

Egyptian Speaks Out at Protest

October 19, 2012

EW = El Wady journalist

5	Ali	My name is Ali Ahmed. I'm here to help prevent Egypt from becoming a commodity owned by one person and to protest the confiscation of the constitution by one single party. We didn't get rid of a military regime to replace it with a fascist theocracy.
	EW	Fascist theocracy? I don't even know what that means.
10	Ali	Fascist theocracy is when you manipulate religion and enforce extremist regulations in the name of religion... even though religion doesn't command that.
	EW	Who thought [taught?] you all this?
	Ali	I just know it.
15	EW	How do you know it?
	Ali	I listen to people a lot and I use my own brain. Plus I read newspapers, watch TV and search in the Internet.
20	EW	So you see that the country is not doing well and has to change?
	Ali	You mean politically or socially? ...The social objectives of the revolution are yet to be achieved: economic empowerment, freedom, and social justice. There are still no jobs. The police still jails people randomly. And as for social justice, how can a news anchor get 30 millions Egyptian pounds while some people still pick food from garbage?
25		Politically speaking, where is the constitution that represents us? For example, women are half the society. How come there are only seven ladies in the Constituent Assembly ...six of whom are Islamists?
30	EW	So you think they are going to manipulate the constitution?
	Ali	What is built on the falsehood is false itself. Even if the constitution is nice, but the assembly that drafted it is bad, we will end up with something bad. Don't bring me 80 good articles and 20 bad ones that will ruin the country and then tell me this is a constitution.
35	EW	Did you read the constitutional draft?
45	Ali	Yes. (nod)
	EW	Where? On the Internet?
50	Ali	Yes. (nod) For example, they say that women are equal to men in all that matters, except in matters that contradict Islamic law. But then Islamic law allows men to discipline their wives. This can't work in society.
	EW	Why not? What's the problem?
55	Ali	The problem is that it's outrageous. I can't beat my wife up and almost kill her, and then tell you this is discipline. This is not discipline. This is abuse and insanity. All of this (political process) is void because the parliament in the first place is void. Popularly and constitutionally void. Some parties based their campaign on mixing religion and politics. Mosques were mobilizing voters. They distributed sugar and cooking oil to the voters and many other things like that.
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Inference Exercise

What issues does Ali raise in the interview? Cite a line of text as evidence.

___	a. legitimate authority	
___	b. rule of law	
___	c. separation of church & state	
___	d. equity	
___	e. activism	
___	f. civic duty	
___	g. unemployment	
___	h.	
___	i.	
___	j.	

How do the above issues fit and connect in Four Worlds?

Political	Economic
Social	Cultural