

**Dina Rezk on the modern history of Egypt**  
**Egypt in Reading: Stories from the Liverpool Collections exhibition**

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The British occupation of Egypt begins in 1882, while it's a province of the Ottoman Empire. But this isn't a formal part of the British empire, it's known as a 'veiled protectorate'. In 1919 there's a revolution in Egypt that leads to formal independence, but the British retain a lot of influence in Egypt until a military revolt in 1952 by a group of free officers bring in a young Colonel named Gamal Abdel Nasser to power, and he's first Egyptian ruler in modern history. He's famous for his role as nationalist leader of the Arab world, and he's really fighting against the legacy of colonialism in the Middle East. He famously nationalises the Suez Canal in 1956, builds the Aswan High Dam in the '60s, and dies in 1970, and is succeeded by Anwar Sadat, who is a much more Western leaning President and opens the country up to international investment and eventually an alliance with the West that continues to this day.