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Political Science- Cairo
University

ELITE

FEPS, WHERE ELITES ARE MADE

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 73, OCTOBER 2025 / RABI' AL-THANI 1447 AH

First designed by Dr, Ramy Magdy Ahmed in October 2018



**Our Faculty wins first place in the Government
Excellence Award at Cairo University.**

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AN INTERVIEW WITH H.E. AMBASSADOR MONA OMAR

Farida Ibrahim-Jana Amr-Aliaa Mustafa-Kareem Ashraf

Elite magazine had the honor and privilege of conducting an insightful interview with Ambassador Mona Omar, a distinguished diplomat who dedicated her life in serving her Nation. A remarkable career that resembles a true success story written with her achievements. A prominent figure in diplomacy that has left everlasting marks in advancing Egypt's role on the international stage.

Ambassador Mona is a graduate of the faculty of economics and political science, and throughout her career she has held key positions, including assistant for the foreign minister for African affairs, special envoy of the president to African states, and the secretary general of the national council for women. Most recently, she was elected as a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council's for People of African Descent in Geneva. She has proven through her career that diplomacy extends far beyond foreign policy as it's also a powerful tool to defend human rights and advancing development.

It was our honor to speak with her Excellency

about her inspiring journey and about how diplomacy can serve as a strong instrument for promoting peace and fostering regional and International Corporation.



Q.1) How did your studies at the faculty of economics and political science shape your personality and help refine your diplomatic skills?

My academic experience at the faculty was a key pillar to prepare us for the Foreign Service exams, particularly the written and oral tests. It broadened our minds and equipped us with the needed means to handle the responsibilities and duties of a diplomatic career. Many professors left a great effect on me, among them Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, who taught me African studies and due to his influence, I was convinced that Egypt's future and strategic depth lie in Africa.

this believes guided me throughout my entire diplomatic career from the very start I was keen to work on African affairs even when I was appointed as an ambassador to Denmark , I still requested to be sent instead to Ethiopia, as I said I felt that my true calling was in the African continent , although I eventually served in Europe . I still carried a sense of disappointment because my heart was still tied to the African continent and in this sense the faculty actually had a great impact on shaping my orientation within the foreign ministry itself.



Q.2) What memories from your university years still stand out to you? Was there a particular professor or subject that inspired you personally or professionally?

My time at the university was extremely significant as it was a time of intense political activism under President Anwar Al-Sadat and the aftermath of the 1967 setback. As a university student, we were in a state of

upheaval because Israel was still occupying Sinai. Personally, I was among those who joined the demonstrations outside the University gates, youth were filled with anger and longed for decisive action to end the Israeli occupation and I was actively involved in the political movements at the time.

But our activism did not stop at demonstrations. We still had magazines that we wrote in ourselves. Regular meetings held, and meetings with officials from the socialist union and youth organization. I also immersed myself in every student activity available at the faculty cultural, athletic, artistic, political, and even religious. This environment left a deep Print on me and made me the person I became later on in my life.

As for the professors each of them inspired us on their own way for example Dr. Hamed Rabei was considered one of the intellectual Giants of the faculty at that time. Overall the teaching stuff had significant figures at that time, and I hope that the current generations of students will one day reach the same level of excellence as those professors. As I mentioned earlier, Dr. Boutros Boutros Ghali had a particularly strong influence on me specially through shaping my interest toward Africa, in reality every professor that I studied with had a great role in shaping my path.

Q.3) From your experience building diplomatic relations in post conflict countries such as Rwanda and South Africa. What were the main challenges that you faced in such countries?

The main challenges for me were representing Egypt and safeguarding its interests abroad, while also protecting the Egyptian community, particularly in countries experiencing political crises, such as South Africa and Rwanda.

Another major challenge, central to our mission at the Foreign Ministry, was ensuring the safety of Egyptian nationals living abroad.



In Rwanda, for example, there were violent attacks by Hutu militias on the capital after the Tutsi came to power and formed a national government. These militias, based along the Congolese border, carried out random assaults on the city. I had to prepare contingency plans, such as setting up a large shelter with food and water, coordinating closely with the Egyptian community on how to reach the embassy if violence escalated, and making evacuation arrangements when necessary.

Overall, protecting Egyptian nationals abroad, especially in conflict zones was and remains an absolute priority for us.

Q. 4) With the escalating regional tensions, how do you view Egypt's Role in resolving conflict in mediating across Africa, particularly regarding the crisis in Sudan and the complexities of the grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam?

Egypt's role is multifaceted. The first is the bilateral track, which focuses on strengthening relations at all levels, whether through meetings between Egypt's Foreign Minister and his counterparts or through presidential summits that consistently address regional priorities. Issues such as the Sudanese crisis, the situation in Gaza, and the conflict in Libya have all been central topics in these engagements. In recent years, presidential diplomacy has become more significant. Under President El-Sisi, this direct form of diplomacy has become increasingly prominent, giving Egypt's foreign policy both speed and greater impact compared to its diminished role in the later years of former President Hosni Mubarak.

The second is the multilateral track, where Egypt plays a central role in international and regional organizations such as the United Nations, the African Union, the Arab League, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

In these forums, Egypt has often spoken on behalf of Africa, raising awareness of the severity of conflicts on the continent and advocating for solutions. On Sudan, for instance, Egypt prioritizes halting the flow of arms to militias, supporting ceasefires, encouraging national dialogue, and promoting reconstruction. The same commitment applies to Gaza and other regional conflicts. Egypt's leadership has also extended beyond security matters. President El-Sisi has represented Africa in global climate conferences, highlighting the devastating impact of climate change on the continent, calling for international support, and drawing attention to the link between climate pressures and migration to Europe. This demonstrates that Egyptian diplomacy is not limited to political disputes but also encompasses global issues such as climate change, technology transfer, and sustainable development.

Finally, the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam is one of the most sensitive challenges facing Egypt, as it directly touches on national security. For Egyptians, water security is truly a matter of life and death. While the dam has already been built, the real challenge lies in how it will be managed and operated, particularly during drought periods that could last seven to nine years. With Egyptians already living below the water poverty line, the margin for error is nonexistent.



She emphasized that Egypt has consistently pursued a legal and diplomatic path, calling for a binding agreement with Ethiopia in accordance with international law. Despite its military capabilities, Egypt has refrained from resorting to force. This reflects Egypt's discipline, self-restraint, and respect for its international image. Ambassador Mona affirmed that she fully supports this legal and measured approach, as it both protects Egyptian interests and reinforces Egypt's position on the global stage.

Q.5) How can Egyptian diplomacy preserve its national interests and its historical commitment towards the African continent?

In fact, there is a real connection between the Egyptian national interests and its historical commitment towards the continent, meaning that one of the most significant priorities for Egypt is to develop its relations with the African countries; therefore, Egypt has already been enforcing its obligations in so many ways. For instance, Egypt is not a wealthy country and is going through economic hardships, yet it still finds a way to provide aid to African states, such as sending specialized Egyptian experts. Additionally, Egypt has contributed to the establishment of various universities throughout the African continent. In Rwanda, for example, after the internal war that took place there, we contributed to the establishment of the Rwandan radio station. There are continuous training programs provided by Egypt for media professionals, along with scholarships offered at all Egyptian universities. In addition to the role of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif and its grants and affiliated centers for teaching religion and Islam.

All of these measures are being used as Egyptian tools to enhance its relations with the land and support them, even if Egypt cannot help them financially. Therefore, we can say

that the national interest of Egypt does not oppose its historical responsibilities towards the continent; rather, they are fulfilling each other.



Q.6) As a founder of several civil society organizations, what role do you see civil society playing in driving development in Egypt, especially in the areas of economic and social empowerment?

After finishing my work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (I have retired), I began concentrating on women's issues in addition to the African issues, and I focused on civil society organizations that are related to women. For instance, there is an important organization called "Salma" which aims to combat violence against women. I was a member of the National Council for Women and the head of its Foreign Relations Committee, as well as the Secretary-General of the National Council for Women. The main focus was on civil society organizations related to women, not civil society organizations in general. I affirm that women are half of society and undoubtedly have a significant impact on the other half, as they play an essential role in shaping the whole society. Therefore, there is a strong emphasis on taking care of women, educating them, and guiding them, and we have conducted training courses for women to understand their rights, responsibilities, and the existing laws that address these issues.

Throughout my work in the United Nations in the field of human rights and the people of African origins, there was also an interest in strengthening them in the educational field and granting them higher positions, in addition to the negotiations around giving them compensation. At the Arab level, and keen to ensure the contribution of Arab women in peacemaking and peacekeeping, we established the Arab Network for Women Mediators at the League of Arab States, and I represent Egypt in this network which exists at the level of all Arab countries, and through which we work on qualifying women to have a role in mediation and negotiations in conflicts that may arise in the future.

Q.7) You have assumed the position of Secretary-General of the National Council for Women, and you are also active in many women's empowerment organizations. What are the notable achievements you take pride in within this field?

In fact, the tasks that I have done and what has already been implemented, even during my presidency of the council, cannot be considered individual work. Since the whole council and even the entire country depend on it, I cannot claim all the praise for myself only, and I take pride in everything that has been done so far. Back then, when I was in the council, there was a strong emphasis on topics that concern women's economic empowerment. The council, as a whole, played an exceptionally remarkable role, and this issue was addressed in agreement with the Central Bank and all Egyptian banks. Moreover, there was a training institution dedicated to training women in handicrafts and on how to sell them. We organized exhibitions for them to provide assistance, and there was continuous training known as political training for women to enable them to enter parliament or to participate positively in elections. I take pride in all these aspects, especially as a collective effort we undertook. I am also proud to have been honored by President Abdel Fattah

El-Sisi, who regarded me as a model for Egyptian women during the celebrations of Egyptian Women's Day. Among the positive features of the current Egyptian political system is the emphasis placed on issues that were previously marginalized, notably the achievements made in the field of women's rights.



Q.8) In your opinion, what does the Egyptian woman still lack to achieve true equality in political and economic participation?

For me, I see that what is still missing for the Egyptian woman is education, as education is the basis for everything, and since the educated woman is aware of her duties and rights towards society, she can depend on herself, raise her children, correct their behavior, and properly raise them. In my view, the number of educated girls is relatively small, and women living in what is known as "slum areas" face severe difficulties and issues (problems with their children, neighbors, husbands, and psychological issues). Therefore, the fundamental point and the cornerstone for resolving all these issues unequivocally is education.

Q.9) What advice do you offer to undergraduate students today to maximize the benefits of their years of study, and what are the qualities and requirements of a person capable of joining the diplomatic corps?

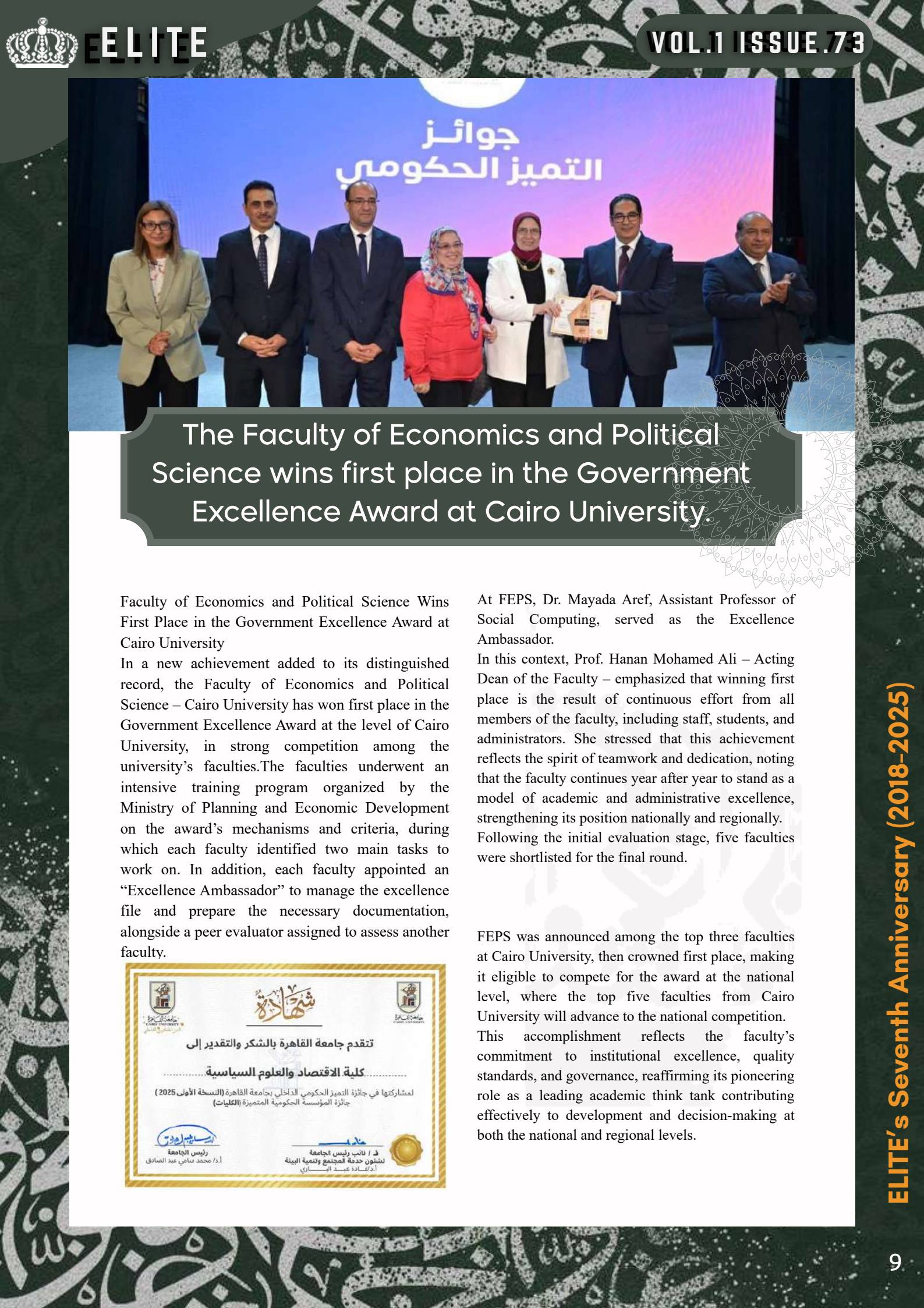


Firstly, and without unnecessary exaggeration, I believe that the Faculty of Economic and Political Sciences is the most salient in universities, since it can broaden the scope of thinking in all aspects of life. A student of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science observes everything happening in the world around, whether from an economic, social, humanitarian, or even political perspective. This exposure assists students enrolled in the faculty to work in various fields, not just in foreign affairs. Some of my colleagues are currently employed in unexpected places; one might work in the parliament or in the media sector. Thus, I was proud to have been a part of this faculty, which has played a significant role in shaping both my character and mindset.

As for the requirements to enroll in the diplomatic corps, the person who seeks to join must be familiar with the necessary subjects to successfully pass the examination. It is important to have knowledge about international law and economics, and to follow up with what is happening in neighboring countries (whether Arab or African). In addition to the language, as it is a very significant factor, it is not only about foreign languages, but also a special care for the Arabic language. Since the instructions directed to me are that if we are in an international forum and speaking as the head of a delegation, I should speak in Arabic. Another salient factor is the character; an individual needs to possess a balanced personality capable of identifying problems and finding solutions. Life within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is not as some may depict it, merely transitioning from one party to another; this is not accurate. A person within the Ministry faces very challenging circumstances on a personal level, whether male or female. Moreover, the Ministry has martyrs who were killed while serving in embassies. There are difficulties, such as the closure of borders

during the coronavirus pandemic, which led to airport closures and a halt in travel. Therefore, an individual must have the flexibility to cope with and adapt to any situation that arises and find solutions and alternatives. It is crucial for someone aspiring to enter diplomatic work to understand that it is not an easy job; it is quite challenging despite the allure surrounding it on the outside. Consequently, the reality during work is entirely different.





The Faculty of Economics and Political Science wins first place in the Government Excellence Award at Cairo University.

Faculty of Economics and Political Science Wins First Place in the Government Excellence Award at Cairo University

In a new achievement added to its distinguished record, the Faculty of Economics and Political Science – Cairo University has won first place in the Government Excellence Award at the level of Cairo University, in strong competition among the university's faculties. The faculties underwent an intensive training program organized by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development on the award's mechanisms and criteria, during which each faculty identified two main tasks to work on. In addition, each faculty appointed an "Excellence Ambassador" to manage the excellence file and prepare the necessary documentation, alongside a peer evaluator assigned to assess another faculty.



At FEPS, Dr. Mayada Aref, Assistant Professor of Social Computing, served as the Excellence Ambassador.

In this context, Prof. Hanan Mohamed Ali – Acting Dean of the Faculty – emphasized that winning first place is the result of continuous effort from all members of the faculty, including staff, students, and administrators. She stressed that this achievement reflects the spirit of teamwork and dedication, noting that the faculty continues year after year to stand as a model of academic and administrative excellence, strengthening its position nationally and regionally. Following the initial evaluation stage, five faculties were shortlisted for the final round.

FEPS was announced among the top three faculties at Cairo University, then crowned first place, making it eligible to compete for the award at the national level, where the top five faculties from Cairo University will advance to the national competition. This accomplishment reflects the faculty's commitment to institutional excellence, quality standards, and governance, reaffirming its pioneering role as a leading academic think tank contributing effectively to development and decision-making at both the national and regional levels.



FROM WELCOME TO EXCELLENCE: A REMARKABLE ORIENTATION WEEK PREPARING STUDENTS TO LEAD THE FUTURE.

Manar Mahmoud- Political Science- Senior

The curtain has fallen on an exceptional and intensive Orientation Week, held from September 20 to 24, 2025, at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science. The week was not merely a set of introductory tours; rather, it was an intensive dose of welcome and guidance carefully designed by the Faculty to immediately integrate new students into academic, political, and economic life at the highest level.

The first day was dedicated to energizing the students. Activities commenced with a comprehensive orientation seminar on student activities offered by the Youth Welfare Department—the lifeblood of the Faculty—delivered by Dr. Nermeen, the Director of Youth Welfare.



She spoke about the department’s role in nominating students for various trainings and job opportunities and explained how students can join the seven activities under its supervision, including the theater team, the scouts, and the sports committee, among others. Representatives of each activity elaborated on its nature, the benefits of joining, and how such activities enhance students’ skills and shape their personalities.



This was followed by a special celebration honoring students who had achieved athletic championships, recognized by Dr. Mamdouh Ismail, Vice Dean of the



Faculty. This tribute reaffirmed that excellence is not confined to academics alone. Dr. Ismail emphasized that this recognition represents an informal announcement of readiness for a new season of activities filled with vigor and passion. The day concluded with a meeting with the Student Union, headed by Bassam Ahmed, who welcomed the freshmen to their “second home.” He highlighted the Union’s role as a bridge between students and the administration, and introduced its activities, with the Summer School standing out as one of the flagship programs.



The second day launched with strong intellectual momentum through a keynote lecture delivered by former Governor of Luxor and former Director of the Morale Affairs Department of the Egyptian Armed Forces, Major General Samir Farag, entitled “Challenges of Egyptian National Security.” His lecture immersed students directly in the heart of strategic thinking. He urged students to have clear goals in life, recounted lessons from a U.S. conference on freedom attended

by former President George W. Bush, and discussed issues such as the Syrian crisis, the occupation of Mount Hermon and the Golan Heights, and the Gaza negotiations. The lecture concluded with a lively Q&A session, where students inquired about ways to develop awareness of national security and avoid blindly following unverified narratives.



The day’s most formal and significant station followed: the presentation of the Faculty’s strategic vision. It began with a welcoming address from the Dean, Professor Hanan Mohamed Ali, who greeted the new students and shared examples of alumni and professors who went on to serve in various ministries. The event also included speeches by the Vice Deans and Heads of Departments, offering advice on balancing academics with extracurricular activities and simulation models.



This session also featured a presentation by the Quality Assurance Unit Coordinator, explaining how curriculum quality is assessed, how results are applied to final examinations, and the importance of student surveys regarding courses and teaching staff. The third day focused on academic and skill-related matters. Students met with Dr. Azza, Coordinator of the Credit Hours System, who demystified the academic structure, including GPA calculation, course add/drop procedures, departmental requirements, minimum annual credit loads, and grading systems.



Another key session was led by the Student Activities Coordinator, highlighting simulation models and initiatives within the Faculty



Representatives of each model introduced their missions, committees, and working languages, while addressing students' questions on participation and opportunities.



The fourth day served as the Faculty's "window to the world." Students met the Library Director, who introduced the vast research resources available, including the digital library, book search tools, and methods for locating theses and dissertations.

This was followed by an important meeting with the Director of the International Cooperation and Exchange Office, who presented opportunities for scholarships and international student exchanges—particularly the Erasmus and Chicago programs—emphasizing their significance for CVs, personal growth, and the role of motivational letters. Alumni who had previously received such scholarships shared their experiences with the new students.



The final day culminated in the intellectual summit of the week: a lecture by Ambassador Mohamed El-Orabi, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, entitled “Egyptian Diplomacy in a Changing World.” The lecture offered an in-depth analysis of core political science themes, such as “no politics without deterrence power” and “politics beyond borders,” situating these within the current global order. He further explored historical turning points—such as the Iranian Revolution, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the U.S. invasion of Iraq—while stressing the vital importance of historical study, especially for political science students.



The week concluded with a guidance session by the Coordinator of the Digital Transformation and Artificial Intelligence Unit, who explained how AI can be harnessed to serve student interests. This was followed by the awarding of prizes for competitions held throughout the week—including cultural, artistic, chess, and tennis events—alongside recognition of the coordinators and organizers.



Orientation Week for the Class of 2025/2026 marked a true turning point. The Faculty administration affirmed that the intensity and comprehensiveness of this week’s program reflect its commitment to providing a distinguished and professional start to the students’ academic journey, equipping them with the intellectual and national awareness required to become future leaders in politics, economics, and statistics.

By the close of the week, students were prepared to embark on their academic journey, armed with a broad vision and deep knowledge, ready to become leaders of tomorrow.



A TEAM OF FACULTY STUDENTS SECURED THIRD PLACE IN THE FINTECH GOT TALENT COMPETITION

Translated by: Latifa ElBaroudi - Political Science - Year 3

Under the auspices of the Central Bank of Egypt, and in collaboration with the Egyptian Banking Institute, the Union of Egyptian Banks, and Banque Misr, students of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science at Cairo University have achieved a new milestone added to the faculty's record.

A team of college students secured third place in the FINTECH Got Talent competition organized by the Central Bank of Egypt, thru their innovative digital agricultural solution named "AgriDawar".

The team participated in the competition among 31 Egyptian universities and managed to achieve this advanced position with merit, reflecting the excellence of the college's students and their leadership in the field of financial technology.

The team will continue its journey by participating in the Arab Fintech Challenge competition held in Dubai, as part of the global GITEX NORTH STAR 2025 exhibition, representing Egypt at the regional level.

The team is under the supervision of Dr. Yasmin Gharib - Assistant Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, and consists of:

1. Osama Amr
2. Rokaya Ashraf
3. Lubna Tarek
4. Zeina Hazem
5. Mazen Salama

This achievement comes under the patronage and support of Professor Dr. Mohamed Sami, President of Cairo University, and the supervision of Professor Dr. Hanan Mohamed Ali, Dean of the Faculty, who always strives to encourage the faculty's students to excel and participate in initiatives and competitions that enhance their academic and practical abilities. Best of luck to our champions in the next stage, and we are always proud of you!





EGYPT AFTER THE IMF: BETWEEN ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND FINANCING RISKS

Farida Horania- Economics- Third year

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international organization that aims to finance countries to improve their economies in exchange for some economic reforms. Egypt has experienced several IMF borrowing experiences, beginning in the 1970s with the aim of stabilizing the economy during the Sadat era. Several subsequent loans followed, the most recent of which was in 2016, when Egypt signed a three-year, \$12 billion economic reform program aimed at addressing the budget deficit, public debt, and stagnant investment. However, one of the most important conditions of this program, in addition to gradually reducing energy subsidies, was the floating of the Egyptian pound, which meant that the value of the Egyptian currency fell significantly against the dollar.



Egypt subsequently turned to the IMF more than once for financial support, but the conditions imposed increased IMF interference in the country's sovereignty and affairs, such as the requirement to sell stakes in Egyptian companies and banks. Furthermore, the reduction in subsidies on some products and the high prices due to rising inflation have angered the population. Egypt will certainly not continue to borrow from the IMF, but what will happen after the end of its reliance on IMF loans? If Egypt decides to stop relying on IMF financing, it will gain financial and economic independence.



The IMF's goal, like painkillers, is to inject significant liquidity into the Egyptian economy, which will revive it for a short period of time and then return to recession. However, if Egypt relies on its own financing or domestic debt, such as bonds and treasury bills, financing will be rapid and the economy will recover in the long run.



Egypt must rely on its own resources to increase foreign exchange, such as the Suez Canal, tourism, increased exports, and remittances from residents abroad. Also, not relying on the IMF will also reduce the cost of external debt and will give Egypt the opportunity to evaluate various sectors of the country and identify areas that need work or improvement, and then develop a long-term plan for the necessary development, instead of only implementing the reforms required by the IMF and neglecting other important aspects...

An example of countries' success without the IMF is Turkey, which relied on the IMF for a long time in the 1990s. However, in 2008, it decided to renew its agreement with the Fund and relied on its own resources to grow its economy. This actually happened, and the Turkish economy and the Turkish lira recovered for a period of time without relying on the IMF until 2015.

However, this decision is not without challenges. The primary challenge facing Egypt is the shortage of hard currency and foreign exchange reserves. There will also be pressure on the exchange rate and inflation, and difficulty attracting foreign investment, as the IMF will scare investors away from investing in Egypt. Credit rating agencies will then downgrade Egypt's rating. Finally, if Egypt decides to separate from the IMF, it must continue with structural reforms, including taxes, spending, and institutional efficiency, increase its exports and foreign investment, and stimulate tourism to increase the hard currency and work to control Inflation, exchange rate, and programs to help the poor and strengthen social protection.





REVISING THE NEW CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE

Latifa ElBaroudi - Political Science - Year 3

The new Criminal Procedure Law has sparked widespread controversy, with supporters and opponents. The parliament issued it on April 29, then sent the draft law to President Abdel Fattah El-Sissi for ratification on August 26. However, the president decided to return the draft law to the parliament for further review and reconsideration of some of its provisions.

In general, the Criminal Procedure Code is an extremely important law as it regulates and specifies in detail the litigation steps that take place from the investigation and arrest of the accused to the trial and appeal, with the aim of achieving criminal justice in the end. Due to the importance of this law, the parliament decided to update it by introducing some amendments to keep pace with the current era, which sees the emergence of new types of crimes, the most famous of which are cybercrimes.

One of the most important points included in the new Code of Criminal Procedure is the protection of the defendant's rights. For example, the law states that it is not permissible to interrogate the defendant

without the presence of a lawyer. If the lawyer is not present, a lawyer will be automatically appointed to represent the defendant, which strengthens the defendant's position in defending themselves with the presence of a lawyer. However, despite this point having a positive aspect for the defendant, the law has confirmed exceptional cases that grant the prosecution the right to interrogate the defendant even if they do not have a lawyer. This applies in certain emergency cases that require immediate investigation. The law also confirmed the invalidity of confessions obtained under torture and indicated the need to set a duration for pretrial detention, providing alternatives such as electronic monitoring. Under certain circumstances, the accused may be granted compensation, ensuring their rights while preventing pretrial detention from becoming an arbitrary measure. The law also indicated an increase in the protection of witnesses, which prevents any concerns they may have. One of the most important points mentioned in the law, which contained some contradictions, is related to the sanctity of the home. The law affirmed the

sanctity of the home and the prohibition of searching houses except by a judicial order. However, at the same time, it expanded some powers of the Public Prosecution, giving them the right in certain cases to issue search warrants even before obtaining the judge's approval. In addition, the law stipulated some procedures that expedite the litigation and trial process, along with adding some amendments to the system of cassation or appeal. As we mentioned, the parliament's desire is to issue a law that keeps pace with the current era, so it has added some provisions related to emerging crimes such as cybercrimes. It has also indicated the introduction of a system for telephone and electronic advertisements by establishing a telephone advertisement center under the Ministry of Justice, which will help speed up the pace of criminal procedures.

So, in general, we can observe the most important amendments and additions emphasized by the new Criminal Procedure Law, which primarily aims to develop and improve litigation procedures while increasing the rights of defendants and, at the same time, expanding some powers of the Public Prosecution.



This law has garnered many opinions among supporters and opponents. We find that the opponents of this law are divided into two categories. The first category opposes the law because they believe that although it grants rights to the accused, these rights remain insufficient, especially since the new rights are met with greater powers for the Public Prosecution, which creates a contradiction. The second category opposing

the law believes that granting more rights to the accused reduces the role of the Public Prosecution and weakens its power.

And it is important to detail these two categories. As for the first category, it represents humanrights defenders and many local and international human rights organizations. This category believes that although the law mentions many rights for the accused, they remain insufficient compared to the powers of the Public Prosecution. As we mentioned, the law gives the Public Prosecution the right to interrogate the accused without a lawyer in special and emergency cases, and this point has faced significant opposition because it contradicts the accused's right to have a lawyer present in all circumstances. Additionally, human rights advocates believe that the detention period remains long despite the law's attempts to amend pretrial detention. In addition to their concerns about some of the broad powers granted to the Public Prosecution, such as the right to monitor electronic communication means and social media accounts, which threatens privacy, one of the most important international human rights organizations that has expressed its concern about these powers is Human Rights Watch. One of the main demands of this opposing faction is the clarity of the legal wording of most articles to prevent any form of ambiguity or confusion when interpreting or applying the provisions of that law, ensuring that the accused are not harmed. Thus, the conflict of the law in some of its provisions regarding the rights of the accused and the powers of the public prosecution has led many human rights defenders to criticize the law, alongside their demands for an increase in the rights of the accused.

As for the second category that also criticized the law, they mostly represent conservatives who believe that the law grants excessive rights to defendants, even tho the law has expanded some powers of the Public Prosecution.



However, this category sees that increasing the rights of defendants in this manner, as we mentioned at the beginning, will hinder and weaken the role of the Public Prosecution. For example, some of them believe that alternatives to pretrial detention could lead to the easy release of dangerous suspects, threatening security and stability. They also see the importance of the lawyer's presence as potentially hindering the investigation process. This opposing group also believes that the excessive rights granted to the accused have diminished the role and authority of the judge in many procedures. For instance, they see the exceptional cases where the judge has the right to interrogate the accused without a lawyer as very few and restrictive for the judge. Therefore, this opposing faction believes that the law has provided excessive protection to the accused.



As for the supporters of this law, although they are a minority compared to the opponents, in general, the supporters believe that on one hand, rights have been granted to the accused, ensuring their protection, and on the other hand, the expansion of the Public Prosecution's powers creates a balance. We find that on one hand, there are more rights for the accused and wider powers for the Public Prosecution, which maintains balance between the two sides. This avoids two very important points from the supporters' perspective: that the Public Prosecution will not overstep or act arbitrarily against the accused because they have rights that protect them, and at the same time, the rights that protect the accused will not hinder the work of the Public Prosecution because it now has wider powers. This ultimately achieves the desired justice from the supporters'

perspective. In addition, supporters of the law see its importance in keeping pace with the developments occurring in the current era, which enables the prosecution and judiciary to better handle legal and technological advancements.



So, it is clear after looking at the opinions of both supporters and opponents of this law, that it represents a controversial law because everyone views it from their own perspective. Some believe that the rights of the accused are still limited and that additional rights should be added, while others think that the law has overstepped by granting too many rights to the accused, which diminishes the role of the prosecution. There are also others who see that the law has achieved a balance between the rights of the accused and the powers of the public prosecution. These highly divergent opinions illustrate the extent of differences in people's viewpoints, which stem from their varying levels of political awareness, legal expertise, and certainly, their differing perspectives on the law.

Supporters of the law are people who seek balance, which they believe is achieved within the framework of that law that balances the rights of the accused and the speed of litigation. Human rights advocates, due to their constant focus on human rights, always strive to increase and guaranty human rights as much as possible in all fields. As for conservatives, they tend to prioritize security and stability, which makes them anxious when the rights of the accused are increased, especially since some of them pose a danger to society, thereby obstructing the administration of criminal justice when the rights of the accused are expanded.



And due to the widespread controversy sparked by the new Criminal Procedure Law, President Abdel Fattah El-Sissi decided to return the draft law to Parliament for reconsideration and review of its articles, especially those that caused the controversy. Among the most important articles that His Excellency the President objected to and called for reconsideration are Article 48, which stated that in some urgent or dangerous cases, the prosecution has the right to take swift actions. Here, the President demanded more clarification on what constitutes a dangerous situation and when cases are exceptional to ensure that this article is not misused. Also, Article 105, which granted the right to investigate without the presence of a lawyer in some exceptional cases, where the President called for more clarification on these cases to prevent any ambiguity or confusion. Regarding Article 112, which pertains to the maximum duration of detention for the accused if their lawyer is not present, the issue with this article is that it does not specify a strict duration, which could delay investigations. Therefore, the president has called for a clear definition of this duration. Additionally, in Article 114, which relates to alternatives to pretrial detention, the president emphasized the importance of clarifying the controls and criteria based on which these alternatives are applied, as they remain ambiguous. So, in general, we notice that His Excellency the President has called for increasing the guarantees provided for the rights of the accused, emphasizing the importance of removing any ambiguity that could lead to multiple interpretations or hinder

implementation on the ground. Additionally, the President pointed out the importance of allowing time for the ministries and relevant authorities to implement the new mechanisms while being well-versed in all provisions of the law, which would lead to the precise application of all its articles and thus ensure criminal justice.

المادة 48 لتحديد المقصود بحالات الخطر المادة 105 لأنها لم تعطى سلطات التحقيق الحق في استجواب المتهم بغير حضور محاميه في أحوال التخوف والخشية من فوات الوقت المادة 112 لتحديد حد أقصى لمدة إيداع المتهم في الحبس إذا تعذر استجوابه لعدم حضور محاميه المادة 114 لإتاحة مزيد من البدائل للحبس الاحتياطي	
المادة 231 للتأكيد على العمل بالإعلان التقليدي في حالة عطل مركز الإعلان الإلكتروني	المادة 123 لعرض المتهم المحبوس احتياطياً على النائب العام كلما اقتضت مدة 90 يوماً على حبسه
مادة النشر بحيث يكون العمل بالقانون بداية من أول العام القضائي وليس من اليوم التالي لتاريخ نشره	المادة 411 لإتاحة الفرصة للمتهم المحكوم عليه الذي يقوم باستئناف الحكم ولم يجر مؤاخذة في نظر استئنافه

And despite the objections pointed out by His Excellency the President, he also indicated that this law has introduced many highly important points, such as financial compensation during pretrial detention under specific circumstances, the possibility of remote trials, witness protection procedures, and international judicial cooperation procedures in criminal matters.



And thru analyzing what His Excellency President Abdel Fattah El-Sissi has done, we find that in the end, he has combined the opinions of both supporters and opponents of that law. On one hand, the president directed several objections to some articles that need review, demanding the removal of any ambiguity in the law's articles. On the other hand, he praised the parliament's efforts to update that law to keep pace with the current era. So we can conclude that the president's objections to some articles and his praise for others are a translation of the voices of both supporters and opponents of the law into tangible presidential decisions on the ground. The president's objections to some articles indicate his responsiveness and understanding of the viewpoint of human rights defenders, particularly international human rights organizations, as well as his responsiveness to conservatives. On the other hand,

his praise for other articles reflects an acceptance of the supporters' viewpoint of the law. Therefore, what the president has done represents a highly important step toward reaching a new criminal procedure law that is acceptable to all parties, as it would be a clear and unambiguous law, achieving a balance between the rights of the accused and the role of the public prosecution, ensuring the effectiveness of investigations and criminal justice. And in the end, we hope that the parliament reaches a new criminal procedure law that achieves those important characteristics we mentioned to ensure the best image of criminal justice in Egypt.





BEYOND THE WESTERN WAVE OF RECOGNITION OF THE PALESTINIAN STATE: A BELATED OR DELIBERATE AWAKENING?

Malak Hossam Eissa - Political Science - Fourth Year



As studied in political science, a state is composed of three main components: territory, people, and sovereignty. Without necessarily forgetting a fourth dimension that is as important as the other three, that of recognition by the major powers, particularly those in the West. Faced with this theoretical concept, the term “state” poses real concerns today, especially when applied to the Palestinian case.

First, we must ask ourselves why this spontaneous shift occurred. What prompted 10 superpowers to affirm their recognition at that particular time?

Being on the right side of history by supporting peace and the protection of non-Western human rights is one of the rare occasions when France appears on the Security Council stage. Regardless of the revolutionary waves within French civil society, the French state, under the presidency of Emmanuel Macron and alongside Saudi Arabia, announced its

recognition of Palestine as an independent state, with borders independent of Israeli hegemony, at the conference of “Conflict Resolution” on Monday, September 22, 2025. France, along with the United Kingdom, Portugal, Australia, Canada, and five other Western states, ostensibly recognized the Palestinian state. This means that they have become completely pro-Palestinian, against the repression of an indigenous people, against regular attacks on civilians, and in favor of total independence. However, we don't always get what we want—that's how these countries think about weaker countries: you can't have everything. This is why some might perceive this recognition as an act of empathy towards civilians who are being killed every minute, out of frustration with the Israeli government's Manichean violence and its repugnant hegemonic policy. Indeed, they see it as nothing more than an act of benevolence, simply



because Palestine has, in fact, lost most of its land—one of the essential components of a state, even more important than the “honorary” title of recognition.

In response, others see it as a collective refusal to be the United States' sheep, to be exploited by a power that tries to make everyone act in favor of its own selfish ends. This latter analysis of the situation is consistent with the 2003 arena, where France refused to follow the United States in its military expedition to Iraq. This makes us notice the American step forward.



We must not be misled by the staging of recognition. Furthermore, with the establishment of the Palestinian embassy in London, the United Kingdom marks a new shift in relation to the State of Palestine, but this does not erase its role in initiating the creation of the State of Israel in Palestine, notably with the Balfour Declaration in 1917. However, this does not prevent us from going further to understand the situation, which is more or less a new proxy war, now being played out diplomatically on the ground to essentially confront multiple powers, including a new reconfiguration of interests, powers, and alliances:

the 10 new countries recognizing the State of Palestine with all the formerly pro-Israel members against two major adversaries – the United States and Israel. If we were to enter a state of cold war, with coalitions perhaps more distinct than before, the world would have had to be divided differently, moving from a unipolar or bipolar world to a more divergent one.

The real question that needs to be asked is this: Are those states that have recently recognized Palestine prepared to defend its borders?





FROM TOKYO TO PARIS TO KATHMANDU: THE FALL OF THREE GOVERNMENTS IN A SINGLE MONTH

Toqa Salah - Political Science - 3rd year

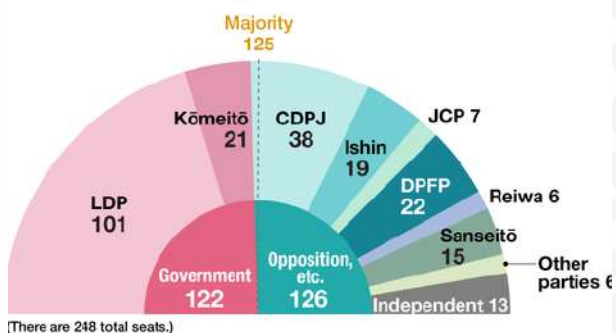
In today's world, nations are often categorized according to multiple criteria - such as democracy and economic development- into classifications like the Global South and Global North, the Third World and the First World, or, more commonly, developed and developing countries. Despite the many differences that exist within each of these categories, it is possible for countries, regardless of classification, to experience similar events that are not only global in dimension but also deeply local in character. This is precisely what happened at the beginning of September, when the governments of three very different states: Japan, France, and Nepal fell within days of each other.

While the reasons for their collapse and the mechanisms of downfall varied, the striking parallel raises an important question: is this merely a coincidence, or does it reflect a broader crisis in the legitimacy of governments and their ability to respond to contemporary challenges? Between the anger of the French parliament, the protests in Kathmandu's streets, and the tense backstage politics in Tokyo, a global scene emerges one that signals turbulence in political authority even in the most established systems, inviting us to reflect on the deeper political meaning of these events.

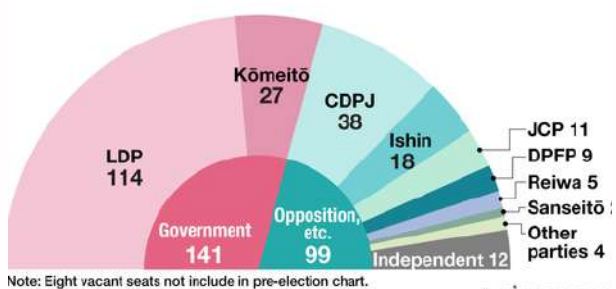


Japan was the first of the three to be swept by this wave. On September 7, Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba resigned under mounting pressure from his own party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), amid growing calls for his departure. This was the result of the July House of Councillors elections, in which the LDP suffered a significant decline in votes, losing its majority even in coalition with the Komeito Party. For the first time since its establishment in 1955, the LDP lost its majority in both houses of parliament, marking its worst setback in 15 years. This left Ishiba vulnerable to increasing pressure from his party members, as his survival in power became tied to securing support from the opposition in order to pass legislation.

2025 House of Councillors Election Post-Election Strength



Pre-Election Strength



His resignation came less than a year after he assumed leadership of the party and just one day before a scheduled party meeting to discuss early elections approval of which would have been tantamount to a formal vote of no confidence. By stepping down

preemptively, Ishiba sought to improve his political standing. Notably, opposition to his leadership came primarily from party factions rather than the public. According to a poll by Mainichi Shimbun, 33% of Japanese citizens supported him an increase of four points and his highest approval since taking office. The boost was largely attributed to a trade deal he struck with the United States in late July -just days after the elections- that reduced U.S. tariffs on Japanese goods from 25% to 15%. This dynamic suggests that party politics abandoned one of its primary responsibilities: to represent the will of the people and protect the national interest. Instead, party rivalry took precedence, subjecting the country to instability driven, in my view, largely by competition among elites rather than public discontent.



The Japanese government did not face popular opposition, yet it nevertheless fell. This stands in stark contrast to what happened in Nepal on September 8, where the government collapsed as a result of mass demonstrations led by Generation Z. The immediate trigger for these protests was, in my view, the proverbial “straw that broke the camel’s back.” The public had already been grappling with multiple challenges, and the government’s decision became the spark that ignited a wave of rebellion and dissent.



The decision in question was the Nepali government’s ban on several social media platforms -TikTok was not among them, as it was officially registered, which in turn enabled young people to mobilize. The government justified the ban on the grounds that these platforms had not complied with new regulations governing their operation. In reality, however, these platforms had served as the primary means through which young people expressed their views, voiced opposition to the government, and displayed their spirit of defiance. The closure was therefore perceived as a deprivation of this essential right, fueling widespread anger among the youth. At the same time, the government pursued this decision with the aim of silencing dissenting voices and preventing unrest. Yet what it sought to avoid, it ultimately provoked. The ban deepened public resentment, particularly as people were already burdened by widespread disorder, corruption, unemployment, poor living conditions, and nepotism. On social media, a trend emerged in which ordinary young people compared their own struggles with the privileges enjoyed by officials’ children known as “nepo-kids.” This comparison not only inflamed public anger but also embarrassed political elites, further intensifying tensions between the government and the people.



What further deepened the crisis was the government’s response to the protests. Rather than absorbing public anger and working to calm the situation, it resorted to violent measures. Security forces deployed tear gas, rubber bullets, and, at times, live ammunition leaving behind fatalities and a significant number of injuries. This escalation of force only intensified the protests and fueled public outrage, culminating in the resignation of Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli. His downfall, however, might have been avoided had the government chosen a more inclusive and participatory approach.



In the aftermath, Sushila Karki a -former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court- was appointed as interim Prime Minister to oversee the transitional period, becoming the first woman in the country’s history to hold the position. The parliament was dissolved, with new elections scheduled for March 5, 2026.

This episode formed part of a broader wave of protests sweeping South Asia, making Nepal the third country in the region in just three years to be shaken by mass popular unrest, following in the footsteps of crisis-stricken Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.



The French government, too, was not spared from public discontent. A protest movement known as “Shut It All Down” emerged, though not in response to repression, as in Nepal, but primarily on economic grounds.



On the very same day, September 8, the parliament passed a vote of no confidence against Prime Minister François Bayrou by 194 votes to 364. It was the first time in the history of the Fifth Republic that the legislature approved a motion of no confidence against a sitting prime minister. Bayrou had been in office for only nine months, making him the third head of government to step down in France within a single year. This turn of events left President Emmanuel Macron with the task of appointing a fifth prime minister in just three years.



The reason behind the no-confidence vote and parliamentary opposition lay in Bayrou’s austerity policies, introduced as an attempt to address the economic crisis that France has been grappling with for several years, compounded by the burden of a growing budget deficit and mounting public debt. Yet the fundamental cause of the government’s collapse was not the austerity measures themselves which were, in essence, remedial but rather the economic crisis for which Macron bore significant responsibility. His first term was marked by the so-called “Macronian” welfare-state policies, which contributed to the crisis, and further complicated matters by dissolving parliament when election results failed to secure a majority for the ruling party. The rerun elections left no single political force with a parliamentary majority, undermining the government’s performance and weakening the prime minister’s ability to govern effectively.



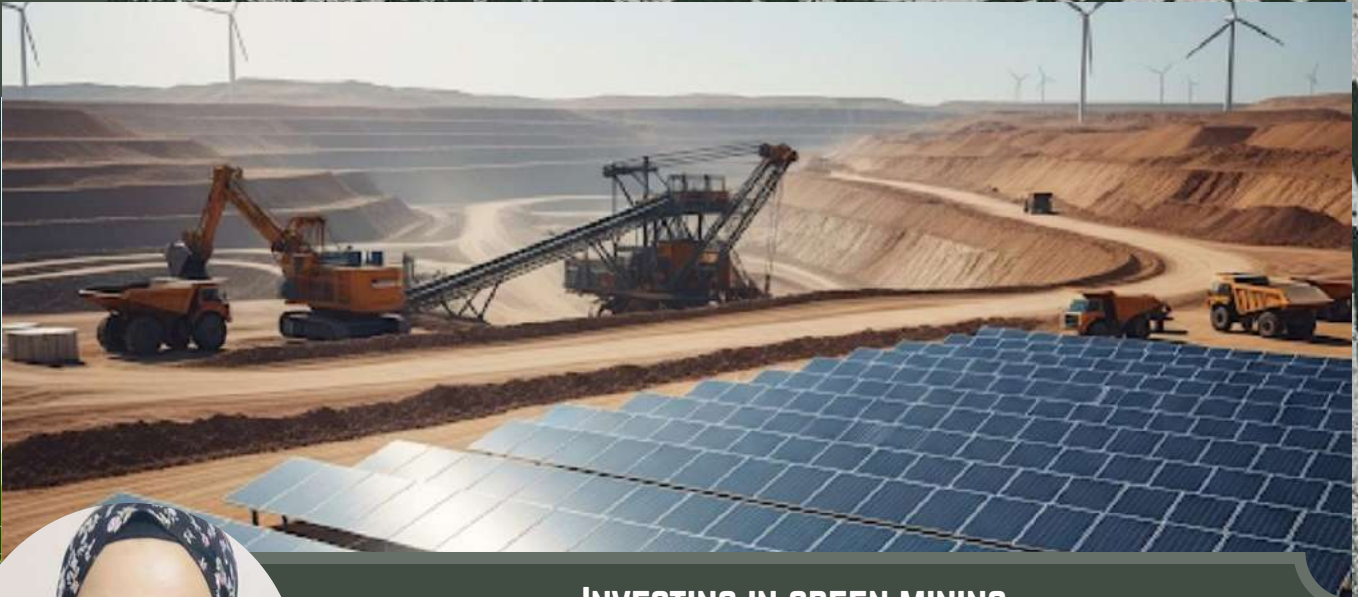
Having reviewed the events in each country separately, it becomes evident that in both France and Nepal, popular will played a decisive role in toppling the government. Social media also proved instrumental in mobilizing the public, with calls for protest circulating as early as July, following Prime Minister François Bayrou’s introduction of the draft budget law for 2026.

What the parliament did in France, however, stands in contrast to the actions of political parties in Japan. In France, the vote of no confidence reflected the will of the people and served as a means to uphold the public interest. In Japan, by contrast, party maneuvering elevated narrow political interests above those of the citizenry.

At the same time, I could not help but draw a paradox between the events of this month and those of the Arab Spring. In the Arab uprisings, countries shared similar mechanisms for toppling their governments, visibly influencing one another in the process. By contrast, the three cases under discussion reveal strikingly different paths to government collapse, each shaped by its own political and social context. Yet despite this diversity of form, the underlying causes converge at a deeper level.

Ultimately, this wave sweeping across governments worldwide raises a compelling question: which government will fall next?





INVESTING IN GREEN MINING- HOW IS EGYPT TURNING ITS DESERT INTO A DIGITAL GOLD MINE?

Maryam Ashraf Azzam

There is no doubt that the mining industry is one of the most energy-intensive sectors and even an impact on the environment,

Egypt stands out as a country with enormous potential to transform its deserts into a global centre for sustainable mining, which will highlight a clear impact of all sectors and activities of the country and its interactions with the rest of the countries.

If we look at the natural and economic potential of Egypt in terms of mineral wealth, we will find that in the first half of 2025 only , the productivity of the “sukkary” mine was 246 thousand ounces of gold, an increase of 9% from the previous year.

Recently, there have been some recent discoveries about the existence of reserves of up to 300,000 ounces of gold in the Afaq region of the Eastern Sahara.

Egypt now plans to increase its gold production to 6 tons within 5 years, through partnerships with international companies such as “Canada's Barrick Gold” and “Anglo Gold Ashanti”.

As for renewable energy, Egypt has one of the largest solar energy potentials in the world, especially in Western Sahara, which was able to

generate 90% of electricity through renewable sources by 2050

As well as the “Benban solar energy project” , which is one of the largest projects in the world, it can be expanded further to support mining operations.

And on the echo of all of the above, Egypt faced many challenges, most notably:

Water consumption, as mining requires large amounts of water for cooling, which is undoubtedly the problem of clearing warning in advance to approach water scarcity.

As well as the availability of infrastructure, Egypt still needs investments in road networks, energy and transport to connect remote mines to urban centres.

Thus, if the use of water-saving technologies such as closed cooling systems and water recycling is considered, it may contribute to solving some of its problems.

looking forward to international partnerships in cooperation with countries such as Sweden and

Australia to transfer green technologies.

And work to establish local refineries such as the "Egyptian Gold Refinery", which will save billions of dollars and end Egypt's dependence on external refining.

And looking forward to successful models, most notably the "State of Sweden", where it reduced carbon emissions by a mark of only 90% using renewable energy.

As well as Mauritania, which aimed to double iron production to 45 million tons annually using clean energy, and developing green hydrogen to support industry.

In particular, South Africa has faced the challenges of illegal mining, but adopts models such as "industrial complexes" to integrate informal labor.

Egypt's Vision 2030 indicated that it seeks to raise the contribution of mining to the GDP to 5-6%, and made the country a regional centre for gold and minerals.

As well as establishing a digital platform for exploration and conducting a comprehensive aerial survey of mining areas.

Finally, we recommend increasing construction for green mining complexes - such as the Dahmit complex in Aswan - which runs on solar energy and accommodates informal labor.

And work to attract foreign investments by providing tax incentives for green projects - as Mauritania did.

As well as enhancing transparency by applying the standards of the Global Transparency Initiative in extractive industries (EITI) to combat corruption.

Trying to exploit artificial intelligence and blockchain technologies to track the production chain and prevent smuggling

Finally, we have to consider the steadfast truth that Egypt has and still has all the ingredients to become a global power in green mining: huge mineral wealth, abundant renewable energy, Success strategies require coordination between the government, the private sector as well as the international community to transform the Sahara into a sustainable “digital gold mine”.

