

## Coup or Not Coup?

**What is a military coup? Well, it's not a military 4-door sedan, of course. In the other meaning (and pronunciation) of the word, should we call the action in Egypt today a military coup? Technically, perhaps it is one.**

**In many places throughout history, the military taking power has brought brutal repression, installing dictators who run the government for the interests of a wealthy elite and murdering or imprisoning anyone expressing opposition. The US has been responsible for several of these, operating covertly or overtly to overthrow democracies when it disapproved of their ideology.**

**Egypt is a rather unique country, however, where it appears that the military has acted on behalf of the majority of the people. The alternative might well have led to civil war, which is obviously the least desirable outcome.**

**The relatively non-violent revolution in Egypt, also moderated by the military, had not led to the degree of democracy that its organizers intended. Electing the President became a choice between the Muslim Brotherhood candidate, and a member of the old regime. It was a choice between two kinds of authoritarians.**

**Time will tell, but perhaps by learning from their mistakes, the progressives and their leaders will get it right this time.**

*--cosmicrat July 3, 2013*