

Lessons from Egypt

- **Muslims are not defined by Al-Qaeda.**
Egypt is a primarily Muslim country. Millions of Egyptians took to the streets and supported calls for democracy and a guarantee of human rights in their country.
- **War is not the way to encourage democracy.**
The trillions of dollars spent on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have not brought democracy to those countries. The Egyptian revolution was by and large nonviolent. While the verdict is not in, there is a strong chance that democratic elections will be held and human rights abuses will be ended.
- **Support for dictators does not win friends.**
The longer the U.S. supported former President Mubarak, the more ordinary Egyptians viewed the U.S. as their enemy. Continued U.S. support for dictatorial governments throughout the Middle East is a losing game. Egyptians have to form their own government. But Obama administration should be clear that it will not continue its millions in military aid if the Egyptian military attempts to establish another military dictatorship.

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