

Mubarak greatest achievement is stability: BBC

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Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak

A documentary by BBC World Service on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Mubarak's greatest achievement is arguably that Egypt is stable, even predictable

"But to achieve this stability, many of his decisions have involved careful compromises. While on the international stage he has been praised for these, choosing the middle path has had the effect of not really pleasing anyone," said the documentary

His choice between stability over democracy, for example, or between the needs of Palestinians and peace with Israel, have been widely questioned but not utterly condemned.

It asked: "Is this stable, undemocratic but functioning Egypt a good enough legacy?"

It criticized the political competition in Egypt, adding that it stopped after Gamal Mubarak became the only person who can play a major role. There are fears of a family inheritance and stoppage of the democratic elections.

Whatever Mubarak's heritage is, it would not bring about political reform.

The documentary referred to what it called the traffic congestion and distortion, which prevailed in the city, especially on the Nile Corniche.

This reveals the heritage of Mubarak's rule and the pattern of the state, which seemed to be stable and predictable, such as the Nile River itself.

For his part, Egyptian People's Assembly (Parliament) Committee on Foreign Relations head Mustafa al-Fiqi said Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak achieved stability and managed to avoid political problems by not embarking on particular events. He managed to ensure safety in many positions.

The documentary added that Mubarak has completely kept the peace concluded by late president Sadat with Israel, despite the enormous opposition to him. Therefore, this is a success on the international arena. Mubarak's administration was good to Egypt.

Galal Amin, Professor of Economics at the American University at Cairo, described the state's performance as "weak", as it "failed" to do its main responsibilities, such as maintaining order and law.

Ahmed Okasha, head of the World Psychiatric Association, said we have a psychological structure. When we suffer from frustration, this results in depression, anxiety and then indifference.

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