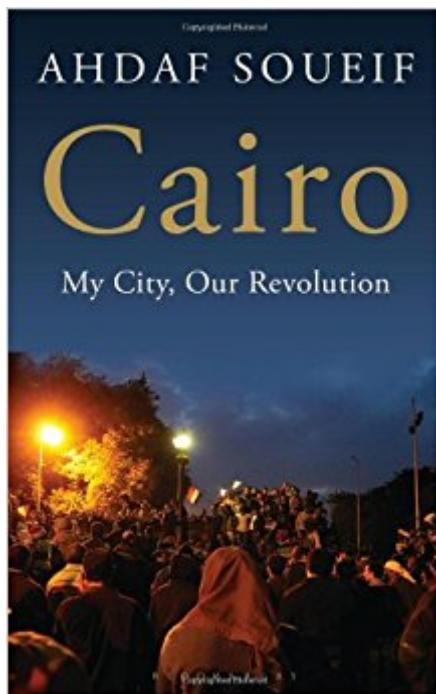


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# Cairo: My City, Our Revolution



## Synopsis

Over the past few months I have delivered lectures, presentations and interviews on the Egyptian Revolution. I have had overflowing houses everywhere, been stopped by old ladies in the street and had my hand shaken by numerous taxi drivers and shopkeepers. And all because I'm Egyptian and the glitter of Tahrir is upon me. They wanted me to talk to them, to tell them stories about it, to tell them how, on the 28th of January when we took the Square and The People torched the headquarters of the hated ruling National Democratic Party, The (same) People formed a human chain to protect the Antiquities Museum and demanded an official handover to the military; to tell them how, on Wednesday, February 2nd, as The People defended themselves against the invading thug militias and fought pitched battles at the entrance to the Square in the shadow of the Antiquities Museum, The (same) People at the centre of the square debated political structures and laughed at stand-up comics and distributed sandwiches and water; to tell them of the chants and the poetry and the songs, of how we danced and waved at the F16s that our President flew over us. People everywhere want to make this Revolution their own, and we in Egypt want to share it. Ahdaf Soueif - novelist, commentator, activist - navigates her history of Cairo and her journey through the Revolution that's redrawing its future. Through a map of stories drawn from private history and public record Soueif charts a story of the Revolution that is both intimately hers and publicly Egyptian. Ahdaf Soueif was born and brought up in Cairo. When the Egyptian Revolution of 2011 erupted on January 25th, she, along with thousands of others, called Tahrir Square home for eighteen days. She reported for the world's media and did - like everyone else - whatever she could.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Bloomsbury UK (January 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0747549621

ISBN-13: 978-0747549628

Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 8.8 x 1.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #763,938 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Travel > Africa > Egypt > Cairo #478 in Books > Travel > Middle East #1874 in Books > Travel > Reference > General

## Customer Reviews

Captures the intoxicating romance of the weeks when anything seemed possible. Soueif writes with verve and passion, offering the authentic voice of the liberal Egyptian who risked everything because she wanted her country to have freedom and democracy \* Daily Telegraph \* Conveys what it felt like to be in Tahrir Square, to face the police on the Nile bridges, to stumble into makeshift hospitals filled with bloodied youths. [Ahdaf Soueif] has an eye for ephemera at the edge of a vast stage. The reader gets a visceral sense of the dislocation the revolutionaries felt in their own city ... In years to come it will be a reminder to liberals - now once again in the opposition following the recent election victory of Egypt's Islamists - of their most glorious hour. It should serve as a heartening reminder of what they are capable of achieving when united and courageous \* The Economist \* Bursts of lyricism, poetry and love illuminate the factual account and political commentary, and it works beautifully ... The immediacy is palpable. Read this book -- Louisa Young \* Independent \* There are many records of the Egyptian revolution, but Cairo takes us on a more intimate journey; one that goes far beyond the 18 days of Tahrir Square ... [Ahdaf Soueif] speaks of her own story but also speaks for thousands, perhaps even millions of other Cairenes ... Compelling \* Guardian \* 'Soueif is a political analyst and commentator of the best kind' \* London Review of Books \*

Ahdaf Soueif was born in Cairo. She is the author of *Aisha*, *Sandpiper*, *In the Eye of the Sun* and the bestselling novel *The Map of Love*, which was shortlisted for the Booker Prize in 1999. Her collection of cultural and political essays, *Mezzaterra*, was published in 2004, as was her translation of *I Saw Ramallah* by Mourid Barghouti. She has been awarded the Blue Metropolis Literary Prize (in Montreal) and the Constantin Cavafis Award (in Cairo and Athens), and is also the founder of the Palestine Festival of Literature, PalFest. Ahdaf Soueif is also a journalist and her work is syndicated throughout the world. For the last five years she has been a key political commentator on Egypt and Palestine, and throughout the 2011 uprisings in Cairo Adhaf Soueif reported front the ground for the Guardian, and appeared on television and radio. She lives in London and Cairo.

As usual, Soueif fills a void that was in need to be addressed. With the position of Egypt in both the Middle East and World politics, reactions to the revolution varied from one end of the spectrum to the other and questions abound. As time goes by, more and more analysis is published, but sadly more often than none, it is the analysis of people who were never on the ground and don't have an insider understanding of the factors and issues at play. For the world to have a better understanding

of the actions that led to this revolution, the pains and suffering the Egyptian people had endured for over 30 years and the diplomatic, political, economic and social ailments this regime had created, reading this book is a must to gain a rational intellectual insider record. It also offers an account of the crimes, legal and physical, the military has committed within the last year. I highly recommend it

Good information but a little too much history. It certainly gives you an idea of the complexity of the middle east.

As a book document recent events in Egypt it was disappointing . It was very superficial and did not explore the reasons or background behind the evolving events in Egypt.

This is one of the first books written on the Egyptian "Lotus" Revolution; the writer has done an amazing job in writing; part autobiography and part a narration of the events; starting from January 28th, she actually narrates quickly the previous few days; but starting from January 28th 2011 she is an active eye-witness; participant in the events through beginning of November 2011; the style is quite good; the events are documented with clear references to their sources. Overall a must read for any person interested in getting a first hand view of the Lotus Revolution. N.B. Some of the syntax used and some of the expressions; would need further explanation if the reader is not familiar with Arabic, Egyptian dialect. A very easy read and quite eye-opening with much insight. Cairo

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