



THE WARS OF ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE

THREE THINGS

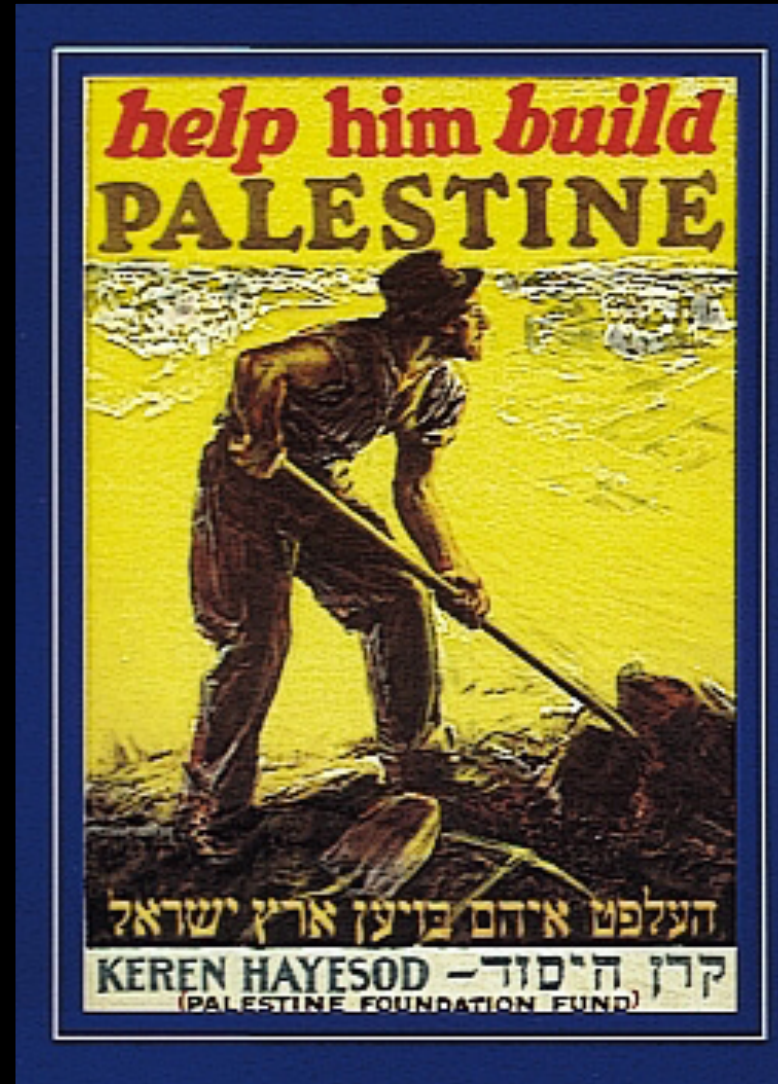
The main driver leading to the partition of the Ottoman Empire is Russia.

It is the rise of Hitler, and the resumption of war in Europe, rather than the existence of the Palestine Mandate itself, that creates the conditions for a Jewish state.

Political and social conditions on the Arab side make their failure to defeat Israel in 1948 less improbable than it may appear.



INVENTING PALESTINE



THE PARTITION OF ARABIA

A MAP OF
THE COUNTRIES BETWEEN
CONSTANTINOPLE AND CALCUTTA
INCLUDING
TURKEY IN ASIA, PERSIA,
AFGHANISTAN & TURKISTAN.

SCALE, 1:1,000,000. 10 ENGLISH MILES TO 1 INCH.
British miles.

Railways shown in red
Telegraphs shown in blue
British Possessions colored in unbroken red
South of British Possessions colored in unbroken red



McMAHON-HUSSEIN CORRESPONDENCE (JULY 1915-MARCH 1916)

Britain “*prepared to recognize and support the independence of the Arabs,*” with proviso that “*the districts of Mersina and Alexandretta and portions of Syria lying West of the districts of Damascus, Hama, Homs and Aleppo cannot be said to be purely Arab, and should be excluded from the proposed limits and boundaries,*” along with the Vilayets of Baghdad and Basra in Mesopotamia; that whatever was done be “*without prejudice to our existing treaties with Arab chiefs*”; and that, in the reserved areas, Britain be “*free to act without detriment to the interests of her Ally, France.*”

McMahon to Hussein, 25 Oct 1915



McMAHON-HUSSEIN CORRESPONDENCE (JULY 1915-MARCH 1916)

it is understood that the Arabs have decided to seek the advance and guidance of Great Britain only, and that such European Advisers and Officials as may be required for the formation of a sound form of administration will be British.

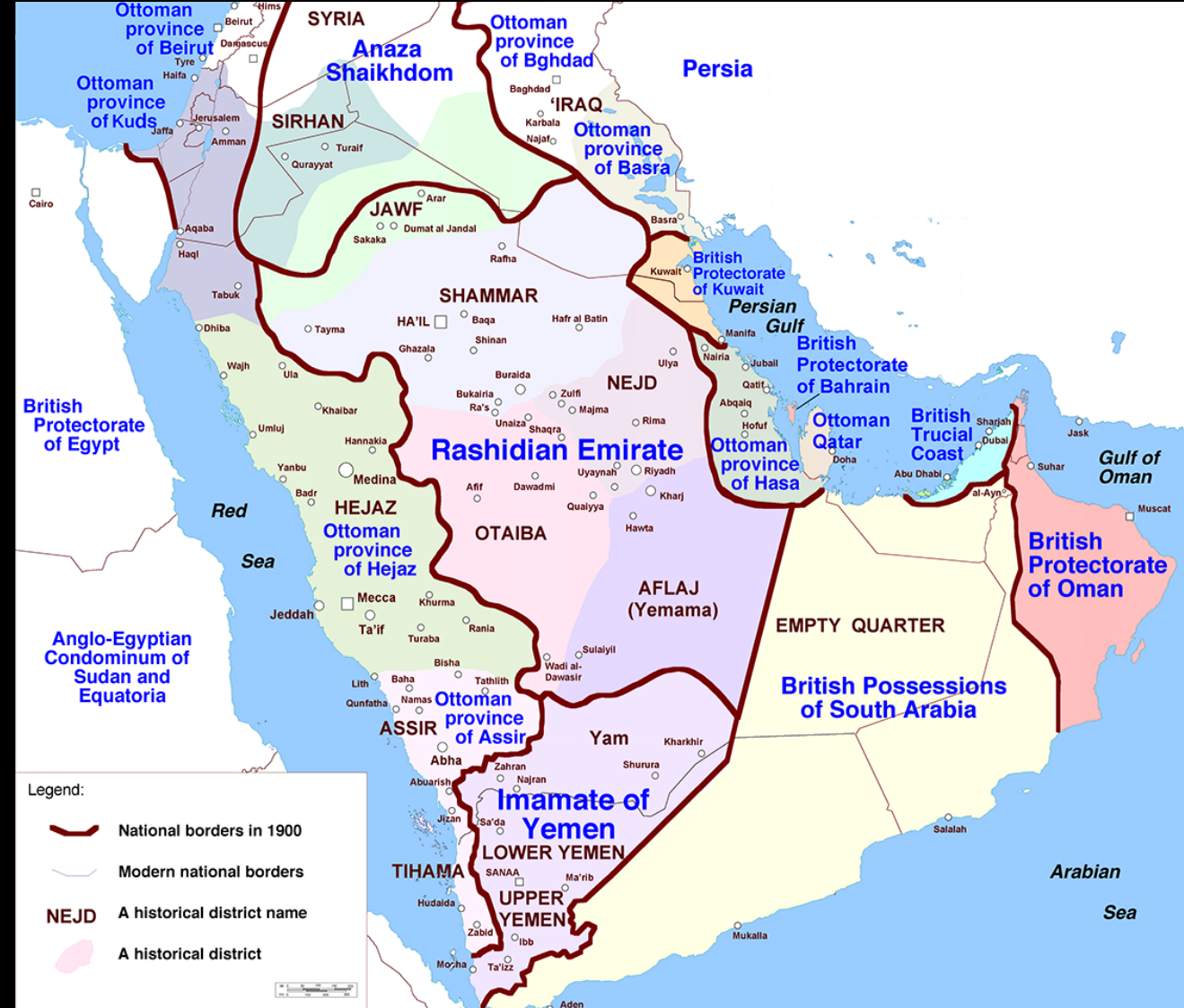
McMahon desires is to “*assure you beyond all possible doubt of the sympathy of Great Britain towards the aspirations of her traditional friends the Arabs.*”

McMahon to Hussein, 25 Oct 1915



HUSSEIN'S ARAB KINGDOM

POLITICAL ARABIA (1900)

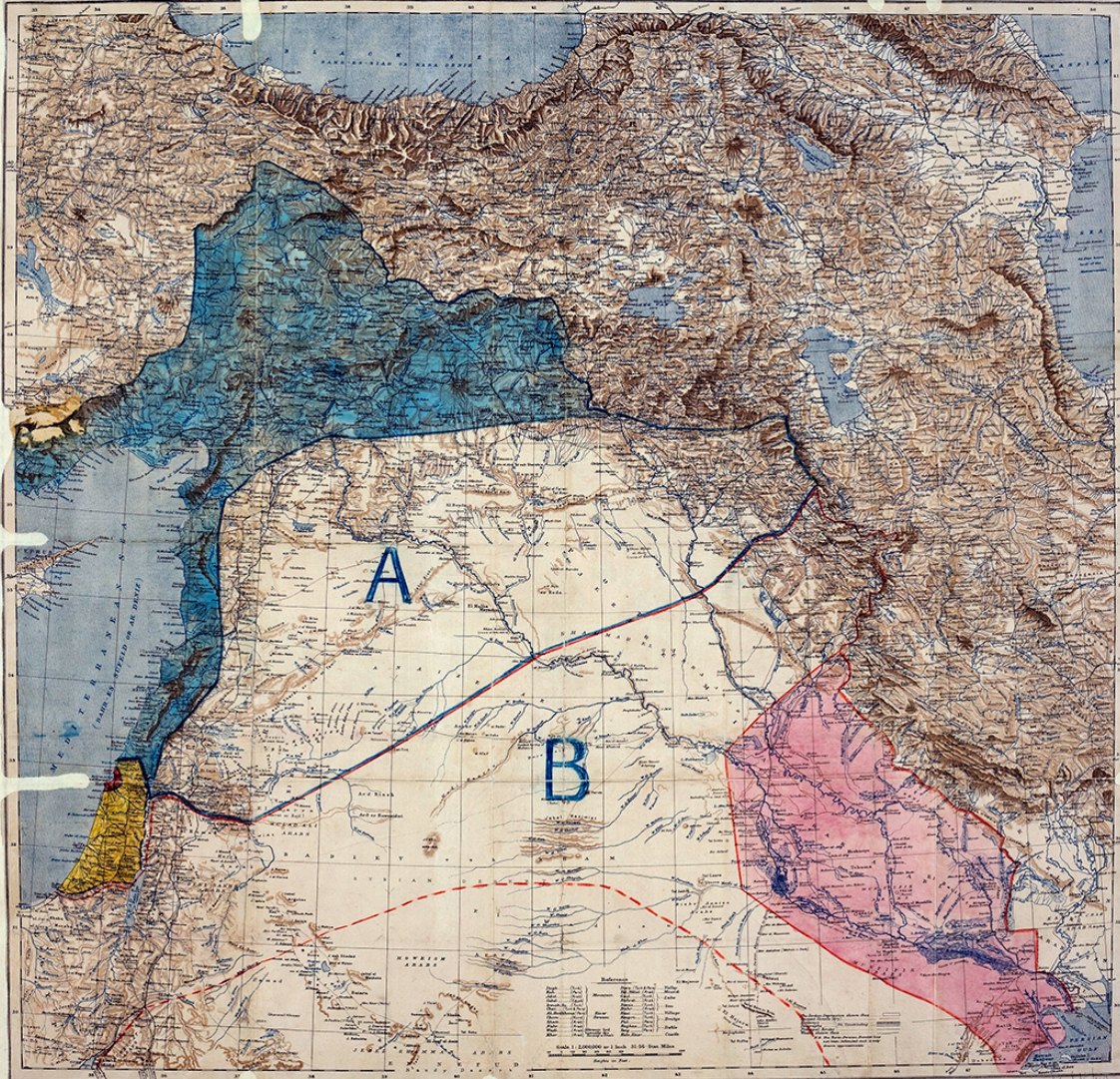


PLANNING SYKES-PICOT (MAY 1916)



PLANNING SYKES-PICOT-[SAZANOV] (1916)

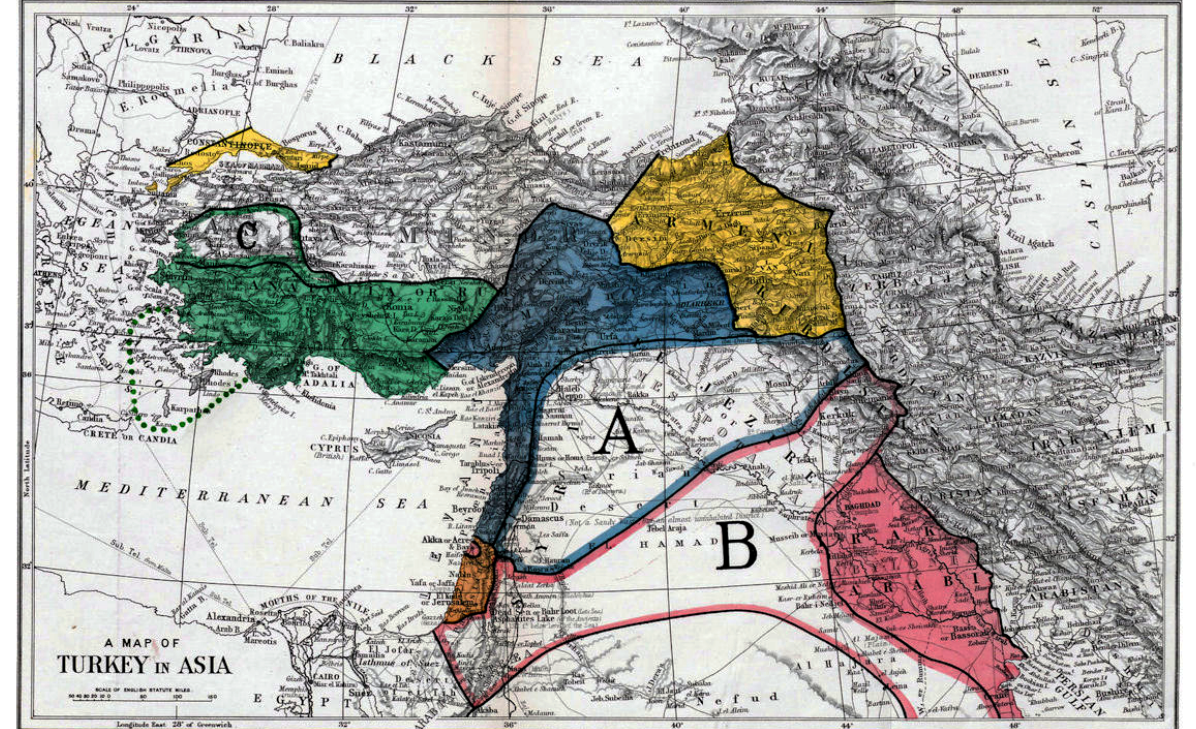
MAP OF EASTERN TURKEY IN ASIA, SYRIA AND WESTERN PERSIA



SECRET.

MAP TO ILLUSTRATE THE AGREEMENTS OF 1916 IN REGARD TO ASIA MINOR, MESOPOTAMIA, &c.

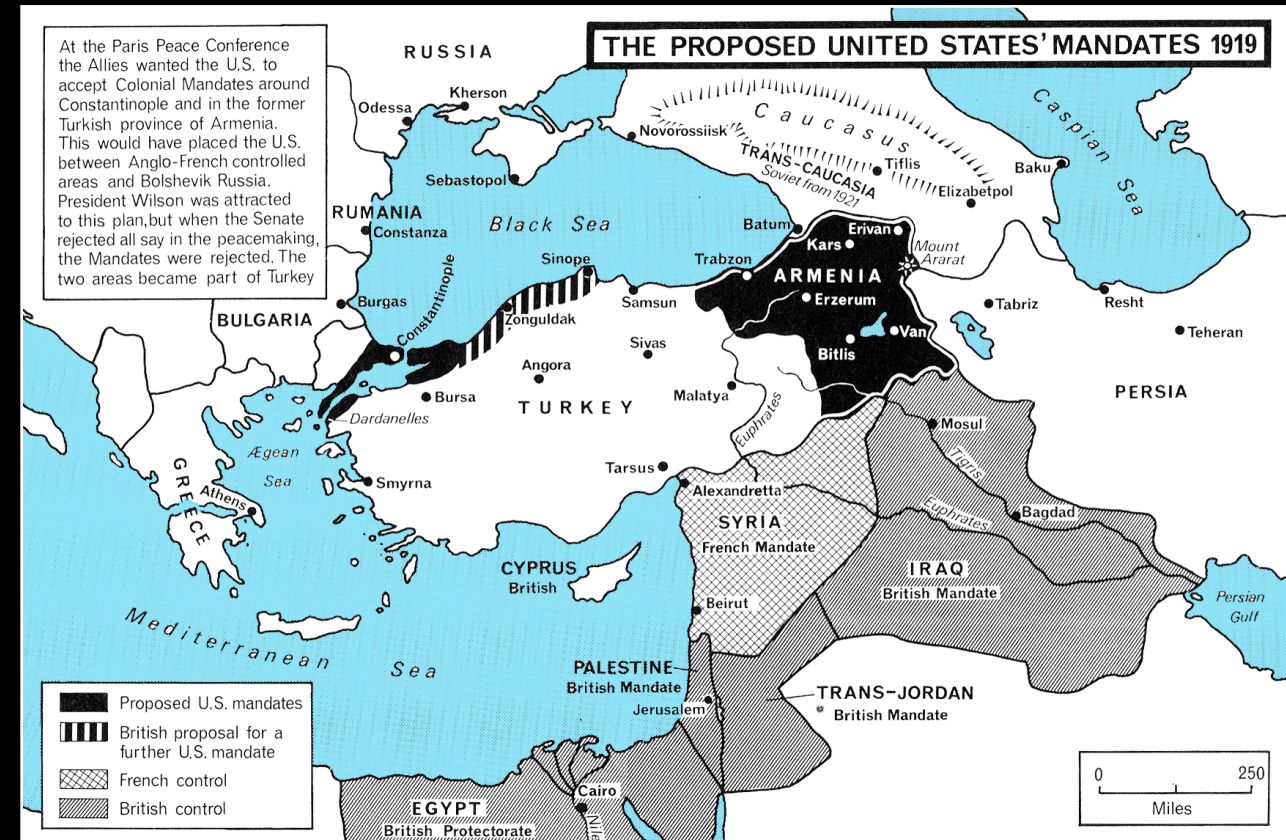
MAP 1



— FRENCH SPHERE.
— BRITISH SPHERE.
— ITALIAN SPHERE.
— INTERNATIONAL SPHERE. — RUSSIAN SPHERE.

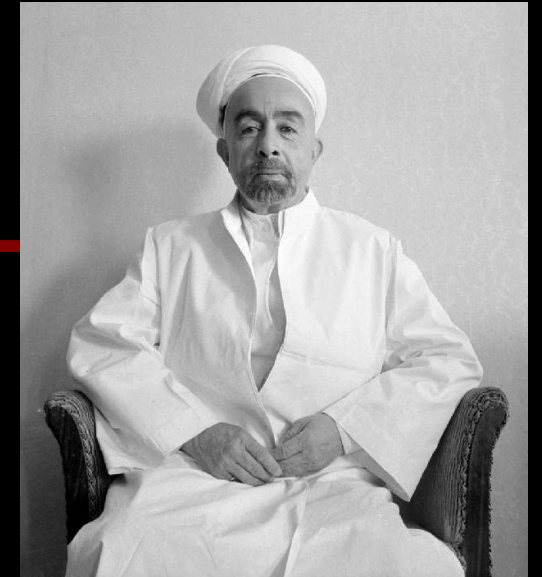
A & B = INDEPENDENT ARAB STATE,
A being in the French, and B in the British, spheres of influence.

PLANNING AMERICAN MANDATES (1919)





Faisal I, King of Syria (1918-20), King of Iraq (1921-33)



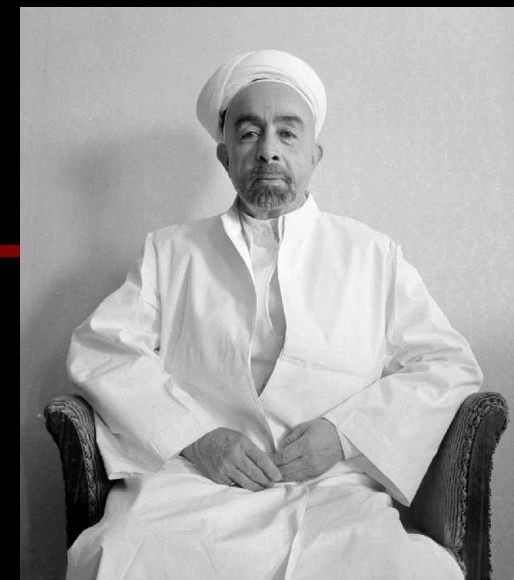
Abdullah I, Emir of Transjordan (1921-46), King of Jordan (1946-51)



Ali I, King of the Hejaz (1924-25)



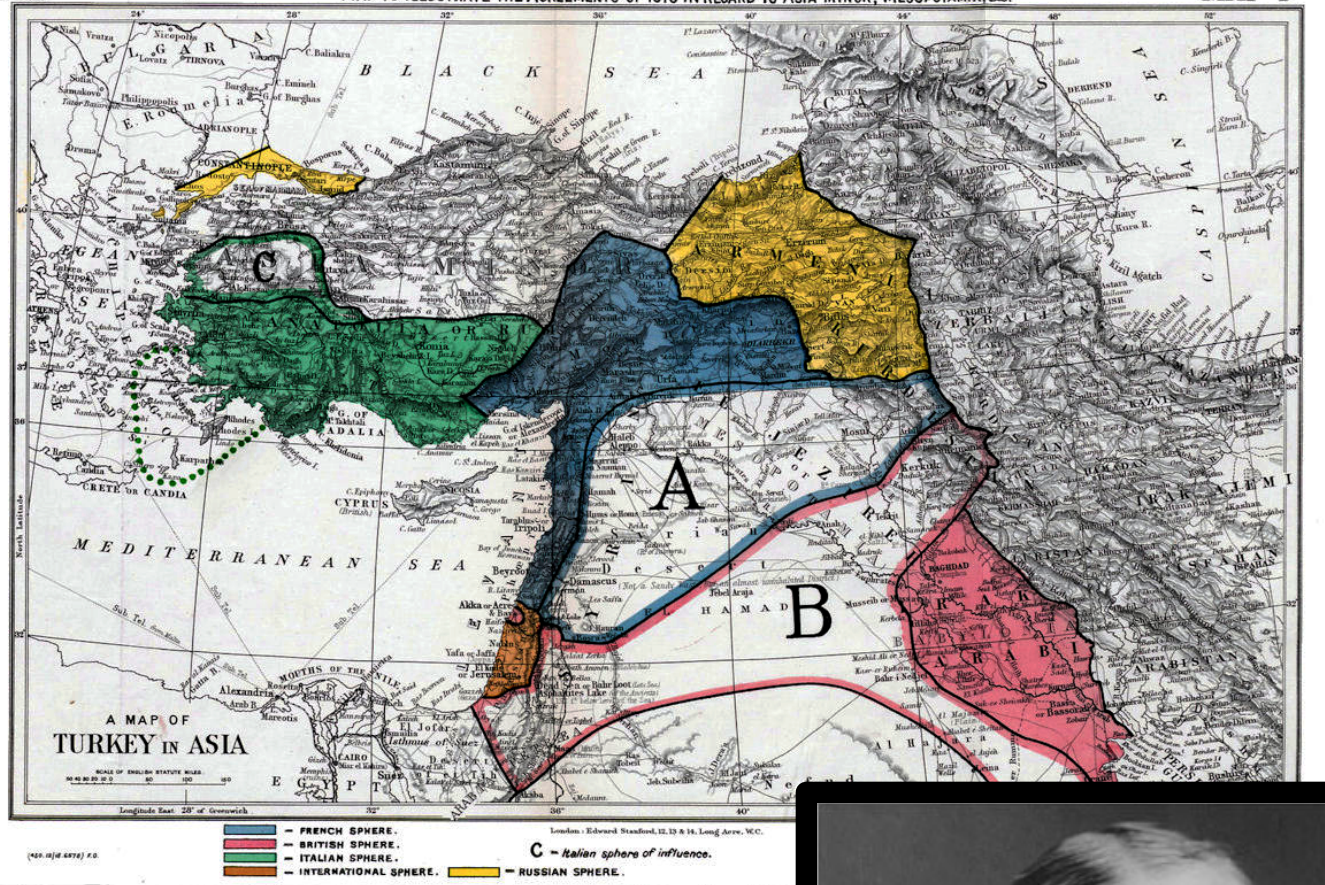
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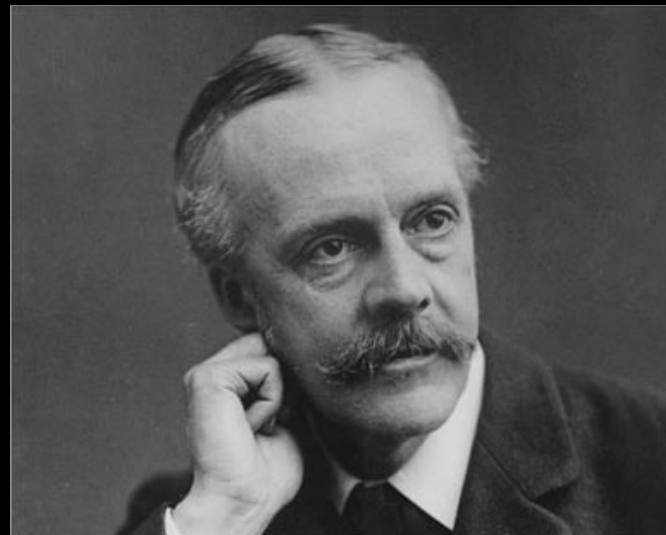


Abdulaziz ibn Saud, King of Saudi Arabia (1932-53)



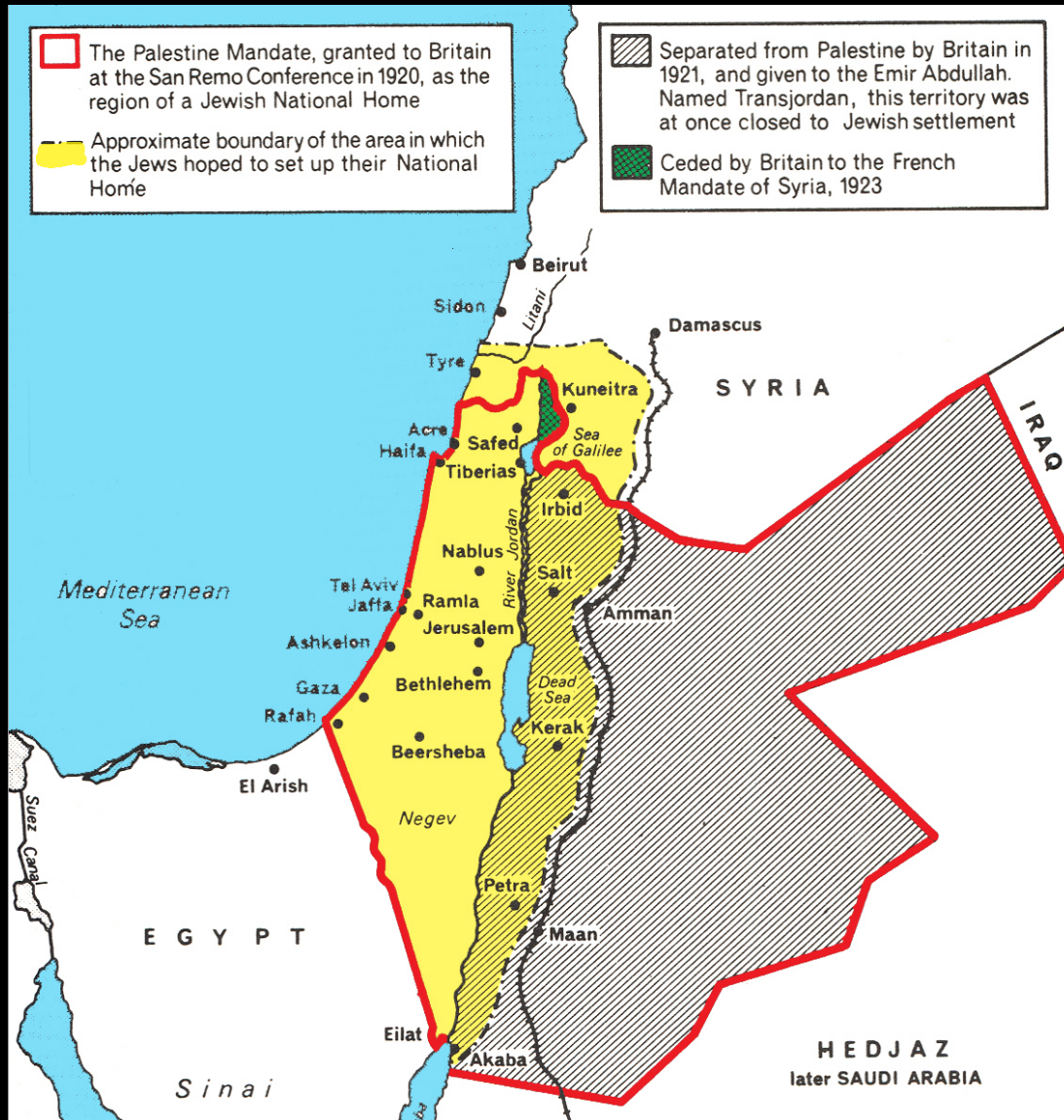
THE BALFOUR DECLARATION

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 non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status of Jews in any other country.



The Balfour Declaration
2 November 1917

THE PALESTINE MANDATE



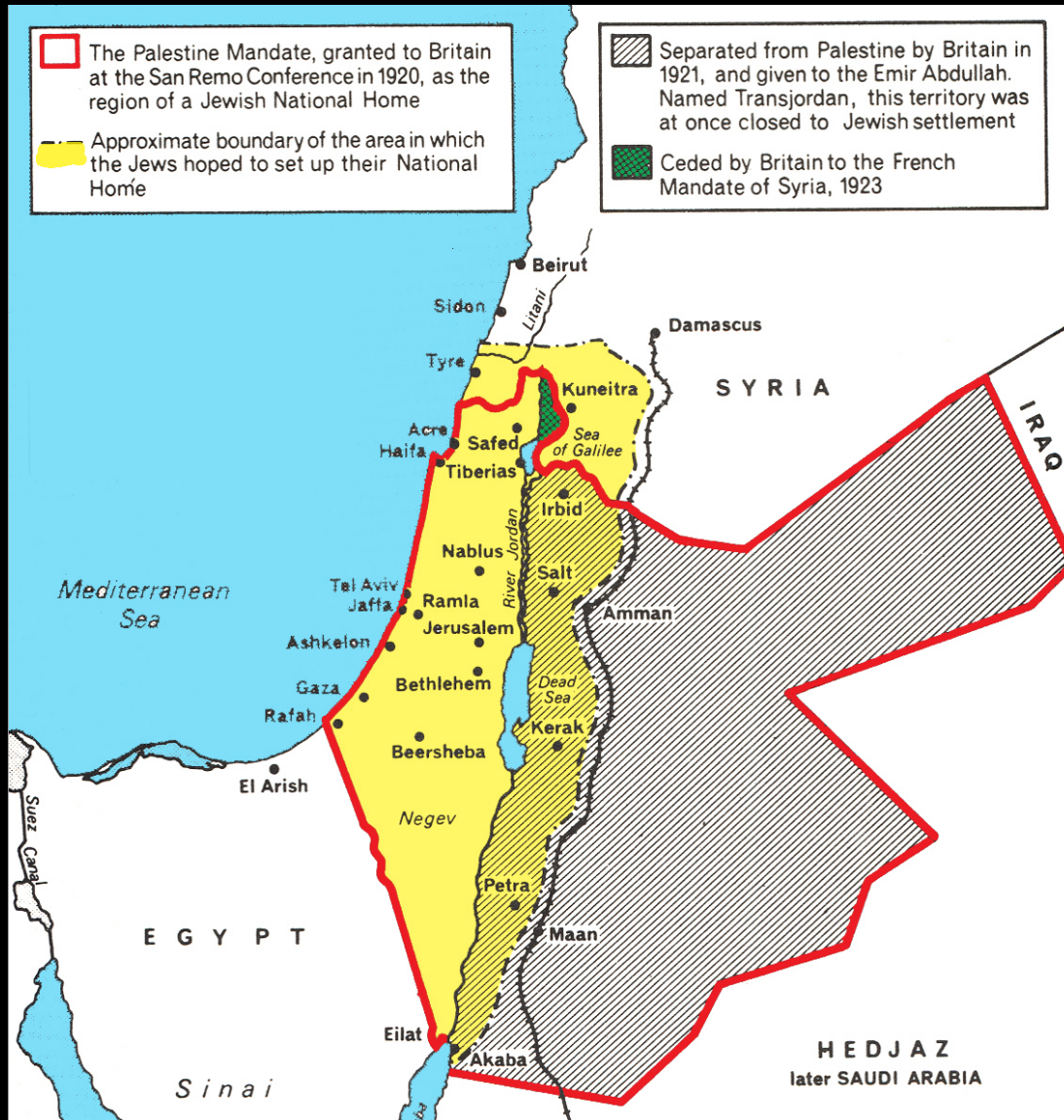
- 1919 Paris Peace Conference
- 1920 San Remo Conference assigns Palestine Mandate to Britain
- 1921 Transjordan detached as independent Emirate (Jewish immigration not allowed)
First major anti-Jewish riots
- 1929 Serious anti-Jewish rioting in Jerusalem and elsewhere
- 1930 Passfield Whitepaper limits immigration of “undesirable” Jews

CAPITAL FORMATION AND ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

| Date | Infrastructure Capital ('000 £'s) | Capital per worker (£'s) | Electricity (KWH) | Telephone / Telegraph Lines (Kilometers) | Paved Roads (Kilometers) |
|------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 1922 | 8,877 | 84.2 | --- | --- | 450 |
| 1924 | 12,063 | 90.3 | --- | 3,526 | 580 |
| 1926 | 14,616 | 90.8 | 2,344 | 5,611 | 631 |
| 1928 | 14,913 | 98.6 | 2,974 | 8,780 | 706 |
| 1931 | 19,764 | 95.2 | 9,546 | 14,557 | 922 |

| Economic Performance 1932-36 | Per Capita Income (1936 £'s) | Per Capita Food Consumption (IUs) | Agricultural Productivity (per worker, IUs) |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Egypt | 12 | 16 | 90 |
| Syria | 13 | 19 | 98 |
| Iraq | 10 | 14 | 93 |
| Transjordan | --- | --- | 90 |
| Arab Palestinians | 19 | 23 | 186 |

THE PALESTINE MANDATE



1933

Hitler Chancellor of Germany

Jewish immigration in 1931: 4,075

Jewish immigration in 1935: 66,472

WAR FOR PALESTINE

...when I asked him for his estimate of the size of the Jewish forces, [he] waved his hands and said: “It does not matter how many there are. We will sweep them into the sea.”

- Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League

FOUR STEPS

1. The Arab Revolt (1936-39)

Arabs vs British

Outcome: Palestinian Arabs defeated; British abandon Balfour Declaration

2. The Zionist Insurgency (1944-47)

Zionists vs British

Outcome: Mandate abandoned in favor of United Nations, which enacts partition

3. The Palestine Civil War (1947-48)

Zionists vs Palestinian Arabs plus Arab Volunteers (“Arab Liberation Army”)

Outcome: Zionist victory

4. The War of Independence (1948-49)

Arab coalition [Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen] vs Israel

Outcome: Israeli victory ends in bi-lateral cease-fires

Palestine has been an Arab country since the dawn of history, and was never inhabited by Jews for more than a period of time, during which their history is full of murder and cruelty. ... There is religious hostility between Moslems and Jews from the beginning of Islam, which arose from the treacherous conduct of Jews towards Islam and the Moslems and their prophet.

Ibn Saud to Franklin Roosevelt (1943)

The Jews are a people to be feared. ... They were responsible for starting the two world wars. Yes, I have read and studied, and I know they were behind Hitler at the beginning of his movement.

Samir Rifai, Prime Minister of Jordan (1947)

The UN decision has united all Arabs, as they have never been united before, not even against the Crusaders. ... A Jewish state has no chance to survive now that the Holy War has been declared. All the Jews will eventually be massacred.

Matiel Maghannam, Head of the Arab Women's Organization in Palestine (1948)

THE ARAB REVOLT

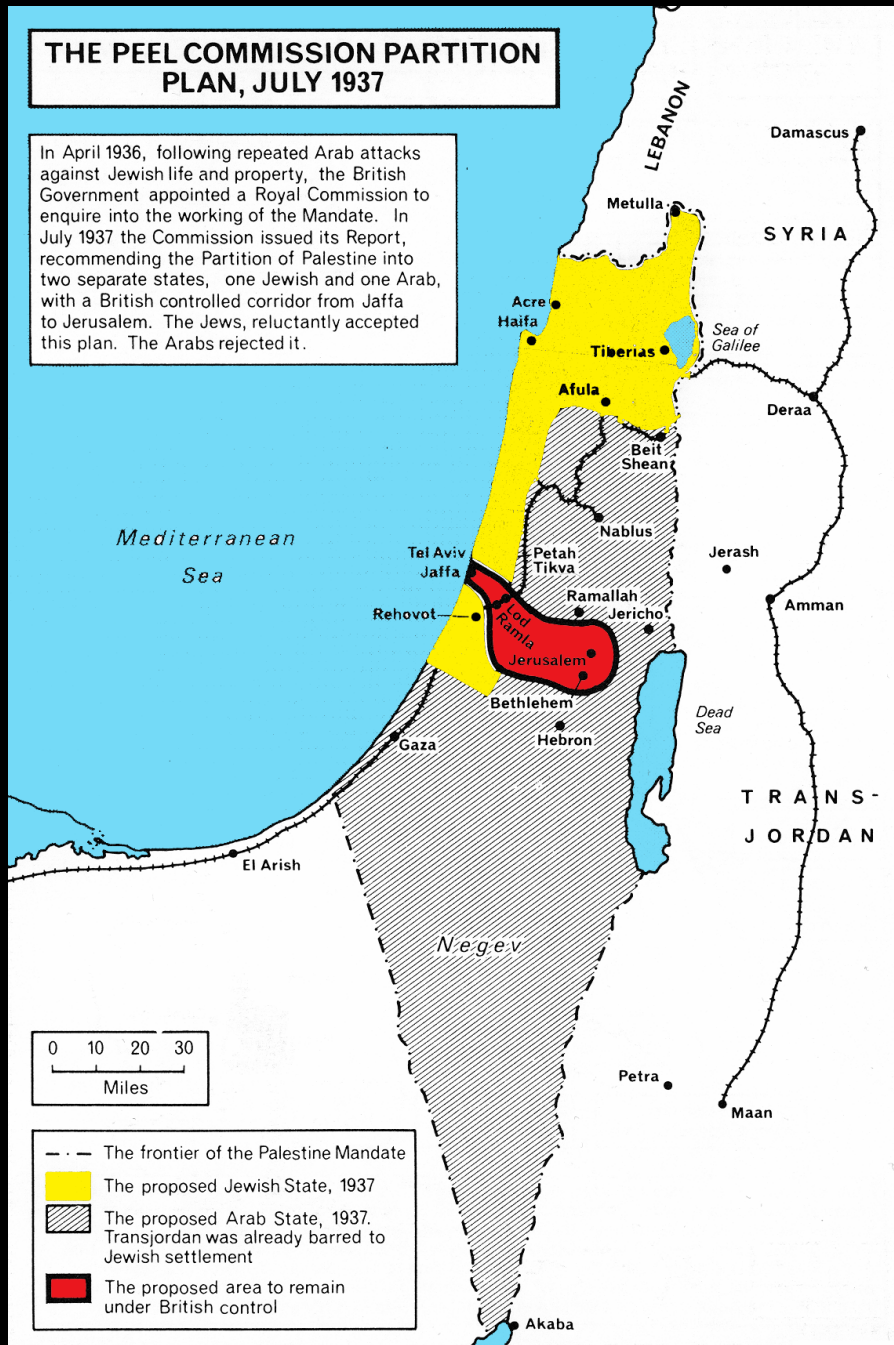


- 1936 Arab Higher Committee established
Arab Revolt (thru Winter 1939)
Total Arab deaths ~3,000
Tens of thousands of refugees to Syria, Lebanon, and Transjordan
- 1937 Peel Commission recommends partition w/transfer
- 1939 MacDonald Whitepaper (May)
Palestine to be a single Arab-majority state w/ minority rights protected
Jewish land purchase and immigration restricted (5K for five years)

Haj Amin al'Husseini, Mufti of Jerusalem, in Berlin, 1941

THE PEEL COMMISSION PARTITION PLAN, JULY 1937

In April 1936, following repeated Arab attacks against Jewish life and property, the British Government appointed a Royal Commission to enquire into the working of the Mandate. In July 1937 the Commission issued its Report, recommending the Partition of Palestine into two separate states, one Jewish and one Arab, with a British controlled corridor from Jaffa to Jerusalem. The Jews, reluctantly accepted this plan. The Arabs rejected it.



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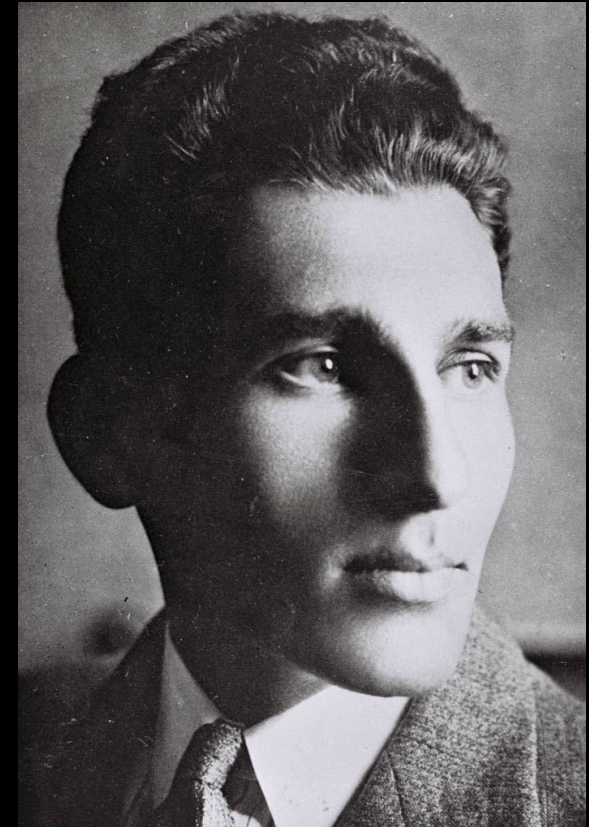
ZIONIST SELF-DEFENSE FORCES



David Ben-Gurion
Haganah ["Defense"]
(1921)



Ze'ev Jabotinsky
IZL ["National Military
Organization"] (1931)



Avraham Stern
LHI ["Fighters for the
Freedom of Israel"] (1940)

THE ZIONIST INSURGENCY



25,000 Zionists serve as volunteers in the British Army during WWII

- 1944 IZL and LHI resume fighting British
Assassination of Lord Moyne (former Undersecretary of State for Colonies) in Cairo (LHI)
- 1945 Haganah attacks on rail lines, bridges, police stations (1 death)
10K British troops required to control two settlements shielding ~50 Haganah fighters

THE ZIONIST INSURGENCY

1946



- May British cabinet rejects US recommendation to accept 100K Jewish refugees (May)
- June Operation AGATHA (Jewish Agency HQ occupied, 2,700 arrested, 200K under curfew)
- July King David Hotel attacked by IZL (July)
91 dead (48 Arabs, 17 Jews, 28 British, 5 others)

Operation SHARK (Massive cordon and search operation in Tel Aviv; non-fraternization order)
- Aug Haganah leaves United Jewish Resistance

THE ZIONIST INSURGENCY

1947

1947 “Sergeants Affair” (July)

Exodus seized (July)

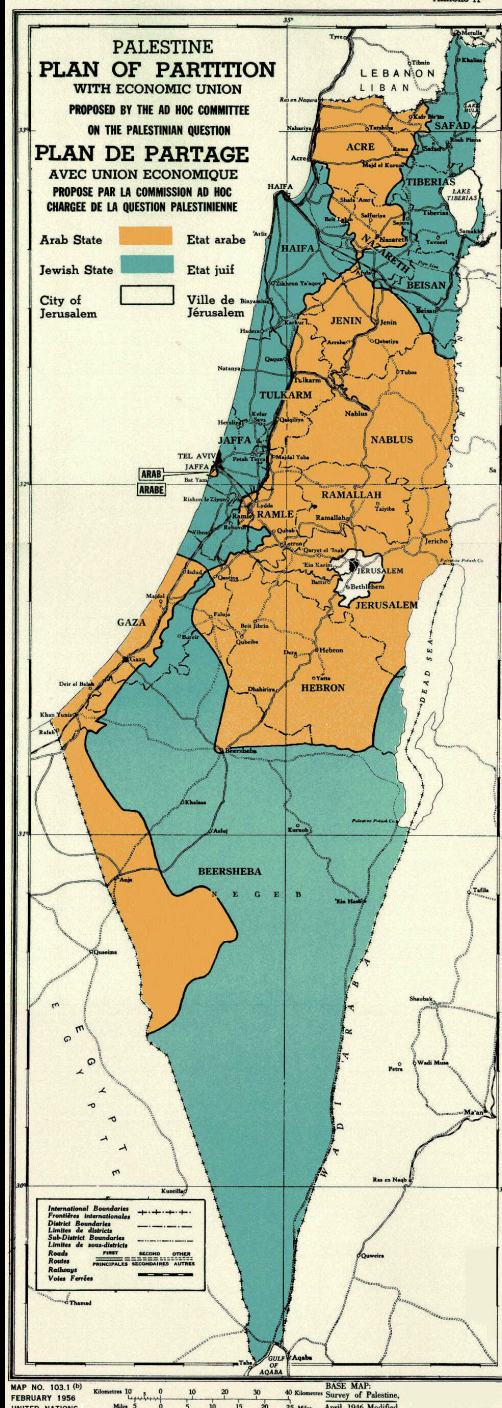
~4,000 refugees interned in Germany

Britain declares intention to abandon the Mandate (Sept)

UN partition plan announced (Nov)

Arab League members reject partition (Dec)





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British forces in-country (1947): ~100,000

British KIA in Palestine (1945-48): 338

CIVIL WAR

DEC 1947-MAY 1948

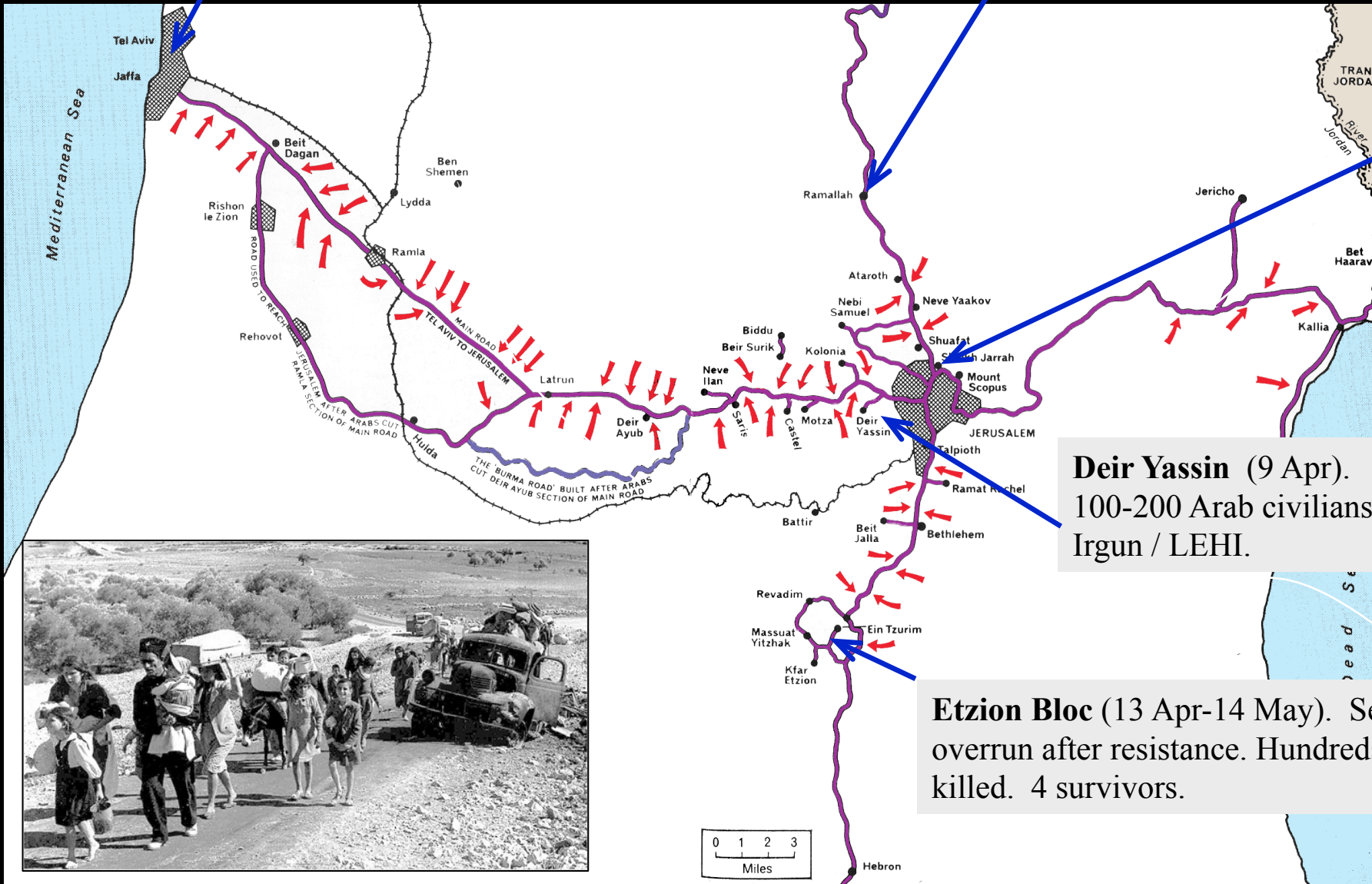
Ben Yehuda Street (22 Feb).
Truck bombing of pedestrian
mall. 58 dead.

Ramla (12 Apr).
Hagana demolish 12 buildings
along Jerusalem Road.

Sheikh Jarrah (13 Apr).
80 Jewish doctors and
nurses killed. No survivors.

Deir Yassin (9 Apr).
100-200 Arab civilians killed by
Irgun / LEHI.

Etzion Bloc (13 Apr-14 May). Settlements
overrun after resistance. Hundreds of Jews
killed. 4 survivors.

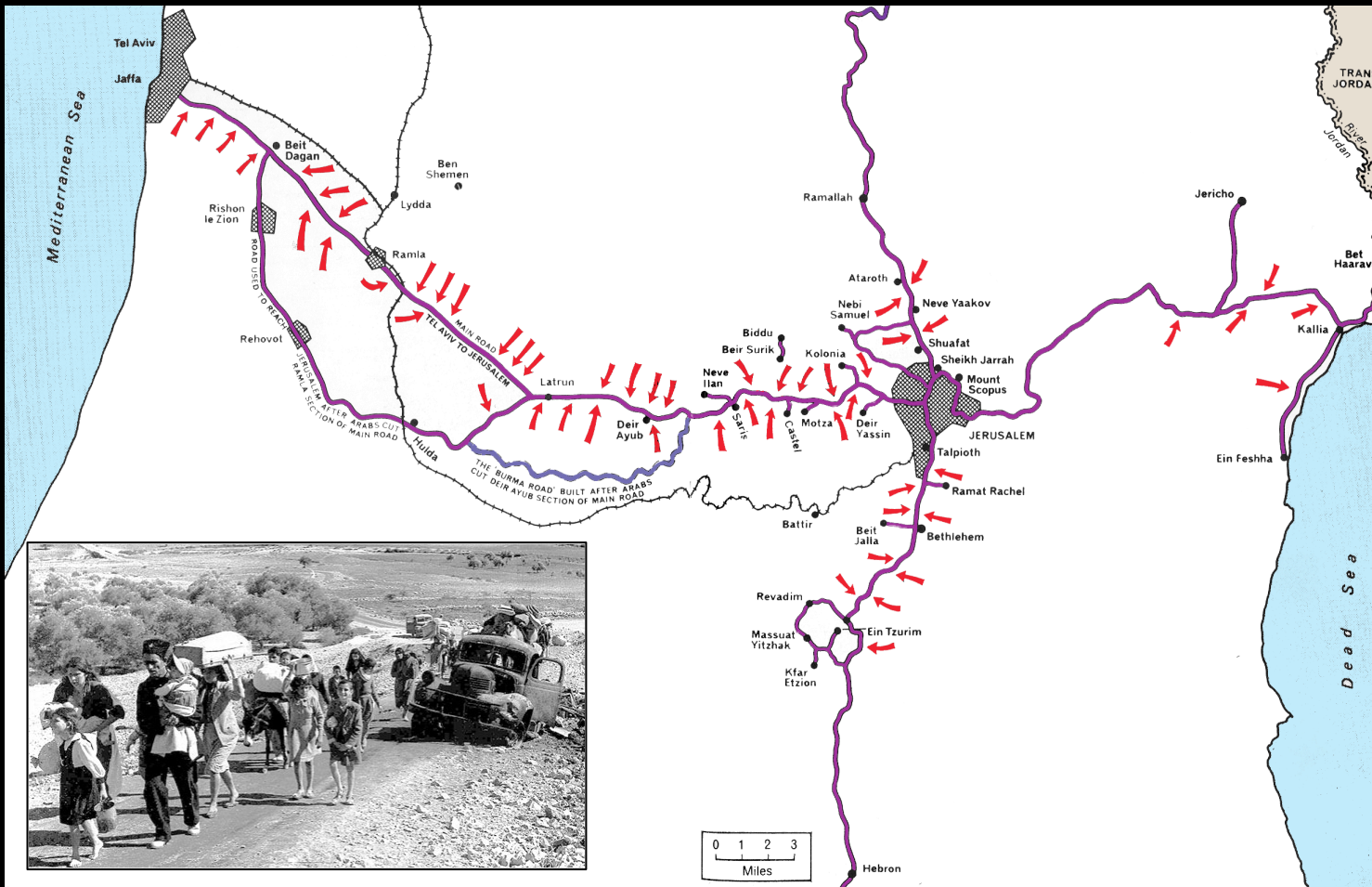


CIVIL WAR

DEC 1947-MAY 1948

The collapsing Arab morale in Palestine is in some measure due to the increasing tendency of those who should be leading them to leave the country. ... For instance in Jaffa the Mayor went on four days leave 12 days ago and has not returned, and half the National Committee has left. In Haifa the Arab members of the municipality left some time ago; the two leaders of the Arab Liberation Army actually left during the most recent battle. Now the Chief Arab Magistrate has left. In all parts of the country the effendi class has been evacuating in large numbers over a considerable period, and the tempo is increasing.

British High Commissioner for Palestine



INVASION 1948



David Ben-Gurion proclaiming Israel's independence,
14 May 1948

INVASION 1948



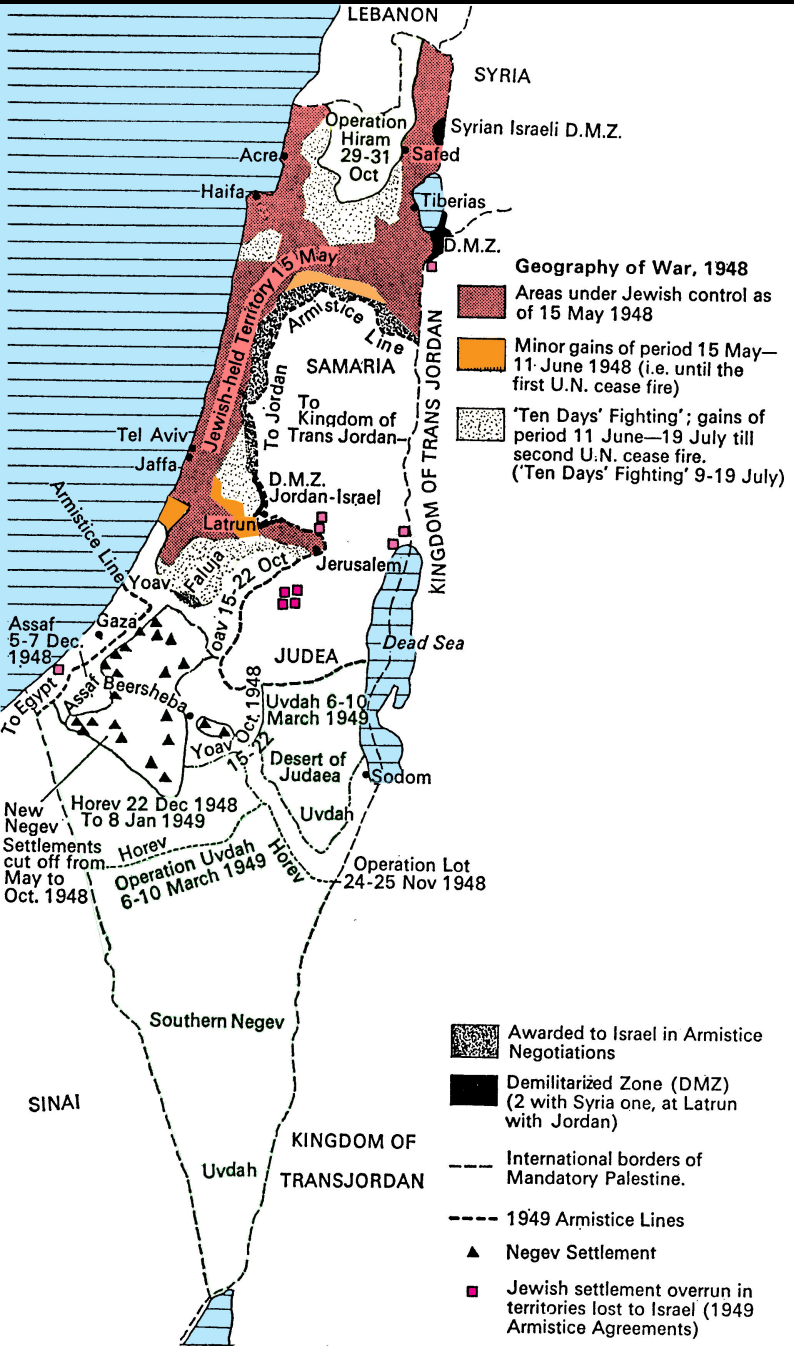
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Geography of War, 1948

- Areas under Jewish control as of 15 May 1948
- Minor gains of period 15 May–11 June 1948 (i.e. until the first U.N. cease fire)
- 'Ten Days' Fighting'; gains of period 11 June–19 July till second U.N. cease fire. ('Ten Days' Fighting' 9-19 July)

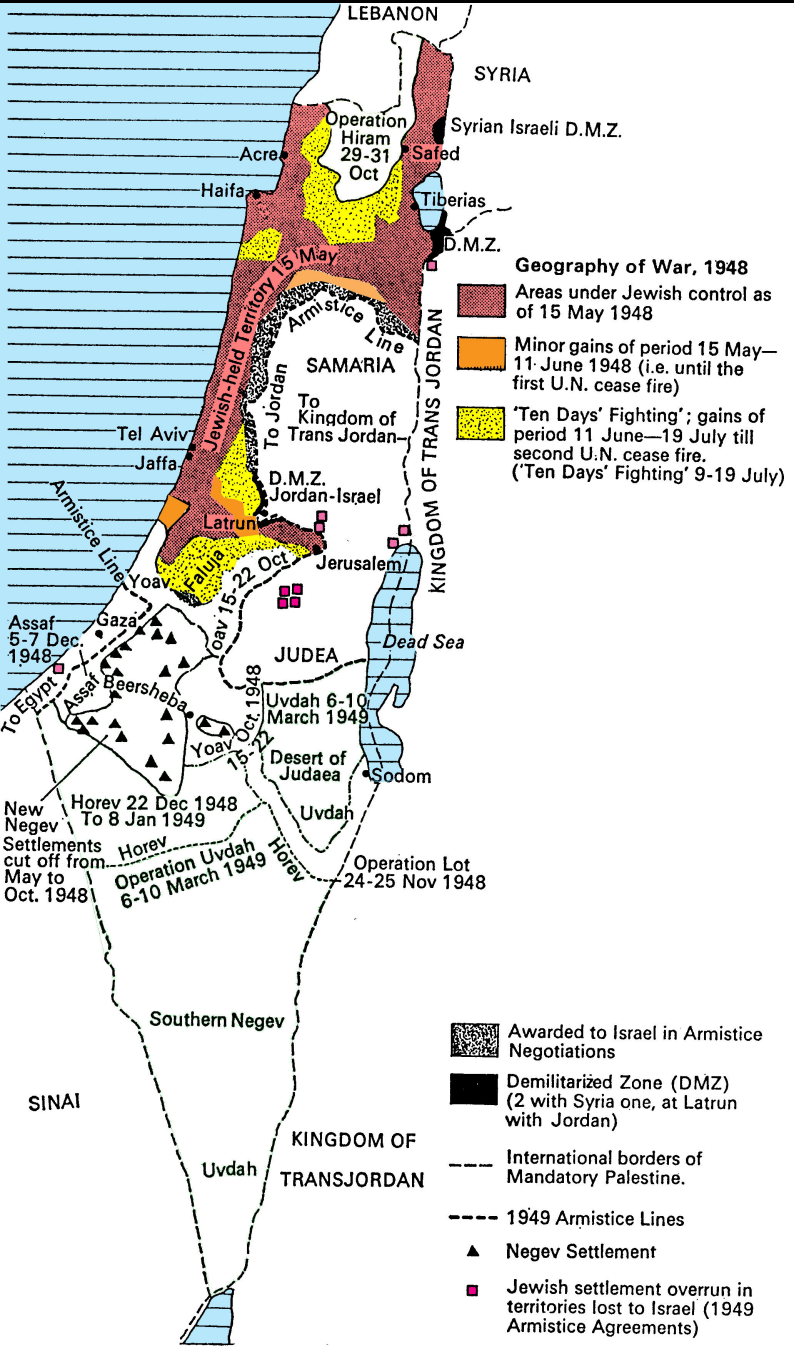
Awarded to Israel in Armistice Negotiations

- Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) (2 with Syria one, at Latrun with Jordan)
- International borders of Mandatory Palestine.
- 1949 Armistice Lines
- Negev Settlement
- Jewish settlement overrun in territories lost to Israel (1949 Armistice Agreements)

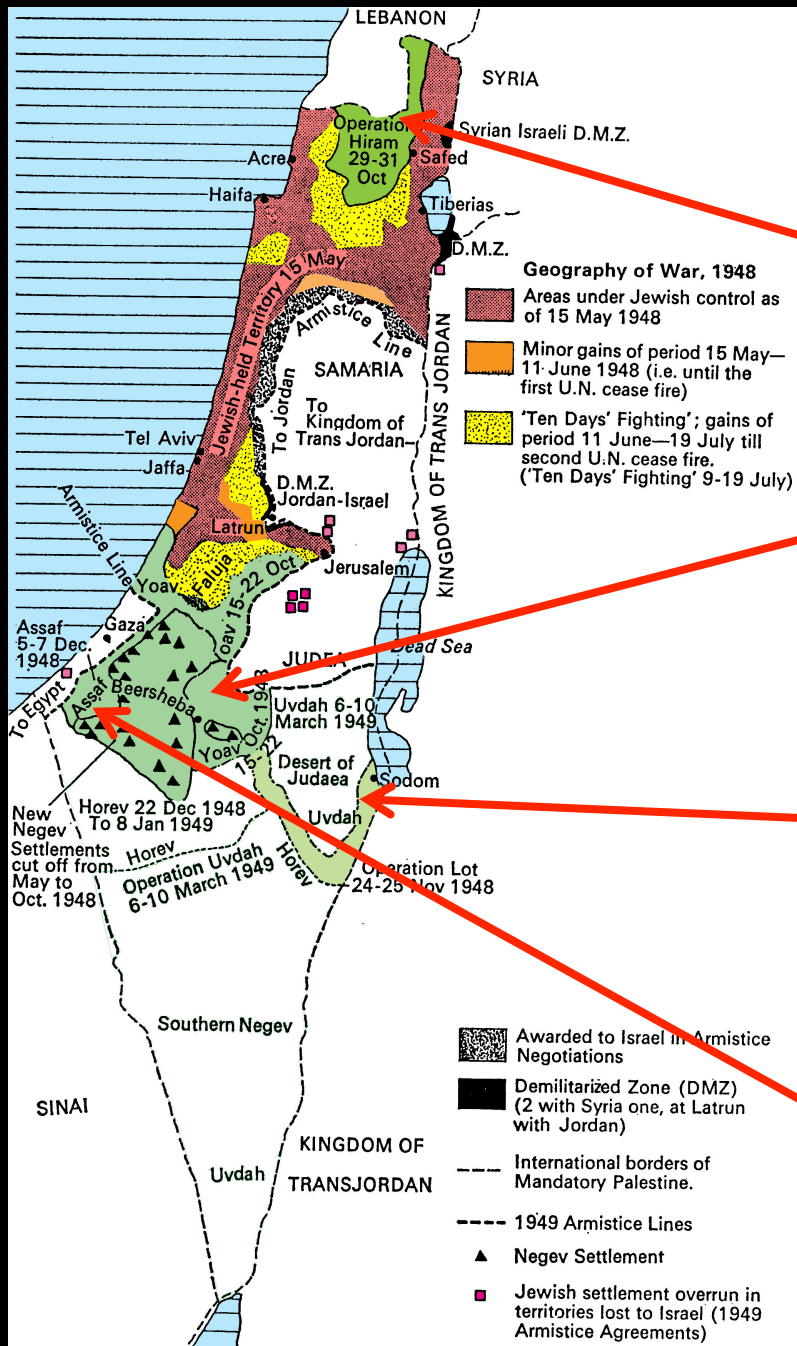


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OPERATIONS OCT 1948 – DEC 1949



HIRAM 29-31 Oct. Galilee cleared of Arab Liberation Army and Lebanese

YOAV 15-22 Oct. Relief of Negev settlements and conquest of Beersheba

LOT 24- 25 Nov. Route opened to the Dead Sea at Sodom

ASSAF 5-7 Dec. Extension toward the sea

Geography of War, 1948

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Legend:

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International intervention (arms embargo, cease fires) hurts the Arabs worse than the Israelis (until the very end ...)

THE UN PARTITION PROPOSAL OF 1947 AND THE ISRAELI CONQUESTS OF 1948



RECKONING

- 1949 Armistice agreements (Jan-July)
Military coup in Syria (Mar) [1st of 4 by 1951]
- 1950 West Bank incorporated into Jordan, over objections from Arab League (Apr)
- 1951 King Abdullah of Jordan assassinated in Jerusalem by Palestinian Arab (July)
Lebanese Prime Minister murdered (July)
- 1952 Revolutionary Command Council deposes King Farouk in Egypt (July)
Military coup in Iraq (Nov)

Why should the Arabs make peace? If I was an Arab leader I would never make terms with Israel. That is natural: We have taken their country. Sure, God promised it to us, but what does that matter to them? Our God is not theirs. We come from here, it's true, but two thousand years ago, and what is that to them? There has been anti-Semitism, the Nazis, Hitler, Auschwitz, but was that their fault? They see only one thing: We have come here and stolen their country. Why should they accept that?



David Ben-Gurion to Nahum Goldmann (1954)