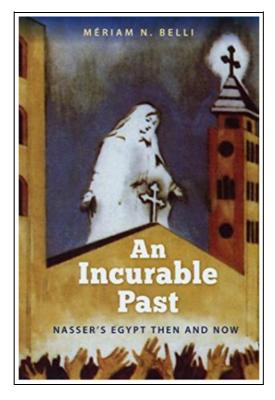
# An Incurable Past: Nassers Egypt Then and Now



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# Reviews

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### AN INCURABLE PAST: NASSERS EGYPT THEN AND NOW



University Press of Florida. Paperback. Condition: New. 304 pages. Spanning virtually the entire twentieth century and as timely as the outbreak of the 2011 January Revolution, this work has much to say about where Egypt has been, who Egyptians are and, ultimately, where they may take their country. Joel Gordon, author of Nasser: Hero of the Arab NationA truly extraordinary accomplishment that is thought provoking, creative, and inspiring. Belli is the first in Middle Eastern studies to examine the cultural history of twentieth- century Egypt through the interactions between education and remembrance. Her revised theoretical approach is applicable not only to Middle Eastern societies and cultures, but to others worldwide. Israel Gershoni, Tel Aviv UniversityAn interesting history of memory that is diverse, dynamic, and disparate. Makes an outstanding contribution to our understandings of Egyptian national identity and memory. Nancy L. Stockdale, University of North TexasExamining history not as it was recorded, but as it is remembered, An Incurable Past contextualizes the classist and deeply disappointing post-Nasserist period that has inspired todays Egyptian revolutionaries. Public performances, songs, stories, oral histories, and everyday speech reveal not just the history of midtwentieth-century Egypt, but also the ways in which ordinary people experience and remember the past. Constructing a ground-breaking theoretical framework, Mriam Belli demonstrates the fragility of the collectivity and the urgent need to replace the current method for studying collective memory with a new approach she defines as historical utterances. Contextual and relational, these links between intimate and public historical narratives are an integral part of a societys dialogue about its past, present, and future. Three major vernacular expressions constitute the historical utterances that illuminate the Nasserite experience and its present. The first is universal schooling and education. The second is anti-colonial struggle, as



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