

Third, the socialist trend represented by few intellectuals failed to break ground. Its failure was due to the fact that the early socialists introduced a variant of socialist thought that was closely modeled on Western institutions. It was unrealistic to expect democratic socialism to work in a completely alien environment. Furthermore, the early Arab socialists failed to reconcile socialism with Arab nationalism, and that was a serious drawback especially in a period marked by growing nationalist fervor.

THE ARAB NATIONAL MOVEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS

The Arab revolt of 1916 and World War I had a profound impact on the course of the Arab national movement. The defeat and disintegration of the Ottoman Empire in 1918 and the emergence of a constellation of Arab states thereafter could not have passed without engendering important transformations in Arabic political thought.

In the first place, the conflict between the Islamic reformists and the secular nationalists was resolved in the latter's interests. The establishment of secular Arab states under the mandatory powers on the one hand, and the abolition of the Caliphate on the other hand, destroyed the hopes of the larger segments of the Islamists who challenged the secular nationalists before the war. Although a second generation of Islamic reformers: such as Rashid Rida, a