



Evidence of Authoritarianism in Egypt

Authoritarianism in Egypt has been witnessed through the state control of resources that are crucial in decision making and economic emancipation. These resources are left in the hands of the few elites with little regard to the fact that the ideologies they hold lead to poverty and corrupt politics.

Authoritarian rule in Egypt has nurtured a perception that a small number of experts is capable of using a central approach to economic planning and of making correct choices on behalf of an entire country's population (Egypt, 2006). According to the authoritarian leaders of Egypt, central control is important in ensuring equal distribution of economic resources.

However, this authoritarian rule benefits the political class since they are capable of evading the poverty associated with the system. They have long had the ability to secure favor from the government for their own gains, which greatly contributed to the revolution and uprising witnessed in Egypt (Egypt, 2006).

Hosni Mubarak and his authoritarian government have come up with many strategies to suppress Egyptians. For instance, social welfare organizations have been barred from offering services to citizens who have been adversely affected by poverty and political marginalization. Among the most repressive laws instituted is the emergency law, which makes the 1971 constitution useless. Authoritarian rulers have also been accused of imprisoning politicians and making use of military courts in convicting civilians.

Although the type of rule in Egypt is not explicitly a military dictatorship, it could be termed as an authoritarian system backed by the military. Mubarak has served as an air force officer in the past; thus, he has the full backing of the military and other state security agencies. He is always assured the support of these groups



whenever he requires it. Such support is used by the government in an improper way to continue ruling the country in an authoritarian manner.



Reference

Egypt. (2006). In S. Tatic & C. Walker (Eds.), *Countries at the Crossroads: A Survey of Democratic Governance*. Plymouth, UK: Freedom House.
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