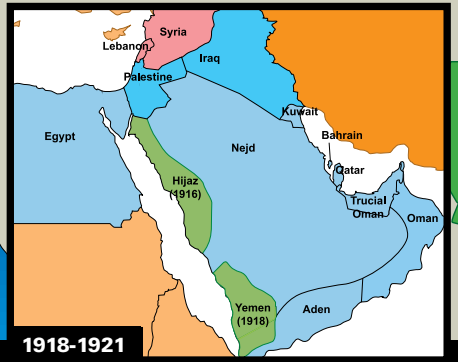
Evolution Of The Middle East

No nation ever replaced the ancient Jewish state. Successive empires ruled until the Ottoman Empire's 400-year reign ended with its defeat in World War I. The Ottomans ceded their lands to the Allies.



The Allies and League of Nations carved out nation states from the defeated Ottoman Empire's lands. Set up as "Mandates," they were to be administered by France and England until they could govern themselves. The Palestine Mandate was created for the "Jewish national home."

Turkey
Morocco
Tunisia
Mediterranean Sea
Lebanon
Cyprus
Golan Heights
Israel
Syria
Iraq
Iran*
Gaza
West Bank
Jordan
Suez Canal
Sinai
Kuwait
Bahrain
Algeria
Libya
Egypt
Gulf of Aqaba
Strait of Tiran
Persian Gulf
Saudi Arabia
Qatar
UAE
Mauritania
Red Sea
Oman
Sudan
Arabian Sea
Yemen
Djibouti
Somalia
Comoros

* Iran is not an Arab country, but it is a Muslim theocratic republic that sponsors terrorism.

The Arab World and Israel Today

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StandWithUs

1917-1922

Britain and the League of Nations endorsed "reconstituting" the Jewish national home in the Palestine Mandate, drew its boundaries, and committed to "facilitating" Jewish settlement. By this time, Tel Aviv had already been built (1909), and Jews were the majority in Jerusalem.

1922-1923

Responding to Arab pressure, Britain cut off 77 percent of the Palestine Mandate and forbade Jewish settlement in what became Jordan. Today, approximately 70 percent of Jordanians are Palestinian Arabs. In 1923, Britain cut off and gave the Golan Heights to the French Mandate for Syria.

1947-1948

UN Resolution 181 recommended partitioning the remaining Palestine Mandate into an Arab state alongside a Jewish state. The boundaries were based on population distribution. Seventy percent of the Jewish portion was the Negev Desert.

1949-1967

Jewish leaders accepted the UN partition compromise. Arab leaders did not and launched a war to seize all the land. Jordan invaded and annexed the area it renamed the "West Bank," while Egypt occupied Gaza. Both areas remained unallocated portions of the former Mandate.

1967-1979

In 1967, Israel fought a preemptive war against the armies mobilized on its borders and captured the Golan Heights, the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza, and the West Bank.

1979-2010

Israel gave up the entire Sinai Peninsula in the 1979 Israel-Egypt peace treaty, withdrew from its security zone in southern Lebanon in 2000, and removed all Israeli settlements from Gaza in 2005. Today, Israelis and Palestinians are trying to negotiate what will be the permanent borders between Israel and the West Bank.

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