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The Peace on The Horizon - 75 Years after The World War 2 in the Middle East (41)

Chapter 2 Global wave – The end of colonial era and the emerging two super powers

041 Comparison French colonial rule with British one (3/3)



On the other hand, the UK accumulated wise experience through the long colonial control during the British Empire era. The UK assigned Hussein's two sons as the king of Jordan and Iraq respectively. They were descendants of prophet Muhammad, but they were swept away from Makkah by Saudi Arabia. In the Western Europe where democracy is common, the monarchy looks like old-fashioned anachronism. But in the Middle East it was still a world where tribes could make their breadth, and Islamic religion was rooted in life. Western European republican or parliamentary democracy was premature in the Middle East. The UK looked at the reality of the Middle East with cool-headedness.

During the World War I, UK military officer Thomas Edward Lawrence, T.E. Lawrence, being nicknamed "Lawrence of Arabia", helped Abdullah Hussein, the second son of the Sheriff of Makkah and later the king of Jordan. T.E. Lawrence was an advisor of Abdullah, although he was a mere secret agent of British government. In 1921, Abdullah became the ruler of the Emirates of Transjordan, and in 1946 the country became independent as Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. His son, Crown Prince Hussein was sent to UK to study at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Sandhurst is renowned training institution for young princes in the Middle East studying how to be a good ruler. UK has conciliated Hashemite into the UK's ally.

The Hashemite was the ruler who has been sent to Jordan by UK. But for ordinary Arabs it was enough that the ruler was the descendant of the Prophet Muhammad. They thought UK had given them a precious gift. An Arabic merchant in the capital city of Amman passionately welcomed the ruler. His

son, Khatib who was born in 1939 when the World War II began, was only seven years old at that time. He did not know the real meaning of the independence of his country. But he clearly could remember that his father enthusiastically welcoming the new ruler.

(To be continued ----)

Areha Kazuya

(From an ordinary citizen in the cloud)