



## Egypt and the United States: A Strategic Partnership



The Egypt-U.S. partnership has been a bedrock of stability in the Middle East for nearly four decades. Since the 1978 Camp David Accords, Egypt and the United States have collaborated to advance shared interests and address the region's wide-ranging military, political and economic challenges.

President Abdel Fattah El Sisi's White House meeting with President Trump in 2017 opened a new chapter for the two nations. Today, with the resumption of the U.S.-Egypt Strategic Dialogue and Operation Bright Star, along with strengthening economic relations, both nations are seeking opportunities to develop this vital relationship.

### SECURITY AND DIPLOMACY

Egypt is working at all levels and on multiple fronts with the United States, other governments and international organizations to ensure greater security and stability for its people and the region.

- › In August 2018, Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry visited Washington, DC, where he met with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton to discuss counterterrorism issues and efforts to address regional crises in the Middle East and North Africa. In his meeting with Ambassador Bolton, Minister Shoukry highlighted the successes of Operation Sinai 2018, a comprehensive military operation aimed at disrupting and deterring terrorists in Central and North Sinai.
- › In September 2018, Egypt and the U.S. launched the latest iteration of Operation Bright Star, a longstanding military cooperation exercise between Egyptian and U.S. forces. 800 U.S. service members joined Egyptian Armed Forces to improve regional security and cooperation and promote interoperability in conventional and irregular warfare scenarios.
- › Maintaining peace and security in the Sinai is a priority for both Egypt and the U.S. Hundreds of American troops currently serve in the Sinai as part of the Multinational Force & Observers (MFO), an international peacekeeping operation that was established after the signing of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty.
- › Egypt is an active member of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL – a broad, U.S.-led international coalition – and since its inception has worked with the United States to degrade and defeat ISIL and its affiliates.

“We have some very important talks going on with Egypt, and [President El Sisi has] done a tremendous job under very trying circumstances... We have a fantastic relationship with Egypt.”

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP,  
21 MAY 2017

“Egypt remains an anchor of U.S. interests in the region given its strategic location, demographic heft, religious and cultural influence... Egypt is an essential partner in countering the flow of foreign fighters, materiel, and financial support to extremists transiting from Libya through Egypt into the Central Region.”

U.S. CENTCOM COMMANDER VOTEL,  
before the Senate Armed  
Services Committee  
18 MARCH 2018



# Embassy of Egypt

WASHINGTON, D.C.

TOTAL TRADING VOLUME  
BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE U.S.:

**\$5.6B**

IN 2017

IN 2017 EGYPT-U.S.  
TRADE INCREASED BY

**12.9%**

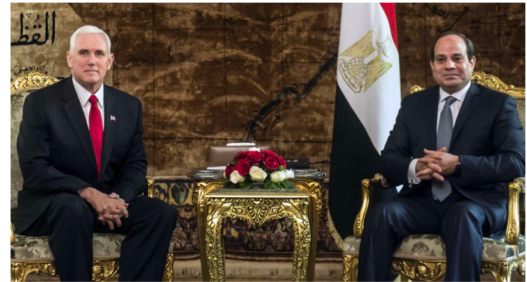
OVER 2016

NON-PETROLEUM EGYPTIAN  
EXPORTS TO THE U.S.:

**\$1.44B**

IN 2017

- › President El Sisi has engaged Al-Azhar, Egypt's leading institution for Islamic scholarship, to encourage its clerics to reaffirm and communicate the true tolerant values of Islam and reform religious discourse.
- › With the U.S., Egypt is a member of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), an international platform that promotes strategic approaches against terrorism and extremist ideologies.



## PROTECTING HERITAGE AND CULTURE

In November 2016, the two governments signed a memorandum of understanding to prevent the illegal exportation and trafficking of antiquities between Egypt and the U.S. The agreement is the first of its kind in the Middle East and North Africa and will help ensure that priceless cultural heritage is preserved for future generations.



## ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TRADE

As Egypt has embarked on an ambitious plan to transform its economy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the U.S. continues to be one of Egypt's closest trade relationships.

- › In 2017, trade between Egypt and the U.S. reached \$5.6 billion, including \$1.44 billion in non-petroleum Egyptian exports to the U.S., equal to 1.5% of Egypt's GDP. Egypt is the U.S.' largest trade destination in Africa and sixth-largest trade destination in the MENA region.

“

The strategic partnership that exists between the United States of America and Egypt is of great importance to the American people... We resolve to continue to stand with Egypt in the battle against terrorism.”

VICE PRESIDENT MIKE  
PENCE,

during a visit to Cairo to meet  
with President El Sisi,  
20 JANUARY 2018

- › In July 2018, Egypt and the U.S. Agency for International Development signed five new agreements worth \$45 million to support joint priorities in health, education, governance, and agriculture across Egypt.
- › In October 2018, the American Chamber of Commerce and the Egyptian-American Business Council will lead a delegation of representatives from 60 major U.S. companies to explore investment opportunities in Egypt.
- › In 2016, U.S. investments in Egypt totaled \$22.2 billion, representing 38.6% of U.S. FDI in all of Africa, making Egypt the largest destination for U.S. direct investment on the continent.
- › Since 2004, the U.S. Qualifying Industrial Zone (QIZ) program has allowed goods jointly produced in Egypt and Israel duty-free entry to the United States. More than 150 QIZ-registered Egyptian companies participate in this successful initiative.
- › New Jersey, California, Georgia, New York and Texas are the top five states for imports of Egyptian goods, receiving 62.4% of all U.S. imports from Egypt.