

# Egypt's draft constitution divides nation

President Mohamed Morsi's supporters say the draft constitution establishes a new democracy, but critics say it was rushed through parliament without proper consultation and that it does not do enough to protect political and religious freedoms and the rights of women



## PRESIDENTIAL POWERS

- Constitution limits president to two four-year terms of office
- President must secure parliament's approval for his choice of prime minister
- He can declare war with parliament's approval, but must consult newly defined national defence council, in which generals outnumber civilians

## RELIGION

- Sharia, or Islamic law, remains main source of legislation. Al-Azhar – Sunni Islam's top authority – to be consulted on all matters related to Sharia
- In personal status affairs, Christians and Jews would follow their religious codes
- Religious freedom limited to Muslims, Christians and Jews

## FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

- Opponents say some clauses – such as importance of promoting family values – could be used to restrict freedom of speech

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

- Draft states that: "Citizens are equal before the law and equal in rights and obligations without discrimination" but does not explicitly mention women