppenheimer* is about the father of the atomic bomb while *Barbie* is about some plastic airhead doll. But as Gen Z

proclaimed when they decided on a double feature in the cinemas; *Oppenheimer* is for the giggles and *Barbie* is for the deep philosophical content.

As a reporter of the truth, I had to find out about the cinematic experience for myself. The conclusion I drew from both experiences was the same in some ways but immensely different at the same time. *Oppenheimer* is an opportunity to rethink your humanity and the relationship between your actions and their consequences. The complexity of *Oppenheimer's* character and his role -or lack thereof as Harry Truman expressed- in the Hiroshima and Nagasaki war crimes was enthralling to say the least. Likewise, *Barbie* is an experience



where women question their place in the world, and for men to question their contribution to the current society we live in. Even though the vibes of the two movies are entirely different; *Oppenheimer* was serious and solemn while *Barbie* was satirical and subtle in its messages.

The *Oppenheimer* plot twist was revealed in such a significant and dare I say immaculate way; a complete illustration that the truth prevails in the end, but *Barbie's* plot twist was revealed with the poster of the movie

“She’s everything. He’s just Ken”. A crucial message that is not at all how it seems. It is not a vicious kick at men, it’s not a man-hating statement, in fact, it means the complete opposite. The *Barbie* movie took the patriarchy and turned it into a matriarchy to prove a point but the message did not completely get through to some.

In my humble opinion, both movies are really special and important. But I couldn’t help but relate more to *Barbie* as a woman first and foremost. The portrayal of the patriarchy and *Barbieland* in a sarcastic, joke filled environment is a stroke of genius. Because you’re genuinely laughing but having an existential crisis at the same time. The *Barbies* that get it, get it, the *Barbies* that don’t, don’t.





**A DAY IN THE LIFE:
PERSONAL REFLECTIONS ON ALEXANDRIA AND THE AMPHITHEATER
SALMA HAMED - 4TH YEAR - POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

An annual habit I like to keep is visiting Alexandria for a day or two during the summer. It is a tradition I inherited from my late father, who never really knew end-of-year vacations without its sea-salt air. And it is also one that I try to uphold, largely to quiet my nostalgia for a time long gone and to remember him. A futile thing yet still I go and reminisce, pretend everything is still the same despite the city's constant susceptibility for change — granted not always for the better.

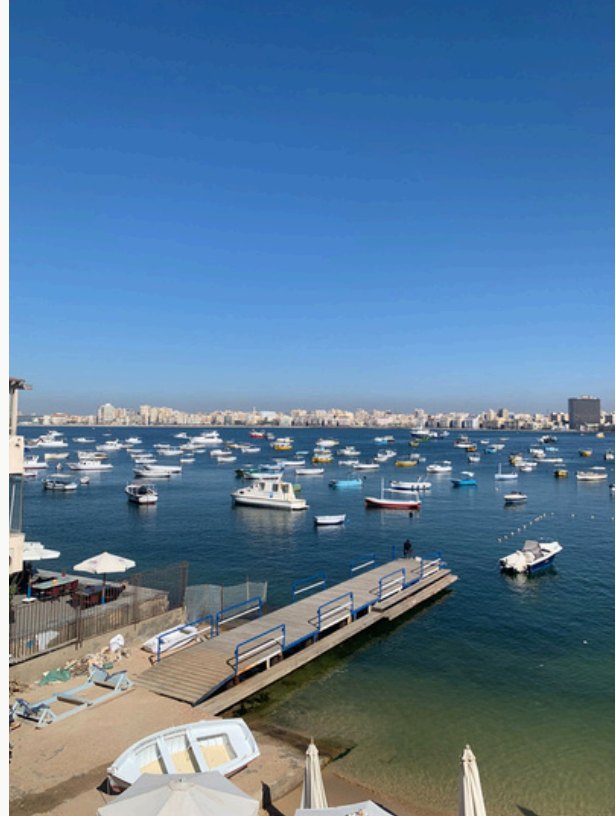
Each year, I hop on a train to the Mediterranean and I romanticize the carriage, the open-green fields with their July-August crops, and the run down roads all the way to Sidi Gaber. Like with all other forms of decent

public transport, I turn everything into a movie montage in which I am the lead actor. I play the role of the tourist well, largely because I am, no matter how much I brag to my friends about knowing the best food spots. It is simple, I try to explain: you go enough times to Alexandria and you realize that you can never pretend to not be a tourist. You are still too eager, too enthusiastic to see the waves crashing upon the rocks as you walk El Cornish. Likely, you will lament the way the length of it seems to be getting smaller and smaller each year. You are grateful, nonetheless, to be there. Who knows if the city will be there in ten years time or if climate change might turn it into the new Atlantis, lost under the water for centuries?

Not a lot of people in my circle get excited by the prospect of Alexandria anymore, except perhaps families, like my own, who framed it as a haven many generations ago. We were never a Sahel/Agami-going bunch, always preferring the bustling crowds of Alexandria's Maamora or the utter calmness of the outskirts around Marsa Matrouh. There was never anything in the in-between for us. For those who have grown up as Sahel goers, however, Alexandria can be underwhelming. You hear everyone boasting about it and then you go and find out that it is a city like any other. Its sea colors are not as blue as it used to be, its traffic is worse than Ramses if you go anywhere inside the actual city or during the holidays, and the driving skills there are even more questionable than that found in Cairo. I can see where they are coming from, but I turn a blind eye to all that anyway.

The Alexandria I see is unparalleled, its beauty untouched even with the passage of time and the harsh hand of development. The Alexandria I love is a walk on Stanley Bridge, lunch at the Greek Club, or an afternoon dessert at Délices as you overlook the sea in the horizon. My Alexandria lives somewhere in my Grandma's memories in the 60's and in my mother's stories about a long lost cabin on the sea in the 80's.

My Alexandria exists in the tens of songs named after it. My Alexandria is, like almost all else, romanticized. Otherwise, it risks raising hopelessness within me. Although, being a "real" city, I doubt Alexandria needs anything but its kind, ever-giving people, to survive.



My last visit to Alexandria was 2 weeks ago. I went for the first time with friends, most of which had never been there before. We were lucky to have an Alexandrian friend with us as guide, and I was relieved to give up that job. Having been to almost every site the group wanted to visit though, I told them I would go explore while they visited other iconic landmarks. After a little walk on the promenade along the sea, I looked up the famous sites nearby.

Taking my pick, I finally got into a taxi and paid a visit to the Ancient Roman Amphitheater at Kom El Dakah near the Alexandria train station. I had been there once as a child, close to 16 years ago, but I had no recollection of it. How often do you get to relive something magnificent for the first time?



If you are in any way interested in history or architecture, you will be wonderstruck just as I was. The theatre itself is utterly beautiful and surprisingly well-reserved thanks to the almost 50 year (1960-2008) efforts of the University of Warsaw who recovered it alongside the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities. Although you cannot physically access it (i.e. touch or sit), the sheer reverence you experience as you stand centerstage and speak or even sing into the auditorium—as Romans and the Roman Egyptians once did centuries ago—will more than compensate for it.

The surrounding space around the theatre is also fascinating, though significantly less well-kept. Almost like a city-state of its own, the space contains smaller lecture halls (or auditoria), baths, and habitation quarters. There were also wells, tunnels, stairs, and remnants of the cobblestones among other preserved infrastructure.



As I walked along the premise, I imagined the lives of those who once lived there. Were they excited to have been able to attend lectures and to gain knowledge no one else had been privy to or exposed? Was such a life fulfilling, self-actualizing in a way that our societies can never truly be? Discarding the overgrown weeds, the shards of broken bottles, and the plastic bags, you almost get to envision such a peaceful existence: one where music not only existed harmoniously with education but was also an integral part of it; one where the citizen lived a compact life but thrived nonetheless in close quarters.

Before I left the grounds, I visited the Villa of the Birds. It was supposed one of originally three on the site. However, if I had not insisted on scouting each corner of the place, I would have likely missed it, mistaken it for an administrative location or an abandoned museum. Inside it, I saw pieces of recovered roman mosaics, one depicting birds after which the villa was named.



Likely, those mosaics were once perfectly preserved. In a sense, they still are by being in their abandoned state, protected from our material harm by each of the two sleeping cats at the gates of the villa. I wish then, even if fruitlessly, that any change to them would mean less dirt or more maintenance and nothing else.

Struck by the heat and lack of air circulation, I eventually leave the birds behind, bid the cats goodbye, and sit on a park bench under the shade of a tree. In my heart, I selfishly hope no one else “rediscovers” this place or the garden that surrounds it. I hope it remains a time-capsule, frozen and untouchable — just as I hope each year for Alexandria itself to be.



As you have likely inferred by now, my view of Alexandria is, to understate it, a privileged one. It is a protected perspective, a sheltered one, where a beautiful, idealistic life on the shore is captured as quickly as lightening in a bottle. A picture-perfect life for my frame, and I get to ignore whatever gets left outside it. For millions, this has become impossible to do. Even for me, it has gotten harder to dismiss the effects of either neglect or misplaced attention with the passing of each year. Yet, somehow, each time I revisit Alexander’s namesake, I find something new to appreciate, like the steadily Roman Amphitheater, that makes the whole trip worthwhile and the city still worth fighting for.



DEATH OF PUTIN'S CHEF : UNEXPED?

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Yevgeny Prigozhin also known as Putin's Cook.. Was his rebellion really unexpected? To answer this question I would like to give a quick overview about him at first.

In that context, I will refer to his history, which began from his birth a year 1961 in St. Petersburg, through the period of his youth, some of which he spent in prison after he was arrested in cases of theft and fraud and sentenced to thirteen years in prison, of which he served nine, and then he was pardoned a year 1988 his life witnessed a pivotal transformation by entering the world of business, which he gradually started by being a salesman and a worker in the food industry until he became the owner of a chain of restaurants frequented by Putin, and this he became the one who served food to Putin's official guests from presidents and Kings, until he got richer and became a caterer for official events in The Kremlin has become the main supplier of the army, and the most important is the creation of a private security company - Wagner - which played important and influential roles in changing the course of Russian military operations, such as its participation in the process of controlling the Crimean Peninsula 2014 for example, it also continued to support Russian troops outside the borders, especially on the African continent. Actually Prigozhin had Putin's support through out this period.

But soon that changed, as that close relationship turned into another one dominated by suspicion and betrayal, after his participation and his soldiers-some were previous prisoners - in the Russian-Ukrainian invasion and losing some of them in the battle. Prigozhin accused his country's army of abandoning him for lack of support, obstructing the access of weapons to them, and even working to destroy and kill his soldiers, so he declared rebellion against the Russian army, declaring his desire to go to Moscow to punish the Army leaders involved, and the punishment was dropped from Prigozhin, but in the matter of what happened, his plane was shot down almost two months after he declared his rebellion.

After this quick presentation, i shall leave the answer to the reader, and even ask further questions ..Why be surprised by that almost inevitable ending? what did we expect from a former prisoner who formed his army relying on other prisoners.

Finally, I think that the lesson learned is to crystallize and restore the importance of the National Army to the minds, and here I remember Machiavelli and his contributions against

