

and offered in return for their cooperation the fulfillment of their national aspirations by granting Arab provinces self-rule within the framework of the Ottoman Empire.¹⁰ Thus when Abdul Hamid was deposed and the Young Turks assumed power, that trend of the Arab national movement which called for decentralization and for cooperation between Arabs and Turks within the common framework of the Ottoman Empire flourished. Furthermore, the restoration of the constitution and the good will shown to the Arabs by the Committee of Union and Progress immediately after their coup have dealt a temporary blow to the school of thought advocating complete independence.

However, soon things started to develop in another direction. The Young Turks revealed their real intentions soon after they were invested in power. They broke the promises they had made to the Arabs at the Paris Congress of 1907. No provinces on the basis of decentralization and autonomy were to be created in the Arab regions. The principle of self-rule to which the Young Turks subscribed before the revolution was altogether abrogated after the revolution. These developments have disappointed all those who counted on the good will of the Young Turks and hoped to solve the national issue within the common framework

¹⁰ V. Lutsky, Modern History of the Arab Countries (Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1969), pp. 335-336.