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SOCIETÀ PER GLI STUDI SUL MEDIO ORIENTE

TITOLO: *What happened to Arab nationalism?*

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ABSTRACT:

(max 250 parole, font: calibri 10)

In 1993 Martin Kramer pointed out the end of the belief in the Arab nation and the wane of Arab nationalism (Martin Kramer, *Arab Nationalism: Mistaken Identity*, "Dedalus", 1993).

Unlike other kinds of Asian and African nationalism, Arab nationalism did not rise as a reaction to the West, but as a reaction to the Ottoman empire, when in the 19th century the empire declined and the symbiotic relationship between Arab and Ottomans ceased. However, in the same period, Arabs and Muslims became increasingly concerned about the European colonial expansion and the first anti-colonial reactions took place. The Great Arab Revolt of 1916-1918 betrays the ambivalence of Arab nationalism: it was an anti-Ottoman revolt, but it can be considered as the beginning of a complex process of resistance against Western influence and colonization.

After hundred years from the fall of the Ottoman empire and the Treaty of Versailles a rereading of Arab nationalism from the 1916 revolt onwards is required. It is necessary to reconstruct all the streams, aspirations and contradictions of Arab nationalism and to overcome the cliché that, since the 1990s, dominated the narration of the anti-Ottoman and anti-Western resistance. A new analysis of Arab nationalism is required, beyond the limits of the recent historiography, that emphasises tribalism and sectarianism as the main causes of the failure of an alleged pan-Arab project.

PROFILO ACCADEMICO DEL/DELLA/DEI/DELLE PROPONENTE/I:

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