

of a modern state system with viable political, social and economic structures.³¹

The founders of the Arab Nationalists Movement were very much impressed, as we shall see in the next chapter, by the role which the League has played in the thirties. Indeed they give the League the credit of having upheld the national movement at a time when other nationalist groups and political parties were drifting away from their national ideals. This may be an exaggerated statement, yet the League of National Action no doubt represented a unique phenomenon in that period. Unlike the "bloc" parties that opted to work within the framework of the status quo regimes, the League refused to make any compromises to the detriment of the national objective. Moreover, it manifested, in thought and action, the genuineness of the Arab nationalist doctrine.

THE ARAB NATIONAL MOVEMENT DURING AND AFTER WORLD WAR II

Beginning with World War II, Arab national thought entered a new stage of its development - the stage of comprehensive nationalism. The writings of Sati' al-Husry were instrumental in expounding and defending the concept of

³¹Hourani, op. cit., p. 308; see also A. H. Hourani, Syria and Lebanon (London: Oxford University Press, 1954), pp. 197-198.