

Egyptian attitudes toward the peace process: views of an "alert elite"

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Abstract

In March 1982 the author conducted a survey of college students as a sample of an "alert elite", with the following questions in mind: How do Egyptians feel towards the Egyptian-Israeli treaty and how do they view the peace process started formally with Sadat's initiative in November 1977? What are the attitudes of the Egyptians towards the Arab region? In other words, how do they perceive their Arab neighbours, the Palestinian cause and certain Arab policies? In view of regional and internal developments, how do Egyptians perceive their own security, the economic development of their economy and the future of their society? The attitudes revealed do not necessarily represent the attitudes of the Egyptians in general. However, the author believes that they represent the mainstream of college students in Egypt at the time of the survey. One conclusion which can be drawn is that the students are anxious about the future of Egypt both domestically and regionally. They are not politically apathetic.

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