Egypt (Misr)
Where the Future Meets the Past

Presented By: Hatem Seliem
Doctoral Student & Graduate RA
Civil Engineering Department, NCSU
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I. General Information

Name: Arab Republic of Egypt
Capital: Cairo (founded 969 A.D.)
Location: Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, north of Sudan, and includes the Asian Sinai Peninsula
Area: 1,001,450 sq km (≈ 387,000 sq miles)
Population: 77,505,756 (July 2005 est.)
Religion: Muslim 94%, Coptic Christian and other 6%
Language: Arabic (official), English and French widely understood by educated classes
II. Background

"Egypt is the gift of the River Nile"

Herodotus, the great Greek historian, on his only visit to Egypt. The regularity and richness of the annual Nile River flood, allowed for the development of one of the world's great civilizations.

- The longest river in the world (6695 km, 4184 miles)
- The Nile gets its name from the Greek word "Nelios", meaning River Valley.
- The Nile and its tributaries flow though nine countries.
III. Time Line of Egyptian History

Yet, Egypt kept its cultural peculiarity which historians divide into:

1. Pharaonic Era,
2. Greek Era,
3. Roman Era
4. Coptic Era,
5. Islamic Era, and
6. Modern Era
Pharaonic Era

Dates back to 3000 years B.C. till Alexander the Great conquered Egypt in 323 B.C.

Historians divide the Pharaonic Era into three successive divisions: Old Kingdom, Middle Kingdom and Modern Kingdom. The Pharaonic Era is thus divided into thirty dynasties

- Ancient Age (Dynasties I & II)
- Old Kingdom (Dynasties from III to VI)
- The First Middle Age (Dynasties from VII to X)
- The Middle Kingdom (Dynasties XI & XII)
- The Second Middle Age (Dynasties XIII, XVII)
- The Modern Kingdom (Dynasties XVIII, XX)
- The Late Age (Dynasties XXI to XXX)
Alexander the Great conquered Egypt in the year 332 B.C. and expelled the Persians out of Egypt. A new capital for Egypt named after him as “Alexandria”.

Egypt under the Ptolemies (323 B.C. - 30 B.C.)
- After Alexander's death, Egypt was ruled by his general, Ptolemy who founded the Ptolemic Dynasty that reigned from 323 B.C. to 30 B.C.
- Rome soon stepped in, putting an end to the Ptolemic rule during the reign of Cleopatra in 30 BC.
- The Ptolemies established in Alexandria a large library, which was considered the greatest in the world at that time. The Library contained more than 500,000 papyrus rolls and more than 700,000 books.
Roman Era

In 30 BC, Egypt was conquered by the Romans

- Due to its unique geographical position, the fertility of her land and cultural and urban development, Egypt was regarded as the most precious property of the Roman Empire.
- The Egyptian capital, Alexandria, was particularly the largest trading and industrial centre in the east Mediterranean and the second city of the Roman Empire.
- Alexandria University maintained its position as a centre of scientific research and a seat of learning for scholars from all parts of the world, during the Roman era in Egypt.
Coptic Era

- Christianity entered Egypt in the half of the first century A.D. When Saint Mark entered Alexandria in 65 A.D.
- The first Coptic Church was established in Egypt at the end of the third century A.D.
- The Coptic architecture flourished in this period where the churches, established in the fifth century A.D. were a model of the Coptic art and architecture.
- The ancient Egyptians knew music, the Copts composed melodies similar to that of the ancient Egyptians and up till now melodies in the Coptic Church still have their Pharaonic names as Singari and Itribini.
Islamic Era

- In 640 A.D., Amr bin Al-As conquered Egypt and he besieged the Fortress of Babylon till the surrender of the Byzantine forces there in 641 A.D.
- Amr Ibn el-Aas built the first mosque in the country.
- The Islamic era in Egypt was generally the golden age for arts and architecture.

- Islamic Ruling Periods
  - Rule of the Ummayads about 655 A.D.
  - Rule of the Abbassys about 750 A.D.
  - Rule of the Tullunids 870 A.D. to 910 A.D.
  - Rule of the Ikhshids 935 A.D. to 970 A.D.
  - Rule of the Fatimids 970 A.D. to 1170 A.D.
  - Rule of the Ayubids 1170 A.D. to 1250 A.D.
  - Rule of the Mamluks 1250 A.D. to 1510 A.D.
  - Rule of the Ottomans 1510 A.D. to 1806 A.D.
Modern Egypt

- **Muhammad Ali** is truly considered the founder of Modern Egypt.
- Muhammed Ali family ruled from 1806 A.D. to 1952 A.D.
- British Occupation 1882 A.D. to 1956 A.D.
- **Republic**: 1952 to present (July 23, 1952 Revolution)
  - Gamal Abdel Nasser, 1954 to 1970 (leader of the revolution)
    - *The Aswan High Dam was completed* (1960-1970)
    - *June 5, 1967 Israel occupied Sinai*
  - Anwar El Sadat, 1971 to 1981
    - October 6, 1973, both Egyptian and Syrian armies simultaneously launched a battle for liberating Arab lands from Israeli occupation.
    - Peace treaty with Israel (Camp David Accord) in March 26, 1979,
    - April 25, 1982, Israel withdrew its forces from Sinai.
  - Hosny Mubarak, 1981 to present
IV. Education

- Public Universities, (Free Education)
  - Cairo University, 1908
  - Alexandria University, 1942
  - Ain Shams University, 1950
  - Assiut University, 1957
  - Tanta University, 1972
  - Mansoura University, 1972
IV. Education (Contd.)

- Zagzig University, 1974
- Helwan University, 1975
- Minia University, 1976
- Menofia University, 1976
- Suez Canal University, 1976
- South Valley University, 1976
- El-Azhr University
IV. Education (Contd.)

- Private Universities,
  - American University in Cairo (AUC), 1919
  - 6 October University
  - German University in Cairo (GUC)
  - L'Université Française d'Egypte
  - Modern Sciences & Arts (MSA) University
  - Ahram Canadian University
IV. Education (Contd.)

- Arab Academy for Science & Technology and Maritime Transport, 1955
- Misr University for Science & Technology, 1996
- International Academy for Medical Science
- Modern Academy in Maadi
- British University in Egypt, 2006
Cairo University

- Officially inaugurated on December 21, 1908.
- 23 faculties and institutes.
- 155,000 students
- 3,158 faculty members

Princess Fatma Ismail
V. Women

The women in Egypt now represent 27% of the diplomatic corps personnel, and the Egyptian woman now enjoys full political rights since the year 1956.

- **Pre-University Education:** Total number of students enrolled in the pre-university education in 2004/05 reached around 16.3 million students of which females accounted for about 49%.

- **University and Higher Education:** Total number of enrolled students in the university and higher education in 2004/05 reached around 2.02 million students, of whom females account for around 49%.
VI. Tourism in Egypt

No country on earth boasts a longer recorded history than does Egypt

Tourism is an essential pillar of economic activity and its revenue represents about 25% of Egypt’s foreign currency income

- Numbers of tourists for the year 2003/2004 reached 5.8 millions
- Touristic revenues in 2003 /2004 amounted to $4250 million
- Egypt has it all:
  - Cultural Tourism
  - Recreational Tourism
  - Religious Tourism
  - Environmental Tourism
  - Sports Tourism
  - Conferences Tourism
  - Safari Tourism
Cultural Tourism

- Considered to be the traditional kind of tourism in Egypt.
- Egypt embraces several Pharaonic, Greek, and Roman historic antiquities and museums.
- Started since the discovery of ancient Egyptian antiquities and the decipher of the hieroglyphics.

- Luxor, Aswan, and Giza are the most famous cities with Pharaonic monuments.
Religious Tourism

- **Islamic Monuments:** Mosques, Fortresses, and Museums.
- **Coptic Monuments:** Churches and Monasteries.
- The advent of the **Holy Family** to Egypt, seeking refuge, is an event of the utmost significance in Egypt’s long history.
Religious Tourism (Contd.)

Mohamed Aly Mosque, Cairo, 1857

El Azhr Mosque, Cairo, 971 A.D.
Egypt has a wide range of beaches situated on the Mediterranean and the Red Sea that extend to over 3,000 km. Sharm el-Sheikh, Hurghada, Dahab, Ras Sidr, Marsa Alam, Safaga, and the northern coast of the Mediterranean are major tourist's destinations of the recreational tourism.
Safari Tourism

- Egypt is famous for its deserts and mountains that offer an adventurous experience.
- Tourists are usually escorted by a tour guide who sets up a tent, a bonfire and arranges Bedouin activities such as dancing, milking a cow or a goat, henna application and much more.
- There are several Safari destination in Egypt such as Sharm El-Sheikh, Hurghada, Marsa Alam, and Safaga.
VII. Famous Cities

Egypt consists of 26 governorates (cities)
Egypt is divided into three zones:
Nile Delta
Middle Egypt
Upper Egypt
Cairo
Cairo is the only city in the world that hosts antiquities of four civilizations: Pharaonic, Romanian, Christian and Islamic.
Cairo
Alexandria
Alexandria

The largest port in Egypt and the greatest summer resort in the Middle East. Named after Alexander the Macedonian who ordered its foundation in 332 B.C.

Montazah Palace, 370 acre, 155 hectar
Luxor

Luxor is the world's greatest open-air museum, filled with the awe-inspiring monuments of ancient civilization. It contains nearly one-third of the world's antiquities.
Aswan
Aswan is considered the most beautiful winter resort in Egypt,
Sharm El-Sheikh is always referred to as the "Land of Peace" as many political, scientific and tourist conferences and meetings were held over its land.
Hurghada

The clarity of its water made it a centre of tourist attraction especially for divers and practicing water sports because of the worldwide fame of its coral reefs and rare marine life it enjoys.

There are about 24 isles possessing a plant and ecological environment on the surface.
 VIII. Landmarks of Egypt

1. Egyptian Museum
2. Suez Canal
3. Bibliotheca Alexandria
4. October War Panorama
5. High Aswan Dam
Egyptian Museum

- The Egyptian museum in Cairo was established by the Egyptian government in 1835.
- The present museum building was built in 1900, in the neo-classical style by the French architect Marcel Dourgnon.
- The museum exhibits collections now exceed 120,000 objects ranging from prehistoric era to the Greco-Roman period.
- A new grand museum will be constructed on 120 acres, 2 km from the legendary pyramids.
Suez Canal

On November 17, 1869, the Canal was officially inaugurated by Khedive Ismail in an extravagant and lavish ceremony.
Bibliotheca Alexandria

The old library was burned down more than 1600 years
October War Panorama

This is the October War Panorama a unique cultural, artistic and architectural achievement. Moreover, it is a major tourist attraction.

The Panorama has been set up to immortalize Egypt's triumphant war of October 1973
High Aswan Dam

- High Dam was an engineering miracle when it was built in the 1960s.
- The Dam is 11,811 feet long, 3215 feet thick at the base and 364 feet tall.

When the Aswan high dam was built, the entire Temple of Abu Simbel was shifted, so it wouldn't be flooded and destroyed when Lake Nasser filled up.
IX. ESANA

Egyptian Student Association in North America
(ESANA)

www.esana.org

ESANA has four goals:
- Union Goal
- Promotional Goal
- Political Goal
- Scientific Goal

ESANA Projects:
- Book Campaign
- Study in North America (SINA)
- ESANA Link
- ESANA Research Support (ERS)
Resources

• Egypt State Information System (www.sis.gov.eg)
• Egyptian Ministry of Tourism (www.touregypt.net)
• Egypt Tourism Net (www.tourism.egnet.net)
• Dive the Red Sea (www.sinaidivers.com)
Egypt is in our Hearts and Minds