EGYPTIAN POLITICS
I don’t believe the 1952 revolution had any positive features, since democracy is still missing. Even its social reforms led to the failure of our economy. The greatest failure of the revolution is the lack of democracy, which I believe led to our defeat in 1967. Egypt has never experienced a democratic government from 1952 up till now. Democracy has existed in some form in different stages, but its core is still missing. The press is not free in reality, otherwise Article 80(D) of the penal code would never exist. This article criminalizing “harming Egypt’s image” in effect means no one can criticize the government, as in the old days when it was a crime to “dishonor the person of the king.” It is this article that is disgraceful to Egypt and taints its status within the family of nations. The revolution embraced the slogan “raise your head, my brother, for the age of oppression is over,” but it replaced it with the heavy foot of Abdel Nasser that kept people’s heads down.

—Reflections by Awad al-Mor, former chief justice of the Supreme Constitutional Court, on the fiftieth anniversary of Egypt’s 23 July 1952 revolution