Negative Brief: Cut U.S. Military Aid to Egypt – bad idea

By Rebecca Sumner

***Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reform its foreign aid.***

The Affirmative plan will eliminate or suspend U.S. military aid to Egypt. Military Aid is not actually money going to Egypt for them to spend wherever they please, but the United States gives them an account with a certain amount of money, and they can only use that money on arms sold by U.S. manufacturers.

Negative will argue that U.S. manufacturers will be hurt, because they’ll lose the deals they could make on weapons sales to Egypt. Not only that, but Egypt doesn’t have enough resources for this cut to military aid, and they won’t be able to fight terrorism like they’re doing now. Ending military aid would cause Egypt to break away from alliance with the U.S., harming US foreign policy interests, weakening US influence in the Middle East, and destabilizing the entire region. And it would motivate Egypt to drop out of its Peace Treaty with Israel, further increasing the risks of war and instability in the already volatile Middle East.

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SOURCE INDICTMENT

Human Rights Watch

HRW is biased, corrupt and all about ideology, not facts

Michael Rubin 2020 (Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute) 1 Apr 2020 “Human Rights Watch reports are no longer credible” <https://www.aei.org/op-eds/human-rights-watch-reports-are-no-longer-credible/>

After the American Friends Service Committee, for example[, embraced the genocidal Khmer Rouge](https://www.aei.org/articles/putting-politics-before-pacifism/), who should trust them on [North Korea](https://www.afsc.org/office/north-korea) or the Hamas-run [Gaza Strip](https://www.afsc.org/action/end-blockade-gaza)? In recent years, Human Rights Watch has also strayed from the objective to the subjective and from the neutral to the corrupt. More than a decade ago, Sarah Leah Whitson, then-executive director for the Middle East and North Africa at Human Rights Watch and now managing director at the Quincy Institute, [sought to raise money](https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB124528343805525561) in Saudi Arabia by promising to be even more critical of Israel. When exposed, Human Rights Watch backed off that action but, last month, Ken Roth, the organization’s executive director was at it again, [agreeing](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/human-rights-watchs-saudi-funding-scandal-tarnishes-the-ngo-industry) to limit the group’s work on gays in the Middle East in exchange for a cash infusion from a Saudi businessman. This is not the first time Roth has subordinated his group’s mission for the [sake of](https://www.aei.org/foreign-and-defense-policy/can-human-rights-watch-salvaged/) [politics](https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:AKkUObQFzuEJ:https://www.commentarymagazine.com/michael-rubin/its-time-for-hrws-ken-roth-to-go/+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us&client=firefox-b-e) or cash. The rot at Human Rights Watch has gone so deep that the group [has even](https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:qCi_4tfoaTIJ:https://www.commentarymagazine.com/michael-rubin/what-was-human-rights-watch-thinking/+&cd=2&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us) [partnered with](https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:4TTvXX9A2OgJ:https://www.commentarymagazine.com/michael-rubin/human-rights-watch-should-rescind-reports/+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us) and incorporated reporting from a group launched by a designated al Qaeda [financier](https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl2249.aspx). The problem has grown so bad under Roth that, in 2009, the group’s founder took to the pages of the New York Times to [lament](https://www.nytimes.com/2009/10/20/opinion/20bernstein.html) how off the rails Human Rights Watch had become. Too many of its reports today are short on methodology and long on ideology.

HRW evidence should have zero weight in policy debates

Michael Rubin 2020 (Resident Scholar, American Enterprise Institute) 1 Apr 2020 “Human Rights Watch reports are no longer credible” <https://www.aei.org/op-eds/human-rights-watch-reports-are-no-longer-credible/>

The Islamic Republic’s nuclear program is a matter of [life and death](https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2020-03-08/iran-and-coronavirus-nuclear-weapons-are-the-bigger-threat). So too are Iran’s efforts to fight the coronavirus. Hundreds of thousands of Iranians have also died over the Islamic Republic’s 40 years because of the regime’s corruption and ideological prerogatives. It is important to consider and debate such weighty matters to their fullest. But no argument can be won when relying on an organization that coasts on its reputation but has repeatedly proven itself to pride partisanship and policy prerogatives over objectivity and adherence to its founding principles. Perhaps when Human Rights Watch has new leadership, it can restore itself to its moral and academic high ground. Until then, however, it should have no weight in the U.S. and human rights policy debates.

TOPICALITY

1. No commitment

There is no US commitment to Egypt military aid

Project on Middle East Democracy 2018 (international democracy/human rights advocacy NGO) Jan 2018 U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT: SEPARATING FACT FROM FICTION <https://pomed.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Egypt-FMF_resize.pdf>

Neither the Camp David Accords nor the Treaty of Peace commits the United States to providing any military assistance to Egypt. At the time of the Peace Treaty, U.S. off­icials informally established a 3:2 ratio between military assistance to Israel and Egypt, but this is not codified and the United States never indicated this arrangement would continue indefinitely.

NEGATIVE PHILOSOPHY / OPENING QUOTES

Cutting Egypt military aid would hurt our foreign policy and our domestic manufacturers

David Schenker 2013 (director of the Program on Arab Politics at The Washington Institute. Previously, he served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as Levant country director, the Pentagon's top policy aide on the Arab countries of the Levant; former research fellow at The Washington Institute, focusing on Arab governance issues and a project coordinator on USAID projects in Egypt and Jordan), 4 Sept 2013, “Inside the Complex World of U.S. Military Assistance to Egypt” <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/inside-the-complex-world-of-u.s.-military-assistance-to-egypt>

Cutting assistance might also put key U.S. strategic interests in Egypt at risk, including counterterrorism cooperation, priority access to the Suez Canal for U.S. warships, and relatively unrestricted U.S. military overflights. Between 2001 and 2005, American military aircraft made more than 35,000 flights through Egyptian airspace, often on short notice, while U.S. military vessels made nearly 900 expedited Suez passages. In addition, the Egyptian military's support for the Camp David peace treaty -- and the excellent Israeli-Egyptian coordination on Sinai security it has fostered -- might also suffer. As for domestic repercussions, suspending the program would represent at least a short-term blow for American military contractors, including Lockheed Martin (which manufactures the F-16s) and Boeing (Apaches). Dozens of smaller companies and subcontractors would likely face even more serious economic consequences.

MINOR REPAIR: Change some of the military aid to make it more specific to anti-terrorism requirements

Egypt needs equipment specific to anti-terrorism efforts. Example: Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detectors

Yoram Schweitzer and Dr. Ofir Winter 2017 (Schweitzer—expert on international terrorism, Senior Research Fellow for Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) and head of the INSS Program on Terrorism and Low Intensity Conflict; formerly in Israeli intelligence community ; served as a consultant on counter-terror strategies to the prime minister's office and the Ministry of Defense, Head of the Counter International Terror Section in the Israeli Defense Force; MA in military and diplomatic history from Tel Aviv Univ. Winter— research fellow at INSS, PhD from Dept of Middle Eastern and African History at Tel Aviv Univ. ) INSS Insight No. 996 29 Nov 2017 “The War on Terrorism in Sinai: A Watershed?” <http://www.inss.org.il/publication/war-terrorism-sinai-watershed/>

It is clear that the Islamic State and its supporters seek to continue the engagement in other locations around the world, including Egypt. It is therefore vital that Egypt receive increased aid from its partners in the global war on Salafi jihadist terrorism. Support from the United States in the form of Tweets from President Trump is insufficient. An organized US effort to provide essential assistance is needed, including specific equipment for counterterrorism (for example IED detectors), intelligence, and operational and intelligence consulting to take advantage of the United States’ experience in fighting the Islamic State in other arenas.

INHERENCY

1. Egypt aid is already conditional

Aid is withheld unless Egypt is taking steps toward democracy and human rights

Jeremy M. Sharp 2019 (Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs for the Congressional Research Service (CRS)), March 12, 2019, CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE, “Egypt: Background and U.S. Relations,” <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33003.pdf>

Egypt's poor human rights record has sparked regular criticism from U.S. officials and some Members of Congress and, since FY2012, Members have passed appropriations legislation that withholds the obligation of FMF to Egypt until the Secretary of State certifies that Egypt is taking various steps toward supporting democracy and human rights. With the exception of FY2014, lawmakers have included a national security waiver to allow the Administration to waive these congressionally mandated certification requirements under certain conditions.

Egypt aid is conditioned on behavior: sustain relationship with the U.S., follow the Israel Peace Treaty, uphold human rights

Jeremy M. Sharp 2019 (Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs for the Congressional Research Service (CRS)), March 12, 2019, CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE, “Egypt: Background and U.S. Relations,” <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33003.pdf>

Section 7041(a) of P.L. 115-141, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2018, contains the most recent legislative language conditioning aid to Egypt. As in previous years, it requires that funds may only be made available when the Secretary of State certifies that the government of Egypt is sustaining the strategic relationship with the United States and meeting its obligations under the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty. The Act also includes a provision that withholds $300 million of FMF funds until the Secretary of State certifies that the Government of Egypt is taking effective steps to advance, among other things, democracy and human rights in Egypt.

SIGNIFICANCE / HARMS

1. Egypt’s government doing better – aid cuts not justified

US should continue aid: Egyptian President Sisi is reforming and has majority support of the people

Dr. Ahmed Zewail updated 2015 (Nobel laureate for Chemistry (1999); professor at California Institute of Technology, serves on President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, and is the president’s special envoy for science to the Middle East) 5 Nov 2014 **Updated** 5 Jan 2015, HUFFINGTON POST, “Why It Would Be a Big Mistake for the U.S. to Cut Aid to Egypt,” <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/ahmed-zewail/us-egypt-aid-sisi_b_6075224.html>

Besides the issues of security to its east (the Islamic State), to its west (Libya), and in the south (Yemen), there are internal issues — economic and unemployment factors — of grave concern. But despite this, Sisi has managed to get the majority of Egyptians behind him, taken serious steps toward reforming the ailing economy, and given hope to the country by initiating major national projects, such as the New Suez Canal and the new City of Science and Technology. He is the first president to form a Council of Advisors of scientists and engineers to aid him in solving major national problems. As the the Economist put it in a piece about Sisi’s first 100 days, the president, “has brought economic and diplomatic advances as well as hope to Egyptians wearied by years of political turmoil.” Threatening Egypt with aid cuts is not in the best interest of the U.S.-Egypt relationship. The issue is no longer Sisi alone. Rather, it is “We the People” who are also deciding on future relationships, not only with the U.S., but also with Israel.

2. Egypt is fighting terrorism

Egypt is controlling the terrorism threat, and cooperating with the U.S. and Israel

James Stavridis 2017 (contributor to Foreign Policy, a retired four-star U.S. Navy admiral and NATO supreme allied commander who serves today as the dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University) 24 Feb 2017, “Egypt Desperately Needs a Friend Right Now,” <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/02/24/egypt-desperately-needs-a-friend-right-now/>

Although Egypt is facing terrorism from within, including flickers of the so-called Islamic State trying to penetrate the country, the security and intelligence services are doing a reasonable job controlling the threat. They are watching both Libya to the west and events in Gaza to the east with a wary eye, and cooperation with both U.S. and Israeli intelligence services is good.

Egypt is working to defeat Radical Islamist threats. President Sisi is doing exactly the right thing and we ought to support him

Joel C. Rosenberg 2017 (New York Times best-selling author; interviewed on hundreds of radio and TV shows, including ABC’s “Nightline,” CNN; addressed audiences at the White House and the Pentagon, Members of Congress on Capitol Hill, Members of the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa.) 26 Feb 2017 “It’s time to rebuild ties with Egypt. Here are six reasons why the U.S. & West should work closely with President el-Sisi. He’s making progress, and he needs help.” <https://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/2017/02/26/its-time-to-rebuild-ties-with-egypt-here-are-six-reasons-why-the-u-s-west-should-work-closely-with-president-el-sisi-hes-making-progress-and-he-needs-help/>

He is working around the clock to defeat the Radical Islamist jihadist threat to Egypt and her neighbors. In the summer of 2013, after 22 million Egyptians signed a petition to remove the Brotherhood from power, el-Sisi and the Egyptian military brought down the Brotherhood regime that was strangling Egypt and was trying to impose Sharia law. They specifically removed Mohammed Morsi from power. Remember that Morsi, the Brotherhood leader who briefly rose to the presidency in Egypt, is the man who famously said during a speech, “The Koran is our constitution, the Prophet is our leader, jihad is our path and death in the name of Allah is our goal.” Many other Brotherhood leaders were arrested. El-Sisi and his colleagues were absolutely right to remove Morsi and the Brotherhood from power, despite widespread condemnations from President Obama and many world leaders. Since then, the former general has directed his military to crush the jihadists operating in the Sinai.

3. A/T: “Human rights violations in Egypt”— Safe before perfect

Egypt’s theme is ‘safe before perfect’—they’ll try to improve human rights, but top priority is terrorism

James Stavridis 2017 (contributor to Foreign Policy, a retired four-star U.S. Navy admiral and NATO supreme allied commander who serves today as the dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. His latest book is The Leader's Bookshelf) 24 Feb 2017, “Egypt Desperately Needs a Friend Right Now,” <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/02/24/egypt-desperately-needs-a-friend-right-now/>

Led by a technocratic team assembled by President Sisi, the Egyptian government’s theme is “safe before perfect,” meaning it will try to improve on human rights but the top priority is ensuring day-to-day safety on the streets and freedom from terrorism.

“Safe before perfect” is the right policy. We should be thanking Egypt’s president, not sanctioning him

Joel C. Rosenberg 2017 (New York Times best-selling author; addressed audiences at the White House and the Pentagon, Members of Congress on Capitol Hill, Members of the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa.) 26 Feb 2017 “It’s time to rebuild ties with Egypt. Here are six reasons why the U.S. & West should work closely with President el-Sisi. He’s making progress, and he needs help.” <https://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/2017/02/26/its-time-to-rebuild-ties-with-egypt-here-are-six-reasons-why-the-u-s-west-should-work-closely-with-president-el-sisi-hes-making-progress-and-he-needs-help/>

Yes, there are human rights violations in Egypt, serious economic challenges and numerous other issues that el-Sisi needs to address. One analyst of the Egyptian political scene notes that “the Egyptian government’s theme is ‘safe before perfect,’ meaning it will try to improve on human rights but the top priority is ensuring day-to-day safety on the streets and freedom from terrorism.” The U.S. government — along with the Christian and Jewish communities — should continue to press Egypt’s leaders to do the right thing, sooner rather than later. At the same time, we should also be thanking el-Sisi for what he has done right, and encouraging him to move further in the right direction. The West needs a safe and stable Egypt as a friend and an ally — now more than ever.

SOLVENCY

1. Not effective at changing Egypt

Cutting military aid for Egypt would be ineffective at shaping their policies and counterproductive for US interests

David Schenker 2013 (director of the Program on Arab Politics at The Washington Institute. Previously, he served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as Levant country director, the Pentagon's top policy aide on the Arab countries of the Levant; former research fellow at The Washington Institute, focusing on Arab governance issues and a project coordinator a Bethesda-based contractor of large, centrally-funded USAID projects in Egypt and Jordan), 4 Sept 2013, “Inside the Complex World of U.S. Military Assistance to Egypt,” <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/inside-the-complex-world-of-u.s.-military-assistance-to-egypt> (brackets added; FMF is US military aid)

The potential suspension of the FMF [Foreign Military Financing] program with Egypt could entail some high strategic and domestic costs for the United States. And given the Egyptian military's view of the struggle with the Muslim Brotherhood, such a move would likely prove ineffective in shaping decisionmaking in Cairo. Therefore, even if cutting aid is deemed consistent with past legislation, it would be counterproductive in terms of policy.

2. Alternate sources

Egypt can get weapons from Russia instead

Congressional Research Service 2020. (non-partisan research agency of Congress) last updated 27 May 2020 “Egypt: Background and U.S. Relations” <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33003.pdf>



Egypt can get weapons from France and Russia instead

Congressional Research Service 2020. (non-partisan research agency of Congress) last updated 27 May 2020 “Egypt: Background and U.S. Relations” <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33003.pdf>



DISADVANTAGES

1. Weakens war on terrorism

Link 1: Egypt is crucial to U.S. war on terrorism

Embassy of Egypt, 2017 (Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Washington D.C.) (ethical disclosure: the article is undated but contains references to events that took place in April 2017), “Egypt-U.S. Relations: Security,” <http://www.egyptembassy.net/egypt-us-relations/strategic-partnership/security/>

As partners in the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, Egypt works closely with the U.S. to provide intelligence and eliminate sources of terrorist funding and recruitment—in addition to a longstanding commitment to permit U.S. overflights of Egyptian airspace and expedited transit through the Suez Canal. The U.S. provides critical support to Egypt in the campaign to defeat ISIS and al Qaeda-linked terrorists in the Sinai Peninsula. This includes the delivery of U.S.-made mine resistant ambush protected (MRAP) vehicles in May 2016 and Apache helicopters in 2014 to help Egypt’s armed forces combat Islamist militants in Northern Sinai. This fight has important implications across the region and ongoing American military support to Egypt is a crucial component of the broader war against terror.

Link 2: The U.S. needs Egypt’s help in the war on terrorism

Dr. Ahmed Zewail updated 2015 (Nobel prize in Chemistry (1999); professor at the California Institute of Technology, serves on President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, and special envoy for science to the Middle East) 5 Nov 2014 **Updated** 5 Jan 2015, HUFFINGTON POST, “Why It Would Be a Big Mistake for the U.S. to Cut Aid to Egypt,” <https://www.huffingtonpost.com/ahmed-zewail/us-egypt-aid-sisi_b_6075224.html>

Today, the U.S. needs Egypt’s partnership more than ever. In addition to the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel, which is crucial to U.S. interests both domestically and in the Middle East, the U.S. has had and will continue to need Egypt’s collaboration in the war on terrorism. The U.S. has full access to the Suez Canal, and the military joint exercises already in existence are necessary for such wars and for the free flow of oil. Last month, northern Sinai was struck by terrorists groups, killing more than 30 Army personnel and wounding tens of innocent Egyptians. The Islamic State to the country’s east must be stopped from getting into the Sinai and the oil fields in Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Link: The U.S. needs Egypt, and Egypt needs the U.S., to defeat ISIS and Al Qaeda

Frank G. Wisner and Dr. Paul Salem 2017 (**Wisner**—former U.S. ambassador to Egypt (1986–91); graduated from Princeton Univ with a B.A. **Salem**—the Vice President for Policy and Research at the Middle East Institute. Education: B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. from Harvard) 3 Apr 2017 THE NATIONAL INTEREST, “America and Egypt Need Each Other,” <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/america-egypt-need-each-other-19993>

First, Egypt is a key ally in the war on terror, and cooperation between the military, counterterrorism and intelligence institutions of the two countries—already strong—should be reaffirmed. The United States has an interest in helping Egypt defeat the ISIS threat in northern Sinai while reducing civilian casualties; it also has an interest in helping Egypt secure the Suez Canal and maintaining overall maritime security in the Red Sea. And Egypt can be helpful to the United States in the coalition to defeat ISIS and Al Qaeda.

Brink: U.S. military aid to Egypt is crucial. Islamic State gains a crucial foothold without it

Mohamed Soliman 2018 (security analyst in Egypt for the Washington Institute, which seeks to advance a balanced and realistic understanding of American interests in the Middle East and to promote the policies that secure them), 27 Apr 2018 “How America Can Help Egypt in its War On Terror,” <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/fikraforum/view/how-america-can-help-egypt-in-its-war-on-terror>

Faced with a stubborn common terrorist enemy, the United States should expand its military support for the Egyptian army’s capabilities, focusing more on training and equipping it to counter the Islamic State (IS) in Sinai. Without increased U.S. military aid, Egypt will be ill-equipped to counter the threat of IS, which will gain a crucial foothold that can expand into other parts of the Middle East.

Impact: Deaths from terrorism. Islamic State and other terrorist groups are active in the Sinai Peninsula and killing hundreds

Congressional Research Service 2020. (non-partisan research agency of Congress) last updated 27 May 2020 “Egypt: Background and U.S. Relations” <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33003.pdf>



Impact: Death & Destruction. Hundreds killed by Islamic State in Egypt

Reuters news service 2018. “Islamic State announces death of senior militant in Egypt's Sinai” 2 Oct 2018 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-security/islamic-state-announces-death-of-senior-militant-in-egypts-sinai-idUSKCN1MC2BD>

The Egyptian military and police have been conducting an operation in Sinai since February to crush militants affiliated with Islamic State. The operation came after an attack on a mosque last November that killed hundreds of worshippers.

2. Lose Egypt as an ally

Link: AFF hurts US relations with Egypt

Obvious from their criticism and their plan madates.

Brink: Egypt is already questioning U.S. relations

Wu Sike 2015 (Contributor to China-US Focus; member on the Foreign Policy Consulting Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and member on the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference), 20 Jan 2015, CHINA-US FOCUS, “Egypt — Key to Stability in the Middle East,” <https://www.chinausfocus.com/peace-security/egypt-key-to-stability-in-the-middle-east>

Egypt has long been an important regional ally of the U.S. Yet in the past four years, the U.S.-Egypt relationship has been a dysfunctional roller coaster ride. The repercussions were repeatedly felt across the region. “Is the U.S. policy toward Egypt based on principles or interests? What position does the American public hold on what is going on in Egypt?” During my conversations with the Egyptian academic community, I can easily sense the importance they attach to Egypt-U.S. relations and the fact that they remain unsettled about the U.S. Middle East policy, despite the key U.S. role in regional matters.

Brink: Middle East on the brink of conflict, even small steps could trigger

Perry Cammack and Michele Dunne 2018 (Both are with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Cammack - nonresident fellow in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Dunne is an expert on political and economic change in Arab countries, particularly Egypt, as well as U.S. policy in the Middle East) “Fueling Middle East Conflicts – Or Dousing the Flames?” Oct 2018 <https://carnegieendowment.org/2018/10/23/fueling-middle-east-conflicts-or-dousing-flames-pub-77548>

Scholars of international security policy warn of security dilemmas, in which steps taken by one state to increase its security result in countermeasures from an adversary who in turn feels less secure, thus risking a chain reaction leading to conflict. This dynamic well describes today’s Middle East.

Link: Lose Middle East stability. Stability and future of 22 countries depends on US engagement/influence in Egypt

R. Nicholas Burns 2013. (*professor of the practice of diplomacy and international politics at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government; served in the US Foreign Service for 27 years; was Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs*) 5 July 2013 “Why Egypt matters to the US” <https://www.pri.org/stories/2013-07-05/why-egypt-matters-us>

First, Egypt continues to matter to the US. As the keystone state in the region, the fate of the Egyptian revolution will have a decisive impact on many of the other countries whose stability and future is very much hanging in the balance two and a half years after the start of the Arab revolutions. Washington cannot focus its energies on all 22 Arab states simultaneously, and Egypt should be the overwhelming priority. That is one reason why staying involved in Egypt, making a substantial increase in American economic aid, and resolving to make a much greater effort to support democratic forces there is so important.

Link & Impact: Expecting or imposing US standards of democracy on Egypt would be destabilizing and harmful to them

Wu Sike 2015 (Contributor to China-US Focus; member on the Foreign Policy Consulting Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and member on the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference), 20 Jan 2015, CHINA-US FOCUS, “Egypt — Key to Stability in the Middle East,” <https://www.chinausfocus.com/peace-security/egypt-key-to-stability-in-the-middle-east>

During my discussion with Egyptian scholars, some of them said that the lack of change and reform in Egypt had hindered social progress and improvement of living standards, which badly eroded stability and cohesion. However, change without order and violent street politics only resulted in a split society, protracted instability, and economic and social retrogression. The victims — the Egyptian people, having paid a heavy toll in a four-year struggle, have realized the importance of finding a development path suited to their own national conditions. How to achieve balance between reform, development and stability has thus become the key question for the Egyptian public. History is like a mirror. Having learned the lesson of the past four years, the Egyptians have sharpened their judgment about the overrated “Greater Middle East Initiative”. The system of democracy of a country must be based on its reality, history, culture, tradition and development stage. Otherwise, it could lead to disastrous consequences. This is not a theory, but already the daily reality for people in certain parts of the Middle East.

Impact: Middle East conflict = massive human rights violations and suffering

Perry Cammack and Michele Dunne 2018 (Both are with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Cammack - nonresident fellow in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Dunne is an expert on political and economic change in Arab countries, particularly Egypt, as well as U.S. policy in the Middle East) “Fueling Middle East Conflicts – Or Dousing the Flames?” Oct 2018 <https://carnegieendowment.org/2018/10/23/fueling-middle-east-conflicts-or-dousing-flames-pub-77548>

By contrast, in the last six years alone, Arab states and Iran have intervened militarily in four Arab countries (Syria, Yemen, Libya—as well as a brief intervention to crush an uprising in Bahrain) as well as politically in others (notably supporting the 2013 military coup in Egypt). The blurring of lines between civilians and combatants, as well as a lack of international consensus about how these conflicts might be ended, has created an environment where massive violations of international humanitarian law have become commonplace, particularly in Syria and Yemen, but also in Iraq and Libya. These abuses include, but are not limited to, indiscriminate bombing of urban civilian populations, ethnic cleansing and civilian displacement on a grand scale, widespread sexual violence, use of chemical weapons, denial of humanitarian access and use of starvation as a weapon, and the bombing of hospitals and schools.

3. Lost US hegemony / Russia

Link & Brink: Cutting US military aid would push Egypt over the edge to ally with Russia

İsmail Numan Telci 2018 (Assistant professor at Sakarya University, Middle East Institute and SETA. Contributor to Daily Sabah, a Turkish newspaper) 19 Jan 2018, “A partnership at risk: Future of US-Egyptian relations,” <https://www.dailysabah.com/op-ed/2018/01/20/a-partnership-at-risk-future-of-us-egyptian-relations>

While Washington threatens to cut off its military aid to Egypt, political circles in the U.S. have been heavily criticizing the Sissi regime. Despite the occasional contacts between Trump and Sissi, it is obvious that relations between the countries are not at the desired level. [**END QUOTE**] This situation becomes increasingly apparent in the relations between the two countries and their approach to regional and global issues. The Jerusalem crisis of December 2017 was one of the indicators of this situation. Following Trump's declaration of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, Washington met Egypt's stance with criticism. **[HE GOES ON TO SAY LATER IN THE SAME CONTEXT QUOTE**:] The more disturbing issue for the U.S. with regard to Egypt is the gradual convergence of the Sissi regime with Russia. The transformation of relations between Cairo and Moscow into a strategic alliance is a source of great concern for foreign policy circles in Washington.

Backup Link: Russia already has a foothold, gaining influence with Egypt

İsmail Numan Telci 2018 (Assistant professor at Sakarya University, Middle East Institute and SETA. Contributor to Daily Sabah, a Turkish newspaper) 19 Jan 2018, “A partnership at risk: Future of US-Egyptian relations,” <https://www.dailysabah.com/op-ed/2018/01/20/a-partnership-at-risk-future-of-us-egyptian-relations>

Following a positive outcome of ongoing negotiations on the issue, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoygu and his Egyptian counterpart signed an agreement in November 2017, allowing Russian fighter jets to use Egyptian air bases. This development was a demonstration that Russia has a serious impact on Egypt, which is also one of the U.S.'s most important allies in the Middle East. **[END QUOTE**] Reports and analyses in U.S. media after the agreement stress that Russia had made its greatest impact in the Middle East since the 1970s. The Trump administration was also criticized for not doing enough to stop Russia's strategic advance in the Middle East. In lights of these developments, Pence's visit to Egypt in the coming days is very important. [**HE GOES ON TO SAY LATER IN THE CONTEXT QUOTE:]** The shift by Egypt, which is historically one of the most important U.S. partners in the Middle East, to Russia has created concern for Washington. U.S. decision makers aim to prevent Egyptian-Russian rapprochement from continuing further by employing new instruments. By doing so, Washington would prevent the rising influence of Russia in the Middle East.

Backup Link: Russia exploits US unreliability in the Middle East, provides weapons quickly upon request

Dr. Nikolay Kozhanov 2018 (visiting lecturer in the political economy of the Middle East at the European University at St Petersburg; PhD in the economic security of the Middle East from St Petersburg State University ) Russia and Eurasia Programme | February 2018 Russian Policy Across the Middle East Motivations and Methods <https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/research/2018-02-21-russian-policy-middle-east-kozhanov.pdf>

In other words, Russia exploits the shortcomings of Western policies in the Middle East. Thus, the US reluctance to protect Mubarak compared with the support Moscow provided to Assad encourages regional powers to consider Russia a more reliable partner. The fast dispatch of weapons to the Iraqi authorities in 2014 when they badly needed new equipment to fight a rising ISIS (while the US-led Western states were only thinking about whether and how they should help the Iraqi army) served to demonstrate Russia’s responsibility to an ally. The US and EU decision to limit weapons exports to Egypt in 2013 was one of the reasons behind the rise in sales of Russian arms in the region.

Backup Link: Russian influence and prestige worldwide grows as they succeed in the Middle East

Public Radio International 2017. “Russia’s influence in the Middle East is growing” 14 Dec 2017 <https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-12-14/russia-s-influence-middle-east-growing>

Russia now has a naval base in the Mediterranean in Tartus, a warm-weather port in Syria. It also has an airbase nearby. Now there’s talk of the Russian air force securing basing rights in Egypt. It already has access to an Iranian base. But this Russian effort in the Middle East is not so much about hard power, says Tharoor. “For Putin,” he explains, “it’s all about domestic optics more than anything else. He has staked his political legitimacy on being this world-historic figure who’s returning Russia to prominence on the world stage.”

Link & Brink: Blocking Russia in the Middle East is key to maintaining US leadership as a great power

Steven A. Cook 2018 (senior fellow for Middle East and Africa studies at the Council on Foreign Relations) 16 March 2018 FOREIGN POLICY “Russia Is in the Middle East to Stay” <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/03/16/the-middle-east-needs-a-steady-boyfriend/>

If the United States is, as Secretary of Defense James Mattis averred in January, in a new era of great power competition, it is time the United States treated the situation as seriously as it is. Putin must be disabused of the notion that the Middle East is the most propitious place to begin weakening the West and the United States. Americans once before contained and rolled back Moscow’s influence in the region; there is no reason to believe that they cannot do it again — but only if they have the wisdom to recognize what is important in the world right now and the collective stomach to meet the challenge.

Link: Strengthens our enemy. Russia is more than just a rival to the U.S.; they are becoming an enemy

Prof. Daniel Byman 2018 (professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service ; research director and senior fellow at the Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution.) 11 Apr 2018 LAWFARE, “Pushing Back Russia in the Middle East: A Thought Experiment,” <https://www.lawfareblog.com/pushing-back-russia-middle-east-thought-experiment>

Russia is increasingly emerging as an enemy of the United States, not just a rival. Although President Trump generally seems to oppose any attempt to confront Russia—with the exception of a tweet this morning in which he warned the Kremlin to “get ready”—it’s worth considering how a more strategically minded administration might do so, particularly in the Middle East, where Moscow has vastly expanded its influence. During the height of the Cold War, the United States reflexively opposed the Soviet Union and the spread of communism. In addition to shoring up allies in Europe and Japan, the United States often sought to hinder or roll back Moscow’s influence in parts of Africa and Asia, regardless of the minor strategic significance of the areas in question. In the Middle East, the U.S. opposition to the Soviet Union often manifested in efforts to sway and topple governments in Iraq and Syria and a competition for influence in Egypt, among other locations. At the Cold War’s end, the Soviet Union maintained some interest in and influence over Algeria, Iraq, Libya, Syria and South Yemen (the last of which would soon enter history’s dustbin). Yet for the most part, the United States had run the board, with close partnerships with key states such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Morocco, and Egypt as well as Israel and Turkey, the region’s military powerhouses.

Impact 1: World peace & prosperity at risk without US influence. US hegemony is key to global peace & prosperity

Capt. M. V. Prato 2009 (United States Marine Corps,Command and Staff College, Marine Corps Combat Development Command,Marine Corps University) “The Need for American Hegemony” 20 Feb 2009 <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/citations/ADA508040>

The world witnessed a vast shift in the polarity of geopolitics after the Cold War. The United States became the world’s greatest hegemon with an unequalled ability to globally project cultural, political, economic, and military power in a manner not seen since the days of the Roman Empire. [**END QUOTE**] Coined the “unipolar moment” by syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer, the disparity of power between the U.S. and all other nations allows the U.S. to influence the world for the mutual benefit of all responsible states. Unfortunately, the United States is increasingly forced to act unilaterally as a result of both foreign and domestic resentment to U.S. dominance and the rise of liberal internationalism. [**HE GOES ON LATER TO CONCLUDE QUOTE:]** The United States must exercise benevolent global hegemony, unilaterally if necessary, to ensure its security and maintain global peace and prosperity.

Impact 2: Civilizational collapse – with decline of US dominance and rise of Russia and China

Dr. Robert Kagan 2017. (PhD in American history; Stephen & Barbara Friedman Senior Fellow - Foreign Policy, Project on International Order and Strategy at Brookings Institution) 6 Feb 2017 ‘Backing into World War III” <https://www.brookings.edu/research/backing-into-world-war-iii/>

Think of two significant trend lines in the world today. One is the increasing ambition and activism of the two great revisionist powers, Russia and China. The other is the declining confidence, capacity, and will of the democratic world, and especially of the United States, to maintain the dominant position it has held in the international system since 1945. As those two lines move closer, as the declining will and capacity of the United States and its allies to maintain the present world order meet the increasing desire and capacity of the revisionist powers to change it, we will reach the moment at which the existing order collapses and the world descends into a phase of brutal anarchy, as it has three times in the past two centuries. The cost of that descent, in lives and treasure, in lost freedoms and lost hope, will be staggering.

Impact 3: US military personnel at risk. Russia will cause problems with operational security of U.S. military personnel

David D. Kirkpatrick 2017 (**Kirkpatrick—**International correspondent based in the London bureau of the NY Times; former Cairo bureau chief. **Contributors**: Andrew **Higgins** (master’s degree in Oriental Studies and also attended Middlebury College, where he studied Russian and Arabic), reporting from Moscow, Nour **Youssef** (reporter in the Cairo bureau of The NY York Times.) from Cairo, and Eric **Schmitt** (senior writer covering terrorism and national security for The NY Times.) from Washington) 30 Nov 2017, NEW YORK TIMES, “In Snub to U.S., Russia and Egypt Move Toward Deal on Air Bases,” <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/30/world/middleeast/russia-egypt-air-bases.html>

“Power abhors a vacuum and when the United States pulls back we can’t be under the impression that the world is going to stand by and wait for us,” said Matthew Spence, a former deputy assistant secretary of defense for Middle East policy under the Obama administration, which faced similar criticism for its policy toward the region. “The danger, and the reality, is that other countries will take advantage of the opportunity presented when America chooses to pull back.” In practical terms, the presence of Russian jets in Egypt would raise concerns about the operational security of American military personnel and require coordinating with American military planes in the same airspace. “It’s a major problem for the United States-Egypt defense relationship,” said Andrew Miller, a former senior State Department official who is now at the Project on Middle East Democracy.

4. US manufacturing jobs

Link & Impact: Egyptian weapon purchases (through the aid) keeps U.S. businesses open. We lose jobs without it.

Shana Marshall 2012 (Contributor to Foreign Policy, Research fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis Univ), 29 Feb 2012, “Why the U.S. won’t cut military aid to Egypt,” <http://foreignpolicy.com/2012/02/29/why-the-u-s-wont-cut-military-aid-to-egypt/>

Although domestic interest groups are rarely invoked in the debate over military aid to Egypt, the $1.3 billion in annual assistance represents a significant subsidy to U.S. weapons manufacturers. For instance, the General Dynamics manufacturing facility in Lima, Ohio where the M1A1 Abrams tank is built will not have more work orders from the U.S. Army until 2017 when the current M1 tank fleet is up for refurbishing. Egypt’s latest $1.3 billion order of 125 M1A1s (Cairo’s 11th order since the late 1980s) will keep those production lines open until 2014 building knock down kits that are then shipped and assembled in Egypt. Although shipping fully assembled tanks to Egypt would employ more U.S. workers, without the contract the Lima plant (in a crucial electoral swing state) would shutter its doors and General Dynamics’s bottom line would take a serious hit.

General Dynamics is only one of several contractors that get sales boosts from Egypt

Shana Marshall 2012 (Contributor to Foreign Policy, Research fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies at Brandeis University), 29 Feb 2012, “Why the U.S. won’t cut military aid to Egypt,” <http://foreignpolicy.com/2012/02/29/why-the-u-s-wont-cut-military-aid-to-egypt/>

General Dynamics is only one of several tier-1 contractors that will get a boost from the recent M1A1 sale to Egypt; others include Honeywell (of Arizona) and Allison Transmission (of Indiana). A cable from the U.S. embassy in Cairo released by Wikileaks demonstrates the interest that the U.S. Government has in using aid to Egypt to promote the interests of domestic weapons producers. In the cable, U.S. military planners are said to be “especially concerned” that without the tank sale to Egypt, Allison may not be able to “maintain its transmission line’s profitability.”

More than 1.3 million Americans work in the weapon manufacturing industry

Farah Najjar 2017 (Online producer at Al Jazeera English covering the Middle East region. James **Gelvin**—a professor of Middle East history at the University of California) 3 Oct 2017, “Why US aid to Egypt is never under threat,” <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/aid-egypt-threat-171002093316209.html>

The high amount of military aid, in particular, has also helped to create jobs and to reduce unemployment in the US. More than 1.3 million Americans work in manufacturing weaponry for defence companies, and more than three million others support the industry indirectly. The US is among the world's top five arms producers and distributors, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. “The United States does not give money to Egypt for military equipment; it gives the Egyptian military a list of equipment the American government will purchase on its behalf in the United States,” Gelvin told Al Jazeera.

The reason the aid subsidizes U.S. manufactures is because the money doesn’t leave the U.S.

Janosch Delcker 2013 (contributor to Deutsche Welle (DW), which is Germany’s international broadcaster) 10 July 2013, “US arms industry profits from aid funds to Egypt,” <http://www.dw.com/en/us-arms-industry-profits-from-aid-funds-to-egypt/a-17142225>

**The money never reaches Egypt** Under a military aid agreement, the aid for Egypt in fact never leaves the United States. As soon as the US Congress approves the payments, the money goes to an account at the Federal Reserve Bank in New York. The bank transfers the aid to a trust fund at the Treasury, and from there to US military contractors and suppliers. The contracting parties, some of them multinational groups with subsidiaries in the US, must be based in the US and it is essential that they employ personnel in the US. As a result, the financial aid does not go to Cairo, but to America's heartland, creating more or less state-subsidized jobs.

Foreign Military Sales has helped the U.S. economy

Bilal Y. Saab 2018 (Executive Director and Head of Research & Public Affairs of the Institute for Near East and Gulf Military Analysis (INEGMA) North America) 22 Feb 2018, THE NATIONAL INTEREST, “What Does America Get for Its Military Aid?,” <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/what-does-america-get-its-military-aid-24605?page=show>

Massive U.S. foreign military sales (FMS) to Arab partners throughout these years have also done wonders for the U.S. economy. They have generated trillions of dollars’ worth of revenue, created hundreds of thousands of jobs in the American defense industry and boosted efficiency in U.S. military budgets by reducing unit costs.

5. The U.S. loses military cooperation

Link: If the U.S. cuts aid, it could lose its military privileges in the region

Janosch Delcker 2013 (contributor to Deutsche Welle (DW), which is Germany’s international broadcaster) 10 July 2013, “US arms industry profits from aid funds to Egypt,” <http://www.dw.com/en/us-arms-industry-profits-from-aid-funds-to-egypt/a-17142225>

It seemed to be a difficult answer for Barack Obama. The US president appeared to weigh every word when he was asked during a TV interview in August why the US has not cut military aid to Egypt. “What we’re doing right now is a full evaluation of the US-Egyptian relationship,” he replied. “There’s no doubt that at this point we’ve got to take a look and see what is in the interest of the Egyptian people, and what is in the interest of the United States.” The US annually sends Egypt $1.5 billion (1.1 billion euros) in aid funds, and a hefty $1.3 billion of that goes to the military. Military aid has been under criticism since Egypt's military ousted President Mohammed Morsi in July – but the US government has held firm. Observers say the US could lose its military privileges in the region if it cuts aid, thereby endangering America's security interests.

Egypt allows fly-over rights for U.S. aircrafts and expedited access through the Suez Canal for U.S. Navy

Seth Binder and William D. Hartung 2018 (**Binder**—an expert in security assistance and Middle East affairs at Strategic Research & Analysis. **Hartung**—Director of the Arms and Security Project at the Center for International Policy and the author of Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military-Industrial Complex) 28 Mar 2018, “Time To Rethink U.S. Military Aid To Egypt,” <https://lobelog.com/time-to-rethink-u-s-military-aid-to-egypt/>

**What Egypt Gives the US**Washington expects Cairo to return the favor for U.S. aid by providing fly-over rights for U.S. aircraft, expedited access through the Suez canal for the U.S. Navy, counterterrorism cooperation, and maintenance of the peace treaty with Israel.

U.S. has access to Egyptian airspace and they’re given prioritization of naval ships in the Suez

Farah Najjar 2017 (Online producer at Al Jazeera English covering the Middle East region. Robert **Springborg**—a Middle East expert and non-resident fellow at the Italian Institute of International Affairs) 3 Oct 2017, “Why US aid to Egypt is never under threat,” <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/aid-egypt-threat-171002093316209.html>

In addition to Egyptian support for American “counterterrorism and counterinsurgency” campaigns, Springborg says the US also enjoys marginal benefits, including access to Egyptian airspace and the prioritisation of US naval vessels through the Suez Canal.

Link & Brink: The U.S. military is heavily dependent on Egypt’s airspace and access to the Suez Canal

Jim Michaels 2017 (contributor to USA Today) 17 Aug 2013, USA TODAY, “U.S. military needs Egypt for access to critical area,” <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/08/17/egypt-morsi-obama-hagel-gulf-heritage-brookings/2665903/>

The U.S. military is heavily dependent on Egypt to move personnel and equipment to Afghanistan and around volatile parts of the Middle East, complicating U.S. efforts to place pressure on the Egyptian military in the wake of its violent crackdown on protesters. “Egypt has been a cornerstone for the U.S. military presence in the Middle East,” said James Phillips, an analyst at the Heritage Foundation. During the past year, more than 2,000 U.S. military aircraft flew through Egyptian airspace, supporting missions in Afghanistan and throughout the Middle East, according to U.S. Central Command, which is responsible for the region. About 35 to 45 U.S. 5th Fleet naval ships pass through the Suez Canal annually, including carrier strike groups, according to the Bahrain-based fleet. Egypt has allowed U.S. warships to be expedited, which often means getting to the head of a very long line of ships waiting for access to the canal.

Impact: If Egypt cut off its airspace and canal access, the U.S. military would face huge costs and longer transit times

Jim Michaels 2017 (contributor to USA Today) 17 Aug 2013, USA TODAY, “U.S. military needs Egypt for access to critical area,” <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2013/08/17/egypt-morsi-obama-hagel-gulf-heritage-brookings/2665903/>

If Egypt cut off its airspace and canal access, the U.S. military would face heavier costs and much longer transit times as it positions troops and equipment in the Middle East. For example, without access to the canal, which connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea, warships would generally have to sail around Africa in order to get to the Persian Gulf.

6. Lose the Peace Treaty (also known as the “Camp David Treaty”) with Israel

Link 1: U.S. aid is key to Egypt maintaining the Peace Treaty with Israel

Zvika Krieger 2012 (Former editor and writer at The New Republic and a former correspondent for Newsweek based in Egypt and Lebanon, covering most of the Arab world; fellow at the Truman National Security Project; bachelor's degree in Middle East Studies from Yale University and studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo), 16 Feb 2012, THE ATLANTIC, “Egypt vs. Israel: How Congress Weighs the Risks of Cutting Our Aid to Cairo,” <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/02/egypt-vs-israel-how-congress-weighs-the-risks-of-cutting-our-aid-to-cairo/253193/>

U.S. aid to Egypt has historically been conditioned on Egypt meetings its obligations under the 1979 Camp David treaty, which ended three decades of intermittent war with Israel. As relations between the two countries have vacillated over the three and a half decades since, with particular nadirs since the overthrow of Hosni Mubarak last year, the funding has been seen as one of the chief protectors of the treaty.

Backup Link: US military relationship with Israel is essential to maintaining Egypt-Israel peace

R. Nicholas Burns 2013. (*professor of the practice of diplomacy and international politics at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government; served in the US Foreign Service for 27 years; was Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs*) 5 July 2013 “Why Egypt matters to the US” <https://www.pri.org/stories/2013-07-05/why-egypt-matters-us>

Third, the US would be smart to maintain a strong link to the major power centers in Egyptian politics, especially the military. To ensure a continued peace between Egypt and Israel — one of the most important and enduring of all American interests — US officials will need to continue to cultivate and work closely with the Egyptian military, one of the few institutions in Egypt that is still effective in this revolutionary era.

Backup Link: Egypt gets U.S. aid because it signed the Peace Treaty

Farah Najjar 2017 (Online producer at Al Jazeera English covering the Middle East region) 3 Oct 2017, “Why US aid to Egypt is never under threat,” <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/aid-egypt-threat-171002093316209.html>

**Why does Egypt get US aid?** For a country to become an eligible recipient of US aid, it must align itself with American interests and foreign policy, analysts say. In the case of Egypt, US aid granted since the signing of the 1978 Camp David Accords was "untouchable compensation" for maintaining peace with Israel. This deal is considered a cornerstone of US-Egyptian relations.

Backup Link: The primary benefit of U.S. giving Egypt aid is the Peace Treaty

Farah Najjar 2017 (Online producer at Al Jazeera English covering the Middle East region. Robert **Springborg**—a Middle East expert and non-resident fellow at the Italian Institute of International Affairs) 3 Oct 2017, “Why US aid to Egypt is never under threat,” <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/aid-egypt-threat-171002093316209.html>

**How does the US benefit?** The primary benefit is the “cessation of hostilities against Israel” by Egypt and “other Arab states that could not wage war against Israel in the absence of Egyptian participation”, Springborg said.

Link & Brink: Egypt would cancel the treaty if they lost U.S. aid

Zvika Krieger 2012 (Former editor and writer at The New Republic and a former correspondent for Newsweek based in Egypt and Lebanon, covering most of the Arab world; fellow at the Truman National Security Project; bachelor's degree in Middle East Studies from Yale University and studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo), 16 Feb 2012, THE ATLANTIC, “Egypt vs. Israel: How Congress Weighs the Risks of Cutting Our Aid to Cairo,” <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/02/egypt-vs-israel-how-congress-weighs-the-risks-of-cutting-our-aid-to-cairo/253193/> (brackets in original)

With the Egyptian economy in shambles and its new rulers struggling to prove to its citizens that they can run the country effectively, losing U.S aid would be a disaster for Egypt. So much so that even though some Egyptian political actors have threatened to annul the treaty, most Egypt-watchers are confident that such threats are likely empty as long as U.S. aid is tied to the treaty. “[The Egyptians] would definitely say that the treaty is premised on the aid,” said one top Hill staffer who works closely on the issue. Cutting aid to Egypt could thus mean trouble for the treaty. “The aid was one of the commitments of the parties that signed the peace agreement so if there is a breach from one side it gives the right of review to the parties,” Essam el-Erian, the deputy leader of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party, the biggest group in the newly elected parliament, said this week.

Link & Impact 1: Cutting aid to Egypt jeopardizes the Israel peace treaty. Impact: Middle East peace at risk

Jill Dougherty 2013 (CNN contributor; former CNN Foreign Affairs Correspondent and Moscow bureau chief with expertise in Russia and the former Soviet Union; currently a member of the Advisory Council of the Woodrow Wilson Center's Kennan Institute) **updated** 6 July 2013, “Why Americans should care about Egypt,” <https://www.cnn.com/2013/07/05/politics/egypt-u-s--impact/index.html> [Fareed **Zakaria**—host of an international and domestic affairs program; editor-at-large and a columnist for TIME magazine, and a columnist for The Washington Post]

The United States helps Egypt because it's one of only two Arab countries -- along with Jordan -- that made peace with Israel. If Washington pulls its aid, it could affect prospects for peace in the Middle East. “All of these things are tied together,” says CNN’s Fareed Zakaria. “The aid is tied to Egypt's peace treaty with Israel, so if our aid gets cut off what happens to the peace treaty with Israel? It's a hornets' nest and that's why the administration is trying not to stir it too much.”

Impact 2: Israel’s national security is harmed—not just with Egypt, but with other neighbors as well

Dareen Khalifa 2013 (International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence (ICSR) Atkin Fellow; MA in Human Rights from University College London, and a BA in Political Science from Cairo University;consultant for Amnesty International in London. In Egypt she worked on human rights education and advocacy with the National Council for Human Rights.) Feb 2013, “Saving peace: The case for amending the Egypt-Israel peace treaty,” <http://icsr.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/ICSR_Atkin-Series_Khalifa-Paper.pdf>

The peace treaty between Israel and Egypt constituted a significant and groundbreaking change in Middle East politics. It laid the foundation for a fundamental change in the peace process, not only between Egypt and Israel but between Israel and its other neighbours. The termination of the state of war and installation of a state of peace in Article I of the treaty created a new legal and political framework in the region. The significance of the peace relationship between Egypt and Israel, and the fact that a generation of Egyptians and Israelis have grown up without the threat of war, is a central factor to the national security of both countries.

Backup Impact 2: Israel is the only liberal democracy in the Middle East

Alex Lockie 2017 (**Lockie—**News editor and a military and foreign-policy writer at Business Insider. He attended Georgia State University. Michael **Koplow**—a Middle East analyst at the Israel Policy Forum) 18 Feb 2017, BUSINESS INSIDER, “Here's why the US and Israel are such close allies,” <http://www.businessinsider.com/us-israel-allies-2017-2>

But besides having perhaps the world's greatest intelligence sharing partnership, the US and Israel see eye to eye on something fundamental to both states — democracy. “Israel is the only liberal democracy in the Middle East,” said Koplow, who added that there are "many shared societal values between US and Israel.” Like the US, Israel has regular and open elections with peaceful transitions of power. In a region with failed and failing states Israel is “really an important ideological ally,” said Koplow.

A/T: “Egypt won’t go to war” — Not directly, but it would still cause harm to Israel

Dareen Khalifa 2013 (International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence (ICSR) Atkin Fellow; MA in Human Rights from University College London, and a BA in Political Science from Cairo University;consultant for Amnesty International in London. In Egypt she worked on human rights education and advocacy with the National Council for Human Rights.) Feb 2013, “Saving peace: The case for amending the Egypt-Israel peace treaty,” <http://icsr.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/ICSR_Atkin-Series_Khalifa-Paper.pdf>

Even if Egypt annulled the treaty unilaterally without entering into a direct war with Israel, it would be a great loss for the Jewish state because it was only through the treaty that Egypt was taken out of the equation of the Arab-Israel conflict.

Impact 3: NATO, the U.S., the EU, and Russia’s last line-of-defense against Muslim terrorists—falls

Mark Langfan 2014 (Chairman of Americans for a Safe Israel (AFSI) and specializes in security issues), 21 May 2014, “Israel, the Cornerstone of the Western World,” <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/Articles/Article.aspx/15035>

So, the cold, hard reality is that Israel is protecting all of NATO, Western Europe, America, and Russia from an Iranian/Muslim nuclear-armed Colossus that will overrun them all before The Morning’s Call to Prayer. Therefore, Israel is NATO’s, the US’, the EU’s, and Russia’s first, and last, line-of-defense against an Iranian/Muslim 370m man-strong nuclear-armed Oil-rich Colossus. In conclusion, a safe and secure Israel is not the cause of world instability, and conflict, but the cornerstone of world peace, and security. And it is a light of democracy and of freedom unto the nations of the world.

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