

Sinai: Egypt's Linchpin, Gaza's Lifeline, Israel's Nightmare

By Mohannad Sabry

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Enclosed by the Suez Canal and bordering Gaza and Israel, Egypt's rugged Sinai Peninsula has been the cornerstone of the Egyptian-Israeli peace accords, yet its internal politics and security have remained largely under media blackout. While the international press descended on the capital Cairo in January 2011, Sinai's armed rebellion was ignored. The regime lost control of the peninsula in a matter of days and, since then, unprecedented chaos has reigned and the Islamist insurgency has gathered pace.
In this crucial analysis, Mohannad Sabry argues that Egypt's shortsighted security approach has continually proven to be a failure. Decades of flawed policies have exacerbated immense social and economic problems, and maintained a superficial stability under which arms trafficking, the smuggling tunnels, and militancy could silently thrive-and finally prevail following the overthrow of Mubarak.
Sinai is vital reading for scholars, journalists, policy makers, and all those concerned by the plunge of one of the Middle East's most critical regions into turmoil.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Mohannad Sabry is one of Egypt's best young writers--and one of the first to understand the new dangers in Sinai. His book has the "ground truth" that can only come from careful, close-up reporting. This is the kind of smart, independent journalism that Egypt needs to build a truly strong future. . . . a reminder of what journalists do at their best."--**David Ignatius, *The Washington Post***

"For years now, Sabry has been on the ground in the Sinai, seeing and observing a story that so many others have missed...This is an important and timely book filled with field research and reporting that anyone who cares about the future of the Middle East needs to read."--**Charles M. Sennott, founder and executive director of The GroundTruth Project and Middle East correspondent for *The Boston Globe***

"This is an engaging, informative book which delivers a disturbing portrait of a region largely forgotten except when tourists are hit by terrorist attacks."--**Sarah Irving, *The Electronic Intifada***

"Urgent and excellent . . . . In the course of his investigations, Sabry does more than merely shine an expert light onto the peninsula; he also illuminates many of the fault lines that have animated so much political unrest across the country as a whole."--**Jack Schenker, *Times Literary Supplement***

By showing and explaining what a critical region of the Middle East went through after 2011, Sabry contributes to the overall documentation of the Arab Spring. In this regard, Sinai develops the collective understanding of the political turmoil that has characterized the Middle East since 2011, facilitating the contemplation of its future implications. Thanks to Sabry's accessible writing style, the book constitutes a useful resource for both academics and the general readership."--**Georgios Rigas, *Middle East Policy Council***

About the Author

Mohannad Sabry is an Egyptian journalist who has reported extensively from the Sinai Peninsula. He was named a finalist for the 2011 Livingston Award for International Reporting and has been published in Foreign Policy, The Miami Herald, GlobalPost, Al-Monitor, and many other international publications. He was the field producer of PBS Frontline's "Egypt in Crisis," aired in 2013 and nominated for the 2014 Emmy Award for News and Documentary.

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