

A B S T R A C T

Egypt is the home of one of the oldest civilizations of mankind. She has been a connecting link between the East and West. By sixteenth century Egypt, like the Arab world, was isolated from almost all foreign influences. This state of separation continued till Napoleon's expedition against Egypt in 1798. Until the French occupation, throughout the eighteenth century, Egypt presented a spectacle of an Ottoman dominion over whose possession and control local chiefs fought with one another continuously. Politically Egypt was neither a dependent nor independent country. It was under the rule of the

of their country. The science and technology shook Egyptians from their traditional rigidity. It showed them that there was another world outside their own which had certain things to offer. With Napoleon's expedition marked the beginning of a new era. Egyptians started to have national consciousness. The impact of the brief three-year occupation was gradual and indirect and lasted long after the French had evacuated Egypt. It sowed the seed of modern civilization in Egypt.

After short British occupation Muhammed 'Ali ruled Egypt in the name of the Ottoman Sultan from 1805. But practically he detached Egypt from Turkey, especially after he had destroyed the Mamluk Beys and their power between 1805 and 1812. He had continuous efforts to reform the administration, develop agriculture, irrigation, public works and industry. He established order and tranquility in the country. He introduced massive European method and technology in all the activities and functions

of Muhammad 'Abduh and Muṣṭafa Kāmil and others were essentially Islamic response to European growing influences on Egypt. Jamāl al-Dīn al Afghānī asserted that the study of modern science, history and religion of Europe was necessary to know the reasons of the progress of the west. He wanted to unite all Muslim countries under one Islamic government. However, Muḥammad 'Abduh wanted the progress and prosperity of the Muslim countries through education and purification of religion.

Western culture had great influence on Arabic language. Hundreds of books were translated into Arabic from European languages. The art of modern novel developed under the influence of Western literature. Similarly the drama in Egypt was born under the Western influence.

Journalism also flourished in Egypt and other Arab countries. The early start was given to press by Napoleon. He brought with

him not only a printing press but also inaugurated an official periodical press in order to keep the troops informed about events. Press in Egypt has served as a medium for the propagation of new ideas and movements for social, economic and political reform. The rise and development of the Egyptian press constitutes an important mirror of the evolution of modern Egypt. The press became a school for the evolution of a modern literary Arabic language.