The Case of the Egyptian Uprising

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General Instructions

1. For each page, synthesize the reading and research by writing in complete sentences in essay format.
   a. Use the green instructions in the notes below each page to focus your research and writing.
   b. Write about each question, prompt, or process provided in those notes.
   c. Write a full page of text with lots of detail (about 250 words).
      i. Don’t generalize so much that your writing is devoid of detail.
      ii. Don’t repeat yourself.
   d. Cite each source by adding a hyperlink in the Title of the Article or law.
   e. Do not change the template:
      i. Text must be 14 point Lato left-justified type.
      ii. Refrain from adding extra margins or double spacing.
      iii. Do not bullet the paragraphs. Write in essay format only.
   f. Add additional pages if you need more room.

2. Add all sources to the Bibliography page.
   a. Include author, year, title, publisher, and URL.
   b. Number or bullet them using the list button.

When in doubt, write to the instructor for clarification using the Canvas Inbox.
Historical Timeline

Aljazeera in their article, Timeline: Egypt’s revolution, detail the events of the most prominent stages of the 2011 social uprising in Egypt. On January 2011, which would be further known as the January 25th revolution, Egyptian activists took to the streets to protest a myriad of issues including the long-tenured rule of then president Hosni Mubarak.

In Timeline: Egypt’s revolution, Aljazeera continues to report the milestones of the Egyptian Uprising of 2011. On February 9th 2011, protesters are joined by Egyptian labor unions as demonstrators call for President Mubarak to relieve his post as president. Political prisoners of the government were released, some of which were associated with the Muslim Brotherhood, and Human Rights Watch with Reuters reports on the human casualties.

Further down Aljazeera’s Timeline: Egypt’s revolution, after little more than twenty days of perpetual unrest, Egyptian protesters leave Tahrir Square, where they were initially mobilized to at the beginning of the protests. Police and military units dismantle camp sites and restore normal traffic as many protesters remain to demonstrate against police and military brutality. The new government leadership initiates “Communique No. 5, calling for national solidarity” (Aljazeera, 2011).

As reported by Aljazeera in Timeline: Egypt’s revolution, after protests ramped up and two people are killed, Mohamed ElBaradei, a democracy advocate arrived in Egypt as a member of the protest. By January 28th, social media had erupted as Egyptians with internet access announce further involvement to the protest. Clashes around Cairo and Suez increase and as many as 1,030 citizens were reported as injured across the country. Mubarak issues troops to mobilize, but only in an observing capacity.

From Aljazeera’s Timeline: Egypt’s revolution, after several deployments of troops and police countrywide and after a new vice president is elected, on February 11th, “Hosni Mubarak resigns as president and hands over power to the army” an announcement made public by the vice president Omar Suleiman (Aljazeera, 2011). The announcement came after protesters grew in numbers and restlessness, as they began to encroach on the state controlled television station in Cairo, Tahrir Square, and the Egyptian presidential palace.
Egypt is no stranger to political and social unrest. From 2004 to 2011, the country had arguably been in a perpetual state of revolt. The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, in their article *Egypt Uprising of 2011*, describe what the uprising was about, issues during the revolt, and people involved. Even before the Egyptian uprising in 2011, several countries in the Middle East saw an unprecedented wave of mass demonstrations as citizens in a variety of countries protested against government corruption, crime, and poverty. The case of the Egyptian uprising in 2011 was no different in this regards. Where the Egyptian uprising saw differences compared to other countries in the region, was in results - the ousting of then-president Hosni Mubarak - and also in online presence. According to Merlyna Lim, in the journal article *Clicks, Cabs, and Coffee Houses: Social Media and Oppositional Movements in Egypt*, 2004-2011, years of unrest has been a topic of major activism, especially online. While “the majority of Egyptians do not have access to the internet”, “in Cairo more than 64% of the household have Internet” (Lim, 2012). The prevalence of internet in Egypt is important to the major issues as rallies held by Kefaya, the “Egyptian Movement for Change” had managed to mobilize online. The mobilization of youth online was especially outlined after the murder of activist Khaled Said, a milestone toward the demonstrations which would ensue on and after January 25th of 2011 (Lim, 2012). The online presence of the protest movements in Egypt demonstrated the power of online activism and how it can manifest into physical rallying. While the creation of problems faced by Egyptians goes back decades, many Egyptians had put blame on the government for not dealing with problems affecting all members of society and especially affecting the countries large number of youth and the poor.
In order to understand the laws in place and the overall climate of infrastructure in Egypt, a survey of Egypt’s history prior to 2011 and also beyond is required. In Dr. Kira Allmann’s article, *Revolution and Counter-revolution in Egypt’s Emergency State*, a brief history of repression in Egypt is detailed prior to and after 2011. Egypt is a state which “for a vast majority of its existence as an independent state” has been under either “de facto or de jure state[s] of emergency” (Allmann, 2018). Under Egypt’s emergency state, protest had been curtailed until social media brought the situation to attention during the uprising. Social media was also responsible for bringing the broader situation to social-media users. The result of organizing social media users online and bringing the uprising to the forefront made the online participation of demonstrators and sympathizers across the globe a “key feature of these oppositional movements” (Allmann, 2018). While the conditional emergency Egypt has known for most of its existence was briefly halted in 2012 after several social uprisings (one being the 2011 uprising and another focusing on brutal military trials - a result of the emergency state), the emergency state would emerge again and Egypt would fall in line to several political unrest events. Regarding the state of Egypt’s censorship across the internet during the uprising, Reporters Without Borders report in their profile called *Egypt*, about cyber-censorship and how the state of the internet in Egypt has changed after the tumultuous events which characterized Egypt in the early 2010’s. One major takeaway is the government's response do dissidence. After two policemen allegedly murdered activist blogger Khaled Said, the incident has been a symbol for the fight for democracy. The murder of Khaled Said helped trigger the 2011 uprising. After the uprisings, one interpreted outcome was the potential for greater freedom online.
Egypt in its long rich history has seen many uprisings related to social unrest and societal unease with government. The 2011 uprising, however, left an impact around the world that could not be ignored because of the influence of social media. This graphic exemplifies notable tweets, hashtags, and social media statistics prior to, during, and following the 2011 Egyptian Uprising. The statistics show how much social media can impact our awareness just by being active online.

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Ethical Analysis of the Major Player(s)

One major result of the 2011 Egyptian Uprising was the emergence of several players, of which many had a long history in Egyptian politics and some of whom had a large presence on social media. In the article Key players in Egypt’s Jan. 25 revolution: Where are they now?, by Rajia Aboulkheir, some of the most influential figures of the uprising are profiled. One such player during the 2011 uprising was Mohamed ElBaradei. Mohamed ElBaradei was previously associated with Egypt’s long ruling government, but essentially in ambassadorial duties. Elbaradei’s role was as “director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency”, which was overseen by the United Nations (Aboulkheir, 2014). ElBaradei departed from his role in the United Nations, returning to Egypt in 2010 and emerging as “a savior and an alternative to the Mubarak regime” (Aboulkheir, 2014). ElBaradei was well regarded in his native country for his progressive outlook especially regarding denuclearization. One well regarded action done by ElBaradei was his direct participation in the 2011 Egyptian uprising, participating in demonstrations and acting as a sort of “father figure of the revolution” (Aboulkheir, 2014). Due to ElBaradei’s influence and his actions as a nuclear and political watchdog, one may view his actions against the Egyptian government under the lens of the Markkula Center’s definition of The Virtue Approach. The Virtue Approach is defined as ethical actions characterized by members in a society acting “to the highest potential of our character and on behalf of values like truth and beauty” (Markkula Center, 2015). As ElBaradei’s actions are consistent, especially in regards to the betterment of society, and because he acted in a way that benefits the majority of the masses, the outcome of his actions can be seen as justifiable from an ethical standpoint.


Bibliography