

The Syrian secession, which was triggered by the big landowners and capitalists, had shown that those classes are not for national unity. Muhsin Ibrahim claimed that this fact does not negate the basic premises and principles of Arab nationalism. On the contrary, he stressed, it serves to enrich the ideology of Arab nationalism. Because of the previous colonial rule, the economics of the Arab countries did not develop according to the national interest. Their colonial character made the big landowners and capitalists develop their strength by linking their interests with the financial centers of the colonial powers. These interests made it impossible for these classes to play the role that was played by their counterpart in Europe in the last century, i.e., to be nationalist in character.<sup>12</sup> Economic planning in the developing nations is in conflict with the interests of the bourgeoisie. In the Arab world national unity is in conflict with the bourgeoisie because the latter have an interest in keeping the Arab states divided. This explanation doubtless added a new ingredient to the new nationalism. It took the ideology away from the liberal heritage by stressing its anti-bourgeois character, and it moved away from fascism by emphasizing the role of the masses and the need for democratization.

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<sup>12</sup>It seems that Muhsin Ibrahim was very much influenced by the writings of Franz Fanon.