

of the Ottoman Empire. Thus the conciliatory approach which held sway before the 1908 coup had to yield the way for another trend which called for the separation of the Arab provinces from the Ottoman Empire and the establishment of an independent Arab national state.

A number of Arab societies and political parties were formed in the aftermath of the 1908 coup to defend the Arab cause and protect Arab rights. One of these organizations, Jam'iyah al-'Arabiyah al-Fatat [The Young Arab Society] which was found in Paris in 1909 is of particular significance to our study. Its ultra secret nature, its main objectives, (the liberation of the Arab lands from foreign rule and the creation of an Arab national state) and its hard core militants, (mostly Arab students from the Fertile Crescent), did not only provide the model for many political organizations of the time, but also provided the model for the Arab Nationalists Movement about half a century later. Indeed since the foundation of al-Fatat the Arab national movement has accomplished a victory over all conciliatory trends and the Arab national doctrine betrayed signs of firmness and singleness of purpose.

The Arab struggle for liberation and national independence culminated in the Arab Revolution of 1916 which transformed the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire from a state of vassalage to a state of independence, semi-independence or dependence. The paradox of the whole