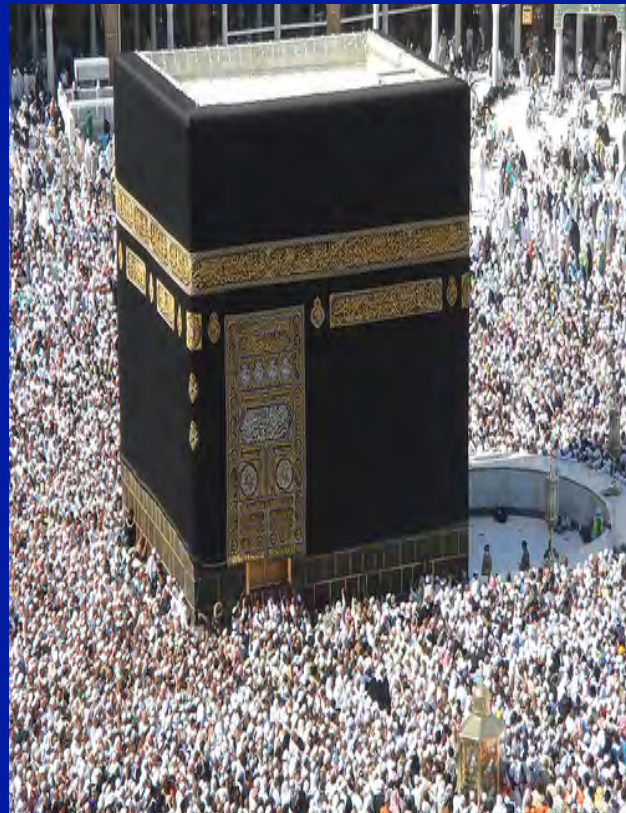
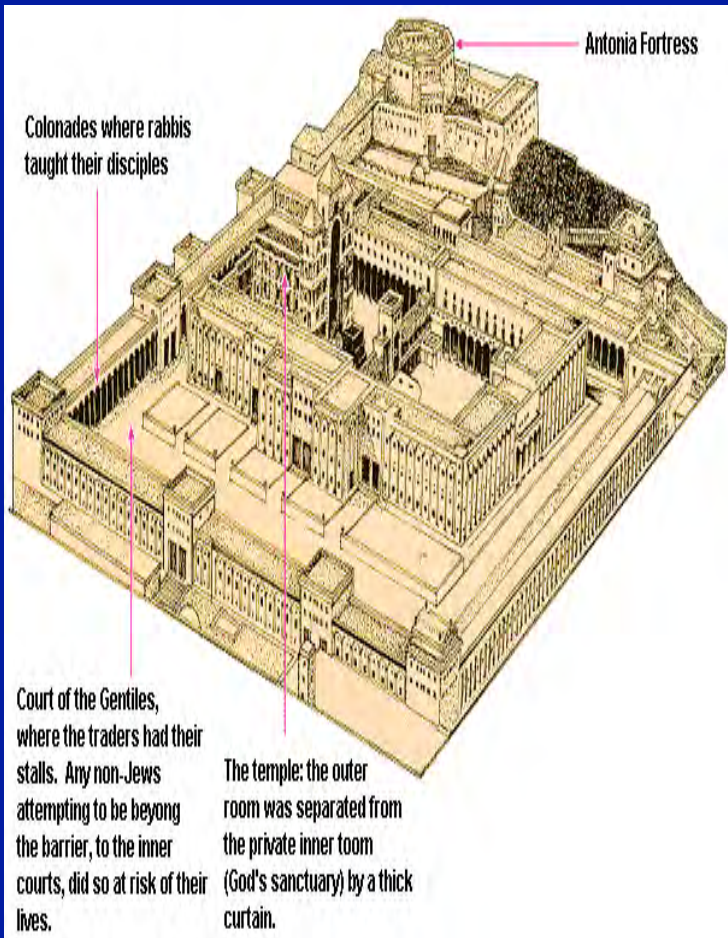




The Jews, Arabs and Islam

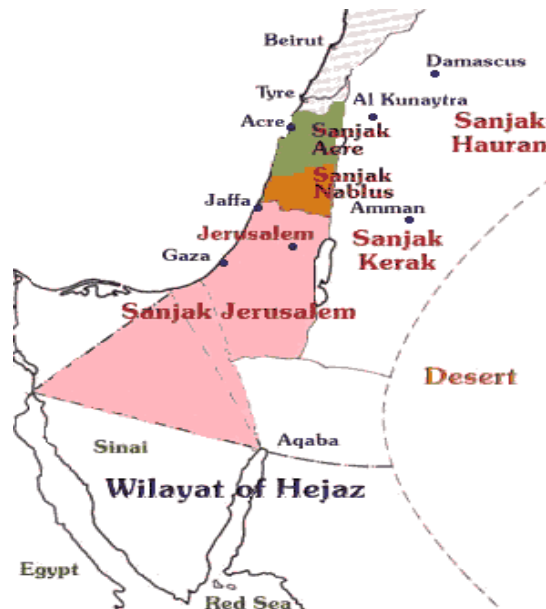


Dentwater Bible Church

Israel; The Arabs and Islam LIFE FOR THE JEWS AFTER WW I

May 2, 2012

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Ottoman Rule on the Eve of WW I

Ottoman Turkey entered the war as an ally of Germany and in October of 1914 began conscripting several thousand Jews and Christians in Israel to work as forced Laborers. Generalissimo Djemal Pasha of the Ottoman army of Syria issued a proclamation against all Zionist enterprises. The effect of this was to:

1. Severely punish to anyone supporting the Jewish national cause.
2. Punish those who flew the Jewish flag (Star of David).
3. Disarm the Jewish self-defense force previously sanctioned by the Ottomans.
4. Allow the Arab marauders access to the Jews.
5. Close down the Anglo-Palestine Bank, which was a primary funding source for the Jews in Israel.
6. The Turks scoured the Jews provisions and made pitiless requisitions of them.
7. They cut down all the trees in the forest of Chederah (allowing the return of malaria).

As British forces closed in on Baghdad the Turks arrested many Jews accused them of supporting the Brits then tortured and killed them. All the while 18,000 Jews were

conscripted into the Turkish army to fight for them under the Crescent Moon flag. Approximately a thousand of them died in action.

Once British General Allenby's victory parade marched into Jerusalem in December 1917 the British officially had control of Palestine and could exert substantial influence in the way it would be occupied and administered. Allenby remarked, "The wars of the crusaders are now complete". The battle was a great moral victory for the British Empire. Although ceremonial it signified the end of the Ottoman Empire.



General Allenby Enters Jerusalem in December 1917

It was only after World War I, at the Paris Peace Conference, that the name "Palestine" was applied to a clearly defined piece of territory - the area which today comprises Israel and Jordan. It was agreed that "Palestine" was to become a League of Nations Mandate, entrusted to Great Britain. Winston Churchill drew up the Mandate agreement. He referred to the Jews entrance to Israel as a "right." By making this declaration, a mass immigration of Jews into Israel began.

Under the terms of the Mandate, Britain's principal obligation was to facilitate the implementation of the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917, which pledged "the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people. No territorial restrictions whatsoever - neither east nor west of the Jordan River were placed on the Jewish National Home. In fact, the Mandate stipulated that Britain was to "facilitate Jewish immigration under suitable conditions and shall encourage close settlement by Jews on the land.



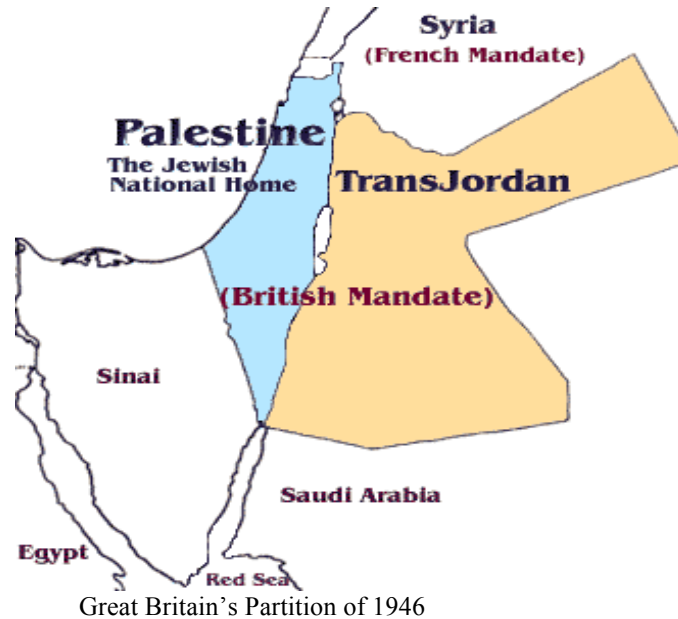
British Administration Division 1922-1946

Nevertheless, in July 1922, the British divided Palestine into two administrative districts. Jews would be permitted only west of the black line. To the east, in what became known as "Transjordan", the British installed a Hashemite ruler named Abdullah, who had been expelled from the Arabian Peninsula. By making this division, the British reduced the area available for the Jewish National Home to only 22% of the entire area of Palestine. The mass migration of Jews into Israel included many who were persecuted by the Arabs/Muslims. In 1923 one group, several hundred Jewish orphans from the Yemeni port of Hodeida were forced to convert to Islam. One Arab Emir who fought against the Ottoman Turkish rule was Feisal. He actually welcomed the Jews to Israel and signed an agreement with Dr. Chaim Weizmann the future president of Israel. He welcomed the Jews in to Israel. He was the exception though as there was still much Muslim opposition to the Jews.

One Muslim leader who continued to inflame hatred toward the Jews was Haj Amin el-Husseini who was Mufti of Jerusalem in 1922. He hated the Jews and aligned with Hitler to persecute them when ever possible. He claimed that the Jews wanted to take away the Muslim holy places in Jerusalem, which were under British protection. In 1929 he turned his followers against the Jews in a savage attack. This resulted in a killing of forty some Jews and four thousand were left homeless while their residences were looted. Nevertheless due to the Mandate many Jews enjoyed a good life in many Arab countries in the 1920's. The liberal Muslim the Shah of Iran permitted them great freedom and tolerance. In spite of this tolerance some groups continued to stir up hatred toward the Jews.

The Muslim Brotherhood started the subject of debate in 1928 titled "The Subject of Palestine and the Necessity of Jihad." This group is a strong fundamentalist Muslim group that hates all Jews regardless of where they lived. Many Muslims during this period wanted to claim the Jews as *dhimmi* and forcibly convert them. They did this to

orphans believing them to be fair targets.¹ So as in the Caliphates some were tolerant toward the Jews and other militantly against them.



In spite of the Mandate the British divided Palestine into two administrative districts however, Transjordan remained in every way part of the Palestine Mandate. The Mandate laws remained in effect in Transjordan, and Palestine Mandate currency was the legal tender. Jews in western Palestine as well as Arabs in East and West Palestine carried Palestine Mandate passports.

It was only 24 years later, in 1946, that Britain unilaterally granted Transjordan its independence. With granting Transjordan's independence, the British had partitioned Palestine and created an independent Palestine-Arab state east of the Jordan River. Article 7 of the Mandate for Palestine stipulated the "acquisition of Palestinian citizenship by Jews who take up their permanent residence in Palestine"

¹ Gilbert, Martin. In *Ishmael's House, A History of Jews in Muslim Lands*, Yale University Press, New Haven, CT. 2010 pg. 157



United Nations Partition Plan 1947

On November 29, 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations voted with a 2/3 majority to partition western Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state. (1) The Jews were to be granted what appears on the map in blue. Over 75% of the land allocated to the Jews was desert. Desperate to find a haven for the remnants of European Jewry after the Holocaust, the Jewish population accepted the plan, which accorded them a diminished state. The Arabs, intent on preventing any Jewish entity in Palestine, rejected it. (2) While the Jewish leadership and population in Palestine accepted partition, all of the Arab members states of the UN - Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Yemen- voted against it. Upon the resolution's adoption, the Arab delegates declared partition invalid: *The New York Times*, Nov. 30, 1947. Within two days, the Arab governments declared their opposition to partition: *The New York Times*, Dec. 1, 2, 1947.



The Land of Israel as of May 14, 1948



The Arab Invasion of 1948

In 1948, after the United Nations voted to give Israel statehood, five Arab armies (Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon and Iraq) immediately invaded Israel. The stated purpose of this invasion was to "push the Jews into the sea", in other words, genocide. Assam Pasha, Secretary-General of the Arab League, declared their intentions: "This will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacres and the Crusades. "What Hitler didn't finish three years earlier, the Arabs would finish once and for all."² A Nazi collaborator, Hajj Amin al-Husseini, led the Arabs of the former British Mandate of Palestine. He was charged at the Nuremberg

² Sachar, Howard M. *A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time: 2nd Edition*. New York: A Borzoi Book, 1976. Reprint Alfred A. Knoff, Inc., 1996, 333.

trials before escaping in 1946. Al-Husseini actively supported Hitler's aim to exterminate the Jews in World War II.

Despite the disadvantages in numbers, organization and weapons, the Jews began to take the initiative in the weeks from April 1 until the declaration of independence on May 14. The Haganah captured several major towns including Tiberius and Haifa, and temporarily opened the road to Jerusalem. Czechoslovakia was the only country willing to provide the Jews with weapons. Because God wanted them to survive He allowed them to capture territory from which the Arab aggressors attacked. Jordan captured what is now referred to as the "West Bank" (their true Jewish names are Judea and Samaria) including the Jewish eastern half of Jerusalem (now known as "Arab East Jerusalem"). Egypt captured what is now known as the "Gaza Strip." This was in ancient times known as the land of the Philistines. Both countries murdered or expelled every Jew who was living there at the time. During the nineteen years that Jordan and Egypt occupied those territories (now know collectively as the "Occupied Territories"), neither country was willing to create independent states for the remaining Arabs (now known collectively as the "Palestinians") residing in those territories. Instead, those regions were plundered and allowed to rot. Jewish graves were desecrated, gravestones were used to pave roads and build latrines, and Jewish homes were given to Arabs. Most of these Jewish refugees went to Israel, and in just a few years doubled Israel's population. The Ashkenazi Jews of Israel absorbed Arabic-speaking brethren into society. By comparison, displaced Arabs were forced into refugee camps by their Arab brethren and most remained there throughout the nineteen years of Arab occupation. There was not a policy of expulsion of Arabs from Israel. In 1949 Israel signed armistice agreements with Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Transjordan. Transjordan changed their name in April 1949 to Jordan.

During the war for Israel's independence, many Jewish villages were destroyed, synagogues and cemeteries desecrated, and fields and buildings burned. The Jewish quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem was besieged, and kept without food or water, and eventually the Jordanians expelled the Jews from the Old City. The Jordanians took over East Jerusalem and a large portion of land on the west bank of the Jordan River, thereby narrowing Israel, seen here in blue, to approximately nine miles at its narrowest point. Egyptian troops overran the Gaza strip in the west as well as the southern outskirts of Jerusalem. Despite tremendous losses, the new Jewish state survived. Jehovah God is with the Jews and bringing them back to their homeland for the world to see His prophecies fulfilled.

NEXT SESSION: JEWISH MIGRATION AND ISLAMIC FIGHTS AGAINST ISRAEL

Please Call or e-mail with any questions or comments.

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