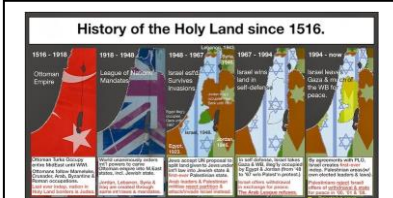
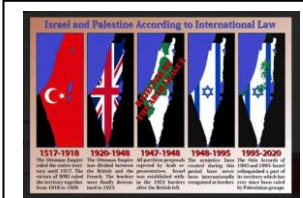


ZIONISM Aim: How did Zionism and Nationalism affect the Middle East?

Mini Lecture

- During the 20th century, the Middle East faced great turmoil because of a combination of religious and political conflicts. The rivalry between followers of different branches of Islam led to large scale war (Iran vs. Iraq). The creation of a Jewish-majority country after WWII was an ongoing cause of tension & sometimes war.
- The breakup of the Ottoman Empire after WWI resulted in several new countries in the Middle East. Competition for control of one small territory would develop into a deadly conflict that would continue for decades.
- Jews had battled anti-Semitism for centuries. Particularly in Russia, Jews faced **pogroms**, organized efforts to violently attack Jews, often approved by the government. In the **Kishinev Pogrom** of 1905, more than 100 Jews were murdered.
- Many Jews had concluded that to be safe, Jews need to control their own land. The desire of Jewish people to reestablish an independent homeland where their ancestors had lived in the Middle East is known as **Zionism**.
- Zionism gained strength in the late 19th century as a reaction to the **Dreyfuss Affair**, where a French military officer (Alfred Dreyfuss, who was a Jew) was convicted for treason against the French government. However, when people discovered that the conviction had been based on forged documents, it became clear that anti-Semitism was at the core of the accusations.
- The Dreyfuss Affair inspired a worldwide outcry, especially after the French novelist Emile Zola took up Dreyfuss's cause. Dreyfuss was ultimately pardoned after a time in prison, but the case illustrated just how widespread anti-Semitism was, even in France, one of the countries where Jewish people seemed least oppressed.
- Theodore Herzl**, a well-known Hungarian Jewish intellectual & journalist, used the Affair as evidence that assimilation into European society was a failure. At the **First Zionist Congress** in 1897, he urged the creation of a separate Jewish state. Zionism promoted a close relationship between individual's Jewish identity & his/her relationship with the State of Israel.
- Zionists wanted their state to be established in Palestine because that was where their ancestors lived. In modern times, Palestine was part of the Ottoman Empire, and most of its inhabitants were Arab Muslims. In a new state, Zionists argued, Jews could be free of persecution.
- In 1917, in the midst of WWI, the British foreign secretary Arthur James Balfour issued the **Balfour Declaration**, which favored the establishment in Palestine of a "national home" for the Jewish people.
- The situation was complicated further because also during WWI, a British officer, T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), promised certain Arabs an independent state as well. The British hoped these Arabs would rise against the Ottoman Empire, helping the Allies.
- The end of WWI brought a number of changes to Palestine & the surrounding Arab countries. However, these changes were often controversial.
- In the peace talks that ended WWI, the Allies reduced the Ottoman Empire to the country of Turkey. They could have allowed the people freed from Ottoman rule to form independent states- would have honored "self-determination" followed for people in Eastern Europe. Instead the victors created a **mandate system**, in which they controlled Middle Eastern lands- Britain controlled Iraq, Transjordan & Palestine, France controlled Syria & Lebanon, essentially as colonies.
- The mandate system infuriated many Arabs and set the stage for a nationalist movement known as **Pan-Arabism**, a movement to increase cultural & political unity of all Arabs. Two organizations led the effort to spread Pan Arabism- the **Ba'th Party** (est. 1943), which gained ruling power in Syria in 1963 and in Iraq from the 1960s-2003 under **Saddam Hussein**. The **Arab League** (est. 1945) was organized by Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, & Yemen, they agreed to support Arab cooperation in politics, culture, economics, social programs, & defense.
- In 1952, general Gamal Abdel Nasser, a strong supporter of Pan-Arabism, overthrew Egypt's king & established the Republic of Egypt. Nasser became its second president & strengthened the cause of Pan-Arabism by refusing to align with either the U.S. or U.S.S.R, choosing to focus on Egyptian sovereignty.
- Britain's control of Palestine, coupled with the Balfour Declaration, sent a signal to Zionists. Soon, Jews from Europe & other parts of the Middle East began to immigrate to Palestine. As immigration increased, the Arabs in the area protested their loss of land & traditional Islamic way of life, which led to violence.
- WWII changed the context for Zionism as the death of 6 million Jews in the Holocaust caused many Jews to want control over their own country. This provided yet another impetus for Jewish immigration. The fate of European Jews brought worldwide sympathy for the survivors.
- Britain, trying to hold the line on Jewish immigration in the face of Arab opposition, turned the matter over to the UN General Assembly. In 1948, after the UN divided Palestine into Jewish & Arab sections (**Partition Plan**), the Jewish sections declared itself a new country- Israel.
- War broke out immediately between Israel and Arab countries. Arab forces from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, & Iraq invaded Israel. After several cease-fires, the Israeli army gained the upper hand & brokered armistice agreements with each of its neighbors. Immediately following the truce, about 400,000 Palestinians became **refugees**, living in camps near the Israeli border. Three other Israeli-Arab wars followed:
 - In 1956, Israel, with the support of Britain & France, invaded Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, in part to take back foreign control of the Suez Canal, which had been nationalized by Egypt's government. Following international protests, Israel & its allies were forced to withdraw from Egypt.
 - In the 1967 War (**Six Day War**) Israel fought on three fronts against Egypt, Jordan & Syria and winning/gaining the Gaza Strip from Egypt, the West Bank & East Jerusalem from Jordan, & the Golan Heights from Syria.
 - In the 1973 War (Yom Kippur War), Israel repelled a surprise invasion by Egypt and Syria.
- After 30 years of conflict between Israel & its Arab neighbors, U.S. president Jimmy Carter mediated the **Camp David Accords**, a peace agreement between Egypt & Israel in 1979. While this was a step toward peace in the region, the conflict between Israelis & Palestinians continues.
- Hoping to build on the progress made at Camp David, the **Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)**, a group representing most Palestinians, & Israel began secret negotiations in Oslo, Norway in 1993, which resulted in the **Oslo Accords**. In them, the PLO recognized the right of Israel to exist & in exchange Israel recognized the PLO as a legitimate representative of Palestinians.
- The Oslo Accords indicated that negotiations could lead to a two-state solution to the problems in the region. However, efforts to expand the peace process failed. Thousands of people died in violence in the following decades & tensions remained high.
- The Israeli-Palestinian conflict was one of three causes of conflict in the Middle East. Another conflict was based on ethnic differences between Arabs, Kurds, & Persians. The third was rooted in the religious differences between Sunni & Shia Muslims. Islamic fundamentalism, which can lead to terrorism, became a root of conflict & violence as well.



Review Questions:

- Why is the Dreyfuss Affair a turning point in modern Zionism?
- What conflicting promises did the British make during WWI?
- What wars and peace plans occurred throughout the Arab-Israeli conflict?

Enduring Issue: Nationalism; Zionism; Conflict

Which groups had interests in the future of the Middle East before World War I? Why?

Historical and Geographic Context: The Middle East in the 17th, 18th, and 19th Centuries

Directions: Read the text and examine the images below then answer the questions that follow.



The Middle East

The Middle East is a region of the world that includes sections in western Asia, northeast Africa, and eastern Europe. It includes the modern-day nations of Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Oman. Since the expansion of the first Muslim Empires, the predominate religion in the Middle East has been Islam though there are many different sects of the faith and some areas that are predominately Jewish and Christian.

At its height in the 1600s, the Ottoman Empire controlled most of the Middle East, north Africa, and eastern Europe, but its power declined over the next three centuries. Due to a series of weak and ineffective rulers, corrupt government, nationalist movements within its borders, and European imperialism, Ottoman power diminished.

On the eve of World War I, the aging empire was described by the Czar of Russia as the “Sick man of Europe.”



Ottoman Empire

1683



Ottoman Empire

1913

1. In relation to the area around it, describe where the Middle East is.
2. Why did the Ottoman Empire decline after the 1600s?
3. Why did the Czar of Russia refer to the Ottoman Empire as the “Sick Man of Europe?”

Before the start of World War I, three influential groups with interests in the future of the Middle East were...

1. European Imperialists



Photograph of the British King George V and Queen Mary with Kamil Pasha the Grand Vizier of Turkey and Abbas II, Khedive of Egypt

2. Zionists



Theodor Herzl addresses the Second Zionist Congress in 1898.

3. Arab Nationalists



Photograph of al-Fatat, the Young Arab Society, a small Arab nationalist club, in 1919

Interest Group #1: European Imperialists

Directions: Watch [this video on the Suez Canal](#), read the text and examine the images below then answer the questions that follow.

Before World War I, European countries wanted control of the Middle East because of its strategic position and its oil reserves. The Middle East has always been the crossroads of civilization in the Eastern Hemisphere. It was where the Silk Roads, the Indian Ocean Complex, and the Mediterranean Sea Trading Complex came together, and since the 1400s, the Ottomans had been in control of it.

Europeans used economic pressure to gain control of Ottoman territories. They loaned Middle Eastern governments money to fund projects to modernize their countries, but when the debtors could not pay for the loans, countries like Great Britain, France, and Italy took control of government finances and occupied the region with their troops. Egypt, for example, came under British rule in 1882.

Another example of European imperialism involved the building and control of the Suez Canal. In the 1800s, European countries saw an opportunity to cut the time it took to travel to and from their colonies in Asia by almost half by going through the Isthmus of Suez, a small strip of land connecting Egypt with Asia. In 1856, a former French diplomat made an agreement with the Ottoman ruler of Egypt to create a company to build and operate the Suez Canal for 99 years. The company was initially owned by the French and the Egyptians, but after the Egyptians borrowed money from the British that they could not pay back, the Egyptians sold their shares to the British in 1875. After over a decade of construction, the Suez Canal was opened in 1869. It was in Egypt, but owned by the French and the British and resulted in a greater naval presence for both countries in the area as well as an important commercial trade route for European countries.

With the Ottoman Empire in decline and European imperialism and competition for colonies at its height, European countries hoped to carve up the Middle East among themselves at the end of WWI.

1. Why were Europeans interested in control of the Middle East?
2. Which European countries gained territory of the Ottomans? How?
3. Why was the Suez Canal important to Europeans? How did it affect the Ottoman Empire?

Interest Group #2: Zionists

Directions: Watch [this video from ForCriticalThinkers entitled "The Rise of Arab and Jewish Nationalism" \(0:00-2:27\)](#), read the text and examine the images below then answer the questions that follow.

Zionism is a movement that was started in the late 19th century by the Austro-Hungarian journalist, **Theodor Herzl**. The goal of the movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was to create a homeland for Jewish people in the region of the Middle East called Palestine where, according to Biblical history, the Jewish people originated and were expelled from by the Babylonians and later the Romans. Though the idea of Jewish people returning to Palestine had been around for centuries, the modern movement which eventually led to the founding of Israel started because Jewish people were subject to widespread anti semitism in Europe in the 19th century. The term "Zionism" is derived from the word Zion, referring to Mount Zion, a small mountain near Jerusalem.

Jewish immigration to Palestine started in 1882. By 1914, 90,000 Jewish people had settled in the area. Immigrants came to Palestine first from Russia where as a result of the Russian Revolution pogroms intensified. Later waves of immigration came from Central Europe, Western Europe, and Great Britain. They founded a number of agricultural settlements with financial support from Jewish philanthropists in Western Europe.

The first waves of Jewish immigration to Palestine were small, but the Zionists hoped to establish a nation there. Palestinians, who were mostly Muslim and had lived in the area for centuries, were weary of the increasing number of Jewish immigrants because they worried that the new population was growing too quickly.

1. What is Zionism? What were its goals in the late 19th and early 20th centuries?
2. Who founded the Zionist movement? Why was it founded?
3. Where did the Jewish people want their homeland? Why?

Interest Group #3 Arab Nationalists

Directions: Watch [this video from ForCriticalThinkers entitled "The Rise of Arab and Jewish Nationalism" \(2:27-3:54\)](#), read the text and examine the images below then answer the questions that follow.

Nationalism was a strong force that swept across the world starting with French Revolution in the late 1700s, affecting the unifications of Germany and Italy in the late 1800s, and movements in reaction to imperialism in Africa and Asia in the 19th and 20th centuries. In the Middle East, nationalism was also strong.

The Ottoman Empire was founded in 1299 by a family of nomadic Turks from the region in western Asia known as Asia Minor. Eventually, the Ottoman Empire ruled over vast lands that included a very diverse group of inhabitants. As the Ottoman Empire's control over its territories declined, nationalism among the ethnic groups ruled by the empire inspired rebellion against the Ottomans.

The leaders of some ethnic groups that were critical of the empire's weakness and its willingness to adopt European ideals in the 1800s started to pull away from the empire. For example, in southeastern Europe the Greeks revolted in 1821, the Bulgarians in 1876, and Moldavia gained autonomy in 1861.

In addition, a growing sense of Pan-Arabism took hold in the Arabian Peninsula. Pan-Arabism was a nationalist movement that sought to bring Arab people together to promote their common interests. It was led by the Hashemite family who oversaw the Hejaz region of the Arabian Peninsula where the holy cities of Mecca and Medina are located. Pan-Arabism was strengthened by the rising power of the non-Arab Turks who took control of the Ottoman Empire in the early 1900s.

While nationalism grew throughout the empire in resistance to Ottoman rule, it was also a strong force in Istanbul, the Ottoman Empire's capital. A nationalist group called the "Young Turks" came to power in the early 1900s. They wanted to modernize the empire and turn it into a democratic state. They also turned the empire, which historically welcomed other ethnic groups into the fold, against non-Turks in its empire.

On the eve of World War I, the Young Turks hoped to redefine the Ottoman Empire while ethnic groups throughout the empire were hoping to carve out a place of their own if the "Sick Man of Europe" were to die.

1. What is Pan-Arabism?
2. Who were the Young Turks? What changes did they make to the Ottoman Empire?
3. How did the growth of nationalism affect the Ottoman Empire?

Synthesis: Why were European Imperialists, Arab Nationalists, and Zionists interested in the future of the Middle East before WWI? What did they want?

How did actions taken during WWI affect the Middle East after the war?

Britain's World War I Promises and the Redrawing of the Middle Eastern Borders

During wars, countries make deals with one another to increase their chance of winning. Often negotiations address what might happen at the conclusion of the war. During World War I, in an effort to gain more support for their side in the war, the British made promises to three different groups about the future of the Middle East if the Triple Entente were to win the war.

Directions: Examine the following documents regarding the promises that the British made during WWI and answer the questions about them, then assess what each document might mean about the fate of the Middle East after WWI and how each of the agreements might work with the others.

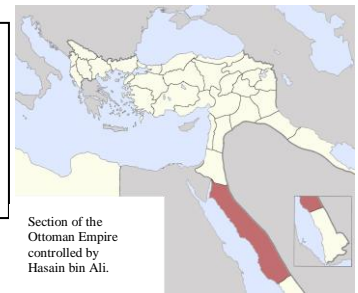
Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali (1915)	Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916)	Balfour Declaration (1917)
		
This is an agreement between... _____ and _____	This is an agreement between... _____ and _____	This is an agreement between... _____ and _____
Identify what each group gets out of the deal.	Identify what each group gets out of the deal.	Identify what each group gets out of the deal.

Document 1: Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali (1915)

Directions: Read the document context and the historical document below. Respond to the questions.

Context

Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Ali ibn Husain was written in 1915 by the British High Commissioner Henry McMahon to Husain bin Ali, the Sherif [Noble] of Mecca. It is one of ten letters between the two through which McMahon attempted to gain Husain's support for the British in World War I. McMahon hoped that Husain would turn against the Ottoman Empire. As Sherif of Mecca, Husain was in control of the section of the Ottoman Empire on the Arabian Peninsula containing the holy cities of Mecca and Medina (see map). Husain supported the British against the Ottoman Empire, starting a rebellion in 1916 because he feared that the nationalist government run by the Young Turks would not respect the Arab sections of the Ottoman Empire. Husain hoped to become the ruler of a united Arab state created out of sections of the Empire and hoped that the British could assist him in this goal.



Pre-Reading Questions

1. Who wrote Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali?
2. What type (primary source or secondary source) of document is Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali?
3. Who was the audience for Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali?
4. What do we know about the author of Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali? What might this reveal about the point of view of the author?
5. What major historical, political, and or economic occurred before and during the writing of Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali?
6. What questions do you have about Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali before you begin reading?

Document 1: Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali (1915) Text

October 24, 1915.

I have received your letter...with much pleasure and your expression of friendliness and sincerity have given me the greatest satisfaction...

As for those regions lying within those frontiers **wherein** Great Britain is free to act without **detriment** to the interests of her ally, France, I am empowered in the name of the Government of Great Britain to give the following **assurances** and make the following reply to your letter:

- (1) ...Great Britain is prepared to recognise and support the independence of the Arabs in all the regions within the limits demanded by the Sherif of Mecca.
- (2) Great Britain will guarantee the Holy Places against all external aggression and will recognise their **inviolability**.
- (3) When the situation admits, Great Britain will give to the Arabs her advice and will assist them to establish what may appear to be the most suitable forms of government in those various territories.
- (4) On the other hand, it is understood that the Arabs have decided to seek the advice and guidance of Great Britain only, and that such European advisers and officials as may be required for the formation of a sound form of administration will be British.
- (5) With regard to the **vilayets** of Baghdad and Basra, the Arabs will recognise that the established position and interests of Great Britain **necessitate** special administrative arrangements in order to secure these territories from foreign aggression to promote the welfare of the local populations and to safeguard our mutual economic interests.

I am convinced that this declaration will assure you beyond all possible doubt of the sympathy of Great Britain towards the aspirations of her friends the Arabs and will result in a firm and lasting alliance, the immediate results of which will be the expulsion of the Turks from the Arab countries and the freeing of the Arab peoples from the Turkish yoke, which for so many years has pressed heavily upon them...

It was with very great relief and satisfaction that I heard of the safe arrival of the Holy Carpet and the accompanying offerings which, thanks to the clearness of your directions and the excellence of your arrangements, were landed without trouble or mishap in spite of the dangers and difficulties occasioned by the present sad war. May God soon bring a lasting peace and freedom of all peoples.

I am sending this letter by the hand of your trusted and excellent messenger, Sheikh Mohammed bin Arif bin Uraifan, and he will inform you of the various matters of interest, but of less vital importance, which I have not mentioned in this letter.

(Compliments).

(Signed): A. HENRY MCMAHON.

1. What promises have the British made to Husain in this letter?
2. What stipulations have the British added to this agreement that will benefit them?
3. Why do you think McMahon added the fourth assurance?
4. McMahon states that one of the effects of the agreement between the British and the Arabs will be "the expulsion of the Turks from the Arab countries and the freeing of the Arab peoples from the Turkish yoke, which for so many years has pressed heavily upon them..."
 - 4a. What does this mean? 4b. What does this quote suggest about the Arab's relationship with the Turks, or at least the British perception of that relationship?
 - 4c. Why would McMahon have included this sentence in the letter?
5. Identify the author's purpose for writing this document. How does the author's purpose impact the reliability of this document?

Document 2: Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916)

Directions: Watch an excerpt of the [Al Jazeera English Documentary World War One Through Arab Eyes \(6:55- 11:39\)](#) and read the text below.

The *Sykes-Picot Agreement (May 9, 1916)* was a secret agreement between the French and British governments to divide up the Ottoman Empire between the two of them at the end of World War I. The Russian government later agreed to the arrangement.

The agreement was solidified with the drawing of a map by Sir Mark Sykes, representing Great Britain and François Georges-Picot of France.

This secret arrangement conflicted with the promises given by Sir Henry McMahon in his correspondence with Husain bin Ali, who was about to bring the Arabs of the Hejaz into revolt against the Turks on the understanding that the Arabs would eventually receive a much more important share of the fruits of victory.



Sir Mark Sykes, 1918. François Georges-Picot, 1918.

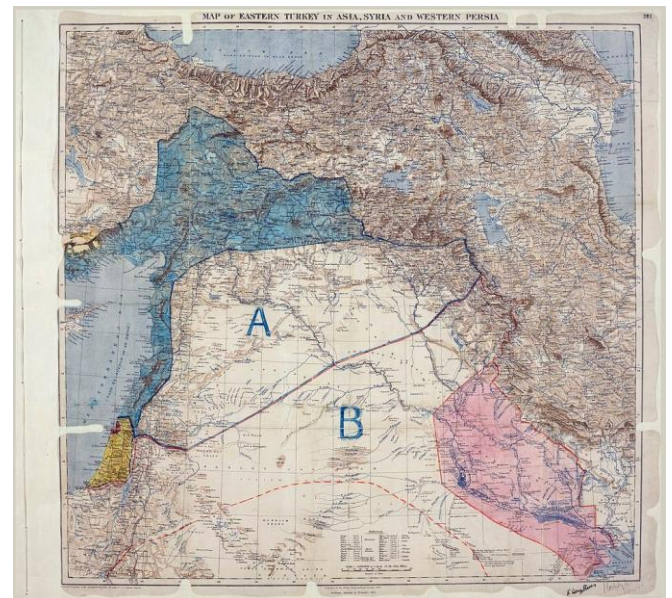
Pre-Reading Questions

1. Who created the Sykes-Picot Agreement?
2. What type (primary source of secondary source) of document is the Sykes-Picot Agreement?
3. Who was the audience for the Sykes-Picot Agreement?
4. What do we know about the authors of the Sykes-Picot Agreement? What might this reveal about the points of view of the authors?
5. What major historical, political, and or economic events occurred before and during the writing of the Sykes-Picot Agreement?
6. What questions do you have about the Sykes-Picot Agreement before you begin reading?

Document 2: Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916)



A map of the historical cultural zones of the region concerning the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Each color in the map represents an area where one cultural group had traditionally lived. These groups have similar histories, ethnicities, languages, and religions.



The original map drawn by Sykes and Picot on May 8, 1916 depicting their agreement. Their signatures are on the bottom right hand corner. The dark blue section represents the part of the Middle East that, according to the agreement, the French will control at the end of WWI. The red shows where the British will control. The region labeled with an A shows the French sphere of influence, while region B represents the British sphere. Lastly, the yellow section in the southwestern corner of the map shows the zone of "international administration."

1. What do the blue and red shaded sections of the Sykes-Picot Agreement represent?
2. What do the regions labeled A and B of the Sykes-Picot Agreement represent?
3. Compare the map of historical cultural zones of the Middle East and the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Which cultural zones are divided by the lines drawn by the British and French representatives?
4. What might the effects of the borders drawn by Sykes and Picot be if the Middle East is divided up the way they have chosen?
5. Identify the authors' purpose for writing this document. How does the authors' purpose impact the reliability of this document?
6. Did this agreement contradict any previous agreement? If so, how?

Document 3: Balfour Declaration (1917)

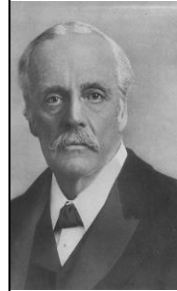
Directions: Read the document context and the historical document below. Respond to the questions.

Context

The *Balfour Declaration* was a letter from Arthur James Balfour, the British foreign secretary, to Lionel Walter Rothschild, a leader in the Zionist movement in Great Britain written on November 2, 1917. The letter was published a week later in *The Times* of London.

The letter promises that Great Britain will assist the Jewish people in establishing a “national home” in Palestine. The Declaration contradicted the agreements between the British and Husain bin Ali and the map drawn by Sykes and Picot.

The British government hoped that the declaration would rally Jewish opinion, especially in the United States, to the side of the Allied powers against the Central Powers during World War I (1914–18). They hoped also that the settlement in Palestine of a pro-British Jewish population might help to protect the approaches to the Suez Canal in neighbouring Egypt and thus ensure a vital communication route to British colonial possessions in India.



FOREIGN OFFICE,
NOVEMBER 2ND, 1917.

DEAR LORD ROTHSCHILD,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.

His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours,
Arthur James Balfour

Pre-Reading Questions

1. Who wrote the Balfour Declaration?
2. What type (primary source of secondary source) of document is the Balfour Declaration?
3. Who was the audience for the Balfour Declaration?
4. What do we know about the author of the Balfour Declaration? What might this reveal about the perspective of the author?
5. What major historical, political, and or economic events are occurring before and during the writing of the Balfour Declaration?
6. What questions do you have about the Balfour Declaration before you begin reading?

Document 3: Balfour Declaration (1917) Text

Foreign Office
November 2nd, 1917

Dear Lord Rothschild:

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist **aspirations** which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet:

His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best **endeavors** to **facilitate** the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may **prejudice** the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

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Yours,
Arthur James Balfour

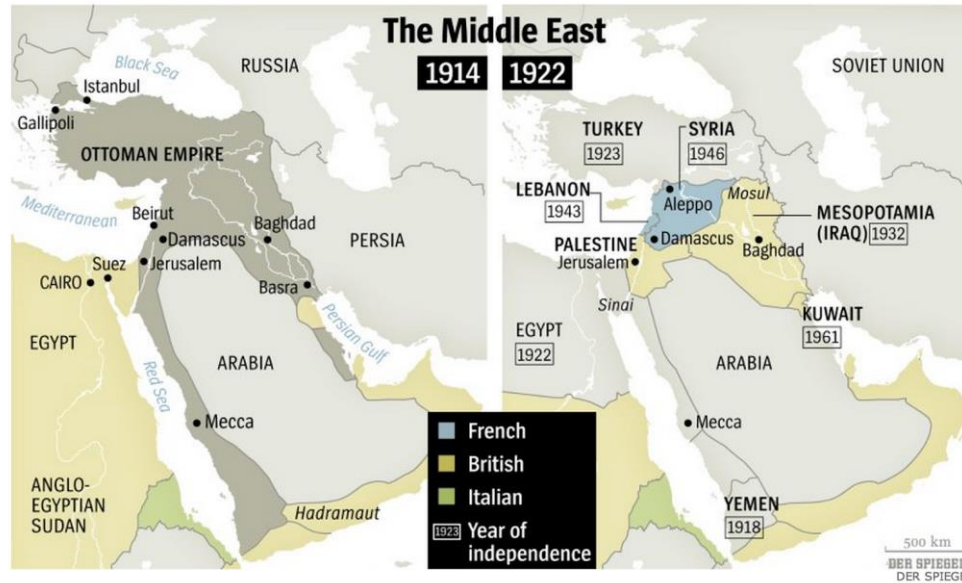
1. According to Balfour, how does the British Government view the Zionist movements and its goals?
2. What stipulation does Balfour include? Why do you think he states this?
3. Balfour writes that the British government “will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of” establishing a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine.
 - 3a. What do you think he means by this?
 - 3b. How do you think Zionists felt about this statement? Why?
 - 3c. How do you think Palestinians who already lived in Palestine felt about this statement? Why?
4. Identify the author's purpose for writing this document. How does the author's purpose impact the reliability of this document?
5. Did this agreement contradict any previous agreement? If so, how?

The Mandate System after World War I

Directions: Examine the maps below and read the text that follows, then answer the accompanying questions.

At the end of WWI, the British and French occupied much of the former Ottoman Empire. Though they attempted to invade Turkey, the Turks held out and established their own nation in 1920 led by a *Young Turk* named Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The Arab nationalists led by the Hashemite family successfully rebelled against the Ottoman Empire to the benefit of the Allies.

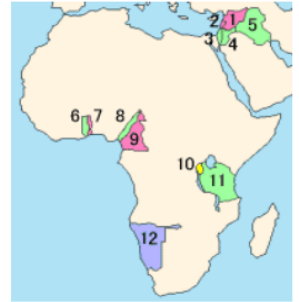
Though they fought on the same side as the Allies, the Arabs were not invited to the Paris Peace Conference and their demands for a unified Arab state that were promised to them by McMahon were ignored. The League of Nations, created by the Allies after World War I, was given the authority to deal with the territories from the Central Powers. The League of Nations created the *Mandate System* to administer former territories of Germany and the Ottoman Empire. In the Middle East, the mandate system mirrored the map drawn by Sykes and Picot, including the international zone in Palestine where Zionists were allowed to migrate and settle with hopes of someday getting the official homeland they were promised in the Balfour Declaration.



Map: The Middle East before and after WWI.

League of Nations Mandate
(Middle East and Africa)

1. French Mandate of Syria
2. French Mandate of Lebanon
3. British Mandate of Palestine
4. British Mandate of Transjordan
5. British Mandate of Iraq
6. British Togoland
7. French Togoland
8. British Cameroon
9. French Cameroon
10. Ruanda-Urundi
11. Tanganyika
12. South-West Africa



1. Based on the League of Nations' mandate system, which agreements made during WWI had the greatest influence over the decisions made about the post-WWI Middle East?
2. Based on their interests in the Middle East and Explain how you think the following groups reacted to the League of Nations' mandate system?
 - a. European Imperial Nations (Great Britain and France)
 - b. Zionists
 - c. Arab Nationalists

Why is there conflict in Israel-Palestine?

What is Israel-Palestine? Where is Israel-Palestine?

Directions: Watch an excerpt of [this video from the Israel-Palestine For Critical Thinkers series \(start-0:42\)](#), examine the maps, then answer the questions that follow



Map of the Middle East (yellow) and featuring major geographic regions (Fertile Crescent, Zagros Mountains, Arabian Desert) and the location of Israel-Palestine.

Map of Israel-Palestine.

Source: Stills from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2jrvsdf38k>

1. Identify two other names the region known as Israel-Palestine has been called.
2. Historically, why has Israel-Palestine been important?
3. Based on the maps and your knowledge of Global history, what other states (empires, countries, etc.) have controlled Israel-Palestine?

Historical Context of the Conflict Between Israel and Palestine

Directions: Watch this Vox video entitled “The Israel-Palestine conflict: a brief, simple history” (start- 9:05) and then answer the questions following the themes.

Sides of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict



Claim ownership of Israel-Palestine because it was the **historic home of the Jewish people** and was **promised to them** after World War I by the British.



Claim ownership of Israel-Palestine because Palestinians have **lived in the region for centuries**.

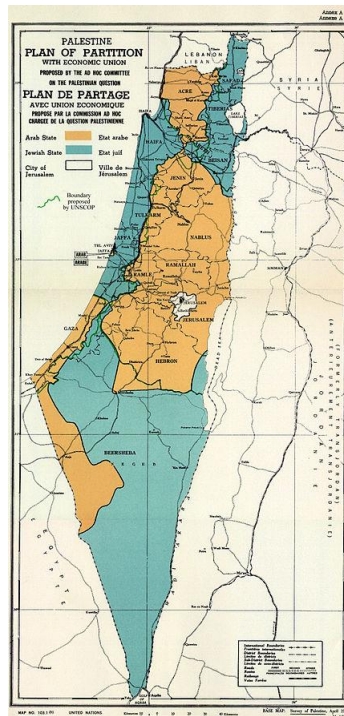
Growing Nationalism in Israel-Palestine

World War I and the British Mandate (1:10)

1. How long has the Israel-Palestine conflict been going on?
2. Identify two groups in the Israel-Palestine region whose nationalism increased in the early 1900s.
3. What was the goal of the Zionist movement?
4. What were the effects of Jewish immigration to the British Mandate for Palestine?

The Partition Plan and 1948 Arab-Israeli War (1:44)

5. How did WWII and the Holocaust impact the Israel-Palestine region?
6. How did the Arabs in Palestine react to the Partition Plan?



Map of the UN Partition Plan for Palestine, adopted 29 Nov 1947. The **gold areas represent the proposed Arab State** and the **blue areas represent the proposed Jewish state**. Jerusalem in the center of the Arab section on the West Bank of the Jordan River is an international zone administered by the UN.

Six-Day War (3:28)

Camp David Accords (3:58)

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) (4:39)

7. What were the effects of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and the Six Day war on Israel's borders?
8. What were the effects of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and the Six Day war on Palestinians living in Israel?
9. What were the effects of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and the Six Day war on Arab countries bordering Israel-Palestine?
10. What were the effects of the Camp David Accords on relations between Israel and Arab countries in the Middle East?



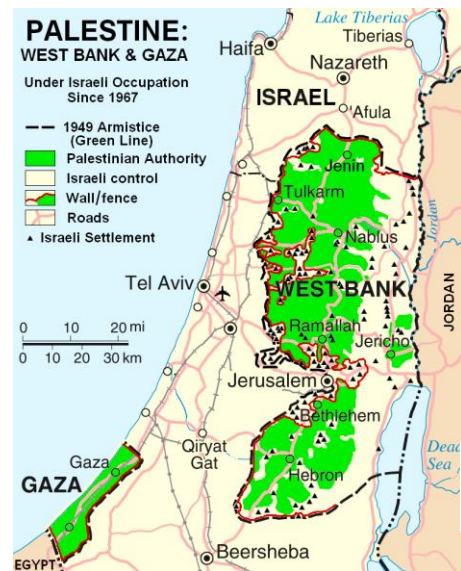
Israel and the territories Israel occupied in the Six day war.

Israeli Settlements (5:14)

First Intifada (6:19)

Oslo Accords (6:41)

11. Why is the creation of Israeli settlements in Israeli-occupied Palestine important to the state of the conflict?
12. What was the First Intifada? Why did it occur?

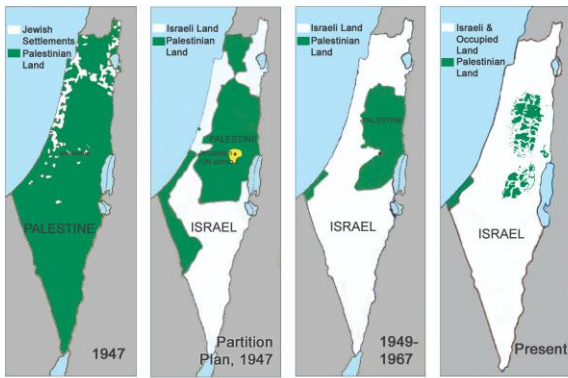


Map of the [West Bank](#) and the [Gaza Strip](#) with Israeli Settlements, 2007.

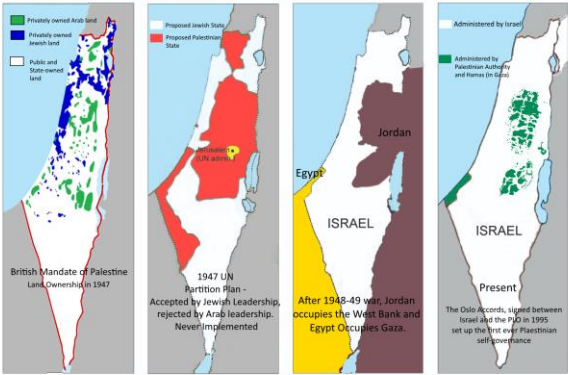
Second Intifada (8:06)

13. How did extreme factions of Israelis and Palestinians react to the Oslo Accords?
14. What were the effects of the Second Intifada?
15. Describe the current state of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

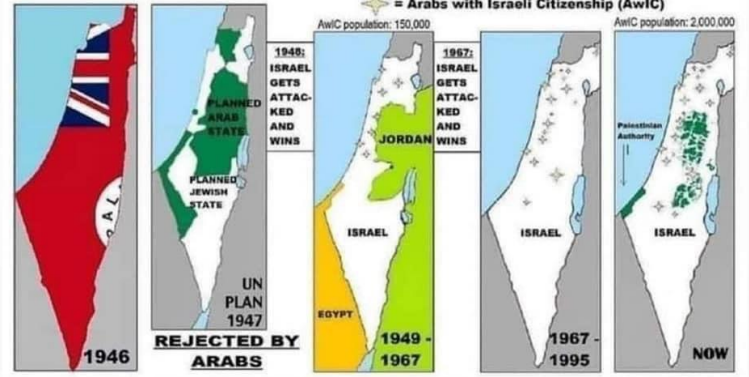
Fiction



Fact



FAKE
REAL



History of the Holy Land since 1516.



Israel and Palestine According to International Law



<p>1517-1918</p> <p>The Ottoman Empire ruled the entire territory until 1917. The victors of WWI ruled the territory together from 1918 to 1920.</p>	<p>1920-1948</p> <p>The Ottoman Empire was divided between the British and the French. The borders were finally determined in 1923.</p>	<p>1947-1948</p> <p>All partition proposals were rejected by Arab representatives. Israel was established with the 1923 borders after the British left.</p>	<p>1948-1995</p> <p>The armistice lines drawn during this period have never been internationally recognized as borders.</p>	<p>1995-2020</p> <p>The Oslo Accords of 1993 and 1995: Israel relinquished a part of its territory which has ever since been ruled by Palestinian groups.</p>
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