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**The balance of Power in
the Middle East
2019-2020
REPORT**

Sherif Omar

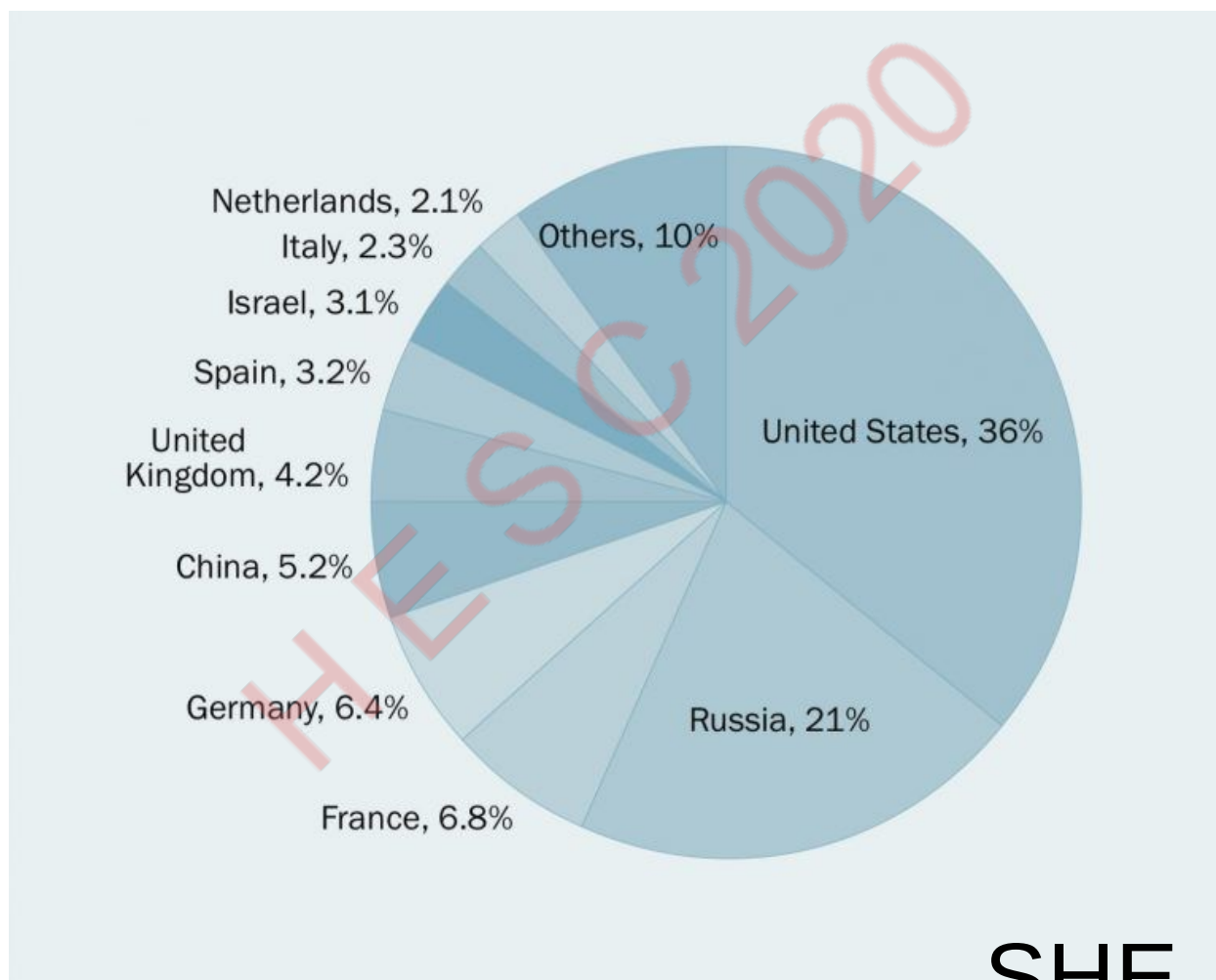
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The Balance of Power in The Middle East

{Crazy Armament Race in the Middle East & its effect on relations between USA & Middle East Countries }



Global share of major arms exports by the 10 largest exporters, 2014-2018 (Source: SIPRI)

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This Report divided into 2 main parts :

1- Arms Deals Race in the Middle East and Us-relations with Main allies {Saudi-UAE-Qatar-Kuwait }

2- Egyptian-US Relations {2010-2019}

Arms Deals Race in the Middle East and Us-relations with Main allies {Saudi-UAE-Qatar-Kuwait }

Middle East countries are buying weapons as we were heading for a third world war. Various deals from the largest arms exporting countries in the world America ,Russia, England ,France & Germany including fighter jets.defense Missile systems.Tanks ... etc

According to Aude Fleurant, director of the SIPRI Arms and Military Expenditure Program {Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates, both party to the international offensive in Yemen, together makes up around 28 percent of the US global arms sale.Global arms sales witnessed an increase of 8% in 2014-18 compared to 2009-13 and 23% compared to 2004-2008. The five largest weapons exporters for a five-year period were reported to be the US (36%), Russia (21%), France (6.8%), Germany (6.4%) and China (5.2%), collectively accounting for almost 75% of the total volume of arms exports in 2014-18.

The increase in arms sales to the Middle East resulted in the region accounting for 35% of the global arms imports in 2014-18. Saudi Arabia emerged as the world's largest arms importer, with a 192% increase in 2014-18, and a 12% share of the total arms imports in the world. Other Middle Eastern countries also saw massive increase in arms imports, including Egypt (an increase of 206%), Qatar (225%), Iraq (139%) and Israel (354%), with the notable exception of Syria, which saw a 87% fall in its arms imports. Iran,

by comparison, accounted for only 0.9% of arms imports in 2014-18. Iran is under a United Nations arms embargo since 2010 that is supposed to last until 2020.}

In Spite of in some countries they does not have the well trained pilots to fly with the fighter jets they bought like in the case of Qatar { As per www.ainonline.com } announced that { The news report had noted that the first batch of pilots trained in November 2017 in France were Pakistani exchange officers. In 2015, Qatar agreed to buy 24 Rafale fighter jets from Dassault Aviation in a 6.3-billion-euro deal. It ordered 12 additional fighter jets in 2017.} {1}

Yet Qatar & France keep on denying that story , but it is known about qatar giving its nationality & passport as a policy of naturalization, whether in the field of sports or even in any other field .Some countries in the Middle East buy and store weapons even if they are overstated. It is likely that these weapons systems will be operated by experts from the country that supplied it .

It seems that the arms conflict is more fierce between exporters and not importers. Arms sales is the eternal conflict between Russia and America. This conflict results in pressure on importers and threats of sanctions in case of buying from the other sides .

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We will start with the Main Middle East Arms Exporters :



SAUDI :

On May 20, 2017, U.S. President Donald Trump and Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud signed a series of letters of intent for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to purchase arms from the United States totaling US\$110 billion immediately, and \$350 billion over 10 years. Saudi Arabia is America's No. 1 overall weapons buyer. In the last five years, Riyadh accounted for 18 percent of total U.S. arms sales, or about \$9 billion.

Arms imports by Saudi Arabia increased by 192 per cent between 2009–13 and 2014–18, making it the world's largest arms importer in 2014–18. The US supplied 68 percent of Saudi Arabia arms imports. Arms deliveries to Saudi Arabia in 2014–18 included 56 combat aircraft from the USA and 38 from the UK. In both cases, the aircraft were equipped with cruise missiles and other guided weapons. Planned deliveries for 2019–23 include 98 combat aircraft, 7 missile defence systems and 83 tanks from the USA; 737 armoured vehicles from Canada; 5 frigates from Spain; and short-range ballistic missiles from Ukraine. {2}

USA-Saudi Arabia Relations : {Relations between the two countries, long bound by common interests in oil and security, The U.S.-Saudi Arabia alliance is built on decades of security cooperation and strong business ties dominated by U.S. interests in Saudi oil. The relationship has survived severe challenges, including the 1973 oil embargo and

9/11 attacks, in which fifteen of the nineteen passenger jet hijackers were Saudi citizens. Successive U.S. administrations have held that Saudi Arabia is a critical strategic partner in the region.}{3}



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES :

The United Arab Emirates are the next largest buyer of U.S. arms in the Middle East. The UAE is responsible for 7.4 percent, or about \$4 billion, of sales. According to the State Department, the Emirates' \$1.9 billion for Boeing AH-64 Apache helicopters,

In 2014–18 the UAE was the seventh largest arms importer in the world. The USA accounted for 64 per cent of arms imports by the UAE. Deliveries in 2014–18 included 5 missile defence systems, 124 short-range ballistic missiles and 1671 armoured personnel carriers from the USA, and 3 corvettes from France. Some of the armoured vehicles were subsequently supplied by the UAE to militias in Yemen.}{4}

US-UAE Relations : The United States was the third country to establish formal diplomatic relations with the UAE and has had an ambassador resident in the UAE since 1974. The two countries have enjoyed friendly relations with each other and have developed strong government-to-government ties including a close security cooperation.



' \$5.1 billion for Boeing's F/A-18 fighter jets, and Bahrain's \$2.1 billion for Lockheed Martin's F-16 fighter make up some of the top sales to the Middle East.

US-Kuwait Relations : {Since they established diplomatic relations upon Kuwait's independence in 1961, the United States and Kuwait have enjoyed a long history of friendship and cooperation, rooted in shared values, democratic traditions, and institutions. In August 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. A U.S.-led multinational coalition subsequently liberated Kuwait from occupation in February 1991. The United States has continued to support Kuwait's sovereignty, security, and independence, as well as its multilateral diplomatic efforts to build greater cooperation among the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. From 2003, Kuwait provided the main platform for U.S. and coalition operations in Iraq, and later played a key role in facilitating the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops and associated equipment. Kuwait is an essential partner in the fight against Daesh. A member of the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, it hosts the headquarters of Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve. Kuwait is also an important partner in U.S. counterterrorism efforts, including efforts to block financing of terrorist groups.} {5}

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Qatar :

Qatari arms imports increased by 225 per cent between 2009–13 and 2014–18. USA accounted for 65 percent of Qatari arms imports in 2014–18. Qatar also imported smaller volumes of arms from other suppliers, including tanks from Germany, combat aircraft from France, short-range ballistic missiles from China and short-range air defence systems from Russia. Planned deliveries to Qatar for 2019–23 include 93 combat aircraft (36 from the USA, 33 from France and 24 from the UK) and 4 frigates from Italy {6}As per {6} SIPRI FACT SHEET ISSUED MARCH 2019

USA-Qatar Relations : The U.S. and Qatar have been key allies for decades, with close military and economic ties. Qatar is home to the United States' biggest base in the region, and in turn the U.S. has pledged to protect the small, oil rich country that juts out into the Persian Gulf. But the relationship is being tested like never before by the latest example of Qatar snubbing the interests of united states –when qatar was the only, nation to offer Turkey tangible aid in the form of a US\$15 billion investment and other types of financial assistance. After The U.S. recently sanctions on Turkey's economy for refusing to release an American pastor detained for almost two years,

Qatar has developed good relations with Iran & Turkey and yet still keeping a very good relations with Taliban , Al Qaeda and various terrorist groups that the U.S. considers terrorists.

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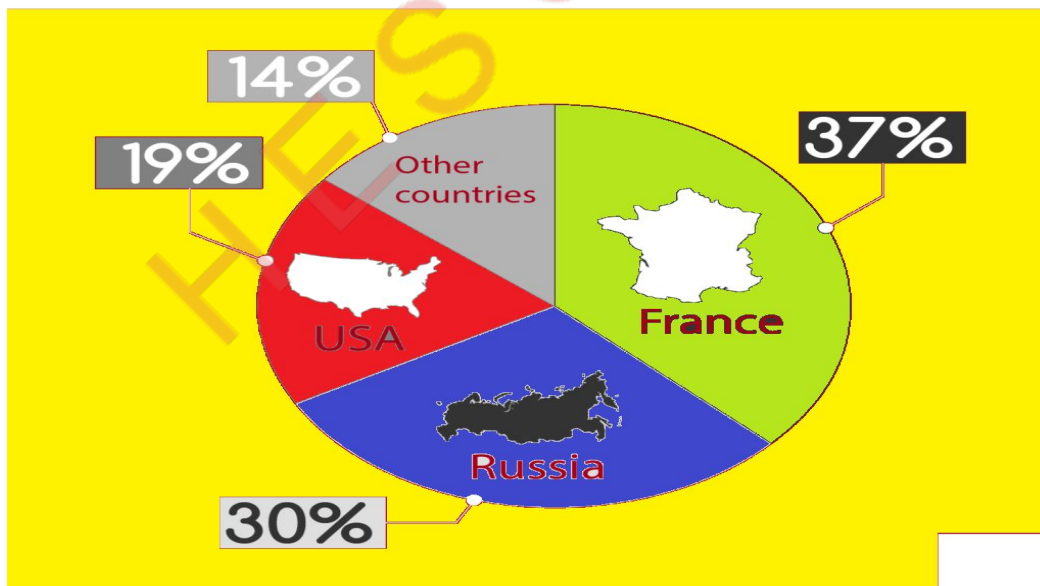
Egyptian-US Relations {2010-2020}

I would take Egypt as an example for This conflict results in pressure on weapons importers and threats of sanctions in case of buying from the other sides .



Egypt is the world's third-largest arms destination after India and Saudi Arabia, after dramatically increasing purchases of arms over the past five years.

Sources of Egyptian arms imports 2014-2018



Source: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

As per global firepower site 2019 Military Strength Ranking Egypt are ranked 12{of 137}

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Egypt-US Relations {2010-2020}:

This part of the report is an analysis of the Egyptian-American relations between 2010 and 2019 in a simplified way from my point of view since most of the analyzes were from American or European think tank centers. I might agree with some of these analyzes or disagreed. But in the end, I am an Egyptian and I know exactly what changes took place in Egypt after the 2011-2013 revolutions. It seems to me that the former & present US administrations did not understand it yet.

I will divide Egyptian Relations with USA into 2 periods :

A 2010-2013

B 2013-2020

In general Egypt maintains a good relations with most of the world . specially its strategic partnership with US a cornerstone of regional stability , same time Egypt has always a strong relationship & partnership with EU . Starting from 2013 Egypt has regained its strong relationship with Russia .Relations with **Israel** The relations between the two sides have improved significantly under the Sisi government. And been proved Directly due to the Egyptian army operations in Sinai against terrorist organizations.The security cooperation between the two sides has increased in recent years, enabling the Egyptian army to enter areas that were prohibited under the 1979 peace agreement. Heavy weapons have not been used since the October 1973 war.

{ 2010-2013 }

After Sadat's assassination in 1981 and former President Hosni Mubarak, things did not change. Mubarak maintained Cairo's close relations with Washington and committed himself to implementing the terms of the peace treaty with Israel. His visits to the White House for 29 years have shown how close the two countries till 2011.



Mubarak was optimistic about the end of Bush's term, but he was surprised in 2009 by US President Barack Obama, refusing to let Mubarak attend his famous speech at Cairo University, but Obama told him at night that he would go to Cairo university alone in the morning. Mubarak said that he found himself in a confusing situation and in a difficult situation .. Either cause a problem because of Obama's position, so he kept silent let Obama go alone .

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Mubarak realized at this moment that something will happen, Does not know when, and .. that time Mubarak also said that America had abandoned Egypt. The way he spoke at that moment meant that America had abandoned him personally.}

That time i think Mubarak has released his famous statement { WHO IS COVERED BY THE AMERICANS ARE NAKED } , these words shows deep understanding of US Policy

I think Mubarak's statement looks like {The Curse of Pharaohs} . It hits and affect US Relations with Arab Countries . all Arabs knew well ,we can not rely and trust americans any more . Its known by now that most of arab countries believed in the quote { DO NOT PUT ALL YOUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET } . and for sure Egypt is the first who realized this fact . Even Israel understood that fact as well starting to strength its relations with China & Russia .

Now the Egyptians views any US-President as an Employee has a contract to work in the white house either for 4 or 8 years , just his work to execute and follows the{CIA , Pentagon ,Military Industries } pre-prepared plans . he can not change it or even implement new plans or policies towards middle east and arab world .Whether he comes from the Democratic Party or the Republican Party .

In Egypt we believe that both US's policies { the new Middle East & the Creative Chaos } has taken us back around 20 years , we have lost stability , lost years to recover and restore Egypt's political & economy situation .

Its common between egyptian people to hear there negative opinions about {George W. Bush & Condoleezza Rice} { Obama & H.Clinton } considered as nations destroyers by their New Middle East & Creative Chaos } policies

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the new Middle East & the Creative Chaos } policy was first heard of by j.w. Bush & marketed well by Condoleezza Rice . followed by{ Obama & H.Clinton } following the same policy .

In 2012 -Rice made her remarks in a wide-ranging conversation with *Newsweek* And The Daily Beast editor Tina Brown at the first Women in the World conference held outside the United States, in São Paulo, Brazil {Political Islam is a fact of life,” former secretary of state Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday, talking about the revolutions that have swept the Middle East. But “we can’t lose hope,” she cautioned. “We’re not going back in time. Democracy is all about helping people claim their rights.” On a day when mass protests in Cairo showed the determination of many Egyptians to hold on to their newfound freedoms rather than surrender them to a government that is dominated and a constitution that is dictated by the Muslim Brotherhood, Rice said, “I know it looks chaotic in the Middle East, but we have a lot of arrows pointing in the right ways.” Whole societies are feeling their way, painfully and with many pitfalls, toward democracy.} {6}

In my comment about the above statement for Condoleezza Rice , I must refer to { opening statement - judging } {Judge Jeanine Pirro Barack Obama Horrible Handling of Egypt at FOX NEWS} ,She has really describes how Egyptians were looking to Obama’s administration {7}

It seems that the decision-making & Think Tank centers in America do not understand the nature of the Egyptian people so far. Although most of the Egyptian people are Muslims. We do not want to be ruled by political Islam.

However, America seems to believe that political Islam represented by the Muslim Brotherhood. Are the model role of islam . In 2011-2012 Muslim Brotherhood was the only organized force on the ground in Egypt and many other Arab countries after the Arab spring revolutions, which created chaos, resulting in a state of political vacuum and chaos.

The biggest mistake committed by America was its support for political Islam represented by the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt.. After the political Islam took the power in Egypt 2012. A phase similar to the Iranian revolution began in Egypt turned to be a rule of the tyrannical Muslim brotherhood that were on their way to turn Egypt into another Iran.

I would like to add a point {Political Islam is NOT fact of life } it seems that { Bush & Obama}'s administration's does not understand it that { Political Islam only wants to rule. But does not know how to rule. They are a group of preachers and gurus. Who make people hear them only. But they do not have the ability to run the state, especially countries such as Egypt. Political Islam has not produced any genius in the political, economic . I challenge those who prove the opposite of my words.

It seems that US-Administrations does not understand the nature of the Egyptian people so far. Although most of the Egyptian people are Muslims. But they do not want to be ruled by political Islam.

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace .Think Tank

One of the most famous Think Tank centers known in Egypt during the 2011-2013 revolutions , Egyptian people sees that center publishing reports does not belong to the Egyptian reality in any way, using some Arab and Egyptian researchers who write only what America wants to hear. Among them are Amr Hamzawy, who has always spoken in the press and television stations about freedom, democracy and the danger of political Islam, beside that Egypt no longer tolerates the Brotherhood's rule But in 2012 a leaked phone call between him and Issam al-Arian, one of the Brotherhood leaders . Amr hamzawy says that he wants to sit with him to determine the way of future cooperation to build Egypt. In Egypt, we see such a model of Political upheaval moving between all parties to achieve personal interest only

{2013-2020 }

For more than six months Egypt was on fire against the ruling of muslim brotherhood president morsi due to his disability to administrate a country like Egypt . he only depends on his muslim brotherhood . which been proven that Egypt is so big for them to control it .

June 30- july 3, 2013 more than 35 million of Egyptian people spend a week in the streets to protest against the Muslim brotherhood terrorist regime . The Egyptian people have been pressing for long months on the military establishment to save and protect them from muslim brotherhood .

For a second time in two and a half years, America has proved that its assessments in Egypt are wrong and confused, as demonstrated by the January 25, 2011 revolution and the correction revolution on June 30, 2013.

The White House support the theory of the strong man or the Pharaoh which its policies are based, whether he is president Hosni Mubarak or the isolated Mohamed Morsi. Obama's administration misunderstood the desire of the Egyptian people and their insistence on their demands to live. Freedom, social justice, human dignity, but the Egyptian people's desire finally wins after the intervention of the Egyptian military establishment in the revolutionary stages to help overthrow the muslim brotherhood dictator.

June 30 confused US accounts and proved the failure of Washington's policies again for supporting tyranny and then quickly retreat from this support for its

own benefit. At the same time, it showed divisions between the White House, Congress and the US Embassy in Cairo. US Ambassador Ann Patterson questioned the value of the rebellion demonstrations against the muslim brotherhood group's rule and that street protests would only bring more violence and martyrs. But the Egyptian people stand firm to overthrow the Muslim Brotherhood's Washington's ally.

Obama had a series of rapid meetings with his national security team and intensive contacts in the countries of the region and Israel, within six days emerged three different positions of the US President,

first: Obama expressed support for Mursi and criticized the overthrow of the army the suspension of the Constitution and requested a review of US aid to Egypt, Washington has avoided describing what happened as a military coup because it calls for an immediate halt to US aid in accordance with US law, which stipulates that any military or economic aid should be suspended if an army is overthrown by an elected government.

Second Obama returned and changed his position 180 degrees - after the historical statement of Abdul Fattah al-Sisi, who sided with the popular will and stressed the need to return quickly to elected civilian rule. Finally, he stressed his non-bias towards any political party or group , at this moment Obama confirmed the fall of the Muslim Brotherhood, the sponsor of political Islam in the world, Obama issued a statement that" the United States expects the Egyptian army during this period to ensure the protection of the rights of all Egyptians, And will continue to work with the Egyptian people to ensure Egypt's success in the

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transition to democracy, and that the future of Egypt can not be determined by the Egyptian people at the end of the day.”

Third Secretary of State John Kerry also stressed. “that the United States wants to see the ongoing process in Egypt succeeding for the benefit of the Egyptian people, and that the Egyptians themselves must come together and make the difficult decisions necessary to achieve this.”

Then finally dramatic USA change of positions after The attempt to storm the National Guard House in Cairo , which condemned the Muslim Brotherhood's explicit calls for violence and acknowledged the legitimate demands of millions Egyptians for the undemocratic model of the Morsi's Regime and demanding a new government. The US administration acknowledged that it was not in its interest to cut off military aid and stressed the need to work with the new Egyptian government. While Obama's views on June 30 were still confused , Congress also divided over how to deal with what happened, US lawmakers also preferred to avoid the word coup. Some members of Congress supported what they called the Egyptian army's decision to restore power from the Brotherhood.

“Republican Rep. Ed Royce, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said Mursi was an obstacle to the constitutional democracy that most Egyptians wanted.

"Republican Senator John McCain and Democratic Senator Patrick Leahy called for a cut in aid” while a third team stressed that it was more important to look at developments on the ground. Including the security of the Suez Canal. The

Republicans expressed strong support for the Egyptian army, the main partner and the regional stability force, whose close relationship with Washington dates back to the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

In the end, US's administration understood that democracy is not just elections it's more into the decision are made by the Egyptian people. Washington has finally chosen the language of interests and won over traditional coalitions and the obligations that end up on the rock of revolution.

Egypt has entered a tough economic reform program. To mitigate the losses caused by the recession that hit Egypt from 2011 to 2013.

President Al SISI Role :What happened in Egypt since the election of President al-Sisi is as follows{ Egypt is a giant infected with a large number of diseases and during the past 50 years used painkillers to treat this giant.

What President al-Sisi simply did was that he refused to use painkillers to treat this giant.He identified the processes & operations needed by the giant's body. And appeared to implement it gradually to eliminate the disease inside the body of this giant.Currently, the giant appeared to recover and restore its regional and Middle Eastern role.

Back to Arms Deals for Egypt .which makes Trump's administration threaten using sanctions against Egypt .Egypt's decision to seek other arms suppliers did not come as a coincidence, given Cairo's concern about the dangers of over-dependence on a single foreign supplier such as the United

States, which supplied it with most of the giant military equipment since 1978 under the Camp David Peace Agreement .

Due to the vital mistake done by Obama in October 2013 when the United States cut off military aid because of the army's role in supporting the popular overthrow of President Mohamed Morsi of power. The US decision angered the Egyptian army, which was further alarmed by the prospect of being held hostage to Washington's demands. pushed to aggravate Egypt's fears about it might happen again with the new administrations under any other reasons .

The diversification of Egypt's supplier base avoids the risk of over-dependence on one supplier and reinforces the country's influence with a number of powerful foreign powers, including Russia, China, France, Italy and Germany.

Over the past five years, Egypt has drastically increased its arms imports, making it the third largest destination for weapons in the world. Military necessity does not adequately explain the major increase in arms purchases. Egypt has pursued the arms buildup to bolster regional influence and global prestige and to lessen its dependence on the United States.

when president SISI visited USA , meet with President Trump

But both sides praised the strategic alliance between their countries . but what “Pompeo said when asked about Egypt’s Su-35 procurement during a Senate hearing to review his department’s budget on 9 April. according to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. “We’ve made clear that, if those systems were to be purchased, statute CAATSA would require sanctions on the regime,” and he added “We have received assurances

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from [the Egyptians] that they understand that [sanctions will be imposed] and I am very hopeful that they will decide not to move forward with that acquisition.”

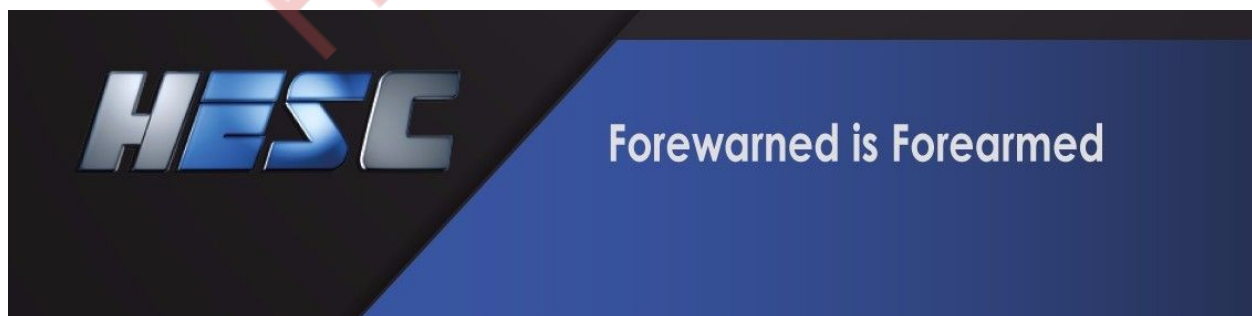
As per: The Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) will mean that Egypt will be punished if it buys Sukhoi Su-35 multirole fighters from Russia,

IN CONCLUSION : My point of view ,It seems that United States still does not understand that the egyptian leadership i mean President Al SISI Derives his legitimacy from the encirclement of the Egyptian people around him . This has not happened since the time of President Nasser. It seems to me that Americans has not yet grasped the extent of the impact of Mubarak's curse on them. Any Arab president or king now will not sacrifice his legitimacy in exchange for America's satisfaction. America also has to understand very well that Russia and China are in a position to take America's roles in the wider Arab region. FINALLY I have to repeat “ Mubarak’s famous statement { WHO IS COVERED BY THE AMERICANS ARE NAKED } . Hoping that America rethink well before loses its role in the Middle East .

By : Sherif Omar

6/08/2020

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{ ARAB THINK TANK . CAN THINK TOO }

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{7} <https://youtu.be/oJ7cYQS9D8E>