

# The Deep State Between Hegemony And Influence, And The Policy of Containment.. Turkey And Egypt Are Two Examples

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**Abstract:** *This research explores the concept of the deep state, which is an informal network of individuals and institutions within the state that significantly influences government policies outside the scope of formal democratic processes. This network usually includes officials working in various state agencies, in addition to senior businessmen and media figures. This network projects its influence in countries that lack transparency and accountability, hindering reforms and political change. The research aims to understand the dynamics of political changes in countries affected by the deep state phenomenon. By exposing manipulation and corruption within the state, relationships between formal and informal authorities can be analysed, which reinforces real concepts and supports democracy. This system is characterized by an overlap between formal and informal institutions, which complicates the decision-making process and enhances the undeclared influence of some groups who can be called the actual rulers of the state and those controlling its decision-making. The research examined two models from two countries, namely Egypt and Turkey, in a brief and concise manner, to define more about the nature of the deep state, its policies, and its plans.*

**Keywords:** Deep State, Judiciary, Security Services, Businessmen, Media

## Introduction:

The concept of a deep state refers to a network of individuals and institutions within a parent state that exerts significant influence on government policies and decisions outside of formal democratic processes. This network often consists of officials from the security services, intelligence, military, and judiciary, as well as business and media leaders. These actors operate behind the scenes, leveraging their influence and institutional power to ensure the continuity of their preferred interests and policies, regardless of apparent political leadership changes.

The concept of the deep state is typically associated with political systems that lack transparency and accountability, as these networks can undermine democracy and impose the will of a powerful minority over the vast majority. The deep state has the ability to operate in the shadows, retaining real power without formally recognizing it, making it an obstacle to reforms and real political change.

“The term deep state first arose in Turkey in the 1990s to express networks of groups and officers of the armed forces who took it upon themselves to protect the secularism of the Turkish state after its establishment by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and to fight any movement, thought, party, or government that threatened the principles of the secular Turkish state. This was the first definition and emergence of the concept of the deep state.”<sup>[1]</sup>

## Research importance:

Research into the deep state is an important topic for understanding political dynamics in many countries, as it reveals the intersection between formal and informal institutions and how they influence decision-making and public policies. Research into the concept of the deep state is of great importance for several reasons. First, this research helps understand how governance structures and hidden institutions influence politics and society. Secondly, the research reveals manipulation and corruption within the state and how some parties exploit power in non-transparent ways. Third, it contributes to the analysis of relations between formal authorities and informal institutions, which enhances transparency and accountability. Ultimately, this research contributes to strengthening democracy and promoting effective governance by providing recommendations for improving political and administrative systems.

## Overlap between institutions in the presence of the deep state:

The concept of the "deep state" refers to a network of individuals and institutions within the state that work behind the scenes to direct government policies and decisions according to their interests. This system is characterized by an overlap between formal and informal institutions, which complicates the decision-making process and enhances the undeclared influence of some groups. Understanding this intersection is essential to unravel the power dynamics in countries facing challenges from this phenomenon.

“The use of the administrative apparatus “bureaucracy” is one of the tools of the deep state, and it is a branch of the law in order to prolong administrative processes for citizens, through which the employee works to maintain public order and not give the citizen the opportunity to object or cause a defect in that system.”<sup>[2]</sup>

### **What is the deep state?**

The deep state consists of an informal alliance between the leaders of the security services, intelligence services, the army, the judiciary, business leaders, and the media. These actors work together to preserve their own interests, even if they conflict with the will of elected or public political leadership.

### **Manifestations of overlap between institutions:**

Under the deep state, the traditional concept of government institutions is intertwined with informal and non-transparent structures. This overlap is represented in several aspects, including: influence on public policies; Deep state structures influence decision-making and policy development in indirect ways and outside the scope of public oversight.

Fundamental handling of resources and funds: Public resources may be used in illegal ways or for undeclared purposes by these structures. In addition to the most important pillars: Others including:

1. Security and intelligence services: The security and intelligence services are the backbone of the deep state. Officials of these agencies have great influence that allows them to collect information and use it to pressure politicians or manipulate public opinion. Their influence extends to influencing domestic and foreign policies, and controlling national security.
2. The judiciary: The judiciary in some deep states enjoys apparent independence, but it may be subject to the influence of security or economic forces. The judiciary can be used as a tool to settle political scores, stabilize the existing regime, and prevent reforms that threaten the interests of the deep state. These structures can affect the independence of the judiciary and judicial work, exposing the justice system to manipulation.
3. The Army: In countries with a deep state, the military maintains a central role in politics. The military can be a guardian of deep state interests, exert direct or indirect influence on government policies, and may intervene in political affairs when its interests are at risk.
4. Businessmen: The deep state has close relationships with major businessmen who own major media outlets and economic institutions. They have enormous economic influence that enables them to influence economic and social policies and ensure the implementation of policies that protect their interests.
5. Media: The media plays a vital role in shaping and directing public opinion. The media can be part of the deep state, being used to promote certain policies or to discredit opponents. The media serves as a tool to broadcast messages that support the interests of deep state actors. The deep state may use the media as a tool to shape public opinion and direct public debate to serve its goals.

### **The effect of overlap between institutions:**

The overlap between these institutions leads to diminished transparency and accountability in government. Democracy is undermined as important decisions are made behind closed doors, away from the eyes of the public or elected institutions. This overlap fosters corruption and nepotism, and creates an environment in which real reforms are difficult to achieve.

As case studies, we take two countries as examples for research: Turkey and Egypt:

#### **First, Turkey:**

In Turkey, the influence of the deep state is evident through frequent military interventions in politics, and the role of the army and security services in shaping government policies. Turkey has witnessed multiple coup attempts, reflecting the influence of the deep state in attempts to maintain the existing regime. This phenomenon reflects several important aspects that can be further investigated:

1. The role of the army and security services: The coup attempts in Turkey, including the 2016 coup attempt, show how the army and security services can have a significant influence in shaping policies and maintaining the existing political system.
2. Interference in public policies: The deep state in Turkey possesses a network of informal relationships and structures that allow it to influence political decisions in various ways, whether through direct influence or through intangible pressures.
3. The relationship between the military and civilian authority: Although Turkey has moved toward democracy in recent decades, tensions between the military and civilian authority remain, which contributes to shaping the dynamics of governance and politics.

4. Research into legal and constitutional aspects: How can Turkey's legal and constitutional institutions confront the challenges of the deep state, and how laws and regulations can enhance transparency and accountability in the face of these interventions.

By delving into these aspects, the research can contribute to a deeper understanding of how the deep state operates and influences Turkish politics and its impact on the future of democracy and governance in the country. Therefore, attempts are being made to confront the challenges of the deep state, including: ensuring the independence of the judiciary from political influences and external pressures, and providing legal protection for judges and lawyers so that they can perform their duties without fear. Strengthening the role of Parliament in monitoring government activities and security agencies, and ensuring transparency in the work of these agencies through periodic and transparent reports. Also forming independent anti-corruption bodies that work effectively to investigate corruption cases and punish those responsible. In addition to setting strict laws that require government institutions to disclose their activities and sources of funding, and ensuring access to information by the public and the media. And support civil society organizations and the free press as tools to monitor government activities and report any abuses or violations.

### **Secondly, Egypt:**

In Egypt, the influence of the deep state is clearly evident through the extensive influence that the army and security services enjoy in politics. This influence extends to the judiciary and the media, which enhances the deep state's ability to control the country's political and social course. The military has a significant economic role and exerts political influence through appointments to government positions, while security services monitor political and civilian activities to ensure loyalty to the regime. The judiciary is used as a tool to suppress dissent by appointing judges loyal to the regime and prosecuting opponents. As for the media, it is under state control and is used to spread official propaganda and distort the image of opponents. In addition, restrictive legislation and laws are used to undermine civil and political freedoms, and to suppress civil society organizations seeking to promote human rights and social development. Through these mechanisms, the deep state in Egypt maintains its influence and control over the political and social scene, which strengthens the dominance of the ruling regime and limits the opportunities for democratic change.

In Egypt, the role of the deep state can be clearly seen through the influence of the army and security services on politics. This influence extends to include several areas, including the judiciary and the media, which enhances the deep state's ability to control the country's political and social course. Here are more details about that:

#### **First, the army:**

**Economic role:** The Egyptian army owns companies and factories covering a wide range of economic sectors, such as food industries, electronics, and infrastructure. This economic role gives him great influence in the economic life of the country.

**Political role:** The army has played a major role in Egyptian politics for decades, and this role was strengthened after the 2011 revolution and the overthrow of former President Hosni Mubarak, as well as after the removal of President Mohamed Morsi in 2013.

**Appointments and positions:** Retired army officers have great influence, as they are appointed to high governmental and administrative positions, ensuring the continued influence of the army in decision-making.

#### **Secondly, the security services:**

**General Intelligence Service:** The General Intelligence Service has great influence in political and security life, as it monitors political, economic, and social activities .

**National Security:** This agency is responsible for monitoring individuals and groups suspected of opposing the regime, and uses its tools to control political and civil activity.

#### **Third, the judiciary:**

**Judicial appointments:** Judges are appointed to senior positions through a system that ensures loyalty to the ruling regime .

**Political Cases:** The regime uses the judiciary to prosecute political opponents and activists on a variety of charges, ensuring that opposition activity is restricted.

#### **Fourth, the media:**

**Control of the media:** The state controls the major media either directly or indirectly. The government owns television channels and newspapers, and controls private media content.

**Disinformation:** The media is used as a tool to spread government propaganda and distort the image of opponents, as well as to reinforce official narratives.

#### **Fifth, legislation and laws:**

**Emergency laws:** The emergency law and anti-terrorism laws are used as tools to suppress civil and political freedoms and extend periods of detention without trial.

**Restrictive legislation:** Restrictive laws targeting civil society organizations and freedom of expression are being passed, strengthening the deep state's ability to control social and political activity.

#### **Sixth, civil society:**

**Repression of NGOs:** NGOs working in the fields of human rights and social development face severe restrictions, including strict registration procedures, monitoring of their funding, and limiting their movements, often to the benefit of the citizen.

Through these mechanisms, the deep state in Egypt is able to maintain its influence and ensure the continuity of its control over the political and social scene in the country, which strengthens the dominance of the ruling regime and limits any attempts at democratic change.

In conclusion, the intersection between institutions in the presence of the deep state represents a major challenge to transparency and democracy. This overlap leads to the concentration of power in the hands of a few, which undermines the state's ability to respond to the people's demands and implement necessary reforms. Dealing with the deep state requires a careful understanding of the complex relationships between different actors, and working to enhance accountability and transparency in government institutions.

#### **How does the deep state arise?**

The deep state is a concept that refers to the existence of a network of individuals and institutions within the state that work undeclared and behind the scenes to direct government policies and decisions according to their own interests. This system evolves over time as a result of the interaction of several internal and external factors. In this paper, we will review how the deep state arises and what factors contribute to its development.

#### **First, the weakness of democratic institutions:**

One of the main factors for the emergence of the deep state is the weakness of democratic institutions. In countries with weak democratic infrastructure, such as the absence of a fair electoral system or an independent judiciary, powerful groups find greater opportunities to manipulate power. These groups can exploit loopholes in the system to enhance their influence and control decision-making centers.

#### **Second, elite dominance:**

Elite control over the economy and politics is an important factor in the emergence of the deep state. When a certain elite controls a state's resources and centers of power, it seeks to maintain this control by any means possible. These elites form alliances with security and military institutions, which enhances their influence and makes it difficult to challenge them.

#### **Third, control over the security services:**

The security and intelligence services play a crucial role in the emergence of the deep state. When these agencies are powerful and independent of government oversight, they are able to collect information and use it for their own interests. These agencies can form alliances with powerful economic and political groups, increasing their influence and power.

#### **Fourth, corruption and nepotism:**

Corruption and nepotism constitute a fertile environment for the emergence of the deep state. When these phenomena permeate various state institutions, it becomes difficult to achieve justice and accountability. Corruption and nepotism help foster loyalties between powerful groups, which contributes to the strengthening of the deep state.

#### **Fifth, political and economic crises:**

Political and economic crises play an important role in the emergence of the deep state. In times of crisis, governments may resort to strengthening the powers of security and military agencies to maintain order. Powerful groups exploit these periods to enhance their influence and control state institutions, which contributes to building the deep state.

#### **Sixth, external influence:**

External influences could play a role in the emergence of the deep state. In some cases, certain states or third parties may support powerful groups within the state to advance their interests. This support can come in the form of financial or military aid, which enhances these groups' ability to control and influence.

#### **The Turkish model of the emergence of the deep state:**

Turkey has witnessed a significant evolution in the concept of the deep state over the decades. After the founding of the Republic, the military and security elites controlled many aspects of political life. This phenomenon worsened during the military coups that Turkey witnessed in the twentieth century, which strengthened the influence of the deep state.

#### **Egyptian model:**

In Egypt, the emergence of the deep state can be traced back to the period after the July 1952 revolution. The army took control and came to have a prominent role in politics and the economy. The deep state developed over time, as alliances formed between the military and businessmen, enhancing the power and influence of these undeclared networks.

Thus, it can be said that the deep spiral arises as a result of the interaction of a group of factors that include the weakness of democratic institutions, the dominance of elites, control over the security services, corruption and nepotism, political and economic crises, and external influences. Understanding these factors helps reveal power dynamics in countries suffering from this phenomenon, and emphasizes the need to enhance transparency and accountability in government institutions to confront the influence of the deep state.

“With regard to Iraq, the roots of the deep state go back to the beginning of 1918, when the first military group was formed outside the legal frameworks, with the support of the British occupation authorities at that time. It was then called the “British Civil Administration.” Its activities are similar to the work of the Turkish “Union and Progress” Association, which was established Under it, the introductions of the deep state in Turkey formed, with the Baath Party assuming the reins of power, a network of army men, internal security forces, and high-level politicians. After the American invasion in 2003, it became difficult to limit the role of the deep forces in Iraq in light of the growing external support for them, the announcement of their plans in public, and the recognition of their legitimacy by some members of the administrative apparatus. Hence, the use of the term “deep state” by Iraqi officials in the recent period was not a coincidence, but rather an inevitable result of the deep powers taking the lead on the scene while setting aside the role of the national government.”<sup>[3]</sup>

#### **Deep state policies:**

Despite having a democratically elected government, the deep state can begin to shape its policies through a set of mechanisms and tactics that allow it to retain its influence and direct decisions in its favor. “Since the deep state does not exist openly like states that exist officially, the thing that indicates its existence despite its secrecy and ambiguity is the effects resulting from its actions.”<sup>[4]</sup>

Below we explain how the deep state can operate in this context:

#### **First, control of information and intelligence:**

The deep state's security and intelligence services collect sensitive information that may not be available to the elected government. Using this information, they can manipulate public opinion and politicians through leaks or threatening to reveal scandals or damaging information. This influence can force elected officials to follow certain policies.

**Secondly, the impact on the judiciary:**

The deep state can control the judiciary by appointing judges loyal to it or exerting pressure on them. Using the judiciary as an instrument, it can disrupt or slow the implementation of government policies that conflict with its interests, and issue rulings that support its economic and political interests.

**Third, penetration into the army:**

The deep state maintains strong ties with the military, which can interfere in politics directly or indirectly. The military may use the threat of a coup or military pressure to push the elected government to adopt policies consistent with the interests of the deep state.

**Fourth, influence on the media:**

Media controlled by businessmen linked to the deep state play an important role in guiding public opinion. It can publish news and articles that promote the deep state's agenda or discredit politicians and actions that conflict with its interests. This influence helps shape the political environment in a way that serves the deep state.

**Fifth, alliance with businessmen:**

The deep state allies itself with big businessmen who benefit from its policies. They use their economic influence to pressure the elected government, whether through threatening divestment or manipulating markets. This alliance ensures that economic policies are in the interests of both parties.

**Sixth, infiltration into government institutions:**

The deep state may infiltrate government institutions by appointing loyal officials and employees to strategic positions. These individuals can disrupt or modify the implementation of government policies in accordance with the interests of the deep state. This internal influence makes it difficult for the elected government to freely implement its agenda.

**Seventh, the use of bureaucracy:**

The deep state takes advantage of slow and complex bureaucracy to disrupt or change government policies. Bureaucrats loyal to the deep state can use bureaucratic procedures to disrupt the implementation of decisions or direct them in a way that is consistent with their interests.

**Eighth, creating crises:**

In some cases, the deep state may create political or economic crises to weaken the elected government and force it to roll back certain policies. Crises can be used as a way to show an elected government to be ineffective, strengthening the influence of the deep state.

From this, it can be said that “this means that the responsibility to protect the deep state entity is a collective responsibility among its members, and to emphasize this point, the relations between the members of the entity are strengthened by marriage and intermarriage relations.”<sup>[5]</sup>

**Using bureaucracy in the service of the deep state:**

Bureaucracy is a management system that includes a set of rules, procedures, and organizational structures aimed at implementing government policies and decisions in an orderly manner. But sometimes, bureaucracy can turn into a tool of the deep state to disrupt or change government policies in line with its interests. Below is a detailed explanation of how bureaucracy is used for this purpose, with illustrative examples:

**First, how to use bureaucracy:**

1. Delay in procedures: Bureaucrats loyal to the deep state can use complex and slow bureaucratic procedures to disrupt the implementation of government policies and decisions. By sticking to routine and enforcing rules rigidly and inflexibly, they can delay the implementation of government initiatives. An example of this: If the government decides to undertake a large



infrastructure project, bureaucrats loyal to the deep state can delay issuing the necessary permits or stall the completion of environmental studies, significantly delaying the project.

2. Changing priorities: Bureaucrats can adjust work priorities within government departments to reduce focus on policies unwanted by the deep state. They can direct resources and efforts toward other areas that the deep state considers more important or less threatening to its interests. For example: If a government seeks to promote transparency through anti-corruption initiatives, bureaucrats could divert resources away from these initiatives toward other projects, such as speaking out for improving administrative infrastructure or other projects of a less sensitive nature.
3. Selective interpretation of laws and regulations: Bureaucrats can use selective interpretation of laws and regulations to direct policies in ways consistent with the interests of the deep state. This can include applying laws strictly to some groups or projects and ignoring or relaxing them to others. Example: Small and medium-sized companies may face great difficulties due to strict interpretations of tax laws, while large companies linked to the deep state receive tax facilities and exemptions.
4. Hiding or distorting information: Bureaucrats can prevent real information from reaching or provide misleading information to elected officials and the public, influencing the decision-making process and turning it in favor of the deep state. Example: In the case of economic reporting, data on tax revenues or poverty rates may be distorted to avoid criticism of economic policies promoted by the elected government.
5. Appointing loyal people: Bureaucrats can use their influence to appoint new employees to strategic positions who are loyal to the deep state, strengthening their control over policy implementation mechanisms. Example: New department heads or directors could be appointed in critical sectors such as finance or planning, who are sympathetic and cooperative with the interests of the deep state, facilitating the direction of policies in a way that is consistent with these interests.

#### **Egypt as a model:**

In Egypt, government bureaucracy has been used to delay the implementation of policies and reforms that are not in line with the interests of the deep state, which includes the military and businessmen close to the regime. The issuance of necessary permits for projects that do not serve the interests of these groups was postponed. Example: A project to create new industrial zones to encourage foreign investment was facing significant delays in obtaining environmental and planning permits due to complex bureaucratic procedures.

#### **Turkey as a model:**

In Turkey, the bureaucracy played a major role in protecting the interests of the military and security elites. Bureaucratic procedures were used to delay or change elected government policies that threatened the influence of these elites. Example: Reforms aimed at reducing the military's influence in politics have been hindered by complex bureaucratic procedures related to implementing constitutional and legal amendments.

#### **Media foundations in deepening the deep state's journey and persuading the public:**

Media and social media platforms play a vital role in strengthening the influence of the deep state and its influence on public opinion. The deep state relies on a range of tools and methods used by these platforms to guide policies and control publicly available information. Below we review the main principles used by the media and social media platforms in this context:

First, manipulation of information and news: pro-deep state media can spread misleading or distorted news to serve their agenda. Catchy headlines and selective content are used to steer public opinion toward or against certain trends. Such as publishing fabricated news about security or economic threats to justify repressive policies or to strengthen the position of the ruling elites.

Second, propaganda: The media uses propaganda to spread messages that serve the interests of the deep state. This is done by repeating key ideas and points that strengthen the legitimacy of the deep state and weaken the opposition. It also broadcasts documentary and news programs that highlight the achievements of the security and military services and promote the idea of stability thanks to them.

Third, discrediting the opposition: The media works to discredit opponents and critics through massive smear campaigns. Any personal mistakes or scandals are highlighted and amplified. Example: publishing repeated reports on alleged corruption or personal failings of opposition leaders to reduce their credibility with the public.

Fourth, creating social and political divisions: The media and social media platforms are used to create divisions within society by focusing on and amplifying controversial issues. This helps distract attention from the main issues of corruption and mismanagement. It also raises controversy over religious or ethnic issues to fragment the opposition, and create internal conflicts that make it difficult to organize unified campaigns against the deep state.

Fifth, promoting elites associated with the deep state: Figures associated with the deep state are constantly highlighted and presented as models of success and leadership. Their achievements and contributions to society are promoted in an exaggerated manner. Example: TV programs and articles celebrating businessmen and officials linked to the deep state and highlighting their role in “developing” the country.

Sixth, manipulating social media platforms: The deep state uses electronic armies and fake accounts to spread its messages and direct discussions on social media platforms. These tools are used to spread rumors, misinformation, fake or questionable news, or confuse half of the news with the other half of the truth. Example: Organized campaigns on Twitter and Facebook to publish specific hashtags that promote deep state ideas or attack opponents.

Seventh, monopoly of information and control of the flow of news: The deep state seeks to monopolize major media outlets and control the flow of news. This is done by buying or controlling the media through financial and political influence. Economic elites linked to the deep state also own major media outlets such as newspapers and television channels, which allows them to direct editorial policies to serve their interests.

Eighth, promoting conspiratorial theories: spreading conspiratorial theories about supposed enemies of the state to justify repressive policies and maintain its influence. These theories help create an environment of fear and mistrust that supports authoritarian policies. Example: Promoting the idea that the country is being targeted by external or internal forces seeking to destabilize it, thus justifying strict security measures.

### **Soft war:**

The deep state uses covert soft warfare as a means of enhancing its influence and directing government policies and decisions without resorting to military force or overt repressive measures. Soft war is a strategy that aims to influence minds and hearts through the use of non-military means such as media, culture, education, economics, and diplomacy. In the context of the deep state, these strategies are applied in a subtle and deliberate manner to achieve goals. “In general, those who believe in the existence of the deep state believe that governments are mostly nothing but fantasies, while in practice states are run by gray cardinals, both bureaucrats and the military.”<sup>[6]</sup>

Here is an explanation of how the deep state uses covert soft warfare:

### **Hidden soft war tools and methods:**

1. **Media and propaganda:** We recently saw how the deep state uses the media to spread ideas and values that support its interests. News and information are manipulated and presented in a way that strengthens the legitimacy and power of the deep state and weakens the opposition. An example of this is: broadcasting news reports and talk shows that promote the vision of the deep state and indirectly attack opposition policies.
2. **Culture and Arts:** The deep state encourages the production of films, series, and artwork that reflect the values and beliefs that support its influence. These actions are used to spread ideas and influence public opinion indirectly. For example: producing films that highlight the importance of security and stability and shine the image of the security and military services.
3. **Education and Academies:** The Deep State controls educational curricula and academic institutions to spread the ideas and values that support its regime. Education is used as a means to instill loyalty and promote values that serve the interests of the deep state, such as including in school curricula materials that praise the existing political system and criticize opposition ideas.
4. **Economy and Investments:** The deep state uses its economic influence to influence government and corporate policies. This strategy could include providing financial support to loyalist companies or using economic pressure against opposition companies, such as awarding lucrative government contracts to companies that cooperate with the deep state and ignoring those that support the opposition.
5. **Diplomacy and international relations:** The deep state works to build international relations that serve its interests through soft diplomacy. International influence is used to strengthen the position of the deep state and influence domestic politics. Example: forming alliances with countries or international organizations that can support the deep state in the face of internal or external pressures.

### **Examples of hidden soft war:**

#### **Turkey as an example:**



In Turkey, the deep state's use of covert soft warfare can be seen through its control of the media and its direction to spread ideas that support the government and the military. Also, education is used to promote nationalist and security ideas.

### **Egypt as an example:**

In Egypt, the media is used extensively to promote the security and military services and to distort the image of opponents. Many films and series are being produced that enhance the image of the army and police as institutions that protect the nation.

### **Addressing and treating:**

Confronting the deep state requires comprehensive and integrated efforts at several levels in order to enhance transparency and accountability in government institutions and strengthen democracy. Here are some key steps that can be taken to counter deep state influence:

First, enhancing transparency and accountability: Increased transparency in government operations makes it more difficult for the deep state to operate in the shadows. Government decisions and policies must be open to public scrutiny through several measures, including:

- Enacting laws that protect freedom of information.
- Creating electronic platforms to display government budgets and financial reports.
- Providing detailed periodic reports on the activities of ministries and government institutions.

Second, strengthen the rule of law: in order to ensure the security of all, including making members of the deep state subject to the same laws and face justice when they violate them. This comes from a set of procedures:

- Independence of the judiciary from political and economic influence.
- Protecting judges and prosecutors from pressure and threats.
- Establishing independent oversight bodies to investigate cases of corruption and violations of the law.

Third, reforming security and intelligence institutions: reducing the unjustified influence of the security and intelligence services and ensuring their submission to civilian oversight through measures including:

- Placing the security services under the supervision of specialized parliamentary committees.
- Training security personnel to respect human rights and laws.
- Combating corruption within the security services.

Fourth, strengthening the role of civil society: Supporting non-governmental organizations and independent media to enhance their role in oversight and accountability comes from several measures:

- Providing legal protection for journalists and activists.
- Supporting independent funding for non-governmental organizations.
- Encouraging public dialogue and community participation in decision-making.

Fifth, strengthening education and awareness: spreading awareness among citizens about the importance of democracy and their rights, as well as teaching them how to recognize and resist illegitimate influence through:

- Introducing educational materials on democracy and civil rights into the school curriculum.
- Organizing public awareness campaigns on the importance of transparency and accountability.
- Encouraging academic research and public debate on deep state issues.

Sixth, reforming electoral systems: by ensuring that elections are free and fair to enhance public confidence in the democratic process through several measures:

- Establishing independent election management bodies.
- Monitoring the elections by international and local organizations.
- Firmly combating electoral fraud and corruption.

Seventh, reducing economic influence: Reducing the influence of economic elites associated with the deep state on politics comes from:

- Imposing strict laws against conflicts of interest.
- Regulating the financing of electoral campaigns to ensure equal opportunities.
- Promoting fair competition and preventing monopolies.

Eighth, strengthening international relations: using international support to promote internal reforms and combat the influence of the deep state through measures including:

- Cooperating with international organizations to promote human rights and democracy.
- Request technical and financial assistance to implement reforms.
- Strengthening relations with countries that support democracy and the rule of law.

### **Conclusions:**

After reviewing the various aspects of the deep state and its methods of control and influence, a number of main conclusions can be drawn that summarize our understanding of this phenomenon and how to confront it:

1. Definition of the deep state and its dimensions: The deep state is defined as a network of unelected individuals and institutions that possess significant influence in policy-making and controlling government decisions in non-transparent ways, often through security, military, and judicial institutions. The deep state includes military, security, judicial, economic, and sometimes cultural and religious institutions.
2. The emergence and formation of the deep state: The deep state arises in unstable political environments, where certain groups seek to protect their interests by controlling state institutions informally. This upbringing is often accompanied by a long history of distrust of elected institutions. The formation involves complex networks of personal and institutional relationships that overlap with but operate independently of formal government.
3. Deep State methods of policy making: The Deep State uses a variety of methods to influence policies despite the presence of a democratically elected government, such as manipulating information, using bureaucracy to disrupt policies, and directing public opinion through the media and social media platforms.
4. Soft and hidden war: The deep state relies on soft and hidden war as a means to enhance its influence without resorting to direct violence. Media, culture, education, and economics are used as main tools in this context. These tools include manipulating information and news, propaganda, discrediting the opposition, and manipulating social media platforms.
5. Confronting the deep state: Confronting the deep state requires a set of comprehensive reforms that enhance transparency and accountability and strengthen democratic institutions. By strengthening the rule of law, reforming security services, supporting civil society, and enhancing education and awareness, tangible progress can be achieved in confronting the influence of the deep state. There are necessary reforms that include transparency in government operations, independence of the judiciary, protecting freedom of the press, promoting civic education, and reforming electoral systems.
6. The role of the international community: The international community can play an important role in supporting local efforts to confront the deep state by providing technical and financial support and cooperation in the field of human rights and democracy. The importance of international partnerships comes through cooperation with international organizations and countries that support democracy, as it can enhance the effectiveness of reforms and ensure their sustainability.

### **The result:**

The deep state is a complex phenomenon that requires a comprehensive understanding and a multidimensional response. By enhancing transparency and accountability and strengthening democratic institutions, the influence of the deep state can be reduced and government decisions and policies can be ensured that they stem from the will and public interest of the people. International partnership and cooperation between various segments of society are necessary to achieve these goals and ensure the building of a state based on the foundations of justice and democracy.

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Note: All references are originally in Arabic, and have been translated into English for the necessity of research.

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