

# Nuova Rivista Storica

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## Abstracts

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The Egyptian economy, like any premodern one, was essentially based on agriculture, in the sense that agricultural production provided for by far the largest proportion of the gross national product; its peculiarity, however, consisted in the exceptionally high productivity, in turn allowing for the generation of a very substantial surplus and a high level of urbanization.

This article analyzes the evolution of the Egyptian economy throughout the Middle Ages (more precisely from the VIII to the XV century), from the point of view of its agricultural production, of the fiscal load and of the living conditions of the lower classes; it endeavours to make a critical use of the data at our disposal, which is relatively plentiful, but sometimes contradictory.