

Sterling prose from written homework #2
9/29/2015

Erudition: scholarship, showing great knowledge

“By practice, if not by name, it was a secular sphere. This crucial development raised the question of what, precisely, should be the cultural role of thirteen centuries of Islamic **erudition**” (Di Capua, p. 67)?

Rubicon: “By criticizing modern interpretations of religious law, these women crossed a moral **Rubicon** and showed that the *Nahda* claimed a moral sphere and could not be limited to the abstract principle of progress and sophisticated science-talk” (Di-Capua, p. 66).

Conjoined

Galvanized

Bifurcated: “Thus, while accepting the divided realities of East/West, rational/spiritual, Europe/Islam, rise/decline, and civilized/barbarian, it insisted that a harmonious singular and authentic Arab reality was indeed emerging. This **bifurcated** condition, indeed a deep cultural schism, shaped the *Nahda* and with it the lives of millions of Arab citizens” (Di-Capua, p. 72).

Succinct: “As Albert Hourani, the most integrative historian of this tradition, **succinctly** put it, the new knowledge propagated the realization that ‘from the discoveries of science there could be inferred a system of social morality which was the secret of social strength’” (Di-Capua, p. 65).

Intelligentsia: intellectuals or highly educated people as a group, especially when regarded as possessing culture and political influence

“With hardly any cultural opposition—a reality that would change during the 1880s—the emerging Syrian and Lebanese **intelligentsia** bypassed existing modes of indigenous knowledge such as biography, travel literature, and other classic genres” (Di-Capua, p. ?).

"For the reader of the book is more discerning of its faults than its author" (Zaidan, p. 319).

“...liberation of the mind from what was considered by historical actors as ‘tradition and superstition,’ a journey of self-realization, rejection of pre-modern political systems, and most importantly, the positivist realization that knowledge is gained only from experience” (Di-Capua, p. ?).