

Abstract

The Arab world today is shaped by many ideologies that constitute the dynamic movements and change in it. They vary from violent to non-violent, religious to secular, Islamic to nationalist and fundamentalist to modernist. All of them, despite their diversity are characterised by some relation to tradition and modernity. The aim of the work is to analyse the emergence of the most significant schools of thought of the nineteenth and early twentieth century that had serious impact on the later ideological evolution, the formation of states and national identities in the region. The work covers mainly the issues of the attitude of the Islamic world towards modernity, Islamic modernism and fundamentalism, Ottomanism, Arabism and Arab nationalism. The interpretations are situated in the context of the cultural shock of the clash with western civilization, the decline of the Ottoman Empire and struggle against colonialism. The work examines these ideologies, and the major thinkers that represent them such as Rifa'a Badawi Rafi' al-Tahtawi, Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, Muhammad 'Abduh, Rashid Rida, Butrus al-Bustani, Shibli Shumayyil, Farah Antun, and Abd al-Rahman Al-Kawakibi. The research is based mainly on the secondary Western and Arabic literature but also on the original works of the thinkers of this era.

Key words: Islamic modernism, Arabism, Arab Nationalism, Islamic fundamentalism, Colonialism, Ottomanism