

THE  
AWAKENING  
OF  
MODERN  
EGYPT

*by*

M. RIFAAT BEY

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*THE AWAKENING OF MODERN EGYPT*



*MOHAMMED ALI*

# THE AWAKENING OF MODERN EGYPT

*By*

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## P R E F A C E

THE original idea of writing this narrative in English started some thirty years ago when, under the inspiring guidance of Professor Sir Charles Kingsley Webster, I was preparing for my Honours Degree in Modern History at Liverpool University. To Professor Webster and to his predecessor, the late Professor Ramsay Muir, I am indebted for all that the reader may find commendable in this treatise.

Back in Egypt I felt it my duty to translate my acquirements into Arabic with only occasional articles or lectures in English, until the critical year of 1942 when both Egyptians and English were being drawn closer together by the tension and the awe-inspiring suspense before and during the decisive battle of El Alamein. At that time the Anglo-Egyptian Union in Cairo arranged a series of lectures on national subjects, and to me was allotted the advent of modern Egyptian nationalism. The encouragement I then received from some worthy friends provided the impetus which, in the hope of popularising and elucidating to the English speaking world the question of modern Egypt, set me to work on a subject very dear to my heart.

The inexhaustible sources, local and foreign, from which writers on modern Egypt can draw their information would have served me in writing a far more ambitious work. But omitting superfluous details which tend to make history cumulative and unwieldy, I have been more concerned in this narrative with the interpretations of the main historical facts than in the marshalling of them to the reader.

Only when exposing the attitude of the Powers towards Mohammed Ali during the crisis of 1832-1841 did I take stock of the original documents which I had once studied in detail.

On the whole, however, the reader will find in this book that the national aspect as distinct from the European bearing

of my subject has been stressed more than is usually done by European writers.

It is only by knowing and understanding each other better that nations can become united in their efforts to foster peace and amity among the peoples of the world. And, in my opinion, it is the nationals of a country who are the best fitted to express the true feelings and reactions of their fellow-countrymen to the ideas and the events that confront them.

If, therefore, the reader may be able to form by the instrumentality of this book a fairly clear and just idea of the efforts made by Egypt and its rulers in modern times towards progress and the advancement of human interests not only in Egypt and the Sudan but also in the Arab world, then this work will not have been written in vain.

My special thanks are due to my friend, Mr. A. C. Cawley, lecturer in English at Sheffield University who kindly read the greater part of the manuscript. And to other friends for encouragement and advice.

M. RIFAAT

Heliopolis, Egypt.  
November, 1946.



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