

Partition of the Ottoman Empire after World War 1 – Jill Curry

Australian Curriculum, Year 9 – ACDSEH095, ACDSEH097

How many times can a pie be divided? After the guns fell silent in the Middle East on October 31, 1918, the burning question now was how the captured lands would be administered. The ANZACs played a key role in the dissolution of the crumbling Ottoman Empire by their military efforts in Romani, Beersheba and participation in the entire Middle Eastern Campaign in World War 1. Britain had made promises to the French and the Arabs to gain their support and promised the Jews a homeland.



The outcome was that the former Ottoman Empire was partitioned and the League of Nations (predecessor to the United Nations) mandated that Lebanon and Syria be overseen by France, and Palestine and Mesopotamia come under Britain administration. This arrangement lasted until the lands became self-sufficient enough to govern themselves. The Republic of Turkey emerged in 1923. The Kingdom of Iraq was formed in 1932, the Lebanese Republic became independent in 1943, and the Syrian Arab Republic and Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan both followed in 1946. Last of all was the State of Israel in 1948.

The British Mandate – a Home for both Jews and Arabs

The San Remo Conference in April 1920 was called to allocate the League of Nations' mandates, which were based on the Balfour Declaration of 1917. It was ratified by the League of Nations in July 1922. The Mandate for Palestine (which contained the biblical land of Israel) fell to the British. Palestine at the time consisted of a much larger area than is thought of today. A Palestinian was a person who lived in this geographic area, no matter what their ethnicity or religious persuasion.



The territory of Palestine was divided along the Jordan River and Rift Valley to provide a homeland for both the Arab Palestinian population and the Jewish Palestinians. 77% of Palestine was given to the Arab Palestinians (the land east of the Jordan River). This area was re-named Transjordan in 1922 and later became the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 1946. Transjordan comprised nearly 38,000 square miles of Palestine. Under the mandate, Jews were not allowed to settle in this area.

23% of Palestine was given to the Jewish people



under this agreement. The area that became Israel was less than 8,000 square miles, which is less than 1/3 size of Tasmania. However, Jews *and* Arabs were allowed to settle in this area west of the Jordan River. Because of Arab pressure, within a few months, the British government's White Paper of June 1922 restricted immigration quotas to the Jews, thus making it extremely difficult for Jews to enter. These restrictions continued even during the Holocaust when the Jewish people were being gassed in Hitler's ovens. On November 29th 1947, the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 was passed with 33 votes in favour, 13 against, and 10 abstentions. This provided for the further partition of the western (Jewish) section of Palestine into two states – one Jewish and one Arab and a special status for Jerusalem. It was agreed to by the Jewish representatives and rejected by the Arab representatives. On May 14, 1948, when the

British withdrew, Israel immediately declared its statehood. The Arab states rejected this declaration and immediately declared war on the fledgling nation. The armies of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt (supported also by Saudi Arabia) invaded Israel. Miraculously, Israel survived but the conflict continues to this day.

From 1949-1967 the map liked like this with the second map showing the distances involved in the area:



Distances Between Israeli Population Centers and Pre-1967 Armistice Lines

These pre-1967 borders are being proposed by the UN for a Palestinian State today.

Pictures:

1. Map of mandates – Base map - CIA World Fact Book <https://www.cia.gov>
2. Map of Partition of Palestine – <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:PalestineAndTransjordan.png> – Doron
3. <http://laopinion2010.blogspot.com.au/p/historia-israel-y-palestina-breve.html>
4. <http://israelvoice.blog.com/2011/06/11/dispatch-from-jerusalem-lets-talk-1967>
5. Pre-'67 borders <http://anaverageamericanpatriot.blogspot.com.au/2010/12/bolivia-recognizes-palestine-while.html>

Powerpoint:

1. Map of mandates – Base map - CIA World Fact Book <https://www.cia.gov>
2. Slide 2 Writing only
3. Map of Partition of Palestine – <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:PalestineAndTransjordan.png> – Doron
4. Slide 4 Writing only
5. <http://laopinion2010.blogspot.com.au/p/historia-israel-y-palestina-breve.html>
6. <http://israelvoice.blog.com/2011/06/11/dispatch-from-jerusalem-lets-talk-1967>
7. Pre-'67 borders <http://anaverageamericanpatriot.blogspot.com.au/2010/12/bolivia-recognizes-palestine-while.html>
8. Anzac Contribution summary – Writing only

For further research:

Crombie, K., *Anzacs & Israel, A Significant Connection*, West Print Management, 2010

Crombie, K., Gallipoli – The Road to Jerusalem (DVD) www.heritageresources.com.au

Peters, J., *From Time Immemorial, The Origins of the Arab-Jewish Conflict over Palestine*, J KAP Pub, USA, 1984.

<http://www.beersheba100.com.au/>