The aim of our study is to explore the state of Human Development in the Arab World through the UNDP's first Arab Human Development Report, and to refer to the debate surrounding it. We argue that the concerns of the authors of the Report can be traced to the nineteenth century Arab Nahda Debate. We argue that the Arab Human Development Report has to be understood as a continuation of that debate, which aims at modernizing Arab societies by linking modernity with the Arab Islamic cultural heritage.

The main sources of the study are the 2002 and 2003 Arab Human Development Reports. We have used various types of sources, such as Reports of international organizations, English, French and Arabic newspaper articles. Arabic development related written sources were composed mainly of the publications of the Centre for Arab Unity Studies (Beirut).