

Egypt's National Revolution vs. Lebanon's Sectarian Politics

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A Lebanese citizen would feel ashamed watching the democratic scene [unfold in Egypt yesterday](#) [June 30].

About This Article

Summary :

Unlike in Lebanon, Egypt is trying to bring down the rule of the Muslim Brotherhood and achieve freedom without making accusations of treason against the opposing camp.

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The [Protest] Squares and the Religious Banner. Between Egypt and Lebanon

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The Egyptians have put their political differences aside and expressed their deep faith in democracy, their right to hold different opinions, and to have a better future. Millions of Egyptians called for bringing down the regime, while the Islamists called on the regime to maintain its one-party rule, which has proven to be a threat to Egypt's present and future.

Yesterday, one more time, the Lebanese myth has fallen: the myth of Lebanese sophistication, their deep faith in democracy, their attachment to freedom, and their rejection of sectarianism, which determines their political positions in a small state paralyzed by the tyranny of a political class equipped with the deadly sectarian weapon.

The Egyptian people went out to the streets, stressed national unity, called for the fall of a government that raised Islamic banners, and asserted that the nation and the people are in danger. Islam is not in danger by those millions of citizens who asserted that "love of country is part of religion" and that Islam requires them to reject an unjust ruler, who will not be protected by religious appearances. The [Muslim Brotherhood](#) used those appearances to monopolize power and control the fate of a people who have brought down tyranny once and will bring down the tyranny that replaced it and imposed a new constitution through a questionable referendum.

Meanwhile, Lebanon is in turmoil. It is in the middle of a political conflict with a sectarian appearance. Some countries are using this conflict to achieve their interests at the expense of Lebanese unity, security, and livelihood. The Lebanese state is crippled and threatened with extinction.

Lebanese immunity has weakened to such a degree that a sermon by a thoughtless and [opportunistic cleric](#) was enough to shake the country's security and cause the death of several army soldiers as they tried to wrest control

of the [security perimeter](#) set up by that cleric with the encouragement and support of Lebanese politicians.

In Cairo, Alexandria, al-Mahalla, Suez, and Upper and Lower Egypt, the masses were in two camps with conflicting slogans and objectives. The majority called for bringing down Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood "president," while the ruling party raised Islamic slogans to defend a regime that doesn't reflect Egypt's spirit and has no program to revive the country, yet insists on monopolizing power, despite its internal, regional and international failures.

Despite this sharp division between Egypt's two camps, neither side accused the other of apostasy or treason. The duel was confined to condemning the regime's factionalism, dictatorship and inability to manage national affairs in a way that achieves Egyptian aspirations to freedom. Egyptians want a government that is free from the influence of the Arab oil rulers and US interests, which are all about Israeli security as the latter gobbles up Palestinian lands while the Egyptian government is busy with something else.

What is happening in Egypt is being reflected all over the Arab region, especially on the Islamic movements, both those in power and those fighting to reach it by opposing the nationalist and progressive trend among the Arab youth. It is the battle of political Islam in its quest to reach power, not only in Egypt but in all the region.

The fall of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt will harm the various parties and organizations that raise the slogan of "Islam is both religion and state" and consider other Muslims who oppose their views as apostates, let alone the followers of other religions, particularly Christians.

In Lebanon, if we believe the charges of treason that the Lebanese politicians hurl at each other, then we conclude that all politicians are collectively conspiring against the people's unity, the state and its institution, including the remaining symbols of legitimacy such as [the parliament](#) and the army. As a result, Lebanese institutions may be permanently damaged.

Despite their polarization, we hope that the great Egyptian people maintain their national unity as they fight a rule that carries religious slogans but follows an American orientation. After one year in power, the Muslim Brotherhood has governed Egypt contrary to the wishes of most Egyptians.

In Lebanon, the political class is behaving as if the unity of the people is an enemy and that the state is a war booty. But the Lebanese regime will survive because it has "gods" protecting it, even if its "subjects" go to hell.