

the ill-fated constitutional order that was introduced by the mandatory powers between the two World Wars.

The transition from a theory of "pure" nationalism, or nationalism with no content, to a theory of comprehensive nationalism with a socio-economic content depended largely upon the doctrines of the Ba'th [Arab Socialist Resurrectionist Party]. Indeed the advent of this party in the early 1940's represented a landmark in the history of the Arab national movement.

In the first place, the Ba'th should be credited with coming to grips with the socio-economic problems facing the development of the Arab states. It was the first Arab party which found in the manipulative character of socialism a means of providing a social content to Arab nationalism.³³ This alliance between socialism and Arab nationalism gave new impetus to the national movement which was circumscribed until the 1940's by regional nationalisms and local socialism which failed to adapt to the peculiar circumstances of Arab society. The socialization of Arab nationalism appealed to larger segments of the Arab people who believed that socialism was the best solution for their economic problems.³⁴

In the second place, the Ba'th represented a radical departure from previous national parties in terms of

³³ Kamel S. Abu Jaber, The Arab Ba'th Socialist Party: History, Ideology, and Organization (Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 1966), p. 147.

³⁴ Zeine, op. cit., p. 153.