
THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD IN 21ST CENTURY

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Following the French expedition to Egypt in 1798. The centuries old distributions of power in the middle east was turned upside down. As European supremacy grew a group of Egyptian intellectuals banded together and formed a reactionary movement called “The Muslim Brotherhood”. They aimed to reform society without surrendering religious customs and what ensued was an intellectual battle for national identity that quickly transformed into an armed resistance.

The Muslim Brotherhood, founded in 1928 by Hassan al-Banna, is the world’s most influential Islamist organization. The mission of the Brotherhood is to Islamize society by promoting religious laws, values and morals. To

achieve this goal, it has long combined preaching and political activism with social welfare. The group gained legitimacy among its main constituency, the lower middle class, as the most effective organized resistance against the British occupation of Egypt (1882–1952). The Muslim Brotherhood allied itself with the Free Officers, nationalist military leaders who sought to snatch Egypt into a British-backed monarchy. After the coup that forced King Farouk to lose power in July 1952, the Military Junta, which took over the leadership and the Brotherhood, became rivals. This conflict revolved around power and ideology; The Brotherhood rejected the vision of the Egyptian military as the leader of the socialist, secular, pan-Arab movement. In 1954, a suspected member of the Brotherhood attempted to assassinate Free Officer leader Gamal Abdel Nasser. In response, thousands of suspected brothers were imprisoned.[1] Although Nasser banned the group from governing, the Brotherhood nevertheless became ubiquitous in society, building allegiance as a populist alternative to the Egyptian state, which provided neither prosperity nor prosperity and suffered repeated military defeats by Israel.

Among those arrested was a member of the Brotherhood named Saeed Qutb, who developed a doctrine of armed struggle against the regime in Egypt and beyond while writing from prison. His work has provided the basis for many militant Sunni Islamist groups, including al Qaeda and Hamas. Extremist leaders often refer to Qutb, who was hanged in 1966, arguing that non-Sharia-based governments are apostates and therefore legitimate objects of jihad.

In XXI century, the new constitution, which enshrined Islamic law as the basis for legislation, also caused controversy. Although a similar principle existed in Egypt's previous constitution, the new draft has caused concern among Egyptian liberals on suspicion that the Brotherhood will see it as a license to codify its worldview in law. Many Egyptians also feared insufficient protection of women's rights and freedoms and speech and worship, and distrusted the broad authority given to the president. The constitution was approved by a 64 percent majority in a nationwide referendum, but only a third of the electorate voted.

As millions of protesters took to the streets, the council of the Armed Forces - the same body that ousted Mubarak - issued an ultimatum to Morsi, giving him forty-eight hours to comply with their demands. On July 3, 2013, the SCAF, led by Defense Minister Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, overthrew Morsi and suspended the new constitution.

The following month, security forces reacted harshly to the seats, protesting the coup, killing more than 1,150 protesters, Human Rights Watch found. The main camp, Rabaa al-Adawiya Square, became a cry of protest against the new regime.

Thousands of group leaders and members were imprisoned, while others went into exile. The group's charities have been closed and their assets confiscated. According to Human Rights Watch, Morsi, [2]who has been on trial since his release, died in June 2019 after being denied medical care while being held in solitary confinement. It was the seventh anniversary of his election.

It is said that some members of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood cannot seek a vote because of political or civic participation. Thus, the group could be forced to move in a direction very different from the direction of its branches, many of which participated in parliamentary politics as socially conservative parties.[3]

Qatar and Turkey developed ties with the Brotherhood and its branches, and many members of the Egyptian group in exile settled in those countries. In contrast, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have worked to suppress Brotherhood-affiliated movements, viewing their populist appeals as an ideological rival to their absolute monarchies. They advocate widespread recognition of American terrorism. It views the disparate movements and parties in the region as if they were all part of a monolithic organization, when in fact the influence of the original Egyptian organization on the diffuse network has diminished, officials and experts say.[4]

Following Sisi's visit in April 2019, the White House ordered national security officials to pursue the terrorist appointment of the Muslim

Brotherhood. Even a narrower approach to defining only the Egyptian branch can have far-reaching consequences and provoke legal action. The move, according to former US officials Daniel Benjamin and Jason Blazakis, would subject hundreds of thousands of supporters to potential US sanctions, alienating the UN and the European Union - which have long followed US appointments - and “providing cover for the Sisi government to expand brutal repression.”

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