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MB Last Move: A New Era? A Coup With-In The Army? A Civil Theocracy?

Hesham Sallam

A coup from within the military's own ranks

*"**What is obvious from how the current events are unfolding is that someone inside the military is in fact supporting this move—which is also consistent with the preemptive coup theory**. It is highly doubtful that state television would run the president's statement and footage of the swearing in proceedings without being 100% sure that the folks who hold the guns are behind this. It is also doubtful that the MoI would go to great lengths to execute the decision to confiscate Al-Destoor without the support of some insiders. For instance, note that when Al-Gumhoria's printers initially refused to handover yesterday's edition of Al-Destoor, police forces took matters into their own hands and went to newsstands to confiscate as many copies of the newspaper as they could—lets just say this degree of diligence is highly unusual for police forces in the post-Mubarak era"*

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Mohamed El Dahshan

Military Leadership Reshuffling in Egypt – What It Isn't, What It Is

"With less SCAF to blame and more Morsi in power, we are now entering Egypt's Ikhwani era. Morsi might have gotten what he wished for. Both him, and us, should brace ourselves for what's to come. And in the meantime, all this high-level politicking has completely obfuscated Morsi's assault on freedom of expression, with the closing of a (repulsive and incendiary, but still) TV channel, the investigation of a newspaper on charges of insulting him, and the appointment of Brotherhood sympathizers to chief editorial positions in state-owned newspapers. We are a nation with the memory span of a goldfish"

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Arabist

The Morsi Maneuver: A First Take

"I am really unable to say whether, apart from breaking the deadlock, it will be a positive development in the long term. The possibility of a new MB-military understanding is still there, and it's what appears to be underpinning today's news. In other words, Egypt got rid of military leaders who outstayed their welcome, but may instead get a more subtle military leadership that is better able to work out an understanding with a Muslim Brotherhood that seems attached to a majoritarian idea of democracy, and of course remains generally illiberal. But at least, it gets rid of what was an untennable form of direct military rule and empowers an elected civilian president. Let's hope he uses his new powers wisely"

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Zeyad Mourad

Predictions on the age of incompetence

"To me, the whole thing boils down to ability. That is where my prediction on the fading away of SCAF emanated from. Not because the people would bring them down, not because poetic justice would fall on them, but because, regardless of how many international PR agencies they may have hired, I simply do not think they had it in them to scheme and plot as well as we liked to believe. I know I will strike some disagreement cord here, but let's face it: Geriatrics aren't always outstanding candidates to cope with extremely volatile political environments, and even if driven by self-preservation, they eventually become exhausted and not able to put up a fight. Keep in mind that this was not a state-of-the-art council in deciding all things relating to the army, and you will realize they would of course lose the will, and support from the lower ranks, to fight for their privileges"

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Perfectionatic

Changing The Rules of The Game

"Morsi clearly sees himself as the executer of divine will and the man most capable of gleaning solutions to the nation's troubles via his elevated reading of Islam. Some went as far as seeing his speech as a veiled declaration of the "Islamic Republic of Egypt". The new Caliph is in town; he gets make new rules and executes them at will. Many do not yet see it, but this is bad news

for the revolution and the revolutionaries. ***Combining executive and legislation powers and having substantial influence over the judiciary is quite worrying. Morsi has more power than Mubarak ever did. History teaches us that power, once obtained, is rarely ceded without a fight****"*

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The Big Pharaoh

Understanding Egypt's Second Bloodless Coup

"Shouldn't I be glad that finally an elected civilian president is calling the shots? No. Why? ***Because the MB's actions in the past year and a half prove beyond a shadow of doubt that they cannot be trusted.*** *As we enter Egypt's MB era, it gets clearer that the MB are more than willing to use Mubarak era laws and tactics in order to tighten their grip over the country. Just a few days before Morsi's bold decision, the MB in the Shura Council used Mubarak's law to self-appoint editor in chiefs for the state newspapers" [....} "I simply cannot separate* ***Morsi's latest decision from what the MB did to the state newspapers for example. All dots should be linked. And when you link all the dots, the picture doesn't look good at all.*** *So sorry, I am not celebrating"*

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Ashraf Khalil

Morsi's Move

"The military is keeping quiet for now; but its civilian backers, like former parliamentarian and newspaper editor Mustafa Bakri, are already denouncing a naked Brotherhood power grab. ***Those complaints will gain some traction among the 49% of voters who opposed Mr Morsi—many of whom saw the military as a necessary bulwark against the bearded hordes****"*

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Egypt's President: New Broom in Action

"The reaction to Mr Morsi's maneuver has been revealing. The SCAF has gone virtually silent. The only recent entry on its once active Facebook page is the curriculum vitae of the new defence minister, Abdel Fatah al-Sissi.

Meanwhile, the slow-moving purge has continued; on August 14th another prominent SCAF member, Major General Hassan al-Roweiny, announced his retirement for "personal reasons". He had commanded the Central Military Zone, controlling all troop movements in and around Cairo, the capital. His departure, along with Mr Tantawi's willingness to appear publicly (and in a subordinate role) with Mr Morsi, should end any chatter about a potential coup"

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Sarah El Sirgany

Turning Point in Egypt's Militarization

There's consensus that this move wouldn't have been possible without support from army factions, whether in the middle and lower ranks or within the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, which Tantawi headed and of which El-Sisi was member. ***There are indications that this is a coup from within the military's own ranks, seemingly aimed at securing its privileges away from uncertain political battles that primarily pertain to Tantawi and Anan's prestige and not to the army establishment's autonomy and its own interests****.*

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Hany Farouk Ghoraba

Egypt lost in Bermuda Triangle: USA, Muslim Brotherhood and the Qatari Connection

"What Egypt is witnessing these days is similar to what Germany witnessed in 1933 when the Nazi took over Germany in democratic elections then they took over the army, the judiciary system, the government and the presidency. Everyone knows how that ended and in this case Obama is Chamberlain (British Prime Minister) who appeased the fascists but as all historians know, fascists are never appeased because they want everything. This is not a panic fever but actual events taking place in Egypt on the ground now. ***With the current tensions in Egypt will and current economic struggles, the Million Dollar question is still whether Mohamed Morsi and his Islamist group survive 4 years of presidency or the waves of change will reach them before their term ends****"*

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Ellis Goldberg

The Morsi "coup": Coup d'etat, coup de grace or coup de theatre?

"Morsi is certainly an Islamist and he was long a member of the MB as well as the head of its political wing, the FJP. It is possible; however, the SCAF speaking for the Armed Forces as an institution was willing to cede power to Morsi and the presidency. Not to the MB or the FJP and not to the parliamentary system. But to Morsi himself acting as the elected president. Morsi, who has chosen to address the public frequently from mosques, is still an Islamist and the Islamist project has nothing to fear from him. Recruitment to high levels of government has probably gained a new channel and a new social base: members of Islamist movements from the professional elites as well as through the military"

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Adam Mowafi



SCAF GENIUS

"If you start thinking logically this was a fantastic move by SCAF, an institution which is clearly used to thinking in decades and not months. What seems to the public like Morsi all of a sudden grew a fairly substantial PAIR might in fact be quite the opposite" [....] "At this point they really don't fear an Islamist take over as the country is too divided for that to happen without essentially another revolution. As an institution which thinks in decades not years I believe they see the Islamists as a blip which will eventually be integrated into more moderate form accepted by the people. Thus leaving SCAF truly as the only super power in Egypt"

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Bad News



Karim Shafei

We can afford to lose some battles. Freedom of speech & independence of the press is NOT one of them. We lose this one, we lose all of them



Arabist

Bad News for the Brotherhood

"Gamal Fahmy, secretary general of the Journalists' Syndicate, also told Egypt Independent that he thought the majority of the new editors were weak, professionally speaking, and certainly not qualified to lead the kind of large staffs involved in these papers. Professional competence is an especially sore point; Yasser Rizk, the former editor of Al-Akhbar is generally acknowledged to have worked wonders with the ailing publication. However, he has not been supportive of the Islamists and was replaced during the shuffle.The new editors appear to fall into three categories: the cooperative, the Islamist, and the difficult-to-categorize"

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Bassem Sabry

The Slow Defence of Freedom

"A few days ago a Mid-East history textbook was inexplicably banned, a book that had reportedly already been in use by the American University in Cairo for 10 years. There are varying claims of journalists/writers in state-owned newspapers and media being censored. The information ministry was not abolished, which was a unanimous revolutionary demand, and the parliament's upper house continued the tradition of appointing editors of state owned print media, this time choose controversial picks who are said to at least be likely to attempt to appease the new regime" [....]" The more the precedents of such cases that are set without proper response mechanisms put in place and effectively used, the harder it will be to go back on such precedents, and the harder it will be to argue against repetitions of such cases. The time for all of this was yesterday. Today is still good though"

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On The Freedom of Media, and Article 179

"There needs to be ***a serious conversation on, and immediate attention to, what is taking place in Egyptian media; regarding both the transformations already occurring as well as the ethics and proper conduct of the profession****. There also needs to be an immediate project on the reform of media and the articles of the penal code pertaining to it (in addition to an overhaul of the code itself in its totality). But most immediately: archaic and Stalinist articles pertaining to the insult of state officials and institutions need to be abolished, and charges based on*

them need to be dropped, a clear timeline and concrete steps towards the abolishment of the "Information" Ministry must come forth, and criticisms of the recent appointments of state media heads needs to be addressed. Otherwise, suspicions may not have entirely been hyperbolic"

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Press Freedom

Egyptian Government Attempts to Suppress the Media

"President Mohamed Morsi's government and allies are pushing back against critical news coverage, suppressing critical journalists and state-run newspapers, putting a journalist on trial, and attacking three journalists on the street, according to news reports. "This is a troubling backward step that Egypt's newly elected President Mohamed Morsi should not be taking," said CPJ Deputy Director Robert Mahoney. "We urge President Morsi to reverse this course immediately and demonstrate his commitment to press freedom."

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Morsi Meter



Bassem Sabry

Guide: The Challenges Egypt and the Morsi Administration Must Face

"This special guide presents an overview of some of the most critical of these challenges. The focus, however, is more on the everyday life for Egyptians. The guide will avoid discussion of topics such as foreign policy or the influence of the military over political decisions. Rather, the aim is to highlight issues that have received a relatively smaller share of attention in public discourse due to the predominant focus on the democratic transition process and its exceptional and unique difficulties"

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Nervana Mahmoud

Egypt New Grand Imam



"Twice in one week, President Mohamed Morsi addressed Egyptians from a mosque. Each speech was more like a religious sermon than a political address. The following excerpts illustrate this point:

"Quran has everything for us, if we follow it, we would never need anything else."

"God told us to rule people with what is 'right'; not what they want."

"it is the duty of everyone to advocate virtue."

"God will accept your prayers only if you follow his order."

*"**In my humble opinion, President Morsi must stop abusing places of worship for political gain**. Did it not occur to him that frequent formal, live sermons in mosques could alienate Egypt's Coptic community? [...] "Needless to say, linking progression with piety is a dangerous move that can lead down a path toward hypocrisy, prejudice, and religious tyranny. Egypt elected a civil president, not a new grand Imam; the sooner President Morsi understands that, the better"*

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#Guns4EgyWomen



Sandmonkey

Women and Men

"Imagine a story that took hold of the imaginations of an entire globe of people, including me for sure, all about the natural inclination of men to devour women, and the natural inclination of women to yearn toward this, even after decades of socialization to avoid this devouring at all costs, right? How we set women up to be either virgins or whores, and how in neither case is it really about them, or what they want, and all about men and what

they want to put in the women, even infants, and we still judge the women on this criterion of what they do with that incredibly limited scope of options"

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#Guns4EgyWomen , cause the only way to end sexual harassment is to kill the fuckers who do it.

#guns4egywomen coz if we are going to live in a land where women's rights get taken by violence, the violence should be used back

#guns4egywomen cause really, as a society, you have left them no other choice.



Mai E

It says a lot about the sad state of women's rights and harassment in #Egypt that many are tweeting #guns4egywomen as the only way to #EndSH



Z Egyptian

At a time when women are targeted & security forces are lacking even the trust, #Guns4EgyWomen becomes a superb solution





Merna

#Guns4EgyWomen because the law that fails to protect women, is same law that will fail to protect the harasser when he tries to attack.



Zeinobia

#EndSH : The Eid beasts are back !!

"The Eid beasts are back and in the past 48 hours there was sad rapid increase in sexual harassment in Cairo especially in public gardens and busy street. This year you can not ignore the fact we got a new kind of harassers , 10 years old harassers who chase girls to grope them imitating the older harassers in the most dirtiest way ever despite I do not think that a 10 years old boy think about sex in that age but rather football and video games !!



*Shamefully and unfortunately the **Islamist youth from Muslim brotherhood and Salafists are justifying the sexual harassment not to mention encourage in order to force the women in to modesty , Hijab and Niqab !!** "Despite the majority of Egyptian women are veiled and most of them are harassed"*

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Syria

Syria is Broken & Divided



Abu Hatem

Syria is broken and will never be fixed

Syria is doomed to 3 divides - The Sunni-Alawi divide, the secular and Islamist divide and Arab-Kurd divide. None will be solved any time soon

Egypt cannot even deal with the Secular/Islamist divide and it is 90% Muslim, Syria will be broken by all 3 divides without negotiation. Settlement.

If power is a zero sum game, then Syria is screwed. If power sharing is possible, then it is not as screwed.

I still believe MB can 'almost' dominate along with Sufi and Salafi parties. Not dominate like Egypt but dominate like Ennahda.



Joshua Landis

Rebels Get Missiles; Kurds; Aleppo; Opposition Divided; al-Qaida

"Abdelbasset Seida, the leader of the Syrian National Council, said: "If each group came out alone announcing the formation of a new government without talks, this would end up in having a series of weak governments that don't represent anyone." Asaad, the putative commander of the Free Syrian Army called the new coalition "opportunists" seeking to benefit from the rebels' gains"

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Creating a Syrian Swamp: Assad's 'Plan B'

"Is the regime's "end game" coming soon? I fear not. Assad is likely to treat Syria as he did Iraq and Lebanon: he will work to break them apart. In

2005, a friend who was close to the regime told me that Assad and those around him were convinced that they could defeat President Bush's attempts to change the regime in Syria. They said: Bush thinks he can use Iraq against us. But Iraq is not a nation. We will help turn its factions against the US. It will turn into a swamp and suck the US in. This is what we did to Israel and the US in Lebanon in the 1980s"

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Lebanon

Gangs of Beirut - Al-Mokdad Republic



Imad Bazzi

I would like to thank the corrupt Lebanese elite of 8 & 14 March for refraining from starting a civil war during the holidays.

Al-Akhbar English

Al-Mokdad Republic

"Lebanon found itself at the mercy of street gangs. From assault to kidnapping to roadblocks, TV stations were flooded with images of masked men emerging from every nook and cranny across the country*. The abductions were random and the assaults targeted innocent civilians.The Lebanese scene fell hostage to turmoil targeting Syrian citizens who reside in Lebanon. The abduction of the Lebanese Hassan Salim al-Mokdad by an armed Syrian group in Damascus sparked a retaliatory wave of kidnappings by the al-Mokdad clan. As armed men operating under the name "al-Mokdad Military Wing" spread out across the southern suburbs of Beirut and its surroundings, a number of Syrian workers were forced to flee to the capital and elsewhere to escape the havoc.*

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Michael Young

Hizballah's Weapons of Mass Self-Destruction by Basem Shabb

"Hezbollah's thousands of short-range rockets do not have a significant military value. Instead, they constitute an excuse and an instigation for a destructive Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. Iran's control of Hezbollah's arsenal magnifies the danger. Hezbollah has no credible means of defending Lebanon's infrastructure, territorial waters or airspace. The deterrence value of the party's weapon systems is vastly overrated, exposing Lebanon to massive retaliation. The current situation presents a disaster in the waiting"

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Radwan Mortada

Mokdad Clan: The Syrian Vendetta

"In response to a family member being kidnapped in Damascus, the powerful al-Mokdad clan took revenge by kidnapping dozens of Syrian nationals in Lebanon" [....] "The arbitrary nature of the kidnappings spread utter chaos across Lebanon. The victims were innocent Syrian workers, they just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time" [.....] "In Hay al-Sellom, a suburb south of Beirut, masked gunmen attacked shops run by Syrians. They brutally dragged them into the streets and covered their heads with black sacks. Then they threw them into car trunks and detained them"

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#TripoliLB: The Tebbaneh Mob vs. Jabal Mohsen Fortress



Mustapha Hamoui

Clashes in Tripoli. Will There Be a "Victory"?

"To understand the nature of this fight, one must take a closer look at the two warring sides. On one hand, we have the Sunnis in Bab el Tebbaneh who support the Syrian revolution and hate the Assad regime to the bone. They are motivated by TV footage coming from Syria that shows the regime slaughtering their co-religionists. They are poor, but they have the will to fight and are generously armed with light weapons. They are also more

numerous than their opponents and don't follow a single chain of command" [...] "On the other side we have the Alawis in the Jabal. They support the Syrian president Assad so much that their streets are covered with his portraits. They have a small population compared to that of the Sunnis, but they have the strategic advantage of being on a hill towering over their opponents, making their location ideal for snipers and unwelcoming to "invaders". They are well entrenched and have access to heavy weapons, provided to them by the Assad regime (and some say by Hezbollah) to protect this strategic outpost in hostile territory"

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Saudi Arabia

It's All About The Women Rights



Leah McElrath

Saudi Women Speak Out

"The images of two strong, courageous young Saudi women athletes will forever exist as part of Saudi history. If you listen to the voices of the women interviewed herein, you can hear that a bell of hope and expectation has been rung – a bell that cannot be unrung within the hearts and minds of the women and girls of Saudi Arabia. Time will tell if the leaders of the Kingdom heard it as well"

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Eman Al Nafjan

Even More Saudi Heroes

"Here's a man that can't be explained in sentences, just words. Selfless. Angry. Passionate. For years now he has been risking his livelihood, freedom and his and his family's safety to call on the interior ministry to practice due judicial process and not to imprison people for their opinions. He co-founded with Mohammed al-Bajady a human rights association, the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association (ACPRA), which the government refuses to recognize. Despite the fact that his co-founder has been ceased and imprisoned since March 2011, Al Qahtani presses on. Now he is facing his own trial and possible imprisonment and yet he still does not hesitate to document and represent anyone who needs his help regardless of their gender, sect, or nationality"

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