Symposium I The Egyptian Renaissance (2030): Miracle or Myth?Thanks to high fertility rates and low mortality rates, the Egyptian The Arab World Geographer / Le Geographe du monde arabe Vol 18, no 1–2 (2014) 45–50 (C) 2015 Geo Publishing, Toronto Canada Fayez Elessawy 46 population is expected to reach 115?million by 2030, representing an annual increase of 1.25?Egypt unfortunately still suffers from high illiteracy rates relative to other countries: approximately 15?million people (two–thirds of them women and girls) are considered illiterate, particularly in rural and poor areas in the south, and the high rate of illiteracy is connected with the increasing terrorist activities in these areas, as terrorist organizations tend to recruit the illiterate and the poor.In 2030 and beyond, we can expect that increases in the education budget, development of the educational system, reduced class sizes, and the use of modern technology in schools, as well as a focus on educating The Arab World Geographer / Le Geographe du monde arabe Vol 18, no 1–2 (2015) The Egyptian Renaissance (2030) 47 girls, will significantly reduce poverty and illiteracy.Fayez Elessawy Geography and Urban Planning Department, College of Humanities & Social Sciences, United Arab Emirates University, P.O. Box 15551, Al Ain, U.A.E. Studying the Egyptian population is an integral part of analyzing Egypt's 2030 development vision.In this new spirit of change, President Abdel Fattah Elsisi declared in 2015 that Egypt will foster a suitable environment for foreign investors by creating new regulations untouched by and corruption.

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