

History of the Muslim Brotherhood

The Founder of the Muslim Brotherhood

1928-1938

The Muslim Brotherhood was founded in 1928 by Hassan al Banna along with 6 workers of the Suez Canal Company.

Al Banna was a school teacher, promoting & implementing traditional, religious, Islamic law into Government > Social regression

based on an Islamic ethos of altruism & civic duty, in to the British imperial rule.

Initially they focused on education & charitable work, but quickly grew into a major political force. By championing the cause of disenfranchised classes, playing a prominent role in the Egyptian nationalism movement, promoting a concept of Islam that attempted to restore broken links between tradition & modernity.

28th December 1948 Egyptian P.M Mahmoud an Nokrashi Pasha was assassinated by the Muslim Brotherhood member Abdel Meguid Ahmed Hassan, in retaliation to the government crack down.

A month later the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood, Al Banna was shot in Cairo , "allegedly by Government agents in retaliation.

1952 The Brotherhood took part in arson that destroyed 750 buildings, in Cairo.

Which marked the end of the liberal progressive cosmopolitan Egypt.

The Brotherhood supported the Military coup that overthrew the Monarchy. The Junta was unwilling to share power or lift martial law which ended in clashes with the Brotherhood.

In 1952, members of the Muslim Brotherhood are accused of taking part in arson that destroyed some "750 buildings" in downtown Cairo — mainly night clubs, theatres, hotels, & restaurants frequented by British & other foreigners — "that marked the end of the liberal, progressive, cosmopolitan" Egypt.

1954 -1982

The Brotherhood operates under the slogan "Islam Is the Solution

A failed attempt to assassinate Gamal ' Abd al Nasser in 1954.

Nasser abolished the Brotherhood & imprisoned & punished 1000's of it's members, many members of the Brotherhood were held for years in prisons & concentration camps, where they were sometimes tortured, during Nasser's rule. Others fled & went into hiding in Egypt & other Nations.

In 1956 Zaynab al-Ghazali, head of the Association of Muslim Women, organised charitable work to meet the basic needs of these now-impoverished Brothers. Along with Brotherhood leader 'Abd al Fattah Isma'il, she went on to play a key role in rebuilding the organisation. While Al-Ghazali's focus was on Islamic education, other autonomous groups of Brothers also appeared, who were impatient to avenge the suppression of the Brotherhood in 1954. They found the analytical framework & political programme they were looking for in Qutb's writings, which were circulated by Al-Ghazali & in which his assessment of the Nasser regime, & of the way in which it could be overcome, was gradually taking shape.

In 1964, Qutb was released for several months, & his book Milestones was published; it was reprinted five times in 6 months. In it, Qutb argued that humanity was in the midst of a profound crisis caused by the failure to adopt a value system that could allow human beings to live in harmony; the threat of nuclear war was a symptom of this ailment.

The value systems that dominated the world had failed to live up to their promises. The Western world's concept of democracy, based on an individualistic ideology, had led to

vast social injustice, colonialism & the domination of human beings by capital. In the Eastern bloc, collectivist ideology had failed as well: Marxism had lost touch with its original principles, & had become the ideology of oppressive states. The theme of the failure of both capitalism & socialism was not new in the Brotherhood's discourse, the application of the concept of jahiliyya to Egyptian society represented an innovation, motivated in part by Qutb's personal experience of the brutality of what had become a totalitarian state.

Qutb saw Islam as the solution to humanity's predicament: the entire world (including Egypt) was living in a state of jahiliyya, which can be roughly translated as a way of life characterised by ignorant hostility towards god's will. In particular, human beings erred in allowing themselves to establish their own value systems, instead of accepting god's sovereignty.

In order to play its proper role, Islam needed to find tangible expression in an Ummah, a society of people whose lives were fully in accord with Islamic ethics. A vanguard of believers was needed to begin creating the Ummah, which would then grow until it encompassed the entire world. Qutb meant for his book to provide "milestones" tracing the path that this vanguard should follow. Faced with a totalitarian state, he advised them to prepare a jihad whose military aspect went beyond self-defence, & aimed to overthrow those who had usurped the sovereignty that should be God's alone. Qutb's view was that this preparation would take up to 15 years

August 1965, the government claimed to have discovered that the Brotherhood was organising a huge revolutionary plot. About 18,000 people were arrested, 100–200 were imprisoned, 38 of these were killed in custody during the investigation. The police made systematic use of torture during interrogations; many, including Sayyid Qutb & Zaynab al-Ghazali, were tortured for months. The police destroyed the village of Kardasa, where the police believed a suspect was hiding, and arrested & tortured its entire population. Raids throughout Egypt were accompanied by an intense media campaign against the Brotherhood. On the basis of confessions obtained under torture, Qutb & 2 other Brothers were hanged in August 1966

Brothers interpreted Qutb's analysis to mean that anyone who failed to revolt against a tyrannical regime, or whose government was not based on Islamic law, should be regarded as excommunicated; they saw this as a justification of a revolutionary strategy. The Brotherhood's leadership, which favoured a reformist approach, disagreed, pointing out that it is sufficient to utter a profession of faith twice in order to become a Muslim, and that though there are Muslims who sin, this is not considered grounds for excommunication. In contrast to those young Brothers who advocated revolution, the leadership maintained the view that the organisation should rely on educational work in order to reform Egyptian society. This policy, which has characterised the Brotherhood ever since, earned it the scorn of revolutionary Islamic militant groups.

.The Brotherhood Under Sadat, 1970–1981

1970 Anwar Sadat became the President ,he soon started releasing the gaoled Brotherhood members.

Though the organisation itself remained illegal; the last of those still behind bars regained their freedom in the general amnesty of 1975

The Brotherhood's main political demand during this period was the application of shari'a law; the government responded by initiating a lengthy review of all Egyptian law to determine how best to harmonise it with shari'a.

In 1980, the constitution was amended to state that shari'a "is the main source of all legislation.

The Brotherhood was to persuade the government to allow it to operate legally and to act as a political party, whose representatives would stand for office in Parliament. This request was not granted, & the Political Parties Law of 1977 specifically prohibited parties based on religious affiliation. However, the Brotherhood was tolerated to an extent, and in 1976 it was allowed to publish its monthly newspaper, Al-Da'wa ("The Invitation to Islam"), whose circulation is estimated to have reached 100,000 before it was shut down in 1981.

Huge riots in January 1977), these groups gained influence outside universities as well. Al-Da'wa supported the student Islamic movement, and leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood were invited to speak at large, festive gatherings organised by student groups on Islamic holidays. When the government began to obstruct the student movement, and then to attack it using riot police.

Al-Da'wa often focused on the problem of Palestine; its editors disapproved of the Camp David accords of 1978 & the peace treaty signed by Egypt & Israel in 1979, arguing that Israel would never accept a peaceful and just solution to the conflict. Articles in Al-Da'wa tended to portray all Jews, whether Israeli or not, as inherently untrustworthy & guilty of the injustice endured by the Palestinians, & repeated myths typical of anti-Semitic texts. At the same time, & often in the same articles, the paper continued to reject Arab nationalism. The editors also condemned Christian evangelism, communism & secularism

Sadat signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979 & was assassinated by Islamists Tanzim al- Jihad.in 1981.

1981

The presidency of Hosni Mubarak, who succeeded Sadat in 1981 & remained in power until 2011, the Brotherhood's relations with the government are still essentially what they were under Sadat: the Brotherhood is tolerated to a degree, but is officially illegal, is not allowed to distribute literature or assemble in public, & is subject to periodic arrests

1982 - 2005

During Hosni Mubarak's presidency , the Brotherhood dominated the professional & student associations. The Muslim Brotherhood has benefited from these developments more than any other Islamic political group, thanks in part to the energetic efforts of a cadre of experienced activists in their 30's & 40's, who had honed their skills in the student movement under Sadat & joined the Brotherhood after graduation.

The Brotherhood has been particularly successful at recruiting young people, including university students & recent graduates. Jobs, material goods, & the money needed for a conventional wedding have been increasingly out of reach for young Egyptians, rampant corruption & a closed, authoritarian political system have bred alienation (ightirab) & despair.

1992 The Brotherhood started placing candidates into the elections.

During the next decade the Brotherhood called for a democratic political system.

The Government again resorted to repressive measures to stem the Brotherhood's increasing influence. In 1993, professional associations were placed under direct state control. In 1995 & 1996, over a thousand Brothers were arrested. Several were convicted by military tribunals to several years of hard labour; the main charge was that the accused were members of an illegal organisation that planned to overthrow the government. At the same time, the government directed a huge media campaign against the Brotherhood, accusing it of being a terrorist group.

On 20 January 1996, Hamid Abu an-Nasr, the General Leader of Egypt's MB died. His successor was MB first deputy, Mustafa Mashhur, who had been "an active member of the underground secret apparatus (al-Jihaz al-Sirri)" as a youth. He had spent a total of 16 years in prison & was considered a hard liner. The Egyptian interior minister, Hasan al-Alfi,

responded with a threatening speech & shortly after a raid on the MB central offices & the arrest of 46 members.

1997 Supreme Guide Mustafa Mashur told journalist Khalid Daoud that he thought the Coptic Christians & Jews should pay the Jizya, in exchange for protection.

He rationalised this by saying Non Muslim's could not be in the military incase a Christian Nation attacked the Muslim Nation as he was fearful they would facilitate the enemy.

2000

The Brotherhood has made a comeback in recent years, as its middle-generation leaders have become more influential within the organisation. In 2000, the Brotherhood ran 76 parliamentary candidates as independents (including one woman, Gihan al-Halafawi, whose victory in her district was disqualified when the government cancelled the election there),

15 Muslim Brotherhood members were elected into the Egyptian Parliament. Hamdy Hassan fought cultural expression as they felt it was unIslamic & blasphemous. Accusing Farouk Hosny of the current U.S led war on Islamic Culture & Identity.

2005 -2010

Mohammad Mahdi Akef, who became the Brotherhood's General Guide in 2004 at the age of 75 told Al-Jazeera in 2005:

Islam dignifies Christians & Jews & we hope they treat us the same way. The ignorance of people is what is causing a grudge among them & not their religion.

Brotherhood has frequently called for greater democracy in the Middle East. 'Abd al-Mun'im Abu-I-Futuh, 1of the middle-generation leaders who is respected both in the Brotherhood &in the Wasat Party, told the International Crisis Group in 2004

The absence of democracy is 1of the main reasons for the crisis here, in Egypt & the Middle East. The Muslim Brothers believe that the Western governments are 1of the main reasons for the lack of democracy in the region because they are supporting dictatorships in the Arab & Islamic region in general, despite the fact that it has been proved that the absence of democracy & freedom is the reason for terrorism & violence

In 2005, the Brotherhood began participating in pro-democracy demonstrations with the Egyptian Movement for Change (also known as Kifaya, "enough"), & many of the Brotherhood's members were arrested, over 700 in May 2005 alone.

2005 parliamentary elections, the Brotherhood's candidates, who stood as independents, won 88 seats.

Since 2005 Muslim Brotherhood members in Egypt have also become a significant movement online. In 2006 Abdel Menem Mahmoud created the 1st publicly identified Brotherhood blog, Ana Ikhwan (<http://ana-ikhwan.blogspot.com>).

Its 2005 success provoked "a government counterattack" against the Brotherhood. Egypt's constitution was amended in 2007 in favour of registered parties & against independents, to the disadvantage of the officially outlawed Brethren which can only field candidates as independents.

December 2006 masked Brotherhood students at Cairo's Al Azhar University staged a militia-style march, which included the "wearing of uniforms, displaying the phrase, 'We Will be Steadfast', & drills involving martial arts. This betrayed the group's intent to plan for the creation of militia structures, & a return by the group to the era of 'secret cells'", according to journalist Jameel Theyabi.

Others agreed it was reminiscent of the group's violent past & public outcry ensued.

According to one observer: "after a number of conciliatory engagements & interactions with the West", the Brotherhood, retreated into its comfort zone of inflammatory rhetoric intended for local consumption: all suicide bombers are `martyrs`; `Israel` regularly became the Jews`; even its theological discourse became more confrontational & oriented to social conservatism

2007 it distributed a draft program for its proposed political party which called for a ban on women or Christians as Egypt's president, & for a special council of Islamic clerics to vet parliamentary legislation.

In 2008 the state disqualified most Brotherhood candidates in the local council elections. The Mubarak regime also launched a wave of arrests & military trials against the Brethren, "ensnared thousands of rank-& file members.

The remaining Brotherhood members ran as Independents "Islam is the solution" They won 88 seats.

Over 1000 members were arrested before the votes 2nd & 3rd rounds.

The Brotherhood launched a charm offensive addressing the Coptic Christian issue saying "Copt's would be better off under the Brotherhood". They promised to make the Copts full citizens,

* It was around that time , the Brotherhood reached out on an English speaking website & members started to re introduce the Brotherhood to the West.

This was a direct threat to the Egyptian Government & it's position as a ally to the West in its fight against radical Islamists.

During the 2008-9 Gaza War, some Brotherhood leaders called for Egyptians to go to Gaza & fight Israel, notwithstanding Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

By 2010 only 1 Brotherhood member remained in the Egyptian Parliament .

2011 Revolution & Morsi Presidency

2011 Following the Egyptian Revolution that overthrew Hosni Mubarak

The Brotherhood was a legalised & emerged as a powerful group.

The "most cohesive political movement" in Egypt with "an unparalleled ability to mobilize its followers.

The Brotherhood, led by the old & the hardliners, has managed to alienate its revolutionary & democratic partners and to scare important segments of society, especially women & Christians. Neither the Brotherhood nor the generals showed willingness to share power & both were keen on marginalising the revolutionary & democratic forces. It is as if they were clearing the stage for their eventual showdown.

2012 During the 1year Morsi served as president serious public opposition developed within months. In late November 2012 Morsi 'temporarily' granted himself unlimited powers on the ground that he would "protect" the nation from the power structure left over from the Mubarak-era.

SCAF dissolved the Parliament dominated by the Brotherhood & other Islamists. Despite earlier remarks by Supreme guide Mohammed Badie said that they would not "field a candidate in the next upcoming election for fear of intervention by the U.S or Israel as a pretext to attack Egypt.

2013 General Abdel Fattah al Sisi arranged mass demonstrations

in which a Western woman journalist was a victim of taharrush, in the mass crowds that swarmed around the Women reporting on the mass demonstration.

Sissi then arrested Morsi & took the Presidency.

Since then Sissi has clamped down on dissent.

3 July, 2013 the head of the Egyptian Armed Forces, General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, announced President Mohamed Morsi removal from power, suspension of the constitution,

& new presidential and Shura Council elections.

The crackdown that followed has been called more damaging to "the Brotherhood's core organization" than any "in eight decades" On 14 August, the government declared a month-long state of emergency beginning at 16:00, & the military commenced raids to remove camps of Brotherhood supporters from sit-ins being held throughout the country.

Violence escalated rapidly lasting several days & led to the deaths of 638 people—595 civilians & 43 police officers. Some 4000 were injured.

In retaliation Brotherhood supporters looted & burned police stations & dozens of churches By 19 August, al Jazeera reported that "most" of the Brotherhood's leaders were in custody. On that day Supreme Leader (Mohammed Badie) was arrested, crossing a "red line", as even Hosni Mubarak had never arrested him.

Other high-profile members of the Brotherhood (including Khairat El-Shater, & Saad al-Katatni were arrested or ordered arrested.

On 23 September, a court ordered the group outlawed & its assets seized. 2 days later security forces shuttered the main office of the newspaper of the Freedom & Justice Party, & confiscated its equipment

2014 The Muslim Brotherhood was declared a TERRORIST organisation by Egypt , Russia , UAE , Saudi Arabia

2015 Morsi was sentenced to death in connection to a 2011 uprising.

2016 Morsi had his death sentence over turned.

Morsi was sentenced to 20 years , for the 2012 killing of protestors

He was also sentenced to 40 years for spying for Qatar , Palestinian Islamists groups.

The Muslim Brotherhood is deemed Egypt's oldest movement

- which is now listed as a Terrorist organisation

Sources Wikipedia & Egyptian News