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**The role of the Balfour Declaration in the Palestinian
Issue in 1917**

Presented by : KHELIFA MOHAMEDI AICHA

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| 1- Mrs. ABDEL HADI NADIA | Chair woman |
| 2- Mrs. AISSAT DJAMILA | Supervisor |
| 3-Mrs. BELAL HANANE | Examiner |

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Abstract

The thesis about the role of the Balfour Declaration in the Palestinian issue discusses how the management of information available to the Asquith and Lloyd George Governments on Palestine, which because of its importance to the defence of the Suez Zone was an area of crucial strategic importance to the British Empire and should at least be British influenced, between 1914 and 1920, evolved into a strategy designed to acquire Palestine as a British dominated region within the British Empire. The thesis also discusses how Britain's original intention to support an Arab revolt against the Ottomans, and thereby create a friendly country in Palestine which would protect Suez, evolved into a strategy that sought to acquire Palestine itself. So, why Britain lled to give the Jews the homeland in Palestine in 1917 ?

After the WWI, the peace treaty negatively affected making Britain intervened and be applying the Balfour Declaration. This is reason to know somthing about Palestine and understand their issue, the reason for Britain to apply the Balfour Declaration in Palestinian issue and its impact.

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Dedication

*Every challenging work needs self efforts as well as guidance of specially those who were very
close to our heart .*

My humble effort I dedicate to my sweet and loving.

Father & Mother

*Whose affection, love, encouragement and prays of day and night make me able to get sush
success and honor,*

Along with all hard working and respected

Teachers

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General Introduction

The Palestine Issue is Israel's conquest of Palestine and repression of the Palestinian people. To establish the vantage point from which this extended study aims, therefore, to take a fresh look at the Palestine issue and their relation with Balfour Declaration. What it proposes is to focus on the Declaration Itself, on the motives behind it, on the way it was implemented, on the conflicts to which it gave rise, and on its consequences for Britain's position as the paramount Western power in the Middle East.

World War I was never a war to end all wars. It ended, however, with a peace to end all peace at least for the Middle East. Every political project born out of the peace has failed to emerge into a stable country defending the rights and freedoms of its citizens. No issue epitomizes the above sentiment better than the issue of Palestine. This desassessment of the region and the historic failures of the present was the fertile backdrop to conference organized in London to mark the centenary of the Great War.

British imperialism in the Middle East in World War I was intricate, to use a British understatement. In 1915 Britain promised Hussein, the Sharif of Mecca, that they would support an independent Arab kingdom under his rule in return for his mounting an Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire, Germany's ally in the war. The promise was contained in a letter dated October 24, 1915 from Sir Henry McMahon, the British High Commissioner in Egypt, to the Sharif of Mecca in what later became known as the McMahon-Hussein correspondence. The Sharif of Mecca assumed that the promise included Palestine. In 1916 Britain reached a secret agreement with France to divide the Middle East into spheres of influence in the event of an allied victory. Under the terms of the Sykes-Picot agreement, Palestine was to be placed

under international control. In 1917 Britain issued the Balfour Declaration, promising to support the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine.

Thus, by a stroke of the imperial pen, the Promised Land became twice-promised. Even by the standards of Perfidious Albion, this was an extraordinary tale of double-dealing and betrayal, a tale that continued to haunt Britain throughout the thirty years of its rule in Palestine. Of the three wartime pledges, the most curious, and certainly the most controversial was the Balfour Declaration. Here, wrote Arthur Koestler, was one nation promising another nation the land of a third nation. Koestler dismissed the Declaration as an impossible notion, an unnatural graft, a “white Negro.” C. P. Scott, the ardently pro-Zionist editor of the Manchester Guardian, played a significant part in persuading the British government to issue the Declaration. In an editorial article, Scott hailed the Declaration as an act of imaginative generosity. “It is at once the fulfilment of aspiration, the signpost of destiny”. Elizabeth Monroe in Britain’s Moment in the Middle East conceded that to the Jews who went to Palestine, the Declaration signified fulfilment and salvation. But she also notes that to the British the Declaration brought much ill will, and complications that sapped their strength. “Measured by British interests alone,” argued Monroe, “it is one of the greatest mistakes in our imperial history. So, why Britain led to give the Jews homeland in Palestine in 1917?

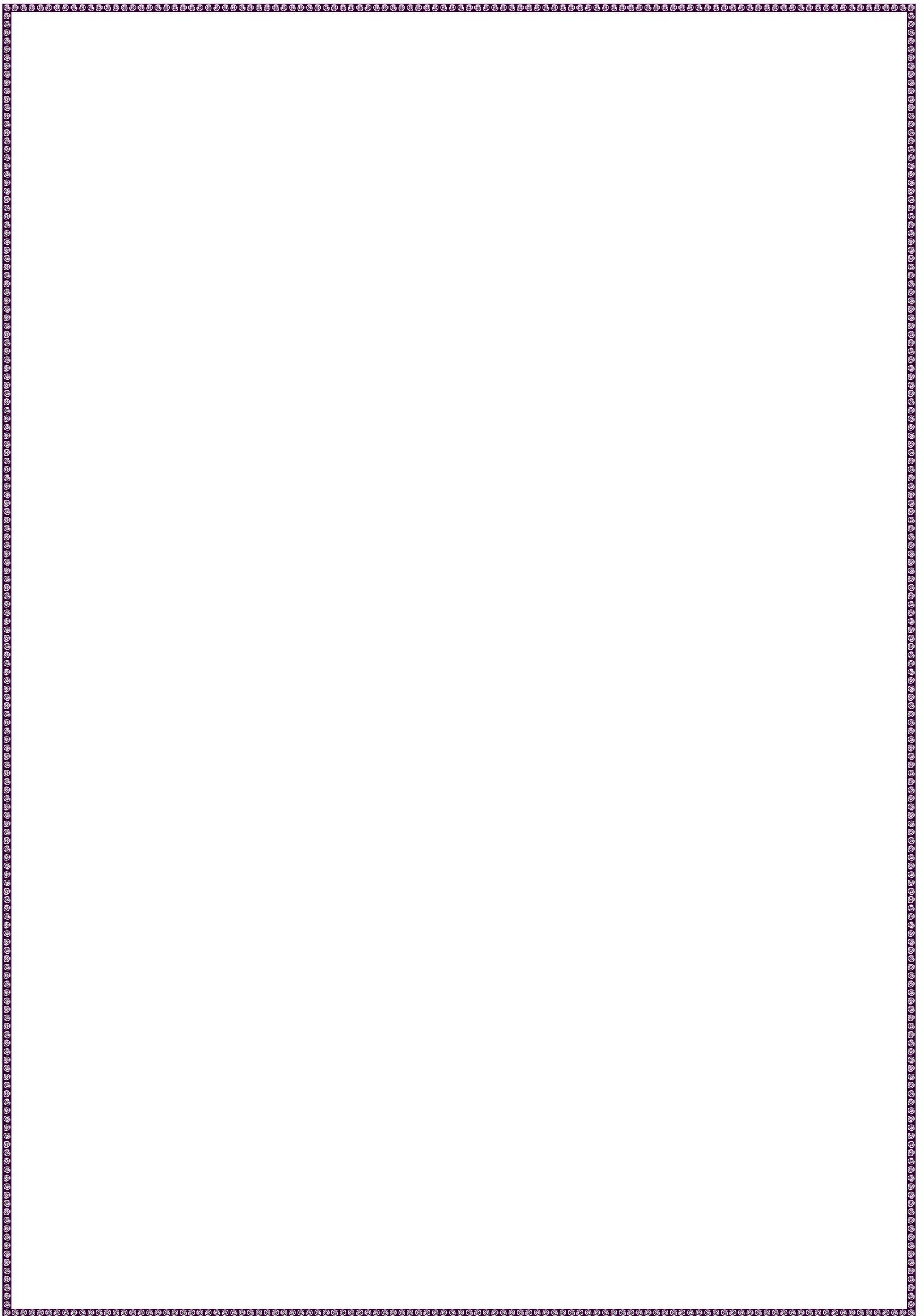
After the WW I, the Peace Treaty negatively affected making Britain intervened and be applying the Belfour declaration. So this is reason for us to know something about Palestine and understand their issue, the reason for Britain to apply the Belfour declaration on the Palestinian issue and its impact on.

Through the study of the Palestinian issue and highlight the continuation of the war in Palestine, to this day, and make sure the promises Britain the Belfour declaration and the knowledge of the positives of this promise and impact and targeted especially in Palestine through divided to three chapters:

Chapter one about the Palestine issue ,this chapter interesting in studying the early and late history of Palestine, the partition and Palestine, Israel conflict. The second chapter is based on How Britain deviates from the Arab World through British Mandate, British promises the Jews. Finally, third chapter interested in the role of Britain in Palestine thorough divided into steps, world war one and the Middle East state system, state-building by decree the after WWI and the reasons that led Britain to give the Balfour Declaration.

Chapter one

The Palestinian Issue



1-Introduction

The Palestine Issue is Israel's conquest of Palestine and repression of the Palestinian people. Muslims claim that the Palestine issue and the West's unconditional support for Israel is the fundamental driver of the Muslim hatred and war against the west. One of the most far-reaching outcomes of the First World War was the creation of Palestine, initially under Britain as the Mandatory, out of an ill-defined area of the southern Syrian boundary of the Ottoman Empire. This War was unique, both quantitatively and qualitatively, so, determining strategy demanded a higher level of management skill to assemble myriad sources of information into an informative coherent picture for War Cabinet discussions. Though much historiography has examined specific aspects of Palestine the process that evolved British strategy has not been part of these works. This contribution to Palestine's historiography will examine how the decision making process was managed by those key British Ministers, civil servants, diplomats and military staff directly or indirectly involved in devising a plan that transformed the Middle East from an area conspicuous by its absence of geopolitical nation states into the divided and faction ridden countries of today.

2-Palastinian issue

The Palestinian issue or the Israeli-Palestinian conflict the term referred him to the political and historical differences humanitarian problem in Palestine starting in 1897 (the First Zionist Congress) and up to the present time. They are considered an essential part of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the resulting crises and wars in the Middle East.

This conflict is fundamentally linked to the emergence of Zionism and Jewish immigration to Palestine and settle there, and the role of the great powers in the events of the region. As the Palestinian issue centered on the issue of Palestinian refugees and the legitimacy of the State of Israel and its occupation of the Palestinian territories in several

stages. What resulted from committing massacres against the Palestinians and resistance operations against the Jewish state, and the issuance of many resolutions of the United Nations, some of which were historically; such as resolution No. 194 and Resolution No. 24562.

This is a conflict, by a lot of analysts and politicians, the central issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the cause of the crisis this region and tense. Although this conflict is happening within a relatively small geographic area, but it has the political and media with great interest because of the involvement of many international parties which are often the great powers in the world are involved in it are due to stationed in the sensitive region of the world and its association with problematic issues marks the culmination of crises the modern world , such as the conflict between East and West, has nothing to Judaism, Christianity and Islam religions among themselves

Arab relations with the West and the importance of Arab oil to Western nations, the importance and sensitivity of the Jewish issue in Western civilization, especially after World War II and the Holocaust and Jewish issues of anti-Semitism and the strong pressure of the Jewish lobbies in the Western world. On the Arab level is a lot of Arab intellectuals and theorists and even politicians that the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the central issue and the crisis in the region and often associate with some of the issues the Arab renaissance thinkers and issues of totalitarian regimes and the weakness of democracy in the Arab world.

3-The early History of Palestine

3-1-Palestine before world war one

For more than three hundred years before the First World War, Palestine was part of the Ottoman Empire, and under Turkish control.

The vast majority of its population was Arab, with a small Jewish population scattered among four towns. In the 19th century, as far as the West was concerned, it was seen mainly as the Holy Land, the source of three major religions. The idea that the British government would one day turn it into a Jewish state was unthinkable to its Arab inhabitants.

3-2- Jews in Palestine

The presence of Jews in Palestine is evident from the mention of the name “Israel” in a historic Egyptian inscription where this ethnic group is said to have located between the areas of the Jordan Valley and Mediterranean. In Hebrew Bible, “Land of Israel” is used as a term in as old as the texts of Exilic period. The highland zone was occupied by two separate kingdoms, the Kingdom of Israel situated in the north while the Kingdom of Judah to the south.

3-3-The Arab history in Palestine

The origin of Arabs is intermingled with several races and ethnic groups instead of a more singular line. The tradition says that Arabs come from the line of Abraham and his son Ishmael. The tribal, Bedouin society of the Arabian Desert is the birthplace of “Arab”. There are other ethnic Arab groups as well that spread in the land and existed for millennia. Before modern Arab nationalism which developed in 19th and 20th century, Arab speaking people identified themselves with a particular tribe, a village or a family.

3-4- Islam in Palestine

Following the Battle of Yarmouk in 636 CE, the Islamic Empire was established in Palestine as Muslims conquered Syria and there started a Muslim rule which spread over 1300 years. It is known that the Muslim empire was a “golden age” for Jews as they were treated much better than by the Christians

3-4- Zionism and Zionists

The turn of the 20th century saw a Jewish nationalist movement springing up with Theodor Herzl as its founder. This ideology was named [Zionism and its supporters are called Zionists](#), the name derived from Zion, Jewish synonym for the land of Israel. The goal of this movement was to gain Eretz Yisrael back and to create a Jewish homeland in the country of Palestine. There are a large number of Jews who do not support the Zionist views, stating it to be completely different from the traditional Jewish beliefs, laws and the teachings of Torah.

3-5- The impact of the Zionists on Palestine

Aims of the Zionist movement failed to compliment the positive approach with which Palestinian Arabs thought of gaining independence. From the very beginning, Zionist movement has made efforts to achieve Jewish majority in Palestine with immigration as their tool and establishing Jewish property on as much as land as they could. All this necessitated the displacement of Palestinians from their homes and conflicting with their interests.

4-Late of Palestine

Palestine was a common name used until 1948 to describe the geographic region between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. In its history, the Assyrian, Babylonian, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman empires have controlled Palestine at one time or another.

After World War I, Palestine was administered by the United Kingdom under a Mandate received in 1922 from the League of Nations. The modern history of Palestine begins with the termination of the British Mandate, the Partition of Palestine and the creation of Israel, and the ensuing Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

4-1-The partition of Palestine

In 1947, the United Nations (U.N.) proposed a Partition Plan for Palestine titled “United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 (II) Future Government of Palestine.” The resolution noted Britain’s planned termination of the British Mandate for Palestine and recommended the partition of Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab, with the Jerusalem-Bethlehem area protected and administered by the United Nations.

The resolution included a highly detailed description of the recommended boundaries for each proposed state. The resolution also contained plans for an economic union between the proposed states and for the protection of religious and minority rights. The resolution called for the withdrawal of British forces and termination of the Mandate by August 1948 and establishment of the new independent states by October 1948.

4-2-First Arab-Israeli war (1948)

Jewish leadership accepted the Partition Plan but Arab leaders rejected it. The Arab League threatened to take military measures to prevent the partition of Palestine and to ensure the national rights of the Palestinian Arab population. One day before the British Mandate expired, Israel declared its independence within the borders of the Jewish State set out in the Partition Plan. The Arab countries declared war on the newly formed State of Israel beginning the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.

After the war, which Palestinians call the Catastrophe, the 1949 Armistice Agreements established the separation lines between the combatants: Israel controlled some areas designated for the Arab state under the Partition Plan, Transjordan controlled the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Egypt controlled the Gaza Strip.

4-3-The six day war

The Six Day War was fought between June 5–10, 1967, with Israel emerging victorious and effectively seizing control of the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, and the Golan Heights from Syria. The U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 242, the “land for peace” formula, which called for Israeli withdrawal “from territories occupied” in 1967 and “the termination of all claims or states of belligerency.” Resolution 242 recognized the right of “every state in the area to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force.”

4-4-The 1973war

In October 1973, war broke out again between Israel and Egypt in the Sinai and the Syria in the Golan Heights. A ceasefire was achieved (U.N. resolution 339) and U.N. peacekeepers deployed on both the fronts, only withdrawing from the Egyptian front after Israel and Egypt concluded a peace treaty in 1979. U.N. peacekeepers remain deployed in the Golan Heights.

4-5-Rise of Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)

In 1974, the Arab League recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and relinquished its role as representative of the West Bank. The PLO gained observer status at the U.N. General Assembly the same year.

In 1988, the Palestinian National Council of the PLO approved a Palestinian Declaration of Independence in Algiers, Tunisia. The declaration proclaims a “State of Palestine on our Palestinian territory with its capital Jerusalem,” although it does not specify exact borders, and asserts U.N. Resolution 181 supports the rights of Palestinians and Palestine. The declaration was accompanied by a PLO call for multilateral negotiations on the basis of U.N. Resolution 242.

4-6-The Intifada (1987-1993)

Conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including Jerusalem, after more than 20 years of military occupation, repression and confiscation of land, contributed to a Palestinian uprising called the intifada in December 1987. Between 1987 and 1993, over 1,000 Palestinians were killed and thousands injured, detained, imprisoned in Israel or deported from the Palestinian territories.

4-7-The peace process

In 1993, the Oslo Accords, the first direct, face-to-face agreement between Israel and the PLO, were signed and intended to provide a framework for the future relations between the two parties. The Accords created the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) with responsibility for the administration of the territory under its control. The Accords also called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from parts of the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Implementation of the Oslo Accords suffered a serious setback with the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Prime Minister and signer of the Oslo Accords, in November 1995. Since 1995, several peace summits and proposals, including the Camp (Summit, *Taba Summit* .2000-2001), the Road Map for Peace (2002), and *the Arab Peace Initiative* (2002 and 2007), have attempted to broker a solution, with no success.

5-Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict

The conflict between Palestinian Arabs and Zionist (now Israeli) Jews is a modern phenomenon, dating to the end of the nineteenth century. Although the two groups have

different religions (Palestinians include Muslims, Christians and Druze), religious differences are not the cause of the strife. The conflict began as a struggle over land. From the end of World War I until 1948, the area that both groups claimed was known internationally as Palestine. That same name was also used to designate a less well-defined “Holy Land” by the three monotheistic religions. Following the war of 1948–1949, this land was divided into three parts: the State of Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River) and the Gaza Strip.

It is a small area—approximately 10,000 square miles, or about the size of the state of Maryland. The competing claims to the territory are not reconcilable if one group exercises exclusive political control over all of it. Jewish claims to this land are based on the biblical promise to Abraham and his descendants, on the fact that the land was the historical site of the ancient Jewish kingdoms of Israel and Judea, and on Jews’ need for a haven from European anti-Semitism. Palestinian Arab claims to the land are based on their continuous residence in the country for hundreds of years and the fact that they represented the demographic majority until 1948. They reject the notion that a biblical-era kingdom constitutes the basis for a valid modern claim. If Arabs engage the biblical argument at all, they maintain that since Abraham’s son Ishmael is the forefather of the Arabs, then God’s promise of the land to the children of Abraham includes Arabs as well. They do not believe that they should forfeit their land to compensate Jews for Europe’s crimes against Jews.

5-1-The land and the people

In the nineteenth century, following a trend that emerged earlier in Europe, people around the world began to identify themselves as nations and to demand national rights, foremost the right to self-rule in a state of their own (self-determination and sovereignty). Jews and Palestinians both started to develop a national consciousness and mobilized to achieve national goals. Because Jews were spread across the world (in Diaspora), the Jewish national movement, or Zionist trend, sought to identify a place where Jews could come

together through the process of immigration and settlement. Palestine seemed the logical and optimal place because it was the site of Jewish origin. The Zionist movement began in 1882 with the first wave of European Jewish immigration to Palestine.

At that time, the land of Palestine was part of the Ottoman Empire. This area did not constitute a single political unit, however. The northern districts of Acre and Nablus were part of the province of Beirut. The district of Jerusalem was under the direct authority of the Ottoman capital of Istanbul because of the international significance of the cities of Jerusalem and Bethlehem as religious centers for Muslims, Christians and Jews. According to Ottoman records, in 1878 there were 462,465 subject inhabitants of the Jerusalem, Nablus and Acre districts: 403,795 Muslims (including Druze), 43,659 Christians and 15,011 Jews. In addition, there were perhaps 10,000 Jews with foreign citizenship (recent immigrants to the country) and several thousand Muslim Arab nomads (Bedouin) who were not counted as Ottoman subjects. The great majority of the Arabs (Muslims and Christians) lived in several hundred rural villages. Jaffa and Nablus were the largest and economically most important towns with majority-Arab populations. (Beinin and Lisa. 2004).

5-2-The British Mandate in Palestine

British forces entered Jerusalem and the city gave itself up to the war victors on December 9, 1917. This was done literally with General Allenby entering the city from Jaffa Gate, leading a victory convoy. This was the end to the glorious four centuries of the Ottoman-Turk Empire, giving way to a thirty year British rule.

The Paris-Peace Conference was held from January to June 1919 where the Mandate system came into existence under the Article 22 of the Convent of the League of Nations, which stated that the nations who are unable to hold a government on their own will be given under the trust of advanced countries who will handle the state affairs until such nations have

gained enough strength to operate the government affairs on their own. This concept was approved and taken up through the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919.

But Britain made other promises during the war that conflicted with the Husayn-McMahon understandings. In 1917, the British foreign minister, Lord Arthur Balfour, issued a declaration (the Balfour Declaration) announcing his government's support for the establishment of "a Jewish national home in Palestine." A third promise, in the form of the Sykes-Picot Agreement, was a secret deal between Britain and France to carve up the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire and divide control of the region.

After the war, Britain and France convinced the new League of Nations (precursor to the United Nations), in which they were the dominant powers, to grant them quasi-colonial authority over former Ottoman territories. The British and French regimes were known as mandates. France obtained a mandate over Syria, carving out Lebanon as a separate state with a (slight) Christian majority. Britain obtained a mandate over Iraq, as well as the area that now comprises Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jordan.

In 1921, the British divided this latter region in two: East of the Jordan River became the Emirate of Transjordan, to be ruled by Faysal's brother 'Abdallah, and west of the Jordan River became the Palestine Mandate. It was the first time in modern history that Palestine became a unified political entity.

Throughout the region, Arabs were angered by Britain's failure to fulfill its promise to create an independent Arab state, and many opposed British and French control as a violation of Arabs' right to self-determination. In Palestine, the situation was more complicated because of the British promise to support the creation of a Jewish national home. The rising tide of European Jewish immigration, land purchases and settlement in Palestine generated increasing resistance by Palestinian peasants, journalists and political figures. They feared that

the influx of Jews would lead eventually to the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. Palestinian Arabs opposed the British Mandate because it thwarted their aspirations for self-rule, and they opposed massive Jewish immigration because it threatened their position in the country.

5-3-The United Nations partition plan

Following World War II, hostilities escalated between Arabs and Jews over the fate of Palestine and between the Zionist militias and the British army. Britain decided to relinquish its mandate over Palestine and requested that the recently established United Nations determine the future of the country. But the British government's hope was that the UN would be unable to arrive at a workable solution, and would turn Palestine back to them as a UN trusteeship. A UN-appointed committee of representatives from various countries went to Palestine to investigate the situation. Although members of this committee disagreed on the form that a political resolution should take, the majority concluded that the country should be divided (partitioned) in order to satisfy the needs and demands of both Jews and Palestinian Arabs. At the end of 1946, 1,269,000 Arabs and 608,000 Jews resided within the borders of Mandate Palestine. Jews had acquired by purchase about 7 percent of the total land area of Palestine, amounting to about 20 percent of the arable land.

On November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly voted to partition Palestine into two states, one Jewish and the other Arab. The UN partition plan divided the country so that each state would have a majority of its own population, although a few Jewish settlements would fall within the proposed Arab state while hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs would become part of the proposed Jewish state. The territory designated for the Jewish state would be slightly larger than the Arab state (56 percent and 43 percent of Palestine, respectively, excluding Jerusalem), on the assumption that increasing numbers of Jews would immigrate there. According to the UN partition plan, the area of Jerusalem and Bethlehem was to

become an international zone. Publicly, the Zionist leadership accepted the UN partition plan, although they hoped somehow to expand the borders assigned to the Jewish state. The Palestinian Arabs and the surrounding Arab states rejected the UN plan and regarded the General Assembly vote as an international betrayal. Some argued that the UN plan allotted too much territory to the Jews. Most Arabs regarded the proposed Jewish state as a settler colony and argued that it was only because the British had permitted extensive Zionist settlement in Palestine against the wishes of the Arab majority that the question of Jewish statehood was on the international agenda at all.

5-4-The Palestinian and Israel refugee rights

As a consequence of the fighting in Palestine/Israel between 1947 and 1949, over 700,000 Palestinians became refugees. The precise number of refugees is sharply disputed, as is the question of responsibility for their exodus. Many Palestinians have claimed that most were expelled in accordance with a Zionist plan to rid the country of its non-Jewish inhabitants. The official Israeli position holds that the refugees fled on orders from Arab political and military leaders. One Israeli military intelligence document indicates that through June 1948 at least 75 percent of the refugees fled due to military actions by Zionist militias, psychological campaigns aimed at frightening Arabs into leaving, and dozens of direct expulsions. The proportion of expulsions is likely higher since the largest single expulsion of the war—50,000 from Lydda and Ramle— occurred in mid-July. Only about 5 percent left on orders from Arab authorities. There are several well-documented cases of massacres that led to large-scale Arab flight. The most infamous atrocity occurred at Dayr Yasin, a village near Jerusalem, where the number of Arab residents killed in cold blood by right-wing Zionist militias was about 125.

5-Conclusion

Amnesty International's concerns are based on international standards and applied equally within the proper legal framework. The legal framework is defined by who retains jurisdiction, or effective control, over an area and the circumstances or situation at the time of the human rights violation. Amnesty's concerns within Israel-proper, the area inside the 1949 (W. Bank/E. Jerusalem) and 1951 (Gaza Strip) armistice lines (also called the '1967 borders') include but are not limited to, ill-treatment and torture of detainees, excessive use of force, the detention of conscientious objectors, and forced evictions and home demolitions within 'unrecognized' Bedouin villages. The Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory (the West Bank including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip) is in its fifth decade and the undercurrent of violence and inherent abuses of fundamental human rights and disregard for international law inherent in any long-standing military occupation is presented by both sides. Both Israeli and Palestinian civilians continue to bear the brunt of the violence in the region.

Chapter two

How the British devided up the Arab World

1-Introduction

Back in 1915, the British needed the help of the Arabs in defeating the Ottoman Empire in World War I. In a set of letters called the 'McMahon–Hussein Correspondence,' they promised the Arabs that if they rebelled against The Ottoman Empire (which had sided with Germany in the war), that they would get their own independent state. However, at the very same time the British made this promise, there was clandestine agreement in the works with France and Russia to carve up the Ottoman Empire amongst themselves. This was known as the 'Sykes-Picot Agreement.' Suffice it to say, the territory promised to the Arabs was not a part of their bargain. Then to make matters even more confusing, there was a third - and completely separate agreement with the Zionist community called the 'Balfour Declaration', promising the Jews their own ethno-state within the borders of Palestine. Thus, this chapter will examine how the British divided up the Arab world

2-British Mandate during WW1

After the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire at the end of the First World War, Israel—then called Palestine—became a mandate of the British Empire. The Ottomans were initially defeated at the onset of World War I, and Palestine was brought under British military control for the duration of the war. The British bettered the quality of life for the Jews and Arabs in Palestine, improving the water and food supply, fighting diseases, and enhancing communications. In 1922, following World War I, the League of Nations formally gave temporary control of Palestine to the British government; the stated objective of the League of Nations Mandate system was to administer parts of the defunct Ottoman Empire, which had been in control of the Middle East since the 16th century, until the local residents became capable of self-rule. Great Britain was tasked with creating a national homeland for the Jewish people.

Britain's job was to implement the Balfour Declaration, which had been signed five years earlier, stating Britain's desire to create a homeland in Palestine for the Jews. The British government had, however, made conflicting promises to both the Jews and the Arabs, promising each their own autonomous area.

The drafting of the mandate and the demarcation of Israel's borders was a delicate balancing act, fraught with conflict. The Palestine Committee, for example, objected to the phrase invoking the Jewish people's historical "claim" on the Holy Land; the phrase was consequently reworded. The mandate was finally ratified in June of 1922.

During the years of the mandate, which lasted from 1922 until the declaration of an independent State of Israel in 1948, the Jewish population grew. Over 300,000 Jews immigrated to Israel at this time, and it's estimated that another 50,000 immigrated illegally. At first, the immigrants met with no opposition from the local Arab population. However, as anti-Semitism and persecution in Europe began to increase, so did the number of immigrants to Israel. The Arabs began to feel uneasy and resentful, and the British government placed strict limits on immigration. Tensions increased between the Jews and Arabs, and riots broke out, like the infamous Hebron riots of 1929. It was at this time that the Jewish population began to form their own defense forces, such as the Haganah and the Irgun, which formed the basis of the IDF—the Israel Defense Forces.

Still, great progress was made in Israel. The Jewish sector's economy was growing, as was other aspects of Jewish life. A centralized school system was established in 1919; in 1920, the Histadrut labor Federation was founded; the Technion and Hebrew University of Jerusalem were both established during the Mandate years.

2-1-The British promises of Palestine

During WW1, the British made 3 agreements regarding the land of Palestine. These were the McMahon-Hussein agreement, the Sykes – Picot agreement and the Balfour Declaration.

The McMahon – Hussein agreement was made on the 24th of October in 1915. The British high commissioner, McMahon made the agreement that if the British were to win the war, the Arabs would receive the independence of their land, gaining it back from Turkey. This was Britain's attempt at giving the Native Arabs in Palestine a sense of nationality and to then help them in the war. It was also aiming to put a crack in the central powers, with the Arabs rising up against the Empire.

The Sykes – Picot agreement was made the following year in May. This agreement was made with France, and was said to divide the Middle East into sections that both nations would then take control of at the conclusion of the war. This completely contradicted the earlier agreement of McMahon – Hussein.

Finally, the Balfour Declaration was made to a prominent figure in the British community by Arthur Balfour who was a British foreign secretary. 1917 was the third consecutive year that the British would make a deal that clashed its previous ones. This particular agreement told the Jewish community that they would be granted the right to Palestine once more. The British did not have intentions of following through with this, but wished to gain political support from the Jewish community.

Promises made

- a) To give Hussein Bin Ali independence for Arabs in Palestine
- b) to create a Jewish national home in Palestine

c) To divide the Ottoman lands with France

2-1-1-The Arab Revolt

One of the British strategies was to turn the Ottoman Empire's Arab subjects against the government. They found a ready and willing helper in the Hejaz, the western region of the Arabian Peninsula. Sharif Hussein Bin Ali, the Amir (governor) of Makkah entered into an agreement with the British government to revolt against the Ottomans. His reasons for allying with the foreign British against other Muslims remains uncertain. Possible reasons for his revolt were: disapproval with the Turkish nationalist objectives of the Three Pashas, a personal feud with the Ottoman government, or simply a desire for his own kingdom.

Whatever his reasons were, Sharif Hussein decided to revolt against the Ottoman government in alliance with the British. In return, the British promised to provide money and weapons to the rebels to help them fight the much more organized Ottoman army. Also, the British promised him that after the war, he would be given his own Arab kingdom that would cover the entire Arabian Peninsula, including Syria and Iraq. The letters in which the two sides negotiated and discussed revolt were known as the McMahon-Hussein Correspondence, as Sharif Hussein was communicating with the British High Commissioner in Egypt, Sir Henry McMahon.

In June of 1916 Sharif Hussein led his group of armed Bedouin warriors from the Hejaz in an armed campaign against the Ottomans. Within a few months, the Arab rebels managed to capture numerous cities in the Hejaz (including Jeddah and Makkah) with help from the British army and navy. The British provided support in the form of soldiers, weapons, money, advisors (including the "legendary" Lawrence of Arabia), and a flag. The British in Egypt drew up a flag for the Arabs to use in battle, which was known as the "Flag

of the Arab Revolt". This flag would later become the model for other Arab flags of countries such as Jordan, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, and Kuwait.

As World War One progressed through 1917 and 1918, the Arab rebels managed to capture some major cities from the Ottomans. As the British advanced into Palestine and Iraq, capturing cities such as Jerusalem and Baghdad, the Arabs aided them by capturing Amman and Aqaba. It is important to note that the Arab Revolt did not have the backing of a large majority of the Arab population. It was a minority movement of a couple thousand tribesmen led by a few leaders who sought to increase their own powers. The vast majority of the Arab people stayed away from the conflict and did not support the rebels or the Ottoman government. Sharif Hussein's plan to create his own Arab kingdom was succeeding so far, if it were not for other promises the British would make.

2-1-2-The Sykes-Picot Agreement

Before the Arab Revolt could even begin and before Sharif Hussein could create his Arab kingdom, the British and French had other plans. In the winter of 1915-1916, two diplomats, Sir Mark Sykes of Britain and François Georges-Picot of France secretly met to decide the fate of the post-Ottoman Arab world.

According to what would become known as the Sykes-Picot Agreement, the British and French agreed to divide up the Arab world between themselves. The British were to take control of what is now Iraq, Kuwait, and Jordan. The French were given modern Syria, Lebanon, and southern Turkey. The status of Palestine was to be determined later, with

Zionist ambitions to be taken into account. The zones of control that the British and French were given allowed for some amount of Arab self-rule in some areas, albeit with

European control over such Arab kingdoms. In other areas, the British and French were promised total control.

Although it was meant to be a secret agreement for a post-WWI Middle East, the agreement became known publicly in 1917 when the Russian Bolshevik government exposed it. The Sykes-Picot Agreement directly contradicted the promises the British made to Sherif Hussein and caused a considerable amount of tension between the British and Arabs. However, this would not be the last of the conflicting agreements the British would make.

3-British promises the Jews

The British pledge that formally committed the British to the Zionist cause, was the Balfour Declaration of November 1917, an instrument created after the Husain-McMahon Correspondence and the Sykes-Picot Agreement.

Before the emergence of David Lloyd George as prime minister and Arthur James Balfour as foreign secretary in December 1916, the Liberal Herbert Asquith government had viewed a Jewish entity in Palestine as detrimental to British strategic aims in the Middle East. Lloyd George and his Tory supporters, however, saw British control over Palestine as much more attractive than the proposed British-French condominium. Since the time of the Sykes-Picot Agreement, Palestine had taken on increased strategic importance because of its proximity to the Suez Canal, where the British garrison had increased to 300,000 men, and because of a planned British attack on Ottoman Syria originating from Egypt. Lloyd George was determined, as early as March 1917, that Palestine should become British and that he would rely on its conquest by British troops to obtain the abrogation of the Sykes-Picot Agreement.

In the new British strategic thinking, the Zionists appeared as a potential ally capable of safeguarding British imperial interests in the region. Furthermore, as British war prospects dimmed throughout 1917, the War Cabinet calculated that supporting a Jewish entity in Palestine would mobilize America's influential Jewish community to support United States intervention in the war and sway the large number of Jewish Bolsheviks who participated in the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution to keep Russia in the war. Fears were also voiced in the Foreign Office that if Britain did not come out in favor of a Jewish entity in Palestine the Germans would preempt them. Finally, both Lloyd George and Balfour were devout Christians who attached great religious significance to the proposed reinstatement of the Jews in their ancient homeland.

3-1-The effect of British promises to the Jews

The First World War was a horrific and bloody war between the great powers of the world, which killed millions of people, changed the map of the world, and opened the chapter of troubled history for many regions. The war between the Allies and Central Powers was full of conspiracies, double-crossing, twists and turns. At that time, the Jews were only 12 percent of the total population of Palestine and they were looking for help in creating Israel. Although the Zionist didn't play an active role in the World War I, but there is no denying the fact that this war provided them the first breakthrough towards the creation of Israel. The Jews got support of the key powers as a result of World War I, and this support was ensured through a well laid-out plan by the Zionist leaders against the Palestinian Arabs.

During World War I, the Jews realized that the future map of the Middle East would not be determined by the rights and desires of majority of its inhabitants, but by the rivalries between great powers and their strategic goals. Towards the end of the war, both British and French leaders wanted to consolidate their control over Palestinian region, so both promised

the Jews to help them in establishing their homeland in Palestine. The 1917 document by French was rather vague but the Balfour Declaration by British, released in the same year, clearly endorsed the Zionist stance and benefited the Jews in more than one way. Although it was pretty clear that this document was used as a tool by Britain for convincing the Jews to encourage America to get into the war, but the Jews also took full advantage of the situation and arrived as an influential force towards the end of the Great War. Some of the major benefits that Jews got as a result of World War I are:

- a) The “historical connection of the Jewish people with Palestine” was recognized through British Mandate, and it was later approved by the League of Nations Council as well.
- b) The Balfour Declaration became the greatest Jewish-Zionist achievement which paved the way for the occupation of Palestine and creation of Israel.
- c) United States also supported the formation of the Jewish national home through a joint resolution of the United States Congress, passed on June 30, 1922.
- d) The post-War incidents also proved a major step toward a secure, internationally recognized homeland for the Jewish people
- e) The population of Jews in Palestine increased as a result of World War I and they started to build infrastructure which would eventually help them in creating their homeland and negotiating their stance with the world powers.

3-2-The Balfour declaration

Another group that wanted a say in the political landscape of the Middle East were the Zionists. Zionism is a political movement that calls for the establishment of a Jewish state in the Holy Land of Palestine. It began in the 1800s as a movement that sought to find a homeland away from Europe for Jews (most of which lived in Germany, Poland, and Russia).

Eventually the Zionists decided to pressure the British government during WWI into allowing them to settle in Palestine after the war was over. Within the British government, there were many who were sympathetic to this political movement. One of those was Arthur Balfour, the Foreign Secretary for Britain. On November 2nd, 1917, he sent a letter to Baron Rothschild, a leader in the Zionist community. The letter declared the British government's official support for the Zionist movement's goals to establish a Jewish state in Palestine:

His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours 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. (Friedman, 1915-1920.P.171).

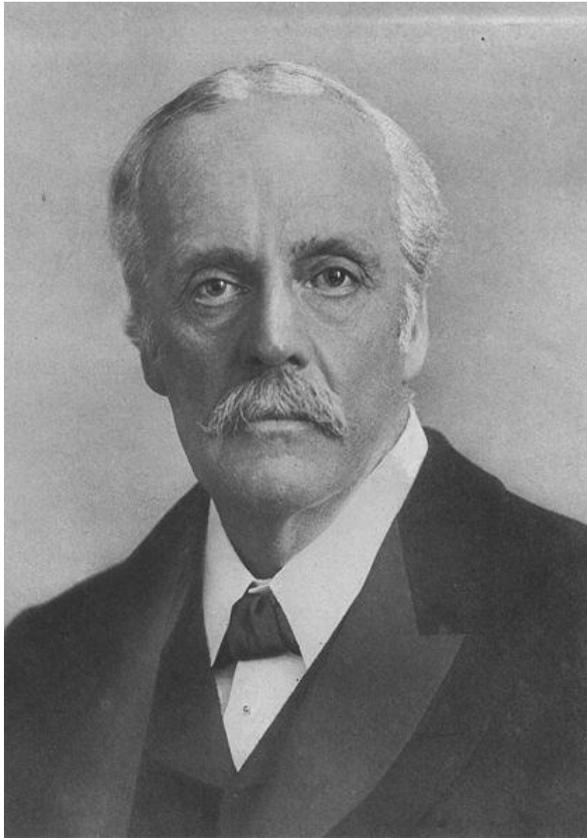
3-3-Definition about Balfour Declaration

The Balfour Declaration was a letter Arthur Balfour wrote to Lionel Walter Rothschild and also a statement of British support for the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people. The Letter was written on November 2, 1917 and approved by the League of Nations on July 24, 1922. This Declaration was important to the Jewish People because it gave them a homeland to hold residence after centuries of persecution.

The declaration came out at the end of World War I. The Ottoman Empire, which was aligned with Germany and Austria-Hungary, was beaten, and was being split up among the victors. There were a lot of discussions about who got what, and one of the territories on the table for discussion was Palestine. There was a strong Zionist movement even before the Nazis came along, and the British Government was very sensitive to that. The declaration promising Jews possession of Palestine was just a letter That Balfour had written to Lord

Rothschild, a prominent British Jew. It really had no force of law. But the Jews latched onto it as their guarantee to the homeland they were seeking.

3-4-The responsible for the Belfour declaration



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 favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours 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.

Y. in
Arthur Balfour

An image of Balfour and the Declaration (*Israel National Photo Collection*)

Balfour began his political career as a member of Parliament in 1874. He was the nephew of Salisbury and in 1886 joined his cabinet as chief secretary for Scotland. In 1887 he became secretary for Ireland. He took a firm stand in opposition to home rule for Ireland and earned the nickname "Bloody Balfour" among Irish nationalists. In 1891 he became First Lord of the Treasury in Salisbury's second ministry and held the same post in his third government when he also became leader in the Commons.

In 1902 Balfour succeeded his uncle as prime minister and during his short time in office passed significant legislation including education and Irish land reform bills. He was

responsible for the "entente cordiale," which established cordial relations between the governments of Britain and France (1904), forming a basis for their alliance in World War I. That same year he created the Committee of Imperial Defence (CID) to plan for the Empire's defense and establish budgets for the military and navy.

3-5- The importance of the Balfour declaration of 1917

The Balfour Declaration was important, because with it, it caused a series of events that were very important in the lives of many Jews. The Jews went to the British seeking to gain all of Palestine. They felt that the land was rightfully theirs because they were there first. The British used this weakness to their advantage. They created this agreement so that was not exactly what the Jews wanted but they knew the Jews would go for it, because the British were their only option. They also knew that by creating this agreement, they would gain support from the Jews. The Jews did in fact do this, and were rewarded not their own Jewish Home state, but major power and decision within Palestine. The Jewish Agency was created, and they opened up so many opportunities for the Jews in hopes that more Jews would move there. They in fact, did to start move there, and the Arabs began to attack the Jews. In 1937 the British restricted the powers of the Jewish Agency. They also tried to limit the immigration of Jews into Palestine. They did this in order to gain support from the Arabs, and they knew that the only way this was going to be possible was if they restricted the powers of the Jews. This was basically the Balfour Declaration all over again

3-6-The role of the Balfour declaration

Balfour's government resigned the following year. Disputes over Joseph Chamberlain's proposals for tariff reform split the party and led to the Conservatives losing the general election (1905) and Balfour losing his seat in Parliament. He retained party leadership until 1911.

Balfour continued to serve in government, joining the Asquith ministry in 1915 as First Lord of the Admiralty. Under David Lloyd George, as foreign secretary (1916-19) he issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917, a letter to Lord Rothschild in which he stated the governments support for "the establishment in Palestine of a homeland for the Jewish people". His declaration led to the foundation of Israel in 1948. He was also involved in the negotiations ending World War I and signed the Treaty of Versailles between the allies and Germany, 1919. He was lord president of the council under Lloyd George (1919-22) and again in Baldwin's government (1925-29). He represented Britain in the League of Nations (1920-22).

4-Conclusion

The Balfour Declaration led to mass emigration of Jews during the period between the world wars, thus resulting in the dispossession and exile of the Palestinian people from their own land. It gave a legitimate ground to Zionism which did not gained mass acceptance till then, even within the Jews around the world. It resulted in the establishment of a Jewish state of Israel after thirty years, which used force and violence to displace a large proportion of the indigenous Arab population from Palestine. It contradicted the Husayn-McMahon correspondence of 1915-16 and thus developed the Arab resentment towards the West which continues even today. The reactions of Palestinian Arabs towards the Balfour Declaration were justified because it encouraged occupancy of their land by the people who had no right to it. They opposed the Declaration on the grounds that it went against their rights and wishes and decided their fate without keeping them in the loop. Thus, the Balfour declaration marked a beginning of unrest in the Middle East.

Chapter three

The role of Britain in

Palestine in 1917

Introduction

The British Empire controlled Palestine for little more than thirty years (1917-1948), but during that time had an enormous impact on the course of its future development, fostering the creation of a Jewish national home and suppressing Arab rebellion. This thesis is chiefly concerned with understanding the reasons behind British foreign policy towards Palestine – high policy decided by the cabinet in Westminster and not the day-to-day policy of administering the territory, which was conducted chiefly through the bureaucracy of the Colonial Office. As such, this chapter interested in the role of Britain in Palestine

1-World War One and the Middle East State System

1-1-Basic info on WWI

The emergence of the powerful German Empire in 1871 disrupted the European balance of power. June 28, 1914 the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his pregnant wife Sofia assassinated in Sarajevo by Gavrilo Princip. A young Serbian nationalist from Bosnia.

Austro-Hungarian Empire declares war to Serbia, the Russian (Orthodox Christian) ally. Russia becomes involved in the issue. German Empire was allied with the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Germany decided to attack France, the ally of Russia at the time, and to do so it decided to go via Belgium first. Britain was committed by treaty to Belgian independence, so it declared war on Germany. World War One had started, French and British called the war “The Great War”. German military strategists understood that the war was being waged among rival empires with worldwide interests. These empires depended on their colonial possessions to maintain their strategic position and economic well-being. Colonies were also indispensable for the

French and British military efforts. There are many theories that try to explain the cause of WW1.

The most quantifiable one is the theory that the war was caused by Imperialist Rivalries.

1-2-Losses during the WW1

- ❖ Per capita, losses in the Ottoman Empire and Persia
- ❖ Among the highest of all nations.
- ❖ Germany lost 9% of its population
- ❖ France lost 11% of its population
- ❖ Ottoman Empire lost almost 25% of its population or 5 million people out of 21 million
- ❖ 4/5 of Ottoman victims were non-combatants

1-3-Three Aspects of New political order brought to Middle East by WW1

- ❖ Creation of the current **state system** in the region:

States built by decree: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Palestine / Israel

States built by revolution and conquest: Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt

- ❖ Emergence of Middle Eastern **nationalisms**

NATIONALISM - ideology binding together people into political communities based on shared experiences and (alleged) distinguishing traits Turkish nationalism, Arab nationalism, Syrian nationalism Egyptian nationalism, etc.

- ❖ Recognition of Zionist (Israeli nationalist) movement by Britain in November 1917 – the beginning of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

2-State-Building by Decree after WW1

France and Britain constructed Syria, Lebanon, Palestine/Israel, Jordan, and Iraq guided by their own interest and preconceptions, Britain and France partitioned what had once been the Ottoman Empire and created states where states had never existed before. The wishes of

the inhabitants of those territories counted for little when it came to deciding their political future

France claimed to have the “historic rights” in the region of Ottoman Syria (including Lebanon and Palestine) as a protector of Lebanon’s Maronite Christians but also due to its investments in local railroads and silk production.

Britain, at first, was a bit flustered about the spoils of war, for they had been the staunch defender of the Ottoman integrity just to oppose the interests of

Russia. However, later the British appointed a special committee to make a list of the war spoils that would secure the British investment and trade routes in the region.

The Brits claimed Persia, later also Iraq due to its expected oil wealth, and Palestine due to its proximity to the Suez Canal.

2-1-Entente Secret Treaties

CONSTANTINOPLE AGREEMENT (March 18, 1915)

- ❖ France and Britain recognized Russia’s claims to the Turkish straits(Bosporus and Dardanelles) and some surrounding territory. Istanbul was supposed to become a free port.
- ❖ In return France should get control over Syria (territory neverprecisely defined).
- ❖ The British should get control over Persia.
- ❖ What makes this agreement important is that it established the principle that Entente Powers had a right to compensation for fighting their enemies and that at least a part of this compensation should come in the form of territory carved out of the Middle East.

All these treaties applied the principle of compensation. Sometimes the treaties stipulated that compensation should take the form of direct European control over territories belonging to the Ottoman Empire. At other times, the Entente powers masked their ambitions by promising each other rights to establish or maintain protectorates or to organize zones of indirect control.

The new Bolshevik government of Russia not only renounced the claims of their predecessors, but it also embarrassed the other entente powers by publishing the texts of the secret agreements signed by the previous Russian government.

2-2-Conflicting promises and secret treaties

The British offered to shelter Muhammad ibn Saud within a “veiled (secret) protectorate” if he only stays out of conflict between the British and the Ottoman Empire. simultaneously, they promised ibn Saud’s rival, Sharif Hussein ibn Ali of Mecca, gold and guns and the right to establish an ambiguously defined Arab “state of states” in the predominantly Arab areas of the Ottoman Empire in exchange for a revolt against the Ottoman Empire.

3-The reasons that led Britain to give the Balfour Declaration in 1917

British occupation of Palestine would constitute a strong claim to ownership (Vereté, “The Balfour Declaration and its Makers”.)

They did not need Zionism to do so. This strategy, however, risked a direct political confrontation with a much-needed ally. To avoid this eventuality, the ubiquitous Sir Mark Sykes pursued Zionism – a “just cause” with interests in Palestine – to legitimate what were fundamentally strategic claims (Geoffrey.2009).As a result, Sykes began to introduce Zionist interests in his negotiations with Picot (Friedman. 1973).

It was not until the first British invasion of Palestine was in motion, however, that Sykes contacted the two men who would figure most prominently in British-Zionist diplomacy. In January 1917 he met with Secretary General of the World Zionist Organization Nahum Sokolow, and President of the British Zionist Organization Chaim Weizmann, and the two leaders made it clear to Sykes that they favoured British rule in Palestine. The following month Sykes introduced Sokolow to Picot, and the amicable meeting resulted in the opening of a Zionist mission in Paris. Thus by the spring of 1917 the Zionist agenda was reassuringly

recognised by the Entente. This, combined with an underlying anti-Semitic belief in the power and pro-German tendencies of world Jewry, led to the final British agreement to the Balfour Declaration (Levene, 1992 107).

When the war cabinet approved the letter – drafted in negotiation between the Foreign Office, Sykes and several Zionists – on 31 October, 1917, the action passed because they believed “the vast majority of Jews in Russia and America, as, indeed, as over the world, now appeared to be favourable to Zionism. If we could make a declaration favourable to such an ideal, we should be able to carry on extremely useful propaganda both in Russia and America”.

This conviction provided the final motivation – targeting American and Bolshevik Jews for propaganda – in approving the Balfour Declaration. It was merely the final step on a longer journey through military communication requirements and the need to keep France out of Palestine.

The British government, therefore, possessed ample evidence that the policy of supporting a Jewish national home in Palestine was creating violent tension, but chose nevertheless to pursue it. For the first time, however, the Churchill White Paper tied Jewish immigration to Palestine’s economic capacity “to ensure that the immigrants should not be a burden upon the people of Palestine as a whole and that they should not deprive any section of the present population of their employment”.

1916: On June 4, Ashkenazi Jew, Louis Dembitz Brandeis is appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States by President Wilson as per his agreed blackmail payment to Samuel Untermyer some three years earlier. Justice Brandeis is also the elected leader of the Executive Committee for Zionist Affairs, a position he has held since 1914.

The Middle of World War II. Germany were winning the war as they were being financed by the Rothschilds to a greater extent than France, Italy and England, because Rothschilds, did not want to support the Tsar in Russia, and of course Russia was on the same side as France, Italy and England. Then a significant event occurred. Germany, although they were winning the war and not one foreign soldier had set foot on their soil, offered armistice to Britain with no requirement of reparations. The Rothschilds were anxious to make sure this didn't happen as they were expecting to make far more money off this war, so they played another card they had up their sleeve. Whilst the British were considering Germany's offer, Rothschild agent Louis Brandeis sends a Zionist delegation from America to Britain to promise to bring America into the war on the side of the British, provided the British agree to give the land of Palestine to the Rothschilds.

The Rothschilds wanted Palestine for the following reason. They had great business interests in the Far East and desired their own state in that area along with their own military which they could use as an aggressor to any state that threatened those interests.

The British subsequently agree to the deal for Palestine and the Zionists in London contact their counterparts in America and inform them of this fact. Suddenly all the major newspapers in America that up to that point had been pro-German turned on Germany running propaganda pieces such as: German soldiers were killing Red Cross Nurses; German soldiers were cutting off babies hands, etc, in order to manipulate the American public against the Germans.

This same year, President Woodrow Wilson, ran a re-election campaign under the slogan, "Re-Elect the Man Who Will Keep Your Sons out Of the War."

On December 12, Germany and her allies offer peace terms to end the war.

1917: As a result of Germany's offer of peace the Rothschild war machine goes into overdrive in America, spreading propaganda which leads to President Wilson under the

instructions of American Zionist leader and Supreme Court Justice, Louis Dembitz Brandeis, reneging on his promise to the electorate and taking America into the first world war on April 6. As per the Rothschild Zionist promise to the British, to take America into the war, they decide they want something in writing from the British to prove that they will uphold their side of the bargain. The British Foreign Secretary, Arthur James Balfour therefore drafts a letter which is commonly known as the, "Balfour Declaration," which is reprinted below.

The Germans, naturally, felt they had been betrayed by the Zionists. This is because, at the time the Rothschilds made their deal with Britain for Palestine, in exchange for bringing America into the war, Germany was the most friendly country in the world towards the Jews, indeed the German Emancipation Edict of 1822 guaranteed Jews in Germany all civil rights enjoyed by Germans.

Also, Germany was the only country in Europe which did not place restrictions on Jews, even giving them refuge when they had to flee from Russia after their first attempted Communist coup failed there in 1905. Nevertheless, the Rothschilds had held up their side of the bargain to spill the blood of millions of innocents and as a result, Palestine is confirmed as a Jewish homeland, and whilst its handover to the Rothschilds takes place it is to remain under the control of Britain as the Rothschilds control Britain. At that time less than one percent of the population of Palestine was Jewish. Interestingly, the host of the Versailles peace conference is its boss, Baron Edmond de Rothschild.

The entry of Britain to WW1 (1914-1918) where Britain needed Jewish to support (politically and scientifically)

4-Zionist movement

The defeat and collapse of the Ottoman Empire left Britain in control of Palestine. The British military administration set up in 1918 was later replaced by a civilian

administration, paving the way for the formal establishment of the British Mandate over Palestine in 1923. By the time of the Balfour Declaration (1917), the Zionist movement had made significant strides in achieving the goals laid out in the Basle Programme. Through the work of the JNF and other organizations, Zionist establishments had significantly accelerated their land purchases in Palestine. Jewish labourers had been brought in from Europe, Yemen and elsewhere to work the lands and populate the settlements. More importantly, Zionist leaders had successfully lobbied the British Government to endorse their aims.

The language of the Balfour Declaration intimately reflected the preferences and wording of several prominent Zionist Jews who had been involved in various stages of the drafting process. Although Britain had not yet been given the Mandate for Palestine, the Balfour Declaration pledged British support for the creation of a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine. The Covenant of the League of Nations, signed at the same time as the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919, established the mandate system for the governance of the regions of the former Ottoman Empire.

Certain communities formerly belonging to the Turkish Empire have reached a stage of development where their existence as independent nations can be provisionally recognized subject to the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a Mandatory until such time as they are able to stand alone. The wishes of these communities must be a principal consideration in the selection of a Mandatory.

In contravention of Article 22 of the Covenant of the League of Nations, the Mandate for Palestine embodied an explicit commitment to the Balfour Declaration and the establishment of a “Jewish national home” in Palestine. The Zionist movement now had official authorisation to move ahead with its programme.

❖ Much of the funding was collected by the American Jewish Committee (established circa 1905) and deposited in a branch of the Anglo-Palestine Bank in Palestine. Funds were

distributed to Jews in Palestine based on earlier applications or according to need. ‘The Yishuv’s Early Capabilities: Organization, Leadership and Policies’; *see also* correspondence between Justice Brandeis and Chaim Weizmann, 11 Oct. 1914 (Brandeis. Levy (eds.) 1973, P 116).

- ❖ W. T. Mallison, *The Balfour Declaration: An Appraisal in International Law*, in (Ibrahim. 1971) ;(Manuel, Jeffries, P165-173).
- ❖ *See* Government of Palestine, (*A Survey of Palestine, Page 2*). Against the wishes of the Arab population, and with the aid of Jewish lobbying, the Mandate for Palestine (with a separate Mandate for Transjordan) was given to the British. The Council of the League of Nations adopted the terms for *The Palestine Mandate* in 1922. It entered into force in September 1923.

5-The Relation between Zionists and Britain

The informal committee of Zionists and Mark Sykes as representative of the British Government met on 7 February 1917 at the house of Moses Gaster, the Chief Rabbi of the Sephardic (Spanish and Portuguese) congregations in England. Gaster opened the meeting with a statement that stressed Zionist support for British strategic interests in Palestine which were to be an integral part of any agreement between them. As these interests might be considered paramount to British statesmen, support for Zionist aims there, Gaster said, was fully justified. Zionism was irrevocably opposed to any internationalization proposals, even an Anglo-French condominium.

(Antonius, *The Arab Awak*, P. 263).

Herbert Samuel followed with an expression of the hope that Jews in Palestine would receive full national status, which would be shared by Jews in the *Diaspora*. The question of conflict of nationality was not mentioned and a succeeding speaker, Harry Sacher, suggested that the sharing should not involve the political implications of citizenship. (Taylor,1959 P. 19).

Weizmann spoke of the necessity for unrestricted immigration. It is clear that the content of each speech was thoroughly prepared before the meeting.

Sykes outlined the obstacles: the inevitable Russian objections, the opposition of the Arabs, and strongly pressed French claims to all Syria, including Palestine. (The ESCO Foundation, *Palestine: A Study of Jewish, Arab and British Policies* . P. 92-93). James de Rothschild and Nahum Sokolow, the international Zionist leader, also spoke. The meeting ended with a summary of Zionist objectives:

1. International recognition of Jewish right to Palestine;
2. Juridical nationhood for the Jewish community in Palestine;
3. The creation of a Jewish chartered company in Palestine with rights to acquire land;
4. Union and one administration for Palestine;
5. Extra-territorial status for the holy places. (The ESCO Foundation, *Palestine: A Study of Jewish, Arab and British Policies* P.94).

The first three points are Zionist, the last two were designed to placate England and Russia, respectively (Taylor. P.20) and probably Italy and the Vatican. Sokolow was chosen to act as Zionist representative, to negotiate with Sir Mark Sykes.

The Zionists were, of course, coordinating their activities internationally. On the same day as the meeting in London, Rabbi Stephen Wise in the United States wrote to Brandeis: "I sent the memorandum to Colonel House covering our question, and he writes: 'I hope the dream you have may soon become a reality.'"

The reports reaching England of impending dissolution of the Russian state practically removed the need for Russian endorsement of Zionist aims, but made French and Italian acceptance even more urgent. This at any rate was the belief of Sykes, Balfour, Lloyd George and Winston Churchill, who, as claimed in their subsequent statements, were convinced that proclaimed Allied support for Zionist aims would especially influence the United States. Events in Russia made the cooperation of Jewish groups with the Allies much easier. At a mass meeting in March 1917 to celebrate the revolution which had then taken place, Rabbi Stephen Wise, who had succeeded Brandeis as chairman of the American Provisional Zionist Committee after Brandeis's appointment to the Supreme Court, said: "I believe that of all the achievements of my people, none has been nobler than the part the sons and daughters of Israel have taken in the great movement which has culminated in free Russia." (*New York Times* 24 March, 1917).

Conclusion

Universalism and Marxism compete superficially for first place as finalists in western culture distortion. Both promote its ethnic dilution, but deny us the reality of racial differences. Against our individuality and our nationalism, they and the global capitalists and their corporations unite as transnationals to reduce all but themselves to a common consumer market of blurred boundaries and one color. They would like one law -- which they would make; one armed force -- which they would control. Universalism would impose -- not a global peace, but a global tyranny. Universalism has come up with "interdependence," an expression used as a cover for the expropriation of our earnings as foreign aid in various forms; it has anesthetized the sense of self-defense of our countries so that those who have tried to stop their colonization by people from exploding populations of Africa, Asia and Latin America have been made to feel that they were depriving others of their "human rights."

General Conclusion

Britain was support for a Jewish homeland in the area of the Middle East occupied by Palestine, achieved through some form of partition within the country or a managed co-habitation. This policy was changed in the immediate post-war period due to a number of very valid reasons – the need for a military base in the Middle East in the light of declining Anglo-Egyptian relations, the necessity to maintain existing good relations with several Arab states, some of whom supplied (and continue to supply) Britain with oil, a desire not to be seen surrendering to terrorism (such as the bombing of the King David Hotel in July 1946 by the Iran) and international pressure. However, the international pressure, applied in large part by the USA, was simply irresistible if Britain wanted to maintain good relations with the superpower.

This vacillating position was extremely problematic and the Anglo-American Commission was Bevin's solution to the deadlock. It seems very likely that Bevin's aim was to being home to the Americans the impossible situation the British faced in the hope of giving them a way out of the complications without alienating the Americans. Richard Crossman was, however, far more interested in finding a solution to this intractable problem, than providing a convenient exit strategy for his political masters, something which would cost him dear in career terms. He concluded, as had several Labor Cabinet members, that Palestine had to be formally partitioned to create a Jewish state, although the Anglo-American Commission was unwilling to go this far in their conclusions, meaning that the geographical details of such a plan were not considered in detail. Instead, they took a step down the path to partition by recommending the issuing of a further 100,000 entry visas for displaced European Jews. The dismay which Crossman felt upon the rejection of the Commission's findings was representative of the wider disappointment felt by the Zionist movement and the supporters of

its cause. The tension within the region simply could not be contained and the British government was forced to refer the issue to the UN, and then relinquish the protectorate mandate of Palestine, with the state of Israel being forged through war instead of negotiation. The British government washed its hands of Palestine and Israel, and while this did not damage relations with Arab states and the USA in the longer term, this was certainly not Britain's "finest hour".

Crossman's role within the Anglo-American Commission provides us with a window into the activities of the commission and the views of the British government during this very difficult time. While biography and the study of individuals as a means of study has been traditionally derided and criticized, it is an invaluable way of focusing on key elements of political history, many of which have been skimmed over or forgotten by more traditional methods of study. The status of Israel within the on-going unrest within the Middle East, and more recently the wider world, is of massive interest to both the academic community and the public at large, and as a young nation, the circumstances in which Israel was created and the views of those responsible for that have new importance and resonance. It is important to note that the difficulties which the British government faced in relation to the partitioning of Palestine have striking similarities to some of the current problems which are being faced in the region. History has shown that his solution was not enough to bring the peace to the region which many have craved for nearly 60 years.

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