

emerging political parties have valued the problem of integrating the social groups within each political entity more than they valued the ultimate national objective of creating a single national Arab state.³⁰ This does not mean that they have abandoned the national doctrine altogether. In fact they continued to consider unity as their ultimate goal, albeit the idea of unity, at this stage, was embodied in the call for a Syrian unity, which they envisaged as the first practical step.

In the midst of the fragmentation of the Arab national movement there emerged an organization of a new type: the League of National Action. This organization which started in the early thirties by a group of young intellectuals singled out itself as the only national organization in this period which did not only refuse to recognize the legitimacy of the regional boundaries set by foreign powers but also worked whole-heartedly to erase them. For that end they opened branches in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine and produced a comprehensive program for national action not only in the Arab East but also in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab World. They also tried to formulate a systematic national doctrine by clearly defining the meaning of nationalism and nationhood and setting a definite scheme of procedure for the establishment

³⁰Karpat, op. cit., pp. 10-11.