

This was, in barest outline, the impact of Ali Naser al-Din on the Arab Nationalists in their early beginnings. It is essential at this point to present the main characteristics of the movement as it took shape at this time:

1. A Doctrinal Movement -- The Arab Nationalists based their foundation on the "doctrine" of Arab nationalism. This should not give the impression that the Arab Nationalists owned a theory based on carefully worked out principles. Far from that, the Arab Nationalists at this time had nothing more than a nationalist outlook as opposed to class outlook. But they were aware of the need for a theory to guide their actions.<sup>49</sup> Several studies were undertaken by the founding leaders at this time but nothing more than a general account of the nature of the Arab World and of the Arab's place and destiny in history was produced.<sup>50</sup>

2. A Revolutionary Movement -- The Arab Nationalists believed in a complete and drastic change in the institutions of the Arab states. Therefore, they rejected piece-meal reforms and called for the overthrow of the ancien régime in its entirety.<sup>51</sup> A strong impetus to their revolutionary

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<sup>49</sup> ANM, Fi al-Tathqif al-Qawmi, [About the Nationalist Education] (Beirut: n.p., n.d.), pp. 107-108.

<sup>50</sup> See the editorials of al-Ra'i, April 26, May 31, June 7, 14, and 21, 1954.

<sup>51</sup> ANM, Fi al-Tathqif al-Qawmi, op. cit., pp. 109-110.