

The present work explores Coptic community in connection with its identity. The major focus in the work is on the social and religious construction of the Coptic identity in the second half of 20th century. In the late 1960s and 1970s the Sunday School Movement brought about an age of reform in the Coptic Church that continues to this day. A large part of the reform has been to identify their origins as apostolic, monastic and marked by martyrdom and persecutions. The political development in 1970s and 1980s strengthened complex of inferiority among Copts. In order to preserve specific culture codes the Coptic community has adapted to contemporary political and social conditions by creating of so called Coptic environment. The Coptic church gave to its adherents safe and free living conditions deprived of any Muslim elements. The church provides social services, education in Sunday schools and other leisure time activities.