

Name of Scholar: Sumama Faisal  
Name of Supervisor: Prof. Mohammad Ayub  
Department: Arabic  
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Contribution to Independence of Egypt and  
India (Contrasting Study)

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### **ABSTRACT**

When the erstwhile mighty and powerful Mogul empire of India fell apart, lost its control over different parts of the subcontinent and shrank into a puppet state virtually confined within the boundaries of the Red fort in Delhi, the British colonialists, who eyed India for a long time, and lurked for a suitable chance to consolidate its position in the subcontinent, grabbed this chance and seized the power in 1857 declaring India as its greatest colony in the world.

The situation was not much different in an overseas country located in the north east of Africa famous like India for its rich culture and civilization since the time immemorial. Egypt, being the cradle of some of the greatest civilizations in history and known for its strategic location, was a dream country which attracted the attention of all the colonial powers. Eventually the British succeeded there too merging Egypt into their vast empire in 1882.

When the people of both the countries found out the interior motives of the British Empire which crossed every limit of brutality and barbarism by oppressing the naïve natives and draining their hard-earned wealth to their treasures in Britain, they kicked off their freedom movement and challenged the tyrant invaders. All the strata of the society come forth to salvage their country. Arabic journalists in Egypt and Urdu journalists in India were in the forefront of the freedom movements in both the counties from the very beginning. They wholeheartedly dedicated themselves for this holy cause. This thesis defines the contribution of Arabic and Urdu journalism to independence of Egypt and India.

Divided into five chapters beside a foreword and a conclusion, this thesis deals with different aspects of the freedom struggle of Egypt and India as depicted and described by the noted Arabic and Urdu journalists of that time. Such

journalistic writings, with many of them being considered literary master pieces of their time, are deemed to be indispensable archives for any historian writing on the history of Egypt and India of the relevant period.

Chapter one (A brief look at journalism and its history in the world) defines journalism, details its origin, and talks about its significance and importance.

Chapter two (Arabic journalism in pre-independence Egypt) talks about origin of Arabic journalism, invention of the printing press and its impact on journalism, and the first Arabic newspaper. It gives a brief look at the early Arabic newspapers and magazines in different parts of the Arab world, and introduces some prominent Arab journalists.

Chapter three (Urdu and Arabic journalism in pre-independence India) deals with the origin and early development of Urdu journalism, and brings out different opinions about the first Urdu newspaper. It also presents a brief history of Urdu journalism and a brief introduction of some noted Urdu journalists.

Chapter four (Freedom movement of Egypt and India) brings out a brief outline of the freedom movement of both the countries.

Chapter five (Contribution of Arabic and Urdu journalism in the freedom movement of Egypt and India) is the essential part of this thesis as it presents a comparative and contrasting study of Arabic and Urdu journalism in terms of their contribution to independence of the two countries.

Divided into six long subchapters, this chapter deals with different dimensions of the topic such as role of Arabic and Urdu journalism in uniting the people, motivating the freedom fighters to fight the foreign rulers, disclosing the heinous policies and conspiracies of the colonialists, depicting the incidents which took place during that period, presenting reports of freedom movements from other parts of the world. Besides, it talks about the British policies to curb the nationalist journalism by imposing gruesome punishments and hefty fines on the Egyptian and Indian journalists at that time. All the six subchapters present a detailed comparative account of the sufferings and torments which befell the freedom fighters in the two countries, as depicted and recorded by Arabic and Urdu journalists.