Schooling the Nation

Telling the story of the Egyptian uprising through the lens of education, Hania Sobhy explores the everyday realities of citizens in the years before and after the so-called Arab Spring. With vivid narratives from students and staff from Egyptian schools, Sobhy offers novel insights on the years that led to and followed the unrest of 2011. Drawing a holistic portrait of education in Egypt, she reveals the constellations of violence, neglect and marketization that pervaded schools, and shows how young people negotiated the state and national belonging. By approaching schools as key disciplinary and nation-building institutions, this book outlines the various ways in which citizenship was produced, lived and imagined during those critical years. This title is also available as Open Access on Cambridge Core.

Hania Sobhy is a postdoctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (MPI-MMG). Her research focuses on the politics of education, electoral mobilization and Islamism. She has been published in *World Development, Nations & Nationalism* and *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education.* She has worked in education development since 2004 and is a regular contributor to the Egyptian daily, *al-Shorouk*.

The Global Middle East

General Editors

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, SOAS, University of London Ali Mirsepassi, New York University

Editorial Advisory Board

Faisal Devji, University of Oxford John Hobson, University of Sheffield Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, University of Pennsylvania Madawi Al-Rasheed, London School of Economics and Political Science David Ryan, University College Cork, Ireland

The Global Middle East series seeks to broaden and deconstruct the geographical boundaries of the "Middle East" as a concept to include North Africa, Central and South Asia, and diaspora communities in Western Europe and North America. The series features fresh scholarship that employs theoretically rigorous and innovative methodological frameworks resonating across relevant disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences. In particular, the general editors welcome approaches that focus on mobility, the erosion of nation-state structures, travelling ideas and theories, transcendental techno-politics, the decentralization of grand narratives, and the dislocation of ideologies inspired by popular movements. The series will also consider translations of works by authors in these regions whose ideas are salient to global scholarly trends but have yet to be introduced to the Anglophone academy.

Other books in the series:

- 1. Transnationalism in Iranian Political Thought: The Life and Times of Ahmad Fardid, Ali Mirsepassi
- 2. Psycho-nationalism: Global Thought, Iranian Imaginations, Arshin Adib-Moghaddam
- 3. Iranian Cosmopolitanism: A Cinematic History, Golbarg Rekabtalaei
- 4. Money, Markets and Monarchies: The Gulf Cooperation Council and the Political Economy of the Contemporary Middle East, Adam Hanieh
- 5. Iran's Troubled Modernity: Debating Ahmad Fardid's Legacy, Ali Mirsepassi
- 6. Foreign Policy as Nation Making: Turkey and Egypt in the Cold War, Reem Abou-El-Fadl
- 7. Revolution and its Discontents: Political Thought and Reform in Iran, Eskandar Sadeghi-Boroujerdi

- 8. Creating the Modern Iranian Woman: Popular Culture between Two Revolutions, Liora Hendelman-Baavur
- 9. Iran's Quiet Revolution: The Downfall of the Pahlavi State, Ali Mirsepassi
- 10. Reversing the Colonial Gaze: Persian Travelers Abroad, Hamid Dabashi
- 11. Israel's Jewish Identity Crisis: State and Politics in the Middle East, Yaacov Yadgar
- 12. Temporary Marriage in Iran: Gender and Body Politics in Modern Persian Film and Literature, Claudia Yaghoobi
- 13. Cosmopolitan Radicalism: The Visual Politics of Beirut's Global Sixties, Zeina Maasri
- 14. Anticolonial Afterlives in Egypt: The Politics of Hegemony, Sara Salem
- 15. What is Iran? Domestic Politics and International Relations, Arshin Adib-Moghaddam
- 16. Art and the Arab Spring: Aesthetics of Revolution and Resistance in Tunisia and Beyond, Siobhán Shilton
- 17. Tunisia's Modern Woman: Nation-Building and State Feminism in the Global 1960s, Amy Aisen Kallander
- Global 1979: Geographies and Histories of the Iranian Revolution, Arang Keshavarzian and Ali Mirsepassi
- 19. Fixing Stories: Local Newsmaking and International Media in Turkey and Syria, Noah Amir Arjomand
- 20. Schooling the Nation: Education and Everyday Politics in Egypt, Hania Sobhy
- 21. Violence and Representation in the Arab Uprisings, Benoît Challand
- 22. A Social History of Modern Tehran: Space, Power, and the City, Ashkan Rezvani Naraghi
- 23. An Iranian Childhood: Rethinking History and Memory, Hamid Dabashi
- 24. Heroes to Hostages: America and Iran, 1800–1988, Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet
- 25. The Making of Persianate Modernity: Language and Literary History between Iran and India, Alexander Jabbari

Schooling the Nation

Education and Everyday Politics in Egypt

Hania Sobhy

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (MPI-MMG)





Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108832380

DOI: 10.1017/9781108956031

© Hania Sobhy 2023

This work is in copyright. It is subject to statutory exceptions and to the provisions of relevant licensing agreements; with the exception of the Creative Commons version, the link for which is provided below, no reproduction of any part of this work may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

An online version of this work is published at doi.org/10.1017/9781108956031 under a Creative Commons Open Access license CC-BY-NC 4.0 which permits re-use, distribution and reproduction in any medium for non-commercial purposes providing appropriate credit to the original work is given and any changes made are indicated. To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0

All versions of this work may contain content reproduced under license from third parties.

Permission to reproduce this third-party content must be obtained from these third-parties directly.

When citing this work, please include a reference to the DOI 10.1017/9781108956031

First published 2023

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Ramadan, Hania Sobhy, author.

Title: Schooling the nation : education and everyday politics in Egypt / Hania Sobhy.

Description: Cambridge ; New York, NY : Cambridge University Press, [2023] | Includes bibliographical references.

- Identifiers: LCCN 2022033328 (print) | LCCN 2022033329 (ebook) | ISBN 9781108832380 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108958332 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108956031 (epub)
- Subjects: LCSH: Education–Political aspects–Egypt. | Education–Social aspects– Egypt. | Egypt–History–Protests, 2011-2013. | BISAC: POLITICAL SCIENCE / American Government / General

Classification: LCC LA1648.7 .R374 2022 (print) | LCC LA1648.7 (ebook) | DDC 370.962–dc23/eng/20220921

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022033328

LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022033329

ISBN 978-1-108-83238-0 Hardback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.