



Vol.1, Issue 63, May 2024

# ELITE



**Dr  
Hanan  
Abo  
Sekin  
meets  
ELITE**





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## ELITE



Issued from the Faculty  
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Political Science- Cairo  
University

FEPS, WHERE ELITES ARE MADE

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First designed by Dr, Ramy Magdy Ahmed in October 2018

*Dear reader,*

*You may get puzzled when you find that our previous issue (No. 62) was for December 2023, it precedecor was November 2023, while our current issue is (63) for May 2024. and you may ask "Have we omitted four complete issues? Or did you miss it without knowing?"*

*In fact, and in our effort to eliminate the problem that our issues are supposed to be issued monthly, while in practice it may take more than one month to publish the issue, which makes the events that we cover in the issue usually more recent than the supposed date of the issue, and makes the supposed date of the issue much older than its release date. so we decided from now on to stick only to the issue number to put the actual release date of issue and not the date of the month that it is supposed to follow.*

*Of course, we work every month to prepare our issues, but the issue is not issued monthly and takes more than a month according to the circumstances of its preparation . Therefore each issue will come with its actual release date from now on.*

*With our love and dedication*

The Editor in Chief

## Important Change

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## PROFESSOR HANAN ABU SEKIN - HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH AND MEASUREMENTS AT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND CRIMINAL RESEARCH

*Jasmin Nabil, Youssef Mousa, Kenzy Tamer, Translation: Sara Basheer*

As we continue to hold fruitful interviews with significant figures in their fields, we introduce you to this issue's figure. Professor Hanan Abu Sekin who won the State Encouragement Award, is loving for her faculty and job, and is very keen to always seek for progress. She represents the best example for the woman who is ambitious to accomplish all of those achievements in a very short time.

She obtained her bachelor's, master's, and PhD degrees from the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University. That is why she is deeply grateful to the faculty. In addition, she is a member of the Executive Committee of the Arab Association for Political Science, a member of the Political Science Committee of the Supreme Council of Culture, and finally, she is a member of the Training Committee of the National Council for Women.



### 1. How did your relationship with FEPS start? And why did you specially choose to join it?

First of all, I am not originally from Cairo, and there was not a Faculty of Economics and Political Science other than the one in Cairo, so the geographic factor is one of the main reasons why I chose to study at FEPS. Whenever I watched the television, I used to always spot distinguished figures who are FEPS graduates, so I used to believe that they are actually the elite, and that all the unique individuals in our society are those who graduated from FEPS.

Since I was a student in the science section, I was about to join the Faculty of Pharmacy, but I couldn't make it because of my grade, so I decided to join FEPS. I got into the FEPS in 2000, back then, I did not have enough information about the faculty. Also, my parents used to be against travelling, as they used to believe that it is not that easy, however, I was persistent to join FEPS.





In fact, all of the students at FEPS are unique and distinguished, whether they are thanaweya ama top-achievers, or even the distinguished students of science and mathematics sections, that is why the environment was extremely competitive.

As a student, I was responsible, that is why I always had the motive to give and learn at FEPS in order to succeed. Moreover, I was very keen to keep on my academic level, acquire lots of information, and focus on self-development.

Honestly, the faculty never hesitated to provide us with any kind of support and help, to an extent that made me always perceive FEPS as a family for me. For instance, the orientation week, that was made to welcome and celebrate new-comers, motivated me a lot to work hard. In addition, exchanging the experiences between students throughout that week made me feel assured.

## **2. How was your daily life at FEPS, including your activities, and your relationship with professors?**

Actually, the overall number of students at FEPS is not really huge, and even when we choose our majors, the number of students per major becomes less and less, that is why every professor becomes more aware of all the students, which creates an environment full of interaction between the professors and the students.

In addition, all the professors were super knowledgeable, so that created a spirit of astonishment within all the students. For instance, whenever I attended lectures for Prof. Ahmed Youssef, Prof. Aly Eldin Helal, or Prof. Horreya, we always used to feel impressed by such amazing and significant professors.



Also, my relationship with FEPS did not stop after graduation, as one of the advantages of the center here is that any researcher, who gets hired as a teaching assistant, has to obtain the master's or PhD degrees from the same university they graduated from, or any other university abroad.

The center mainly requires researchers to obtain post-graduate studies from different places in order to acquire a sense of diversity in terms of their specializations and areas of research.

The center even provided me with a scholarship to study at the USA, but unfortunately, I had already been preparing for my post-graduate studies at FEPS back then, so I preferred to continue studying at FEPS rather than wasting time on repeating the whole process.

I was provided with the opportunity to teach in the Parliamentary Studies Diploma Program in 2019 at FEPS, I also taught the Israeli Studies Diploma for several years, so my relationship with FEPS did not stop till this moment, as I am currently teaching at the Military Academy for Postgraduate Studies at the National Defense College, and this all happened through a recommendation from FEPS.





### 3. From your point of view, how does the Political Science department shape its students' personalities?

Since I joined the university, I was always eager to learn from my professors in order to gain experience in dealing with the society. FEPS's professors do not only provide knowledge to their students, but they also represent a role model when it comes to respect, appreciation, and providing students with self-confidence. All the faculty members deal with all the students humbly, which establishes in their minds that all of the faculty members work to help the students, and fulfil their desires. In addition, studying political science formulates the students' personalities in terms of critical thinking, that is because of studying a science that contributes to having a better understanding of the society and the structure of the international system, in addition to having better understanding of various dimensions within the country.

That is why FEPS graduates do not fall in the trap of the ideology brilliance, because most of the students are qualified enough to criticise any kind of information they receive and understand its different dimensions. Meanwhile, there are other students at prestigious faculties, who do not own critical thinking skills, and consequently, it is easy for various extremist groups to make use of them.

Interaction played a crucial role throughout my learning journey at FEPS, as it did not depend on mere memorization. The several assignments that we had to deal with, specially in the Political Science department, represented a great help for me to deal with stress, so I was not shocked when I had to deal with stress when I started my career journey, because I got used to this much of

stress during my years at FEPS. At FEPS, I learnt how to set my priorities, be able to work under pressure, time management, and crisis management skills. Additionally, I learnt how to work from the very first day at FEPS. I also learnt to have a forward-looking vision towards applying for particular jobs in the future.



As we mainly study subjects and courses relevant to the contemporary issues, and there are various activities that usually take place at FEPS such as the annual employment fair, holding interviews with important personalities and figures, all of this created an atmosphere full of passion towards constant learning within the students.

FEPS is also characterized by diversity among its students, so you can find on campus many local cultures, cultures of other countries, in addition to hosting refugees, which established in our minds the idea of citizenship, respecting different perspectives of others, and how to deal with a diverse community. We usually have the freedom to take our own decisions, so we are totally responsible for them. We also learnt how to be self-declined through attending summer camps.



**4. Tell us more about the National Center for Social and Criminal Research, and its most significant tools, in addition to your experience until reaching your current position? What are the interests of the center?**

The center was founded in 1955, and it is the oldest research organization in the Mena region. It was established during a turning point in Egypt's history. The decision to establish the center was made by President Gamal Abdel Nasser, as he was always keen to benefit from various scientists due to the changes that were happening during that time in the society. In the beginning, the center was mainly focused on studying criminal issues in order to issue deterrent laws and create legislation that regulates various issues.

However, after a few years, it became obvious that the social dimension is closely related to the criminal dimension, and if an appropriate social environment is available, it will consequently reduce the problems of poverty, justice, and slums. Therefore, the legal dimension is not separated from the social, political and economic aspects at all.

At the center, there are several specializations such as Politics, Economics, Sociology, and Media, in addition to a number of departments and sections. For example, the section of Societies and Social Groups has three departments.

(A department that studies new cities and urban cities - another department that studies the Egyptian countryside and its issues - another department that studies population and their issues such as health and population increase - in addition to the Division of Institutions and the Force of Social Development, which I belong to, as there is a department that studies Mass Communication such as Social communication studies, Theater, and Television - there is an Education Research department - and the department, that I have the honor to be its head, which is the Public Opinion department, and this surveys citizens' opinions on all issues in general)





In general, the center in general is considered the oldest research organization in the Middle East. Its role is essentially to inform the decision-maker and provide data for scientific studies that give the decision-makers all possible information about crucial societal issues in addition to their solutions, because the center focuses primarily on empirical studies, not just theoretical studies.

Most of the time, we conduct questionnaires and surveys to accurately determine the problem, and after that we seek the assistance of specialists to tackle those problems and provide us with solutions.

Eventually, we combine the practical and theoretical efforts in order to provide the decision-makers with recommendations on how to tackle such issues, so we can say that the role of the center is basically a scientific role.

Moreover, there are other departments relevant to crime, criminal treatment, in addition to the chemical department. The center has a great history in studying drugs and working to combat addiction issues, in addition to the environmental issues. Additionally, The center's primary research activity is the role it plays in training courses (training for Arab officers), which works to provide them with training to enhance their knowledge and skills in detecting crimes using modern methods.

The center also provides all the entities and institutions inside Egypt with trainings. For instance, There was a specialized course provided by the center for the members of the Public Prosecution and the General Information Service, in addition to other courses for members of the Ministry of Social Solidarity.

The center provides the researchers with the required trainings, as it gives them the opportunity to write researches in the center's magazines and journals. There are scientific publications (the National Social Journal is a peer-reviewed scientific periodical and has a grade of 7 by the Supreme Council of Universities, which is the highest grade, and the National Criminal Journal has a grade of 7 as well.). So, the center provides its researchers with opportunities to scientifically interact and cooperate with researchers in other institutions.

Also, the Center organizes a conference that discusses a specific issue on an annual basis. This year, it mainly focused on the Egyptian countryside. The Center always participates in the Cairo International Book Fair as well. It is also interested in conducting researches about issues related to illegal immigration and human trafficking.

When I graduated from FEPS, I was one of the top-achievers on my class, but I did not reach the first or the second rank. So, when I knew that the center was hiring teaching assistants, I decided to apply for that position. The final grade was one of the requirements to join the center, in addition to passing the written and oral exam.

So, I joined the center as a teaching assistant, then an assistant lecturer, then I obtained my PhD degree with an excellent grade. I was always keen on staying punctual and committed, and developing myself in many areas. I also made sure to conduct the largest possible number of researches in order to stick to and maintain my level.





After that, I was promoted to assistant professor at least five years after obtaining my PhD degree. Then I thought about obtaining the professorship until I accomplished that, thanks to God, and I even completed more than the required researches due to the various changes that happened in the society. Also, there are even stated requirements for choosing the Head for the Political Science department. Personally, I always feel that I bear the names of two prestigious institutions which as the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, and the National Center for Social and Criminal Research.

One thing that I will never forget, is that when I asked one of my professor about what to do after graduation, as I was hesitated between either to kickstart my career in the job market or start pursuing my master's degree. "During this period, you need to enhance your overall knowledge, but at the same time, this will not hinder you from joining the labor market " he answered.

In my opinion, what is more important is to be keen to keep working hard, in order to attain what you desire.

There are major research programs carried out by the center, such as (the social report that studies the Egyptian family in terms of health and environment). We work on samples from the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) that represent Egyptian society as a whole. There are special programs for conducting research about poverty, slum development, youth programs, and security threats against youth. All the societal issues that may concern the Egyptian society were studied by the center because it consists of many departments and covers all the societal issues.

One of the most important advantages of the center is that, any issue I study stems from the interest of every other professor, so it is characterised by diversity. Therefore, the research requirements required by the ministries are integrated with the interests of faculty members. In addition, all of the researches that were previously conducted get updated on a regular basis. Also, the center allows conducting individual researches, so not all of the researches are group researches. Individual researches usually get conducted for a conference or a social or criminal journal.



**5. Dr Hanan won the State Encouragement award over a research titled "Features of Electoral Propaganda in light of the legal controls for the 2020 House of Representatives elections", tell us more about this research paper, and why do you think it gained this much of appreciation?**

What distinguishes this award is that it is for researchers under 40 years old, it also requires from the researchers to apply through a research other than the one they conducted for the PhD degree. This research paper was particularly chosen, because it covers a recent period of time, the capability of the Egypt to organize elections despite the Corona pandemic, and at the same time,



the election propaganda and the people's ability to understand the candidates, and whether they have the ability to distinguish if what a certain candidate is saying is practical and attainable or not?

Lately, the people have been more aware than ever when it comes to the political realism. Since the country's issue can not tackled overnight, so how do we choose a candidate who has a practical vision?

This research paper was published in a peer-reviewed journal, not a book. So, winning this award always encourages me that any scientific paper can win awards, even if not because of quantity, but because of quality (content).

The research paper generally focused on the importance of providing candidates with resources fairly, in terms of media and coverage, and to allow each candidate to present his own program, so that elections becomes transparent and obtains legitimacy from the people.

**6.Dr. Hanan is a member in the training committee in the National Council for Women. How is the nature of training related to political work in one way or another, and what are the urgent issues that you consider important related to women?**

Since I work as an external expert, I provide recommendations and scientific contributions that benefit the Council in its work. The committee is composed of a number of members, including those specializing in culture, environment, and law. Each of the members prepared training guides, according to our specialization. Since I specialize in Political Science, I provided a training guide to raise awareness

of the importance of women participation in politics, and how to participate to exercise their political rights. I prepared this guide for women about political participation, which came with the 2020 elections, and the guide was available at all branches of the National Council for Women.

Moreover, there are training guides about gender, which represent the most important gender issues and how to deal with them. Also, the council holds several seminars and lectures about women's training. This guide was peer-reviewed at the highest level, as it was presented to the legislative committee, supervised by Dr. Maya Morsi and Dr. Nisreen Al-Bughdadi.

Actually, there are several important issues related to women, including awareness and economic empowerment. Currently, the national project to empower the Egyptian family has many axes (legislative, educational, and service). Regarding the awareness issue, unemployment among females is three times that of among males.

Awareness and economic empowerment are the very crucial for Egyptian women, in order to be able to contribute to Egypt's progress. Because if a woman got economically empowered, this creates a sense of independence for her, and will let her be responsible for her own decisions, and foster her desire to learn in order to enhance her overall level. Also, regarding the social dimension, that makes her able to deal with society, responsible, and capable of making her own decisions.

Women are not only half of society, they actually represent the half of society in numerical terms, but she is the one who raises and upbrings the other half.



When we focus on the economic, social and political empowerment women, the next generation will definitely become empowered and capable at all levels. Also, another urgent issue is population growth and increase because it destroys the fruits of development.

**7. We are hosting a high-class researcher in Egyptian affairs. What are the most important challenges facing the Egyptian society? How can we confront them? And what are the most important available opportunities?**

I believe that local elections must be held, because the Egyptian citizen becomes very happy with the simplest things, and they appreciate the efforts of the Egyptian government in all fields. We are a country full of diversity, and each governorate is characterised by certain features that differentiate it from other governorates. In my opinion, the ones who are able to benefit from these advantages are the localities because they are the ones who are capable to create local development that is consistent with development at the state level.

Over the past years, we used to face a fundamental challenge in the Egypt, which is centralization, whereas services were concentrated in Cairo unlike all other regions, which is called the spatial gap. This indicates the achievement of development, however, its consequences are not equal.

Regarding the issue of population increase, there must be a population in all governorates, even deserted governorates. In order to accommodate the population increase, there must be a demand for new cities, so that localities can accommodate population growth, improve the quality of

services, achieve satisfaction, and at the same time increase their sense of belonging. For example, the Decent Life Initiative, many of people and groups are expressing their happiness about this project.

We also must pay attention to investing in educating citizens. Additionally, the relationship between the role of women and men is a complementary relationship, as men must believe in women's role and that they is his partner in the development process.

Localities also have an economic aspect, because along with the partnerships they create with the private sector in the governorates, the city, or civil society groups, they have the ability to develop projects and provide benefits for local citizens. Every governorate has problems, and the ones who see this are the localities.

**8. What is your vision regarding the regional situation, and the ongoing war between Palestine and Israel, and to what extent does it affect Egypt?**

The regional situation is extremely dangerous, because this war threatens the Palestinian cause, but at the same time, the right-wing coalition in Palestine is extremely extremist because it is based on an alliance of religious parties. Therefore, the basic dilemma for the Israeli Prime Minister is to put his desire for political survival and governance over any other goals, as he does not want to reach to a deal.

He is extremely strict towards the Palestinian issue because if he eases that position, his extremist partners from the





Religious Zionism Party and others will leave the government coalition, which will lead to the occurrence of another special elections. His position is critical because he is accused of corruption in various cases and is responsible for the negligence on October 7, that is why his position makes him willing to stay, and trying to open new fronts for the war.

The regional situation is very difficult, however, the Egyptian role is present, As Egypt is providing Palestinians with humanitarian aid. There are many praises of the Egyptian role in providing humanitarian aid and receiving the wounded patients in order to provide them with treatment. There is a tangible sense of this role. Since Egypt is the first country to hold the Cairo Peace Summit, so it is obvious how Egypt is always to play an intermediary role, and at the same time, all state institutions are working to protect Egyptian national security.



### 9. Lastly, what is Dr. Hanan Abu Sekin grateful for?

I am greatly grateful for my faculty that generally shaped various aspects of my personality. In addition, even after my graduation from feps, my relationship with FEPS did not stop, so I kept learning from it. I am also grateful for the center from where I learn about several aspects specially when it comes to the practical skills and the active engagement in the societal issues.

On a personal level, I am grateful for my parents, as they constantly support and encourage me, despite the fact that they used to be against joining FEPS due to its difficulty. I am grateful to all my colleagues and professors at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science.

Lastly, Beware of arrogance when it comes to acquiring knowledge! In order to maintain your distinction, you should keep on your eagerness to learn more, so that you be able to develop and take your knowledge to another advanced level, so always avoid being arrogant or reckless. Science is always developing , that is why you should always communicate with professors, teaching assistants, and colleagues, so that you can keep on the learning journey.





## ELITE COVERS THE 24TH JOB FORUM YOUSSEF GRANT\_ THIRD YEAR\_ POLITICAL SCIENCE

TRANSLATE BY: RODAINA NADER

Dr. Ahmed Ragab, Vice President of Cairo University for Education and Student Affairs, inaugurated the 24th Job Fair for the Faculty of Economics and Political Science on behalf of Dr. Mohamed Othman El-Khosht, President of Cairo University, on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 - 14 Shawwal 1445 H. This event was supervised by Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali, Acting Dean of the Faculty, and attended by Dr. Mamdouh Ismail, Vice Dean of the Faculty for Community Service and Environmental Development Affairs, and Dr. Mohamed Sheiha, Director of the Faculty's Employment and Training Unit, with the presence of more than 35 different institutions and organizations. This marks the 24th year of the fair, reflecting the university's commitment to reaffirming principles of social responsibility and the close relationship between the faculty and its students by providing employment and training opportunities for the college's students and graduates. To further demonstrate this commitment, Elite newspaper covered the fair as part of its annual tradition to celebrate this yearly event and acknowledge the faculty's efforts in this field. Initially, several questions were directed at some of the students and graduates attending the fair throughout the day, as follows:



**Students from the second and third years were asked about their objectives in participating in this fair.** They expressed their great satisfaction with participating in the job fair, stating that the previous year had helped them form a comprehensive picture and gain the most benefit from the fair. This habit keeps them constantly prepared, especially regarding continuously updating their resumes, participating in student activities and volunteer work, in addition to focusing on the academic aspect to prepare for this annual event, as one of the second-year students described.

On the other hand, the presence of organizing students has become an integral part of the job fair, and everyone praised the increasing organization year after year to ensure effective participation of all attendees.

**In this regard, several organizing students were discussed: What is different this year? And what distinguishes this year's fair? The most notable answers were as follows:**





- Students are increasingly aware of the value of internships, and the process is becoming more serious year after year.
- All parties are increasingly satisfied with what can be called strengthening friendships with the organizers, and even with the students (which is consistent with statements from representatives of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development).
- Some parties were keen to offer special training to a number of students, including training related to public relations, human resources, and others. The placement rate of graduates has significantly increased compared to previous years.

Our meetings were crowned by a graduate of our faculty, responsible for the **Shaf** organization. It was an opportunity to benefit from her experience as a graduate and a representative of an institution.

She was asked about her first impressions of us regarding the fair and spoke with great enthusiasm, praising the remarkable development the fair had undergone. She stated that everything had been improved, from the number of participants to the attention given to specialized training in the faculty's main specialties (especially political science), as well as the space, among other things.



Some participants were surprised by the unexpectedly large number of entities such as the recycling **BIKYA**, the association Ganat Al-Khuloud, stadiums, and other important entities. Regarding the **Ganat Al-Khuloud** association, it is worth mentioning that an economics student has struck a deal to support his candle project, aiming to create opportunities for cooperation between the two parties!

As for the **Shaf** Center for Future Studies, Crisis Analysis, despite this being the first year, it announced several courses and trainings, including a political researcher preparation course and a diplomatic corps qualification course. This platform may allow us to invite them to have a permanent place within the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, in recognition of the efforts made to support students of the Political Science Faculty.

On another note, there are many entities that have become regular, perhaps even long-standing, participants in the same fair! Among the most notable are the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, and others. Editors of Elite newspaper had the opportunity to discuss with representatives of the Ministry of Planning, and the responses were as follows:

**This year is not the first for the Ministry of Planning, why is the Ministry of Planning interested in participating and supporting all activities and job fairs held by the faculty?**







It is worth that this year could be the fourth or fifth for the Ministry of Planning, which allowed us to meet a number of students and offer a number of training courses according to the students' needs.

**Over these four years, what changes or developments can be observed?**

Students are paying more attention to internships and training courses than in previous years.



The Faculty of Economics and Political Science is committed to addressing the shortcomings observed in previous years, and one of the most notable problems we faced last year was the high temperature. This was addressed after covering the entire area.

Although having a single day for the fair, despite its focus and benefits, made us, as editors of Elite, miss out on conducting meetings with all participating entities, as each entity has contributed to the fair.

For example, several institutions, organizations, and banks were mentioned, including Banque Misr, the Housing and Development Bank, Faisal Islamic Bank, the Intro Group, the Consumer Protection Agency, the Ministries of Youth and Sports, Planning and Economic Development, Supply and Internal Trade, the Internal Trade Development Authority, the Central Agency for Organization and Administration, and the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, in addition to a number of companies and institutions contributing to the fair.



The editors of Elite newspaper concluded this report with a discussion with Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, who, as usual, welcomed this report. She was asked several questions, the most prominent of which were:

**What does this year's fair represent?**

This fair is the 24th, reflecting the significant efforts made by the students, staff, administration, and hosting organizations. This year shows greater diversity among entities: banks, companies, institutions, civil society, research centers, ministries, and others, which increases year after year.

**Why is the Faculty of Economics and Political Science interested in this annual event?**

This interest stems from the uniqueness and distinction of the faculty and its keenness to provide employment and training opportunities for its students. This opportunity is an application of all that they have learned and an opportunity to open up to society.

**In addition to the job fair, how does the faculty provide suitable job opportunities for its students?**

The Employment and Training Unit at the faculty provides a number of jobs and training opportunities periodically by communicating with some entities and selecting a number of graduates that suit the job requirements.





## CONFERENCE COVERAGE "SMALL FAMILY FOR A BETTER LIFE"

FARIDA MOHAMED-SECOND YEAR-POLITICAL SCIENCES-FRENCH SECTION

Under the slogan "With awareness, Egypt is changing for the better," and as part of the implementation of the social awareness Initiative for community development, the Strategic Forum for Development and Social Peace Association, in collaboration with the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University, is organizing a conference titled "Small Family for a Better Life." The event took place on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 12:00 PM in the Sawiris Hall at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, under the patronage of Dr. Nevine El-Qabbaj, Minister of Social Solidarity, Professor Dr. Mohamed El-Khosht, President of Cairo University, and under the supervision of Professor Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University.

The conference commence with the recitation of Quranic verses by the student Mohamed Ahmed from the fourth year, then starts the Republican Salute to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

This will be followed by welcoming remarks by Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali to the attendees and speakers:

1. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Sami Abdel-Sadek, Vice President of Cairo University.
2. Journalist Dr. Samia Abu El Nasr, Editor-in-Chief of Al-Ahram and Secretary of the Strategic Forum, General Coordinator of the Awareness Program for the Strategic Forum Association.
3. Major General Magdi Shehata, Former Assistant Minister of Defense and Member of the Board of Directors of the Strategic Forum.
4. Prof. Dr. Mayssa Shoukry, Former Head of the National Population Council.
5. Prof. Dr. Heba Nassar, Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science.
6. Prof. Dr. Amr Hassan, Advisor to the Minister of Health and Population and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology).
7. Major General Dr. Ezzat El-Shishini, Former Advisor to the Demographic Center.

Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali emphasizes that the Awareness program represents a cultural revolution in many areas, such as early marriage and female genital mutilation, and most importantly, population growth. She mentions that overpopulation burdens the state, depleting its resources and hindering development efforts. To achieve economic prosperity, the economic growth rate must exceed the population growth rate. She highlights the Egyptian Vision 2030 as a pivotal point for comprehensive development in economic, environmental, and social fields, with strategic goals focused on quality of life, standard of living, and poverty eradication through controlling population growth. Despite, we celebrate the decline in the population growth rate by 46 percentage point to reach 1.4%, in addition to the decline in the birth rate in some governorates, and the decline in the fertility rate, which indicates the success of the population policy.

Then, journalist Dr. Samia Abu El Nasr started to state the main goal of the conference which is changing societal concepts such as "al-Azwa" (large families), deminishing women's role in their families, and the idea of dividing individual income among five children versus two children when she explained by saying "do your math", and calculate it wisely. She asserted the responsibility of adults as they influence the behaviors and personalities of children. She states that when the population grows beyond economic growth rates, it leads to problems like poverty, illiteracy, slums, unemployment, street children phenomenon, and early marriage, which hinders women's rights and health and perpetuate chronic poverty. She affirms that all divine religions have encouraged family planning. She concludes that the only solution to confront fifth-generation wars, which focus on rumors, societal and familial disintegration, is the continuous societal awareness and a sense of public responsibility. While expressing her gratefulness to Dr. Nevine El-Qabbaj, Minister of Social Solidarity, for her continuous efforts in this field, she concluded her speech by assuring the role of Egyptian youth in facing challenges and changing their country for the better.

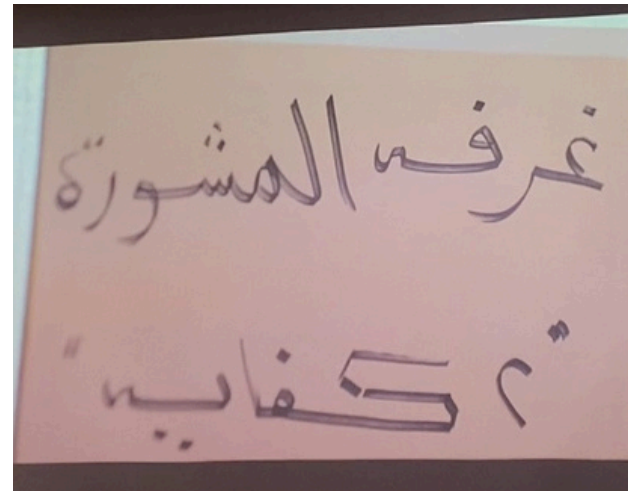


As part of awareness-raising efforts, the film "Two is Enough," produced by the Strategic Forum, was screened. It illustrates the government's efforts and policies in collaboration with all relevant parties to address the population growth issue and promote family planning through awareness campaigns under the slogan "Awareness = Life." The short film aims to convey the message that the satisfaction of having only two children, is the optimal solution for your country and your children's future.

Then Dr. Heba Nassar followed, addressing the importance of this issue from a scientific and economic perspective. She referred to the history of the problem since the Industrial Revolution and Karl Marx's theory of basic needs, which entail providing every individual with a minimum of shelter, food, and clothing. She also mentioned the Human Development Theory, which categorizes countries based on development indicators, and highlights the flaw of economic growth in countries where economic growth occurs without genuine human development.

She stressed on the importance of focusing on the quality of human development, which has been addressed through Sustainable Development Goals that concentrate on various fields beyond just economic development.

She further underscored the importance of achieving individual development and discussed the demographic gift phenomenon, where a decrease in mortality rates and birth rates results in a concentration of the population age group from 14 to 30 years, which is the demographic youth that supports the rest of the community. Egypt and some other countries were on the edge of achieving this phenomenon, but due to political instabilities in 2010-2011, the birth rate increased significantly. However, the country's efforts continue in the geographical redistribution, implementing infrastructure projects, new cities, and expanding agricultural areas. She ended her remarks by emphasizing the role of youth and their conviction and awareness to address this issue.



Then the word was passed to Dr. Mayssa, who mentioned the role of youth in spreading accurate awareness to others. She emphasized that the Egyptian family is the nucleus of the country and must be established and maintained on preplanned and organized foundations. Family planning is the main instance of a society and it begins with financial planning and family planning, to avoid divorce and family disintegration. She explained that there are many ministerial programs such as "First Year of Marriage" along with the Awareness Program, to understand the foundations of a healthy and integrated family life without violence in communication, whether physical, verbal, or economic, which ensures a better future for children. The problems hindering the healthy family entity and social development include illiteracy, neglect of women's health and education, child marriage, and female genital mutilation. Youth solidarity and continuous education help combat negative old cultural traditions.



Afterwards, Dr. Amr began by explaining that the problem of population growth is not just a problem of space and numbers, but also a problem of resources, based on the principle of proportionality. Population growth consumes an individual's share of allocated resources. The problem of population exceeding the state's capacity is analyzed through understanding the quantity, quality, congestion, indebtedness, and these problems are interrelated and their solutions are interconnected. Therefore, we must utilize Egypt's wealth, which exists on the ground, in its youth, by planning for families and life steps.



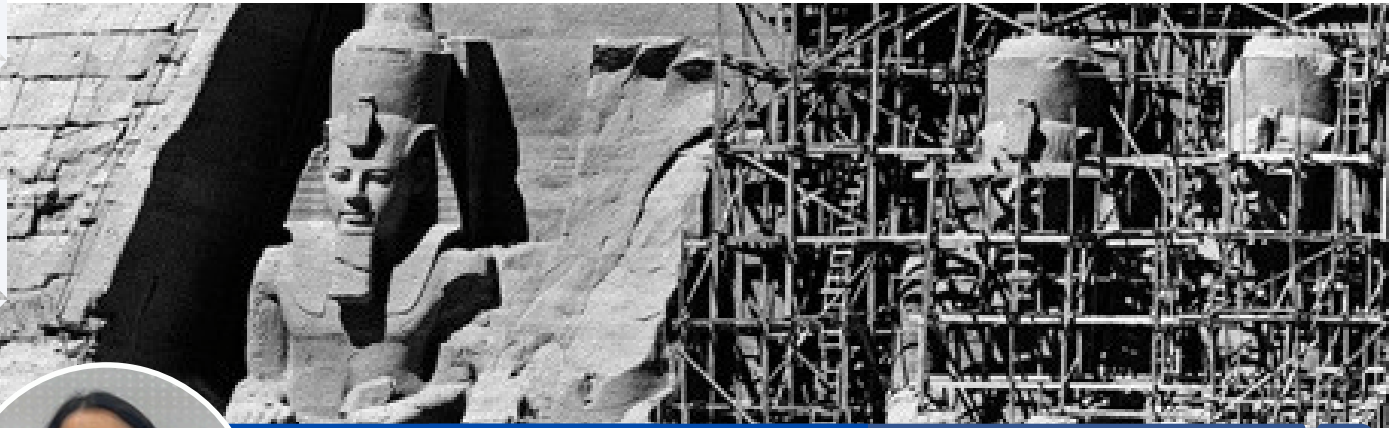


Afterwards, General Staff Officer Magdy Shahata delivered his speech about the comprehensive strength of the country, which is its population, which also can be seen as a weakness or strength point. It becomes a strength if utilized in science, health, and culture for human development. He then emphasized the external and internal challenges facing Egypt, including addressing the issue of population growth. Internal stability in Egypt ensures stability for the entire Arab region, and to achieve this, it is necessary to support youth with societal awareness, education, and skills. A righteous citizen means a righteous family, which means a righteous society.

Before the end of the conference, a film titled "Her marriage before 18 wastes her rights" was presented, produced by the Strategic Forum, emphasizing the rights of girls and the legal age for marriage. It stipulates that a girl must have mental, emotional, and physical maturity to be eligible for marriage, in order to protect her rights and shield her from any harm. Retrogressive beliefs inherited within a patriarchal society result in various health and legal problems.

Lastly, Dr. Ezzat El-Shishini concluded the conference, explaining with numbers the magnitude of the population problem. Egypt is the first country in the Arab world in terms of population, the third-largest country in Africa, and ranked 14th globally. He also highlighted the urgent importance of avoiding future repercussions, as the country has been facing this problem since the 1950s. Issues like unemployment and price raises result largely from overpopulation, representing a burden on the state. The state seeks to manage human resources and confront new populations through population strategies to reduce childbirth, but their results are limited. He stressed on the necessity of addressing the affected and vulnerable group to this problem to a greater extent, on a deeper scale, and with out-of-the-box thinking.





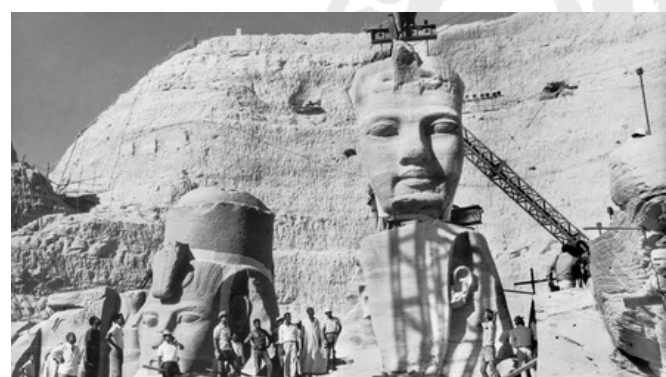
## «WHEN THE UNESCO MOVED MOUNTAINS» : THE NUBIA CAMPAIGN PRESERVATION OR ABANDONMENT OF THE EGYPTIAN HERITAGE?

**Kenzy Tamer - First Year student - French Section**

In midst of the Cold War tensions, the world has demonstrated a state of international solidarity between around fifty countries in order to preserve the rich cultural heritage of the Ancient Egyptian civilization. A civilization that didn't belong to any of these countries, who have put aside their differences to commit to preserving the heritage of humanity. 50 years after the Nubia Campaign of the UNESCO, did it really contribute to the preservation of the historical Egyptian heritage?

It all began in 1954, during the phase of modernization led by the President Gamal Abdel Nasser who ordered the construction of the Aswan High Dam at the heart of the Nile Valley. This large-scale project was intended to fulfill the needs of the growing population, to sustain electricity and to increase the irrigated zones around the Nile. However, despite these benefits, the water from the man-made Lake Nasser, that resulting from the construction of the dam. There were risks of submerging the Pharaonic and the Greco-Roman temples and changing the façade of the Nubian region.

As a result, archeologists and intellectuals around the world did not want the remains of the pharaonic civilization to be forgotten and submerged underwater. In April of 1959, the Egyptian and Sudanese governments issued a request for assistance to the UNESCO to implement the project. The director of the UNESCO opened a campaign to governments, public or private actors to contribute to this scientific project technically and financially.



Let's imagine together if this project wasn't created... Imagine the huge cultural and historical loss... After this campaign, 22 monuments were saved by the UNESCO, the main actor of this campaign that lasted approximately 20 years. The first temple moved was the temple of Abu Simbel, one of the most intriguing temples buried in the sand for millennia.

It was dug into a rocky cliff and the entrance had 4 colossal statues measuring 20 m high representing king Ramses II. This temple created for and by Ramses showcases one of the traditional iconographic styles of his reign. His colossal statues legitimize and strengthen his reign given that he does not come from pure royal origins. Abu Simbel is also a scientific marvel. Because the sun rays illuminate twice a year the statues of the “Holy of the Holies” or the naos of the temple. During the 60s the UNESCO adopted the Swedish project, which involved cutting and reassembling the blocks, 65 m north of the original site. Just like a puzzle, the blocks measuring tons finally reconstructed the new site in 1968.

The campaign led to the replacement of Amada, Kalabsha temples, in addition of the “Egyptian pearl” the Greco-Roman Philae temple dedicated to the goddess Isis... The project was finally concluded in 1980, and it has helped establishing the base and the mechanisms of protection and preservations of the treasures of humanity, mainly after the publication of 1972 concerning the protection of cultural heritage by the UNESCO, the campaign has inspired many more campaigns of preservation around the world. It is also important to say that a similar project is a remarkable addition to Egyptian tourism sector, because temples like Abu Simbel or Philae for example, attract millions of visitors each year. The project was also a great addition for international diplomacy in order to preserve world heritage despite the tensions of the Cold War.

However, it is interesting to note that this also came at a great cost to Egypt. But how? Since the project involved a large number of countries, each benefited its own interests, financing or technical and scientific cooperation had a cost. And this cost is also our heritage. In fact, towards the end of the campaign the Egyptian authorities abandoned some Nubian monuments intentionally (or not) with the publication of Decree No. 4647 of 1966 which confirmed the sending of 5 temples abroad. Notably the Roman temple of Dandour in the United States (exhibited at the Met Museum), the temple of Debod in Spain, the temple of Tafa in the Netherlands, the temple of Ellessiya in Italy and the Ptolemaic gate of Kalabsha in Germany.



An example of the expatriated temples: Debod temple moved to Spain after the Nubia Campaign

During Nasser's period, the Egyptian government didn't have as much conscience about the protection of ancient monuments, just like we do now. However, to what extent this action led by the government forced us to take a step back by expatriating our own monuments? Whereas now we advocate for the return of monuments present in museums around the world for example, the Rosetta stone, the bust of Nefertiti, Dendara's zodiac, and many others.





## THE CITADEL MASSACRE... ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MODERN EGYPT

**AbuBakr Mamoon - Second Year - Political Sciences - English Section**

On March 1st, 1811, Amin Bey, the Mamluk, was invited to a lavish dinner by the new ruler of Egypt, who was proud of his consecutive victories. The celebration was to honor the sending of a military campaign led by his son to suppress the revolt against the Ottoman Sultan in the Arabian Peninsula. Amin Bey gladly accepted the invitation, accompanied by his Mamluk comrades who flocked to the Citadel in droves. But he did not know that he would enter the Citadel with four hundred and seventy Mamluks and leave it alone and expelled, crossing the country in search of a hiding place that the prince's sword would not reach. He had nothing in his mind but the images of his companions, lying dead, after the soldiers of the ruler, to whom they had given allegiance and obedience, attacked them and took their lives in return.

This massacre was one of Muhammad Ali Pasha's steps to establish his sole rule of the country, after he had made sure to fragment the popular front that had brought him to power.

And who had taken oaths from him at the beginning of his reign, by dismissing some of the leaders from positions of influence and ensuring the obedience of others to the Pasha's orders.

On the other side of the Mediterranean Sea, there was a book in the royal library written three hundred years ago, which the King of Florence did not pay much attention to, by an unlucky writer named Niccolò Machiavelli. In it, he states that "the new conqueror should, at the very beginning, commit whatever cruelty he intends to commit so that he does not need to resort to it again and again." He considers the legitimacy of ignoring the rules of religion and morality for the prince who is founding a new state and gives the prince advice in this regard.





We do not claim that Muhammad Ali had read Machiavelli's book *The Prince*, but we claim that this tendency to eradicate opposition and potential opposition, especially in the early stages of the birth of states, was very common among world leaders regardless of their location and time. The article does not allow us to mention more examples of this.

But did Muhammad Ali succeed by excluding all political and social forces from the scope of potential effectiveness and participation in establishing the foundations of his strong state?

There is no doubt that he succeeded in establishing a totalitarian and authoritarian system of government that did not face any significant opposition. However, he did not succeed in establishing a state that reflected the will of the nation and respected its rights and values. In very simple terms, a state that does not reflect the will of its people cannot be a strong state.

Moreover, the vicissitudes of time and the passage of years have shown the observer that the consequences of eliminating this powerful force were not entirely in Muhammad Ali's favor. Perhaps it would have been - with the popular leadership and the nation behind it - a shield for him from the influence of external pressures in his economic and military policy, as well as his expansions.

If he had kept it and improved its policy instead of destroying it in a scene that makes the eloquent speechless from its horror and the wise man confused about estimating its consequences.

His exclusion of those with a say in the matter from the Ahl Al Hall wa Alaqd who had given their word to the Sultan to take over was an uncalculated adventure. He thereby lost the legitimate popular support and made his lineage his sword exclusively. And how quickly the states that are vain of their strength collapse!

In addition to his authoritarian policies, Muhammad Ali Pasha adopted a Western approach to administration, economy, and the army. With this Western-inspired approach - although it had many positive aspects - he planted the seed that would soon bear fruit in the reign of his successors, who would be more fascinated by the manifestations of Western civilization and more in line with their subversive policies, until the plant of what Malek Bennabi calls "susceptibility to colonialism" grows and intensifies.







## The Egyptian Pound Devaluation: Between supporters and opponents

Sarah Mohamed Mahmoud-Third Level-Economics Major

On March 6th 2024, the Central Bank of Egypt took the most anticipated decision to devalue the Egyptian pound in terms of the US dollar. This decision came after the Egyptian economy have suffered from shortages of the US dollar leading to the creation of a parallel exchange rate market or as we usually call it the black market which hinders the economic growth and price stability. This decision came as a result to the agreement with the international monetary fund in order to borrow about 8 billion dollars. According to the monetary policy committee's (MPC) special press release on March 6, the goal of this decision was to eliminate the inflationary pressures and to facilitate the elimination of foreign exchange backlogs following the closure of the spread between the official and the parallel exchange rate markets. So in the light of the aforementioned, the MPC decided to raise the CBE's overnight deposit rate,

the overnight lending rate, and the rate of the main operation by 600 basis points to 27.25 percent, 28.25 percent, and 27.75 percent, respectively. But the thing here is that the public opinion was divided into two. One viewed this contractionary policy as the right path into the comprehensive economic reform and another opinion thought that this was not the optimal decision or at least not taken at the optimal time. And here we are going to break down the two opinions for our readers and discuss them. Is the devaluation good for Egypt and the Egyptians? Some economists view this decision as a forward push for the Egyptian economy and was well executed especially after providing dollar liquidity from various means including the recent "Ra's Al-Hekma" deal and also because it is going to put an end to the black market as it will increase the Egyptian's remittances from abroad through the banking sector instead of the black market which will contribute to the increase in the dollar inflows.



Furthermore, the CBE's decision to raise the interest rate will withdraw the liquidity from the hands of the Egyptians to prevent the currency traders from manipulating the dollar exchange rate again. It will also take some time to fully assess the consequences of this decision. Also, raising the interest rate will prompt the Egyptians to deposit their money in the banks to make use of that high interest rate which will put an end to this recent inflation. In addition to that, the unification of the exchange rate will attract foreign investment as investors prefer the countries with a unified exchange rate and tend to avoid the ones with the multiple exchange rates. If we look at these results we can see that some can happen in the short run and some in the long run. For example, if we look around right now, we can see that the black market started to vanish completely and that happened within just a month from the announcement. But a consequence like the increase of the foreign investment may take a long time and that will bring us to the other side of the debate, people who see that this was not the right decision or at least not taken at the right time. Because when this decision was made, we were at the steps of the holy month, Ramadan, where the demand rises dramatically, and that would lead to an increase in the prices which may lead to a temporary crisis during the month. . In addition to that, the consequences of that decision

will go beyond the regular consumer and will affect the domestic investors as well. The finance cost will increase as the cost of borrowing increases as well as the increase in the prices of imported raw materials as well as the domestic ones. All these will eventually lead to an increase in the costs and of course will affect the profits. Additionally, the Egyptian's remittances from abroad through the banking sector may not be immediate. Some also fear that the CBE decided to devalue the Egyptian pound without sufficient funds or liquidity. The rise in the interest rate will also have negative effects on the stock market because the liquidity of the stock market decreases as the interest rate increases. To add insult to injury, people will prefer to save their money banks over the stock market which will lead to a drastic decrease in the price of stocks. As the consequences of this decision become apparent, we have to monitor the short term results and have some patience for the long term ones. Of such decisions are not taken arbitrarily. They are taken after careful and concise study so all we have to do right now is have faith and hope for the best.





## EROSION AND NEGLECT: THE SLOW DEMISE OF ARCHITECTURAL SPLENDOR

ZEINA ELAMIR- THIRD LEVEL- ECONOMICS MAJOR

The 166-meter Gezira Tower and Hotel is a sacramental testament and embodiment of how Architectural art within Cairo has been neglected throughout the last 3 decades. Within this time frame, Egypt has been plagued by continuous shifts and transfusions of power which left many architectural works on the back burner of public debate.



Cairo, as we know it today, can only be characterized as a muddled mess, where it is ostensibly apparent that those buildings fail to elicit any semblance of cultural identity.

From the ornate Neo-Mamluk confections of the early 1900s ( designed by European architects in an attempt to be “contextual”) to the bold experiment with international modernism in the 1950s and 60s under President Nasser, to the vernacular revival, proceeded by the inflated post-modern structures. The common dogma that is continuously regurgitated with those styles is not that of diversity but rather of a frivolous edifice that constitutes our fickle cultural identity.

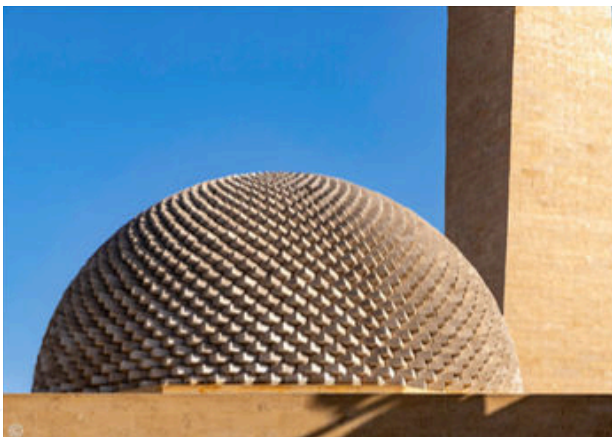


This shift from classical to contemporary architecture coupled with the lack of consistency and convictions pertaining to each president's vision when it came to Cairo's architectonic outlook,



is what triggered this onslaught of what I would castigate as a dissipation in architectural splendor. As innocuous as it may appear to dedicate an entire piece toward what some would label as subjective feigned altruism, I believe that this paints a far more egregious narrative.

It essentially conveys that our “7000 years” of civilization contributed to the standing carcasses that we bear witness to today. While some recent effort has been dedicated towards a renovation of architectural outlook, I still believe that those newer perspectives continue to be influenced by post-modern Western architecture with slight tweakments to fit the Egyptian context.



The recurring trend within modern architecture epitomizes this standardized perspective that fails at its core to represent who we are. However, my criticism towards contemporary architecture does not solely hinge on superficial aesthetics, after all, beauty is in the eye of the beholder; it is primarily fueled by the lack of consideration as it pertains to country-specific factors.

To exemplify, Mashrabiya architecture attempts to circumvent the stifling Middle Eastern heat by mitigating the impact of direct sunlight, nevertheless, Egyptian architects continue to draw inspiration from Western architectural aspects rather than their Middle Eastern counterparts.



To wrap up, I believe that there exists an innate need to reinstate who we are as Egyptians and the first steps in this perpetual pursuit could be ascertained through the architectural realm; by impeding this desire to succumb to a society that is pragmatized by this standardized obscenity and espousing our values and cultural heritage via our unique architectural works.







## CRACKING DOWN ON CAMPUS FREEDOM OF SPEECH

### ABDELRAHMAN SAKR-SECOND LEVEL- ECONOMICS

Since the 7th of October many protests have been taking place across universities in the US. Protesters from both sides have a list of demands from their universities' administrations. The pro-Israeli students are urging their administrations to condemn Hamas and fight hate speech and antisemitism. On the other side are Pro-Palestine students' demands: divesting endowments from Israeli firms and any weapons manufacturers that sell there; ending academic partnerships with Israeli institutions; and condemning Israel's actions in the war.

Most importantly was the reaction of the president of Columbia University, Minouche Shafik, who asked the police to clear the campus of tents and protestors, leading to more than 100 hundred arrests. This led to a backlash as more protests erupted elsewhere and the protestors are still camping at the University of Columbia.

However, the arrests did not stop and passed 1500 arrests so far. Several Vanderbilt students have been expelled

and others at MIT are facing similar threats. There have been calls by republican figures as well to call the National Guard for Columbia. Other Universities, like Harvard and University of South California have taken more tolerant measures, like switching to virtual classes and restricting access to where encampments are. Brown University made an agreement with its students with a commitment to talk further about the students' demands in exchange for voluntarily encampment dismantle.

Watching the Presidents of Harvard and the University of Pennsylvania losing their positions after being called for a hearing by a congress committee on how they are fighting calls for genocides and antisemitism, the administrations of other universities are following a tough approach, trying to appease to lawmakers.

The committee was biased because regardless the fact that Arab and Muslim students have reported a rise in

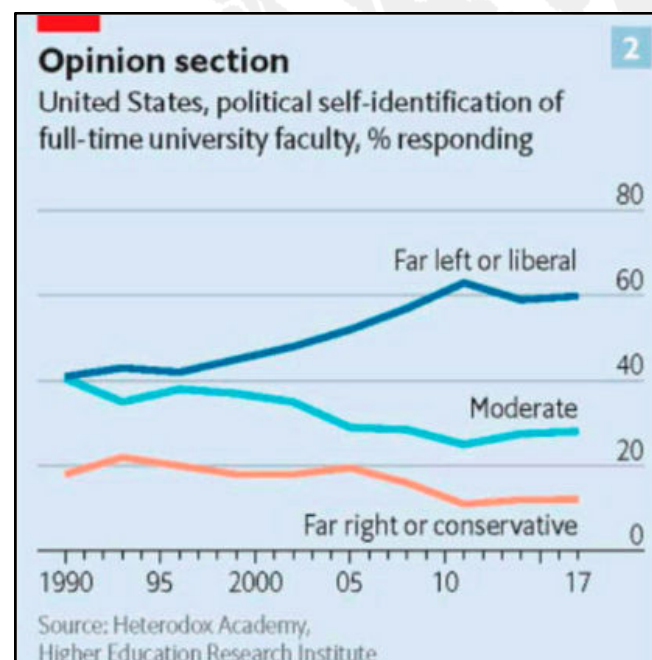


Islamophobia since the start of the war, the committee has only focused on campus antisemitism. Also, the arguments of the committee have been hollow and misleading. During the hearing the representative of New York, Elise Stefanik, asked Sally Kornbluth of MIT whether using the word Intifada is calling for genocide. “Yes or no: Calling for the genocide of Jews does not constitute bullying and harassment?” asked Stefanik. When Kornbluth replied that she had not heard any calls for genocide in the campus, Stefanik asked whether she had heard the word “Intifada”, which Stefanik considers it to be a synonym of genocide, just for being correlated with Palestinian resistance. Stefanik then went to Lizz Magill of the University of Pennsylvania and Claudine Gay of Harvard, “does calling for the genocide of Jews violate rules or code of conduct? Yes, or no?” Both refused to give a one-word answer and said it depended on the context. Magill responded that if speech were “directed and severe, pervasive, it is harassment,” and that whether a student would be punished is “a context-dependent decision.”

Both Magill and Gay have tried to be what a conservative, republican dominated congress would accept as neutral, but they failed. Magill apologized for its comments just a few days after the hearing. And a few weeks before the hearing, Claudine has condemned the Pro-Palestinian slogan, “from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” calling it a “hurtful phrase” as it

“imply the eradication of Jews from Israel and engender both pain and existential fears within our Jewish community.” These phrases are what the committee considers as calls for genocide. Magill and Gay were, indeed, biased when they answered that calls for genocides violates rules of conduct when translated into action. The truth is there were no such calls, just as Kornbluth said.

The thing is antisemitism was not what the congress was actually going after. It was the institutions. For decades, the academic sector has been considered leftist-biased and intolerant of conservative speakers and their ideas. Though this has been the case since the 90s, the gap between members who identify themselves as liberal or leftist and those who identify themselves as right or moderate has widened sharply (Check the chart below created by *The Economist*.) The republican party has thus saw this as a chance to strike two birds: to silence calls for ceasefire and to crack down the institutions.





Ironically, both Harvard and UPenn are ranked last in a group of 248 American University in the index of College Free Speech Rankings, an index created by the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expressions (FIRE), an NGO. In their last annual report, FIRE found that 33% of students at the worst 5 performing universities found it hard to speak about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, compared to 15% in the top 5 performing universities. In Columbia, two student groups, Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace, has been suspended for organizing unauthorized demonstrations. All of this suggest that the committee targeted the universities that are already censoring Pro-Palestinians the most so that it could pressure them to do more.

Another thing to notice is that all the Universities that have been called to a hearing are private ones, which the government has less control over than public ones. Public universities adhere to state education laws and are operated directly by the government. On the other hand, private universities are compiled only to certain federal regulations, such as those related to accreditation, financial aid programs, and civil rights. They are also typically funded through tuition, donations, and endowments, rather than direct government funding. As a result, they have more autonomy in decision-making and the government has no formal power over who fills the administrators' positions, which makes pushing them to silence Pro-Palestinian protesters harder.

The universities are also under pressure from donors, who have been a large factor in the resignation of Claudine Gay and Lizz Magil. Ross Stevens, the proprietor and creator of Stone Ridge Asset Management situated in New York, declared the withdrawal of a \$100 million donation to the University of Pennsylvania, citing the institution's tolerance towards hate speech. And in November over 1,600 Harvard University alumni stated that they will refrain from contributing donations to the institution until Harvard promptly addresses the issue of antisemitism on its campus.

The implications of the ongoing events will be crucial for Americans, which makes it crucial to the cause. Many fear that the crackdown will constrain freedom of speech on campuses. "Some professors are taking the protests side to defend campus freedom of speech, not because they are Pro-Palestine," said a Professor at FEPS who studied and taught at the US. However, current events can be a crossroads. The professor noted how African American are losing empathy for Jews as a fellow oppressed minority. He also noted how the protests are taking part in the liberal states and the top universities in republican ones, like Texas, predicting that the left and the right are moving further from each other, breaking what he called "US fake democracy". "They will reshape ideologies, parties, and foreign policy of the US because they are not just about Palestine, they are about principles," he then concluded.





## “ MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN?”

Salma Ahmed Mostafa- Second Year-Political Sciences

The United States faces for the first time in its history a prominent candidate with a felony conviction running for president! This unprecedented situation centers around none other than Donald J. Trump, the former US president known for his populist rhetoric and racially charged stance, now stands a real chance of winning the highest office in the land for his second term .

Trump's ongoing legal challenges have reached a critical phase, with lawsuits and felony charges looming over him in multiple states. He's been sued by the New York attorney general and indicted in Georgia, Florida, Manhattan, and Washington. The sheer number of cases is startling, totaling 91 felony counts across state and federal courts. Any one of these charges could potentially lead to a prison sentence. Yet, despite his legal status,

Trump remains a popular figure and a frontrunner in the race for the Republican presidential nomination. It's a perplexing situation that raises fundamental questions about the efficacy of the Constitution and American law. The Constitution sets forth minimal eligibility requirements for presidents, focusing primarily on age, citizenship, and residency. Surprisingly, there are no provisions barring individuals with criminal records from running for the highest office in the land. This major gap in constitutional guidance leaves the U.S. in an unforeseen situation. The framers of the Constitution could hardly have foreseen a scenario like this,





and as a result, the legal implications of electing an incarcerated president remain largely unknown. It presents an extraordinary constitutional challenge that would inevitably spark a major legal crisis in need of resolution through the courts.

The fact that Trump continues to enjoy significant support not only among his party members but also among Americans, underscores the complexities of the situation. It is a testament to the weirdly enduring loyalty and popularity he commands, despite the legal cloud hanging over his business and political careers. As the legal battles intensify, with lawsuits and felony charges spanning multiple states, not only the American society but also the international community watches attentively. The outcome of this situation will affect regions far beyond American borders, shaping the future of international relations and influencing the image of the United States on the global stage.

Both of Trump's criminal history and his divisive populist rhetoric, the international community finds itself confronted with questions about the compatibility of the U.S. proclaimed democratic principles and the rise of a figure who "allegedly" pressured officials to reverse the results of the 2020 elections by knowingly spreading lies about election fraud and

also sought to exploit the Capitol riot on 6 January 2021 to delay the certification of Joe Biden's victory and stay in power. The outcome will serve as a test, a defining moment that could either reaffirm the resilience of democratic institutions or shake confidence in the U.S. on a global scale.



Thus, the world remains on edge, keenly observing the United States as it wrestles with the possibility of a convicted candidate ascending to the highest position of power in the US. The implications are immense, holding the potential to reshape not only the domestic landscape of America but also the future trajectory of global politics and the perception of democratic governance itself.







## PROTESTS ERUPT UNIVERSITIES IN THE CITY OF LIGHT IN SOLIDARITY WITH GAZA

MENNA WALID- LEVEL 3- ECONOMICS- FRENCH SECTION

"Today, our government doesn't hear us, even our universities don't want to hear us!"

Declared Emmy Marc, secretary of the Student Union in Sciences Po.

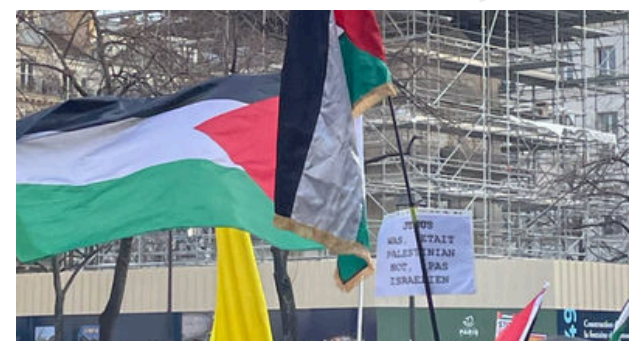
From the United States to France, the voices of youth and students around campuses are giving us hope again. So, what is happening so far in the city of light, Paris, and how come one of the most prestigious university students is being claimed as a "dangerous" by its prime minister?

The last week of April 2024 witnessed a wave of revolution sweeping through numerous universities across the Western world. From prestigious institutions like Yale and Columbia in the United States to renowned establishments like the Sorbonne and Sciences Po in Paris, the impact was felt far and wide. Following the devastating attacks on Gaza, the city of Paris and its residents took to the streets, with the Place de la Republique serving as a prominent gathering point for protesters demanding an immediate ceasefire. In recent days, similar demonstrations by smaller groups of students have taken place at campuses

located in Lille in the north, Reims in the Champagne region, and Lyon in the southeast. Today, we have the opportunity to listen to the narratives of some of our exchange students in Paris who will provide us with further insights into the events that have unfolded in the city over the past few weeks.

### **Forms of Solidarity from the Beginning:**

"Since the first semester, protests have been ongoing at Sciences Po. Let me briefly update you on the current situation. Every Tuesday, as an act of solidarity with Palestine, we observe a minute of silence at 12:15 PM. The SJP (Students for Justice in Palestine) and the Palestine Committee of Sciences Po organize conferences. Recently, even Jean Luc Mélenchon, the leader of La France insoumise, delivered a conference on Palestine and the situation in Gaza on Monday evening."





### Escalation of Events:

“The series of events began on March 13th, following an incident involving the president of the Union of Jewish Students in France (S.F). Despite the subsequent denial after media involvement and the presence of important figures like the Prime Minister (Figure 1), the next day witnessed a massive protest, leading to the closure of university doors, with a strong police presence due to the presence of the Prime Minister, Gabriel Mattal.

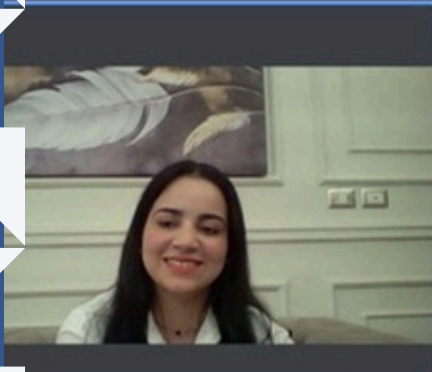
Last week, in light of the wave of protests in the US, many students actively engaged in the cause repeatedly tried to communicate with the administration, demanding their rights through a list of demands. On Wednesday, the 24th, a significant gathering took place on the campuses, featuring an open mic session and a Zoom meeting connecting with people from Gaza. As night fell, the protesters decided to establish an encampment. However, the media misrepresented the news, stating that the "amphitheater was blocked in response to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict" or that a campus building was "occupied overnight," which is untrue, as the encampment was actually set up in an outdoor area. The University's response was both shocking and unacceptable, as they called the police to dismantle the pro-Palestinian encampment.

On Thursday, the situation escalated further, and protesters moved to the main campus in Saint Guillaume, Paris, where they established the encampment. They engaged in a sit-in until the University agreed to negotiate with the students. At one point, students were even prevented from attending their classes. On Friday, the administration began sending emails to students, threatening them with sanctions, including the possibility of expulsion ”

### Outside the encampment:

“ The ambiance exuded a peaceful spirit as we fervently echoed slogans such as "Free Palestine" and a multitude of others. Notably, prominent figures, encompassing not only students but also professors, alumni, and individuals affiliated with left-leaning political parties in France such as Rima Mobarak, a candidate in the European election, arrived to lend their support. Everything seemed to be progressing smoothly until a pro-Israel group emerged, initiating debates and protests. In response, we faced a choice: either maintain our silence, recognizing that negotiations with them would be futile, or retort with expressions like "On est là pour la Palestine, pour ce qui s'assassine on est là" ("We are here for Palestine, for whom are being murdered, we are here") or "siamo tutti antifascisti" ("we are all antifascists"). The university, unfortunately, refused to open its doors to the students, who found themselves encircled by barricades, even though they possessed the right to enter. Eventually, as the situation became increasingly challenging, people began to disperse, partly due to the intervention of the police. However, at 9:00 PM, the university yielded to the demands of its students and authorized a conference for negotiations.”





## Elite's Coverage of the UN's Commission On The Status Of Women's 68th Session: an interview with Ms. Yasmin Aladdin

Nourine Negm - third level - Political Science - French

Menna Wael - third level - economics - English

From the 11th to the 22nd of March 2024, The United Nations held its fourth annual commission on the status of women meetings (CSW '68); known to be the biggest worldwide event discussing women empowerment and gender equality. This year's theme was : "Accelerating the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls by addressing poverty and strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective." Luckily, this year we got the chance to interview Miss. Yasmin Aladdin, the vice-president of The Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development (MYFD), who attended this year's CSW in New York, The United States. In this report, we share with you her reflection upon the entire experience, her insights on the efficiency of the UN's CSW, her observations on the relationship between politics and the UN's Mega event and finally, her observations on the Arab states', especially Egypt's status in the Commission on the Status of Women.

First, who is Miss. Yasmin Aladdin? She is an assistant lecturer of political science at the Faculty of economics and political science, Cairo University, she has been awarded the Erasmus Mundus scholarship to pursue her masters degree in Women and Gender Studies for the year 2023-2025. Above all that, she's a feminist, an activist and a gender consultant in several NGO's, mainly located in the Mena region. During our interview, Miss.Yasmin informed us that the Mediterranean Youth Foundation for Development (MYFD), had already obtained membership in The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), thereby, they were only required to submit an application to attend this year's CSW meetings. Moreover, the MYFD delegation was funded by the Erasmus Mundus scholarship. As for Miss. Yasmin's degree of engagement in the meetings, she told us that she actively participated in around 35 sessions of the numerous side events held at this year's CSW '68.



There's no women empowerment and closing the gender gap without a sincere investment of political will. In this year's CSW, through interacting with the other activists and attendees, miss. Yasmin got the chance to observe closely the diversity of levels of political will invested by different countries and the factors affecting it. From one perspective, the political will invested by each country is highly affected by its leader; in some countries, if women's rights and demands are violated or ignored in any sort of way, the image of their leaders would instantly be shook and political instability becomes a possible risk, henceforth, in such contexts, the cause of empowering women and ensuring gender equality comes at the top of their political agenda. Furthermore, regional and international pressures also serve as a key factor in shaping the depth of the political will invested in each country's national plan for empowering women. From another perspective, miss. Yasmin brought our attention to how the cause of empowering women was mainly discussed from an economic perspective amongst the European states and the United States, as they focused mainly on women's role in boosting the economy.

For these countries, they have suffered the loss of a great number of men in WW1 and WW2, so employing women became a necessity to rebuild their economies. Aside from that, can women's movements thrive when there isn't sufficient political will invested in the cause from the top? That is the case for Latin America, the region who succeeded in introducing numerous best practices in advancing the cause despite their history of colonization and authoritarian regimes. Based on our conversation with miss. Yasmin, Latin American countries and NGOs are distinguished by their ability to actively cooperate with the west while maintaining their economic and political independence. Unlike us as Arabs, this goes back to their ability to fight collectively for and stand together behind "a single unified agenda for the empowerment of women" creating a real movement instead of a bunch of disorganized waves of activities. In addition, Latin American activists concerned with empowering women, appear to relatively enjoy freedom of movement in their countries, which they were able to utilize in building an active women's movement, in the sense of being able to initiate certain activities on the ground and not only on social media.

**COMMISSION** *on the*  
**STATUS OF WOMEN**







These factors combined are creating a stop there: after spending a lot of time sustainable movement for women reaching out to numerous individuals empowerment in Latin America, from and organizations to receive funding, it's which we still have a lot to learn in the evident that your presence doesn't Southern Mediterranean region. necessarily mean your opinions matter.



However, the CSW '68 was not without the delegations from government shortcomings or else the outcomes would officials, amassing to a huge number of have been more impactful attendees that the UN headquarters

Moreover, miss. Yasmin noticed how cannot handle, forcing some to take seats Latin American countries and NGOs on the floor. So how do we make time to were impressively armed with a large base hear what each person has to say?

of knowledge in the field of women In addition, the youth hosted the Youth empowerment, allowing them to identify Forum, a parallel event to the what truly qualifies as a step forward in Conference which is a challenging task to empowering women. execute. However, the Youth Forum's

First off, despite the fact that it is a recommendations were not included in women's conference, the researcher notes the Conference's official that the majority of the talks were recommendations, and it did not receive delivered by men. The white man was the enough media coverage—many attendees most visible and appeared in the majority were even unaware of the event.

of talks and media appearances Up till now, more than five months have throughout the conference, even though passed since the war on Gaza began, Africa and Latin America were well- henceforth, it is important to bring up represented. Additionally, there was little the issue of Palestinian women's rights. to no genuine representation of the The researcher states that any comment underrepresented groups at the coming from the audience regarding the conference, including youths, minorities, state of women in Gaza or other unstable indigenous people, and those with regions of the world was labeled as an disabilities. The disappointment doesn't "uncomfortable question" and ignored,

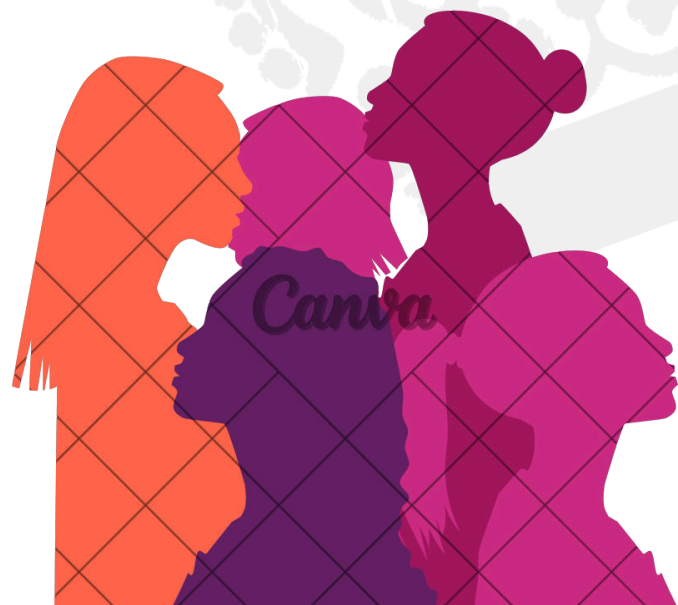


not only that, but also the pressures experienced by Palestinian women were viewed as "equivalent" to those faced by Israeli women.

As a consequence of the reasons mentioned above, the researcher informed that she has become hesitant to take part in the next iterations of CSW. Despite being the biggest gathering for discussing women's issues worldwide, the above mentioned arguments decrease CSW's degree of effectiveness and inclusivity. In consequence, certain things need to improve, such as: the necessity for an actual representation of young men and women, including everyone in the negotiations, giving more space for all different ethnicities and countries to share their conclusions on the best practices to adopt in the field of women development, like the need to give more space to the Latin American countries to share their best practices, and finally, limiting the number of delegates from each organization so that United Nations headquarters would be able to handle the number of its attendees, as well as in order to maximize the benefits received from such a sophisticated event.

Regarding the Egyptian case, the researcher states that the programmes concerned with women that are part of Egypt's Vision 2030, are in line with the decisions made at the 68th session of the UN commission on Women, when it comes to the inclusion of the gender perspective in the public sector as well as corporate social responsibility in the

private sector. Here, the question is not so much about the existence of programmes as it is about their efficacy. As a result, in order to increase the size and effectiveness of women's programmes, the researcher suggests working on improving certain laws, the need to create a unified women's movement rooted in all societal institutions, providing more space and freedom for academic research in the area of women's empowerment and gender equality, in order to be armed with a strong science in the field of women empowerment. The researcher concluded by stressing on the significance of facilitating bureaucratic processes in Egypt and the Arab region in general, to enable activists concerned with women empowerment to engage more effectively in the most significant international events related to women's empowerment, and specifically to enable them to attend the upcoming annual meetings on women's status hosted by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.





## SHAFIK'S EFFECT

ABDELRAHMAN SAKR- SECOND YEAR- ECONOMICS

As Minouche Shafik, Columbia University's President, testified before the House committee on education in 17th of April, students at the university held demonstrations, calling the university to divest endowments from Israeli firms and any weapons manufacturers that sell there, end academic partnerships with Israeli institutions; and condemn Israel's actions in the war.

Shafik, not keen on losing her position like Lizz Magill of the University of Pennsylvania and Claudine Gay of Harvard, wanted to make sure she does not look weak. She Failed, hugely.

Learning from what happened to her peers, her answers to the questions of the committee were much appealing to the Pro-Israel members of the congress. She boasted that she had suspended 15 students, and that Columbia University was one of the firsts to suspend Justice for Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace. She also called "River to the sea" and "Intifada" chants antisemitic and "frightening". Shafik, a Muslim Americ-

an born in Egypt in Alexandria, went too far that she contradicted her own religious beliefs when asked about some clauses from the bible. "If you bless Israel, I will bless you. If you curse Israel, I will curse you. Do you want Columbia to be Cursed by God?" asked Rick Allen, a republican from Georgia. "Definitely not", replied Shafik. Most Importantly, when asked whether there should be consequences to antisemitic chants as they are antisemitic behavior, she gave them what they wanted to hear, a "yes". This very same question was the one that got the President of Harvard and UPenn under fire because they said it "depends on the context".

Following the hearing Shafik needed to assert her position by acting rough with protests, so she asked the NYPD to intervene. 100 students were arrested, including Isra Hirsi, daughter of Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, who criticized Shafik for her response to Prop-Palestine students' harassment. This led to backlash, however. Students made an encampment just the next day





and protests erupted in more than 40 other universities. Shafik's effect was now taking over the US universities.

Shafik, trying to evade being criticized for tolerating antisemitism, was now being criticized for cracking down on campus freedom of speech and being too rough by advocates of freedom of speech. Bassam Khawaja, a lecturer at Columbia law school, said he was "shocked and appalled that the president went immediately to the New York police department." "It didn't seem like any kind of measures were taken to de-escalate," Khawaja said. Journalism professor Helen Benedict, who was on campus when the NYPD began arresting students, said in an interview that sending "riot police with guns" on to campus was an "overreaction".

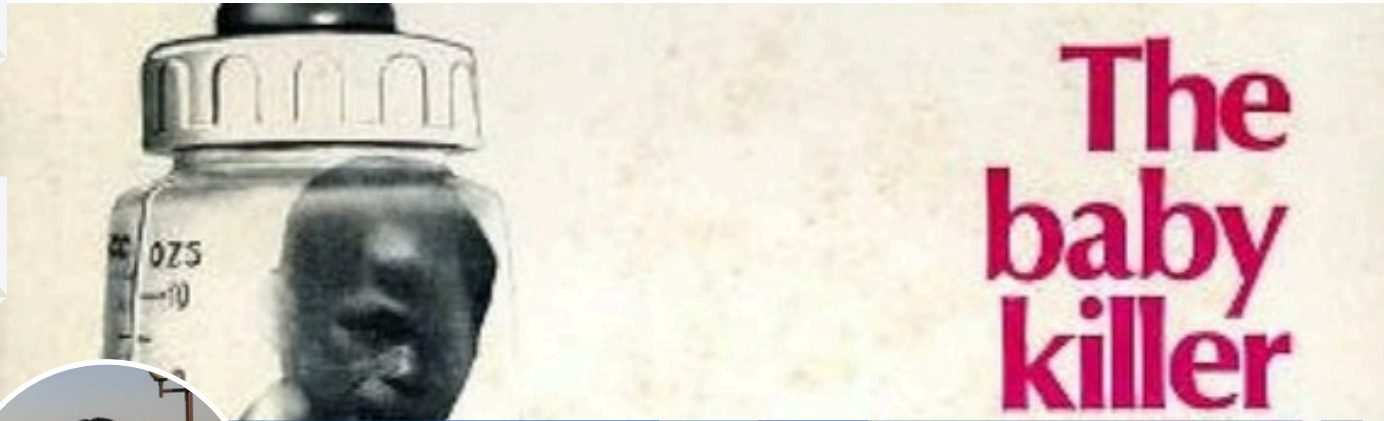
And failing to control the situation and silence protesters, Shafik was criticized for failing to control the situation. House Speaker Mike Johnson has called for the resignation of Shafik for being a "very weak, inept leader" who "cannot even guarantee the safety of Jewish students." Columbia donor and alumnus Robert Kraft, founder of Columbia's Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, suspended donations to the university, as did billionaire Len Blavat Nik, due to beliefs that Columbia was insufficiently preventing campus antisemitism.

Shafik, now fearing more escalation, tried a different approach. Negotiations with protests' leaders took place for 1 week, but no deal was reached. Following the announcement of negotiations' failure students occupied

the famous Hamilton Hall, which was occupied in 1968 protests as well. In response, Shafik suspended more students and requested NYPD intervention for the second time on the 30th of April, leading to the arrest of an additional 108 individuals and clearing the protests. However, Shafik did not emerge as victorious. She was criticized even more for either acting too late or acting too rough.

On the other hand, though the protests at Columbia did not achieve their goals in Columbia itself, they managed to trigger a national movement in the US. Brown University has reached a deal with protests that had students voluntarily dismantle encampment in exchange for a commitment from the university to reconsider its ties with Israel. And thanks to these protests, Richmond was the second city in the US to withdraw its investment from Israel. Thanks to these protests, thanks to these students, and also thanks to Shafik's effect, America might be changing. "They will reshape ideologies, parties, and foreign policy of the US because they are not just about Palestine, they are about principles," says a professor at FEPS who studied and taught at the US.





## FROM A "LIFESAVER" TO "THE BABY KILLER": THE CORPORATE WITH THE DARKEST STRATEGIES

Sara Basheer - Second Level - Economics Major

According to Public Eye and the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), Nestle has been recently accused of double standards, due to selling its products with high levels of added sugar in low- and middle-income countries, regardless of its prohibition by the World Health Organization. Unlikely, it is selling the exact same products with zero sugar in the developed countries such as Germany, Switzerland, France, and the United Kingdom.

Added sugar content of the same Cerelac wheat product in different countries

Country	Grammes per portion
Thailand	6.0 g
Ethiopia	5.2 g
South Africa	4.0 g
Pakistan	2.7 g
India	2.2 g
Bangladesh	1.6 g
United Kingdom	0.0 g
Germany	0.0 g

Source: Public Eye and IBFAN (2024) • Analysis of the nutritional information appearing on the products, or, when the added sugar content is not declared, results of laboratory analyses.

Looking back at Nestle's history, it was established with very noble

intentions to be a lifesaver for infants. As, Henry Nestle came up with the first baby formula ever, back in 1867, that worked as a substitute for breast milk, aiming to decrease the high infant mortality rate because, during that time, many mothers struggled with breastfeeding their babies.

However, the dark history of Nestle started when Henry decided to retire. Only at that time, the greed to expand Nestle worldwide turned its reputation upside down, reaching a point where the baby formula turned from being a lifesaver to being known as "The Baby Killer". Knowing the fact that the baby formula was the most profitable product of all Nestle's products, the motives became to target not only those who suffered to breastfeed their children, as when Nestle was first established, but also all mothers, and to replace breast milk instead of just serving as a substitute for it.



That was the perfect timing for Nestle to start using its exploitative marketing strategies, through manipulating mothers and convincing them that Nestle's baby formula is way more healthy and necessary for their children than the natural breast milk, despite the recommendation of breast milk by the World Health Organization, American Medical Association, UNICEF, and many other trustworthy entities.

Nestle's misleading practices reached deceiving mothers through hiring women in Africa and Asia that dressed up like nurses and convinced them to believe that the baby formula is better and more nutritious for their babies than the natural breast milk. Moreover, it unashamedly paid the fake nurses to give away free baby formula samples, that served as enough amount to get the mothers to stop producing milk naturally, and consequently forced them to fall in a trap where they had no choice but to purchase Nestle's baby milk.

Certainly, "The Baby Killer" title did not arise out of nothing, but because of the catastrophic consequences of the previously stated practices. Such marketing campaigns, that Nestle adopted throughout those years, led to the deaths of millions of children and caused thousands of children to suffer from a lack of essential nutrients due to being brought up on such products that should have served as supplements, not a replacement for natural milk.

Despite the disastrous consequences of those marketing strategies, Nestle continues to follow the same practices to this day. It keeps getting more unethical and deceptive, to the extent that they are currently trying to get consumers at a very young age to develop brand loyalty for Nestle. Since the type of food that children consume during the first years of their lives, to a great extent, determines their food preference in the future, Nestle is intentionally adding huge amounts of sugar to their products so that it guarantees developing loyal consumers.

Nigel rollins, a scientist at the World Health Organization (WHO), says that manufacturers are trying to get children used to a certain level of sugar in their products at a very early age, so that they continue to prefer products high in sugar in the future.

As Nestle never missed an opportunity to show how willing it is to commit misleading practices for the sake of satisfying its thirst for profits, it is not surprising that its history is full of hypocrisy and double standards. Lastly, just as it is expected to for Nestle to continue following the same practices, it is also expected to meet its fate of consumer boycotts, and consequently face a dramatic drop in its profits.





## The renaissance of space economy

Menna Wael - Third Level - Economics - English

Though many find the concept of space appealing, not many realise how much of an actual influence it has on their lives and enterprises. On the other hand, a recent trend suggests that almost every industry can benefit from space exploration. Ninety nations are currently involved in space exploration, compared to the two superpowers that started it all—the United States of America and the former Soviet Union. Space economics is one of the nearly infinite applications of economics that can be studied. According to Harvard Business Review, "goods and services produced in space for use in space, such as mining the Moon or asteroids for materials" are included in the definition of "space economy." It can be defined as any activity that includes "the exploration, research, understanding, management and use of space," according to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. By 2035, the space industry is predicted to grow from \$630 billion in 2023 to \$1.8 trillion.

The European Space Agency states that the establishment of new space infrastructure benefits industries like meteorology, energy, telecommunications, insurance, transport, shipping, aviation, and urban development, all of which have an influence on a nation's economic growth. Space has the potential to

address a wide range of economic and non-economic challenges and is a significant enabler of growth in other sectors.

The majority of space investments, according to the Space Foundation, originate from private businesses; estimates place the total revenue earned by space enterprises' goods and services at around \$224 billion. Meanwhile, the overall amount spent by governments worldwide on space programmes increased by 19% in the previous year, with the US and China leading the way. How may space be unable to offer answers to the issues that governments face? Why not, given that space has the capacity to offer answers to the issues countries face?

With an expanding worldwide population and its consequences for energy, climate change, and food security, space technology has the potential to protect and enhance food supplies. Additionally, by managing water and crops more precisely and allowing businesses to track their environmental and social performance as well as governments to track carbon dioxide emissions, the adoption of satellite technology can lessen the environmental impact of agriculture. On the other hand, approximately 50% of people on the planet lack Internet connectivity, which denies billions of people access to essential public services like healthcare and education. It is projected that establishing Internet access in rural regions of Asia, Latin

America, and Africa may generate 140 million jobs and a 25% boost in productivity. Politics and security are also being impacted by space technology. Commercial satellite data, for example, offers unprecedentedly detailed insights into conflicts and political shifts, enabling a new degree of transparency, enabling citizens to track change as it occurs globally, and highlighting global events. The Russian-Ukrainian crisis has illustrated how space applications are becoming more and more important in geopolitical conflicts. In the face of aggression, Ukraine has used the space capabilities of commercial and international partners to defend itself. These capabilities included ground observation data to collect information about troop movements and locations, and geographic intelligence systems. While the dispute highlighted the importance of commercial operators, it also revealed the need for closer cooperation with government agencies: in 2022, Starlink rejected Ukraine's request to expand coverage to hit Russian targets due to fears of escalation.

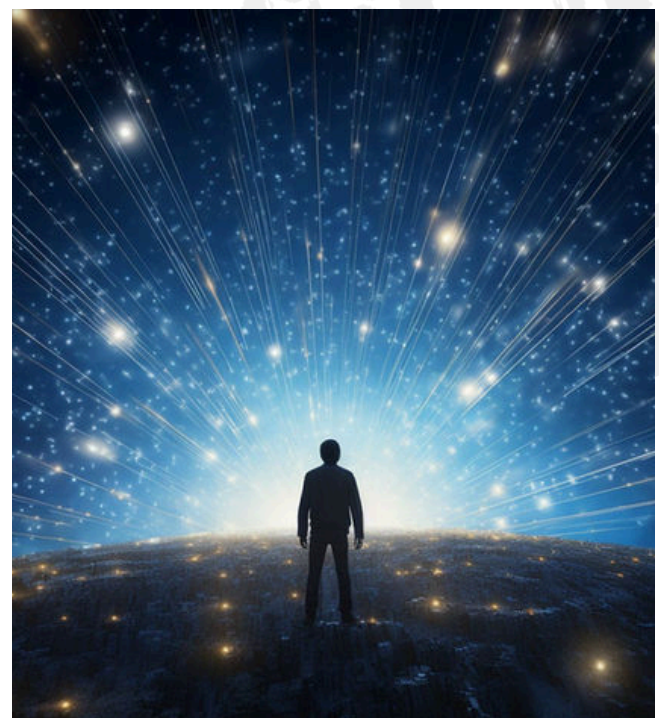


Although space activities assist humanity in many ways, including promoting sustainable development, supplying weather forecasts, and fostering innovation to halt climate change, they also put us at risk for security lapses and other weaknesses. NASA estimates that about 100 million space debris fragments reside in Earth's orbit. Numerous environmental issues are associated with this space debris, such as optical radiation hazards and light pollution that may impede future scientific discoveries.

Additionally, it may hinder competition and innovation if specific nations or businesses monopolise particular orbits. Additionally, it might put nations' sovereignty in jeopardy and expose them to the possibility of cyberattacks on their satellites, particularly during periods of geopolitical unrest like the Russian-Ukrainian War in 2022.

In the future, public and private domains might coexist with what is referred to as each nation's "space domain." Governments may compete with one another for space investments, and nations may really race against one another to capitalise on the enormous prospects presented by space, which are still awaiting an increasing amount of scientific study and analysis, particularly from economists. If they lose out in this race, developing nations might not be able to find a position among nations.

Egypt has a great chance of utilising space exploration for the benefit of its economy. If research centres are established for space studies and its applications, youth business incubators in artificial intelligence, space, and other fields, and space and navigation studies programmes are reinforced in higher education,







## CULTURAL SPECIFICITY AND THE ARAB SITUATION

MARIAM ELSAFTY, SENIOR, POLITICAL SCIENCE

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Cultural specificity is that mental, emotional, value-based, and ethical halo that all those who grow up within it share, and in which all members of the same society or nation participate. In this context, the uneducated are no different from the educated; the uneducated in this case are cultured, as their cultural identity and even their essence are defined according to the anthropological concept. Here, individuals are molded by a system with its own emotional and ethical specificity. Reality has confirmed to us that culturally programming individuals is an undeniable fact; an individual grows up within a certain environmental scope that has its own culture, absorbing its language, habits, and traditions. This state of specificity exists all over the world and is fundamentally a healthy condition that helps the individual adapt and integrate with peers in a shared scope. Cultural specificity also exists on a larger scale than that of a particular state to encompass an entire nation. The most famous example is Arab cultural specificity, which was the basis for Arab nationalism, where a larger group of individuals share a much larger territorial expanse in language, religion, and historical experience from stages of occupation and independence, increasing feelings of belonging and empathy among members of the same nation. This cultural specificity represents a shield that protects it from negative external influences and their consequences on the unity of societies, whether at the state level or the national level. However, due to external influences such as globalization, this specificity has become fragmented.

And here I specifically address Arab particularity as opposed to other cultural specificities such as Asian cultural specificity. This is due to the individuals' ability to filter what is external and adhere to their cultural peculiarity. As for the Arabs, they are in a pitiable state. But who is to blame? Is it the individual, the group, the society, or the Arab societies? Whatever the answer, it was certainly an inevitable result of those decades of foreign interventions in internal affairs, whether politically or culturally, through language and deviant ideas. Because of this state of fragmentation, every society feels repulsion towards the neighboring society and is dazzled by what is different coming from outside. We now see, dear reader, that state of deficiency felt by the individual, who adopts a foreign language as the primary source of his language regardless of the reality he lives in. On the other hand, Arab societies have begun to recall very distant past memories, with Algerians and Lebanese disassociating from their Arab identity, and the emergence of that primal tribalism that Ibn Khaldun spoke about.







They now do not feel that Arab cultural specificity; instead, each society mocks the customs and traditions of another society, which resembles it in every way. It's as if there is a mirror in which one thinks they are criticizing the other party, but in reality, they are criticizing themselves and their shortcomings. And I do not hide from you, for you know that this state of fragmentation has struck within a single society. You see the new generation being raised in English or French and now German! And you see parents borrowing money to enroll their children in foreign schools, where they grow up in a cultural environment completely different from the society in which they live and coexist, not knowing Arabic. All this is within a single society. In an attempt to adapt and emerge from this state of disarray, we see that this group has agreed to distort Arab culture and its distinguishing features, so they started calling "falafel" "green burger" and "Zainab's fingers" "Gigi's fingers"! It is something that outwardly provokes laughter and inwardly sorrow. So who is to blame? Or rather, should someone be specifically blamed, or is it a disease that may be cured over time?







## MOSAICS

Huda Nada Mohamed- third level- statistics

The art of mosaics, also known as tesserae, involves assembling tiny fragments of hard materials such as colorful glass, stone, shells, or other materials to create images. This age-old art form has a rich history in the Arab world and has captivated art enthusiasts for thousands of years. And we are going to talk briefly about some History of Mosaic Art in the Arab World

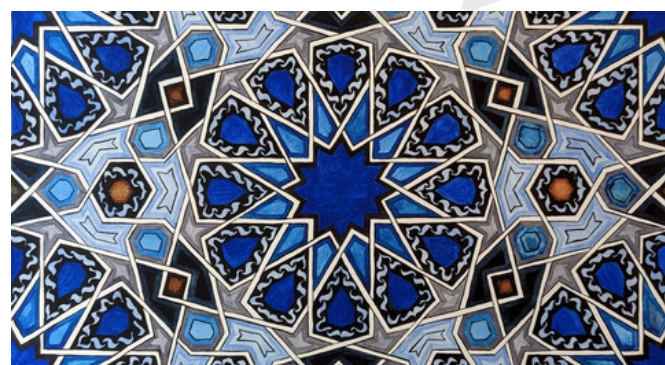
First, the Early Islamic Mosaics from the 7th and 8th Centuries

Islamic mosaic art was greatly influenced by the Umayyads, the first Muslim caliphate. They most likely took their cues from Sassanian and Byzantine traditions that were already in place and modified them to fit Islamic aesthetics. Stylized designs and geometric patterns were prominent in early Islamic mosaics, which frequently included floral themes and stylized writing. These patterns were a reflection of Islamic peace, order, and the abstention from showing live subjects. Mosaics served as both decorative and symbolic embellishments

for palaces, mosques, and other public buildings. They conveyed a sense of grandeur and power, reflecting the growing Umayyad empire. One characteristic of mosaics during that time period was tesserae, or tiny, precisely fitting bits of colored stone, glass, or ceramic that were used to make the mosaics. There were also other characteristics which is

2. Geometric Emphasis: The designs were dominated by geometric patterns such as stars, squares, rectangles, and interlacing circles.

3. Limited Figural Representation: In accordance with Islamic customs, abstract and symbolic elements were emphasized rather than depictions of living figures.







4- Calligraphic Flourishes: Early Arabic calligraphy known as Kufic script was frequently added to mosaics, adding a layer of meaning and religious significance.

There are some living examples on Early Islamic Mosaics like

The Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem

The Great Mosque of Damascus

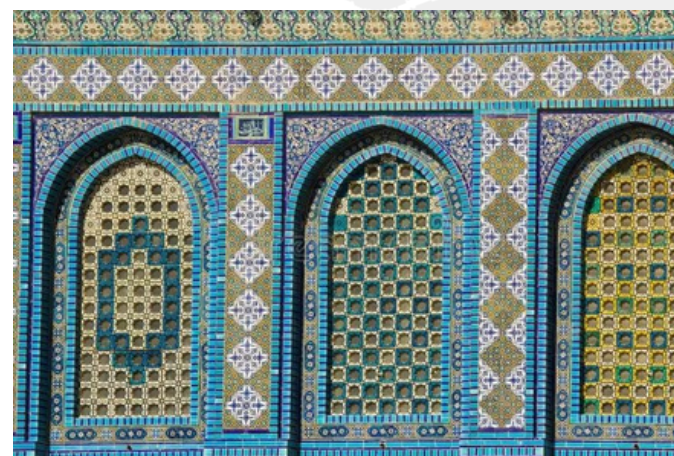


Other significant mosaic eras in the Arab world include the Abbasid Caliphate (750–1258 CE), which witnessed a continuance of mosaic artistry with elaborate designs and a wide range of subjects, such as hunting scenes, courtly scenes, and religious images. Magnificent mosaics are the main attraction of the palaces of Samarra. Moreover, between the tenth and thirteenth centuries, mosaic creation in the Maghreb saw a boom. Stunning mosaics were created in Moroccan cities like Fez and Marrakech for use in palaces, mosques, and madrasas (Islamic schools). Mosques, palaces, and other buildings underwent mosaic art incorporation throughout the Ottoman Empire (1299–1922 CE). Iznik tiles became a symbol of Ottoman mosaic artistry because of their vivid colors and detailed designs.



### The Spark of the Contemporary Mosaic Revival in the Arab World

The Arab world has seen a rise in interest in mosaic art in recent decades. greater knowledge of and appreciation for the rich legacy of mosaic art in the Islamic world, as well as a desire to conserve and learn from ancient mosaics' beauty and workmanship. Governmental programs and cultural organizations that support traditional art forms like mosaics. New materials such as repurposed glass, ceramics, and even plastics have increased the creative potential of mosaic art. More elaborate and intricate mosaic compositions are possible thanks to digital design tools and laser cutting.







Modern themes and narratives that are pertinent to the Arab world today are being incorporated by artists, who are stretching the boundaries of traditional mosaic techniques. Themes of identity, war, and environmental concerns are explored through mosaic art as a medium for social commentary. Mosaics are a tool used by artists to convey their distinct identities, cultural heritage, and viewpoints.

Examples of Contemporary Arab Mosaic Artists:

Khalil Rabah (Palestine): Explores themes of political conflict and Palestinian identity in his mosaics.

Nadia Kaabi-Linke (Tunisia): Uses recycled materials and traditional Tunisian motifs in her mosaic creations.

Layla Ibrahim (Egypt): Creates contemporary portraits and figures using a mix of traditional and modern materials.

Significance of Mosaic Art in the Arab World

Given that mosaic work reflects the rich history, artistic traditions, and religious heritage of the Arab world, it is closely associated with Arab cultural identity. Artists can express themselves creatively with mosaics, which enable them to portray intricate narratives, feelings, and cultural symbolism. Architectural spaces are elevated to the status of works of art by the addition of mosaics, which give them a touch of majesty, beauty, and storytelling. Mosaic art preserves cultural legacy and offers insights into historical periods, functioning as a visible link to the past.

For centuries, the mosaic art form has been integral to the Arab world's cultural landscape. Mosaic art, with its roots in antiquity and current resurgence, is a monument to the rich artistic legacy and cultural diversity of the area, captivating and inspiring viewers time and time again.

