

## CONTEMPORARY HISTORIOGRAPHY IN SYRIA

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Contemporary professional Arab historiography is represented by a number of schools. After Egyptian and Lebanese historiography, which played a leading role, Syrian historiography is one of the most important schools. In spite of the existence of historical writing in Syria in the 1920s and 1930s, professional historiography emerged only after the establishment of Department of History at Damascus University in 1948. Among the founders of the Syrian professional historiography were Muḥammad Duhmān, Muḥammad Kāmil ʿAyyād, Qusṭanṭīn Zurayq, Nūr al-Dīn Ḥāṭūm, ʿAbd al-Karīm Gharāyibah, and Aḥmad Badr. A number of Syrian historians had been brought up under the influence of the Egyptian historical school, especially in the era of union between Syria and Egypt: Aḥmad Ṭarabayn, Muḥammad Khayr Fāris, Tawfīq ʿAlī Birrū, and Laylā al-Ṣabbāgh. The Egyptian school remained a very productive source in the 1970s as well. Yūsuf Jamīl Naʿisah, Khayriyya Qāsimiyya, Amīna Bīṭār, and ʿĀdil Zaytūn represent the middle-aged historical generation at Damascus University. A strong school of Syrian historiography was based on British academic traditions. ʿAbd al-Karīm Rāfiq, who was given his PhD in London, is today one of the best known Syrian historians in Ottoman history of Syria. In the field of medieval Islamic history, the most prominent historian is Suhayl Zakkār. The first and the best known Marxist historian is ʿAbdullāh Ḥannā, who obtained his training at Leipzig University. A number of historians with French professional background are paying scholarly attention to the contemporary history of Syria, for example ʿAlī Sulṭān, and Najāḥ Muḥammad. The new generation of historians mostly educated in Syria is represented by associate professors and lecturers specializing in medieval Arab and Islamic history.

Modern and contemporary Arab historiography is represented by a number of schools. After Egyptian and Lebanese historiography, which played a leading role in the development of Arab professional historiography, Syrian historiography is one of the most important historiographical schools in the Middle East. The history of Syrian modern and contemporary historiography is attracting more and more attention from the side of both Arab and European scholars.<sup>1</sup>

In spite of the existence of historical writing in Syria in the 1920s and 1930s, professional historiography emerged only after the Second World War. In 1946, the Faculty of Art was established at Damascus University, with two original departments, the Department of Arabic Language and Literature, and the De-

partment of Social Sciences (History and Geography). The institutional basis for contemporary professional historiography in Syria was created in 1948, when an independent Department of History was created at Damascus University. This department unfortunately remained the only one in Syria.<sup>2</sup>

At first, the main focus of historical writing and teaching were two subjects. The first was classical Arab history, with special emphasis on the age of the Prophet Muhammad, the early Caliphs, the Umayyad and the Abbasid dynasties, and the history of Muslim Spain. The second focus was the contemporary national history of Syria, especially the Arab struggle against Turkish and French rule, in accordance with the conception of George Antonius (1893–1942), whose famous book *Arab Awakening* was translated into Arabic for the first time in 1946 in Damascus. This corresponded to the general methodological approach based on pan-Arab nationalism, the prominent theorist of which was Sāṭi' al-Ḥuṣrī (1880–1968). Later, scholarly interest in other periods, namely the pre-Islamic history of Syria, and in Ottoman rule in Syria, developed. Many Syrian professional historians were educated abroad, at first mostly in France, Great Britain, Egypt, and Spain, later in Germany, the Soviet Union, Turkey, and other countries. Recently, the Damascus University has become able to produce its own PhD graduates.

In the first years, much had to be done in organizing education at the newly established Department of History. Among the founders of Syrian professional historiography were Muḥammad Aḥmad Duhmān (1897–1983) and Muḥammad Kāmil 'Ayyād (1901–). Prof. Duhmān became famous as an editor of narrative sources, as Ibn 'Asākir's (d. 1176) history of Damascus, and Muḥammad Ibn Ṭulūn's (d. 1545) chronicles of early Ottoman Damascus.<sup>3</sup> Prof. 'Ayyād was an excellent teacher of the whole generation of historians. He graduated in 1929 in Berlin as a pupil of cultural historian Kurt Breysig. 'Ayyād's dissertation dealt with the philosophy of the great medieval historian Ibn Khaldūn. He helped the new Department of History with great flexibility, as he was teaching even Ro-

<sup>1</sup> Ṭarabayn, A., *Al-tārikh wa 'l-mu'arrikhūn al-ʿArab fi 'l-ʿaṣr al-ḥadīth* (Dimashq, 1970); Rafeq, Abdul-Karim, "Ottoman Historical Research in Syria since 1946," *Asian Research Trends: Humanities and Social Science Review* (Tokyo, 1992), No. 2, pp. 45–78; Freitag, U., "Die Entwicklung der syrischer Geschichtswissenschaft," in *Periplus 1993. Jahrbuch für außeneuropäische Geschichte* (Münster, Hamburg Lit Verlag), pp. 83–93; Gombár, E., "Modern Historiography in the Syrian Region," *Archiv orientální* 61 (Prague, 1993), pp. 363–371; Gombár, E., "Sunnī Historians of Aleppo in the Late Ottoman Period," in *Acta viennensia ottomanica* (Wien, 1999), pp. 129–133.

<sup>2</sup> *Dalīl kullīyat al-ādāb wa 'l-ʿulūm al-insāniyya, 1995–1996* (Dimashq), p. 4.

<sup>3</sup> Duhmān, M. A. (ed.), *Ibn Kannān: Murūj al-sundusiyya fasiḥa fi talkhiṣ tārikh al-Ṣālihiyya* (Dimashq, 1947); Duhmān, M. A. (ed.), *Ibn Ṭulūn: Al-qalā'id al-jawhariyya fi tārikh al-Ṣālihiyya*, I–II (Dimashq, 1949–56); Duhmān, M. A. (ed.), *Ibn 'Asākir: Tārikh madīnat Dimashq*, X (Dimashq, 1963); Duhmān, M. A. (ed.), *Ibn Ṭulūn: Flām al-warā bi-man walā nā'iban min al-Atrāk bi-Dimashq al-Shām al-kubrā* (Dimashq, 1964).

man history to help Damascus University to surmount its lack of specialists.<sup>4</sup> Lebanese historians also contributed to the beginnings of teaching history at Damascus University. They included Prof. Qusṭanṭīn Zurayq (1909–), Rector of Damascus University in the years 1949–1952, who stood at the cradle of professional historical studies at the university. Prof. Zurayq was born in Damascus into a Greek Orthodox family, enrolled at the American University of Beirut and the University of Chicago, and received his PhD degree from Princeton University. He became a well-known theorist of Arab nationalism, national consciousness, and of historical methodology.<sup>5</sup>

This generation of founders is represented by other personalities. Prof. Samī Dahhān was a specialist in both medieval and modern Arab history and chief editor of Ibn ʿAdīm's (d. 1262) history of Aleppo and Ibn Shaddād's (d. 1285) history of Damascus, and George Ḥaddād studied the political heritage of Fāris al-Khūrī.<sup>6</sup> Prof. Nūr al-Dīn Ḥāṭūm, born in Damascus, is a famous historian with a wide spectrum of research interest concentrated on European history. After teaching at secondary school, he spent seven years studying in France, where he received his PhD certificate in Paris in 1945. In 1947, he became one of the founders of Faculty of Arts, where he twice served as dean (1958–60 and 1964–65). In 1954 he was named Professor and head of the Department of History in the years 1954–1969. He was also active as visiting professor at the Institute of Arab Research and Studies of the Arab League in Cairo (1958–73) and at Jordan University (1965–68). In 1969 he was named Professor at Kuwait University, where he stayed until 1983.<sup>7</sup> Prof. Muḥammad Ḥarb Farzāt was also the chief of the Department of History at Damascus University. He accomplished his PhD in France (1972) and specializes in the ancient history of the Near East.<sup>8</sup> Prof. Nabīh ʿĀqil served twice as dean of the Faculty of Arts. He is a specialist in medieval Arab history. Among others, Salīm ʿĀdil ʿAbd al-Ḥaqq, Shākīr Muṣṭafā, Ṣalāḥ Madanī, and Hishām al-Ṣafadī should be mentioned.

Prof. ʿAbd al-Karīm Gharāyibā (1923–) was one of the early Syrian scholars trained first at the American University of Beirut and then at the University of

<sup>4</sup> Freitag, "Die Entwicklung der syrischer Geschichtswissenschaft," pp. 84–85.

<sup>5</sup> Faris, H. A., "Constantine K. Zurayk: Advocate of Rationalism in Modern Arab Thought," in *Arab Civilization. Challenges and Responses. Studies in Honor of Constantine K. Zurayk*, ed. G. N. Atiyeh, I. Oweiss (State University of New York Press, 1988), pp. 1–41.

<sup>6</sup> Dahhān, S. (ed.), *Ibn al-ʿAdīm: Zubdat ḥalab fī tārikh Ḥalab*, I–III (Dimashq, 1951, 1954, 1968); Dahhān, S. (ed.), *Ibn Shaddād: Al-aʿlāq al-khaṣira fī dhikr umarāʾ al-Shām wa ʾl-Jazīra* (Dimashq, 1956); Dahhān, S., *Muḥāḍarāt ʿan Shakīb Arslān* (Qāhira, 1958); Ḥaddād, G., Khabbāz, H., *Fāris al-Khūrī, ḥayātuhu wa ʿasruhu* (Bayrūt, 1952).

<sup>7</sup> Kallās, N., "Nūr al-Dīn Ḥāṭūm. Hayātuhu wa ʿamaluhu," in *Buḥūth wa dirāsāt fī ʾl-tārikh al-ʿarabī muḥdāt ilā ʾl-ustādḥ al-duktūr Nūr al-Dīn Ḥāṭūm* (Dimashq, 1992), pp. 7–11. From among his publications on Arab history, let us mention Ḥāṭūm, N. D., *Muḥāḍarāt ʿan marāḥil al-tārikhiyya li ʾl-qawmiyya al-ʿarabiyya* (Qāhira, 1963).

<sup>8</sup> Farzāt, M. H., *Al-ḥayāt al-ḥizbiyya fī Sūriyā bayn 1920–1955* (Dimashq, 1955).

London. His PhD dissertation *The English Traders in Syria* (1951) remained unpublished. In the 1950s and at the beginning of the 1960s, he was teaching at Damascus University. Then he was obliged to leave Syria to serve as Director General of Antiquities in Jordan. He joined the newly established Jordan University, where he was dean of Faculty of Arts in the 1980s. Prof. Gharāyiba published several books in Arabic on the history of Syria under the Ottoman Turks. His fundamental monograph on modern history of the Arabs, first published in 1984, was widely quoted and deserved several editions.<sup>9</sup>

A number of Syrian professional historians were brought up under the influence of Egyptian historical schools. The first group of contemporary Syrian historians (Ṭarabayn, Fāris, Birrū) wrote their MA and PhD dissertations with Prof. Shafīq Ghurbāl (1894–1961) at the Institute of Arab Research and Studies of the Arab League and Prof. Aḥmad ʿIzzat ʿAbd al-Karīm (1909–1979) at the ʿAyn Shams University since the era of union between Syria and Egypt in the years 1958–1961. Then, other groups of Syrian students came to study Arab history at Egyptian universities.<sup>10</sup>

Prof. Aḥmad Ṭarabayn is one of the best known and most productive Syrian historians. His MA dissertation on the crisis in Lebanon from the 1860s till the First World War was soon published in Damascus and Cairo. His published PhD thesis, which was submitted in Cairo, dealt with the history of pan-Arab unity. Then, he taught as a Professor at Damascus University. At present, he is in service at the University in the United Arab Emirates. Besides the above mentioned published dissertations, he wrote a number of monographs on the modern history of the Arabs. Prof. Ṭarabayn is the author of a fundamental study on the Palestine question from the beginning of the Zionist movement until 1948. He also contributed much to the study of modern Arab historiography.<sup>11</sup>

The modern history of the Arab Maghrib became the central interest of Prof. Muḥammad Khayr Fāris (1929–). His MA thesis under supervision of Prof. Ghurbāl was devoted to the Moroccan question between 1900 and 1912. He accomplished his PhD degree in 1966 in Egypt. In 1969, he published his famous monograph on the history of Algeria under Ottoman rule. Muḥammad Khayr

<sup>9</sup> Gharāyiba, A. K., *Muqaddimat tārikh al-ʿArab al-ḥadīth 1500–1918* (Dimashq, 1960); Gharāyiba, A. K., *Dirāsāt fī tārikh Ifrīqiyya al-ʿarabiyya* (Dimashq, 1960); Gharāyiba, A. K., *Al-ʿArab wa 'l-Atrāk* (Dimashq, 1961); Gharāyiba, A. K., *Sūriyā fī 'l-qarn al-tāsif ʿashar, 1840–1876* (Qāhira, 1962); Gharāyiba, A. K., *Qiyām al-dawla al-saʿūdiyya* (Qāhira, 1974); Gharāyiba, A. K., *Tārikh al-ʿArab al-ḥadīth* (Bayrūt, 1984).

<sup>10</sup> Gombár, E., "Modern and Contemporary Egypt in the Egyptian Historiography," *Archiv orientální* 60 (Prague, 1992), pp. 157–166.

<sup>11</sup> Ṭarabayn, A., *Al-waḥda al-ʿarabiyya 1916–1958* (Dimashq, 1966); Ṭarabayn, A., *Azmat al-ḥukm fī Lubnān 1842–1861* (Dimashq, 1966); Ṭarabayn, A., *Lubnān mundhu ʿahd al-taṣarrufiyya ilā bidāyat al-intidāb 1861–1920* (Qāhira, 1968); Ṭarabayn, A., *Qadiyyat Filasṭīn 1897–1948, I–II* (Dimashq 1968); Ṭarabayn, A., *Al-waḥda al-ʿarabiyya fī tārikh al-Mashriq al-muʿāṣir 1800–1958* (Dimashq, 1970); Ṭarabayn, A., *Filasṭīn fī khiṭaṭ al-sahyūniyya wa 'l-istifmār* (Qāhira, 1972); Ṭarabayn, A., *Tārikh al-Mashriq al-ʿarabī al-muʿāṣir* (Dimashq, 1981).

Fāris was named Professor of the modern history of the Arab Maghrib at Damascus University, and until 1998, he was the head of the Department of History.<sup>12</sup>

One of the most talented Syrian historians was another disciple of the Egyptian historical school Tawfīq ʿAlī Birrū. He obtained his MA in 1960 under the supervision of Prof. Ghurbāl at Institute of Arab Research and Studies of the Arab League, and his PhD thesis in 1965 under Prof. ʿAbd al-Karīm at ʿAyn Shams University. He was Professor of history at Aleppo University. His knowledge of Turkish enabled him to study Ottoman documents. He published two monographs on the Arab-Turkish relations in the constitutional period (1908–14) and during the First World War.<sup>13</sup>

Among the Syrian students in Egypt was Mrs. Laylā al-Ṣabbāgh, who submitted her PhD dissertation in 1966 at Cairo University. She studied European communities in Bilād al-Shām during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Her sources were based mainly on the judicial records. As Professor of modern history at Damascus University, she became a well known specialist in the history of Syrian society in the early Ottoman period.<sup>14</sup>

The history of Muslim Spain is a traditional interest of Syrian scholars based on old historical relations between Syria and Andalus in the period of the Umayyad Dynasty.<sup>15</sup> This subject was at first scholarly studied by Khālīd al-Ṣūfī.<sup>16</sup> However, the best known contemporary Syrian scholar in this field is Prof. Aḥmad Badr. He received his PhD degree at Universidad Complutense in Madrid in 1963. Badr was named Professor of history of the Arab Maghrib and Andalus at the Damascus University, where he also served as the head of the Department of History. After retirement, he is professionally active abroad. He published a fundamental monograph on the history and culture of al-Andalus in three volumes.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Fāris, M. Kh., *Al-mas'ala al-maghribiyya 1900–1912* (Bayrūt, 2nd ed. 1980); Fāris, M. Kh., *Tārīkh al-Jazā'ir al-ḥadīth* (Dimashq, 1969, 2nd ed. Bayrūt, n. d.).

<sup>13</sup> Birrū, T., *Al-ʿArab wa 'l-Turk fī 'l-ʿahd al-dustūrī al-ʿuthmānī* (Qāhira, 1960, 2nd ed. Dimashq, 1991); Birrū, T., *Al-qaḍiyya al-ʿarabiyya fī 'l-ḥarb al-ʿālamīyya al-ūlā 1914–1918* (Dimashq, 1989).

<sup>14</sup> Ṣabbāgh, L., *Al-mujtamaʿ al-ʿarabī al-sūrī fī matlaʿ al-ʿahd al-ʿuthmānī* (Dimashq, 1973); Ṣabbāgh, L., *Tārīkh al-ʿArab al-ḥadīth wa 'l-muʿāṣir* (Dimashq, 1981–82); Ṣabbāgh, L., *Min aʿlām al-fikr al-ʿarabī fī 'l-ʿaṣr al-ʿuthmānī, Muḥammad al-Amīn al-Muḥibbī* (Dimashq, 1986); *Al-jāliyyāt al-urubbiyya fī bilād al-Shām fī 'l-ʿahd al-ʿuthmānī*, I–II (Dimashq, 1989).

<sup>15</sup> Gombár, E., “Muslim Spain in the Arab Historiography,” in *Zafarnāme. Memorial Volume of Felix Tauer*, ed. Rudolf Veselý and Eduard Gombár (Praha: Enigma, 1996), p. 130.

<sup>16</sup> Ṣūfī, Kh., *Tārīkh al-ʿArab fī Isbāniyā: Jumhūriyyat Banī Jawhar* (Dimashq, 1959); Ṣūfī, Kh., *Tārīkh al-ʿArab fī Isbāniyā: Nihāyat al-khilāfa al-umawiyya fī 'l-Andalus* (Ḥalab, 1963); Soufi, Kh., “Los Banu Yawhar de Córdoba,” *Revista del Instituto Egipcio de Estudios Islámicos* VI (Madrid 1958), pp. 121–142.

<sup>17</sup> Badr, A., *Dirāsāt fī tārīkh al-Andalus wa ḥadāratihā*, I (Dimashq, 1969, 2nd ed. 1972); Badr, A., *Tārīkh al-Andalus fī 'l-qarn al-rābiʿ al-hijrī*, II (Dimashq, 1974); Badr, A., *Tārīkh al-Andalus*, III (Dimashq, 1983).

A strong school of Syrian historiography is based on British academic traditions. Prof. ʿAbd al-Karīm Rāfiq (1931–) is today one of the best known Syrian historians. As one of Prof. Gharāyibā's students, he was granted his PhD in 1964 in London. His thesis, which was later published, was called *The Province of Damascus, 1723–83*. Rāfiq then served as Professor of modern Arab history at Damascus University. After retirement, he continued his historical research on the Middle East in the United States. His PhD dissertation prompted him to publish a larger monograph on Syria and Egypt under Ottoman rule, which was widely used by university students. Later on, and after new research, Rāfiq wrote his famous and important monograph, called "The Arabs and the Ottomans", dealing with the Arab dimension of the Ottoman Empire between 1517 and 1916. The book studies the Arab reaction to Ottoman rule in four phases: Ottoman power, weakness, decline, and reform. This monograph served as a textbook for students in a number of Arab universities.<sup>18</sup> Prof. Rāfiq also published a number of articles in Arabic, English, and German, dealing with different subjects, such as the importance of the law-court registers as a historical source, land tenure, craft organizations, riots in Damascus in 1860.<sup>19</sup>

In the field of medieval Islamic history, the most prominent Syrian historian is Prof. Suhayl Zakkār. He studied at the University of London (PhD 1969) and was named Professor of Islamic history at Damascus University. The focus of his scholarly interest is the medieval history of Syria, especially the Ḥamdānīd period in Aleppo and the epoch of the Crusades. He also edited the chronicle of Damascus by Ibn al-Qalānīsī (d. 1160), and the famous history of Aleppo by Ibn al-ʿAdīm.<sup>20</sup>

The first and the best known Marxist historian in Syria is ʿAbdullāh Ḥannā (1932–). He obtained his training in the early 1960s at Leipzig University. In spite of a huge publication activity and esteem among professional historians, he was never allowed to enter the academic life at Damascus University. In his historical writings, he had devoted special interest to the workers movement, agrarian question, peasant history, and the study of land tenure. He published a

<sup>18</sup> Rafeq, A. K., *The Province of Damascus, 1723–1783* (Beirut, 1966); Rāfiq, A. K., *Bilād al-Shām wa Miṣr, 1516–1798* (Dimashq, 1967); Rāfiq, A. K., *Al-ʿArab wa 'l-ʿUthmāniyyūn, 1516–1916* (Dimashq, 1974, 2nd ed. Dimashq, 1993); Rāfiq, A. K., *Ghazza, dirāsa ʿumrāniyya wa ijtīmāʿiyya wa iqtisādiyya min khilāl al-wathāʾiq al-sharʿiyya, 1273–77 h./1857–61 m.* (Dimashq, 1980); Rāfiq, A. K., *Buḥūth fi 'l-tārikh al-iqtisādī wa 'l-ijtimāʿī li-bilād al-Shām fi 'l-ʿaṣr al-hadīth* (Dimashq, 1985).

<sup>19</sup> The complete bibliography of Rāfiq's articles could be found in his "Ottoman Historical Research in Syria since 1946," pp. 75–76.

<sup>20</sup> Zakkār, S., *The Emirate of Aleppo 1004–1094* (Beirut, 1971); Zakkār, S., *Madkhal ilā tārikh al-ḥurūb al-ṣalibiyya* (Bayrūt, 1973); Zakkār, S., *Akhbār al-Qarāmiṭa fi 'l-Aḥṣāʾ, al-Shām, al-ʿIrāq, al-Yaman* (Bayrūt, 1980); Zakkār, S. (ed.), *Ibn al-Qalānīsī: Tārikh Dimashq* (Dimashq, 1983); Zakkār, S. (ed.), *Ibn al-ʿAdīm: Bughyat al-ṭalab fi tārikh Ḥalab* (Dimashq, 1988).



monograph on peasant revolts in the Hawran region. He also paid attention to the intellectual life in Syria and Lebanon.<sup>21</sup>

The Egyptian historiographical school remained one of the very productive sources of Syrian professional historiography in the late Nasserist period and in the first half of the 1970s. One of the representatives of the middle-aged historical generation is Yūsuf Jamīl Naʿīṣah (1935–), who studied in Egypt with Prof. ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz Sulaymān Nawār. However, Naʿīṣah was expelled from Egypt during the rule of President Sadat. In the 1970s, he edited narrative sources on the Ottoman history of Damascus (Hasan Āghā al-ʿAbd, Aḥmad Ḥilmī al-ʿAllāf). After his second return to Egypt, he accomplished his PhD in 1984. Naʿīṣah was named Professor of modern and contemporary history of the Arab East. He published an excellent and highly professional two-volume monograph on the history of Damascus in the period 1772–1840. This book is a good example of a new methodological school of Syrian social and economic historiography.<sup>22</sup>

Mrs. Khayriyya Qāsimiyya (1937–) is another historian educated in Egypt. Born in Haifa, she studied at Damascus University. Since 1967, she had been a disciple of Prof. Muḥammad Anīs (1921–1986) at Cairo University, where she accomplished her MA in 1969, and PhD in 1972. Since 1972, she has been a member of staff at Damascus University, in 1977 as associate professor, 1984 as full professor. In 1998, she was named head of the Department of History. Prof. Qāsimiyya is well known abroad, she has visited a number of universities, in 1970 London and Oxford (with Albert Hourani), between 1972–1976 Research Centre of Palestinian Studies in Beirut, 1976–1979 Institute of Arab Research and Studies in Cairo, 1983–1984 Rotterdam, 1989–1990 Chicago, 1993–1994 Princeton (with Leon Carl Brown), and 1995–1996 University of King Saud in Riyadh. Prof. Qāsimiyya specializes in modern and contemporary Arab history. In her published PhD thesis, she studied the history of Damascus under the Arab government of Fayṣal. This monograph is highly appreciated by specialists on the subject. Qāsimiyya also studied the Palestinian question and contributed to the editions of documents on modern and contemporary Syria.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Ḥannā, A., *Al-ḥaraka al-ʿummāliyya fī Sūriyā wa Lubnān 1900–1945* (Dimashq, 1973); Ḥannā, A., *Al-ittijāhāt al-fikriyya fī Sūriyā wa Lubnān* (Dimashq, 1973); Ḥannā, A., *Al-qadiyya al-zirāʿiyya wa 'l-ḥarakāt al-fallāḥiyya fī Sūriyā wa Lubnān*, I 1820–1920 (Bayrūt, 1975), II 1920–1945 (Bayrūt, 1978); Ḥannā, A., *Ḥarakat al-ʿamma al-dimashqiyya fī 'l-qarnayn al-thāmin ʿashar wa 'l-tāsif ʿashar* (Bayrūt, 1985); Ḥannā, A., *Tārīkh al-fallāḥīn fī 'l-waṭan al-ʿarabī*, I–III (Dimashq, 1986); Ḥannā, A., *Min al-ittijāhāt al-fikriyya fī Sūriyā wa Lubnān, al-niṣf al-awwal min al-qarn al-ʿishrīn* (Dimashq, 1987); Ḥannā, A., *Al-ʿāmiyya wa 'l-intifādāt al-fallāḥiyya, 1850–1918, fī Jabal Ḥawrān* (Dimashq, 1990).

<sup>22</sup> Naʿīṣa, Y. J., *Mujtamāʿ madīnat Dimashq 1186–1256 h./1772–1840 m.*, I–II (Dimashq, 1986).

<sup>23</sup> Qāsimiyya, Kh., *Al-ḥukūma al-ʿarabiyya fī Dimashq, 1918–1920* (Qāhira, 1971, 2nd ed. Bayrūt, 1982); Qāsimiyya, Kh., *Al-nashāt al-ṣahyūnī fī 'l-Mashriq al-ʿarabī wa ṣadāhu, 1908–1918* (Bayrūt, 1973).

Syrian graduates from Egyptian historiographical schools also specialize in medieval Islamic history. Mrs. Amīna Bīṭār, who studied in Damascus with Prof. Zakkār, also continued her studies in Egypt, where she received her PhD diploma in 1975. She is Professor in the classical history of Islam and the Arabs.<sup>24</sup> ʿĀdil Zaytūn is also Professor at the Damascus University specialized in Medieval Arab and Islamic history, who was granted his PhD in 1978 in Egypt.

A number of historians with French professional background are paying more scholarly attention to the contemporary history of Syria. ʿAlī Sulṭān belongs to the younger generation of Syrian historians who specialize in contemporary history. Sulṭān accomplished his PhD dissertation on Syrian history 1908–1920 at the Université Aix-en-Provence. This well-documented monograph was published in Arabic in two volumes.<sup>25</sup> Mrs. Najāḥ Muḥammad (1944–) was granted her PhD in 1983 at the Université de Paris I Sorbonne. In 1995, she was appointed Professor of contemporary Arab history. She published a detailed monograph on the political history of Syria between 1948 and 1963.<sup>26</sup> Mrs. Samar Bahlawān was educated in Romania (PhD 1981). She is associate professor specializing in the Palestinian question. Another talented historian is Dhūqān Qarqūṭ. He published a monograph on the French mandate in Syria 1920–1939.<sup>27</sup> Recently, a new study on the French mandate in Syria was published, the author of which is Dr. Ḥikmat ʿAlī Ismāʿīl.<sup>28</sup>

Prof. Maḥmūd ʿĀmir (1945–) studied in Istanbul, where he wrote his PhD dissertation in 1982 with Prof. Nacat Küyünc. He specializes in Ottoman political and economic studies. The generation of Syrian historians who graduated at Damascus University is represented by associate professors mostly specializing in medieval Arab and Islamic history: Muḥammad Zayūd (PhD 1987) for the Abbasid period, ʿAlī Aḥmad (PhD 1988) for the medieval Arab Maghrib, and Ibrāhīm Zaʿrūr (PhD 1990) for the Mamluk period, who became also editor of al-ʿAzīmī's (d. 1161) chronicle.<sup>29</sup>

Besides the above mentioned professors and associate professors, the staff of the Department of History at the Damascus University has a number of lecturers, who accomplished their PhD in Syria and Russia. Muḥammad Ḥabīb Ṣāliḥ (1991 Russia) and Mrs. Kāmīliyyā Abū Jabal (1992 Syria) are active in the field of modern and contemporary Arab history. The field of medieval Islamic history is represented by Fāris Būz (1988 Syria), Muḥsin Yūnis (1989 Syria), Mrs.

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<sup>24</sup> Bīṭār, A., *Al-ḥayāt al-siyāsiyya wa aḥamm maẓāhir al-ḥadāra fī bilād al-Shām* (Dimashq, 1980).

<sup>25</sup> Sulṭān, A., *Tārīkh Sūriyā 1908–1920*, I–II (Dimashq, 1987).

<sup>26</sup> Muḥammad, N., *Al-ḥaraka al-qawmiyya al-ʿarabiyya fī Sūriyā*, I (Dimashq, 1987).

<sup>27</sup> Qarqūṭ, Dh., *Taṭawwur al-ḥaraka al-waṭaniyya fī Sūriyā 1920–1939* (Bayrūt, 1975, 2nd ed. Dimashq, 1989).

<sup>28</sup> Ismāʿīl, Ḥ. A., *Nizām al-intidāb al-faransī ʿalā Sūriyā 1920–1926* (Dimashq, 1998).

<sup>29</sup> Zaʿrūr, I. (ed.), *Muḥammad Ibn ʿAlī al-ʿAzīmī: Tārīkh Ḥalab* (Dimashq, 1984).



Wafā' Jūnī (1991 Syria), Mrs. Nuhā Ḥamīd (1991 Syria), Mrs. Samīḥa Abū 'l-Faḍl (1992 Syria), Mrs. Fāyiza Kallās (1993 Syria), Mrs. Shukrān Kharbūṭlī (1992 Syria), Fawzī Muṣṭafā (1992 Russia), and Iktimāl Ismā'īl (1993 Syria).

In conclusion, the efforts of non-professional Syrian historiography should be mentioned. General Muṣṭafā Ṭalās (1932–), in particular, contributed much to the popularization of the modern and contemporary national history of Syria, not only as author, but especially as sponsor and publisher in the Dar Talas publishing house.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Ṭalās, M., *Al-thawra al-ʿarabiyya al-kubrā* (Dimashq, 2nd ed. 1981).