



## Arab Republic of Egypt

The regularity and richness of the annual Nile River flood, coupled with semi-isolation provided by deserts to the east and west, allowed for the development of one of the world's great civilizations. A unified kingdom arose circa 3200 B.C., and a series of dynasties ruled in Egypt for the next three millennia. The last native dynasty fell to the Persians in 341 B.C., who in turn were replaced by the Greeks, Romans, and Byzantines. It was the Arabs who introduced Islam and the Arabic language in the 7th century and who ruled for the next six centuries. A local military caste, the Mamluks took control about 1250 and continued to govern after the conquest of Egypt by the Ottoman Turks in 1517. Completion of the Suez Canal in 1869 elevated Egypt as an important world transportation hub. Ostensibly to protect its investments, Britain seized control of Egypt's government in 1882, but nominal allegiance to the Ottoman Empire continued until 1914. Partially independent from the UK in 1922, Egypt acquired full sovereignty from Britain in 1952. The completion of the Aswan High Dam in 1971 and the resultant Lake Nasser have altered the time-honored place of the Nile River in the agriculture and ecology of Egypt. A rapidly growing population (the largest in the Arab world), limited arable land, and dependence on the Nile all continue to overtax resources and stress society. The government has struggled to meet the demands of Egypt's population through economic reform and massive investment in communications and physical infrastructure.

Inspired by the 2010 Tunisian revolution, Egyptian opposition groups led demonstrations and labor strikes countrywide, culminating in President Hosni MUBARAK's ouster. Egypt's military assumed national leadership until a new parliament was in place in early 2012; later that same year, Mohammed MORSI won the presidential election. Following, often violent, protests throughout the spring of 2013 against MORSI's government and the Muslim Brotherhood, the Egyptian Armed Forces intervened and removed MORSI from power in July 2013 and replaced him with interim president Adly MANSOUR. In January 2014, voters approved a new constitution by referendum and in May 2014 elected Abdel Fattah EL SISI president. Egypt elected a new legislature in December 2015, the first parliament since 2012.

### Physical Geography

**Official Name:**

**Region:** Northern Africa (Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region)

**Size in Square Kilometers:** 1,001,450 sq km

**Bordering Countries:** Bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Libya and the Gaza Strip, and the Red Sea north of Sudan, and includes the Asian Sinai Peninsula

**Physical Features:** Vast desert plateau interrupted by Nile valley and delta

**Climate:** desert; hot, dry summers with moderate winters

### Cultural Geography

**Population:** 88,487,396 (July 2015 est.)

**Ethnic Groups:** Egyptian 99.6%, other 0.4% (2006 census)

**Official Language:** Arabic

**Other Languages:** English and French widely understood by educated classes

**Capital:** Cairo, 9.1 Million

**Major cities:** Alexandria, 4.5 Million, Giza, 3.6 Million

**Average Quality of Life:** Below Average

### Political Geography

**Founded:** 28 February 1922 (independence from UK protectorate status), note - 3200 B.C. that the Two Lands of Upper (southern) and Lower (northern) Egypt were first united politically

**Type of government:** Presidential Republic

**Country's leaders:**

**President:** Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

**Acting Prime Minister:** Sherif Ismail

**Active Military Personnel:** 438,500

### Economic Geography

**Total gross domestic product (GDP):** \$1.048 trillion (2015 est.)

**Natural resources:** petroleum, natural gas, iron ore, phosphates, manganese, limestone, gypsum, talc, asbestos, lead, rare earth elements, zinc

**Currency:** Egyptian Pound

**Exports:** crude oil and petroleum products, fruits and vegetables, cotton, textiles, metal products, chemicals, processed food

**Imports:** machinery and equipment, foodstuffs, chemicals, wood products, fuels

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**Biggest Trading Partners:**

**Exports:** Saudi Arabia 9.1%, Italy 7.5%, Turkey 5.8%, UAE 5.1%, US 5.1%, UK 4.4%, India 4.1% (2015)

**Imports:** China 13%, Germany 7.7%, US 5.9%, Turkey 4.5%, Russia 4.4%, Italy 4.4%, Saudi Arabia 4.1% (2015)

