

# **CULTURAL POLICIES IN EGYPT**

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## **THE PAST AND FUTURE SPECULATIONS**

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# Cultural policies

- “Cultural policies are the body of plans, actions, and cultural practices that aim at catering to the cultural needs of a given country or society through the maximum investment of all financial and human resources available in this country or society.”

# Cultural policies between official and non-official institutions

- Setting cultural policies in a specific country requires cooperation between several educational, media, and cultural sectors and the contribution of both official and non-official institutions.

# The situation in Egypt - A look back

- The rule of Mohamed Ali (1805-1849) and his grandson Khedive Ismail (1863 - 1879)
  - A boom in culture and education
  - Interaction with the European culture
- The rule of Nasser (1954-1970)
  - Nationalist policy a powerful tool in supporting the socialist July Revolution

# The current situation

- Two major players in the field of cultural policies
  - The State, represented by the Ministry of Culture
  - Independent institutions

# The ministry of culture

- The Supreme Council of Culture
- The General Egyptian Book Organization
- The General Organization of Cultural Palaces
- The National Library and Archives of Egypt
- The National Cultural Center- The Opera House
- The National Organization for Urban Harmony
- The Academy of Arts
- The Cultural Development Fund
- Artists and Writers Fund
- The National Center for Translation

# Cultural policies

- Renovation and creativity
- Non-centralization
- Search for original means of funding through cooperation with national capital and institutions
- Interaction with world cultures

# Successful Deliverables

Mainly in the field of cultural industries

- The field of traditional crafts, museums, and antiquities linked to the tourism industry.
- The field of Film industry: Egyptian movies became a source of income inside the country as well as on satellite channels

# Independent culture

- The Egyptian cultural scene since the early 1990s : a positive transformation
  - New literature
  - Independent cinema.

# Literary writing an unprecedented boom

- Changes contributed to creating a new literary phenomenon that revolve around writers and novels, the genre that topped best selling lists.

# Independent cinema

- The phenomenon started in the late 1990s.
- Who are those who stand behind the camera? And who supports them?

# New generation of youths

- This cultural boom on the independent level is an expression of the needs of a new generation of youths
- This creative movement is one of the main forces behind the eruption of the January 25 Revolution.

# Independent cultural sector : several problems

- Rehearsals
- Funding
- Freedom of expression
- Failure to establish good ties with the official sector

# The key to the future?

- The cooperation between official institutions and independent institutions.

*Thank you  
for  
your attention*

