The material for this thesis was collected in three countries, Egypt, India and Hungary. It was not a coincidence that I decided to work on Egypt while in residence in India. Both Egypt and India present some striking similarities. They boast of thousand year old cultures. Both were victims of semi-colonial form of dependence. Besides, both are beset with high population growth. Hungary also has a history of foreign occupation that reduced her to the status of a periphery in Europe. Perhaps, this inspired a genuine interest in Afro-Asian history in Hungary. My interest in Egypt is part of the interest of my native land in Afro-Asian history.

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The views, conclusions or errors in the thesis are entirely mine, however.

LASZLO NYUSZTAY