

## Egypt's Economic and Social Role in Solving the Middle East Problem

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### *Abstract*

*In this article, the author reflects on the economic and social role of Egypt in solving the Middle East problem.*

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Middle East problem is one of the important issues of Egyptian foreign policy. Since the Israeli-Palestinian problem consists of continuous conflicts, a high level of military-political and social tension can be observed in the area of the armed conflict. From the beginning of the Israeli-Palestinian military conflict to the present day, the main focus of Egyptian diplomacy has been on mitigating the conflict, bringing the parties to compromise, bringing the political peace process to a logical conclusion, and finally establishing peace and stability in the Middle East.

Egypt's active efforts in this regard can be explained by the fact that the conflicts in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf have a negative impact on the economy of all countries in the region, in particular, on the income that Egypt receives through the use of the Suez Canal. In particular, as a result of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, the Suez Canal did not operate for eight years. In particular, the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iraq-Iran war, and the military operations of the coalition forces in the Persian Gulf in order to overthrow the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq in order to liberate Kuwait caused great damage to the Suez Canal.

As a result of the collapse of the bipolar world in the early 90s of the 20th century, the Arab countries lost the economic, political, military and technical support provided by the Soviet Union. Naturally, the USA took the place of "regional sponsor". At the same time, Israel lost its strategic importance as a fulcrum of American policy in the Middle East. One of the events that had a significant impact on international relations in the region was the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. This once again demonstrated the fragmentation and weakness of the Arab world. These created the basis for the strengthening of Egypt's position in the region and the world.

It managed to almost completely restore the status of the leading country of the MAR region. In 1991, the relocation of the headquarters headed by the general secretary of ASU - Egyptian A. Majid from Tunisia to Cairo confirms the above opinion. As a matter of fact, Egypt, which returned to the community of Arab states, preserved the original nature of its foreign policy established during the time of A. Sadat. At the same time, the beginning of the 90s of the last century was characterized by a sharp change in the regional power balance in the Arab world. By this time, the countries of Syria and Iraq, which surpassed Egypt in terms of armaments and had improved missile and missile and impact systems, took a leading position. They also had a large amount of chemical and bacteriological weapons. Saudi Arabia, relying on its financial power, has established another power center.

In the multi-polar system in the Arab world, the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which is fighting for the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state, noted that MAR's activities were limited due to the terms of the 1979 Israel-Egypt agreement and its close relations with the United States. otherwise, it would rely more on Iraq.

In order to increase its regional status in the Arab world and its role in solving the Middle East problem, Egypt began to pay special attention to the improvement of the internal economic environment and the provision of modern weapons to the National Armed Forces, therefore, it entered into closer relations with the United States. Cairo's efforts to establish close cooperation with the Washington administration were also reflected in the Egyptian leadership's approach to the Iraq and Kuwait problem.

During the general meeting held in Cairo in August 1990, H. Mubarak condemned the actions of Iraq and demanded the immediate withdrawal of troops from the territory of Kuwait. The opinion put forward by Egypt was approved by the majority of ADU members. During the military operation against Iraq, an alliance of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia was formed among

the Arab states led by Cairo.

In September 1995, Cairo signed an interim agreement under the Oslo Process (Oslo-2), which provides for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank of the Jordan River and the holding of elections for the presidency of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian Council. After E. Barak came to power in 1999, Israeli-Palestinian negotiations continued, but only one Memorandum (1999) was signed between the parties.

The leadership of MAR is deeply aware that Israel will become the main rival of Egypt in the struggle for leadership in the region after reaching an agreement with the Arab countries. On the other hand, according to Egyptian politicians, when relations with neighboring countries improve, Israel will be deprived of the attention shown by the United States, naturally the financial support provided will be put to an end, and the main attention will be focused on the Arab world, first of all on Egypt. . This can be explained by MAR's active participation in multilateral negotiations aimed at solving the Middle East problem.

It has a firm approach that is fundamentally different from Israel's approach. In the 1990s and early 2000s, Egypt put forward demands such as ridding the Middle East of all forms of the OQQ, preventing an arms race in the region, and transitioning to greater transparency in the military sphere. According to the official statement of the MAR, after the completion of these activities, Egypt will begin to reduce chemical and conventional weapons. Cairo has expressed its readiness to sign the Convention on the Limitation of Chemical Weapons on the condition that Israel joins the NPT and places its nuclear reactors under IAEA supervision. This situation is causing tension between Israel and Egypt. In 1995, during the visit of Sh. Peres to Cairo, H. Mubarak announced that he would abandon this document if it was not signed by Israel. Tel Aviv, in turn, accused Cairo of hindering the improvement of relations with Arab countries. In March 1995, Israel announced that it agreed to sign the JCPOA, demanding that all Arab states and Iran sign a peace treaty with Israel in return. The United States, in turn, puts pressure on Egypt and emphasizes that the provided financial assistance depends on the fulfillment of the terms of the Agreement. The Arab countries led by Egypt demanded the adoption of a UN resolution obliging Israel to sign the JCPOA, as a result of which this resolution was adopted. But under the pressure of the United States, it is called to join the agreement without mentioning Israel.

In 2000, due to the emergence of new crises in the Palestinian territory, Egypt began to demand the restriction of economic relations with Israel. Given Israel's lack of energy supplies, Egypt could damage its economy by cutting off its oil supply. However, in this regard, MAR could not leave the framework of the Camp David Agreement, which was signed under the guarantorship of the United States, which is its main financial provider. For this reason, it was inevitable that the Egyptian economy would suffer from these restrictions, at least due to the reduction in the number of Israeli tourists.

An example of this is the "Peaceful Summit" held in Sharm al-Sheikh in March 1996 in connection with a number of terrorist actions carried out in Israel in order to disrupt the peace process.

After Tel Aviv once again rejected the principle of "Peace in exchange for land", an extraordinary summit of the ASU was held on the initiative of Egypt in June 1996. This meeting once again confirmed MAR's leadership status in the Arab world. This can be seen in the fact that the Arab leaders gave H. Mubarak the authority to establish dialogues aimed at establishing

the negotiation process. Egypt has participated in almost all the meetings of the countries involved in the conflict. After all, Yo. Each time Arafat visited Cairo to receive H. Mubarak's recommendations and instructions before the negotiations with Israel.

H. Mubarak, "peace is everyone's strategic will", he said many times that the Palestinian problem can only be solved with the participation of FOT and Y. Arafat personally, in the words of the Egyptians. emphasized. In turn, among the leaders of Israel, Y. Arafat was recognized as "the main problem of the Jewish people", however, the death of the leader of the Arab-Palestinian liberation movement in 2004 did not allow to move the strategic situation in the Middle East in a positive direction.

In April 2001, a joint Egyptian-Jordanian peace initiative was launched, according to which Israel would withdraw from the besieged Palestinian territories, return its troops to the positions they occupied by October 2000, and establish settlements. it was necessary to put an end to their work. In response to this, it is planned to restore cooperation in the field of security with FOT Israel. Cairo and Oman expressed confidence that the negotiation process between the parties will be launched by a certain period of peace.

Egypt's "H. Mubarak Plan" was mutually agreed upon with Arab countries, according to which, in early 2003, the establishment of a Palestinian state in the territory of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank of the Jordan River of the Palestinian National Authority. is held in The new independent state, in the first stage, should cover 42% of all the territories of Palestine occupied by Israel in 1967, and in the next stage, the negotiation process between the parties should begin. After that, according to the "H. Mubarak plan", Palestine will become an equal member of the UN, and the Israeli military will continue to occupy the Gaza Strip and G. It was intended to leave the rest of the West Bank, that is, to return to the state borders that existed before November 4, 1967. At the same time, the issue of holding elections to legislative bodies was included in the plan.

In June 2002, during H. Mubarak's visit to the USA, the plan presented to the head of state was not positively evaluated. The process of negotiations between the leaders of the two countries showed that there are serious differences in approaches to solving the Middle East crisis. The main point of contention was the US rejection of the idea of a short-term peace process put forward by Egypt, as well as the issue of reforming Palestinian governance structures between the MAR and the US. At a time when MAR has been consistently protecting the right to determine the period of reforms, taking into account the identity and composition of the Palestinian people, the United States has openly expressed its lack of confidence in Y. Arafat's activities in this field.

An example of Egypt's latest efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict is the extraordinary session held in Cairo on December 31, 2008, with the participation of foreign ministers of the ASU member states. This meeting was devoted to the discussion of the situation in Gaza in connection with the start of the Israeli military operation "Cast Lead", which was carried out by the members of MAR and ADU on the end of the war in Gaza. was the result of negotiations in the circle. Judging by the information disseminated by the mass media, it can be seen that Tel-Aviv is satisfied with the process of negotiations organized through the mediation of Egypt. Thus, on January 19, 2009, Israel stopped the "Cast Lead" military operation.

In general, Egypt has been pursuing a purposeful and active foreign policy aimed at solving the Middle East crisis related to the ongoing military conflict between Israel and the FMM for many

years. In particular, even after the signing of the peace treaty with Israel (the period of activity - 1979-1989), in the conditions of the policy of the Egyptian President A. Sadat, and in the form of public policy and public institutions of Cairo, exactly corresponding to and replacing the League of Arab States. has sought to actively participate in peace processes with its efforts to create a structure.

It is worth noting that Egypt relies on the cooperation of many states and international organizations, such as the USA, France, RF, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, ADU, ICT mediators, while conducting its peace-loving policy. At the same time, despite the objections of Egypt, some Arab countries and Palestinian military organizations, it regularly conducts dialogue with Israel in this field. A process of constant dialogue with the FOT based on political and expert recommendations has been established.

Despite the above, it can be concluded that MAR will continue to contribute to the effective resolution of the Middle East problem in the future. This can be seen in the example of the initiative put forward by Egypt and France on January 6, 2009, which allowed the conflicting parties to compromise.

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