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## Cultural Identity in Contemporary Arab Educational Thought

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### ABSTRACT

The study aimed at revealing the reality of the "Cultural Identity" in the contemporary Arab thought, by Identifying tracing the most important references constants that the "Cultural Identity" stemmed on.

This study followed the descriptive analytic method: information and data related to the study were gathered, analysed and evaluated. The comparative method is used as well, to study the reality of "the Identity" since the pre-Islam era till present. The questions of the study were answered by referring them to heritage texts.

The study concluded the followings:

1. The person's Identity that distinguishes him is a result of his interaction with his culture that he belongs to.
2. In pre-Islam era, the identity was based on two dimensions: the first was physical and this included knowledge; and the second was non-physical and this was formulated from habits, traditions, customs, and values.
3. At Islam early period, the identity was based on the elimination of tribal fanatical values and the transformation to positive values, which lead to the unification of the Islamic cultural identity.
4. In the Umayyad period, the identity was featured by its pure Arab identity.
5. In the Abbasid period, the identity elevated from the ethnic level to the language level, which is considered as integral factor for identity formulation.
6. At present, "the Identity" is a national identity, aligned with the one political status, and connected with Arabism, the varied geographical environments and the administrative multiplicity, hence, appeared what is called the identity of the Arab World.
7. The references of the "cultural identity" in the modern educational thought are multi, and the most prominent of these elements are Islam, nationalism, secularism and socialism, taking into consideration that Islam and Arabism are the first references for the identity unification and preservation.

**Keywords:** Identity, Cultural, Cultural Identity.

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