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Polish-Egyptian relations in a historical perspective. The first 25 years

The aim of the speech is to present the preliminary results of an analysis of Polish-Egyptian relations between 1927-1952. The analysis of Polish-Egyptian relations will be based on the following criteria: origins of a statehood (after World War I), factors of international relations (internal and external), as well as interests and goals of foreign policy. The analysis will be accompanied by a number of assumptions, which are centered in the main observation, that is the occurrence of similar political and historical experiences. Both countries share similar trajectories of political and historical development. Each of them lost independence due to external interventions, which over time led to the development of nationalist movements. Due to opportunities brought by geopolitical changes after the World War I, they contributed to the rise of independent states.

Independent Poland was reborn in 1918 as a democratic republic, while Egypt gained formal independence (with limited sovereignty) in 1922, becoming a constitutional monarchy of a democratic nature. As long as Poland struggled – in the interwar years – with the threat of the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany, the Egyptians sought at that time to gain complete independence from the United Kingdom. Both countries experienced a number of internal political crises, manifested in a frequent change of government, followed by political deliberation and – in effect – a transformation towards authoritarian regime. Therefore, one of the main internal factors – similar for both states in the analysed period – is an unsuccessful "experiment" with liberal democracy and the emergence of authoritarian regime. The next is the fact that the threat from the outside power or foreign domination was an important determinant of the foreign policy of both – Cairo and Warsaw.

Did these experiences contribute to the deepening of relations between Poland and Egypt in the first 25 years of diplomatic relations? Or, perhaps, the geographic distance between them made the similarities not play a major role and did not determine mutual relations? How did these relations affect the experience of the World War II and the change of the political regime in Poland? For these and other questions I will try to answer during the speech, entitled: *Polish-Egyptian relations in a historical perspective. The first 25 years.*