

## Stuck With Sisi

by [Eric Trager \(/experts/eric-trager\)](/experts/eric-trager)

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### ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Eric Trager \(/experts/eric-trager\)](/experts/eric-trager)

Eric Trager was the Esther K. Wagner Fellow at The Washington Institute.



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## Six years after Egypt's Tahrir Square uprising and the 'Arab Spring' dreams it inspired, the country is economically and politically stuck.

Six years ago today, tens of thousands of Egyptians descended on downtown Cairo's Tahrir Square demanding "bread, freedom, and social justice." Only 18 days later, the protests ended President Hosni Mubarak's three-decade reign. Any ensuing optimism about the Arab Spring was short-lived, however, and by virtually every standard, the problems that generated the uprising are even greater today. The current Egyptian government's repression of its opponents is broader and more brutal, youth unemployment is higher, the economy is in dismal shape, and there is a growing sense that the country is adrift. Yet despite this mounting frustration, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi is "very confident," one senior official told me. "He has a good relationship with people and knows that the people trust him," the official told me.

Sisi is confident because of the relative quiet that followed the Central Bank's decision in early November to float Egypt's currency, which cut the value of the Egyptian pound in half and catalyzed steep price increases. Some Egyptian officials warned against this move...

**[Read the full article on the Foreign Affairs website. \(https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/egypt/2017-01-24/stuck-sisi\)](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/egypt/2017-01-24/stuck-sisi)** ❖

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