

Muslim Brotherhood
Circumstances of Emergence and Foundation
Volume (I)



Résumé:

- Muslim Brotherhood Group (MBH) is considered a phenomenon that deserves research and studying, due to its wide geographic expansion and the depth of its social and political influence, not only in the Arab and Islamic region, but across the entire world. In this context, an analytical view of the historical conditions that accompanied the emergence of MBH group in Egypt, provides one of the essential keys to understand the factors that control the work of its followers, and the way of devising its ideological vision and its tools for change.
- In this context, studying the social and economic environment that surrounded the emergence of the group has a special priority, because it allows us to present a perception about the general situations that were prevailing in Egypt, in their various dimensions and the multiple levels of changes. This study will be an attempt to know the roots of the near past and its effects on the course of events and the justifications, which accompanied the emergence of MBH group.
- The emergence of MBH was a result of an array of social, demographic, urban, economic and social changes, witnessed in Egypt in the first third of the 20th century. Those changes collectively formed the environment encouraging for the establishment of many social and religious movements, which were seeking to change the hard situations. Noteworthy was the failure of the ruling elites in finding effective solutions for the problems that were prevailing within the society in that period.
- The poor economic status, the absence of social justice and the sharp class disparity are the factors that were reflected on the social status of most categories of the Egyptian society. Those poor categories lived a state of marginalization and poverty during the first third of the 20th century. That situation paved the way for the emergence of MBH group.

- The missionary/preaching movements spread in Egypt during the first third of the 20th century, and that was one of the reasons behind the emergence of MBH group. The founder of the group, Hassan al-Banna, exploited that issue, and he moved to confront those “Christian” missionaries.
- The historical context surrounding the emergence of MBH group was characterized by intensive and collective intellectual and political activities. Those activities were manifested in struggle and conflict among various currents, regarding issues such as: identity, modernization, development process and the nature of government system. The current promoting modernization, which held ideas and visions opened to the West, was an important factor encouraging the emergence of religious groups, who opposed those Westernized tendencies and ideas; and those religious groups offered alternative Islamic visions that were not free of political objectives.
- This study discusses the roots of visions and ideas adopted by MBH group. These roots are manifested in and related to the “Orthodox Sunnis” and the thought of Al-Khawarij; besides modern references essentially based on the pioneers of Islamic Renaissance, such as: Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, Mohammad Abduh, Mohamed Rashid Rida and Abu Al-A’la al-Mawdudi, who was the most influential among modern writers in devising MBH intellectual system.
- The study also discusses the theses of MBH group, particularly the ideas of the founder Hassan al-Banna, and MBH theorist Sayyid Qutb, and analyzes their role in guiding the path of MBH group towards armed violence; thus, the violence became a structural component in MBH rhetoric. This will help us to analyze the intellectual frameworks and theoretical approaches, which surround MBH ideology in both dynamic and cognitive aspects.
- The study also presents MBH intellectual bases, through discussing the most important pillars of MBH thought. It also presents MBH essential concepts and terms, which are distinguished by generalization and vagueness. The group claims the originality of these concepts and terms in the legal legitimate environment and Islamic jurisprudence.

- Although there were many pivotal figures who contributed to a certain extent to the emergence of MBH group, and devising its general tendencies; but Hassan al-Banna and Sayyid Qutb can be considered the most important among those characters. Al-Banna devised the foundation of the organizational and ideological structure and the general targets of the group; while the ideas of Qutb formed the basis/source from which most extremist and terrorist organizations had derived their justifications to practice terrorism and provoke to topple the ruling regimes.
- Ideas and ideology devised by Hassan al-Banna represent the pillars of MBH organizational and administrative structure, which kept seeking to manifest those ideas and principles in reality, particularly the efforts relating to its political project for capturing power and achieving the Mastery of the World.




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