

**GREAT DECISIONS DISCUSSION GROUP**  
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**April 2, 2013**

**10:15 A. M. – 12:15 P. M.**

# **EGYPT**

Topic Leaders: Mike Kornfield & Peter Kuniholm

## **AGENDA**

### 10:15: Kickoff

- Welcome and Introduction of Guests & New Chapter Members
- Administrative Items
- Topic Leader Presentation
- Group Discussion

***CHAPTER MOTTO - "DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT FONDNESS FOR DISPUTE OR DESIRE FOR VICTORY" – BEN FRANKLIN***

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TOPICS**

- April 16, 2013 -- **Iran**  
Topic Leader: Fred Piker
- April 30, 2013 -- **NATO**  
Topic Leader: Tyler Beebe
- May 14, 2013 -- **China in Africa**  
Topic Leader: Joe Adams

## **TODAY'S TOPIC**

4,600 years ago, while the last mammoths still roamed Siberia and before the earliest evidence of an organized culture in the Americas, Egyptian engineers completed the Great Pyramid of Khufu. Conquering and conquered, Egypt has been the cross road linking three continents. It has influenced and been influenced by almost every major civilization since.

Our Topic Leaders will review the history of Egypt, its modern political development and the impact of the Arab Spring revolution of 2011. They will then lead what we can expect will be a lively discussion. Issues raised are likely to include:

1. The revolution of in Egypt has turned out to have a complicated and unpredictable course. What do you see as the most important result of the Revolution? And do you think the current power structure will persist?

2. The relationship between the Egyptian military and the government has gone from an almost unitary situation to a complex and nuanced one. How would you expect this interaction to evolve?
3. Was the Egyptian revolution inevitable? And why?
4. What should be the US relation to the Egyptian military? And how can we avoid looking and acting like an imperialist power?
5. From the point of view of US-Egypt relations, what should our position be vis-a-vis human rights, more specifically women's rights?
6. How does the new regime in Egypt affect the delicate diplomatic balance in the Middle East?
7. How should the US proceed, going forward?

### **SUGGESTED READINGS**

- **Egypt: Navigating an Uncertain Transition**, by Bruce K. Rutherford, Chapter 2 of the FPA 2013 Briefing Book. (Two copies are available at the Katonah Library Reference Desk for use in the library.)
- **The Future of the Arab Spring** (Two Articles in the January/February 2013 issue of Foreign Affairs):
  - **The Mirage of the Arab Spring**, by Seth Jones
  - **The Promise of the Arab Spring**, by Sheri Berman