

Teacher Overview Objectives:

The Middle East From Ottoman Rule to the End of WWI

NYS Social Studies Framework Alignment:

Key Idea	Conceptual Understanding	Content Specification	Objectives
<p>10.7 DECOLONIZATION AND NATIONALISM (1900–2000): Nationalist and decolonization movements employed a variety of methods, including nonviolent resistance and armed struggle. Tensions and conflicts often continued after independence as new challenges arose. (Standards: 2, 3, 4, 5; Themes: TCC, GEO, SOC, GOV, CIV,)</p>	<p>10.7c Nationalism in the Middle East was often influenced by factors such as religious beliefs and secularism.</p>	<p>Students will investigate Zionism, the mandates created at the end of World War I, and Arab nationalism.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the interests and motives that European Imperialists, Arab Nationalists, and Zionists and in the future of the Middle East before World War I 2. Describe the actions taken by European countries, Arab nationalists, and Zionists during WWI and explain how those actions led to the state of the Middle East after the war..

1

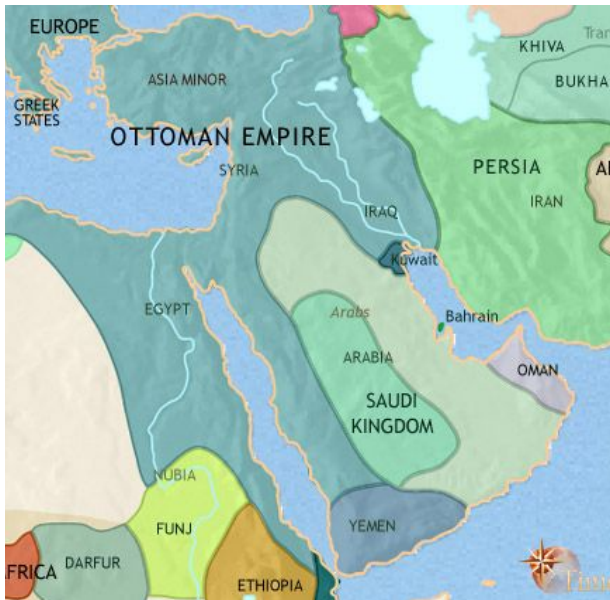
Which groups had interests in the future of the Middle East before World War I?

Objective: Explain the interests and motives that European Imperialists, Arab Nationalists, and Zionists had in the future of the Middle East before World War I.

Introduction

Directions: Examine the maps below and answer the questions that follow.

Middle East in 1789



Source: <http://www.timemaps.com/history/middle-east-1789ad>

Middle East 1914



Source: <http://www.timemaps.com/history/middle-east-1914ad>

1. See

Write observations of the two maps above.

2. Think

Write down inferences you can make based on your observations.

3. Wonder

Write down any questions you have about the maps.

4. Based on what you have learned about the histories of countries like China and India in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, what might explain the difference in the two maps above?

Historical and Geographic Context

The Middle East in the 17th, 18th, and 19th Centuries

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



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

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

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

The Middle East.

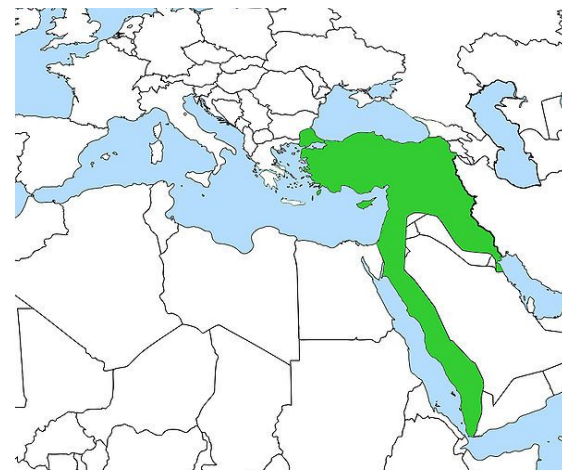
Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Middle_East_\(orthographic_projection\).svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Middle_East_(orthographic_projection).svg)

Source: Adapted from http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Ottoman_Empire



The Ottoman Empire, 1683.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_changes_of_the_Ottoman_Empire_1683.jpg



The Ottoman Empire, 1913.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Territorial_changes_of_the_Ottoman_Empire_1913b.jpg

Questions

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

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

1

European Imperialists



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

Source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Durbar_Port_Said_stopover_1911.jpg

2

Arab Nationalists



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

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Fatat_Members_outside_of_Damascus.jpg

3

Zionists



Theodor Herzl addresses the Second Zionist Congress in 1898.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Herzelandsecondcongress.jpg>

Directions: Read about each of the groups mentioned above on the following pages and answer the questions about them.

Interest Group #1: European Imperialists

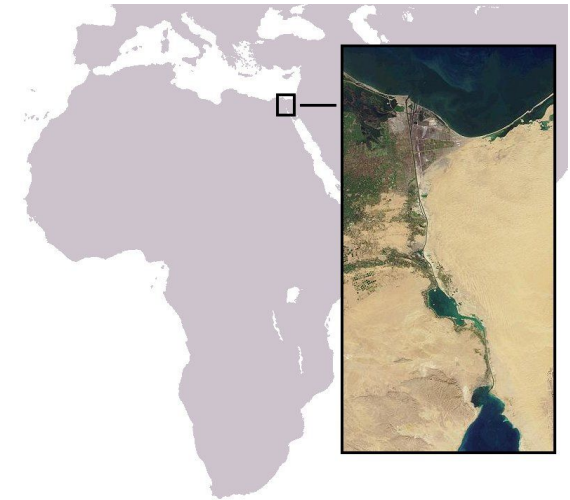
▶ Watch [this video on the Suez Canal](#), read the text and examine the images below then answer the questions that follow.

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

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

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

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



Location of the Suez Canal.

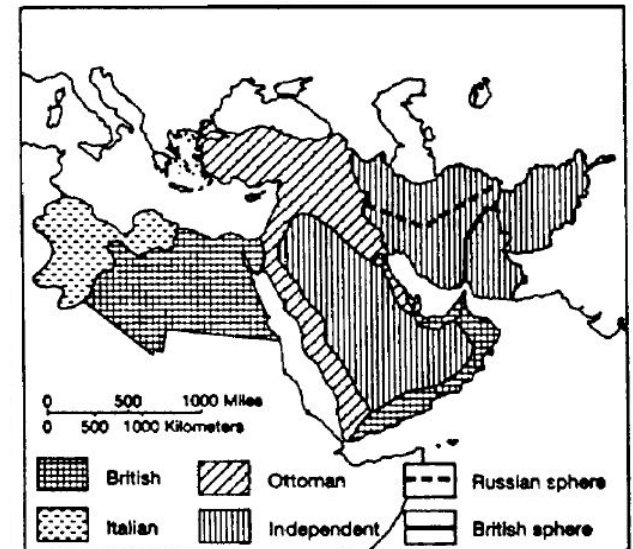
Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Canal_de_Suez.jpg

1. Why were Europeans interested in control of the Middle East?

2. Which European countries gained territory of the Ottomans? How?

3. Why was the Suez Canal important to Europeans? How did it affect the Ottoman Empire?

Middle East in the 1910s



Interest Group #2 Arab Nationalists

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: Adapted from http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Ottoman_Empire



A map of the Arab world and defined by countries who joined the Arab League in 1945.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Arab_world.png



Husain bin Ali, 1933 and his son and successor Ali bin Husain, members of the Hashemite family, ruled the Hejaz and were leaders of the early Pan-Arabism movement.

1. What is Pan-Arabism?

2. Who were the Young Turks? What changes did they make to the Ottoman Empire?

3. How did the growth of nationalism affect the Ottoman Empire?

Interest Group #3: Zionists

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

Jewish immigration to Palestine started in 1882. The so-called First Aliyah (first return) saw the arrival of about 30,000 Jews over 20 years. Most immigrants came from Russia, where anti semitism was a major problem. They founded a number of agricultural settlements with financial support from Jewish philanthropists in Western Europe. The Second Aliyah started in 1904.

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

Source: Adapted from <http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Zionism>



Zionist leader **Theodor Herzl**.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Theodore_Herzl.jpg

1. What is Zionism? What were its goals in the late 19th and early 20th centuries?

3. Where did the Jewish people want their homeland? Why?

2. Who founded the Zionist movement? Why was it founded?



Tel Aviv, the first city founded by Zionists immigrants was created on land purchased from Bedouins, north of the existing city of Jaffa. This photograph is of 1909 auction of the first lots.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:TelAviv-Founding.jpg>

Synthesis Task

Directions: For each of the groups interested in the future of the Middle East below, identify what their interests and motives were for the region.

1

European Imperialists



2

Arab Nationalists



3

Zionists



Why were European Imperialists interested in the future of the Middle East before WWI? What did they want?

Why were Arab Nationalists interested in the future of the Middle East before WWI? What did they want?

Why were Zionists interested in the future of the Middle East before WWI? What did they want?

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2

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

Objective: Describe the actions taken by European countries, Arab nationalists, and Zionists during WWI and explain how those actions led to the state of the Middle East after the war.

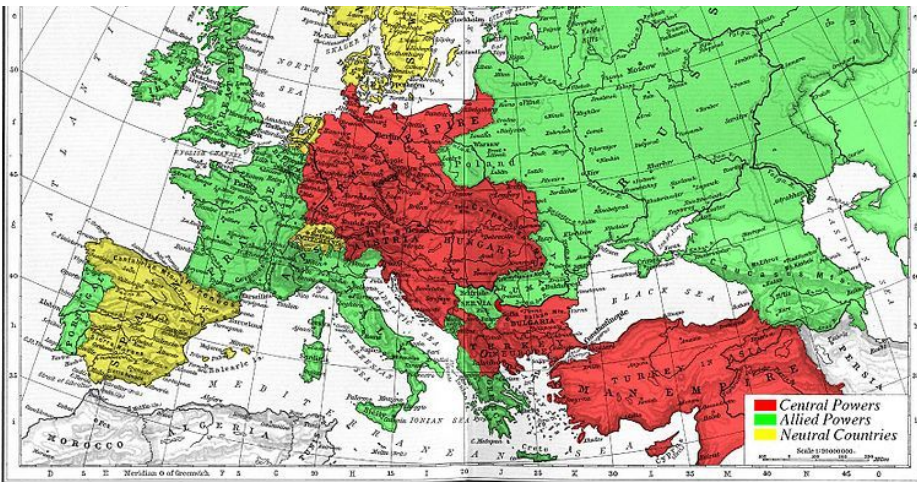
World War I Review

Directions: Fill out the information below about World War I before learning about how it impacted the Middle East.

1. During which years did WWI occur?

2. Where was WWI fought?

3. Identify the countries that fought for each side



4. What were the causes of WWI?

M	
A	
N	
I	
A	

5. Which side won World War I? Which countries were on that side?

6. What is the name of the treaty that ended the war? What were the effects of that treaty?


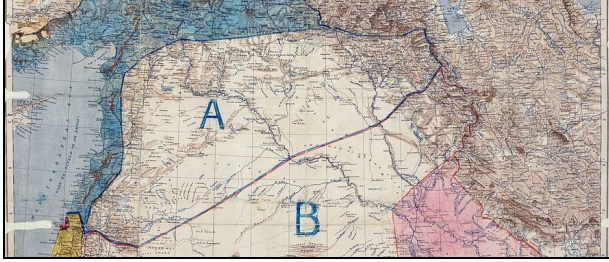
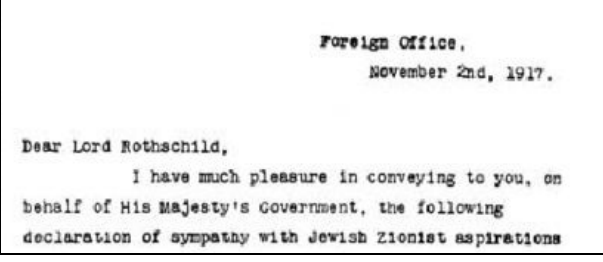
7. What effect did the end of the war have on the Ottoman Empire?

Central Powers	Triple Entente

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

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

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

Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali (1915)	Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916)	Balfour Declaration (1917)
		
<p>This is an agreement between..</p> <p>_____ and _____.</p>	<p>This is an agreement between..</p> <p>_____ and _____.</p>	<p>This is an agreement between..</p> <p>_____ and _____.</p>
<p>Identify what each group gets out of the deal.</p>	<p>Identify what each group gets out of the deal.</p>	<p>Identify what each group gets out of the deal.</p>
	<p>Does this agreement contradict any previous agreement? If so, how?</p>	<p>Does this agreement contradict any previous agreement? If so, how?</p>

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

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



Portrait painting of Sir Henry McMahon (1862–1949).

[Source](#)



Husain bin Ali, 1933.

[Source](#)

Context:

Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Ali ibn Husain was written in 1915 by the British High Commissioner Henry McMahon to Husain bin Ali, the Sherif [Noble] of Mecca. It is one of ten letters between the two through which McMahon attempted to gain Husain's support for the British in World War I. McMahon hoped that Husain would turn against the Ottoman Empire.

As Sherif of Mecca, Husain was in control of the section of the Ottoman Empire on the Arabian Peninsula containing the holy cities of Mecca and Medina (see map). Husain supported the British against the Ottoman Empire, starting a rebellion in 1916 because he feared that the nationalist government run by the Young Turks would not respect the Arab sections of the Ottoman Empire. Husain hoped to become the ruler of a united Arab state created out of sections of the Empire and hoped that the British could assist him in this goal.



Pre-Reading Questions

1. Who wrote <i>Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali</i> ?	
2. When was <i>Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali</i> written? (Year)	
3. What type (primary source of secondary source) of document is <i>Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali</i> ?	
4. What genre (letter, memoir, journal, edict, etc.) of document is <i>Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali</i> ?	
5. Who was the audience for <i>Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali</i> ?	
6. What do we know about the author of <i>Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali</i> ? What might this reveal about the perspective of the author?	
7. What major historical, political, and or economic events are occurring before and during the writing of <i>Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali</i> ?	
8. What questions do you have about <i>Sir Henry McMahon's Letter to Husain bin Ali</i> before you begin reading?	

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

	Text	Vocabulary
1	October 24, 1915.	
2		
3	I have received your letter...with much pleasure and your expression of friendliness and sincerity	
4	have given me the greatest satisfaction...	
5		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> wherein: (adv) in which; where </div>
6	As for those regions lying within those frontiers wherein Great Britain is free to act without	
7	detriment to the interests of her ally, France, I am empowered in the name of the Government of	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> detriment: (n) causing harm; damaging </div>
8	Great Britain to give the following assurances and make the following assurances and make the	
9	following reply to your letter:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> assurances: (n) promises </div>
10	(1) ...Great Britain is prepared to recognise and support the independence of the Arabs in all	
11	the regions within the limits demanded by the Sherif of Mecca.	
12		
13	(2) Great Britain will guarantee the Holy Places against all external aggression and will	
14	recognise their inviolability .	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> inviolability: (n) state of being secure from destruction or violation </div>
15	(3) When the situation admits, Great Britain will give to the Arabs her advice and will assist	
16	them to establish what may appear to be the most suitable forms of government those	
17	various territories.	
18	(4) On the other hand, it is understood that the Arabs have decided to seek the advice and	
19	guidance of Great Britain only, and that such European advisers and officials as may be	
20	required for the formation of a sound form of administration will be British.	
21		
22	(5) With regard to the vilayets of Baghdad and Basra, the Arabs will recognise that the	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> vilayets: (n) sections of the Ottoman Empire administered by one government </div>
23	established position and interests of Great Britain necessitate special administrative	
24	arrangements in order to secure these territories from foreign aggression to promote the	
25	welfare of the local populations and to safeguard our mutual economic interests.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> necessitate: (v) require </div>
26		
27	I am convinced that this declaration will assure you beyond all possible doubt of the sympathy of	
28	Great Britain towards the aspirations of her friends the Arabs and will result in a firm and lasting	
29	alliance, the immediate results of which will be the expulsion of the Turks from the Arab countries	
30	and the freeing of the Arab peoples from the Turkish yoke, which for so many years has pressed	
31	heavily upon them...	
32		
33	It was with very great relief and satisfaction that I heard of the safe arrival of the Holy Carpet and the	
	accompanying offerings which, thanks to the clearness of your directions and the excellence of your	

34	arrangements, were landed without trouble or mishap in spite of the dangers and difficulties	
35	occasioned by the present sad war. May God soon bring a lasting peace and freedom of all	
36	peoples.	
37		
38	I am sending this letter by the hand of your trusted and excellent messenger, Sheikh Mohammed	
39	bin Arif bin Uraifan, and he will inform you of the various matters of interest, but of less vital	
40	importance, which I have not mentioned in this letter.	
41		
42	(Compliments).	
43	(Signed): A. HENRY MCMAHON.	

From *The Israel-Arab Reader*, (3rd Ed.) edited, Walter Laqueur, Bantam Books, 1976. http://www.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Letters_between_Hussein_Ibn_Ali_and_Sir_Henry_Mcmahon

Close Reading Questions

<p>1. What promises have the British made to Husain in this letter?</p>	<p>4. In lines 29-31 of this letter, McMahon states that one of the effects of the agreement between the British and the Arabs will be “the expulsion of the Turks from the Arab countries and the freeing of the Arab peoples from the Turkish yoke, which for so many years has pressed heavily upon them...”</p> <p>4a. What does this mean?</p>
<p>2. What stipulations have the British added to this agreement that will benefit them?</p>	<p>4b. What does this quote suggest about the Arab’s relationship with the Turks, or at least the British perception of that relationship?</p> <p>4c. Why would McMahon have included this sentence in the letter?</p>
<p>3. Why do you think McMahon added the fourth assurance (li 18-20)?</p>	

5. Identify the author's purpose for writing this document. How does the author's purpose impact the reliability of this document?

Document 2: Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916)

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



Sir Mark Sykes, 1918. [Source](#)



François Georges-Picot, 1918. [Source](#)

Context:

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

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

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

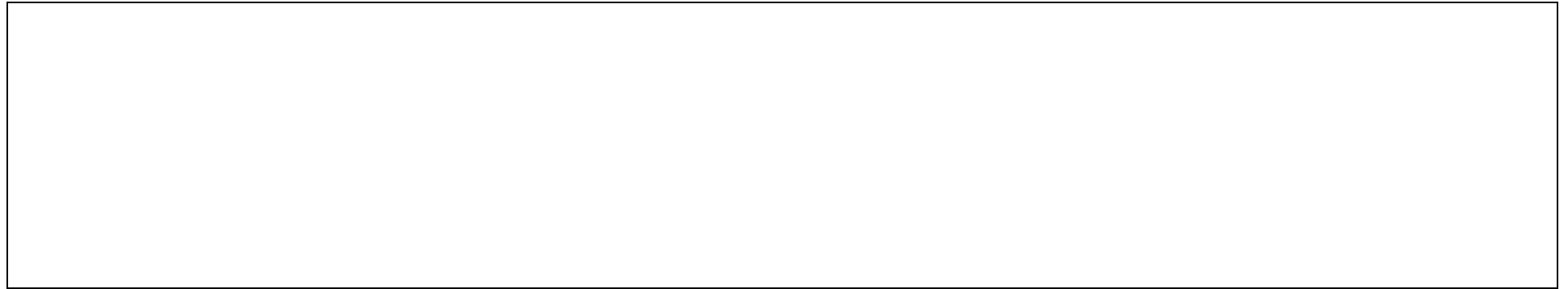
This secret arrangement conflicted the promises given by Sir Henry McMahon in his correspondence with Husain bin Ali, who was about to bring the Arabs of the Hejaz into revolt against the Turks on the understanding that the Arabs would eventually receive a much more important share of the fruits of victory.

In 1917, when the Bolsheviks took control of the Russian government, they pulled their country out of WWI and discovered the Sykes-Picot Agreement. They published it, revealing European ambitions for the Middle East to the world.

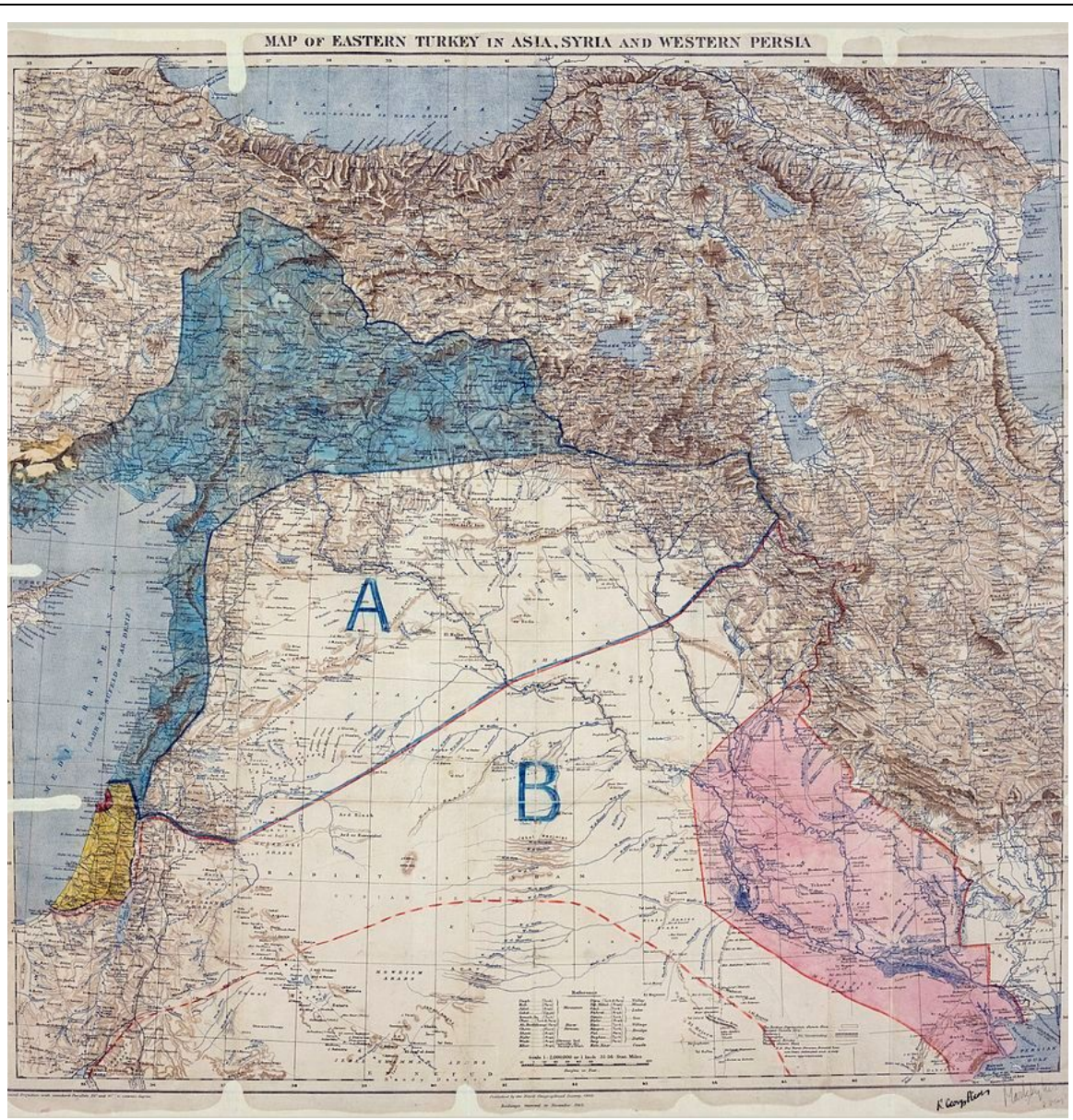
Source: *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, s. v. "Sykes-Picot Agreement", accessed April 21, 2016, <http://www.britannica.com/event/Sykes-Picot-Agreement>.

Pre-Reading Questions

1. Who created the <i>Sykes-Picot Agreement</i> ?	
2. When was the <i>Sykes-Picot Agreement</i> written? (Year)	
3. What type (primary source of secondary source) of document is the <i>Sykes-Picot Agreement</i> ?	
4. What genre (letter, memoir, journal, edict, etc.) of document is the <i>Sykes-Picot Agreement</i> ?	
5. Who was the audience for the <i>Sykes-Picot Agreement</i> ?	
6. What do we know about the authors of the <i>Sykes-Picot Agreement</i> ? What might this reveal about the perspective of the author?	
7. What major historical, political, and or economic events are occurring before and during the writing of <i>Sykes-Picot Agreement</i> ?	
8. What questions do you have about the <i>Sykes-Picot Agreement</i> before you begin reading?	



Document 2: *Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916)*



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:MPK1-426_Sykes_Picot_Agreement_Map_signed_8_May_1916.jpg

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

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

Close Reading Questions

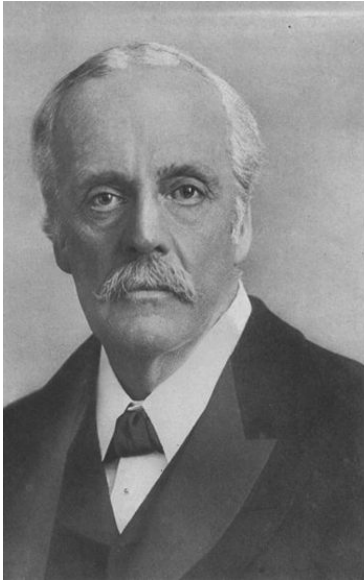
1. What do the blue and red shaded sections of the Sykes-Picot Agreement represent?

3. Compare the map of historical cultural zones of the Middle East and the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Which cultural zones are divided by the

	lines drawn by the British and French representatives?
2. What do the regions labeled A and B of the Sykes-Picot Agreement represent?	4. What might the effects of the borders drawn by Sykes and Picot be if the Middle East is divided up the way they have chose?
5. Identify the author's purpose for writing this document. How does the author's purpose impact the reliability of this document?	

Document 3: *Balfour Declaration (1917)*

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



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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which reads "Arthur James Balfour". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Portrait of Lord Balfour, along with the original version of the Balfour Declaration.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Balfour_portrait_and_declaration.JPG

Context:

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

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

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

Sources: “Balfour Declaration.” Fordham University Modern History Sourcebook.

<http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/balfour.asp>; *Encyclopædia Britannica Online*, s. v.

“Balfour Declaration”, accessed April 21, 2016,

<http://www.britannica.com/event/Balfour-Declaration>.

Pre-Reading Questions

1. Who wrote the <i>Balfour Declaration</i> ?	
2. When was the <i>Balfour Declaration</i> written? (Year)	
3. What type (primary source or secondary source) of document is the <i>Balfour Declaration</i> ?	
4. What genre (letter, memoir, journal, edict, etc.) of document is the <i>Balfour Declaration</i> ?	
5. Who was the audience for the <i>Balfour Declaration</i> ?	
6. What do we know about the author of the <i>Balfour Declaration</i> ? What might this reveal about the perspective of the author?	
7. What major historical, political, and or economic events are occurring before and during the writing of the <i>Balfour Declaration</i> ?	
8. What questions do you have about the <i>Balfour Declaration</i> before you begin reading?	

Document 3: *Balfour Declaration (1917)*

	Text	Vocabulary
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19	<p>Foreign Office November 2nd, 1917</p> <p>Dear Lord Rothschild:</p> <p>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:</p> <p>His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.</p> <p>I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.</p> <p>Yours, Arthur James Balfour</p>	<div data-bbox="1507 375 1990 435" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <p>aspirations: (n) hopes</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1507 456 1990 516" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <p>endeavors: (n) attempts to achieve a goal</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1507 537 1990 621" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <p>facilitate: (v) make an action of process easy or easier</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1507 643 1990 703" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <p>prejudice: (v) cause harm to</p> </div>

Source: "Balfour Declaration." Fordham University Modern History Sourcebook. <http://legacy.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/balfour.asp>

Close Reading Questions

1. According to Balfour, how does the British Government view the Zionist movements and its goals?

2. What stipulation does Balfour include in lines 12-14? Why do you think he states this?

3. Balfour writes that the British government “will use their best **endeavors** to **facilitate** the achievement of” establishing a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine.

3a. What do you think he means by this?

3b. How do you think Zionists felt about this statement? Why?

3c. How do you think Palestinians who already lived in Palestine felt about this statement? Why?

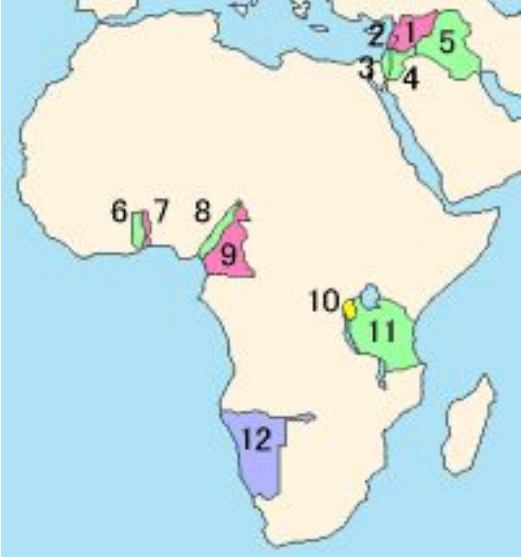
4. Identify author’s purpose for writing this document. How does the author's purpose impact the reliability of this document?

The Mandate System after World War I

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

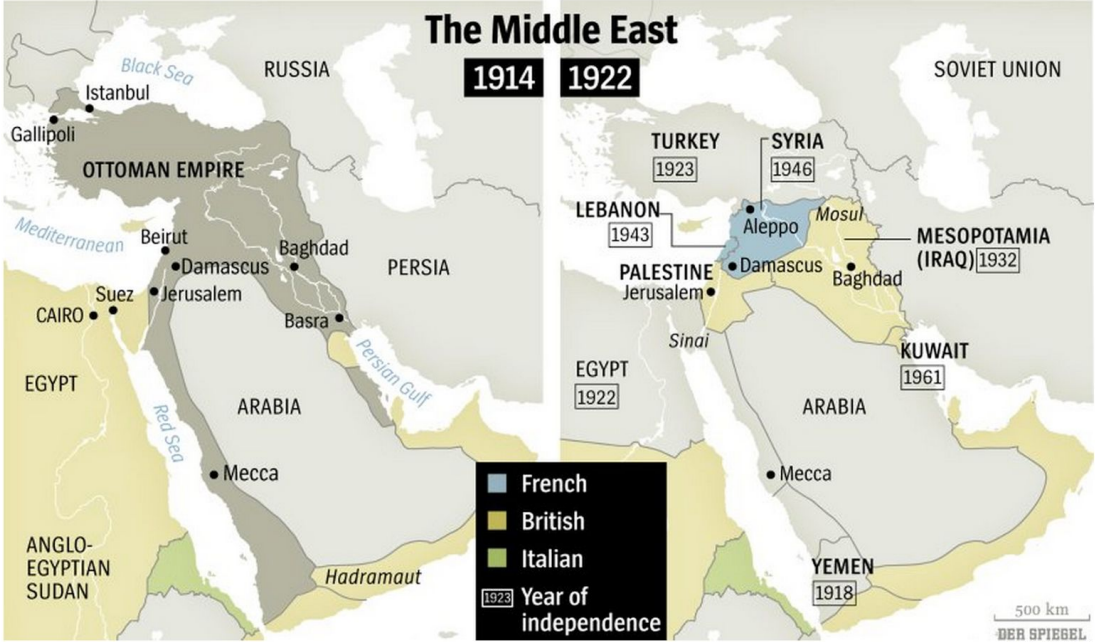
League of Nations Mandate (Middle East and Africa)

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



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:League_of_Nations_mandate_Middle_East_and_Africa.png

The Middle East



Map: The Middle East before and after World War I
Source: <http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/bild-946052-651551.html>

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

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

1. Based on the League of Nations' mandate system, which agreements made during WWI had the greatest influence over the decisions made about the post-WWI Middle East?

2. Based on their interests in the Middle East and Explain how you think the following groups reacted to the League of Nations' mandate system?

**European Imperial Nations
(Great Britain and France)**



Zionists



Arab Nationalists





Regents Multiple Choice Check for Understanding

1. Great Britain's primary motivation for acquiring control of the Suez Canal in the late 19th century was to

- (1) protect British trade interests in Asia
- (2) introduce democratic principles in this region
- (3) make up for the loss of the Panama Canal
- (4) prohibit the movement of ships from Russia

3. "His majesty's government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national homeland for the Jewish people . . . it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the religious and civil rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine. " — Lord Balfour, 1917

Which historical movement is most directly related to Lord Balfour's statement?

- (1) Pan Slavism
- (2) Organization for African Unity
- (3) Pan Africanism
- (4) International Zionism

2. The movement started by journalist Theodor Herzl to promote an independent Jewish state in Palestine is referred to as

- (1) the Reconquista
- (2) the Diaspora
- (3) Utopianism
- (4) Zionism