disciple of Muhammad 'Abduh, tried to restore confidence in Islam by presenting certain practical steps to revive the Caliphate, the new elite which emerged after the war was not the least interested in the re-establishment of an Islamic State.

In the second place, the struggle to achieve complete independence and to build viable political and social structures rendered the emergence of a new ideology, more thorough-going than that of the pre-War generation, indispensable. The leadership of the nationalist movement which assumed power under the tutelage of the mandatory powers after the war sought in vain to relay the liberal tradition of the West and its economic systems to the Arab world through the medium of nationalism. The manifold problems of social and economic change rendered the establishment of liberal democracy unfeasible.

Insofar as the political traditions of the West were alien to the Arabs, it was unrealistic to expect liberalism to function in the Arab world. For centuries the Arabs have lived under authoritarian governments. There was a wide elite - mass gap both in power and attitudes.[25] It goes without saying that the Arabs were not yet ready to accept the political innovations and institutions of the West because they were inconsistent with their established cultural patterns.

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[25]Elie Salem, "Emerging Government in the Arab World", Orbis, VI (Spring, 1962), p. 104.