

Egypt

Ethnicity in Egypt

Group selection

We identify the following politically ethnic groups: **Arab Muslims, Coptic Christians, and Jews**, though the latter do not retain relevance throughout.

Population sizes were compared among four sources, the 1994 projection on ANM, the 2003 Fearon list, the 1993 MIR list (using UN population estimates for 1995) and the CIA World Factbook list of ethnic groups for 2000 and 2005. Only groups above 1% of the population and persecuted groups were included in the listing. Size estimates are then compared and if discrepancies are detected, additional literature is used to facilitate selecting an appropriate figure. In the case of Egypt, population estimates for the Copts vary between 6% (CIA World Factbook) and 14% (based on the estimate of 11 million members for the Coptic church). Both extremes are discarded, indicating that Fearon's estimate of 9% (which is close to the mid-point anyway) is the most reasonable estimate.

Power relations

1946-2000

Before the revolution: Egyptian independence from Britain was established in 1922 under the Unilateral Declaration of Egyptian Independence. However, strong British influence in Egyptian political and military affairs remained until the abolishment of the Kingdom of Egypt and the elimination of British military presence in the 1952 Revolution.

Following the Egyptian Revolution of 1952, Egypt was governed by authoritarian governments. Arab socialism was implemented under Gamal Abdel Nasser until the development of more free-market economics under presidents Sadat, el-Shafei, and Hosni Mubarak who came to power in 1981. Under Sadat, Islam was made the official state religion, Sharia the official source of law, and Arabic the official state language.

Arab Muslims: The largest group, the Arab Muslims are monopolizing political power. It should be noted that there are subdivisions in the group of Arab Muslims, but that they are not politically relevant. The classification as monopolizing is based on the assessment of Egypt's legal landscape by human and minority rights groups, such as HRW's background report "Monopolizing Power: Egypt's Political Parties Law". The general assessment is that despite recent moves that seem to provide for a more fair, democratic process, the ruling party still has an iron grip on power. Power rests with president Mohamed Hosni Mubarak and a small number of advisors, all of which belong to the group of Arab Muslims.

Coptic Christians: Coptic Christians, who are by far the largest Christian group in Egypt, were discriminated against by state forces. Documentation for this can e.g. be found in the country's section of the HRW World Report 1999. Coptic Christians have a long history of being the subject of sporadic violence which has only intensified over time, although no Muslim has been official convicted of any related crimes (¹⁴⁵⁸). Coptic Christians are discriminated against at the national and regional levels. Multiple sources including the WSJ speak of the state's lack of recognition and protection of the Copts, doing little to prevent rising hostility between the two groups. No churches can be built or repaired without a presidential degree, and Copts are "excluded from the intelligence and security services because they are deemed a security risk" (¹⁴⁵⁹). The Muslim majority are considered by nature to be "superior" to members of other religions both in society and politics.

¹⁴⁵⁸ [Zaki, 2010]

¹⁴⁵⁹ [Zaki, 2010]

Jews: The Jewish community of Egypt has a history expanding 3,000 years in the country. However, xenophobic nationalism after the founding of the Republic and after the birth of Israel in 1948, as well as the 1956 Suez Crisis and 1967 Six-Day War, intensified the persecution of the Jewish community in Egypt (¹⁴⁶⁰). After the Suez crisis of 1956, the Egyptian government declared all Jews and Zionists as enemies of the state, expelled the Jewish population and sequestered Jewish-owned property (coded: discriminated). The collective persecution of Jews in Egypt worsened after the 1967 Six-Day war, reducing the population of Egyptian Jews from estimated 0.0001 to less than 0.000001 by 2000.

¹⁴⁶⁰ [The Economist, 2013]

2001-2017

A new time period accounts for the significant change in the size of the Jewish population with the latest report stating a size of less than 0.000001 in 2000. Jews are considered politically irrelevant thereafter.

Arab Muslims: There are no signs of any significant changes until the Egyptian Revolution of 2011. In 2011, President Mubarak was ousted following large demonstrations focusing on grievances including lack of free elections and freedom of speech, social justice, corruption, and economic issues. However, the coding remains consistent for this period; although the political landscape has changed, there is little evidence that major changes have taken place regarding its effects on relevant ethnic groups. The Revolution was reportedly more focused on nationalism and social consciousness than religion-based politics, with Muslims and Christians uniting across religious divisions against the Mubarak government (¹⁴⁶¹). Although new opportunities were created for inter-faith dialogue, freedom, and secularism, these were not necessarily reinforced by the new government, and the superiorly organized Islamist organisations during the protests may have helped to increase the power and influence of Islamist parties, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, while hampering the greater integration of different ethnic groups and ideologies. President Mohamed Morsi was elected into office in 2012, supported by the Muslim Brotherhood, but removed from office one year later following large demonstrations in 2013. He was succeeded by Adly Mansour as interim president. Adly Mansour's interim government remained in office until June 2014. Then, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi was elected in official presidential elections. He is steering the country continuously towards an authoritarian military regime as seen before the Arab Spring under the rule of Hosni Mubarak. Hence, Arab Muslims hold a monopoly on power.

¹⁴⁶¹ [Ibish, 2011]

Coptic Christians: The WSJ states that violence against the Copts in these years has intensified into “more like a purge, as waves of mob assaults have forced hundreds, sometimes thousands of Christian citizens to flee their homes” (¹⁴⁶²). Tensions remain high between Copts and Islamists, with multiple church attacks in 2011 killing dozens of mostly Copt Egyptian Christians. The Human Rights Watch notes that the Egyptian government has failed to properly investigate and prosecute individuals involved in rising incidents of sectarian violence (¹⁴⁶³). The Egyptian government reportedly officially denies the existence of any sectarian problems and does not appear to officially enforce ethnic exclusion (coded: powerless). Following the 2011 Revolution, an Egyptian Constitutional Review Committee was formed and includes one Christian member. It is unclear if this member advocates for or represents the greater Coptic Christian community. However, al-Sisi's authoritarian

¹⁴⁶² [Zaki, 2010]

¹⁴⁶³ [Human Rights Watch, 2010]

rule is not directed particularly against ethnic minorities (Minority Rights Group International, 2017). Christian Copts are represented in parliament and serve in important posts such as judges or military officials (¹⁴⁶⁴). Yet, the Copts do not hold any executive power in al-Sisi's regime. As a result, Coptic Christians are not classified as discriminated, but instead is listed as powerless.

¹⁴⁶⁴ [U.S. Department of State, 2016]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Egypt

From 1946 until 2000

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Arab Muslims	0.9099	MONOPOLY
Coptic Christians	0.09	POWERLESS
Jews	1.0×10^{-4}	DISCRIMINATED

From 2001 until 2017

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Arab Muslims	0.91	MONOPOLY
Coptic Christians	0.09	POWERLESS

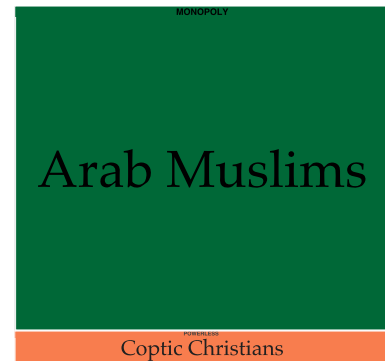


Figure 273: Political status of ethnic groups in Egypt during 1946-2000.

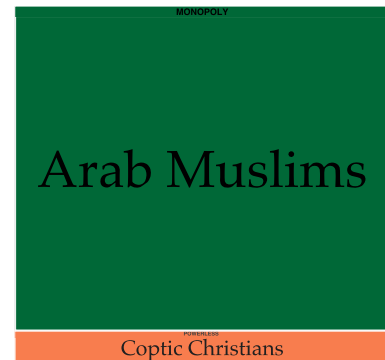


Figure 274: Political status of ethnic groups in Egypt during 2001-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Egypt

From 1946 until 1966

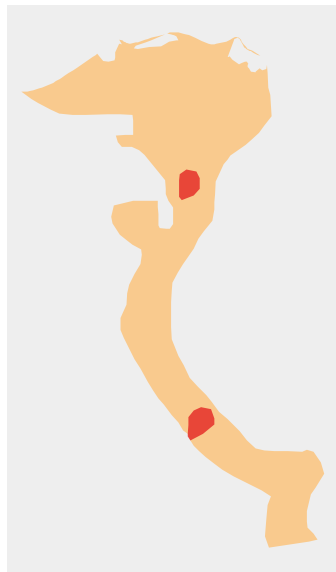


Figure 275: Map of ethnic groups in Egypt during 1946-1966.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Arab Muslims	77 897	Regionally based
Coptic Christians	2181	Regionally based
Jews		Urban

Table 86: List of ethnic groups in Egypt during 1946-1966.

From 1967 until 1967

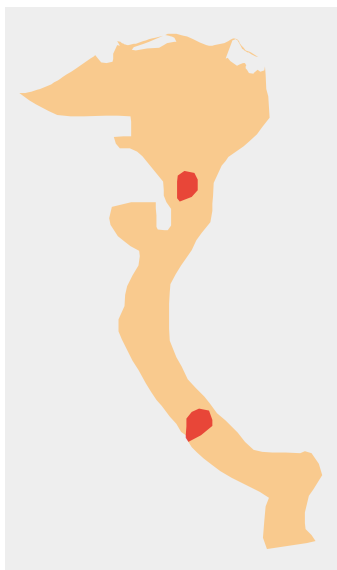


Figure 276: Map of ethnic groups in Egypt during 1967-1967.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Arab Muslims	77 897	Regionally based
Coptic Christians	2181	Regionally based
Jews		Urban

Table 87: List of ethnic groups in Egypt during 1967-1967.

From 1968 until 1978

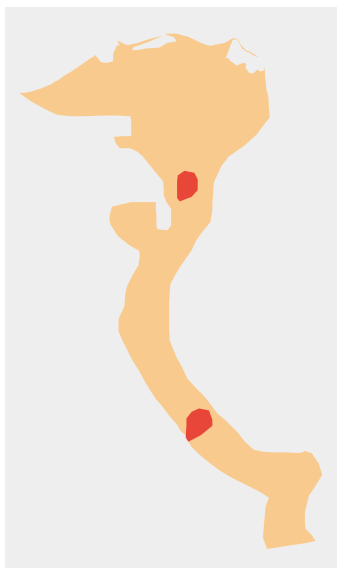


Figure 277: Map of ethnic groups in Egypt during 1968-1978.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Arab Muslims	77 894	Regionally based
Coptic Christians	2181	Regionally based
Jews		Urban

Table 88: List of ethnic groups in Egypt during 1968-1978.

From 1979 until 1979

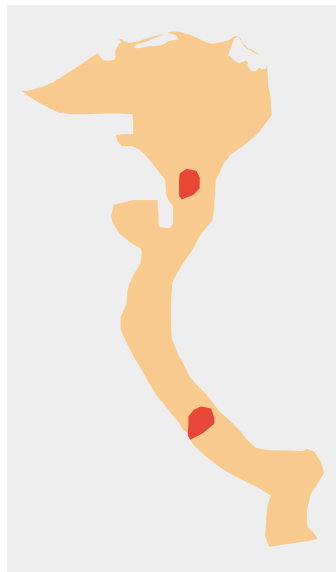


Figure 278: Map of ethnic groups in Egypt during 1979-1979.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Arab Muslims	77 897	Regionally based
Coptic Christians	2181	Regionally based
Jews		Urban

Table 89: List of ethnic groups in Egypt during 1979-1979.

From 1980 until 2000

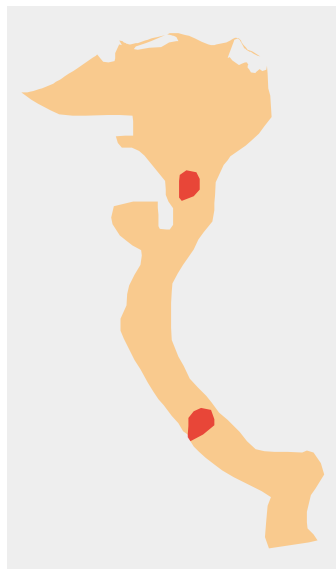


Figure 279: Map of ethnic groups in Egypt during 1980-2000.

	Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■	Arab Muslims	77 897	Regionally based
■	Coptic Christians	2181	Regionally based
	Jews		Urban

Table 90: List of ethnic groups in Egypt during 1980-2000.

From 2001 until 2017

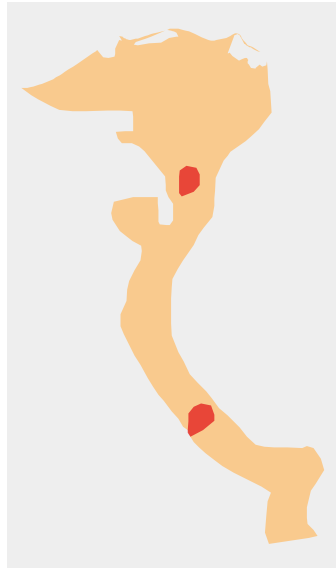


Figure 280: Map of ethnic groups in Egypt during 2001-2017.

	Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■	Arab Muslims	77 897	Regionally based
■	Coptic Christians	2181	Regionally based

Table 91: List of ethnic groups in Egypt during 2001-2017.

Conflicts in Egypt

Starting on 1948-04-14

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria	Government of Israel		1948-04-14			

Starting on 1951-10-17

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Egypt	Government of United Kingdom		1951-10-17			

Starting on 1956-10-30

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Egypt	Government of France		1956-10-30			
Government of Egypt	Government of Israel		1956-10-30			
Government of Egypt	Government of United Kingdom		1956-10-30			

Starting on 1967-06-04

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Egypt	Government of Israel		1967-06-04			

Starting on 1981-10-07

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Egypt	al-Gama'a al-Islamiyya	Arab Muslims	1981-10-07	No	Yes, from EGIP	No
Government of Egypt	Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis		2014-03-10			

Starting on 2014-11-15

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Egypt	IS		2014-11-15			