

The Cultural Life in Damascus in the Last Ottoman Age (1876-1918)

Dr. Mohamed Ahmad*

Abstract

This research highlights the cultural life and thought in Damascus in the last Ottoman rule. It brings into sight the historical dimension of the city of Damascus which is considered one of the most important cultural centers of knowledge in the Arab east. It speaks also about the importance of the mass knowledge means as printing, press and libraries and their role in the flourishing of the cultural life and keeping the cultural heritage in Damascus.

This study aims to contribute in the creating of the greatness of Damascus in consideration of being the capital of the Arabic Culture for 2008 in which his Excellency President Bashar Al-Assad said "Damascus is the capital of the Arabic culture and it is not merely a city or capital or a geographical place located in the heart of Graeater Syria. Damascus has a large and total meaning in the Arabic conscience, in its capacity as the city of spiritual wealth, its source and creator".

* Department of History, Faculty of Letters, Damascus University
For the paper in Arabic see pages (303-330).