



# A Dissident History of a City: who is De Lesseps to local Port Saidians?

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## Introduction

*“De Lesseps statue has fallen twice: the first of which was during the nationalization wave in 1956, and the second is in 2020. Its remnant is a witness of a nationalist populist struggle that has fought tooth and nail to bring it down, forcing the colonial power... This Historic moment is what we have been working for”.<sup>1</sup> (Aly Ragab, a Port Saidi)*

A discussion has been ongoing lately around de Lesseps In relation to Port Said's nationalist movement. De Lesseps is the engineer that has been directly associated and connected to the Suez Canal project since its initiation. He was commemorated through building his statue and placing it in the northern entry point to Port Said. The timing of bringing back the statue coincided with a global movement against statues that represent various exploitative faces to the people. Examples of this were seen in the United States after George Floyd was murdered brutally by the police<sup>2</sup>. The movement started and expanded into cities and countries around Europe, India and South Africa.<sup>3</sup> Another global movement against colonization was witnessed in Cherouzberry city in Britain as people burnt down the status of East India Company, which was a major tool of colonialism and has led to a variety of crimes against humanity during colonial waves in the early twentieth century.<sup>4</sup>

Recently, there were discussions on social media over the attempt to return of De Lesseps' statue to Port Said while its inhabitants were asleep<sup>5</sup>. Although there have been various attempts and governmental-related discussions since the 2000s to bring back the statue, none have been accepted with any reaction other than pure rage from the Port Saidis<sup>6</sup>. However, this time, the story of bringing back the statue was different. This is because never before have the Port Saidis been confronted with the statue being brought back. It was all premised purely on hearsay and discussions. This time, De Lesseps was brought back without any consultations with the public. It was rather suddenly returned to its pedestal. Port Saidis woke up to a heightened uproar.<sup>7</sup> This paper discusses

1 مصر: ابتهاج في بورسعيد بإبعاد «تمثال ديليسبس» من أراضيها. (2020, October 12). Emarat AIYoum. <https://www.emaratayoum.com/politics/international/2020-10-12-1.1409162>

2 George Floyd: What happened in the final moments of his life. (2020, July 16). BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52861726>

3 هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟. (2020, July 27). الجيزي. [AIManassa. https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746](https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746)

4 هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟. (2020, July 27). الجيزي. [AIManassa. https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746](https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746)

5 هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟. (2020, July 27). الجيزي. [AIManassa. https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746](https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746)

6 هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟. (2020, July 27). الجيزي. [AIManassa. https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746](https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746)

7 هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟. (2020, July 27). الجيزي. [AIManassa. https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746](https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746)

the various narratives around this contentious historical figure who is producing polarizing reactions across Port Said and Egypt at large. I start by introducing De Lesseps according to nationalist discourses. I, then, move into presenting various snippets of movements: calling back for, or utterly rejecting de Lesseps return, while delving into their narratives and framings. Finally, I conclude by raising questions around historical narratives that are contested and in flux, and continue to shape, and be shaped, by the present.

## Who is Ferdinand de Lesseps?



*Copyright: Youm 7*

De Lesseps is a French engineer who is considered one of the first researchers and pioneers of the Suez Canal project. The project was inventive as it was the first known attempt to connect the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea. De Lesseps had initially attempted to convince Abbas Pasha with the Suez Canal project, but it was rejected for its great cost. However, with Sa'eed Pasha's reign, starting from 14 July 1854, de Lesseps decided to try again. De Lesseps was known to be considerably close to Sa'eed Pasha. He was able to acquire a concession agreement (عقد امتياز) for Suez Canal in November 1854. The concession revolved around approving the project of digging of the canal connecting both seas. Further embedded within it were privileges that last 99 years from the opening date of the canal stipulating contractual obligations for both parties involved in the building of the canal: the Egyptian government and the contracted chiefly-French company by De Lesseps<sup>9</sup>.

With the opening of the Canal, De Lesseps' statue was built as an official appreciation of his vital role in the project.<sup>10</sup> The statue portrays De Lesseps

8 <https://www.youm7.com/story/2019/11/1/%D9%85%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%B8%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D8%AA%D9%86%D9%81%D9%89-%D9%86%D9%82%D9%84-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9%81-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9/4484649>

9 Canal History. (n.d.). <https://www.suezcanal.gov.eg/English/About/SuezCanal/Pages/CanalHistory.aspx>

10 تعرف على حقيقة نقل تمثال ديليسبس لمتحف قناة السويس بالإسماعيلية. إبراهيم، إ. (2020, June 27). *Shorouk News*. <https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=27062020&id=68f11439-70d9-4c4c-8d87-5470f199b283>

standing up tall, slightly bending on his right leg with his left leg slightly stepping forward representing his progressive motion. His right hand is raised high pointing to the canal.<sup>11</sup> The statue continued to have a haunting presence up until 1956. In 1956, President Gamal Abdul Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal. This has led to what has been referred to as the tripartite aggression from France, Britain and Israel on Egypt<sup>12</sup>. With the British's exit, Port Said's locals are said to have found the flags of Britain and France as memorabilia<sup>13</sup>. This was taken by the locals as a message to mean that colonial rule will prevail over the canal, even if symbolically, rather than physically. (4)<sup>14</sup> Leading to an outburst of rage, Port Saidi dwellers have burst out in anger out of their homes, and blew up the statue. This was seen as an action symbolic of the end of colonialism and its associated coloniality of power. Port Saidi dwellers have furiously thrown the remnants of the statue, while keeping its pedestal as a landmark of the spectre of remembrance. One that is a reminder of an unjust past that has been overcome through people putting an end to colonial rule.<sup>15</sup> The scene is remembered for its dramaticness. One that unfolded in the way the statue was exploded, with its head falling and rolling down, beheaded and separated off the rest of the body. Since then, the blowing up and excavation of the statue has been seen as part and parcel of the making, not only of Port Saidi resistance but of nationalist resistance against colonial rule. The statue was removed and was later stored in storage houses and workshops of the Suez Canal Authority in Port

11. عبد المجيد. (2020, October 12). تمثال ديليسبس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. *Independent Arabia*.  
<https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1/%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

12. شاهد... قصة تمثال ديليسبس المنبوذ في بور سعيد. (2017, October 18). عز الدين. أ.  
[https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if\\_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF](https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF)

13. شاهد... قصة تمثال ديليسبس المنبوذ في بور سعيد. (2017, October 18). عز الدين. أ.  
[https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if\\_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF](https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF)

14. شاهد... قصة تمثال ديليسبس المنبوذ في بور سعيد. (2017, October 18). عز الدين. أ.  
[https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if\\_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF](https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF)

15. تعرف على حقيقة نقل تمثال ديليسبس لمتحف قناة السويس بالإسماعيلية. (2020, June 27). إبراهيم. |  
<https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=27062020&id=68f11439-70d9-4c4c-8d87-5470f199b283>



Fou'ad.<sup>16</sup> Any restorative calls of the statue during the Nasserite era were considered “an insult to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives”.<sup>17</sup> What remains today in Port Said is only the statue's pedestal, over 10m tall in Port Said towering above, without the actual statue.<sup>18</sup> It stayed in these storage houses for 64 years since its removal.<sup>19</sup>



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<sup>16</sup> (2020, July 6). *Sputnik News*.  
[https://arabic.sputniknews.com/arab\\_world/202007061045924938-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A5%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%B1%D8%A3%D8%B3-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%AA%D8%AB%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%B6%D8%AC%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1/](https://arabic.sputniknews.com/arab_world/202007061045924938-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A5%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%B1%D8%A3%D8%B3-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%AA%D8%AB%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%B6%D8%AC%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1/)

<sup>17</sup> (2020, July 6). *Sputnik News*.  
[https://arabic.sputniknews.com/arab\\_world/202007061045924938-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A5%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%B1%D8%A3%D8%B3-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%AA%D8%AB%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%B6%D8%AC%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1/](https://arabic.sputniknews.com/arab_world/202007061045924938-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A5%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%B1%D8%A3%D8%B3-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%AA%D8%AB%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%B6%D8%AC%D8%A9-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1/)

<sup>18</sup> *Masrawy*. فجره الفدائيون بالقبائل عام 1956.. 10 معلومات عن تمثال ديليسبس بورسعيد. (2019, March 3). عفيفي. ي 8

[https://www.masrawy.com/news/news\\_egypt/details/2019/3/3/1525117-%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1%D9%87-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%84-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85-1956-10-%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A8%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF](https://www.masrawy.com/news/news_egypt/details/2019/3/3/1525117-%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1%D9%87-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%84-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85-1956-10-%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A8%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF)

<sup>19</sup> (2020). *Independent Arabia*. تمثال ديليسبس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. October عبد المجيد. ا. (2020).

<https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1/%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

<sup>20</sup> حملة شعبية لرفض «تمثال ديليسبس» في مدخل قناة السويس. (2019, May 25). محمود. خ

<https://elw3yalarabi.org/elw3y/2019/05/26/%D8%AD%D9%85%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%B4%D8%B9%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%B1%D9%81%D8%B6-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D8%B3-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D8%AF/>

On October 9, locals were shocked to find the statue had been moved from Tersana's storage back to Port Said, without prior notice<sup>21</sup>. The statue has been moved by Suez Canal Authority through a giant lever, transported in a locomotive through the canal's waters, to Suez Canal Dredging Department in Isma'ileyya<sup>22</sup>. This has triggered an array for powerful reactions from diverse groups of people, and initiated several movements: ones that supported the move and others that opposed it.<sup>23</sup>



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21 (12 Independent Arabia). تمثال ديليسبس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. October عبد المجيد. ا. (2020). <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1/%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

22 (12 Independent Arabia). تمثال ديليسبس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. October عبد المجيد. ا. (2020). <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1/%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

23 (12 Independent Arabia). تمثال ديليسبس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. October عبد المجيد. ا. (2020). <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1/%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

تمثيل بورسعيد بين كرامة المصريين ومستقبل المدينة السياحي.. "الملك فؤاد" يعود لقاعدته بورفؤاد... و"فريدناند" (3 March 2016). عزام, م 24 <https://www.albawabhnews.com/1804753>. ديليسبس" لمدخل المجرى الملاحي لقناة السويس.. ومطالب بتخليد ذكرى "عبدالناصر



***De Lesseps' Allies: 'We cannot invisibilize our nationalist history'***

Suez Canal Authority Head and DL Association Friends Head

(Image Copyright: alAhram News) <sup>25</sup>

The story of returning the statue is an old story. One remembers in the eighties, when the French ambassador offered Post Said's governor EGP 20 million to renovate the statue<sup>26</sup>. However, the proposal faced complete rejections from both Port Said residents and intellectuals across Egypt. Later in 2001, a reiteration emerged in a parliamentary session, facing another immediate rejection by Port Said's governor<sup>27</sup>. The same calls were reiterated numerous times by Association of De Lesseps' Friends (جمعية اصدقاء ديليسبس), raising it a variety of times to different Port Said's governors, and was still, yet again, turned down. <sup>28</sup> Currently, there have been calls in social media and various newspapers to reinstate de Lesseps statue in Port Said. This is because, for some, he is considered as the emblem of the megaproject of Suez Canal, i.e. the owner of the idea and the project. <sup>29</sup> The statue stands as allegorical for the historical path to Egyptian Modernity and modern

<sup>25</sup> Image Copyright: <http://gate.ahram.org.eg/News/2544423.aspx>

<sup>26</sup> الجيزي، ا (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

<sup>27</sup> الجيزي، ا (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

<sup>28</sup> الجيزي، ا (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

<sup>29</sup> محمود، خ (2020, October 12). مصر: ابتهاج في بورسعيد بإبعاد «تمثال ديليسبس» من أراضيها. *Emarat AlYoum*.

<https://www.emaratalyoum.com/politics/international/2020-10-12-1.1409162>



engineering sciences. However, it is also seen as possessing power to increase national and international tourism revenues (particularly French tourism).<sup>30</sup>

Alwafd political party has issued a relevant statement. They state that removing the statue is part of a conscious erasure of Port Saidi history, perceiving that the right to the city gets stolen with the movement of the statue to another area. This raises various questions. Who decides what comprises the universal narrative of the city's history? What components of these narratives get rendered invisible by the mere movement of a statue? What are the repercussions of the state backing a particular historical narrative that celebrates certain local cities' memories of exploitation?

For alWafd, De Lesseps is considered as part and parcel of the city national narrative, and of what comprises the city's history<sup>31</sup>. For some, Port Said's history starts with 1956, nationalization, and the tripartite aggression. This highlights the nationalist voices that triumphed against colonial oppression and exploitation through popular resistance<sup>32</sup>. The aforementioned historical narrative of Port Said is one that also embeds within it the Suez Canal national megaproject<sup>33</sup>. Rather than seeing the Suez Canal as primarily an inventive megaproject of De Lesseps, it was also a project, as seen by Port Saidi dwellers, that could have only taken place through the labor of Egyptian conscript labor and peasants<sup>34</sup>. It looks at it in lieu with De Lesseps as its main engineer, designer, implementer and creator. The fact that there were Egyptian

30 رحلة تمثال ديليسبس المثير للجدل من رفض المثقفين لوضعه في متحف القناة. (2020, October 12). عبد الرحمن. م.

<https://www.youm7.com/story/2020/10/12/%D8%B1%D8%AD%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AB%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%AF%D9%84-%D9%85%D9%86-%D8%B1%D9%81%D8%B6-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AB%D9%82%D9%81%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B6%D8%B9%D9%87-%D9%81%D9%89/5016913>

31 شاهد... قصة تمثال ديليسبس المنبؤ في بور سعيد (2017, October 18). *AlWafd News*.

<https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF>

32 شاهد... قصة تمثال ديليسبس المنبؤ في بور سعيد (2017, October 18). *AlWafd News*.

<https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF>

33 شاهد... قصة تمثال ديليسبس المنبؤ في بور سعيد (2017, October 18). *AlWafd News*.

<https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF>

34 شاهد... قصة تمثال ديليسبس المنبؤ في بور سعيد (2017, October 18). *AlWafd News*.

<https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF>

conscripts exploited within the process becomes a side effect, or collateral damage, to a great national resource and modern invention.<sup>35</sup>

Similarly, some raise questions over what we deem as a historical artefact, and what are the ramifications of such museumification efforts or making of artefacts on the historical narratives we highlight? In this light, in 2017 Dr. Moustafa Amin sought approval from the Supreme Council of Antiquities to record de Lesseps' statue as part of Egypt's Coptic and Islamic monuments.<sup>36 37</sup>. With this move, a public discussion was triggered on the process of evaluating and classifying an artefact. From one side, part and parcel of history is contradicting and exploitative. However, this does not negate that it is part of the process of history-making. Questions are to be raised on the unintentional effects of making an artefact out of something. The discussion here raises several questions: what makes an artefact an 'artefact'? Is it only because it possesses historical significance? Moreover, how do we perceive something as 'historically significant'? In the process of declaring an object as an 'artefact', how do we render visible certain historical narratives and stories but not others? This said, there has been a public reference particularly to the pyramids<sup>38</sup>. They are artefacts that are symbolic of slavery and exploitation of labor, too<sup>39</sup>. Still, they are also an embodiment of an aspect of 'greatness' and the making of ancient Egyptian civilization, with its grandeur history. Moreover, on the economic side, the pyramids are one of the greatest sources of wealth for

35 شاهد... قصة تمثال ديليسبس المنبوذ في بورسعيد (2017, October 18). *AlWafd News*.

<https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF>

36 فجره الفدائيون بالقنابل عام 1956.. 10 معلومات عن تمثال ديليسبس ببورسعيد (2019, March 3). *Masrawy*.

[https://www.masrawy.com/news/news\\_egypt/details/2019/3/3/1525117/-%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1%D9%87-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%84-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85-1956-10-%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A8%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A](https://www.masrawy.com/news/news_egypt/details/2019/3/3/1525117/-%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1%D9%87-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%84-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85-1956-10-%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A8%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A)

37 فجره الفدائيون بالقنابل عام 1956.. 10 معلومات عن تمثال ديليسبس ببورسعيد (2019, March 3). *Masrawy*.

[https://www.masrawy.com/news/news\\_egypt/details/2019/3/3/1525117/-%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1%D9%87-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%84-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85-1956-10-%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A8%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A](https://www.masrawy.com/news/news_egypt/details/2019/3/3/1525117/-%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1%D9%87-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%81%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%84-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85-1956-10-%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A8%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A)

38 تمثال ديليسبس يحاول العودة إلي بورسعيد والمحافظ (اتمنى ان يكون مطلب شعبي) والحقيقة تدعو للحوار (n.d.). مبروك, ت.

<https://elhaqqa.com/?p=8418>

39 تمثال ديليسبس يحاول العودة إلي بورسعيد والمحافظ (اتمنى ان يكون مطلب شعبي) والحقيقة تدعو للحوار (n.d.). مبروك, ت.

<https://elhaqqa.com/?p=8418>



Egypt's tourism, which have to generate revenue for the country over the past century.<sup>40</sup>

There has been an ongoing struggle since the 2000s between various state agents and institutions, particularly the Ministry of Antiquities, who support the claim that the statue is part and parcel of the city's nationalist history and the making of the modern Suez Canal<sup>41</sup>. One of the main reasons that have been highlighted calling for its return is the possibility of instigating and increasing tourism and its associated revenues. These revenues, thus, can be reused to further develop the city.<sup>42</sup> Conversations of bringing back de Lesseps have resurfaced starting from 2009 during a parliamentary discussion. Engineer Essam AlZuhari has referred to Ferdinand de Lesseps Association proposal<sup>43</sup>. As part of the French imperial effort in 'preserving' their imagined superiority in the making of the Suez Canal, they offered a potential grant in return for bringing back the statue to its pedestal<sup>44</sup>. The grant, worth 50 million Euros annually, was not only to bring back the statue, but also ensure adequate and proper restoration work<sup>45</sup>. Further, an annual party was proposed to be attended by thousands of tourists targeting different countries, particularly in Europe, which shall increase international tourism revenues<sup>46</sup>. Nevertheless, there was a

40 تمثال ديليسبس يحاول العودة إلي بورسعيد والمحافظة (اتمنى ان يكون مطلب شعبي) والحقيقة تدعو للحوار. (n.d.). مبروك, ت  
<https://elhaqqa.com/?p=8418>

41 تعرف على حقيقة نقل تمثال ديليسبس لمتحف قناة السويس بالإسماعيلية. (2020, June 27). *Shorouk News*.  
<https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=27062020&id=68f11439-70d9-4c4c-8d87-5470f199b283>

42 تعرف على حقيقة نقل تمثال ديليسبس لمتحف قناة السويس بالإسماعيلية. (2020, June 27). *Shorouk News*.  
<https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=27062020&id=68f11439-70d9-4c4c-8d87-5470f199b283>

43 شاهد... قصة تمثال ديليسبس المنبؤ في بورسعيد. (2017, October 18). عز الدين, أ.  
[https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if\\_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF](https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF)

44 شاهد... قصة تمثال ديليسبس المنبؤ في بورسعيد. (2017, October 18). عز الدين, أ.  
[https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if\\_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF](https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF)

45 شاهد... قصة تمثال ديليسبس المنبؤ في بورسعيد. (2017, October 18). عز الدين, أ.  
[https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if\\_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF](https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF)

46 شاهد... قصة تمثال ديليسبس المنبؤ في بورسعيد. (2017, October 18). عز الدين, أ.  
[https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if\\_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF](https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if_/https://alwafd.news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF)

staunch popular rejection of the offer, even within the National Democratic Party (NDP) which was the ruling party at the time.<sup>47</sup>

## Anti-de Lesseps': Who determines what gets visibilized in a 'nationalist' historical narrative?

From news and social media coverage, it seems that there was a clashing larger popular demand against the reinstatement of de Lesseps', creating an entire movement<sup>48</sup>. In the following cases, there are numerous controversies over the *value* of De Lesseps' statue as a monument in and of itself. These vary from questions over its belongingness on our streets, in our museums or whether it cannot even be deemed as an artefact from the very beginning.

The anti-bringing back De Lesseps movement constituted a group named 'Egyptian Suez Canal Friends'. The initiative is coordinated by Haytham Taweela and Amal Assran<sup>49</sup>. The latter is the daughter of one of Port Said nationalist heroes that was involved in blowing up the de Lesseps statue in 1956. The movement has started since 2008. Since then, it has been active to this day in presenting strong opposition to the return of the statue. Some of their initiatives include awareness sessions in the Egyptian journalist syndicate, in addition to their active presence on their social media page<sup>50</sup>. Recently, they have launched their Facebook page entitled, 'No to bringing de Lesseps statue back' which propagates narratives over the anti-heroic anti-nationalist history of de Lesseps<sup>51</sup>. The page highlights his exploitative position and standing within the Suez Canal in relation to the exploitation of Egyptian farmers and workers that has unfolded.

Amal Assran was quoted in *Emirates Today* stating that "we do not know of something called the statue of de Lesseps. We grew up with the statue being removed. Its area will forever be named 'Stone Sepps' (حجرسييس) for us and

47 شاهد... قصة تمثال ديلسيبس المنبؤ في بور سعيد. (2017, October 18). عز الدين, أ.

[https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if\\_/https://alwafid\\_news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF](https://web.archive.org/web/20200711175839if_/https://alwafid_news/%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%B2%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86/1674172-%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%87%D8%AF-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B0-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF)

48 مصر: ابتهاج في بورسعيد بإبعاد «تمثال ديلسيبس» من أراضيها. (2020, October 12). محمود, خ. *Emarat AlYoum*. <https://www.emaratalyoum.com/politics/international/2020-10-12-1.1409162>

49 مصر: ابتهاج في بورسعيد بإبعاد «تمثال ديلسيبس» من أراضيها. (2020, October 12). محمود, خ. *Emarat AlYoum*. <https://www.emaratalyoum.com/politics/international/2020-10-12-1.1409162>

50 <https://abbas24.wordpress.com/2019/03/31/%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B0%D8%A7-%D8%AA%D9%85-%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A8%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%AF/>

51 مصر: ابتهاج في بورسعيد بإبعاد «تمثال ديلسيبس» من أراضيها. (2020, October 12). محمود, خ. *Emarat AlYoum*. <https://www.emaratalyoum.com/politics/international/2020-10-12-1.1409162>

for our future generations”<sup>52 53</sup> Aly elHefnawi, Suez Canal legal consultant, and is the son of Moustafa Hefnawy, the financial accountant during nationalization of the canal, publicly rejected the idea of bringing the statue back, stating that the statue should reside in Isma'ileyya within Suez Canal Museum.<sup>54 55</sup> Starting from 2008 onwards, the movement has been actively publishing across social media and newspapers in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2019 and finally 2020.

De Lesseps is seen to have been kicked out of Port Said, to his natural habitat, in the canal's museum<sup>56</sup>. The implication of this is seen as symbolic of the Egyptian nationalist struggle, particularly the work, sweat and blood of the Egyptian peasants conscripted in digging the Canal<sup>57</sup>. The movement did not only include social media activists, but also encompassed a wide array of historians, university professors, amongst local Egyptian and particularly Port Saidi intellectuals that have staunchly rejected the idea<sup>58</sup>. This is not only because of its labor exploitation significance, but it is also seen as a way of erasing the Nasserite postcolonial nationalist triumphant efforts over tripartite aggression.<sup>59</sup>

One of the movement's generative proposals, back in 2012, was to build a statue symbolizing the Egyptian peasant to replace de Lesseps' statue<sup>60</sup>. This was recommended as a reaction to the claim that equates the removal of de Lesseps statue as erasure of Post Said's local history<sup>61</sup>. Here, a clear clash of

52 محمود، خ (2020, October 12). مصر: ابتهاج في بورسعيد بإبعاد «تمثال ديليسبس» من أراضيها. *Emarat AlYoum*. <https://www.emaratalyoum.com/politics/international/2020-10-12-1.1409162>

531 تمثال ديليسبس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. (2020, October 12). عبد المجيد. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

54 محمود، خ (2020, October 12). مصر: ابتهاج في بورسعيد بإبعاد «تمثال ديليسبس» من أراضيها. *Emarat AlYoum*. <https://www.emaratalyoum.com/politics/international/2020-10-12-1.1409162>

551 تمثال ديليسبس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. (2020, October 12). عبد المجيد. *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

56 محمود، خ (2020, October 12). مصر: ابتهاج في بورسعيد بإبعاد «تمثال ديليسبس» من أراضيها. *Emarat AlYoum*. <https://www.emaratalyoum.com/politics/international/2020-10-12-1.1409162>

57 محمود، خ (2020, October 12). مصر: ابتهاج في بورسعيد بإبعاد «تمثال ديليسبس» من أراضيها. *Emarat AlYoum*. <https://www.emaratalyoum.com/politics/international/2020-10-12-1.1409162>

58 تعرف على حقيقة نقل تمثال ديليسبس لمتحف قناة السويس بالإسماعيلية. (2020, June 27). إبراهيم، *Shorouk News*. <https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=27062020&id=68f11439-70d9-4c4c-8d87-5470f199b283>

59 تعرف على حقيقة نقل تمثال ديليسبس لمتحف قناة السويس بالإسماعيلية. (2020, June 27). إبراهيم، *Shorouk News*. <https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=27062020&id=68f11439-70d9-4c4c-8d87-5470f199b283>

60 تعرف على حقيقة نقل تمثال ديليسبس لمتحف قناة السويس بالإسماعيلية. (2020, June 27). إبراهيم، *Shorouk News*. <https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=27062020&id=68f11439-70d9-4c4c-8d87-5470f199b283>

61 تعرف على حقيقة نقل تمثال ديليسبس لمتحف قناة السويس بالإسماعيلية. (2020, June 27). إبراهيم، *Shorouk News*. <https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=27062020&id=68f11439-70d9-4c4c-8d87-5470f199b283>

narratives over what and how to render visible Port Said's local history was clear. It was also a response to what was perceived as a victory for the farmer against exploitation that de Lesseps must be held accountable for. This proposal was suggested particularly in response to the Ministry of Antiquities proposals revisiting bringing the statue back, raising questions on whether he should be placed at the entry of the Canal or exhibited in the Port Said National Museum <sup>62</sup>



Another dissenting voice came from Gasser alSha'er, the son of another martyr of 1956 involved in the statue's bombing. AlSha'er, deputy head of Port Sa'id's Supreme Council of Culture, described the day of bringing back the statue as the "black day" in Port Said's history. <sup>63</sup> Further, Youssef alQa'eed, an Egyptian writer and Member of Parliament, spoke in support of the proposal for an alternative statue of peasants. The peasant statue was symbolic of Egyptian history that was built through and with them, through their labor, not de Lesseps. He added that if it is deemed necessary to bring back the statue, then a statue of the Egyptian peasant figure should be placed in front of it <sup>64</sup>. He further describes his vision of the proportionality of the peasant statue versus de

62 | تعرف على حقيقة نقل تمثال ديليسبس لمتحف قناة السويس بالإسماعيلية. إبراهيم, (2020, June 27). *Shorouk News*.  
<https://www.shorouknews.com/news/view.aspx?cdate=27062020&id=68f11439-70d9-4c4c-8d87-5470f199b283>

63 | عبد المجيد. (2020, October 12). تمثال ديليسبس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. *Independent Arabia*.  
<https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1/%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

64 | عبد المجيد. (2020, October 12). تمثال ديليسبس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. *Independent Arabia*.  
<https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1/%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

Lesseps', stating that the peasant's should be large and facing it, since they dug the canal with their blood and sacrifices.<sup>65</sup>

Moreover, alKarama political party saw that the renovation of pedestal of the statue is considered an assault to the sacrifice of the army in the tripartite aggression and the popular resistance movement, stating that it would be a "victory for the victims' executioner" ( "الضحية تنتصر لجلادها" )<sup>66</sup>. Discussions raised further questions going beyond whether the statue should be returned to Port Said<sup>67</sup>. Questions were raised over whether it should even exist by the entry of the Suez Canal: "does De Lesseps statue *deserve* to be located by the entry of the Suez Canal?"<sup>68</sup>.

What do we celebrate when we celebrate the Suez Canal's grandeur history in relation to the figure of de Lesseps?

In November 2019, with the celebration of the anniversary of the Canal's opening, one recalls state discourse highlighting the importance of the Canal as a main resource for foreign currency income<sup>69</sup>. One also remembers the effort of state authorities, particularly the Suez Canal Authority, in issuing a postage stamp with de Lesseps image to commemorate his legacy<sup>70</sup>. In this light, it is important to recall the 150th celebration of the Suez Canal that encompassed a vast set of state-led initiatives, one of which was organized by Mehmet Aly's museum in Manyal<sup>71</sup>. This showcased Khedive Ismail's (Mehmet Aly's grandpa)

65 ا. تمثال ديليسيس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. (2020, October 12). *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

66 ا. الضحية تنتصر لجلادها». ترميم قاعدة تمثال ديليسيس الفرنسي يثير غضبا في مصر». (2020, June 29). *AlQuds*. <https://www.alquds.co.uk/الضحية-تنتصر-لجلادها-ترميم-قاعدة-تم->

67 ا. هل يستحق ديليسيس تمثالا عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ (2020, July 27). *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

68 ا. هل يستحق ديليسيس تمثالا عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ (2020, July 27). *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

69 ا. "عاما على حفر قناة السويس... مصر تحتفل دون "صخب" وتركز على "الأداء العالي (2019, November 11). *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/70871/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B7/150-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A7-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%B1-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%81%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B5%D8%AF%D8%A8-%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A1>

70 ا. "عاما على حفر قناة السويس... مصر تحتفل دون "صخب" وتركز على "الأداء العالي 150 (2019, November 11). *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/70871/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B7/150-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A7-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%B1-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%81%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B5%D8%AF%D8%A8-%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A1>

71 ا. في الذكرى الـ 150 لقناة السويس... "الخدوي إسماعيل" يعود إلى قصر المنيل (2019, November 26). *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/74531/%D8%AB%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A9/%D9%81%D9%8A->



collectibles entitled “the Canal’s Khedive” which included his personal collectibles, along with other collectibles and memorabilia from the Canal’s opening<sup>72</sup>. Hadeer Adel, head of temporary exhibitions in the museum was quoted to Independent Arabia stating,

“We care about keeping up with grand events as museums must participate in such events. This is to create generative interactions between the place and its visitors<sup>73</sup>. The passing of 150 years on the opening of the Canal is a worthy event of celebration. Such events are aimed at reminding people, particularly younger generations, of such an important historical great event”<sup>74</sup>.

Accordingly, part of the state’s recent efforts in commemorating the Canal’s history is embodied in the making of a national megaproject creating the Suez Canal museum, developed by Arab Contractors, costing EGP 170 million, \$11million<sup>75</sup>. The museum has been an ongoing national megaproject that is prioritized by the state, and is expected to open early 2021<sup>76</sup>. The museum is spread across 10,000 m<sup>2</sup>, including 5500 m<sup>2</sup> of buildings that are inhabited, and

<https://www.independentarabia.com/node/74531/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B0%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%80150-%D9%84%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%8A-%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%84-%D9%8A%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF-%D8%A5%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%84>

72 م. ابراهيم. (2019, November 26). *Independent Arabia*. في الذكرى الـ 150 لقناة السويس... "الخدويو إسماعيل" يعود إلى قصر المنيل. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/74531/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B0%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%80150-%D9%84%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%8A-%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%84-%D9%8A%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF-%D8%A5%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%84>

73 م. ابراهيم. (2019, November 26). *Independent Arabia*. في الذكرى الـ 150 لقناة السويس... "الخدويو إسماعيل" يعود إلى قصر المنيل. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/74531/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B0%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%80150-%D9%84%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%8A-%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%84-%D9%8A%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF-%D8%A5%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%84>

74 م. ابراهيم. (2019, November 26). *Independent Arabia*. في الذكرى الـ 150 لقناة السويس... "الخدويو إسماعيل" يعود إلى قصر المنيل. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/74531/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B0%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%80150-%D9%84%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%8A-%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%84-%D9%8A%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF-%D8%A5%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%82%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%84>

75 ا. عبد المجيد. (2020, October 12). *Independent Arabia*. تمثال ديليبسيس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1/%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

76 ا. عبد المجيد. (2020, October 12). *Independent Arabia*. تمثال ديليبسيس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1/%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

1200 m<sup>2</sup> of the underground<sup>77</sup>. It includes a large memorial wall that narrates the history of the canal, and an office that holds De Lesseps properties with a real market of the Canal opening celebration that is 150 year old<sup>78</sup>. Moreover, the museum will include a rest house named after De Lesseps. The museum as a whole intended to narrate the story of Suez Canal, since its first opening up until the new Suez Canal project under the auspices of President Abdel Fattah alSisi.<sup>79</sup>

Since November 2019 and the celebrations of Khedive Isma'il and de Lesseps, public engagement centered around providing alternative histories relevant to building of the canal, of Khedive Isma'il and of de Lesseps role within the Canal. Discussions questioned the accuracy and appropriateness of highlighting de Lesseps' effort in relation to rendering invisible a quarter of Egypt's population (estimated at 4.5 million at the time) who dug the canal themselves<sup>80</sup>. They further raised questions over why the 100-150 thousand Egyptians who died in digging work are not praised and commemorated as well<sup>81</sup>.

Contestation emerged over ascribing the originality of the Canal idea to de Lesseps is vivid. In fact, some associate that idea with Ancient Egyptians in 1874 BC. With Sensusret the third, part of family 12, who dug the first canal connecting the Mediterranean and the Red Sea through the River Nile<sup>82</sup>. Later, as part of

77 محمود، خ (2020, October 12). مصر: ابتهاج في بورسعيد بإبعاد «تمثال ديليسبس» من أراضيها. *Emarat AlYoum*. <https://www.emaratayoum.com/politics/international/2020-10-12-1.1409162>

78 محمود، خ (2020, October 12). مصر: ابتهاج في بورسعيد بإبعاد «تمثال ديليسبس» من أراضيها. *Emarat AlYoum*. <https://www.emaratayoum.com/politics/international/2020-10-12-1.1409162>

79. فلاح، تمثال ديليسبس "المثير للجدل" يصل متحف قناة السويس بالإسماعيلية. *Youm 7*. <https://www.youm7.com/story/2020/10/10/%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AB%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%AF%D9%84-%D9%8A%D8%B5%D9%84-%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9%81-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1/5014578>

80 "عاما على حفر قناة السويس... مصر تحتفل دون "صخب" وتركز على "الأداء العالي 150 (2019, November 11). *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/70871/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B7/150-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A7-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%B1-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%81%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B5%D8%AF%D8%A8-%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A1>

81 "عاما على حفر قناة السويس... مصر تحتفل دون "صخب" وتركز على "الأداء العالي 150 (2019, November 11). *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/70871/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B7/150-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A7-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%B1-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%81%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B5%D8%AF%D8%A8-%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A1>

82 "عاما على حفر قناة السويس... مصر تحتفل دون "صخب" وتركز على "الأداء العالي 150 (2019, November 11). *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/70871/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B7/150-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A7-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%B1-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%81%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B5%D8%AF%D8%A8-%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A1>

families' feud, the canal was neglected and backfilled. It was then reopened various times in the following decades until its final opening and backfilling during Haroun alRasheed. Moreover, during Bonapart's expedition in 1798, Assem alDessouky, an Egyptian historian, has documented proposals from the time to re-dig the canal on a larger scale<sup>83</sup>. Particularly, as the time was more equipped with modern resources. The proposal was rejected as some engineers thought it would be unfeasible and has the potential to result in the drowning of Egypt<sup>84</sup>. Similar calls were heard by Youssef alQa'eed, who ascribes that Canal's idea to Amr Ibn al-'Aas<sup>85</sup>. Though Ibn al-'Aas was claimed to have wished for its implementation, after Islamic fathh; his priorities changed with the nation-building project of Egypt as part of propagating for Islam<sup>86</sup>. In this light, alQa'eed states that De Lesseps should not be celebrated, as he had a major role not only in forcing Egypt to sell shares of the Suez Canal Company, but also pushing for financial monitoring from France and Britain over the Egyptian treasury in 1882. Accordingly, this led to increasing the British's command over the Canal<sup>87</sup>. In this highly sensitive and contested backdrop, many intellectuals and historians

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<https://www.independentarabia.com/node/70871/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B7/150-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A7-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%B1-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%81%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B5%D8%AF%D8%A8-%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A1>

83 150 العامي العالبي "الأداء العالبي" وتركز على "صخب" وتحتفل دون "عاما على حفر قناة السويس... مصر تحتفل دون "صخب" وتركز على "الأداء العالبي" (2019, November 11). *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/70871/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B7/150-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A7-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%B1-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%81%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B5%D8%AF%D8%A8-%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A1>

84 150 العامي العالبي "الأداء العالبي" وتركز على "صخب" وتحتفل دون "عاما على حفر قناة السويس... مصر تحتفل دون "صخب" وتركز على "الأداء العالبي" (2019, November 11). *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/70871/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%B7/150-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A7-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%B1-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%81%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%B5%D8%AF%D8%A8-%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A1>

85 ا. عبد المجيد. (2020, October 12). تمثال ديليبسيس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1/%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

86 ا. عبد المجيد. (2020, October 12). تمثال ديليبسيس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1/%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

87 ا. عبد المجيد. (2020, October 12). تمثال ديليبسيس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1/%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

publicly rejected the idea of even placing the statue in the Canal's museum, due to major contentions over de Lesseps and his perceived highly problematic role<sup>88</sup>

In further surveying sources, some even raise a similar question over whether De Lesseps had a serious engineering role in the Canal, connecting his success to his diplomatic powers and position<sup>89</sup>. Some even contest whether de Lesseps was actually the 'inventor' and originator of the idea of building the canal. There are historical claims that discuss that the project's proposal was previously submitted to Mehmet Aly and rejected due to Aly's fear of the Canal's opening Egypt to foreign intervention<sup>90</sup>. However, Sa'id and de Lesseps relationship was nurtured when Mehmet Aly (who was known to be passionate about French culture and language) asked De Lesseps to help Sa'id, Aly's son, to teach his son horse-riding<sup>91,92</sup>. Accordingly, during this period, Said and De Lesseps established a friendly relationship that has eased the acceptance of the Canal's proposal later, after Aly's death<sup>93</sup>.

Ra'ouf Abbas, an Egyptian contemporary historian, adds insight on de Lesseps'. He particularly critiques how he has drowned Egypt in debt, by putting all the financial burden on Egypt, with the foreign company reaping all its benefits.<sup>94</sup> The Suez Canal was created via the concession agreement (امتياز), which is core to understanding and remembering de Lesseps' legacy in the Suez Canal. Not only did it grant little benefits to Egypt in relation to the foreign company stakeholders, but it also stipulated that most of the lands were the company's property<sup>95</sup>. Egypt had little power, symbolic or material, over the Canal. At the time, Port Saidis remember a heightened inequality unfolding between their own houses, poorly built from wood, as opposed to the British housing. The latter were not only segregated and spacious, but excessively luxurious<sup>96</sup>.

88 تمثال ديليسبس يفجر خلافا بين أهالي مدن قناة السويس المصرية. (2020, October 12). *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/159666/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%A9/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3-%D9%8A%D9%81%D8%AC%D8%B1-%D8%AF%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A3%D9%87%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%86-%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B5%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9>

89 الجيزي. (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

90 الجيزي. (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

91 الجيزي. (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

92 This was to aid Sa'id's weight loss

93 الجيزي. (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

94 الجيزي. (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

95 الجيزي. (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

96 الجيزي. (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

The concession agreement also exempted the foreign company from paying taxes for 10 years, whereas the Egyptian government only reaped 15% of the net profits<sup>97</sup>. De Lesseps, thus, is not only remembered with his colonialist concession agreement, but, he is also associated with tremendously increasing Egypt's debt with his excessive spending on its opening, and compensations for land retrieval that were already Egyptian... etc.<sup>98</sup>. The Canal's first opening celebration was noted for its excessive cost, putting a great burden on the Egyptian budget. It included decorating the entire city of Port Said, that was filled with guests including the royalty of Russia, Algeria, Holland, emperors of Austria and France, and Britain's ambassador sent by Sultan Abdel Aziz<sup>99</sup>. In addition to the aforementioned, some of the most popular religious authorities such as Cairo's grand mufti Sheikh Mohamed alMahdi alAbassi, Sheikh al Azhar Moustafa alA'rrousi in addition to judges, scientists and intellectuals from across the region, were brought in<sup>100</sup>. This has led Sai'd, and later Ismail, to be indebted to Britain, which allowed the latter to further increase its colonial powers and control over Egypt. Furthermore, Egypt had to later sell some of the very little shares they owned in the Canal back to Britain in exchange for money in order to afford Sa'id and Isma'il's luxurious spending that was not limited to the Canal's necessities<sup>101</sup>. Accordingly, the large sum of indebtedness has created a full colony inside Egypt managed by France<sup>102</sup>.

Moreover, another critical narrative is that of Mohammad Naguib, the first postcolonial president of Egypt, who spoke of de Lesseps' treason to Ahmad Uraby. Naguib claims that, in 1882, de Lesseps tricked Uraby into thinking that the foreign company would not allow British warships into the Canal so that Uraby would not close the channel navigation within the canal. De Lesseps then

97. الجيزي, (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

98. الجيزي, (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

99. ابراهيم, م (2019, November 26). في الذكرى الـ 150 لقناة السويس... "الخدويو إسماعيل" يعود إلى قصر المنيل. *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/74531/%D8%AB%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A9/%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B0%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%80150-%D9%84%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%8A-%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%85%D8%>

100. فرج, س (2020, August 6). بورسعيد وديليسبس. *Ahram*. <http://gate.ahram.org.eg/News/2446474.aspx>

101. ابراهيم, م (2019, November 26). في الذكرى الـ 150 لقناة السويس... "الخدويو إسماعيل" يعود إلى قصر المنيل. *Independent Arabia*. <https://www.independentarabia.com/node/74531/%D8%AB%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A9/%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B0%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%80150-%D9%84%D9%82%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%88%D9%8A%D8%B3-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%8A-%D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%85%D8%>

102. فرج, س (2020, August 6). بورسعيد وديليسبس. *Ahram*. <http://gate.ahram.org.eg/News/2446474.aspx>

101. الجيزي, (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

102. الجيزي, (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>



allowed the foreign troops in, besieging Uraby's army<sup>103</sup>. Taking this treason into account, de Lesseps' remembrance must also be associated with this entrenchment of colonial control, rather than erasing this story from the national historical narrative. Focusing only on his efforts with building the Canal renders invisible who is de Lesseps, a colonial figure that was triumphed over by popular resistance. Moreover, in paying attention to de Lesseps' role in the canal, one must also remember it in relation to a colonialist exploitative context. Such a context enabled gains to be primarily reaped by colonial powers. Thus, the narrative of the making of the Suez Canal as a megaproject must also encompass the anti-colonialist movement, led by the Nasserite regime and the Free Officers<sup>104</sup>.

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103 ا. الجيزي. (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثلاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

104 ا. الجيزي. (2020, July 27). هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثلاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟ *AlManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

## Conclusion: On questions of writing and rewriting history

The decision to bring back the statue to Port Sa'id was finally taken, and the settlement was that De Lesseps will not be brought back to Port Said. This has coincided with Sixth of October national celebration in streets. The government decided, in the face of street upheaval, that the statue would be transferred to Suez Canal Museum in Isma'ileyya<sup>105</sup>. The Port Saidian streets were celebrating the decision of the statue transfer that took around 200 individuals to transfer it across from Port Said to Isma'ileyya<sup>106</sup>.

With this short paper, I aimed to survey the various standpoints on de Lesseps, to reattune to the multiple sensibilities embedded within understanding and relating to history. The struggle around De Lesseps is not one that revolves narrowly around a mere object or a statue. It is rather a struggle around the narration of lives that were exploited, conquered, triumphed and remembered. In bringing him back, questions are raised over what histories do we as a nation and/ or as people(s) want to render visible and why. In 2014, the former Port Said's governor, Sameh Qandil, raised a similar question when trying to mediate the various historical narratives<sup>107</sup>. He conducted a survey of de Lesseps statue location through the Dean of Fine Arts in Alexandria University<sup>108</sup>. While the location placement proposed, by some voices in the government, was at the end of the entry passage to the Suez Canal, he wished to add a couple of statues. The statues addition suggestion were for a more comprehensive representation of the historical narrative(s)<sup>109</sup>. One of which was symbolic of the labor who dug the canal and the other was of Gamal Abdel Nasser who was perceived to be the hero of the nationalization, responsible for its return to Egypt (6)<sup>110</sup>.

It is important to contextualize Port Said as a city that has a long history of popular resistance. One recalls popular tales of its people making a doll out of the British General Edmund Alenby, and burning it publicly as a statement to

105 مصر: ابتهاج في بورسعيد بإبعاد «تمثال ديليسبس» من أراضيها. (2020, October 12). *Emarat AlYoum*. <https://www.emaratalyoum.com/politics/international/2020-10-12-1.1409162>

106 مصر: ابتهاج في بورسعيد بإبعاد «تمثال ديليسبس» من أراضيها. (2020, October 12). *Emarat AlYoum*. <https://www.emaratalyoum.com/politics/international/2020-10-12-1.1409162>

107 ديليسبس.. هل تتخلى بورسعيد عن تمثال عبقرى الهندسة في القرن العشرين. (2019, October 26). الغزاوى, م. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191101231414/https://www.elbalad.news/4032545>

108 ديليسبس.. هل تتخلى بورسعيد عن تمثال عبقرى الهندسة في القرن العشرين. (2019, October 26). الغزاوى, م. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191101231414/https://www.elbalad.news/4032545>

109 ديليسبس.. هل تتخلى بورسعيد عن تمثال عبقرى الهندسة في القرن العشرين. (2019, October 26). الغزاوى, م. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191101231414/https://www.elbalad.news/4032545>

110 ديليسبس.. هل تتخلى بورسعيد عن تمثال عبقرى الهندسة في القرن العشرين. (2019, October 26). الغزاوى, م. <https://web.archive.org/web/20191101231414/https://www.elbalad.news/4032545>

their tenacious resistance to coloniality<sup>111</sup>. This was reiterated, as part of alGalaa's failed negotiations in 1947, leading to a popular uprisings, that brought down various statues that symbolized the British occupation such as Queen Victoria's statue and burning them publicly<sup>112</sup>.

The empty pedestal of De Lesseps, for Port Said, is seen as a totem of nationalist struggles that triumphed against injustice. It was against tyranny of not only the colonialist British but also the exploitation of the working class peasants and labor<sup>113</sup>. De Lesseps' statue is one example that speaks to tensions between different perceptions of national history, pointing our attention to the existence of multiplicities embedded within historical narratives. It raises questions over how revenues are generated from tourism and whether they are brought with the enframement of particular historical narratives that render invisible people(s) labor and suffering. With this, we ask which narratives do we want to uphold? What values are associated with each historical narrative? How do we wish to remember certain narratives? What narratives do we erase from our collective memories by bringing forth and prioritizing other narratives<sup>114</sup>? Finally, what makes de Lesseps special for Egypt to commemorate and what does the making of de Lesseps' statue as an artifact make of our nationalist histories and struggles<sup>115</sup>?

111. هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟. July الجيزي، ا. (2020). *AIManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

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113. هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟. July الجيزي، ا. (2020). <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

114. "اسباب تاريخية تمنع عودة تمثال ديليسبس الي قاعدة في بورسعيد "هذه هي البدائل (n.d.). عفيفي، و *EIMeezan*. <https://elmeezan.com/%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D9%86%D8%B9-%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%AB%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%B3/#.X-ZeUNgzblV>

115. هل يستحق ديليسبس تمثالاً عند مدخل قناة السويس؟. July الجيزي، ا. (2020, July 27). *AIManassa*. <https://almanassa.com/ar/story/14746>

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