A HISTORY OF THE ARAB PEOPLES

Albert Hourani

5



fill faber and faber

First published in 1991 by Faber and Faber Limited 3 Queen Square, London WCIN 3AU

Phototypeset by Input Typesetting Ltd, London Printed in England by Clays Ltd, St Ives Plc

All rights reserved

© Albert Hourani, 1991

Albert Hourani is hereby identified as author of this work in accordance with Section 77 of The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988

Maps © John Flower, 1991

1

A CIP record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 0-571-13378-9

Contents

xii
xiii
XV
xvii
xviii

Prologue

Ι

PARTI THE MAKING OF A WORLD

(SEVENTH-TENTH CENTURY)

I	A New Power in an Old World	7
	The world into which the Arabs came	7
	The language of poetry	I 2
	Muhammad and the appearance of Islam	14
2	The Formation of an Empire	22
	The succession to Muhammad: the conquest of an empire	22
	The caliphate of Damascus	25
	The caliphate of Baghdad	32
3	The Formation of a Society	38
	The end of political unity	38
	A unified society: the economic bases	43
	Unity of faith and language	46
	The Islamic world	54
4	The Articulation of Islam	59
Т	The question of authority	59
	The power and justice of God	62
	The shari'a	65
	The Traditions of the Prophet	69
	The path of the mystics	72
	The path of reason	75
	1	0.678.0.1

PARTII ARAB MUSLIM SOCIETIES

(ELEVENTH-FIFTEENTH CENTURY)

5	The Arab Muslim World	83
	States and dynasties	83
	Arabs, Persians and Turks	87
	Geographical divisions	89
	Muslim Arabs and others	96
6	The Countryside	98
	Land and its use	98
	Tribal societies	104
7	The Life of Cities	109
	Markets and cities	E09
	The city population	III
	Law and the 'ulama	113
	Slaves	116
	Muslims and non-Muslims in the city	117
	Women in the city	119
	The shape of the city	122
	Houses in the city	125
	The chain of cities	128
8	Cities and Their Rulers	130
	The formation of dynasties	130
	The alliance of interests	133
	Control of the countryside	137
	Ideas of political authority	141
9	Ways of Islam	147
	The Pillars of Islam	147
	The friends of God	152
IO	The Culture of the 'Ulama	158
	The 'ulama and the shari'a	158
	The transmission of learning	163
	Kalam	166
	Al-Ghazali	167
II	Divergent Paths of Thought	172
	Islam of the philosophers	172
	Ibn 'Arabi and theosophy	176
	Ibn Taymiyya and the Hanbali tradition	179
	The development of Shi'ism	181
	Jewish and Christian learning	186
12	The second s	189
	Rulers and patrons	189
	Poetry and story	193
	Music	197
	Understanding the world	199

PART III THE OTTOMAN AGE

(SIXTEENTH-EIGHTEENTH CENTURY)

The Ottoman Empire	209
The limits of political power	209
Ottoman government	214
The Ottomans and Islamic tradition	220
Government in the Arab provinces	225
Ottoman Societies	231
Population and wealth in the empire	231
The Arab provinces	234
The culture of the Arab provinces	238
Beyond the empire: Arabia, the Sudan, Morocco	243
The Changing Balance of Power in	
the Eighteenth Century	249
Central and local authorities	249
Arab Ottoman society and culture	253
The world of Islam	256
Changing relations with Europe	258
	The limits of political power Ottoman government The Ottomans and Islamic tradition Government in the Arab provinces Ottoman Societies Population and wealth in the empire The Arab provinces The culture of the Arab provinces Beyond the empire: Arabia, the Sudan, Morocco The Changing Balance of Power in the Eighteenth Century Central and local authorities Arab Ottoman society and culture The world of Islam

PART IV THE AGE OF EUROPEAN EMPIRES (1800-1939)

16 European Power and Reforming Governments

(1800–1860)	265
The expansion of Europe	2.65
The beginnings of European empire	268
Reforming governments	271

17 European Empires and Dominant Élites

(1860-1914)	279
The limits of independence	279
The partition of Africa: Egypt and the Maghrib	282
The alliance of dominant interests	285
Control of the land	287
The condition of the people	292
The dual society	295
The Culture of Imperialism and Reform	299
The culture of imperialism	299
The rise of the intelligentsia	302
The culture of reform	304
The emergence of nationalism	308
The continuity of Islamic tradition	311
	The limits of independence The partition of Africa: Egypt and the Maghrib The alliance of dominant interests Control of the land The condition of the people The dual society The Culture of Imperialism and Reform The culture of imperialism The rise of the intelligentsia The culture of reform The emergence of nationalism

To The Climax of Fur	opean Power (1914–1939)	315
The supremacy of Grea		315
The primacy of British		320
Immigrants and the lan		322
The growth of the indig		324
Attempts at political ag		328
		2
20 Changing Ways of	Life and Thought	
(1914–1939)	ANN 1.4 1	333
Population and the cou	ntryside	333
Life in the new cities		336
The culture of national		340
Islam of the élite and th	e masses	345
PARTV THEAGEO	F NATION-STATES	
(SINCE 1939)		
21 The End of the Em	pires (1939–1962)	353
The Second World War		353
National independence		356
The Suez crisis		365
The Algerian war		369
2.2. Changing Societies	s (1940s and 1950s)	373
Population and econon		373
	merchants and landowners	379
The power of the state		381
Rich and poor in the cit	cy .	384
23 National Culture (1940s and 1950s)	389
Problems of education	200	389
Language and self-expr	ression	392
Islamic movements		397
. The Oliverna Char		10.00
	bism (1950s and 1960s)	401
Popular nationalism		401
The ascendancy of Nas	irism	407
The crisis of 1967		411
25 Arab Unity and Di	sunity (since 1967)	416
The crisis of 1973		416
The predominance of A		419
The interdependence of	f Arab countries	42.3
Arab disunity		426
26 A Disturbance of S		434
Ethnic and religious div	visions	434
Rich and poor		436
Women in society		439
A heritage and its renew	val	442

The stability of regimes	447
The fragility of regimes	453
Maps	459
Tables	483
The Family of the Prophet	485
The Shi'i Imams	486
The Caliphs	487
Important Dynasties	489
Ruling Families in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century	491
Notes	494
Bibliography	500
Index of Terms	530
Index	533

54