

PARLIAMENT AND EMPIRE: BRITISH POLICY IN EGYPT, 1882-85

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Abstract

Through investigating Gladstone Government's decisions on the occupation of Egypt and its policy towards the country, the author attempts to disclose the relationship between parliamentary democracy and British imperial/foreign policy in the late nineteenth century, a period when popular politics was rapidly gathering strength. The discourse is divided into six sections:

- I. Introduction: British Democracy and the Egyptian Question;
- II. The Occupation of Egypt: the Formation of the Liberal Government's Forward Policy towards Egypt;
- III. The Foreign Office Domesticated: the Egyptian Question and the "Parliamentarization" of Foreign Policy;
- IV. Public Opinion, Popular Politics and Britain's Egyptian Policy;
- V. Party Politics and the Egyptian Question;
- VI. Conclusion: Parliamentarism and Imperialism.

Generally speaking, with the advance of British parliamentary democracy in the 1880s, the Foreign Office was gradually drawn into mass politics, and its policy "parliamentarized," to a certain extent; thus the aristocratic monopoly of foreign policy began to come to an end.

Key Words: Egypt, Soudan, Gladstone, Granville, Parliament