

students ready and willing to participate in their political activities. Most of these had been active participants in the study groups of Dr. Constantine Zurayk, the distinguished professor at the American University of Beirut. Dr. Zurayk, a "consulting done to a whole generation of nationalists",⁴² started in 1947 to hold discussion circles for the university students. In these discussion circles, Dr. Zurayk expounded his ideas on nationalism and the Arab national movement. The students who attended these circles got a better understanding of the rise and development of the Arab national movement. They became especially aware of the Zionist threat to which Zurayk addressed himself in his classical work Ma'na al-Nakba,⁴³ which appeared in the aftermath of the Arab-Israeli War of 1948. Dr. Zurayk favored an almost complete scrapping of traditional culture and the substitution of Western culture in its scientific aspects. He called upon his students to work for the creation of a unified Arab state. He also urged them to place their faith in a dedicated elite to bring about the required transformation in Arab society.⁴⁴ As Dr. Zurayk confined himself to

⁴² See Albert Hourani, Arabic Thought in the Liberal Age, 1798-1939 (London: Oxford University Press, 1962), p. 309.

⁴³ See R. Bayly Winder (trans.), The Meaning of Disaster, by Constantine K. Zurayk (Beirut Khayat's College Book Cooperative, 1956).

⁴⁴ The information on Zurayk's circles is based on the author's personal interviews with a number of A.U.B. graduates who insisted that their names should not be revealed.