The Colonial Period in the Middle East

Introduction to Middle East Politics: Change, Continuity, Conflict, and Cooperation
Overview

• The Dawn of European Colonialism in the Middle East
• The Imposition of European control over the Middle East
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  • Britain in Egypt and the Gulf
• WWI and the Interplay of Ottoman and Colonial Legacies
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  • The League of Nations Mandates
  • Centralised Rule, New Elites and New Institutions, Control of the Religious Sphere, the Cultural Challenge, Dependency, both Political and Economic
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The Dawn of European Colonialism in the Middle East

• Supplanting the ‘Sick Man’: the Imposition of European control over the Middle East
  – France in the Maghreb
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The Palestine Mandate and the Origins of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

- Zionism as a Political Ideology
- The Controversies of WWI
  - The Sykes-Picot Agreement
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  - The Hussein-McMahon Correspondence
- The British and American Roles
  - The 1922 Churchill White Paper
  - The King-Crane Commission
  - The 1937 Arab Revolt and the Peel Commission
  - The 1939 MacDonald White Paper
Map 1
THE EASTERN ARAB WORLD

Area of Arab independence as defined by Sherif Hussein in his letter dated 14 July 1915 to Sir Henry McMahon, British High Commissioner in Egypt.

Area excluded from Arab independence as defined by Sir Henry McMahon in his letter to Sherif Hussein No. 4 dated 24 October 1915 and further explained by letter No. 6 dated 14 December 1915.

Source: Public Domain
The Sykes-Picot Agreement

Source: Public Domain
## The Palestine Mandate and the Origins of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Arabs (,000’s)</th>
<th>Jews (,000’s)</th>
<th>Total (,000’s)</th>
<th>% Jewish Pop.</th>
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<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>731</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
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<td>1922</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>752</td>
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<td>1931</td>
<td>859</td>
<td>175</td>
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<td>1941</td>
<td>1,111</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>1,586</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>1,172</td>
<td>1,203</td>
<td>2,375</td>
<td>50.6%</td>
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WWI and the Interplay of Ottoman and Colonial Legacies

- Britain, the Arab Revolt, and Ottoman Collapse
- The Treaties of Sèvres and Laussane and the League of Nations Mandates
- Centralised Rule
  - A Focus on Security
- New Elites and New Institutions
- Control of the Religious Sphere
- The Cultural Challenge
  - Orientalism
- Dependency, both Political and Economic
The 1920 Treaty of Sévres

Source: Public Domain
The League of Nations Mandates

Source: Public Domain
The Republic of Turkey

• Mustafa Kemal “Atatürk” and the Founding of the Turkish Republic
• Abrogation of the Treaty of Sèvres
• The Armenian Genocide Controversy
• The New Turkish Constitution, the Principles of “Kemalism”, and Roots of Future Patterns of Turkish Politics
  1. Republicanism
  2. Secularism
  3. Populism
  4. Nationalism
  5. Statism
  6. Reformism
The British Mandate of Mesopotamia

- Interference and Domination in Iraq: a Portent of Future Events?
  - Externally-Imposed and Backed Political Elites
  - Artificiality of Borders
  - Direct Armed Intervention
    - Lt. Gen. Stanley Maude – proclamation of Baghdad in 1917 – ‘I am charged with absolute and supreme control of all regions in which British troops operate; but our armies do not come to your cities and lands as conquerors or enemies, but as liberators’
- 1920 Iraqi Revolution