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Al-Ahram (pronounced ahl-ahRAHM), Egypt's leading daily newspaper (cir: 500,000-900,000), can be considered the Egyptian New York Times. Established during Egypt's colonial days, it was not highly regarded at first. At the time of the 1952 revolution it was known as the "newspaper of the dead" because it specialized in printing obituaries. When Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal took over as editor in 1957 it was nearly bankrupt. Haykal turned al-Ahram into the Arab world's leading daily publication. In the 1960's and early 1970's it was considered to be the authoritative voice of the Egyptian Government, but after President Sadat fired Haykal in 1974 it began to be regarded as Egypt's "semiofficial" newspaper. It maintains a balance between the political right and left.