

Chapter 2

THE EMERGENCE OF THE ARAB NATIONALISTS MOVEMENT

The development of events in the Arab East following the partition of Palestine was dominated, in the political sense, by three factors. The first of these was the fundamental resistance of the Arab masses to the establishment of the State of Israel, a resistance which expressed itself in a growing hostility towards the West, largely passive, but marked by occasional outbreaks of anti-West demonstrations in the principal cities. The second was the steadily deteriorating prestige of the governing elite whose actual performance during the Arab-Israeli War was very poor. The third was the emergence of a new and more conscious movement of resurgence, inspired by a determination, on the part of the Arab youth, to face the challenge.

In this chapter the author intends to trace the origins and study the development of the Arab Nationalists Movement (henceforth, ANM) from its earliest beginnings in the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli War to the mid-'fifties. In order to place the ANM in the wider context of Arab politics an attempt will be made to establish the relationship of that particular institution to other groups, parties, and regimes dedicated to the pan-Arab ideal. The Ba'th as a