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After World War II, many nations in Asia, the Middle East and Africa achieved the independence. They became free from European imperialism. The reasons of independence were different each other depend on ethnicity, religion, history and so on. But the biggest factor was ethnicity.

Pan - Arabism raised by the Baath Party in Syria was a movement aimed at solidarity of Arab peoples. Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt was a man who was chasing it desperately. In the First Arab Israeli War in 1948, Egypt could not defeat Israel. But when the 1st Asian African Conference (called as Bandung Conference) was held in 1955, Egypt established the prestige in the Arab region as the flagship of non-allied countries. In Suez War (Second Middle East War) in 1956, Nasser lost the war militarily due to the occupation of the Sinai Peninsula by Israel. But politically speaking, he won the war because the world recognized the nationalization of Suez Canal by Egypt. The result of the war was neither victory nor defeat.

Through these experiences, Nasser became confident that the overwhelming alliance of the Arab peoples could be the only way to defeat imminent enemy Israel, and to let the world recognize the unified power of Arabs. Nasser had a thought that the heyday of Arab and Islam started in the era of Caliphate by Prophet Muhammad in Makkah in the 7th century, and the Umayyad dynasty of Damascus and the Abbasid dynasty of Baghdad created the great heritage of Arab and Islam. In the era of Umayyad dynasty they conquered the Iberian Peninsula in the Western Europe. In the

Abbasid era their territory was extended to the east of India. At that time Arab Islamic world was more superior to European Christian world not only in academic field but also in culture. Such accomplishment was attributable to the unity between the ethnicity of Arabs and the belief of Islam.

(To be continued ----)

Areha Kazuya

(From an ordinary citizen in the cloud)