

**Subject:** Research - Contemporary Egypt: publication of an atlas by the CEDEJ under the direction of Hala Bayoumi and Karine Bennafla

## **Abstract**

While there are several atlases of ancient Egypt, no atlases of contemporary Egypt had yet been published. This book therefore fills a gap, by offering to the wide public an illustrated panorama of Egypt at the beginning of the 21st century. Made possible thanks to the CEDEJ's privileged links with the Egyptian Statistics Agency, the publication of the book coincides with the launch of an open access web portal of the last 14 Egyptian censuses annotated by researchers.

Inspired by the Atlas of Lebanon, this collective and multidisciplinary project of an atlas is based on the CEDEJ's documentary resources, its official collaboration with CAPMAS (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics) in charge of national census, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the cartographic expertise of the CEDEJ's Digital Humanities cluster. An academic work intended for the wide public, the atlas offers, in a mapped and popularized form, the highlights and challenges of Egypt today in political, geopolitical, economic, demographic, social, environmental and cultural matters.

The launch of a trilingual call for contributions (French, Arabic, English) in 2017 and the constitution of a scientific committee made it possible to involve 48 contributors, affiliated to Egyptian universities (Cairo University, Al-Azhar, American University of Cairo, Zagazig...) or to European Universities. Through its interdisciplinary aspect, this project has enabled CEDEJ to establish contacts with Egyptian colleagues, sometimes rooted in provincial universities, and outside the usual CEDEJ network. Its ambition is threefold:

- to fill a gap since there is no atlas of contemporary Egypt, only historical atlases;
- diffuse academic knowledge with a popularization of recent social sciences researches on Egypt;
- propose synthesis maps using data from the latest Egyptian census (2017) for researchers, decision-makers, civil society and also the public of French-speaking learning institutions in Egypt.

An exhibition of large-format maps to popularize social science knowledge on Egypt thanks to color synthesis maps extracted from the book has also been presented at the National Scientific Research Centre in 2020 and is currently touring Lyon, Tours and Aix-en-Provence before being presented in Egypt in 2021. Added to that, a parallel translation of the book and the exhibition is under way in Arabic and English.

Two other components reinforce this collaboration:

- the creation of a web portal with free access to the 14 Egyptian censuses accompanied by historical records. Valuing ten years of work carried out by the CEDEJ, this bilingual (French-Arabic) portal presents data and interactive demographic maps (1882-2017), accompanied by historical records of the 6300 Egyptian localities drawn up by the CEDEJ. By making the geolocalized data of the

Egyptian censuses available to the public, this portal constitutes a strategic database for researchers, decision-makers and civil society.

- Master's level training courses in Data Visualization for civil servants from CAPMAS (National Statistics Agency) and provided by the CEDEJ, between Cairo and Paris (EHESS) in 2019 and ...

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