

Trends in Foreign Newspapers and Western Media in
Dealing with the Presidential Elections in Egypt 2024:
Content Analysis for the Period from July 1 to September
30, 2023



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Egyptian Coalition for Human Rights and Development

Is an initiative launched by Forum for Development and Human Rights Dialogue Foundation, and consists of 500 development associations and organizations in 9 Governorates, in order to promote Human Rights conditions in Egypt, strengthen partnerships, and exchange experience.

The NGOs and institutions participating in the initiative were distributed in 9 governorates: Cairo, Gharbia, Beheira, Alexandria, Beni Suef, Sohag, Luxor, Qena and Aswan. Facebook Site:

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Introduction

The media plays an important role in enlightening and directing public opinion. The media has formed a major platform for dialogue, political debate, information exchange, and communication between political decision-makers and public opinion. Public opinion is considered a component of the political field, just like political institutions, and public opinion is viewed in the context of political decision-making as a determining factor in making decisions. Elections are a form by which public opinion in the political process is achieved. Western countries have been interested in the role of the media in directing political life, so they have had to work to find means to control this powerful tool that subjugates people by the power of words and images. Therefore, the strategic structures of the media were controlled through the ability to employ them according to the quantitative, qualitative, and temporal size and human scope that one desires from the message communicates it according to him.

It is known that the numerical and qualitative development of the media makes the media material it broadcasts a very important element and requires a degree of speed in obtaining information and directing it to the desired broadcast areas after it has been selected, verified, or reformulated. The expansion of the volume of new information flows has made the media process more capable of controlling its sources. More importantly, the effects of controlling information and its flows on the political process internally and externally have become very complex and dangerous. The power of possessing information and the power to subjugate the media makes influencing public opinion an easy process, and this is the method adopted by foreign policy in managing strategic issues such as wars as a result of the concentration of information with military or political sources.

There is a level of influence by media flow and the media on political decisions related to speed, consultation, and responsibility, as the speed with which modern political decisions are made leads to a reduction in the authorities' consultation of public opinion and even of the circle of officials themselves. It also appears that the results of speed of decisions on the element of responsibility are less influential and remain subject to the messages and capabilities that decision makers use to provide space and opportunity for public opinion. Public opinion remains subject to the extent to which the media and communication are used in a balanced manner within the political sphere so that the political process or political decision takes place under

conditions appropriate to democratic standards, such as transparency, freedom of dissenting opinion, and consultation.

In the electoral process, the integrity and competitiveness of the electoral process is not limited to the safety of ballot boxes or voting procedures, but the media plays an important role in all stages of the electoral process, and the integrity of this role determines the level of diversity and balance of media coverage of the parties competing in the elections, and even voters are becoming familiar with the ideas and programs of the candidates without interference or a monopoly that spoils the diversity and pluralism of the media message. There is nothing binding within the framework of international human rights law regarding the procedures that must be followed to regulate the role of the media in elections, but there are practices and standards that have been extracted from binding legal principles. These practices and standards have developed through international and regional practices.

Based on the various international and regional standards and practices for media and elections, there are a set of basic determinants for the media's role in covering elections, the most important of which is ensuring media freedom and pluralism, which means protecting the media from interference and arbitrariness by the authority, ensuring the right to issue, own, and manage media institutions, and the availability of the elements of independence of owned media institutions. Private ownership in terms of the independence of management, editorial policies, and the representation of these institutions of society with all its political, intellectual, religious, and ethnic trends. Private media is also required to adhere to professionalism, objectivity, and respect the public's right to knowledge, based on social and moral responsibility, with minimum legal obligations, especially in the field of audiovisual media.

The determinants of the role of the media in elections are based on respecting the principle of equal opportunities among all candidates, the commitment of the media to educate voters about the various stages and procedures of the electoral process, that the media constitute an opportunity for democratic public dialogue in society, and the availability of independent mechanisms to monitor and follow up on media performance during election coverage that have the authority to receiving complaints from candidates, and correcting any defects or deviations that may arise during the electoral campaigns. In this context, responsibility is distributed among the electoral committees, the agencies supervising the media, the judiciary, and the unions, through developing work with media honor codes. The lack of these determinants,

of course, affects the effectiveness of media coverage of the elections and detracts from its role in enlightening voters about the electoral process and the candidates.

Among the most important rules governing media coverage are the recommendations issued by the Committee of Ministers in the Council of Europe, which recommended that governments study ways to ensure respect for the principles of integrity, balance and impartiality in media coverage of electoral campaigns, and adopt measures to implement these principles in internal laws and practices wherever necessary and in accordance with constitutional law. However, the study revealed that the Western media violated the professional rules that the media must follow during media coverage of political life and the presidential elections in Egypt. The study concluded the following:

First: The negativity and bias of foreign media in its media coverage of political events and the election period in Egypt:

Western countries, which are always keen to present themselves as guardians of freedoms in the world, including freedom of the media, are now using their media, institutions and media networks to serve their political goals and achieve their personal interests in the world.

The Western media is the media of the countries that govern the world and its international policies and decisions. Its policy in terms of media transmission and financial resources is the most important in the world. It is used clearly and extensively to serve the purposes of Western internal and foreign policy. Therefore, it must be noted that the philosophy of the Western media and satellite networks is to transfer the competition between the major powers over strategic and rich regions from the stage of armed conflict to an intellectual and strategic struggle over extending hegemony and increasing dependency and influence with modern-day tools in directing international and local public opinion. Therefore, we find every media outlet with a propaganda orientation has its own special interest and media strategy. Towards the Egyptian state, today we are facing a desperate attempt by the Western media to pass on certain ideas.

This can be considered a continuation of a long history of media projects, launched by international radio and television stations, and even electronic platforms and newspapers, to provide media materials targeting the Egyptian citizen and to influence the public and authorities of his country, and to broadcast the images that we see regularly in the Western media, which always depict the negative side of...

Egypt. The Western media is represented by the system of satellite stations that make violence, hunger, backwardness, and human rights violations their media material that is transmitted through their network of correspondents in Egypt.

Western media outlets have long been accustomed to stereotypes in reporting their news and talking about political life and elections in Egypt, and hence their owners practice their profession on those foundations, according to goals that may be declared, and vice versa. The fact that the Western media provides a space for freedom and a high ceiling for stating facts or some of them, and imparts some neutrality and objectivity in presenting topics, does not mean its independence. This freedom completely disappears when it comes to influencing public opinion in hot spots directly related to foreign policy, especially those that affect the interests of Western countries like in Egypt or other countries; that's why Western peoples have some such credibility in domestic affairs, while the picture is completely reversed in foreign affairs.

Western governments are keen on a policy of openness, and open criticism in their media that deals with internal issues related to their people, but when it comes to Egypt and foreign policies, a special agenda must be set in which it is keen to confuse, distort, and paint a negative image through a decree handling of events, limiting oneself to an angle, or focusing on a pattern that seems to prevail, and this matter is not limited to one media outlet, but rather to many media outlets that deliberately distort and obscure the facts. We sometimes see false news, and at other times we only see crime news, as if Egypt is witnessing nothing else, and other times we see focusing on individual negative behaviors, as if they were common in the streets of Egypt, as if this media was deliberately painting all this picture to spread fear in the heart of every tourist who intends to visit Egypt because of the incidents he finds in this media, as if he wants to strip the confidence of any investor who intends to establish a project in Egypt because of the negative analyzes he heard about Egypt.

This Western media does not hesitate to use the intelligence method to promote its political position and for political blackmail at the same time. This has been repeated many times in more than one place in Egypt, where a number of politicians were blackmailed, whether in the Western countries themselves, or the pressure exerted by these means on decision-makers outside the West to secure their interests and the interests of those they represent. In fact, what deserves criticism in the news coverage of Egyptian affairs by the Western media is the absence of an objective

vision, the lack of scientific research analysis of many phenomena in Egypt, and the failure to address them in their historical and controversial context by the Western media, and to analyze them in the Egyptian reality itself. In addition to basing many media outlets on transmitted information that is unreliable and lacks verification

Many Western media outlets' primary goal is not to search for facts and publish them, but rather to trade in information, data, news, and images. Therefore, they provide what the viewer and reader ask for, and do not care much about whether the product is good and useful, or whether it is corrupt and incorrect. Not only that, but also the media itself in Western countries is a commodity like any other commodity, and businessmen compete to own it to impose their political or economic interests. In recent years, a number of blood and war merchants and the newly wealthy, especially from Eastern European countries, have bought well-established newspapers and television stations, for multiple goals such as money laundering, protecting their interests, and influencing the course of political and social life.

When we monitor the image of Egypt in the Western media, and work to deconstruct its symbols, identify its meanings, and analyze its media message, we find that they are all vocabulary, symbols, and patterns that constitute a negative image of the ruling system in Egypt and harm it, and constitute a negative image of the civil and political human rights situation, and present a reality. Symbolically, it confirms that Egypt has become a police state in which there is no room for opposition or freedom of expression. This media is fully aware that public opinion is not something that can be changed by wishful thinking or by political statements and decisions to distort or improve the image of a person or government, but rather it is the result of planned, systematic and continuous work, media work. It deals with the dimensions of the overall images and formulates their vocabulary in a practical way.

When we analyze the news materials presented in foreign media, we find that there are examples of blatant professional violations in which the standards of neutrality, balance, objectivity, credibility, media work constants, and its international rules are ignored. We will also notice the repetition of serious and stereotypical professional errors with regard to coverage of Egyptian affairs, and these errors emerge completely from the framework that can be bypassed due to the nature of media work and flows into a systematic framework that clearly expresses hostility to the Egyptian state. The pattern, repetition, and increase of errors clearly reinforces the hypothesis that those responsible for covering Egyptian affairs have some kind of

keenness to ignore the professional rules and media standards that media institutions must follow.

These repeated and typical errors mar the editorial policy in news materials related to Egypt, whether with regard to the rules for choosing the topics and titles of these media materials, the criteria for hosting personalities in programs, the type of questions and the clear guidance they carry, and the approach followed by programs with one opinion, which ignores the standards. Balance in opinion, argument, and logic leads, in the end, to programs that make accusations without evidence, launched by unqualified personalities who often have the space of time, based on questions that are formulated in a directed and organized manner to produce specific results that contradict reality and mislead the viewer.

Professional errors in these media outlets extend to news reports that are based on news that lacks the specifications and standards by which they work, as those responsible for preparing news reports ignore the standards for verifying the veracity of the news that is published, and some of them rely on rumors circulating on social media pages and others. It is transmitted as is from other media outlets, and the news reports are devoid of any source or evidence confirming the information contained therein or any data clarifying the validity and integrity of what is published, and even when it becomes clear that it is not true, those responsible for the report do not apologize to the followers, of whom there a sector has recently lost there confidence undoubtedly in the credibility of these media institutions.

The media policy pursued by the Western media is capable of changing regimes, annihilating peoples, and igniting devastating wars by promoting false news and spreading baseless propaganda, creating something like a major shock that makes the recipient fully prepared to believe anything that is presented to him. Because the media goes hand in hand with the policies followed by these countries, ensuring that they provide the necessary justifications and pretexts that would strengthen the position of the countries in charge of it towards any decision they have taken or war they have launched, even though these justifications are often weak and trivial, and the media also plays a role. It is important in creating the danger facing the people, and here the idea of controlling the people crystallizes, so that over time they turn into passive puppets who only watch the democratic process but do not participate in it.

It is known about the Western media among the Arab peoples that it has always practiced and still practices lying in a way that closely resembles an inherited

passion. It also constantly influences changing government policies, contributes to mobilizing international public opinion towards specific issues, and works to ignite strife and wars and change regimes of government in many Third World countries, in addition to its deliberate attempts to reformulate, interpret and distort political positions, in a way that serves the goals of the West and the countries that stand behind it. This methodology is evident for the Western media in dealing with Egyptian issues, as this dealing takes on a dangerous dimension, as it falls within the Western strategic vision for the Arab and Islamic region, which is based in part on dismantling and striking any pivotal center that constitutes an attractive model for the Arabs to move forward, whether this model is political or economic.

The Western media's treatment of Egyptian issues stems from ready-made ideas, patterns, and negative prejudices inherited historically from centuries ago. It is a media that has been working for Western colonial interests for more than half a century. It is linked to official channels extending from the intelligence services to foreign policies and Western interests buried in the Arab region, a media that has nothing to do with values, principles, ethics and human relations, as it claims, but rather it is based on the interests determined for it by the ruling circles and global Zionism, which possesses wealth and will.

There is also no doubt that the West has made the media, with its various types, arts, and methods, a major and strategic tool in this confrontation, to consolidate its developmental, material, and technological superiority, so that the Western media machine becomes an integral part of the comprehensive defense system for the Western identity, and the Western project in the region in its various dimensions, and this has been demonstrated in discussing the situation in Egypt, where the Western media deals with all internal issues in Egypt, from a purely hostile perspective, which appears on the surface to be a defense of human rights, while the reality is defamation, bad faith, corrupt intent, disturbing public opinion, and destabilizing social peace.

The Western media hardly ignores Egyptian events and facts, and does not content itself with keeping pace with them, but rather works to exacerbate and complicate them, raise them, move them, and amplify them in order to serve the agendas of their governments. The danger of its interest in all Egyptian issues lies in the fact that it comes under the heading of surveillance and the service of hidden agendas that usually hide beneath the human mask. The Western media is professional in the policy of exaggeration and misinformation in its treatment of Egyptian issues, by

broadcasting targeted news, fabricated information, fallacies, and incorrect statements that lack logic and reality, to satisfy pressure groups or financiers. It does not move or take positions on its own, or based on a policy. These are determined by the editorial board of the newspaper, or the owners of the media outlet in general, but there are directions that are dictated to these media outlets by decision makers in the country in which the media outlet is issued, at the expense of the charter and standards of media work and professionalism, which has always been sung before the world.

Western media may be free on the surface, but direct and indirect funding bodies stipulate in advance that the media outlet and its workers abide by their wishes. It is clear at the global level that in recent decades, Western media has become a sword on people's necks, not in their hands. This is because Western media is intellectually and culturally influenced by certain parties, and is able to continue broadcasting or printing with the help of advertising trade practiced by media professionals with major capitalist companies. These are media outlets with biased political, social and cultural positions that seriously affect their objectivity and their desire to convey the image as it is to the general public. It also seeks to target the influential and dominant segment of society that is strongly attracted to speed, excitement, and dazzling performance. This made it move from the field of transmitting information to the field of information production, reaching the level of professionalism in influencing people and reshaping attitudes and opinions. What its fans praise it and the examples they give of its strength, freedom, and humanity in reality are the basis for the survival of Western media. If it were not for the space of freedom whose slogan it raises, it would not have had an impact. It is the space that is manipulated according to a policy that sometimes shows freedom and suppresses it at other times as needed.

The Western media follows the method of what is called false contrast when dealing with issues, and this means that there is a difference in media positions regarding issues that concern the interests of a particular group at times, which appears as if it is neutrality in presentation and objectivity in media coverage, but when you examine this Contrast, we find that in the end it provides only what serves this concerned group, even if it appears that there is a difference in visions and positions. The Western media has shifted from transmitting information to producing it, reaching the level of professionalism in influencing individuals and reshaping positions and opinions, using the space of freedom that it raises as its slogan.

Foreign media is media directed to serve Western policies. It practices international propaganda with a kind of intelligence and professionalism. It follows methods and tactics that are difficult for a non-media specialist to comprehend. For example, it presents the opinion and the other opinion, but it stays away from the opinions of the moderate, rational opposition and resorts to highlighting extremist views. It also resorted to exaggeration and deliberately ignored certain facts that did not serve his interests and focused on addressing specific details. These media outlets achieved the goals for which they were set out.

Consequently, the positive results achieved by foreign media encouraged some regional and international powers to pump huge sums of money to influence the trends of Egyptian public opinion, so that every country with interests had one or more platforms through which it addressed the public and tried to promote its public views, with the aim of creating positive impressions and promoting policies that serve its interests. Different forces launched many modern media outlets and interacted with Egyptian public opinion with the aim of besieging it, as it lacks rich media meals in light of a frantic race undertaken by the majority of media outlets for direct propaganda for the ruling regimes. Foreign media found in the local vacuum an opportunity to increase its influence and influence and promote its political agendas. Foreign media appear to be a mixture of professionalism, bias, and propaganda, and there is a professionally made image and mixture that meets the needs of those interested in political affairs and following its developments with analysis and varying visions.

There is no doubt that the freedom in presentation and professionalism in the methods of making news and presenting it to people, the advanced technical template in which it is presented and the speed of performance; expands the segment affected by this media and this is what the Western media has strongly intended to do, in order to reduce the areas of lack of confidence in its credibility that have begun to expand day after day especially With broad sectors of the world's people dealing with this media in a critical and rational manner, and sorting out the news, reports, and information it presents.

Second: Western media exaggeration in dealing with Egyptian issues:

Western media has always presented a special concept of Egyptian issues, the problems it is experiencing, their causes, the roles of actors in them, and the solutions

it envisions for the issues, especially since the establishment of such media outlets affiliated with foreign world powers came in response to a specific logic aimed at achieving influence on public opinion in a competitive and vibrant media field. More than serving purely commercial objectives. This has resulted in a fragility in the credibility of this media among the masses, which now more than ever controls the media agenda and determines the hierarchy of news and, in a way, the editorial line, despite its bidding on respecting the principles of media neutrality, professionalism, and administrative independence. Since then, these media outlets have continued to develop influence strategies in an attempt to adapt to the conditions, needs, and tastes imposed by the transformations that the satellite media scene has witnessed at the regional and international levels in recent years, especially the increasing role of social media in shaping public opinion.

Misleading news is considered one of the most dangerous and deadly weapons for societies and countries, due to the danger it poses to the mind and psychology of people, and to the stability and security of society, especially with its uncontrolled spread, in light of the dominance of social media sites over most of them. The manufacture and dissemination of misleading news is not born today, but rather its history is linked to the history of news itself. For example, at the end of the nineteenth century, the term yellow journalism spread, which is an embodiment of the concept of fake news. Yellow journalism is based on the principle of inflating facts, exaggerating them, or trying to distort them, according to certain interests that are vested in them. Either against specific people, or for the sake of political, economic, or even societal interests, and the term misleading news has been brought back to the forefront in recent years because Western societies have become full of this type of news.

The spread of misleading and exaggerated news among Western media audiences is much faster than real news, and the reasons for this spread are due to the ability of this type of false or misleading news to create feelings of fear or great astonishment among readers and followers, which doubles people's desire to read it and share it with others. This type of news found its purpose in the spread of social media, due to the nature of these platforms that help in publishing without cost and without censorship, and their controversial nature also helps in spreading among the pioneers of social networking sites, during their search for a head start in spreading the news, especially if it relates to the topic with issues that capture the attention of public opinion, they seek to gain more likes, shares, and comments, in order to gain a fan base on these platforms with the aim of classifying them as influencers.

In its spread, misleading news depends on different types of sources, the most prominent of which is misinformation and camouflage, which is based on misleading the reader and spreading the idea without giving him the opportunity to verify the authenticity or otherwise of this news, in addition to the falsity of the sources relied upon, which is the method followed by before newspapers, advertising sites, and foreign news, which aim to publish pictures and positions of Egyptian people or entities and comment on them in a way that is completely different from the true intent of the image, position, or opinion of the person being advertised or the entity to which this news relates. Manipulating headlines is also one of the most prominent sources on which fake news depends to spread, especially in light of social networking sites, a large number of readers do not complete reading a piece of news with its details, let alone checking the content, and they are content with only reading the main headline without bothering to click on the link and read the entire topic, and here they fall into the forbidden, as they form their idea through the title, which some sites deliberately intend to be the furthest thing from the truth.

Despite the influential and dangerous role played by foreign media, given that the coverage it carries out is among the most important through its technical and editorial crews and its correspondent networks spread across most Egyptian regions, this media coverage varies according to the media outlet transmitting the event, each outlet according to its media agenda and sometimes accordingly, the method of formulation, editing, presentation, content, and angles of discussion differ. Each media outlet determines the pattern of what we see of the course of life in Egypt, and thus contributes to shaping our vision and knowledge of the crises and problems facing the Egyptian state in accordance with the media framework it defines. This is what makes news treatment subject to framing templates with objectives and the politics of the media, resulting in intense ambiguity about the truth of the events and the nature of their course.

Exaggeration and belittlement are two contradictory aspects that characterize the approach taken by the Western media in its coverage of Egyptian issues and events. The media that invades every home, and addresses all family members, can, in many cases, by exaggerating or belittling at times and by insisting and suggesting at other times, mislead a person's mind and falsify his awareness. It deviates by his will in directions drawn in advance. If we take television, as an example that we experience daily, we will find that it falsifies the viewer's commercial awareness by promoting certain goods among people, even if they are not in dire need of them, and even if their real needs relate to completely different things. But the insistence on it is

repeated and repeated in application of a rule in the arts of advertising, because with continuous insistence and repetition, the luxury good becomes a necessity without which life is almost impossible. In the same way, values and ideas are promoted by exaggerating minor events, and marginalizing and obfuscating major events. The thing that makes the Western media adopt this approach is the standards that relate to the special interests of capitalist systems.

The Western media's prowess in exaggeration is only matched by its prowess in underestimation, which reveals the truth of the approach adopted by this media, which, to say the least, is misleading media that lacks objectivity and integrity. At first glance, this ruling may seem unjust and hasty, but a deeper look supports and confirms this ruling, because the Western media appears on the surface to be the free media available to everyone. Rather, it uses this liberal appearance as a basic pillar of its propaganda, on the basis that it is superior to the totalitarian regime's media, but this is only the outward appearance, as the Western media only expresses the interests of one group of people, which is the group that is able to finance the media with its advertisements, and it is known that major newspapers and television stations depend for their funding, wholly or in large part, on money. Advertisers, in addition to the fact that these major media institutions are most often companies whose business operates according to purely capitalist logic, and cannot allow media that leads to their destruction. Thus, this media lacks honesty, even though it follows smarter methods, and far from being frank and direct, than those followed by the Arab and Egyptian media.

The Western media is a misleading media that manipulates minds, and manipulation of minds is not consistent with the freedom and democracy that the West praises. If they describe the Egyptian citizen as subject to the tyranny of the ruling regime, then the citizen in the West is subject to the tyranny of the media, and the Western citizen does not realize this. On the contrary, he boasts that he is exercising the highest degree of freedom, ignoring that the media, which is ingenious with its amazing methods, penetrates into every cell of his brain and directs him. To its pre-planned destination. Whereas the real ruler in Western societies is not the heads of states and governments, but rather the owners of the major newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations. These are the real rulers who hold the heads of states and governments accountable and bring them down, while no one holds them accountable or brings them down. This is the other side of Western democracy, but it is the dark and ugly side.

There is no doubt that the excessive method of excitement and exaggeration in presentation through the Western media, whether through description and analogy, or through multiplying the numbers through inaccurate statistics, will certainly lead to completely unsatisfactory results, as relying on them results in an imbalance in the issue of treatment and abuse when it is the information is false and will create accumulations that lack stability, while achieving balance in this aspect is extremely important, and media outlets in Western countries tend to this method in their coverage of Egyptian issues to attract the reader and draw his attention regardless of the compatibility between the title and the content, for example.

This results in a crisis of confidence, and therefore the negative reaction will inevitably be whether it is news, a press investigation, an article, or an interview with an official. There is no harm in competing in terms of excellence and including a title appropriate to the material and its content. Rather, the matter may sometimes reach the point of unintended modification. As if it were a warning, then the title, as a result of the unsuccessful plastic surgery, turns out to be an incitement, and if the goal of choosing striking titles is to provoke, exaggerate, then the effect will be severe, and may sometimes even reach the stage of embarrassment and insult, and what is worse than that is when the means is based to rumors in publishing the news in isolation from investigation and verification, this issue not only causes it to lose its readers, but in doing so it negates the code of journalistic honor and honesty of the word.

If the picture is smaller than the frame, the space will be clearer, allowing the reader to discover this matter, and the closer the presentation is to objectivity, the more honest it is in this aspect, and vice versa. The element of excitement is a part whose importance should not be underestimated in this regard, but rather it is considered one of the components of success. It is unreasonable for an editor to conduct a press interview filled with a barrage of heavy and light questions with someone and not make an unintended error or slip of the tongue, to pick out this or that omission and present it publicly in the absence of revision, which is at the heart of the work of the editor or preparer, and this it is not a factor of excitement and attraction as much as it constitutes excessive opportunism and hunting for pitfalls that is not justified and in the context of climbing on the lapses and missteps of others, and the reader can discover the absence of intention from the context through the absence of insistence. The negative effects of the element of exaggeration in excitement are not limited to the issue previously mentioned, but go further than that, when this element is mixed with the issue of conveying the event and analysis, and the exaggeration that taints

this matter directly affects the recipient, when the issue of achieving accuracy in conveying and analyzing in an objective manner is not present and it is fair, the information may be correct, and the additions, or rather the spices, are unbalanced. It is similar to the cooking process. If you double the salt, the dish will inevitably be salty, as is the case with the results of some analyzes that are received from time to time through Western space, its channels, and its kitchens. Then you will find the analysis. Salty, destitute, or miserable.

Hence the necessity of obtaining information from reliable and balanced sources so that the misleading additions it contains does not constitute a false perception devoid of objectivity and substance and is nothing more than a miserable practice in confusion in a way that destroys and does not serve. The media should also give priority to the moral dimension and professional commitment over the purely commercial approach. Which may lose readers and followers instead of gaining them. In addition, this would deepen trust and activate communication, which leaves no room for doubt about the nobility of the goals, away from sneak goals that excite the public for a short period, while the result remains dependent on whether or not points are counted. Man, by nature, does not accept to be vulnerable to being fooled, because he/she hates being fooled by these tricks, while moral corruption is one of the harshest things any people faces, as it destroys their values and capabilities. The imbalance in the foundation undoubtedly comes from the absence of moderation and wisdom. Moderation in humans translates into balanced behavior despite the fact that a person possesses multiple and contradictory qualities at the same time, the measure lies in the rational use of these qualities.

Exaggeration represents the fuel for lying, and even more so because it is the scourge of the stability of societies where there is confusion and confusion, and the value of transparency must be at the level of circulation among everyone. What is important in any media coverage is transparency and clarity in the news, and whatever the issues and problems are, it is important to deal with them and work to address them. It is necessary that the problem be identified in proportion to its size and impact in a realistic manner, away from exaggeration. On the other hand, it should not be minimized, and its impact and danger should not be underestimated.

The Western media resorts to exaggeration. Which reflects an unreal image of the problem or issue that is to be dealt with. Which has a negative impact on the possibility of finding the appropriate solution, in addition to other effects. Unfortunately, exaggeration is an approved method and is even a pattern of thinking

in the Western media, whether at the level of institutions or individuals working in it, and this can be easily noticed by the observer, whether the exaggeration is intentional or unintentional.

Exaggerating matters, placing them in a framework larger than their size, and increasing them in foreign media coverage of Egyptian issues is in all political, economic, social, and religious fields. This means distancing the matter from its reality and dealing with something different from what is on the ground, and perhaps this new matter is not related to the issue. Basic except in terms of name. The reasons that push media organizations to exaggerate matters are their desire to influence others, their convictions in a certain direction, and to distract them from the facts for specific goals. For example, we find that some social problems in Egypt are exaggerated by the foreign media much greater than they are, either for personal reasons or to influence public opinion and decision-makers. In any case, this exaggeration, although on the surface, achieves some success for those responsible for it, but the truth of the matter is not good for society. The result may be the opposite, which is the exacerbation and spread of this problem.

The Western media resorts to exaggerating some issues as desired, for personal purposes or for the benefit of these parties, to influence public opinion and gain its support and sympathy. On the other hand, some matters are belittled, even if they are important, in order to alienate people and distance them from the truth, or exaggerating criticism and exaggerating some mistakes and defects and portraying them as bringing disasters, while in reality they are mistakes that could happen, with the aim of character assassination and distorting the image. It also tends to underestimate the value of positive things and exaggerate the impact of negative things. Sometimes the exaggeration is for the purpose of ingratiating and ingratiating to achieve personal interests.

Exaggeration leads to the absence of facts, spreading despair and frustration in people, and the inability to work and achieve. Rather, it amounts to intimidation and spreading terror among people. It also does not contribute to solving problems, hinders reform, and weakens efficiency in dealing with crises. In addition to confusing the competent authorities and hindering their work, which is what the Western media seeks to do in Egypt, the media and means of communication have a major role in exaggerating events and problems, and they bear a great responsibility. Just as it is the responsibility of media institutions, it is also the responsibility of individuals, especially with the growing role of social media.

Exaggeration has many forms, including repeating the topic for a long time and in multiple forms, choosing deceptive headlines that leave an impression on people, delaying the publication of correct facts and information or manipulating them, ambiguity and lack of clarity, or incorrect reading of numbers and statistics and adopting selectivity in this. It may focus on a part of the statistics, another is left in proportion to the desire and direction in which public opinion is directed. Exaggeration is a disease, and dealing with issues and problems must be done objectively, realistically, with balance and moderation, and not give matters greater than their magnitude. Exaggeration is dangerous for societies.

Analysis of what was monitored by foreign websites and newspapers regarding the presidential elections in Egypt:

This was represented by what the coalition monitored of news materials circulating in foreign media about Egyptian affairs during the period of preparation for the Egyptian presidential elections in 2024, from July 1 to September 30, as the media coverage of these media focused on specific issues, including:

Questioning the integrity of the upcoming presidential elections, describing them as false democracy, confirming that President Sisi will win the upcoming presidential elections for a third presidential term, following up on the names of potential candidates for the presidential elections, the security forces' arresting of participants in the campaign of presidential candidate Ahmed Tantawi, supporting Ahmed Tantawi and the opposition in the upcoming elections, criticizing the regime in Egypt and the policy of President Sisi, condemnation of the harassment faced by opponents, presidential candidates and their assistants by the regime and the Egyptian President, the issue of the arrest of the Secretary-General of the Free Movement, Hisham Qassem by the Egyptian authorities, the deteriorating economic conditions and the tightening of the political noose on President Sisi's candidacy in the elections. Presidential elections, and a few newspapers talked about the progress made in political life and the recent recovery that Egypt has witnessed in terms of expressing opinions and how this will positively affect the possibility of President Sisi winning the upcoming elections.

Analysis of foreign newspapers during July 2023

- 1. British newspapers:**
 - Middle East Monitor:

This newspaper is considered one of the most famous British newspapers and websites that talk about Egypt, so in July it published two news stories about the Egyptian presidential elections. It focused among them on the expected candidate before Sisi, and expected it to be Amr Moussa or Gamal Mubarak, based on the speculations of Mustafa Bakri, who expected a strong candidate to appear before Sisi. Then it mentioned the lawsuit filed by the director of the National Center for Citizenship and Human Rights Support with the aim of preventing Gamal Mubarak's candidacy, and it attached this news to the conditions for running for the presidency, including the condition that the candidate not be subject to any charges, and it mentioned that Gamal Mubarak actually does not currently have any charges against him.

- Egypt Watch:

The newspaper reported on the secret meeting that took place between Gamal Mubarak and Jonathan Cohen, the former US ambassador to Egypt, in reference to the possibility of Gamal Mubarak running for the presidential elections.

- BBC:

The BBC is one of the most prestigious and oldest British newspapers, but what is strange about its dealing with the subject of the Egyptian presidential elections is that it has recently published only one piece of news about these elections in which it mentioned Hazem Omar's candidacy for the Egyptian Republican People's Party.

- The National MENA:

Through the only news it published in the previous period, this newspaper focused on the Egyptian political climate in the recent period, describing it as relatively open compared to the past, and indicated that the ongoing dialogue around the presidential elections and the possibility of others running against President Sisi indicates this openness. In addition, the newspaper mentioned the national dialogue called for by President Sisi and the presidential pardon for a number of political prisoners as types of alleviating the political pressure to which the Egyptian people have become accustomed in previous years.

- The Middle East Beat:

This newspaper also focused on the political opening in Egypt, stating that although the debate surrounding the upcoming presidential elections is under scrutiny by the authorities, there is a level of tolerance towards criticism of government policies that

would have been unimaginable just over a year ago. The issue of civil liberties has become a controversial topic in Egypt, whether it is directly related to the upcoming elections or seen by the authorities as a ploy to quell growing public dissatisfaction with rising prices of basic goods. However, regardless of the motivation, Egyptians currently enjoy a level of freedom – though carefully managed and closely monitored by the authorities – not seen in the past decade.

2. American newspapers:

- Associated Press:

This newspaper focused on the violations that presidential election candidate Ahmed Al-Tantawi has been exposed to since he announced his intention to run. From it, the newspaper concluded that it is widely expected that next year's presidential elections will be a foregone conclusion in favor of current President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, who has overseen a severe repression campaign against the political opposition.

- CNN:

This newspaper, among other foreign newspapers, had the largest share of news coverage of the upcoming Egyptian elections, as it published 3 news stories about it. It is noted that all three of these news revolve around potential candidates to enter the electoral battle. The first news item focused on what Mustafa Bakry said about the possibility of a strong candidate running against Sisi. In the second and third news, it focused on the parties who are likely to run for the nomination, as the Delegation Party is expected to present Abdel Sanad Yamama, the Conservative Party Akram Qortam, the Republican People's Party Hazem Omar, the Democratic Peace Party Ahmed Al-Fadhli, and Ahmed Al-Tantawi. It was also noted that President Sisi agreed to judicial supervision of the upcoming elections.

3. Dutch newspapers:

- Fanack.com:

The website published an article entitled "Egypt's Spring and the Elusive Path to the 2024 Elections." From the name of the article, the reader can deduce what it contains, as the article resembles what is happening in the political arena in terms of political openness, such as the call for national dialogue and the release of political detainees, as "Egypt's Spring," but in reality this spring is just an "elusive path to the 2024 elections." Evidence of this is the failure of the national dialogue and all other initiatives called for by President Sisi, in addition to the small number of politically

released prisoners compared to the total number previously and currently detained. The website then elaborated on the reasons for Sisi's failure in these initiatives and how he could use them as a front to win the upcoming elections.

- Global Voices:

The website published an article entitled: "The Strange Race: The Road to the 2024 Egyptian Presidential Elections." Although the title describes what is happening in preparation for the presidential elections as a "strange path," the rest of the report mentions the Egyptian parties and their potential candidates, describing this step as an indication of the "unconventionality and absurdity" of this version of the elections.

4. Other newspapers:

- Swedish Middle East Observer:

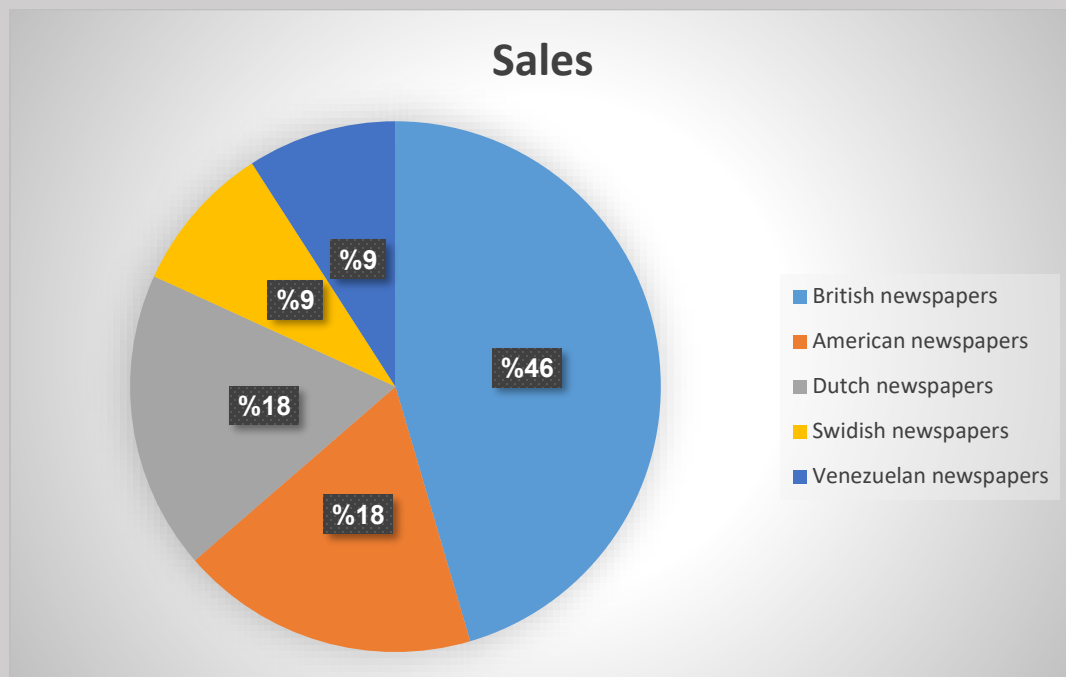
It published news about the possibility of protecting the candidacy of Abdel-Sanad Yamama and Ahmed Al-Tantawi in light of the presence of human rights violations, as the national dialogue failed, the failure to fully release political prisoners so far, including Muhammad Al-Baqir, and the failure to fulfill the promises made before the COP27 conference.

- Venezuelan Tele SUR:

The website published an example of a supporter of Al-Sisi's candidacy again, which is Amr Suleiman, and another opponent of Al-Sisi's candidacy, which is Muhammad Abu Al-Ghar. Each of them mentioned his justifications, as Amr Suleiman believes that Al-Sisi succeeded in returning Egypt to its normal position among the countries of the world. While Muhammad Abu Al-Ghar believes that what the Egyptian regime is doing is taking rapid steps towards the collapse of the state.

A table shows the number of foreign newspapers that covered the presidential elections during July 2023

British Newspapers	5
American newspapers	2
Dutch newspapers	2
Swedish newspapers	1
Venezuelan newspapers	1



Analysis of foreign newspapers during August 2023

1. American newspapers:

- At the beginning of the month, the American newspaper **Atlantic Council** published an article about the possibility of Gamal Mubarak running in the upcoming presidential elections, and even added that the possibility of his winning is great, given the arrests and violations that Egyptians were subjected to throughout the rule of President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. But at the end of the campaign, **CNN** published an article in which it stated that the National Elections Authority in Egypt had begun the first steps in preparing for the presidential elections, by studying the legal dates for holding the elections, and some representatives of the Egyptian political parties and representatives demanded that the elections be fair and impartial and suggested that electronic voting be made available.
- On the other hand, the website of the **American News Agency** that covers the Middle East published a report on Hisham Qassem, head of the Egyptian opposition movement called the “Free Movement,” and the danger posed by his arrest before the Egyptian elections. The Egyptian authorities arrested him after he refused to pay bail in a defamation case against former Labor

Minister Kamal Abu Aita. Within the report, some of what political activists said about Hisham's arrest was mentioned, as one of them said that he saw in Hisham "a new Jamal Khashoggi."

2. British newspapers:

- **The New Arab newspaper** reported that a group of Democrats in the United States Senate urged withholding up to \$320 million of the \$1.3 billion allocated for military aid to Egypt due to the country's human rights record, including the Egyptian government's arrest of supporters and family members of a rival. He intends to run against President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

The senators say that because of previous decisions to withhold funds, Egypt has improved its human rights practices. However, they insist that more pressure is needed to bring about more change.

- While **Reuters** newspaper focused on the economic conditions in the country, especially the power outages and their impact on the presidential elections on the one hand, and compared them to the period when Mohamed Morsi took power. In terms of the impact of the power outage on the upcoming presidential elections, the newspaper emphasized that although "the power outage is an indicator of failure in economic policies and management," as Jamila Ismail said, it has raised huge projects such as the new capital outside Cairo and the summer capital in El Alamein. However, according to the newspaper, Al-Sisi, a former army commander who oversaw a far-reaching crackdown on political opposition, is widely expected to secure a third term in elections scheduled to be held by early 2024.

3. French newspapers:

- The French newspaper **Africa News** covered the news of Ahmed Douma's release, but linked it to the context of the upcoming presidential elections, as it claimed that in recent months, Sisi's government had allowed some criticism of its policies amid a horrific economic crisis and increasing calls for political reform before the 2014 presidential elections, and gave several examples, including the release of Ahmed Doma and the president's call for a national dialogue in April last year with the aim of formulating recommendations for the future of the country.

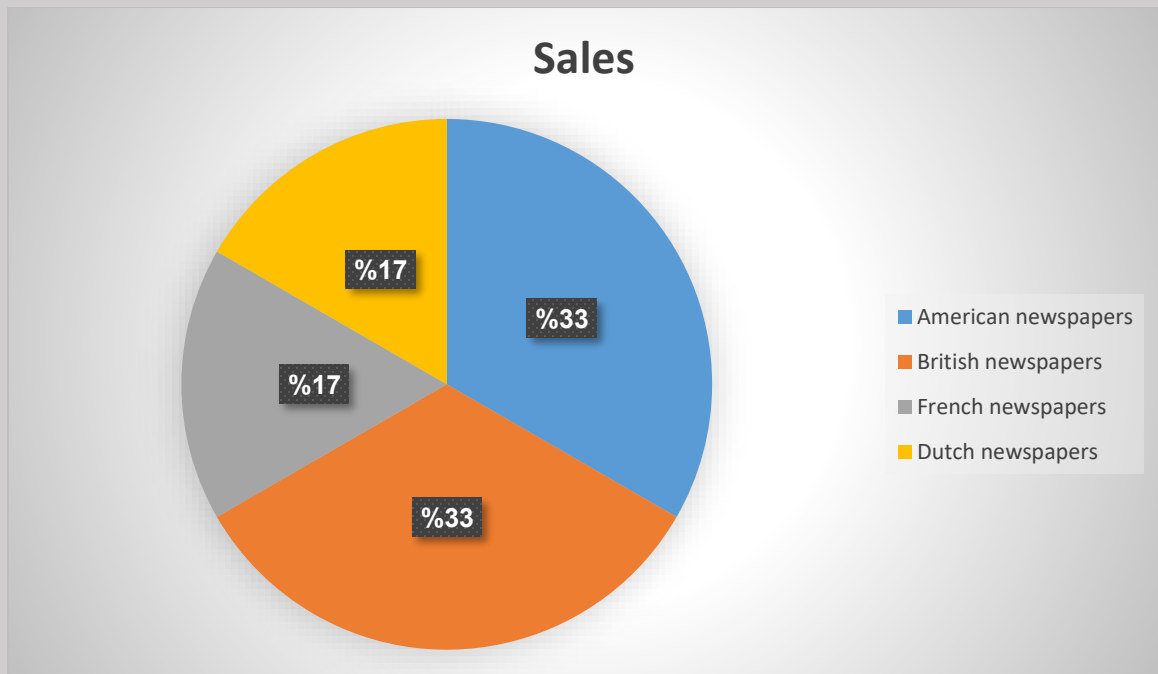
4. Dutch newspapers:

- **Fanack.com** discussed the period of President Sisi's rule in a report issued on August 14, 2023. The report was divided into several periods, represented by the presidential elections through which Sisi came in 2018 and how they suppressed any opposition, then the protests of 2019, which led to drawing the attention of some US Congressmen, where it revealed the mistake of American policy towards President Sisi, considering him 'the great leader who brought Egypt out of turmoil'. The report then addressed the critical economic situation that the country is going through, attributing its reason to the army's overwhelming control over the economy and, consequently, overwhelming popular discontent. Then Egypt's foreign relations and how it lost the trust of lenders, whether Arabs or others.

In the end, the report reached the conclusion that the growing frustration requires President Sisi to be cautious due to concern about an unexpected popular reaction. It described Al-Sisi, who aspires to a new presidential term in 2024, as not fearing a popular uprising or a new revolution resulting from public frustration. However, he still needs to realize when the current economic crisis will be unbearable

A table shows the number of foreign newspapers that covered the presidential elections during August 2023

American newspapers	2
British newspapers	2
French newspapers	1
Dutch newspapers	1



Analysis of foreign newspapers during July 2023

1. British newspapers:

These newspapers were:

- **The Middle East Monitor**, which published one piece of news about the Free Movement and that it would not nominate a candidate for the presidential elections after its Secretary General, Hisham Qasim, was sentenced to six months in prison. But it is worth noting that the newspaper stated at the end of the news in the text that: “Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi intends to nominate himself for a third term. He came to power ten years ago in a bloody military coup that overthrew the country’s first democratically elected president, Mohamed

Morsi. Human rights organizations accused Egypt of “Repeatedly committing widespread human rights violations under the Sisi regime, including torture and enforced disappearance”.

- **The Middle East Eye**, which also published one piece of news about the candidate Ahmed Al-Tantawi and his mobile device, which was hacked by European commercial spyware several times after he announced his desire to run for the Egyptian presidency, according to what the newspaper said.

2. American newspapers:

These foreign newspapers are **The Barron's, Wall Street Journal, CNN, Bloomberg, and Washington Post.**

American newspapers covered election news this month in the context of speculating on the date of the elections or monitoring cases of arrests suffered by supporters of presidential candidates and the presidential candidates themselves, such as Ahmed Al-Tantawi, whose phone was hacked. But what is noted is that the common factor between all of these news is the mention of the difficult economic situation that the country is going through, as they describe it, such as the decrease in the value of the Egyptian pound, high prices, high inflation rate, and so on.

3. German newspapers:

One German newspaper, **DW**, published about the presidential elections in Egypt, and the title of its only article was as follows: “Increasing targeting of activists before the presidential elections.” In that report, the newspaper talked about the restrictions imposed on the families of activists opposed to the regime, and how Fajr Al-Adly, who lives in Germany, had her father subjected to arbitrary detention after arriving at Cairo Airport from the German city of Frankfurt. The newspaper added that Alaa Al-Adly's case was not the only one, as last August witnessed the arrest of Gamal Abdel Hamid Ziada, where he was interrogated about the activity of his son, the political activist Ahmed, who lives in Belgium.

4. French newspapers:

This month, French newspapers focused on the case of the Secretary-General of the Free Movement, Hisham Qassem, who was arrested by the Egyptian authorities, after which the Free Movement decided not to nominate any candidate in the upcoming presidential elections in protest against the arrest of the Secretary-General of the Movement. This news was reported by: **Al-Ghad** website, **France**

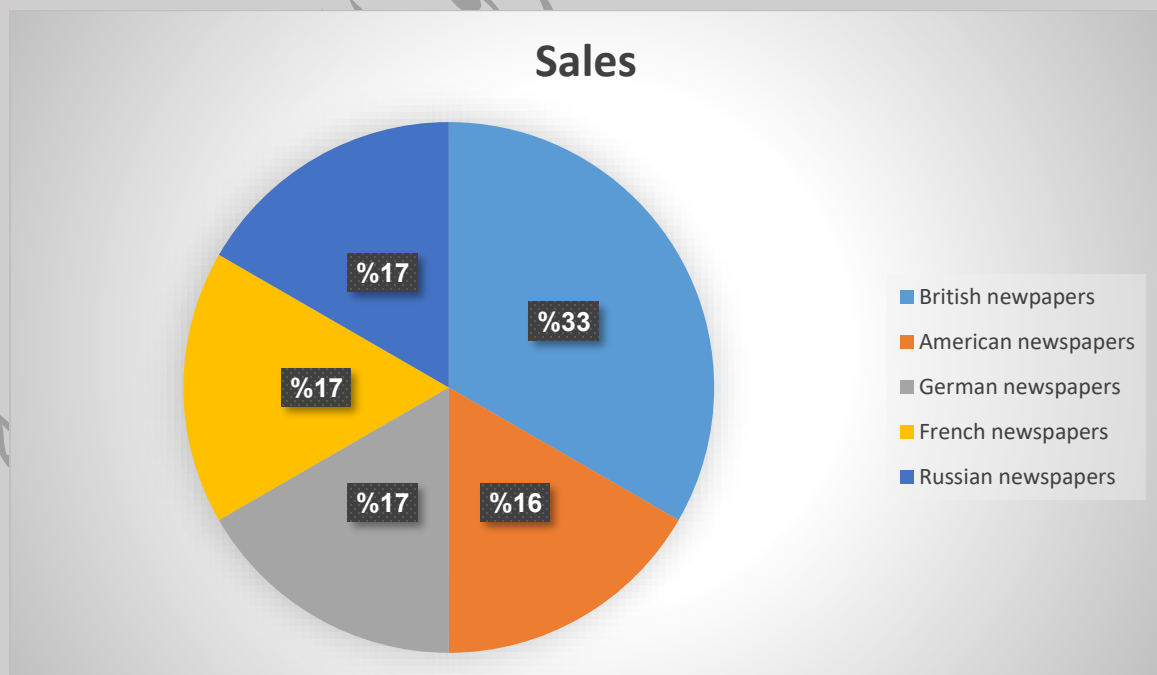
24, and Euronews. In addition, the Indian newspaper The **Times of India** published the news of the arrest of Hisham Qassem and Tantawi's supporters.

5. Russian newspapers:

A state of silence prevailed in Russian newspapers and websites regarding the Egyptian presidential elections, as the only news that was published was from the Russian newspaper **RT**, which mentioned in no more than five lines some tweets by Egyptian businessman Naguib Sawiris, where he denied the authenticity of a tweet attributed to him in which he said, " He is more deserving than Sisi for us to elect him".

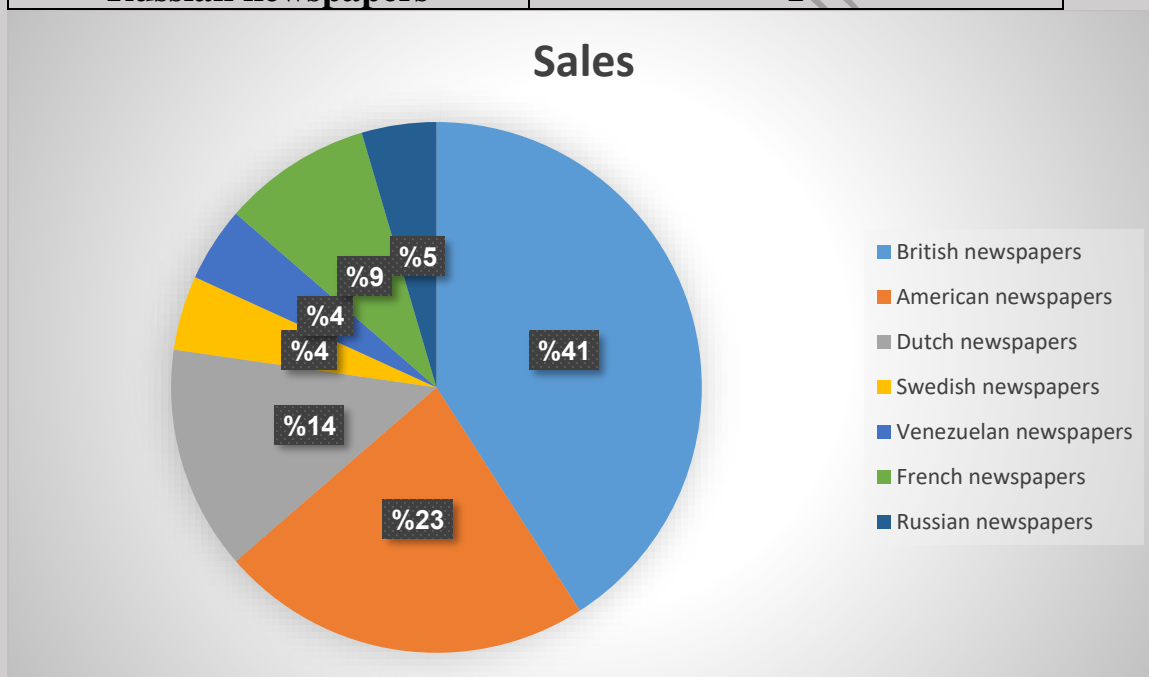
A table shows the number of foreign newspapers that covered the presidential elections during August 2023

British newspapers	2
American newspapers	1
German newspapers	1
French newspapers	1
Russian newspapers	1



A compiled table shows the number of foreign newspapers that covered the presidential elections from July to September 2023

British newspapers	9
American newspapers	5
Dutch newspapers	3
Swedish newspapers	1
Venezuelan newspapers	1
French newspapers	1
Russian newspapers	1



Conclusion

In light of what the study observed after analyzing the content of foreign newspapers' trends in dealing with matters related to the presidential elections in Egypt 2024 in the period from July 1 to September 30, 2023, it represents:

First: The negativity and bias of foreign media in its media coverage of political events and the election period in Egypt:

Second: Western media exaggeration in dealing with Egyptian issues:

The news published about the period before the presidential elections in the newspapers monitored by the study focused on the following topics:

1. Questioning the integrity of the upcoming presidential elections and describing them as false democracy.
2. Confirmation on President Sisi's victory in the upcoming presidential elections for a third presidential term.
3. Following up on the names that announce their possible candidacy for the presidential elections.
4. The arrest of some members of the campaign of potential candidate Ahmed Tantawi.
5. Support the potential candidate Ahmed Al-Tantawi and the opposition in the upcoming elections.
6. Criticism of the ruling system in Egypt and President Sisi's policy.
7. Condemn the harassment faced by opponents, presidential candidates, and their assistants.
8. Deteriorating economic conditions.

During the period covered by the study, it overlooked the progress made in many other economic and social issues that concern the Egyptian citizen and what was accomplished by the National Dialogue Committee, casting doubt on the work of this committee.