

# EIR Special Report

## Egypt's fight to become the Japan of the Middle East

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The publication of the following Special Report has one primary objective: to create a debate as wide-ranging as possible on the issue of the economic development of and the future of the nation of Egypt. Countries such as the United States, France, and Japan have a very special role to play in ensuring that Egypt becomes a "new Japan" in the Middle East by the year 2000, adopting policies which equip it to serve as a political and economic stabilizer in the region as it works toward achieving its nation-building goals.

There can be no peace in the Middle East without real economic development, which lifts the population above its present concerns, above the blood and soil mentality which has ruled for the past 30 years. Hence, an accelerated Egyptian development based on the most modern technologies, the Qattara Depression plan to green the desert, the building of new industries, and the founding of new cities, will be the real catalyst for peace throughout the region.

Egypt is in a crucial period of its history. The 1952 revolution did away with British military occupation and the degenerate Farouk monarchy which it had supported. For a short period, Nasser's leadership accomplished total economic and political sovereignty, exemplified by the 1954 creation of the Non-Aligned Movement, of which Egypt was a founding member. But, systematically cut off from any significant transfer of technology for years, exhausted by wars orchestrated from London, and swindled by the Open Door policy initiated in 1974, Egypt today has fallen under foreign economic control as in the times of the infamous "caisse de la dette" imposed on the khedives by the British-controlled Compagnie de Suez and its banking consortium. The Compagnie de Suez may have been nationalized, but the *caisse de la dette* still exists, albeit with new names: the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, Wall Street, the London-based banks, and their various Malthusian agencies, such as the State Department's Agency for International Development, which are committed to keeping Egypt backward.

Along with many other developing nations Egypt is today fighting a battle for survival, a battle aimed at recovering its economic sovereignty. Egyptian officials



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*President Reagan meets with Egyptian President Mubarak at the White House in early February of this year. Egypt needs the support of the United States for Egypt's high-technology economic growth which is essential to Egypt's emergence as a political and economic stabilizer of the Middle East.*

have characterized this battle as a fight against the mafia, those who benefitted from the huge speculative bonanza created by the Open Door policy, and who will use domestic strife, terror, and assassination, to maintain their looting privileges. As Interior Minister Hassan Abu Basha told the Egyptian People's Assembly following the Oct. 4 vote to extend for another year the emergency imposed after Sadat's assassination: "There is a foreign force which directs finances and plans for terrorism here." This foreign force is centered in London, as our following report on the Egyptian mafia documents, and ties into a vast Mediterranean-wide network which is attempting to crush Egypt through both political terrorism and the kind of economic warfare that we show is the essence of the Open Door policy.

### **The Leibniz project**

Egypt cannot win this war alone. It can do so only if the spirit of Great Projects is re-awakened in Europe and the United States. After existing for 10,000 years, Egypt was created as a modern nation-state by an international humanist conspiracy, the same kind of consortium which established the American republic as a counterpole to British imperialism.

The father of modern Egypt was Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, the 17th century German philosopher who, in a 1674 memorandum to France's Louis XIV, called for a military intervention to free Egypt from the decadent rule of the Ottoman Empire. In undertaking such an expedition, said Leibniz, France would be opening the channels for direct contacts among Europe, Africa, Western Asia, and Asia, and could use such channels to effect technology transfers from Europe

to the less developed regions of the world. Egypt, stressed Leibniz, was the key to peace in the Mediterranean region.

Leibniz's project was in General Bonaparte's suitcase when he landed in Egypt in 1793, accompanied by scores of scientists from France's outstanding institution of scientific education, the Ecole Polytechnique. One of these was Gaspard Monge, who took on the task of building Egypt as an industrial nation, with a developing national economy and a strong central government, throughout the French occupation. Monge's work was partially realized during the following reign of Egyptian nation-builder Mohammed Ali.

The situation of Egypt today is different, yet the battle for its national development must be waged in the same spirit. Egypt maintains its ideal of development and a better life for its population, but the advanced sector economies are sinking into economic crisis, and a dangerous abandonment of moral responsibilities to the developing sector has accompanied the economic woes of the industrialized nations.

Steps taken now to ensure Egypt's role as regional stabilizer are a proper place to begin to reverse this situation, not only on behalf of Middle East peace, but in full appreciation of Leibniz's view of Egypt's strategic importance internationally. President Mubarak's recent trip to India underscores Egypt's importance to the Non-Aligned Movement as a whole. Similarly, the collapse of the Organization of African Unity summit in Tripoli in the last week of November underlines the need for new orientations in Africa. An organization devoted to the development of that continent must be created, and Egypt, along with countries such as the Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and others, has a key role to play.