

FOREIGN INTERFERENCE, MILITARY AID TO EGYPT, AND THE FUTURE OF US-EGYPT RELATIONS

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Abstract

Foreign interference in the affairs of sovereign states, particularly through military aid, has been a longstanding feature of international relations. In the case of Egypt, military aid from foreign powers, notably the United States, has played a significant role in shaping domestic politics, security dynamics, and bilateral relations. This article provides an analytical examination of foreign interference and military aid to Egypt, with a focus on its implications for the future of U.S.-Egypt relations. Through a comprehensive review of literature and analysis of recent developments, this article argues that while military aid has bolstered the strategic partnership between the United States and Egypt, it has also fueled tensions, raised human rights concerns, and contributed to regional instability. Looking ahead, the future of U.S.-Egypt relations will be shaped by a complex interplay of geopolitical dynamics, domestic politics, and evolving security challenges, requiring a nuanced and strategic approach to navigate.

Keywords: *Foreign Interference, Military Aid, Egypt, U.S.-Egypt Relations, Geopolitics.*

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1. INTRODUCTION

Foreign interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign states, whether through military aid, political support, or economic assistance, has long been a contentious issue in international relations. In the case of Egypt, foreign powers, particularly the United States, have wielded significant influence through military aid, shaping domestic politics, security dynamics, and bilateral relations. This article provides an analytical examination of foreign interference and military aid to Egypt, exploring its implications for the future of U.S.-Egypt relations, Sharp (2020).

2. FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND MILITARY AID TO EGYPT

Foreign interference in Egypt's affairs, particularly through military aid, has been a defining feature of the country's modern history. Since the signing of the Camp David Accords in 1978, Egypt has been a major recipient of military assistance from the United States, receiving billions of dollars in aid annually. This military aid has been justified on strategic grounds, aimed at bolstering Egypt's capabilities to maintain stability, combat terrorism, and safeguard regional security, Kirkpatrick (2018).

However, military aid to Egypt has also had unintended consequences, fueling tensions, perpetuating authoritarianism, and contributing to human rights abuses. The Egyptian government, led by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, has been accused of using military aid to suppress dissent, crackdown on political opposition, and undermine democratic institutions. Also, Egypt's military aid has raised concerns about its role in regional conflicts, including its involvement in the conflict in Yemen and its blockade of Gaza, exacerbating tensions and instability in the region, Hamid (2016).

3. IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S.-EGYPT RELATIONS

The future of U.S.-Egypt relations will be shaped by a complex interplay of geopolitical dynamics, domestic politics, and evolving security challenges. While military aid has traditionally served as a cornerstone of the strategic partnership between the United States and Egypt, it has also become a source of tension and contention in bilateral relations. The United States faces pressure to balance its strategic interests in maintaining stability and combating terrorism with its commitment to promoting democracy, human rights, and rule of law, Lynch (2022).

Additionally, the rise of new regional dynamics, including the supposed normalization of relations between Israel and some Arab states before the October 7th massacre and genocide of Gaza by Israel, the conflict in Libya, and the ongoing crisis in Syria, will further complicate the U.S.-Egypt relationship. Egypt's role in these regional conflicts and its alignment with other regional powers will influence its relations with the United States and shape the broader geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, Alterman (2015).

Foreign interference and military aid to Egypt have profound implications for both domestic politics and regional dynamics. Domestically, military aid has historically reinforced the power of Egypt's military establishment and contributed to the entrenchment of authoritarian rule. The Egyptian military, as a key recipient of U.S. military aid, has played a central role in politics, governance, and the economy, exerting significant influence over decision-making processes and shaping the country's trajectory. Besides, military aid has enabled the Egyptian government to maintain a strong security apparatus, suppress dissent, and consolidate power, undermining prospects for political reform and democratic transition, Tadros (2017).

Furthermore, military aid to Egypt has had implications for regional security and stability. Egypt, as a key regional actor, plays a critical role in addressing security challenges, combating terrorism, and maintaining stability in the Middle East. However, the Egyptian government's use of military aid to suppress political opposition, crackdown on civil liberties, and engage in regional conflicts has raised concerns about its commitment to human rights, rule of law, and democratic governance. Likewise, Egypt's involvement in conflicts such as the Yemeni civil war and its blockade of Gaza have exacerbated tensions and contributed to regional instability, undermining efforts to promote peace and security in the region, Aboueldahab (2019).

In the context of U.S.-Egypt relations, military aid has been a double-edged sword, serving as both a tool for cooperation and a source of tension. While military aid has historically bolstered the strategic partnership between the United States and Egypt, it has also raised human rights concerns and fueled criticism from civil society organizations, human rights activists, and members of Congress. The provision of military aid to Egypt has become a contentious issue in U.S. politics, with calls for conditioning aid on improvements in human rights, democratic governance, and respect for civil liberties, Dunne & Ellis (2019).

In addition, the future of U.S.-Egypt relations will be influenced by a range of factors, including evolving security challenges, domestic political dynamics, and changes in the regional landscape. The Biden administration's approach to Egypt is likely to be shaped by its broader foreign policy priorities, including its commitment to human rights, democracy promotion, and multilateralism. However, the on-going genocide in Palestine, the so-called normalization of relations between Israel and some Arab states, the conflict in Libya, and the crisis in Syria will further complicate U.S.-Egypt relations and shape the broader geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, Cook (2017).

4. CONCLUSION

Foreign interference and military aid to Egypt have profound implications for the future of U.S.-Egypt relations and the broader geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. While military aid has bolstered the strategic partnership between the United States and Egypt, it has also fueled tensions, raised human rights concerns, and contributed to regional instability. Looking ahead, the United States must adopt a nuanced and strategic approach to its relations with Egypt, balancing its strategic interests with its commitment to promoting democracy, human rights, and stability in the region. By doing so, the United States can navigate the complexities of foreign interference and military aid in Egypt and advance its broader objectives of peace, security, and prosperity in the region.

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