

A Study of the Establishment and Development of the Young Egypt Association

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Abstract: The Young Egypt Association is the predecessor of the Young Egypt Party. Its founder is Ahmed Hussein. In the early 1930s, Hussein became popular among the young generation through the Piast Plan, which also gave him access to Egypt's upper-level politics. In 1933, Hussein relied on the popularity accumulated by the Piast Plan to establish the Young Egypt Association. The Young Egypt Association is a nationalist patriotic organization with young people as its main group. The association is influenced by European fascism and advocates force. Its members call themselves fighters. From 1933 to 1935, the Young Egyptian Association mainly developed its power among students and competed with the Wafd Party for supporters in universities and middle schools. From 1935 to 1936, the Young Egypt Association played a leading role in an anti-British patriotic movement. The ideas of the Young Egypt Association spread during the movement also deeply influenced the young generation of Egypt throughout the 1930s.

1. Introduction

The Young Egypt Association was one of the major civil political organizations in Egypt in the 1930s. It was as famous as the Muslim Brotherhood. In the 1930s, its status even surpassed that of the Muslim Brotherhood. The Young Egypt Association has a profound influence on Egypt's politics and ideology, and its establishment and development are worthy of study.

2. Ahmad Husayn and the “Piastre Plan”

Ahmad Husayn was born into a middle-class family in Cairo. During the 1919 revolution, Husayn claimed that he participated in demonstrations in Cairo at the age of eight. Regardless of whether Husayn's statement is true or not, it is clear that the 1919 revolution and the wave of large-scale national movements caused by the socio-economic deterioration during the war left a very deep impression on the young man. This experience had a profound impact on Husayn. His whole life experience has a considerable impact.

The period from 1929 to 1933 was the period of preparation for Husayn's participation in politics. The Liberal Constitutional Party was the first parliamentary party he publicly supported. Husayn, who had just turned 18 in 1929, formed a Free Youth Association with others. The association was designed to support Mohammad Mahmoud's treaty negotiations with the British that same year,

after which Husayn attempted to create a patriotic association for Egyptian youth, but ultimately failed. Husayn began to enter the journalism industry in 1930, but it did not cause much response. What really attracted Husayn's attention was the "Piastre Plan" he proposed in 1931. In the early 1930s, Egypt was experiencing a heavy blow from the world economic crisis. The price of Egypt's main export commodity, cotton, plummeted. The heavy reliance on agricultural exports made Egyptians increasingly aware of the importance of industrial development. In February 1931, Cairo's Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition greatly promoted Egypt's enthusiasm for industrial development.

At the end of 1931, many people, headed by Ahmed Husayn, including his later important comrade-in-arms Fathi Radwan and many later members of the Young Egypt Party, jointly established a committee of university students to organize and promote A nationwide fund-raising plan aimed at promoting the development of Egyptian industry has achieved considerable success with the help of some celebrities and a large number of media. In January and February 1932, the Piastre Plan launched its first nationwide fundraising campaign. It is estimated that as many as 85,000 people participated in this fundraising activity, and the funds collected were estimated to be approximately 17,000 Egyptian pounds. For a person who was in the process of for a country hit by the Great Depression, this was no small achievement. In January and February 1933, the committee launched another fundraising campaign. The second fundraising raised approximately 13,000 Egyptian pounds.^[1]

Within two years, the "Piastre" plan launched by Husayn raised approximately 30,000 Egyptian pounds in funds, most of which was invested in industrial production. However, the Piastre plan and Husayn himself came under criticism starting in 1933, when Ahmed Husayn and his colleagues launched the Piastre plan to support local industry, they were accused by the Wafd Party of distracting students from politics,^[2] while the Wafd Party also considered the program and its leader Ahmed Husayn to be a splinter group backed by the authoritarian West German-German palace government. There were also personal accusations against Husayn. He was accused of corruption, fraud, embezzlement of public funds, etc. On October 31, Husayn officially resigned from all his positions in the "Piastre" plan.

In the first two years of the implementation of the "Piastre" plan, Husayn, as the main person in charge of the plan, vigorously promoted the plan in secondary schools and universities in Cairo and Alexandria. He used his talents to make the plan an A platform for him to promote his ideals among the younger generation. At the same time, the "Piastre" plan also gave Husayn an opportunity to contact Egypt's top political and economic leaders, including Egyptian Prime Minister Ismail Sidki, the president of Misire Bank, and Wafd With important figures such as Mustafa Nahhas, chairman of the breakaway party, it can be said that this plan is the key to Ahmad Husayn entering the public eye and determining his ability to enter politics.

3. The establishment of the Young Egypt Association

The Young Egypt Association is an influential new political party in the social movement of Egypt's liberal era. It was founded in 1933. It is a nationalist patriotic association organized by a group of young people, named Young Egypt. The Young Egypt plan aims to attract young people because it requires young people to restore their past glory. Its headquarters is in Cairo. At the same time, Husayn formulated the program document of the Young Egypt Association. Its goal is to make Egypt a powerful empire composed of Egypt and Sudan, alliance with Arab countries, and dominate Islam. The slogan of the association is "God, Motherland, King".^[3] Members of the group were required to live clean, Spartan lives, avoid the loose morals associated with Westernized elites, and cultivate military virtues. They combated external forms of corruption, such as alcoholism and

prostitution, and promoted clean living.^[4]

In October 1933, the Young Egypt Association was formally established. The founders were a small group of young student leaders, including Ahmad Husayn, Fathi Radwan, Mohammed Shubih, Kamal al-Din Salah. Before the establishment of the Young Egypt Association, Husayn also envisioned the creation of a patriotic association, but it ultimately failed due to lack of influence and experience. However, after the successful implementation of the "Piastre" plan, Ahmad Husayn gradually became a public figure who received great attention, and the Young Egypt Association avoided the fate of aborting. Ahmad Husayn had a meeting with the Wafd Party in 1933. Husayn said that the Wafd Party had no specific liberation program and had problems in the religious field.^[5] The meeting ended on bad terms, but the Young Egypt Association made it clear that it was an anti-Wafd organization.

Chairman Ahmad Husayn is the core figure of Young Egypt, Fathi Radwan is his right-hand man, and around them are some key members. The newspapers and media are the main means of publicity for the Young Egypt Association. The Young Egypt Association works for the reform of Egyptian society, which includes promoting a specific "Egyptian nationalism", limiting the privileged status of foreigners within Egypt, encouraging agriculture and industry, improving education, arts and sciences, rural and urban living conditions, and the family Live, ultimately promote and spread the "martial spirit". Young Egypt requires its members to follow the "Ten Principles", including communicating only in Arabic, buying only goods produced in Egypt, abstaining from alcohol, prohibiting illegal entertainment activities, praying on holy days, and despising all foreign things. Firm support for Egyptian nationalism. This constitutes the basic creed of the Young Egypt.

The organizational structure of the Young Egypt Association has been continuously improved since its establishment. Its organizational law stipulates that the members of the association are divided into two levels. The first level is ordinary "members". Members of this level only need to apply and be approved. Each month Just pay dues, and ordinary "members" have no excessive obligations other than that they support "the general principles of the association." The second rank is "Warrior," an honorary rank appointed by the association's executive officer. Unlike regular members, warrior-level members have very specific responsibilities. He must become an "active participant" in the association's organization, "completely obey the leadership" and carry out any orders given to him by the association "without delay". Only warrior-level members are allowed to wear the association's special uniforms. A well-known green shirt. The association's organizational structure was clearly modeled on the practices of fascist groups in Germany and Italy. Husayn required supporters to wear green shirts and frequently paraded followers on the streets of Cairo.

Even as an extra-parliamentary social organization, the Young Egypt Association is very special. First of all, the Young Egypt Association is an organization led entirely by young people. When it was founded, its core leadership members were only between 20 and 25 years old. Secondly, the Young Egypt Association is a paramilitary organization, and its activity model is intended to imitate the Italian Fascist Party. Furthermore, the Young Egypt Association pays far more attention to politics than other extra-parliamentary organizations, including its articles in newspapers and periodicals. Political affairs are the main activity objects and writing topics of the Young Egypt Association. In terms of publicity, they also mainly express their views on the current political trends in Egypt. The members of the Young Egypt Association were mainly educated young students. Soon after its establishment in 1933, Young Egypt began to attract students to join. By 1934, about 40% of the members were students,^[6] and the association's official membership was not large. However, Young Egypt had many followers in middle schools and universities, and the association had a certain appeal among young people.

4. Development of Young Egypt

The Young Egypt Association did not have an impact on Egyptian politics from 1933 to 1935. Although this radical social group continued to promote their nationalist line in newspapers, periodicals and demonstrations, the number of people who actually paid attention to them was very limited. The only attempts to influence public opinion were to send open letters to high-level government officials or to collect petitions. At the end of 1933, the Young Egyptian Association sent an open letter to the British Prime Minister, asking Britain to recognize Egypt's complete independence and the unification of Sudan. In early 1934, the Young Egypt Association collected signatures on past petitions calling for the abolition of Egypt's capitulation system and mixed courts, and at the end of 1934 an open letter was submitted to the king, requesting the Wafd Party to form a government. However, this form of political activity is only a marginal self-satisfaction, and the administrative authorities have never regarded this group of unsettled elements as a potentially dangerous organization. The police rarely intervene in the rallies and demonstrations of the Young Egypt Association, even if the association's People who clashed with the police were only lightly punished and no longer pursued.

The Young Egypt Association had been under constant attack since its founding, and throughout 1934 it was accused of being a "tool" of Zaki Ibrahim, the king's jester, and under King Fouad hold great power in a dictatorial government. Journalist Abbas Mahmoud Akkad accused the Young Egypt Association of being secretly funded by the palace and achieving its own goals by luring radical elements among the youth. Although this accusation was not substantiated, it is undeniable. The Young Egypt Association did receive funding from the palace in its early years. The spokesperson of the Young Egypt Association did not hesitate to mention the king with praise and was a supporter of the monarchy. Although the Young Egypt Association was favored by the royal family for its non-Waftist stance, the association cannot simply be considered a tool of palace politics. The Young Egypt Association still has some policies that are far from the interests of the palace. The Young Egypt Association has strong Egyptian nationalist sentiments, and its extreme stance towards Britain runs counter to the royal family's reliance on Britain to consolidate its rule.

In November 1935, people's dissatisfaction with the palace's political rule in Egypt continued to accumulate and a large-scale demonstration movement broke out. This movement was a nationalist patriotic movement against British colonialism that lasted until 1936. It only slowed down in January, but it was still large in scale. This movement brought about major changes in Egyptian politics. It was also this movement that brought a turn for the Young Egypt Association. Most of the members of this movement are students, and the Young Egypt Association is quite influential among students, and its formal members are basically students or people who have just graduated from school. It is worth noting that the Young Egypt Association did not participate in this movement as an organization or a group, but had an impact on the movement as individual members. As elites on the university campus, they created and maintained protests, the most famous of which was Nour al-Din Talaf, a member of the Young Egypt Association within the Egyptian University, whose students played an important role in the student uprising of 1935-36. The movement's early propaganda helped create widespread discontent that led to the uprising, which Ahmed Husayn viewed as "a triumph of the spirit of young Egyptians."

The Wafd Party recognized the need to form an organized youth group during this movement and established the Wafd Party Youth League, later reorganized into the "Blue Shirts", a paramilitary organization that used the fighting slogans organized young students who supported the Wafd Party, and the opposition also established other similar organizations. The Young Egypt Association correspondingly established the "Green Shirt" organization, the Green Shirt Army, the "Blue Shirt" and The "Green Shirts" are made up of the most hardline elements among young people who use

violence to intimidate the opposition. Many Egyptian leaders are said to have given the Green Shirts money to avoid harassment by them. The Young Egypt used this movement to not only expand its organizational and centripetal power among students, but also expand the association's influence to the Egyptian political arena. The new Prime Minister Ali Maher, who came to power during the movement, had a great influence on the Young Egypt Association. Paying full attention to it, Husayn also formally visited Maher in April 1936, and submitted the Young Egypt Association's so-called "reform measures" to him in the form of a petition. After this movement, the Young Egypt Association began to emerge in Egyptian politics.

From the establishment of the Young Egypt Association in 1933 until the end of the student movement in 1936, the Young Egypt Association has always been in a very marginal position in Egypt's political trends. The Young Egypt Association is an organization mainly composed of young Egyptians. During this period, it indeed played an important role. He played a role in guiding many young people to break away from the political struggles of the Wafd Party. The Young Egypt Association received support from the palace and certain politicians, but the Young Egypt Association still retained its own independence, which also led to him sometimes supporting the Wafd Party. The Wafd Party sometimes supported the royal family, and sometimes the Wafd Party would take radical positions, which often led to conflicts with the government. In general, the Young Egypt Association developed greatly in 1936, especially after the Wafd Party government signed the 1936 Treaty with Britain.

The Anglo-Egyptian Alliance Treaty of 1936 was a huge blow to the Wafd Party. Although the Wafd Party had always claimed that this was the best result that could be achieved in Anglo-Egyptian negotiations, the actual effect of the treaty was to once again emphasize Egypt's colonial and subordinate status, so those who were disappointed with the Wafd Party began to look for a new direction.

5. Thoughts of the Young Egypt

The Young Egyptian Party is primarily an Egyptian nationalist organization that promotes the glory and triumph of Egypt's history, the independence and autonomy of the present, and the greatness and glory of the future. In the view of its leader Ahmad Husayn, Egypt's glory is not limited to the Pharaonic era. Egypt played an important role in the Hellenistic era, the Christian era, and the Islamic era, and Husayn believes that "Egypt has always been the beating heart of the world, the source of knowledge and culture from all over the world." He condemned the penetration of Western civilization into Egypt, which caused a devastating blow to Egypt itself. Therefore, the Young Egyptian Party was hostile to Britain and opposed Westernization not only because of the British military aggression and economic plunder, but more importantly, because of the destruction of Egyptian tradition by Western civilization. Therefore, the movement of the Young Egyptian Party not only wanted to achieve political independence for Egypt, but also wanted to achieve political independence for Egypt. In short, British political interference, European economic privileges, and Western cultural invasions were not just a physical blow; they were deeply spiritual, and violated educated Egyptians' notions of national, religious, and civilized values.

The Young Egyptian Party proposed in 1933 the complete abolition of the "capitulation system" and the mixed court system, which should be abolished unilaterally by Egypt without British consent, as well as the "Egyptianization of foreign companies", the establishment of Arabic as the official language of commerce in Egypt, the establishment of Friday as the official day of rest, and the establishment by the government of "employees and government duties". It also called for the "Egyptianization of foreign companies", the establishment of Arabic as the official language of commerce in Egypt, the introduction of Friday as a legal day of rest, and the Government's

designation of it as an "employee's and government's duty"; Students in government schools must wear clothing made in Egypt "; Foreigners must obtain special permission to work in Egypt; Domestic trade was confined to the prerogatives of Egyptian merchants; Finally, "the government must always" give preference to Egyptian products, regardless of their price." At the individual level, the Young Egyptian Party published measures that it believed ordinary Egyptians should implement, such as "eating only Egyptian food", "wearing only Egyptian clothes", and generally "buying only Egyptian goods", which were partially supplemented in 1935 by adding such phrases as "speaking only in Arabic" and "not entering places not marked in Arabic". Many of the activities of the Young Egyptian Party in the early 1930s were devoted to the economic and social independence of the Egyptian people, mainly because the members of the Young Egyptian Association, many of whom had come from the Piastre plan, had not yet moved away from the economic and social aspects of Egypt.

6. Conclusion

The Young Egypt Association is a political organization formed spontaneously by Egyptian youths in the 1930s to seek a new way out under the impact of the great economic crisis. The Young Egypt Association is nationalistic. It opposes the interference of foreign forces in Egypt and the division within Egyptian society. The Young Egypt Association is a youth organization. The purpose of its establishment is to establish a political stage for Egyptian young people to have a voice; The Young Egypt Association is also fascist in nature. It advocates force and calls itself a "warrior". It has an obvious internal hierarchy. As an organization established for young people, although it has a small number of members, its influence far exceeds the size of the organization. As the first youth organization, the ideas of the Young Egypt Association will continue to influence the young generation of Egypt in the 1930s.

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