EGYPTIAN INFLUENCES ON MALAYA’S MUSLIM KAUM MUDA (YOUNG FACTION) BEFORE WORLD WAR II

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Abstract
The Kaum Muda (Young Faction) traced its origin from the reformist thought of Rashid Ridâ who published the journal al-Manâr in Egypt. To disseminate their reformist thought, the Young Faction published al-Imâm on 23 July 1906, a journal which was directly influenced by al-Manâr. Apart from publishing the journal, the Kaum Muda also published books and novels with reformist themes, particularly on the emancipation of woman. Together with the printed media, the Kaum Muda also used the madrasah for modern religious instruction, which was associated with the reformist thought, to spread their ideas and bring progress to Malay society.

Introduction
The Middle Eastern-originated source of influence, which was particularly important and had a significant impact on the Malays since the beginning of the twentieth century, was from Egypt. The Egyptian influence spread in Malaya through the journals published and the religious schools established by the reformist group, who were better known as Kaum Muda (The Young Faction). At the beginning, the thought propagated by the Kaum Muda was not well received by the Malays because, in general, they were rather progressive in their thinking with regard to the practice of Islam. To the conservative section of the Malay society, the Kaun Tua (The Old Faction), the idea propagated by their rival was considered alien to their daily religious practices and had to be stopped from spreading in the Malay community.