



BOARD CHAIRWOMAN
Prof.Hanan M. Aly
EDITOR IN CHIEF
Dr. Ramy Magdy Ahmed

Issued from the Faculty
of Economics and
Political Science- Cairo
University

ELITE

FEPS, WHERE ELITES ARE MADE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 71, AUGUST 2025, SAFAR 1447 AH

First designed by Dr, Ramy Magdy Ahmed in October 2018



FEPS Renews its two ISOs

HIGH BOARD

Prof. Hanan M. Aly (Chairwoman)---Prof.Adla Mohamed Ragab (Member)---Prof. Thanaa Ahmed Ismail (Member)---Prof.Neveen Abd El-Khalek (Member) --**Dr. Ramy Magdy Ahmed (Editor in chief)**

EDITORIAL BOARD

Ms. Carolin Sherief, Ms. Jasmin Nabil





Faculty of Economics and Political Science Renews Two International ISO Certifications in Administrative Development and Educational & Research Services

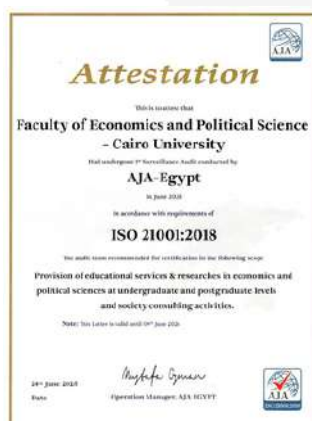
In a new achievement reflecting institutional excellence and ongoing commitment to quality, the Faculty of Economics and Political Science – Cairo University has renewed two international ISO quality certifications:

- ISO 21001:2018 for Administrative Development
- ISO 9001:2015 for Educational and Research Services

This renewal comes after the Faculty successfully passed the international quality audit during the official visit by the review team on Tuesday, June 24, 2025.



The renewal crowns the Faculty's ongoing journey to institutionalize a culture of quality and excellence. The Faculty has successfully met all international standards with precision and professionalism, reaffirming its leading position in providing comprehensive academic education that goes beyond knowledge transfer to include skill development and capacity building aligned with the needs of the local and global labor markets.





The Faculty administration affirms that this achievement would not have been possible without the collective efforts and effective collaboration among faculty members, administrative staff, and students, who have demonstrated their ability to engage with the latest educational and administrative systems, within the Faculty's strategy for continuous improvement and performance enhancement.

It is worth noting that the Faculty obtained international accreditation in 2024 and was shortlisted among the top 10 faculties nationwide for the Government Excellence Award in the same year, clearly reflecting the Faculty's sustained path of leadership and innovation.

In this context, Professor Dr. Hanan M. Aly, Acting Dean of the Faculty, extends her sincere thanks and appreciation to Cairo University, under the leadership of Professor Dr. Mohamed Samy Abdel Sadek, for the continuous support and true empowerment it provides to its faculties, in line with the university's vision to become a fifth-generation smart university and its constant pursuit of institutional excellence and advancement in international rankings.





An interview with Dr. Mona Amer

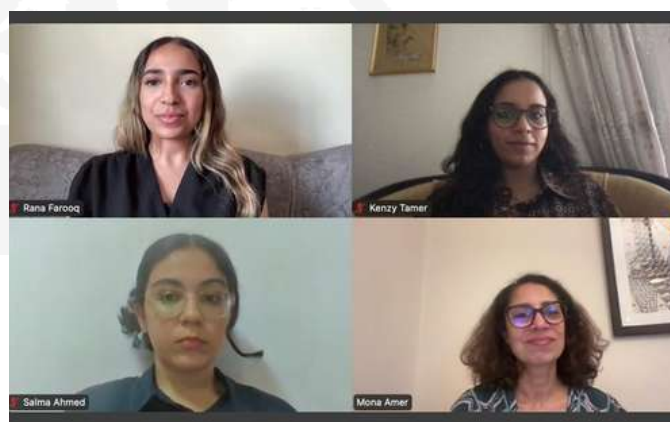
Salma Nasr - Kenzy Tamer-Rana Ahmed

The editors of Elite conducted an interview with Dr. Mona Amer, representative of the Francophone University Agency in Egypt and professor of economics at the faculty, during which she discussed her academic and professional experiences, starting with her studies at Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne University, then her experience in teaching economics, and finally her work in international institutions such as the International Labour Organisation. The interview also addressed the role of the Francophone Agency and the valuable services it provides.

Q1: How did your relationship with the Faculty of Economics and Political Science begin, and why did you choose to specialize in economics? I studied and obtained a master's degree in France, then began my relationship with the Faculty of Economics and Political Science while preparing for my PhD in Egypt.

The reason I chose to specialise in economics was because of the secondary education system in France, which included three tracks: scientific, literary, and a third track (economic and social), which I preferred.

Then I realised that economics was the most suitable specialisation for my academic career.





Q2: During your studies, what was your involvement in student activities? What were the most important skills you gained from this involvement? What are the most important student initiatives you would recommend current students participate in to develop their skills?

I did not participate in student activities during my studies, but when I joined the French department at the college, I followed the students' participation in simulation models, including the one on the European Union, and noticed that they benefited from these activities on many levels. They learned responsibility, whether through organising themselves, seeking funding, or conducting research. In addition, these activities contributed to gaining experience. Although it was not purely practical experience, it helped them in their search for future job opportunities.

Q3: Based on your rich experience in international organisations such as the International Labour Organisation and UNESCO, what are the most important lessons learned that can be applied in the Egyptian context?

I have indeed worked as a consultant for international organisations such as UNESCO and the International Labour Organisation, specialising in issues related to the transition from education to the labour market. I believe it is necessary to focus on two main aspects: the first is to disseminate the results of studies, both academic and those issued by international organisations, through conferences and by simplifying the results to make them accessible to decision-makers. This requires simplifying basic concepts such as unemployment and underemployment, and informal employment to ensure accurate understanding.

Secondly, efforts must be made to assess the impact of policies, which differs from

the monitoring and evaluation found in any economic or political programme or external financing. Egypt has recently begun to adopt this approach to evaluate public programmes and policies. For example, the Ministry of Planning established the Egypt Impact Lab in partnership with J-PAL to evaluate impact in a scientific manner.

Q4: We would like to congratulate you on your appointment as representative of the Agence universitaire de la Francophonie in Egypt. Could you tell us about the main tasks and services of this agency?

I was recently appointed to the agency, but I can tell you about its work. First, it is a network of universities around the world, with more than a thousand member universities, divided into regions. For example, Egypt falls under the Middle East Regional Office, based in Lebanon. There are 24 member universities in Egypt, including Cairo University, where the agency's headquarters in Egypt is located in the Sheikh Zayed branch. This network holds meetings at more than one level, whether with university officials, university presidents themselves, or at the ministerial level. The general assembly is scheduled to be held next November in Dakar, Senegal.



The agency provides many services to both students and faculty members, with a special focus on French departments in the faculties of arts, translation, law, economics and political science. We offer training programmes for professors and scholarships for students to study for master's and doctoral degrees, with more to be offered next year.

The agency also has expertise in the field of digital transformation, and we offer training programmes in this field. In the same context, we provide many online master's programmes and offer digital and logistical support to help various universities convert their programmes to online programmes. We have also established a recruitment centre at Senghor University in Alexandria, a Francophone university, to help students with employment after graduation by training them.

I would like to point out too that although we are a Francophone agency and most of our activities are conducted in French, we offer training programmes in Arabic or English at our employment centers. We are also currently working on two externally funded projects, one of which is funded by the European Union to develop employment centers in Egyptian, Lebanese, Palestinian and Cypriot universities, and the other is funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs to develop artificial intelligence education in Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine. The agency also funds universities that wish to organize conferences or prepare research papers.



Q5: How do you assess the impact of the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron on strengthening cultural and educational cooperation between Egypt and France?

The visit of the President of the Republic to Cairo University is an important and positive development, which has led to a revival of cooperation between Egyptian and French universities, resulting in the signing of a number of memoranda of understanding, as well as contributing to or accelerating the opening of the French department at Kasr Al-Aini in September, in addition to the partnerships that have been established at the level of research centers.

Speaking of French departments, I would like to point out that teaching in the French department at the faculty is not based on the French language alone, but that there are also subjects taught in English and Arabic, which distinguishes us in Egypt because relying on one language, such as French, is not enough.

I realised this even more when we started our cooperation and partnership with Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne University, we were praised for our faculty of economics and our professors, programmes and graduates, especially alumni such as Dr. Chahir Zaki and Dr. Racha Ramadan because they



contributed to building and shaping the faculty's good reputation through their excellence while studying for their master's degrees in France. and when they returned and became members of the teaching staff, they organised many new activities, which resulted in the then President of Paris 1 University addressing Dr. Mona ElBaradei, Dean of the Faculty, establishing this partnership.

We started with economics and then political science. This resulted in the establishment of a dual degree programme with relatively low fees. This university cooperation, including student exchanges, increases students' experience and exposes them to different research centres, as well as engaging them with different nationalities. In addition to the importance of university cooperation and student exchange programmes, I believe that the arrival of some French students to study at the college contributes to strengthening the partnership in scientific research.

Q6: Given your interest in topics such as the workforce, are there successful models in other countries that you find inspiring for Egypt in terms of integrating young people and women into the labour market? What do you think are the factors behind the success of these models?

We cannot say that there is one solution that can solve all these problems immediately upon implementation, because the issue is more complex than that, but I can point to the Active Labour Market Policy related to training graduates and providing support to companies to increase their recruitment capacity, in addition to the existence of programmes and companies that support self-employment.

Therefore, programmes must be selected and tailored to needs, in line with the circumstances and the objectives to be achieved. The same applies to initiatives supporting small businesses. Details such as the size of grants are not fixed and are not subject to a single standard, but vary

according to individuals' ability to benefit from them and the impact of those grants, which is the most important factor. In this context, gender plays a major role. For example, one study has shown that certain segments of the beneficiaries of these initiatives or grants, such as women, benefit more and have a greater impact than others.

Q7: As an economist, do you think that economics alone is sufficient to understand issues such as unemployment and inequality? Or does it need to be integrated with other social sciences?

Complementarity between disciplines is certainly indispensable. For example, we recognise that the unemployment rate is high in Egypt, that it is higher among women than men, and that there is a weakness in women's participation in the labour market, which has been declining for 30 years, particularly among women with higher qualifications.

In this context, there are two studies, one by Dr. Rana Hindi, on the impact of marriage and childbearing on women's participation in the labour market. The results showed a decline in participation, but only temporarily, after which it rose again at different rates depending on the type of job they were doing.

In government jobs and formal employment in the private sector, the participation rate rises again more significantly than in the informal sector, where the decline is sharp.

This shows the impact of social norms, such as the opinions of husbands or relatives, on women returning to work and whether it is worthwhile or not. We can therefore conclude that it is important to integrate the understanding and study of science and social phenomena.

The second study was published by J-PAL, Poverty Action Lab, with the participation of Dr. Caroline Kraft and Dr. Abdel Rahman Nagi, on a programme to assess the impact of providing subsidies in one of the slums in Cairo to mothers whose children are under the age of eight, enabling them to send their children to nurseries (affiliated with the Ministry of Social Solidarity) completely free of charge, as well as providing platforms to create job opportunities for them.

However, only a small percentage of women responded to this opportunity or programme. The reason for this is also social customs and norms. When the women were asked about the reasons, it became clear that their husbands and relatives rejected the idea because leaving children is considered 'shameful'.





Faculty of Economics and Political Science Organizes 2024 Graduation Ceremony and Honors National Figures During Silver and Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The Faculty of Economics and Political Science – Cairo University organized the graduation ceremony of the Class of 2024, alongside the Silver Jubilee of the Class of 1999 and the Golden Jubilee of the Class of 1974.

The event was held on Thursday, November 7, 2024, at the Grand Celebration Hall of Cairo University, in the presence of Professor Dr. Mohamed Samy Abdel Sadek, President of the University; Professor Dr. Ahmed Ragab, Vice President for Education and Student Affairs; Professor Dr. Hanan Mohamed Aly, Acting Dean of the Faculty; and Ambassador Adel El-Meligy, former President of the Alumni Association.

The ceremony honored a distinguished group of national figures from among the Faculty's alumni and prominent professors who have held key positions in public service, including current and former ministers, public leaders, and a number of those who obtained their Master's and Ph.D. degrees during the 2023/2024 academic year, in recognition of their significant contributions to the state and society in the fields of public administration, policy-making, economics, and development.





The honorees included:

- Prof. Dr. Hala El-Said – Advisor to the President of the Republic for Economic Affairs and Former Minister of Planning and Economic Development
- Prof. Dr. Saleh Abdel Rahman El Sheikh – President of the Central Agency for Organization and Administration
- Prof. Dr. Ashraf El Araby – Former Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform
- Prof. Dr. Naglaa El Ahwany – Former Minister of International Cooperation
- Prof. Dr. Samira Fawzy – Former Minister of Trade and Industry
- Prof. Dr. Mostafa El Said – Former Minister of Economy
- Mr. Mounir Fakhry Abdel Nour – Former Minister of Trade and Industry and Former Minister of Tourism
- Prof. Dr. Aladdin Hilal – Former Minister of Youth
- Prof. Dr. Gouda Abdel Khaleq – Former Minister of Supply and Internal Trade
- Prof. Dr. Rifaat El Mahgoub – Former Speaker of the People's Assembly
- Prof. Dr. Mohieldin El Gharib – Former Minister of Finance
- Prof. Dr. Youssef Boutros Ghali – Former Minister of Finance
- Prof. Dr. Magued Osman – Former Minister of Communications and Information Technology
- Ambassador Adel El-Meligy – Former President of the Alumni Association
- Prof. Dr. Fakhry El Feky – Chairman of the Planning and Budget Committee, House of Representatives
- Prof. Dr. Heba Nassar – Former Vice President of Cairo University for Community Service and Environmental Development
- Prof. Dr. Mona El Garf – Former Chair of the Egyptian Competition Authority
- Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin – Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund and Former Minister of Investment
- Eng. Ahmed Tarek – Secretary General of Cairo University
- Ms. Samia Mahmoud Labib – Former Deputy at the Central Auditing Organization

Professor Dr. Hanan Mohamed Aly, Acting Dean of the Faculty, emphasized that this ceremony reflects the Faculty's continuous commitment to strengthening ties with its alumni across generations and celebrating their contributions in various sectors, reaffirming the Faculty's historic role in preparing leaders who have shaped public policy, national decision-making, and the development of the modern Egyptian state.





Annual Excellence Day at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science: A Celebration of Creativity and Distinction

ZEYAD MOHAMED-FOURTH
LEVEL-ECONOMICS

In line with its belief in recognizing effort and excellence, and its ongoing commitment to promoting academic achievement across all aspects of university life, the Faculty of Economics and Political Science – Cairo University held its “Annual Excellence Day” on Monday, May 26, 2025. The event took place under the patronage of Professor Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali, Acting Dean of the Faculty.

The celebration served as a comprehensive occasion to honor outstanding students who achieved academic excellence, those who excelled in student activities, as well as a group of students with disabilities who presented inspiring models of perseverance and determination within the faculty community.



The day began with the opening of an art exhibition that decorated the halls of the faculty. Professor Dr. Hanan cut the ribbon alongside a group of faculty members and students. The exhibition featured a wide range of impressive paintings, creative models, and handcrafted works that reflected the diversity of student talents and the richness of their imagination. The faculty leadership toured the displays, listening to students' explanations of their work, while attendees expressed admiration for the high level of detail and creativity.

Following the exhibition, attendees moved to the main lecture hall for the official ceremony, which was held in the presence of students, faculty members, families, and several notable guests. Professor Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali initiated the ceremony, emphasizing that the celebration reflects the faculty's vision of building a generation capable of combining academic excellence with leadership and creativity. She also stressed the importance of instilling a spirit of excellence and continuous development among youth.

The ceremony included various segments to recognize top-ranking students, as well as student union members distinguished in cultural, artistic, and community engagement activities. A special segment was also dedicated to honoring students with disabilities who had demonstrated remarkable achievements both academically and personally. Additionally, a group of faculty members and teaching assistants who had played key roles in supporting students and fostering an encouraging learning environment were recognized for their dedicated efforts and educational contributions.

"Annual Excellence Day" concluded with the distribution of certificates and honorary shields to the awardees, amidst rounds of applause and the flash of cameras capturing these emotional and proud moments. The faculty administration affirmed that this day is not merely a celebration, but an ongoing message to students that hard work never goes unnoticed—and that excellence is a way of life and a culture that deserves to be nurtured and celebrated continuously.





FEPS organizes the 2025 Employment Forum

KENZY TAMER- L2- POLITICAL SCIENCES

This year's Annual Recruitment Forum was attended by several participants, including the President of Cairo University, Dr. Ahmed Ragab, Vice President for Education and Student Affairs; Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali: Acting Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Sciences, Dr. Ghada Abdel Bary, Acting Vice President for Community Service and Environmental Development; Dr. Mamdouh Ismail, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science; and finally, Dr. Mohamed Abdel Aziz, Deputy President of the Financial Regulatory Authority; and the Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Giza. In addition to a group of faculty members, representatives from several banks and companies enlivened the forum with their presence.

The participation of students from our faculty and others was undoubtedly crucial to the forum's success.



According to Dr. Mohamed Sami Abdel Sadek, Recruitment Forums represent a bridge between students, graduates, and business leaders. It also offers them various opportunities to develop skills that will prepare them for the job market.

This is why the faculty and the university president always strive to support such initiatives that open up broad horizons for graduates and students.



It is worth noting that this year's forum aimed to support entrepreneurship by encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises and removing the obstacles facing young people to enable them to succeed in the field. As Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali, the forum aims to create a sustainable and interactive platform to connect graduates with the job market. It also particularly emphasizes self-employment and entrepreneurship as alternative career paths that contribute to achieving sustainable development.

Furthermore, Dr. Ahmed Ragab, Vice President for Education and Educational Affairs, emphasized that the Recruitment Forum is a practical translation of the university's vision to provide education relevant to the job market, as well as to develop students' practical skills and strengthen the state's efforts to build a skilled generation to achieve community development.

Through events like this, Dr. Ghada Abdel Bari, Acting Vice President for Community Service and Environmental Development at Cairo University, sees the university's desire to strengthen its partnerships with government institutions and the private sector to support young graduates and prepare them for local and international job markets.

Finally, the Recruitment Forum aims to create a sustainable, interactive platform to connect students and graduates with the job market, with an emphasis on supporting self-employment and entrepreneurship as alternative career paths, thus contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and Egypt's Vision 2030. The forum therefore embodies the modern concept of employment, which goes beyond the traditional idea of employment and focuses on the importance of investing in individual skills and keeping pace with rapid changes in the labor market.



Review of Economics and Political Science



Increase in CiteScore metrics for the Faculty of Economics and Political Science's Journal

FARIDA IBRAHIM-POLITICAL
SCIENCE-THIRD YEAR

The journal Review of Economics and Political Science, published by the college, has recorded a significant increase across all CiteScore indicators issued by the international Scopus database.

- Political science research solidifies its position in the first quartile (Q1), while economics and statistics research rises from the second quartile (Q2) to join Q1.

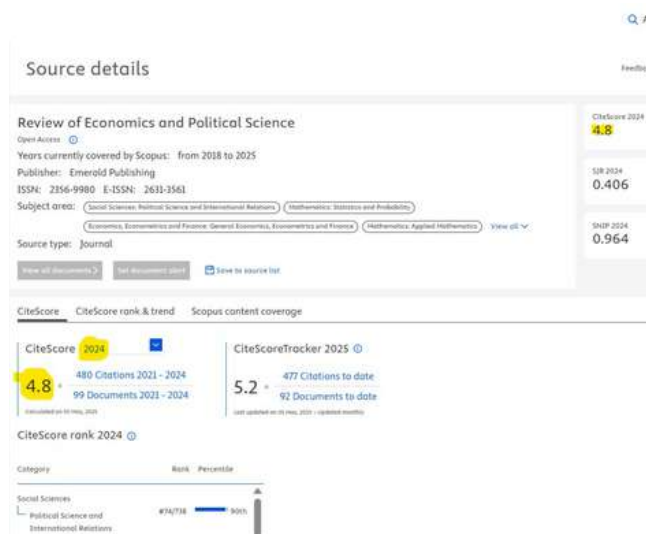
The Review of Economics and Political Science has seen a notable rise in its CiteScore, jumping from 3.1 to 4.8 in 2024, according to Scopus.

Political science research strengthened its standing among Q1 journals, climbing from rank 77 to rank 90 within the top 10% of the first quartile in 2024.



- Economics research in the journal improved its rankings, moving from Q2 to Q1, with its position rising from 72 to 85.
- Similarly, statistics research saw a significant leap, advancing from rank 71 in Q2 to rank 87 in Q1.

As a result, all three research fields covered by the journal are now classified in the first quartile (Q1) according to Scopus rankings.



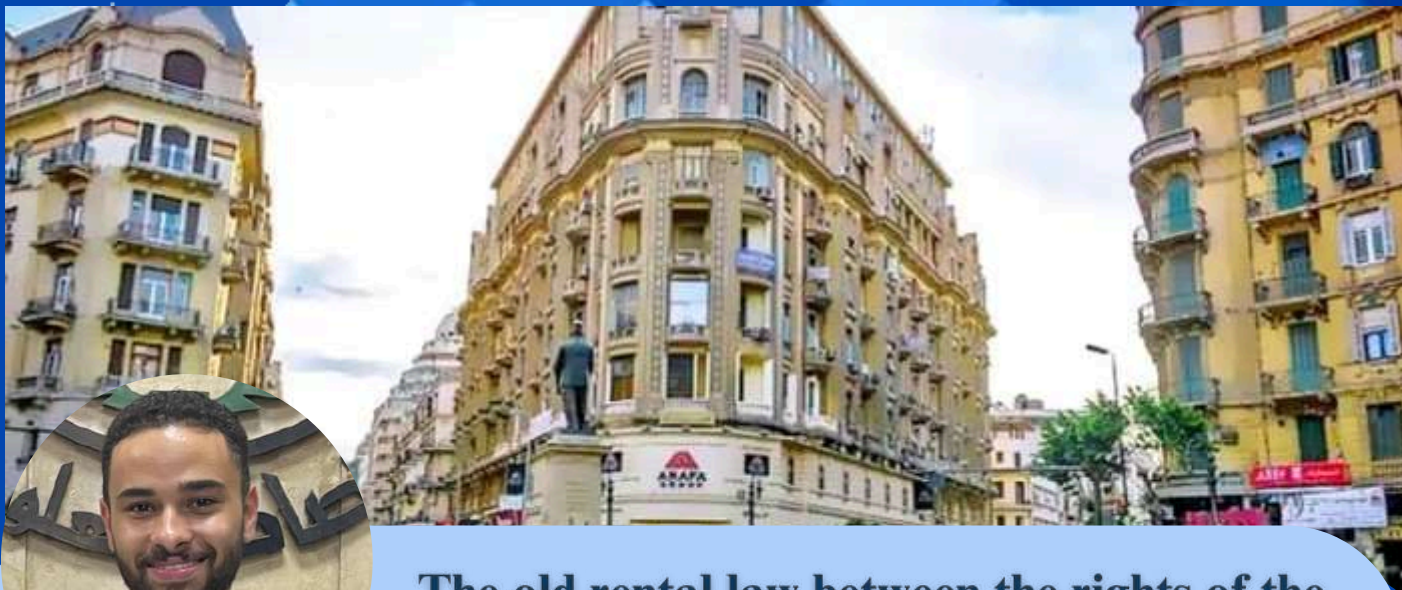
This achievement reflects the journal's growing academic stature, the quality of published research, and its increasing contributions to political science and economics. It also highlights the college's ongoing commitment to enhancing research quality under the supervision of:

- Prof. Hanan Mohamed Ali, Acting Dean of the College,
- Editor-in-Chief: Heba Nassar,
- Managing Editors: Dr. Rami Magdy and Dr. Pakinam Fikry,
- With meticulous follow-up by Mona Nasr.

For more details, visit Scopus:

<https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/211011215>

84



The old rental law between the rights of the landlord and the rights of the tenant

KAREEM ASHRAF- POLITICAL SCIENCE- THIRD LEVEL

The old rent law has been effectively implemented in Egypt since 1977, with the issuance of Law No. 49 of 1977 regulating the relationship between landlords and tenants. Law No. 136 of 1981 was later adopted, which is considered the primary reference for regulating old rents in both residential and non-residential properties.

The difference between the old and new rent laws is that the old rent law was considered to protect tenants from arbitrary eviction and price increases. It has the following features:

The right to permanent residence: The tenant enjoys the right to reside for life, and his heirs have the right to extend the right.

A low and fixed rental value: The rent does not reflect market value and remains fixed for many years.

Restrictions on the landlord: The landlord cannot amend the rent or terminate the contract except in cases specifically defined by law, such as if it is proven that the tenant has left the property unused for a long period or permanently abandoned it; changing the activity agreed upon in the contract, such as converting the residence to a commercial activity without the landlord's consent; or failing to pay rent for a continuous period despite official notice.

Serious damage to the leased property or its use in a manner contrary to the law or morals (if the tenant is proven dead and none of the heirs reside in the apartment), etc.

While the new rental law is based on the principle of mutual consent between the two parties, it also has the following features:

Freedom of contract: The landlord and tenant have the right to agree on the term and terms of the contract without prior restrictions.

Determining the rental value by mutual consent: The rent is determined according to market value, with the possibility of negotiation upon renewal.

Termination of the contract upon expiration of the term: If renewal is not completed, the full right to dispose of the property reverts to the landlord.

This was an overview of the nature of the old rental system and the new rental system.



We now want to review the arguments supporting amendments to the old rent law and the arguments supporting maintaining the old rent as it is.

- First: The group supporting amendments to the old rent law. Proponents believe that the old law represents a grave injustice to landlords, as they own properties that generate nominal rental returns that are completely disproportionate to their market value. They also emphasize the principle of the constitutional right to property, and that the old law fundamentally undermines this right and prevents landlords from freely utilizing or disposing of their property (which renders them landlords without rights). Furthermore, they believe that the old law was merely a law introduced in exceptional circumstances (such as the housing shortage after World War II), but that now circumstances have changed, and the primary governing factor is freedom of contract between the two parties. They believe that the new law allows for judicial intervention to terminate the rental relationship in certain cases (such as leaving the unit closed for more than a year without justification or the availability of an alternative unit for the tenant). In general, landlords believe that amending the old rent law has become necessary to achieve justice, stimulate the economy, and correct a decades-long situation that has harmed private property.
- Second: The viewpoint supporting maintaining the old rent as it is. This group believes that this amendment and change in the old rent contracts will displace thousands of families, especially those with limited incomes and the elderly who have lived in these units for decades and find it difficult to secure alternative housing at current market prices. In addition, they view the old rent law as having provided a degree of social stability for families across generations, allowing them to remain in their homes at reasonable prices and thus plan their lives without worrying about rising rents.



After reviewing the pros and cons of the amendments, we will address some of the entities that played a role in this issue, such as the Supreme Constitutional Court, which played a decisive role in opening the door to amendments. One of the most prominent rulings was the ruling issued in 2022 (which effectively came into effect in 2024), which ruled the unconstitutionality of the first paragraph of Article 5 of Law No. 136 of 1981, which relates to the extension of non-residential lease contracts (commercial and administrative) for legal entities. This ruling was a clear indication that the state is moving towards ending the automatic extension of contracts.



From the Supreme Constitutional Court to the House of Representatives and what happened in the recent sessions on this issue, Counselor Hanafi El-Gebali, Speaker of the House of Representatives, confirmed in several statements that the House of Representatives aims to achieve a delicate balance between the right to property and the right to adequate housing, and that community dialogue sessions are being held until a comprehensive legislative vision is reached that guarantees social peace, leading up to June 30, 2025, when the House began discussing the draft old rent law in the plenary session held today. This session was attended by Counselor Mahmoud Fawzy, Minister of Parliamentary and Legal Affairs and Political Communication, Dr. Manal Awad, Minister of Local Development, and Engineer Sherif El-Sherbiny, Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities. The plenary session of the House of Representatives began with a discussion in principle regarding the reports of the joint committee of the Housing, Public Utilities and Construction Committee and the offices of the Local Administration and Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committees on:

A draft law submitted by the government regarding certain provisions related to the laws governing the rental of premises and restructuring the relationship between landlords and tenants.

A draft law submitted by the government amending certain provisions of Law No. 4 of 1996 regarding the application of the provisions of the Civil Code to premises whose rental contracts have expired or are expiring without anyone having the right to remain there. It was noted that the Supreme Constitutional Court has developed its rulings and principles in its successive rulings from 1995 to 2002, intervening to limit this legal extension in stages, ultimately restricting it to the first generation only, with the issuance of the Supreme Constitutional Court's latest ruling in Case No. 24 of the 20th Judicial Constitutional Year, in the session of 9/11/2025. Despite the fact that the subject of the dispute was related to the stability of the rental value, the court affirmed in its ruling the nature of exceptional rental laws and that they are temporary laws, no matter how long their duration. It explicitly recognized the legislator's right to intervene and regulate (the legal extension of rental contracts) as well as (determining the rental value), considering them to be characteristics of all exceptional laws that the legislator has the right to review at all times. Neither of them is an absolute ruling without any restriction, and both are not immune to legislative regulation. The Supreme Constitutional Court has consistently emphasized in all rulings that old rental laws are exceptional and must always be viewed as legislation of a temporary nature, no matter how long their duration.

Discussions continued in the House of Representatives until Counselor Hanafi El-Gebali temporarily ended them (declaring that this level of discussions was sufficient, and that the discussion would be completed in principle in the session of July 1, 2025, and that the government would provide the data requested by the representatives, specifically a statement of the number of first-generation tenants, an approximate statement and not the 2017 statement, an approximate statement of the number of original tenants and the measures that the government would take with this category in light of what Article 8 of the draft law included, that they are

priority categories for care, a statement of the number of lands expected to be available for constructing the buildings necessary to allocate alternative units and their locations).

Then, in its plenary session on July 1, 2025, the House of Representatives completed discussions on the two aforementioned draft laws. Dr. Manal Awad, Minister of Local Development, announced that the House of Representatives would be given a detailed statement including the plots of land available for construction in various governorates, in preparation for the establishment of new housing projects as part of the state's efforts to provide decent housing for citizens. Dr. Manal Awad also explained that the lands included in the statement vary between lands reclaimed in accordance with Law No. 144 of 2017, lands subject to the jurisdiction of the governorates, in addition to lands belonging to the Agricultural Reform Authority within urban areas, all of which are suitable for the construction of housing units. Dr. Khairat Ahmed Barakat, Head of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, stated that the number of families that fit the description of original tenants according to the old rental system is only 409,276 families, who are over the age of 60 in 2017, out of a total of approximately 1.6 million renting families nationwide. Barakat explained that the distribution of this category of tenants varies between The governorates, where the largest percentage is concentrated, are: Cairo: 176,900 families, Dakahlia: 11,300 families, Alexandria: 65,021 families, and Giza: 57,843 families. Discussions continued in the House of Representatives between supporters and opponents, and the government provided the data and documents requested by the representatives in this regard.



The session concluded with the House of Representatives approving the two draft laws in principle, with the remaining discussions to be completed in the session on Wednesday, July 2, 2025. Counselor Hanafi El-Gebali concluded the session on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, saying: "Through the discussions that took place in the session regarding the two draft laws, it is clear that the government came to Parliament unprepared and lacked some important data and statistics. This is not the first time, as the government has previously referred numerous draft laws to the House without having conducted the necessary community dialogues or studied them carefully, which would enable the honorable representatives to vote based on a clear vision. This amount of discussions today will suffice and will be completed tomorrow. Members of all political parties, independents, and the media are invited to cover the session's activities, given its importance." Then, we reached the most prominent session, which stole all the spotlight and played a decisive role in the old rent issue, which is the general session of the House of Representatives on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, in which discussions were completed regarding the two draft laws, until the session ended with the final approval of the draft law submitted by the government regarding regulating the relationship between landlord and tenant, known as the Old Rent Law, and sending it to the President of the Republic for ratification. The full text of the Old Rent Law is as follows:



article 1.. Persons Subject to the Law

The provisions of this law apply to premises rented for residential purposes and premises rented to natural persons for non-residential purposes, in accordance with the provisions of Laws No. 49 of 1977 Concerning the Leasing and Sale of Premises and Regulating the Relationship between Landlords and Tenants, and Law No. 136 of 1981 Concerning Certain Provisions Concerning the Leasing and Sale of Premises and Regulating the Relationship between Landlords and Tenants.

Article 2.. Grace Periods Before Terminating the Contract

Lease contracts for premises subject to the provisions of this law for residential purposes shall expire at the end of a period of seven years from the date of its entry into force. Lease contracts for premises for non-residential purposes to natural persons shall expire at the end of a period of five years from the date of its entry into force, unless termination is agreed upon earlier.

Article 3.. Classification Criteria for Areas and Units

By decision of the competent governor, inventory committees shall be formed within each governorate to divide areas containing residential rental properties subject to the provisions of this law into distinct, medium, and economic zones. The following criteria and controls shall be taken into account in the division:

1. Geographical location, including the nature of the area and the street on which the property is located.
2. Construction level, the type of building materials used, and the average unit area in the area.
3. Facilities connected to the properties in each area, such as water, electricity, gas, telephones, and other utilities.
4. The road network, transportation, and available health, social, and educational services.
5. The annual rental value of built properties subject to the provisions of the Built Property Tax Law issued by Law No. 196 of 2008, located in the same area.

A decision shall be issued by the Prime Minister setting out the rules and regulations governing the work of these committees. These committees shall complete their work within three months from the date this law comes into effect. The Prime Minister



may, by decision of the President of the Council of Ministers, extend the period of completion of their work for a similar period. A decision shall be issued by the competent governor regarding the committees' conclusions. This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and announced to the local administration units within each governorate.

Article 4.. Value of Increases

As of the due date of the monthly salary following the date of The legal rental value of premises rented for residential purposes subject to the provisions of this law and located in privileged areas shall be twenty times the legal rental value in effect, with a minimum of one thousand Egyptian pounds. It shall be ten times the legal rental value in effect for premises located in medium and economic areas, with a minimum of four hundred Egyptian pounds for premises located in medium areas, and two hundred and fifty Egyptian pounds for premises located in economic areas. The tenant, or whoever the lease contract has been extended to, as the case may be, shall be obligated, until the inventory committees referred to in Article 1 of this law complete their work, to pay the monthly rent following the effective date of this law, at a rate of 250 Egyptian pounds per month. The tenant, or whoever the lease contract has been extended to, as the case may be, shall be obligated, starting from the day following the publication of the decision of the competent governor stipulated in the last paragraph of Article 3, to pay the differences due, if any, in monthly installments over a period equal to the period for which they are due.

Article 5.. The value of the increase in units used for purposes other than residential purposes (commercially)

Starting from the due date The monthly rent following the effective date of this law shall be five times the legal rental value of premises rented to natural persons for non-residential purposes.

Article 6: Annual Increase Rate

The rental value determined in accordance with Articles 4 and 5 of this law shall increase periodically annually by 15%.

Article 7.. Cases of eviction of apartments with old rent according to the new law

Without prejudice to the reasons for eviction

stipulated in Article (18) of Law No. 136 of 1981 referred to, the tenant or the person to whom the lease contract has been extended, as the case may be, is obligated to vacate the rented premises and return them to the owner or landlord, as the case may be, at the end of the period stipulated in Article 2 of this law, or if either of the following two cases occurs:

1- If it is proven that the tenant or the person to whom the lease contract has been extended has left the rented premises closed for a period exceeding one year without justification

2- If it is proven that the tenant or the person to whom the lease contract has been extended owns a residential or non-residential unit, as the case may be, that is usable for the same purpose for which the rented premises were intended

In the event of refusal to vacate, the owner or landlord, as the case may be, may request the judge of urgent matters at the court within whose jurisdiction the property is located to issue an order to evict the person refusing to vacate, without prejudice to the right to compensation, if applicable. Without prejudice to the provisions of the second paragraph of this article, the tenant or the person to whom the lease contract has been extended has the right to The lease was extended to him, according to In the circumstances, the judge of temporary matters at the court in whose jurisdiction the property is located may be requested to issue an order to evict the person refusing to vacate, without prejudice to the right to compensation, if there is a reason for it. Without prejudice to the provisions of the second paragraph of this article, the tenant or the person to whom the lease contract has been extended, as the case may be, has the right to file a substantive lawsuit before the competent court in accordance with the usual procedures. Filing a substantive lawsuit does not result in the suspension of the order of the judge of temporary matters referred to.

Article 8.. The tenant shall be given priority to obtain an alternative unit.

Without prejudice to the provisions of Articles (2) and (7) of this Law, every tenant or the person to whom the lease contract has been extended in accordance with the provisions of Laws No. 49 of





1977 and No. 136 of 1981 referred to, and before the expiry of the period specified for the expiry of the contracts in Article (2) of this Law, shall be entitled to be allocated a residential or non-residential unit, whether for rent or ownership, from among the units available with the State. This shall be done through an application submitted by the tenant or the person to whom the lease contract has been extended, accompanied by a declaration of vacancy and delivery of the rented property immediately after the allocation decision is issued and the unit is received. Priority in allocation shall be given to the most deserving categories, especially the original tenant, his wife, and his parents, from whom the lease contract has been extended. The Council of Ministers, based on a proposal by the Minister responsible for housing affairs, shall issue, within 30 days from the date of the implementation of the provisions of this Law, a decision setting out the rules, conditions, and procedures necessary for receiving or deciding on applications, arranging allocation priorities, and the State agencies responsible for allocating available units. The aforementioned agencies shall be obligated to display the units available to them and the result. Prioritizing the allocation of housing units to the original tenant of the housing unit, who has a lease contract initially issued by the owner or landlord, as well as to their spouse, to whom the lease was extended prior to the implementation of the provisions of this law, shall be done no later than one year prior to the expiration of the period specified in Article 2 of this law. If the state announces residential or non-residential units, whether for rent or ownership, the tenant or the person to whom the lease was extended shall have priority in allocating a unit, upon submitting an application accompanied by the eviction declaration referred to in the first paragraph of this article. Priority shall be given, in the event of overcrowding, to the nature of the area in which the rented unit is located. The announcement shall specify the controls, rules, and procedures necessary for allocation.

Article 9. Repeal of old rental laws seven years after the implementation of the new law.

Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 2 of this law, Laws Nos. 49 of 1977 regarding the rental

and sale of premises and regulating the relationship between landlord and tenant, and Nos. 136 of 1981, shall be repealed Regarding certain provisions relating to the leasing and sale of premises and regulating the relationship between landlord and tenant, and Law No. 6 of 1997 amending the second paragraph of Article 29 of Law No. 49 of 1977, and certain provisions relating to the leasing of non-residential premises, effective from the day following the passage of seven years from the date of this law's entry into force. Any provision that contradicts its provisions shall be repealed.

Article 10.. The new Rental Law shall be implemented immediately upon its official publication.

This law shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall take effect from the day following its publication.

After reviewing the pro-owners' and pro-tenants' points of view, and what was discussed in the House of Representatives sessions, I believe that the final approval of this project is a great injustice to the tenants who paid an amount when they obtained the housing unit that was worth a lot at the time (this can be confirmed by looking at that amount at the time and the amount of gold that could have been purchased with that amount). This amount was in exchange for something called "the man's vacancy." In accordance with the fact that the contract is the law of the contracting parties, the owners of the property agreed that there was no expiration date for the contract, and they knew all the details related to that at the time. Therefore, the tenant then paid the required amount and signed the contract, as this provided him and his family with housing security from fluctuations and price increases in the future (so what right do I have now to come and tell them that what you were planning for and what you were saving to pay for this housing unit to secure your future has not and will not be achieved)! And how will the people who are now retired be able to bear the trouble and hardship of moving to another housing unit? Will their modest income help them? Should we provide alternative housing units of the same standard? Especially since there is no real and practical



guarantee that the government will provide other housing units of the same standard and at reasonable prices that suit everyone. Although the government has pledged to provide other housing units suitable for tenants who will leave their properties after seven years or before, we do not see anything provided or any real steps taken by the government in this regard. In addition, I frankly believe that the transitional period is very short. Is seven years enough for a simple citizen with limited income to search for a new housing unit, install utilities, furnish it, and arrange an appropriate amount for renting a new unit? Will there be housing units at reasonable prices after this law? Now, before the law is officially ratified, we hear of astronomical and strange prices for housing units. What will the situation be like after the law is ratified and officially published?

The law will cause a very significant increase in rents and inflate rental prices. It will then be an implicit declaration that all citizens living in housing units under the old rental system will become homeless, evicted from the homes to which they have invested their money, effort, expenses, and memories, seven years after the law was officially announced! Is it logical and acceptable that those on pensions and those with limited income who cannot afford the prices of new housing units will be evicted overnight from their homes, unable to find shelter to protect them, when this is one of the most basic rights guaranteed by the constitution to all citizens without discrimination? The ideal solution, from my perspective, and one that is fair to all parties, is to reasonably increase the rental value, provided there is an annual increase in rents while maintaining existing lease agreements. This ensures and preserves social security, prevents people from being displaced from their homes, and at the same time protects the rights of landlords. However, the new law will create the problem of the absence of the most basic indicators of social security, namely the possibility of citizens not having housing, and the state's failure to provide appropriate social protection for tenants. It will also place landlords in a stronger position than tenants, which is inconsistent with achieving justice for both parties. I expect that once the law is officially issued, major problems will arise from citizens' feelings of

a lack of peace and social security, a threat to the stability of their lives, and that within seven years they will be like homeless people on the streets, without shelter or housing. This is especially true since I have seen many tenants say, "We would rather die than leave the homes we have spent our heart's blood on. And then where will we go? We will sit on the street without a home to live in, and we don't have the money to buy other apartments, and apartment prices are now beyond our means." Ultimately, I trust that the state, the government, and all relevant institutions will not leave their people homeless and will make the most appropriate decision to protect the interests of all groups. May God grant success to the political leadership in this complex and intertwined problem.





The Future of the Dollar and the Fate of Globalization in a Changing World

HUDA NADA- STATISTICS- FOURTH LEVEL

On Monday, May 12, 2025, and under the patronage of Professor Dr. Mohamed Sami Abdel Sadeq, President of Cairo University, and under the supervision of Professor Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, the Center for Economic and Financial Research and Studies organized a symposium titled “The Future of the Dollar and the Fate of Globalization.”

Professor Dr. Adla Ragab, the president of the Center for Economic and Financial Research and Studies, opened the symposium with words of appreciation to the audience, who attended both in person at the Faculty and online via Google Meet. She warmly welcomed the distinguished guests: Professor Dr. Gouda Abdel-Khalek, Professor of Economics at the Faculty and former Minister of Social Solidarity and Social Justice, and Professor Dr. Hassan Ali, Emeritus Professor of Economics at Ohio University and Nile University.

She dedicated several minutes to introducing them, highlighting some of their notable academic and professional achievements. Dr. Adla then outlined the main themes of the symposium: President Donald Trump’s policies and their implications on the U.S. dollar, the future of dollar dominance: Will it remain the leading global currency or be replaced by the Chinese yuan, a European currency, or a unified euro?, the fate of globalization and the potential disintegration of the bipolar global system (U.S. and Russia).

Dr. Hassan began by thanking the center, the faculty, and Cairo University, then welcomed the attendees. He started his talk by discussing the current dominance of the U.S. dollar, noting that over 60% of international transactions are conducted in dollars, 20% in euros, and the rest in other currencies. He added that central banks worldwide hold the dollar as a reserve currency.

He outlined the characteristics a currency must have to be considered a global reserve currency:

- International trust and economic/political stability: historically, the dollar was backed by gold or silver.
- High liquidity: the dollar is widely accepted and easily traded globally.
- 3. Institutional and international law: This is represented by international institutions and central banks accepting the currency as a major part of their reserves and using it in pricing goods and international transactions.
- Size and diversity of the issuing economy: the U.S. has the largest economy by nominal value; China leads by purchasing power (PPP), and second largest economy by nominal value
- Transparency and governance: the U.S. Federal Reserve is among the most transparent globally. Its chair is appointed for 14 years, protecting it from political swings. The Fed also distinguishes itself from other global banks in that the central bank is typically government-owned, while the Fed is owned by commercial banks, which hold a 6% stake in it.
- Safe haven status: in times of crisis, investors flock to the dollar.
- Free convertibility: the dollar can be freely exchanged anywhere in the world.



In answering the question, “Why is the U.S. keen for the dollar to remain the world’s reserve currency?”, Dr. Hassan explained that printing a \$100 dollar costs only about 40 cents. Around 52% of U.S. dollars are held and circulated outside the United States, generating pure profit for the American economy. This economic advantage makes the U.S. unlikely to give up its currency’s global role.

He referenced an article he wrote in the U.S. in 2006, highlighting the core American problem at that time: negative savings rates. Investment continued, but it was funded by foreign surpluses, particularly from countries purchasing U.S. treasury bonds. Even when savings improved to 7–8% of GDP, they later declined again.

Trump, he noted, sought to correct the U.S. trade deficit, especially with China, by imposing tariffs, assuming this would fix the issue. However, Dr. Hassan rejected this rationale, stating that low American productivity compared to countries like China, which has a 44% savings rate, was the real cause.



Professor Hassan Ali explained that the dollar's decline is due to lack of confidence and economic factors like rising US debt, financial instability, budget non-compliance, and its use as a political tool. He warned that using economic tools as political weapons weakens their future utility.

He argued that the turning point for the dollar's credibility was its use in sanctions, which pushed nations to explore digital currencies and alternatives like BRICS. As a result, global dollar reserves dropped from 77% to 59%. Despite this, the Chinese yuan remains marginal in reserve holdings (2.5%) and will need at least 20 years to match the dollar's dominance.

He predicted that globalization is shifting toward regionalism, and concluded by criticizing Trump, saying he brought out the worst in Americans and he is the worst thing that has happened to America, and even to the whole world.

Joining via Google Meet, Dr. Gouda responded to Trump's slogan "Make America Great Again" with a famous line from Umm Kulthum song: "You want us to go back in time! tell time to go back.". He emphasized that no American citizen today combines earning, frugality, and productivity. And the U.S. fiscal discipline is lacking. He linked this to Ibn Khaldun's five stages of state development, stating that America is in the fifth stage: extravagance and waste.



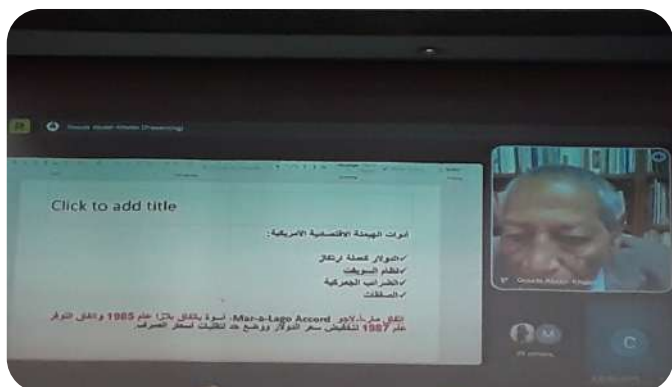
He then addressed four main tools of American economic dominance:

- The dollar as a global reserve currency.
- SWIFT, society of worldwide interbank financial telecommunication.
- Tariffs, used to protect U.S. interests and pressure rivals.
- Trade deals, employed as geopolitical and economic leverage.

On globalization, he noted a shift over the past 80+ years from multilateralism to minilateralism (limited partnerships), that the world is witnessing a transitional phase, with the economic center of gravity moving east, marking the dawn of an Asian century after the Atlantic one.

Dr. Gouda acknowledged that Egypt's economy is rent-based, relying on: Strategic rent, Natural resource rent, Geographic rent, including the Suez Canal. However, he warned that revenues from the canal may decline due to climate change enabling new and shorter navigation routes between East and West. He also referenced "enemies" in the region, including some Arab states, calling them "frienemies", who are attempting to create alternative trade routes, posing a strategic threat to the canal. He asserted that Suez Canal's value as a strategic asset remains, but its role as a mere shipping lane is diminishing.





He then moved on to discuss the situation in America, explaining that the dilemma facing American society is a lack of savings, a problem Egypt also suffers from, as we import more than we produce. He also explained that everything that happens in Egypt—economically, socially, and politically—is linked to the US dollar, which calls for serious consideration of severing the link between the Egyptian pound and the US dollar. He also warned against opening the doors wide open to hot capital, which could suddenly leave the country, as happened in 2022, emphasizing the need to establish strict controls on this type of investment. and ends his talk by thanking the audience.

Dr. Adla opened the floor for questions from both the in-person audience and online attendees. Highlights included:

- A question was raised about assessing the economic value of the Suez Canal and Emirati investments in the region. Can enemies influence them?

Professor Gouda responded that we must not entrust our affairs to foreigners, emphasizing that developing the Suez Canal should not be done through foreign entities. He emphasized that the strategic importance of the Suez Canal as a waterway exists in the long term, but its economic value as a purely maritime waterway has begun to decline as a result of the long-term shifts taking place in the global economy.

- Why do all countries seek to produce the same goods despite differing needs and resources?

Dr. Hassan emphasized economic integration over competition, which suits a world with varied needs and capacities.

- Can globalization truly decline when only the U.S. is stepping back, while China and Europe remain committed?

The shift toward regionalism is due to global disruptions, wars, supply chain crises, etc. According to Dr. Gouda, economic power is still in transition, not fully shifted.

Dr. Adla ends the symposium by thanking both speakers for their valuable insights and expressing gratitude to the attendees.





Commemorating the fifth anniversary of the establishment of The Migration Research and Studies Unit

TRANSLATED BY: ZEINA ELAMIR-ECONOMICS MAJOR-SENIOR STUDENT

The Migration Research and Studies Unit was established at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science in partnership with the International Organization for Migration to serve as an international hub discussing all issues pertaining to migration, in 2021. On the 20th of May, in a celebration to commemorate the 5th anniversary for the establishment of the The Migration Research and Studies Unit, the event highlighted the myriad of initiatives and key contributions from Faculty members coupled with student insights that were conducive for launching a newly introduced vision for the coming five years.

The celebration was executed with the attendance of a plethora of notable public figures within the national and international arena. These include figures in the likes of: H.E Mrs Soha Gendi former minister at the ministry of Emigration and Egyptian Expatriate's Affairs. In addition to Dr Ahmed Ragab, vice president of student affairs within Cairo University as well as Dr Hanan Mohamed Ali the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Mr Carlos Oliver Cruise president of The International Organization for Migration mission in Egypt, the Minister Plenipotentiary Reem Zahran, representative of the National Coordinating Committee for

for Combating Human Trafficking and Irregular Migration, Dr Adla Ragab coordinator for the unit of research and Emigration studies. In addition to, a plethora of Faculty members , ambassadors and Representatives of Egyptian and international ministries and agencies.



A remarkable instance was Dr Adla's conveyance of the pivotal role that the youths play, indicating that they are the primary catalyst for innovation- remarking that the success of the unit within its initiatives was driven by experts both inside and outside the faculty, coupled with the myriad of initiatives that were introduced under the behest of students contributions and evolved to become full scale internationally recognized research projects. Furthermore, Dr Adla revealed the recent requisition of the ISBN certification from the International Migration organization. Highlighting the significance of the accomplishment with record breaking time which underscores and alludes to the quality of the published research from the unit. Moreover, she emphasized the imperativeness of the seminars and campaigns designed to enhance awareness pertaining to the introduced efforts to combat illegal emigration.



While also noting that the unit's success is attributed to the collaboration with international entities which culminated in the establishment of the first youths lead magazine "Hagra" that features and highlights the perspectives of adolescents.



establishment of the Migration Research and Studies Unit aimed to provide better coordination and research frameworks for issues related to migration, as well as to enhance strong integration between research, policies, and practical practices. She emphasized that the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University is the first governmental academic entity to discuss the economic, political, social, and cultural matters related to migration.

She added that the unit has successfully achieved many of its objectives, having organized several seminars to raise awareness among youth about key issues associated with migration, whether related to the impacts of climate change, achieving sustainable development goals, governing labor migration and the mobility of workers, or combating irregular migration and human trafficking, among others. A memorandum of understanding was also signed with the Ministry of Migration and Egyptian Expatriates' Affairs prior to its integration into the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



In his remarks, Carlos Oli stated, "The Migration Unit has exceeded all expectations and surprised us all with its activities and successful partnership with Erasmus University Rotterdam."

Dr. Ahmed Ragab praised the various student activities held at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, aimed at engaging students in understanding different issues and attempting to find solutions. He affirmed that this reflects Cairo University's role in nurturing students and equipping them with knowledge and awareness.



highlighting the unit's significant achievements, including research projects and magazine accomplishments. The ceremony not only honored institutional achievements but also provided space to showcase the student experience in simulating the International Organization for Migration over the past three years. A portion of the event was dedicated to the editorial team of "Migration," the first youth magazine published by the Migration Research and Studies Unit, which coincidentally celebrated its first anniversary





Are global condemnations effective in ending Gaza's famine ?

MALAK HOSSAM- POLITICAL
SCIENCE-4TH YEAR

Despite growing warnings, famine in Gaza continues at catastrophic levels. The UN, through the IPC system, describes the situation in Gaza as a true famine, where the criteria for phase 5 are met: 20% of the population has no access to food, 30% suffer from acute malnutrition, and the mortality rate exceeds 2 deaths per 100,000 people per day. While noting that this classification changes from one minute to the next, phase 5 in general perfectly illustrates the bleak picture of the complete collapse of the means of survival in Gaza. Nothing is accessible on the ground, neither drinking water, nor health services, nor housing, nor are the rest of the basic needs met. While these phases are supposed to be used to alert humanitarian responses, there is little decisive action to be found. “ *In Gaza, every morning begins with a recurring anxiety: will I find enough to eat today?* ”

said a representative of a news agency on the ground, claiming that famine in Gaza has reached a critical level. This is why pressure on international organizations has been growing in recent times, in an attempt to alleviate the dire situation. In light of the response to the famine, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), a structure under Israeli control, was created in 2023 and established in 2024 by the United Nations. A group of doctors, human rights activists, and former humanitarian workers came together to found an independent, apolitical, and strictly humanitarian organization to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza. This organization, which is less recognized on a global scale, has the mission of centralizing, coordinating, and securing the delivery of international aid in a context of war and siege. However, it remains untrustworthy for several relevant reasons.



Endless promises, but nothing changes on the ground. Every day without aid means more deaths. Humanitarian aid, which has become one of the most controversial mechanisms of the war, now approaching its second year, is transforming the global status quo by becoming a final sticking point in ceasefire negotiations, placing the GHF, supported by Israel and the United States, at the heart of current discussions.

According to the UN, more than 1,000 Palestinians have died trying to access GHF distribution sites since the end of May, with nearly 509 deaths directly linked to the centers. Critics, including the United Nations and the majority of the international humanitarian community, believe that the GHF is designed to serve Israeli military objectives by providing selective and insufficient aid, while forcing Gazans to risk their lives for a box of supplies.



According to an op-ed published in *The New Humanitarian*, the GHF is described as a strategic diversion, as it distracts attention from the overall disaster in Gaza by staging humanitarian platforms while masking the complete collapse of the survival system. While Palestinians queue for food, supervised by armed security guards on contract, these measures paint a misleading picture. In reality, they divert attention from the deep and widespread crisis ravaging Gaza: completely destroyed infrastructure, ruined health, drinking water, and sanitation services, a stalled economy, and systematic starvation. The “hub” thus becomes a humanitarian showcase that gives the illusion of an organized response, while the very fabric of society is being dismantled.

The NGO *Action for Humanity* goes further, describing the GHF as a “**political masquerade.**” According to the organization, this system is entirely linked to the personal interests of the Israeli authorities, who control access, flows, logistics, and security. This configuration not only undermines humanitarian neutrality but also effectively excludes the most vulnerable individuals, including the elderly, the wounded, the sick, and those with mobility difficulties. All those who are physically unable to travel to distribution points or endure long queues are deliberately marginalized.

Other more nuanced voices, such as The National, acknowledge the many ethical and operational shortcomings of the GHF but believe that it represents the “**lesser evil**” in a situation where all other forms of aid distribution are blocked or impossible. However, even these analyses, which are more or less positive toward the GHF, emphasize that this model remains flawed given the restrictive conditions, military control, and deep inequalities in which it operates.

The real pitfall can be summed up as follows: information about GHF's interventions is disseminating.

Since the end of May, no recent GHF interventions have been documented or verified.

It does not appear in any public reports or credible articles, either as a humanitarian operator in Gaza or in the records of active organizations. This is why its position is often contested as controversial and insufficiently transparent.

Divergent critiques but a clear result: The voices of empty stomachs remain unheard in the face of the silent voice of humanity. On her Instagram account, Palestinian journalist Bisan Owda shares her unease as a witness to the escalating famine in Gaza: “*Israel has been blocking food, water, and medicine from entering Gaza for five months,*” adding, “*Bang pots and pans in front of its embassies, parliaments, complicit companies, institutions, politicians, and officials in your countries.*”

This leads us to suspect: How can someone be fueling the total devastation of the Palestinians on the one hand, while attempting to rescue them on the other?





Who Owns the Truth? Francesca Albanese, CNN, and the West's Narrative Crisis

SALMA NASR - POLITICAL SCIENCE - 3RD YEAR

In recent weeks, two pivotal events occurred within the United States' political and media machinery that, while seemingly unconnected, reveal profound cracks in the West's ability to control the narrative of the Israel-Palestine conflict. First, the U.S. put sanctions on Francesca Albanese, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories accusing her of antisemitism and hostility toward the U.S. and Israel. Then, just days later, CNN showed a graphic video of the aftermath of deadly attacks near aid distribution sites in Gaza. The video showed dead civilians who were killed while waiting for food. This was a big change for CNN, since they usually don't show much about what the Israeli military does.

At first, these two things seem to go against each other. Why would the U.S. punish someone for exposing Israeli

abuse, while a big news network starts showing the horrifying consequences of those same abuses? But it's not really a contradiction, it is a moment of narrative crisis. The structures which once monopolized moral framing are having a hard time keeping things consistent. These events aren't opposites; they're symptoms of a collapsing system of narrative control.



Francesca Albanese is being penalized for saying what many lawyers and human rights people have been saying for a while.





Her reports don't just call out single actions by Israel, they point to trends. She says that apartheid, blockades, and collective punishment are how the Occupied Territories are run. This kind of big-picture thinking, coming from a UN mandate holder, is a problem for the story that keeps Israeli policy from being held responsible. The U.S. sanctions, issued under a Trump executive order originally designed to target the International Criminal Court, accuse her of targeting American and Israeli nationals without consent and engaging in so-called "economic warfare" for her efforts to document Israeli violations and recommend ICC action against both Israeli officials and international corporations potentially complicit in crimes against Palestinians. The accusations she's facing are broad and unsubstantiated in legal terms. Albanese has neither encouraged violence nor fabricated data. Her crime is epistemological as she re-centers international law, not geopolitical interest.

The actual risk she presents is symbolic, that she shows that criticism of Israel's actions can come within intergovernmental institutions like the UN, not just from activists or leftists. The fact that she's being punished shows how far the U.S. will go to keep control over what justice means, even if it means shutting down the very systems it says it supports as the guardian of freedom in the world.

On the other hand, CNN decided to broadcast a video documenting one of many IDF attacks on Palestinian civilians near aid trucks in Gaza and other articles of these recurring attacks shows an unusual shift in the way CNN reports. The footage was drawn from Palestinian sources and contextualized by health officials' reports documenting the deaths of at least 49 people in a 24-hour period.

However, CNN stopped short of naming the responsible party. Instead, the report framed the story through language like "according to Palestinian health officials" and avoided direct attribution to the Israeli military. It portrayed the suffering without naming the system that produced it.

Most importantly, this change from how CNN usually tells stories wasn't a complete change. Soon after showing the Gaza part, CNN put out a long report based on the Dinah Project, a group of Israeli researchers who collected testimonies from returned hostages and first responders. The report accused Hamas of widespread, systematic sexual violence. CNN highlighted these accounts without skepticism, presenting them as evidence of Hamas usage of rape as a war tool.

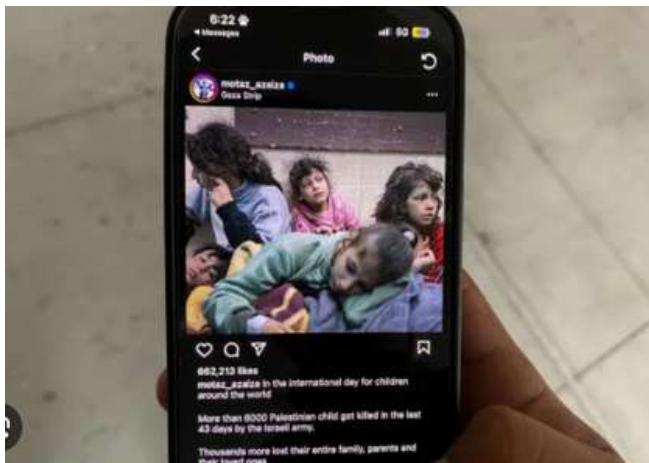
This asymmetry is not a sign of fragmentation inside the CNN, I think it's deeper than that. Palestinian suffering is shown only when it is fragmented and depoliticized. Meanwhile Israeli "suffering" is portrayed with structural framing and moral clarity. This selective editorial framing shows that CNN's broader narrative remains aligned with the political priorities of the U.S. government.





To fully grasp this moment, we must turn to a third actor which is the social media. Since the beginning of the current Gaza war on October 7, 2023, Palestinian journalists, content creators doctors, and civilians have documented the genocide everywhere on digital platforms.

This unfiltered documentation has broken the narrative monopoly that CNN and other mainstream media outlets once held. No longer do viewers on the other side of the hemisphere need to wait for Western news channels to decide what is real. Millions now witness atrocities as they happen, through livestreams, phone cameras, and direct testimonies. TikTok, Instagram, Telegram, and X have become archives of real-time war crimes.



As a result, CNN's partial shift is not a sign of moral awakening or a change in ideology. It is a survival move. Its authority has eroded and its credibility is declining. CNN is trying to follow the public opinion. What happened with Albanese and CNN looks more like a plan to keep things under control, not just some random contradiction. It operates on three levels; firstly, by Suppressing Structural Truth. Sanctioning Albanese is an attempt by the

US to discredit any legal framing that names apartheid, occupation, or systemic violence. Her voice threatens the foundations of impunity. Secondly, they Allow visual truth but without context, the CNN can show dead children, but only if it avoids naming the policy decisions or military doctrines that allowed their deaths. Lastly, there's a tendency to preserve the Moral Hierarchy. CNN keeps the focus on Israeli suffering, showing it with lots of emotion and giving it importance and institutional legitimacy, while Palestinian suffering is either softened or disconnected from its political origins. These three moves are designed to curate the interpretation of truth after multiple failures to hide it.

What we're witnessing is not just a political contradiction, but a breakdown in the systems that once controlled how the Israel-Palestine conflict was framed and understood. At the core of this unraveling are three major ruptures. The legal rupture is embodied by Francesca Albanese, whose role within the UN gives her critiques institutional weight. When she calls Israeli actions apartheid and says they're punishing everyone, she's taking away the protection that Western countries have given Israel for years. Sanctioning her isn't about anything she did wrong. Her sanctioning is not about misconduct, it's about silencing a voice that the system can no longer ignore or discredit through the usual tactics. The visual rupture comes from social media.



People in Gaza are posting unfiltered pictures and videos, so the usual news sources aren't the only ones in charge of what we see. Western media can't control the story anymore; the public sees events unfold in real time. Finally, there's the credibility rupture. Legacy media outlets like CNN are slowly adjusting their coverage, not because of a change in values, but because of a loss of trust.

Their hesitance to show the full truth for months has damaged their authority. Together, these ruptures are really changing how the story is told. The system is no longer able to fully determine what counts as truth or whose voice is allowed to speak. The crisis is about the collapse of the West's ability to manage the meaning of violence.





The Story of Francesca Albanese: Integrity and Resistance in Defending Palestinian Rights

SALMA NASR - POLITICAL SCIENCE - 3RD YEAR

In a time marked by geopolitical double standards, few voices have resonated with such clarity and impact as Francesca Albanese, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories. Her firm standing against the ongoing genocide has placed her at the center of an international uproar culminating in the recent sanctions by the U.S government.

However, Albanese's story isn't entirely political, it gives us one kind of a lesson. It is a portrait of uncompromising integrity in the face of overwhelming pressure, and a case study in how talking in international law is increasingly treated as a threat when it dares to name those in power.

Appointed in May 2022, Albanese distinguished herself from previous mandate-holders by refusing to engage in diplomatic euphemism.

Her reports were based on international law most notably the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute. She insisted on identifying the structural violence embedded in Israel's decades-long occupation. For her, the framework of a "two-state" solution is just a facade that had long served to mask systemic settler-colonial dynamics.



It's a little-known fact that her position is unpaid. She's a volunteer, working with a network of volunteers as she said recently. Israeli officials declared her persona non grata and barred her entry, and some Western states like France





and Germany smeared her work as “hate speech,” and U.S. officials accused her of antisemitism, first under Joe Biden, and then, more aggressively, under Donald Trump.

October 2023 would bring her into the global spotlight and onward, the backlash against her has intensified to unprecedented levels for a UN expert.

Her first major confrontation with global powers came in March 2024, when she submitted a report to the UN Human Rights Council titled *Anatomy of a Genocide* where she argued that there were reasonable grounds to believe that Israel’s military campaign in Gaza, launched in response to the October 7 Hamas attacks is in fact a genocide. She outlined clear genocidal intent, citing statements from Israeli political and military officials and the deliberate targeting of Gaza’s civilian infrastructure. It also emphasized how decades of dehumanization and blockade laid the groundwork for these atrocities.



However, this report gained immediate reaction from the same Western governments who fiercely rejected her findings. Many pro-Israel organizations accused her of antisemitism, some demanding her removal from the UN post.

Even right-wing media did their best to portray her as ideologically motivated. Albanese didn’t budge though stating that her job is not to please governments but to uphold international law.

In October 2024, she doubled down. Her second report titled *Genocide as Colonial Erasure* went even further, arguing that Israel’s military campaign was not merely a disproportionate use of force, but part of a broader settler-colonial strategy aimed at erasing the Palestinian people from Gaza. She further warns that Israel’s systematic denial of access to international investigators, despite binding orders from the International Court of Justice, may constitute obstruction of justice, underscoring a dangerous precedent for international accountability.

The political backlash reached its climax following her report, presented to the UN Human Rights Council in July 2025 titled *From Economy of Occupation to Economy of Genocide*. It goes even further exploring the global corporate infrastructure sustaining Israel’s settler-colonial project and war on Gaza. It explicitly accuses 48 companies including tech giants like Microsoft, Amazon, and Google’s parent company Alphabet of being embedded in an “economy of genocide.” The report outlines how arms manufacturers, surveillance firms, and financial institutions profit from Israeli aggression while shielding themselves from accountability. Albanese names the global investment giants BlackRock and Vanguard as key financiers behind this machinery.





In each of her reports, Albanese insists that genocide is not just some unfortunate events for a greater cause but a system, and that systems have beneficiaries. Naming them, in her point of view, is the first step toward justice.

The final report drew a direct line between corporate profits and war crimes. It was the final act that triggered U.S. sanctions against her. On July 9, 2025, the Trump administration imposed direct sanctions on Francesca Albanese. The U.S. State Department froze her assets and banned her from entering the United States, citing her “persistent defamation of Israel” and “support for delegitimization campaigns.”



Legal scholars and human rights organizations quickly condemned the decision. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights issued strong condemnation for this decision, warning that the sanctions set a dangerous precedent.

Even the UN Human Rights Council expressed alarm, framing the move as a direct assault on the independence of international mandates.

In contrast, these sanctions sparked a wave of global solidarity, more than 200 civil society groups across the Global South expressed their standing with Albanese. Many scholars praised her for articulating the motives behind the genocide and its purposes.

Albanese has since argued that the real threat to international order isn't criticism of powerful states, it's the impunity those states enjoy.

Albanese has also borne a personal cost, she and her family have faced death threats and escalating harassment through social media platforms. Despite it all, she refuses to step down. She stated that resigning would be to betray the people this mandate is meant to protect.

Finally, we should ask, Is it possible to resist when the whole system seems against you?

Maybe there's still hope, because, in the midst of impunity, Francesca Albanese has backed The Hague Group, a new alliance of nine Global South countries like South Africa, Cuba, and Malaysia. They declare themselves as “committed to coordinated legal and diplomatic measures in defense of international law and solidarity with the people of Palestine.” Albanese urged Europe to join. So far, no one has. It may not be enough. But it's something. And through it all, Albanese's voice remains clear and unwavering.





Where are the people in today's international agreements?

LATIFA ELBAROUDI- POLITICAL SCIENCE- 3RD YEAR

We always find numerous international agreements taking place between countries, whether they are bilateral agreements or multilateral. But an important question always comes to our minds: Do people actually benefit from these agreements in terms of direct benefits, or are they merely international agreements whose impact is symbolic on the citizen ?

In fact, there is no definitive answer in the world of politics, most of the time, the answer is relative because the world of politics is in constant change. And in order to find an answer to the question that always crosses our minds, we will respond to it based on the current situation.

The citizen always wants to be represented effectively and genuinely in all the actions taken by their country. When the citizen is represented, meaning their needs

and desires are taken into account, at that time all the decisions and agreements made by the state will benefit the citizen. However, this does not always happen. Sometimes, international agreements, whether political, economic, or otherwise, only benefit the governments of the countries involved. At times, the agreement is aimed at achieving regional security and stability, while at other times, it is for mutual interests between the countries. So, we find that in the end, the impact of that agreement on the citizen is a symbolic one that they cannot see in their daily life. From here, the citizen begins to feel that they are not being represented. Although the agreement may have significant economic benefits for the state, the citizen does not see those benefits in their daily life, especially since most citizens desire immediate benefits rather than those that appear in the long term.



For example, we find that the agreements between Saudi Arabia and Iran are continuously increasing, starting from the "Beijing Agreement" in March 2023 to the communications and visits that took place during this year. This indicates that these two countries are striving to enhance their relations, with the exchange of economic benefits that will be advantageous to them and at the same time strengthening their bilateral relationship, which will benefit regional stability in the Arabian Gulf.

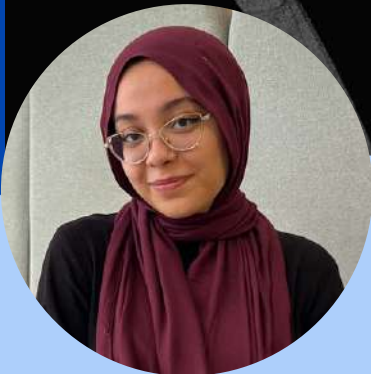


After analyzing this Saudi-Iranian cooperation, we find that it will indeed have fruitful and positive results for both countries in economic and political aspects. But will the citizens feel these benefits? In fact, even if the cooperation has an economic impact, its effect on the citizen will be symbolic and not actual and direct. This bilateral cooperation, as explained, can lead to the revival and prosperity of the country's economy, but its impact on each citizen is not tangible. Most of the time, for this positive effect to be felt by the citizen, it requires a long period, which may extend to many years. Also, this year has witnessed numerous agreements between Algeria and Italy, covering several issues including energy, security, and migration.



In reality, this multidimensional cooperation between Algeria and Italy focuses more on the mutual interests of the two countries. Even though there are some issues that will benefit citizens, such as protecting migrants and securing their migration, these are not relevant to all citizens but only to those who are looking to migrate. And thus, we find that the vast majority of citizens will not see the benefit directly, and if there is a slight chance of seeing the benefit in the eyes of the citizen, it will be in the long term and not the short term.

So, some current agreements show how distant the citizen is from the political arena and that the international agreements being made mostly have a direct impact on governments and the state in general as a political institution. The effect of these agreements on the citizen remains symbolic, lacking the realistic dimension in the citizen's daily life. But the hope remains for the citizen in the possibility of direct benefits occurring to them in light of those international agreements taking place around them. The political world is constantly changing and does not remain in a permanent state. Therefore, it is likely that an international agreement will emerge that brings direct benefits to the citizen. Thus, the citizen should remain attached to that hope until it is realized, because everything is subject to change.



The Epstein Case: A Mirror of Power, Silence, and Systemic Failure

MARYAM FATHY- POLITICAL SCIENCE- 4TH YEAR

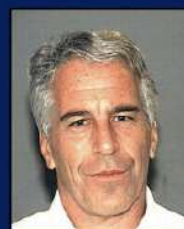
In the dark archives of America's political scandals, the Jeffery Epstein case stands out for its grotesque magnetism. The story of a convicted sex offender with a social web of ties spanning presidents, royalty and global elites isn't merely a tale of criminality but rather a mirror held up to the architecture of power itself.

In 2008, Jeffery Epstein was arrested and handed a deal that mocked the very notion of justice, managing to avoid federal charges entirely. His sentence which was 13 months in county jail with liberal work release was negotiated behind closed doors by Alexander Acosta, who would later become the secretary of Labor under President Donald Trump. The deal was concealed from the victims, which was a direct violation of federal law, and no one was held accountable.

Years later, Epstein was re-arrested on charges of sex trafficking in 2019,

yet it was only weeks before he was found dead in his cell, and the propagated story? suicide in a jail cell, surveillance cameras had failed, guards had fallen asleep and the truth, once again, evaporated.

U.S. v. Jeffrey Epstein



- JEFFREY EPSTEIN HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR ALLEGED SEX TRAFFICKING OF UNDERAGED GIRLS.
- THE CHARGED CONDUCT OCCURRED IN NEW YORK CITY AND PALM BEACH, FLORIDA.
- IF YOU RECOGNIZE THIS PERSON AND FEEL YOU MAY BE A VICTIM, PLEASE CALL THE FOLLOWING NUMBER:

1-800-CALL FBI



Despite the fact that Epstein had attempted suicide before, this story fooled no one, it reeked of corruption and conspiracies began to flourish, the conditions were far too convenient, and the timing was far too suspicious. Even members of the congress began to question how a man under federal custody, facing one of the most high-profile scandalous cases in modern history, could so easily die.





What died with Epstein was not just a defendant, it was the possibility of cross examination under oath, of subpoenas, of names forced into the daylight, but what survived was his network, the unnamed men in flight logs, the anonymous funders, the clients, the lawyers, the facilitators and the accomplices. Thus, Epstein's world didn't finally fall, it simply faded from the front pages.

Epstein was not an aberration, he was a system, he was the outcome of institutional rot so deep it became mundane. the Epstein case isn't shocking because it was an anomaly, it's shocking because it was normal in structure, in response and in outcome. A powerful man abuses dozens of underage girls, law enforcement knows, victims speak, deals are cut, records are sealed, media outlets hesitate, and the cycle continues. His life was a curriculum in elite immunity, and there was no real mystery about what he was doing, the mystery was in why no one stopped him.



The Epstein investigation was brought back to light recently due to congressional pressures calling for the immediate release of all federal records related to Epstein and his associates, which highlights the broken promises of transparency by the Trump administration. It is only here, at the end, that we must return to politics.

The Epstein case isn't about Donald Trump, but he is impossible to remove from its margins, Trump knew Epstein, praised him publicly, hosted him at Mar-a-Lago and appointed Alex Acosta who brokered Epstein's first escape to cabinet. This is not merely guilt by association, it is guilt by proximity to power and the patterns of protection it offers.



Trump ran as a populist, claiming he would drain the swamp. He pointed a finger at elite corruption with a rhetoric that inspired anger and conspiracy, yet when confronted with real elite criminality with hard evidence, he chose silence and deflection or worse, complicity.

In this, however, Trump wasn't unique, he was only normal. Clinton flew on Epstein's jet. Dershowitz was on the legal team. Prince Andrew remains insulated. The U.S. justice system has failed, again and again, to put anyone with real power on trial. The populist illusion is that the enemy is outside the system. Yet the truth of Epstein is that the enemy is the system, protected by influence, softened by media and dissolved by time.





“America First” Defining American National Interest in Trump’s Second Administration

ALYAA MOSTAFA - POLITICAL SCIENCE - FOURTH YEAR

Since Trump’s second administration began on January 20, 2025, the entire international system has never been the same. Embracing the ideology of “America First” has reflected many implications in several fields.

Historically speaking, the term “America First” was coined for the first time by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916. After almost a century, the current American president, Donald Trump, is using the same term in his presidential campaign and presidency, which was also adopted in his first administration in 2016. The question is, what are the major repercussions of Donald Trump’s leadership of the US presidency on the international system, particularly in adopting the “America First” approach again?

It can be argued that electing Trump for his second term can be considered one of the most significant strategic shifts in the international system. Ever since Trump was inaugurated and started practicing his

formal duties, the world has been entirely affected through trade wars that include steep protective tariffs on China, the European Union, and almost every country that exports goods and services to the United States of America.



In addition to Trump’s explicit use of imperialistic language, whether to annex Canada into the United States of America, or his plan to transform the Gaza Strip into “Riviera of the Middle East,” or shifting a Special focus on Greenland or threatening to have direct control over the

Panama Canal.



Trump's mentality and leadership style can often be classified as "one-man policy," which emphasizes unilateral action, including direct executive orders over multilateral cooperation.

In addition to his imposition of the principle of power over the principles of international law and his character that favors transactional diplomacy in which he desires to achieve a deal that trades something for another else, and that can involve anything that comes to mind. Thus, this article seeks to explain and analyze how Trump defines American national interest in his second administration and to what extent these policies have altered principal patterns in the international system and international norms.

Adopting "America First" policy reflected how Trump attempted to make major changes in the international system. This approach not only emphasized protectionist policies that might lead to isolationist tendencies due to imposing tariffs on almost every trading country, not to mention that they were essentially targeting China, but also this approach favors American national interest over international commitments and alliances. This can also explain the repeated pattern of unpredictable policies.

Consistent with this view, Trump's attack on the West was evident in his confrontational approach to the EU, G7, and NATO. During his second administration, Trump imposed 10 to 20 % tariffs on EU members. The U.S foreign policy towards the EU and NATO members took a more critical and increased intensity in demanding a share burden in the defense budget, claiming that the US was protecting Europeans who were more busy achieving welfare ambitions. This increasing tension led the EU, in turn, to take its safety precautions through rearmament, depending on itself and increasing its defense spending from 1.9% to 5% by 2030.



All these mentioned policies and changes took place only in the first 6 months of his presidential term, and they do not even account for all other changes that are taking place in the international system. the most important challenge that can affect us in the Middle East is if major rivals made a "transactional" deal and reached a consensus that serves their interest and harms ours, and this is not an unlikely scenario.



Egypt's Energy Hub Ambitions Under Threat

ABDELRAHMAN SAKR-
ECONOMICS, THIRD YEAR

Since late 2023, Egypt has been facing mounting energy challenges. After several years of rising natural gas production and exports—driven by significant discoveries—output has now declined to its lowest level in eight years. This downturn is attributed primarily to water infiltration issues in the Zohr field, Egypt's largest gas reserve, and to falling output in onshore areas due to underinvestment. Energy firms have reportedly been reluctant to invest without a substantial price increase above the outdated \$2.65 per million BTU that Cairo offers to producers onshore. This situation reflects a lack of long-term strategic planning in Egypt's energy policy.

To meet domestic demand, Egypt returned to importing natural gas—both via pipelines from Israel and through LNG shipments—thus becoming a net gas importer for the first time since 2018. JODI data show

that Egypt imported 14.612 bcm of natural gas in 2024. Of that, around 10.14 bcm—approximately 69.4%—came from Israel, according to the industry publication Mees. The remainder was LNG, primarily sourced from Qatar. These LNG imports are especially costly due to their higher prices compared to piped gas, and because Egypt had to rent a Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) to handle them.

Egypt has long aspired to be a regional hub for natural gas, leveraging local production as well as gas from Israel and Cyprus to supply LNG markets. However, that vision is increasingly in doubt. The current production slump highlights Egypt's failure to establish a coherent and sustainable energy policy, and high domestic demand further exacerbates the strain. Investor confidence has also been shaken in part due to suspicions that Egypt has inflated its proven gas reserves to attract capital. These doubts were reaffirmed when Zohr's proven





reserves were revised downward to just 309 bcm—only about a third of the 850 bcm originally claimed by Eni in 2016. On top of that, Egypt has struggled to make timely payments to investors. Compounding the risks, recent supply disruptions from Israel suggest that Israeli gas exports could be used as leverage—even though Israel benefits from exporting to Egypt. This adds to the fragility of Egypt's LNG ambitions, as even non-domestic gas could be withheld at any time.

The stakes extend beyond natural gas. Egypt aims to ramp up electricity exports to 1.5 GW per day and complete interconnection projects with Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Jordan, Greece, and Italy by 2030. The country is already linked to Palestine, Libya, and Sudan. However, many of Egypt's power plants remain underutilized due to fuel shortages. Without a reliable fuel supply, these interconnection projects could be seen as impractical, and existing infrastructure may go idle. The issue lies not only in the volume of available fuel but also in its consistency, which is undermined by Egypt's overdependence on Israeli imports.

This instability also threatens Egypt's ambitions in clean hydrogen production. While the country is pushing toward green hydrogen, which requires significant water resources, it also faces ongoing water scarcity. Blue hydrogen, an alternative that uses natural gas, is only viable if Egypt can secure stable and affordable gas supplies. Thus, the country's broader energy and export goals are inextricably tied to resolving its natural gas crisis.

Egypt should diversify fuels used in electricity generation as well as the sources of the fuel itself. It should take the foreign and energy policy of Turkey as an example. For decades, Turkey had to deal with the shortfall of local energy capacity in meeting local demand and exporting ambitions, the very same problem that Egypt faces. Thus, Turkey pursued two strategies simultaneously: first is investing in local capacity of fuel generation, second is forging international alliances with both exporters, such as with Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Iraq, and Iran, and importers as well. Egypt must follow the same track, and fast, or other countries will capture the opportunities. For example, Qatar and Turkey are currently supplying Syria with gas and electricity, an opportunity Egypt could have captured, thanks to connection with Syria via the Arab-Gas pipeline. But only if we had a more active flexible foreign policy, and stable gas supply!





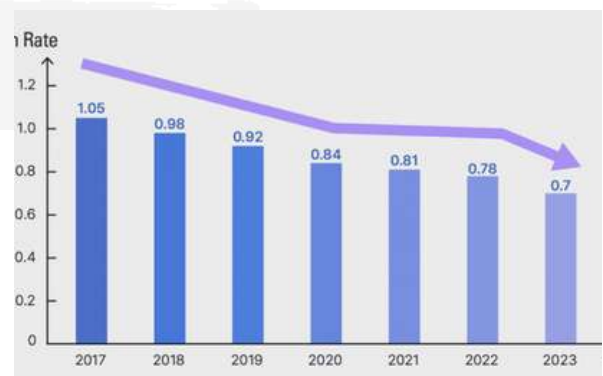
South Korea: Biological Survival and Self-Actualization

TOQA SALAH - POLITICAL SCIENCE - 2ND YEAR

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Egyptian Ministry of Health and Population celebrated World Population Day on 14th July 2025 Under the theme: 'Empowering youth to build the families they desire in a just and hopeful world. During the event, UNFPA launched the 2025 State of World Population report, titled 'The Real Fertility Challenge: Pursuing Reproductive Empowerment.' The report indicated that the real problem lies in the fact that some young people are unable to have the children they want. This aligns with the global decline in fertility rates, driven by economic uncertainty, gender inequality, health challenges, the climate crisis, and conflicts. all of which hinder individuals from forming families.



In this regard, the demographic crisis in South Korea has appeared. This isn't a recent crisis, but South Korea has been suffering from it for a long time. What made this crisis re-emerge is that it has reached the point of no return, as fertility rates have continued to decline and have fallen below the global fertility rate (2.1). South Korea has become the country with the lowest fertility rate in the world. This makes the crisis more dangerous, as it goes beyond an aging crisis and has turned into a crisis of population shrinkage and potential disappearance.



There are many causes that make this crisis more complicated, but we will focus only on the aspect which is related to individuals who prefer their careers rather than creating families and having children. These factors hinder technical progress because of living costs, in a manner that does not correspond to the wages they receive, especially costs related to children's education, as it is the highest in the world. This prevents men from creating families and makes women doubtful about their desire to start families, as it comes at the expense of their careers. In this regard, there is a question, which is: "Does the individual have the right to prefer his/her personal liberty and private interest at the expense of the public interest and social responsibility?"

To answer this question we should first analysis the motivations which make individuals prefer their careers rather than their family lives. This will make us able to determine if they have this right or no. First, we notice that the South Korean society gives many burdens for individuals, which can make them reluctant to marry or have children. These burdens can be divided according to the gender. Men are harmed by increasing living costs more than other burdens, as they are the main primary breadwinner of the family, and because of decreasing wages and not enough housing. As for women, they suffer from gender inequality, whether in the right to work in general due to the influence of some traditional Confucian values or in terms of unequal wages. South Korean women earn around two-thirds of what men make, which explains why they cling to their jobs and prefer work over family and childbirth. The reason is their fear of losing their jobs or being replaced



The decline in fertility rates can be justified by feminism, and we can't ignore its role in motivating women's desire to maintain their careers and to ensure that family responsibilities and child care are shared equally between parents. However, this is not the main reason for the decline, but it may be a motivating factor. There is evidence that proves this ideology is not the primary cause, as the decline started before the spread of this ideology in the early 1980s during the rule of Chun Doo-hwan. What has changed since then is that women have gained greater access to educational and career opportunities, which has shifted their priorities from starting families to professional development. As a result, many women are postponing marriage and childbirth, leading to smaller family sizes and a higher average age at marriage.



What may have a role in this regard is individualism, which is based on placing individual interest above societal interest. This is a foreign idea in South Korean society, which is based on Confucian values that place great value on the family and consider it as the cornerstone of society. The reason behind the spread of this idea is the influence of Western societies, which are themselves based on this idea. This mainly shapes individual behavior, making people prioritize their ambitions and careers over the sustainability of society.



Men and women alike suffer in South Korean society from work addiction and intense competitiveness which make work-life balance more difficult. This has led individuals to refrain from having children. Evidence of this can be seen in the capital, Seoul, where the fertility rate has dropped to 0.55, which is even lower than the national average.



Based on what was explained about how young people suffer from society and its policies, we shouldn't be quick to say they are selfish. It's not right to put pressure on individuals for the interest of society, especially when the society is the one that caused this crisis with its own rules and ideas. What should really happen is to solve the problems that stop people from creating families. Simply, if the reason goes away, the result will also go away. So, when young people delay having kids or decide they don't want, we should see it as a reaction to their living conditions, not just a choice. In this way, the birth crisis becomes a sign of how young people are unhappy with the system, unless the reasons behind it are solved.

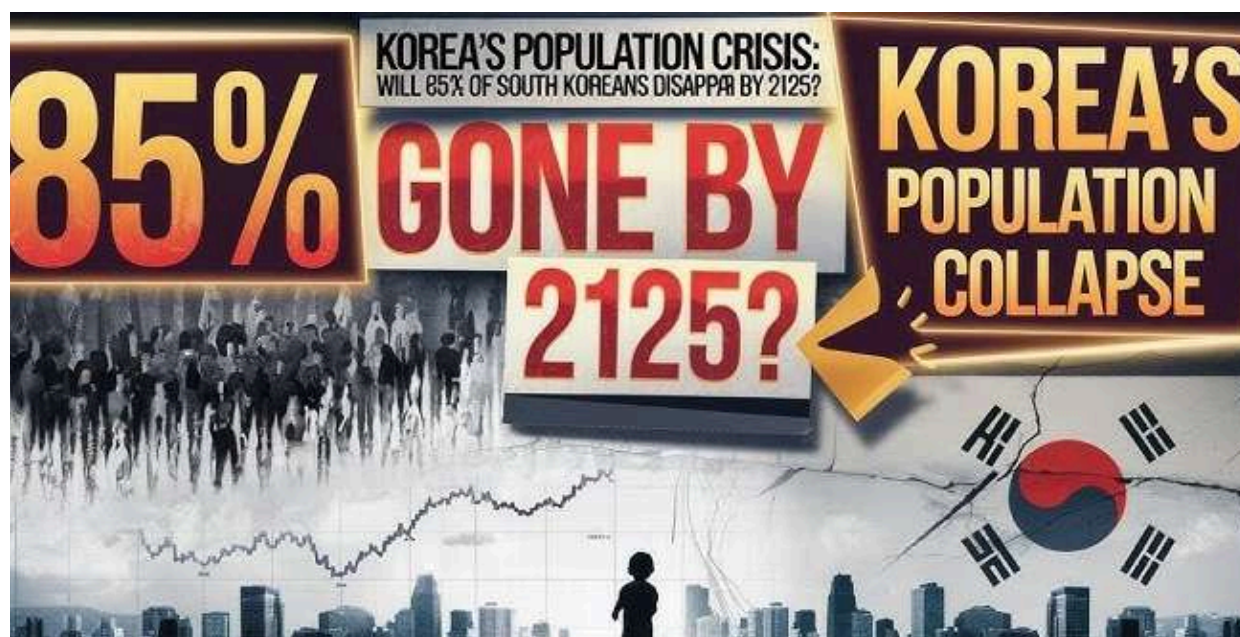
One solution can be giving job security to parents, so they can manage their time better between work and family. This can increase the chance of having children and help raise the birth rate. Also, immigration can be used even if it's not the full solution, because it won't replace the original population, but it can help reduce the shortage in labor force. This has worked in other countries that face aging problems.

Through solving these problems which are related to youth and their decision on creating families, we can get a mutual land that serves individual and societal interests without any transgressions.



Until this happens, individuals should keep their dreams and ambitions and stop thinking of having children as a national responsibility. Instead, they should start to deal with it as an action that comes from true desire and feeling of safety, as when a person feels that if he/she has a baby, this will prevent him/her from self-actualization, this will make him/her choose himself/herself instead of the society.

Finally, the solution to this crisis is not in the hands of individuals, so we shouldn't force them to sacrifice their careers and dreams, but in the hands of society and the government, through providing alternative and more effective policies to solve the crisis. This has been proved already when the birth rate increased at the fastest pace in more than three decades in April 2024, for the first time in nine years. As a result of that, the fertility rate increased from 0.72 to 0.75 as a response to modern and effective measures taken by the government. Despite this increase, the crisis still exists, and South Korea still has the lowest fertility rate in the world.





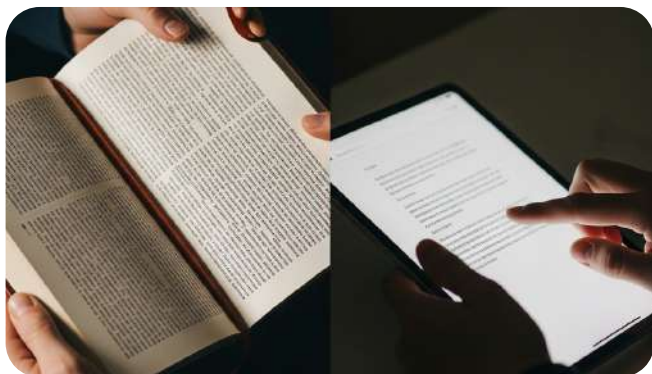
From Paper to Screen: How Have Our Reading and Writing Habits Changed?

HUDA NADA - STATISTICS - FOURTH LEVEL

In the age of speed and the internet, many aspects of human behavior have changed—not only professionally or academically, but also in terms of leisure. Hobbies have shifted from tangible activities to digital experiences. Paintbrushes and canvases have been replaced by drawing apps, social gatherings by video calls, and even reading. Nowadays, audiobooks and podcasts have risen as alternatives to traditional reading and paper books. Although these tools have existed long time ago, originally aimed at helping people with disabilities or illiterate, they have now become a popular choice for everyone. People are increasingly seeking faster ways to accomplish tasks, even when those tasks are simply hobbies that bring joy.

Reading was once a calming escape from the noise of daily life. But due to time constraints, many readers have turned to listening instead of reading. driving and free time are now being used to listen to books. For those who struggle with loneliness, audiobooks provide a sense of companionship, as if someone is speaking directly to them. Housewives, who once had a passion for reading but now find little time for it, use audiobooks while doing household chores to make up for the lack of time, without the need to find time to sit down and read.





Podcasts have become popular for similar reasons, though they are not a new concept. Our grandparents used to listen to the radio, which was once the only form of entertainment. Today, that comforting habit has returned in a modern format: the podcast. Alongside it, a new trend has emerged; book summaries. Instead of reading a book physically or digitally or even listening to it, some people now opt for a quick 30-minute summary, rather than spending days or weeks with a book.

Additionally, personal journaling, once practiced in notebooks, has transformed into a digital activity via smartphones and iPads. Many now write their thoughts and journals using specialized apps that allow them to record their reflections anytime, anywhere, without the need for pen and paper. This shift hasn't eliminated the value of personal writing but has made it more accessible and widespread, in line with the fast pace of modern life.

Reading has countless benefits: it broadens horizons, sparks imagination, feeds the mind, and strengthens our connection to our language and identity. Don't abandon it in favor of alternatives which, although useful, can't fully replace the reading experience. Seeing words on a page, feeling the texture of paper, and smelling its scent provide a unique emotion only those who've experienced it can understand. A deep, subtle bond forms between reader and book, something no audiobook or summary can replace.

listening is useful and offers knowledge and insight, but it lacks the vibrant intimacy of written words. If you're just seeking information, listen. But if you're looking for something deeper, read. And writing is not just a way to record thoughts. It is a form of self-expression, a means to refine thinking, and a way to preserve emotions. So, don't give up your hobbies, neither reading nor writing. Even a few minutes a day is better than abandoning them altogether.





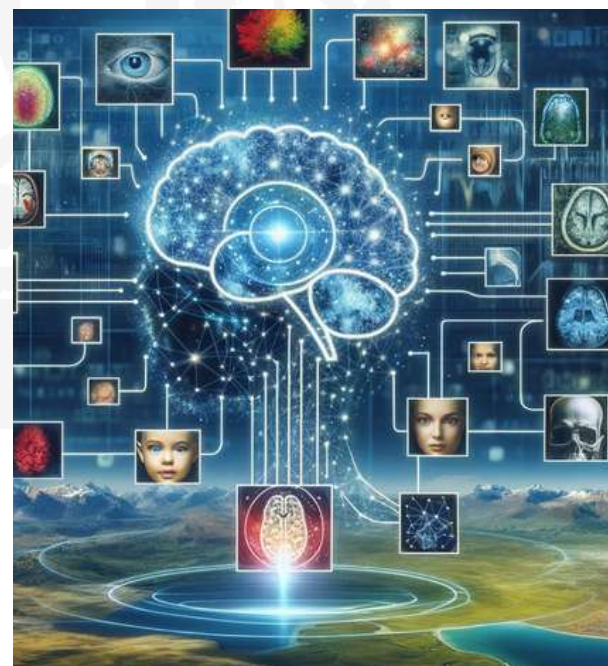
Artificial Intelligence : Killing creativity ?

FARIDA HORANIA - ECONOMICS -
THIRD YEAR

Technological development has been evolving at an alarming rate. The advent of the smartphone was a human-made miracle, but what about tools that innovate, analyze, and make suggestions? This is what artificial intelligence (AI) does, suddenly intruding into our lives in all areas, whether personal, academic, or professional.

First, we need to understand what creativity is. Creativity is anything that the human mind produces in terms of innovative, new ideas that have no parallel in real life.

Like Thomas Edison's invention of the light bulb, this invention was inspired by his imagination and has no parallel in reality. Therefore, we can say that creativity is dreams, everything an individual dreams of and wishes to turn into reality.

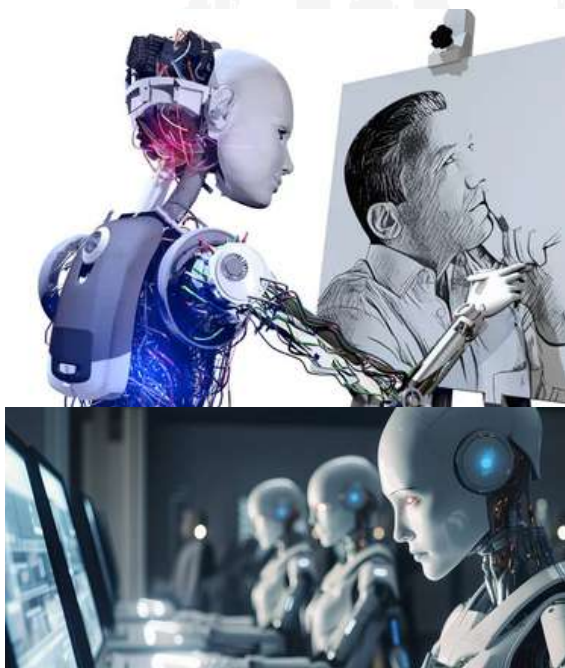


This type of risk-based, experimental innovation cannot be effectively performed by AI; it can only provide you with an idea and a target market. If you ask an AI tool for an innovative idea, it might give you an idea for a smart glove with sensors that converts visual signals, such as traffic lights, into vibrations or Braille to help the blind navigate the street.

On the other hand, there is creativity associated with writing, especially academic writing such as doctoral and master's theses. This type of writing involves gathering information from reliable sources, which the researcher must analyze. The main problem here is that most students rely on artificial intelligence tools to generate a complete research paper and submit it under their name. However, what many do not know is that most artificial intelligence tools produce incorrect and inaccurate information.

Furthermore, there are applications used by most universities that examine research papers to ensure they are free of artificial intelligence. So, where are the student's ideas and analyses in this research? What benefit do the student gain from this research?

Ultimately, the goal of this technological development is to help people in their lives. However, the problem is that most people don't know how to use these tools in a beneficial way. Take the example of a university student who submits all of their assignments to AI tools for solution. So, what benefit does the student gain from university content? Universities will thus graduate cadres who know nothing about their specialization due to their complete reliance on AI. On the other hand, its optimal use is to help us organize all aspects of our lives. There's nothing wrong with some assistance with university assignments, but we must ensure that the information provided is accurate.





Disconnected, Yet connected !

GANNA AMROU-POLITICAL
SCIENCE-4TH YEAR

We Humans like to believe that we have everything under control, that with technology, power, and connectivity we can handle any challenge that comes our way.

So we build systems and create routines, aiming for a stable life. But when the lights go out or when a fire breaks out, how do we really act?

Two different moments somehow reflected the same truth, the massive blackout in Spain and Portugal and the fire in Cairo's Ramses Central. Two different places, two unexpected events, yet both revealed how fragile our sense of control is.

And the question remains: Do we really control life or does it sometimes control us?

On a quiet early morning, major cities in Spain and Portugal woke up to nothing but unexpected silence. No electricity, no internet, not even mobile signal. A few panicked, fearing it was the apocalypse. But the majority chose to embrace the outage. People stepped into the real world, living perhaps for the first time in a while, without power or technology.





Famous neighborhoods came alive with people reading, playing music or chess, and even dancing in the dark. It was a striking reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and its ability to enjoy the simplicity of human connection. Though they may have lost connection with Facebook and the digital world, they surely found their own way back to connection and solidarity.



Yet, just like in Spain, a different kind of human connection emerged. When the true heroes appeared, firefighters like Nour Emtiaz who rushed in, risking their lives for hours. They weren't driven by orders but by a sense of duty and responsibility to the people and the city they serve.



On the other side of the Mediterranean, in the heart of Cairo, life took a terrifying turn when a fire broke out in the Ramses Central Exchange, one of Egypt's largest telecommunication centers. A national crisis unfolded. disrupting communication networks and key sectors in a crowded city where daily life depends on constant work and connection

While fear and panic spread online, with some speaking of a potential collapse, the streets of Ramses , Spain and Portugal told a different story. A story of bravery, duty, and human solidarity. A powerful reminder that our true strength doesn't lie in the systems we build, but in how we hold on to one another when those systems stop working.





AI Decolonization: A New World Order.

MARWAN HOSSAM AHMED - POLITICAL SCIENCE - JUNIOR

At first, this article highlights how AI - far from being neutral often reinforces existing global power imbalances mirroring historical colonial patterns. For instance the vast majority of leading AI companies and research institutions are concentrated in North America and Europe with over 60% of global AI investment flowing into these regions. This creates a “digital dependency” where nations in the Global South such as many African countries or emerging economies in Southeast Asia become consumers of AI technologies developed elsewhere. Their citizens' data from social media interactions to mobile money transactions is often collected and processed by these foreign-owned platforms effectively becoming a raw material extracted for profit and algorithmic refinement without equitable benefit or local control, as this dynamic perpetuates a techno-hegemony where the Global North dictates the terms of the digital future much like colonial powers once controlled natural resources.

Secondly, it delves into the critical concepts of data justice and epistemic sovereignty. Data justice demands a reevaluation of data ownership and benefits for example, consider the vast amounts of biometric data collected in developing nations for digital identity programs often by foreign entities raising questions about consent, privacy, and who ultimately profits from this data. As well epistemic sovereignty on the other hand challenges the dominance of Western-centric knowledge in AI development. We see this in algorithmic biases as: facial recognition systems predominantly trained on datasets of lighter-skinned individuals often exhibit





significantly higher error rates for people of color and sometimes up to 30% more leading to misidentification and wrongful arrests in countries like the US, or ineffective deployment in diverse populations globally. This demonstrates how AI when not informed by diverse cultural and social contexts can perpetuate and even amplify existing societal biases and injustices.



Thirdly, the article outlines a multi-faceted approach to achieving AI decolonization emphasizing policy reform, localized innovation, and shifts in global governance. According to the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) while not explicitly decolonial offers a model for robust data protection and individual rights that other regions are now adapting such as Brazil's LGPD or India's proposed data protection bill aiming to assert greater national control over data. Crucially, localized innovation is emerging in places like Nairobi's "Silicon Savannah" or Lagos's Yaba where startups and research hubs are developing AI solutions tailored to local challenges



such as AI for precision agriculture in Kenya to combat food insecurity, or AI-powered healthcare diagnostics for prevalent diseases in Nigeria. These initiatives aim to build indigenous AI capabilities reducing reliance on external technologies and fostering self-determination. Finally, it envisions a decolonized AI future as a catalyst for global justice and empowerment. As to imagine if AI systems were designed collaboratively with indigenous communities to preserve endangered languages or AI tools developed by local farmers in Southeast Asia to optimize crop yields and manage water resources directly addressing climate change impacts. This requires a fundamental shift from a top-down extractive model to one based on cocreation, equitable data governance, and shared benefits. For instance, initiatives promoting open-source AI models and federated learning could allow data to remain localized while still contributing to global AI advancements and by actively dismantling the colonial legacies embedded within current AI paradigms, we can ensure that the transformative power of AI genuinely serves the collective well-being of all nations fostering a more inclusive and equitable technological landscape for the 21st century.

