

Changes of Colonial Governments and Early Problems with New Frontiers

Key words: dissolution of Ottoman Empire, Mandates in Asia, Africa, Pacific,

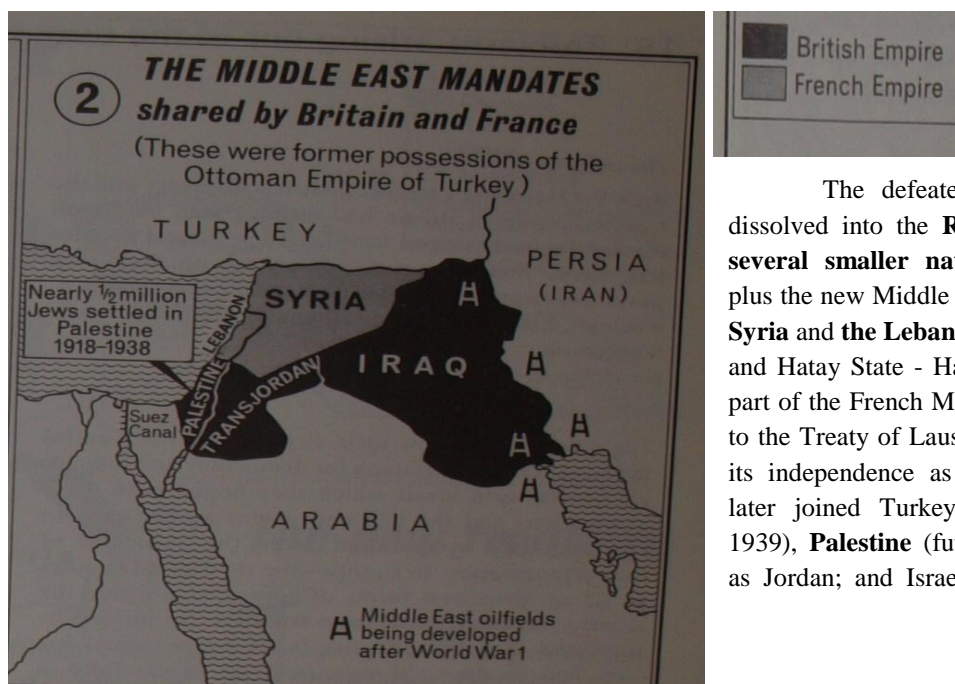
Ottoman Empire —→ Turkey:

General information: The *League of Nations* declared some countries to be „mandates“, and handed them over to „caretaker“ countries. Part of the **Ottoman Empire** went this way, and half a million Jews from around the world ultimately went to settle in **Palestine**. **Turkey lost lands to Britain and France**, and also to Greece. Turks, led by Gallipoli veteran **Mustapha Kemal Ataturk**, objected to this and overthrew their leader, the Sultan. The Treaty of Sèvres was annulled in the course of the **Turkish War of Independence** led by Ataturk and the parties signed and ratified the superseding *Treaty of Lausanne in 1923*: The treaty was the consequence of the **Turkish War of Independence** between the Allies of World War I and the Ankara-based Grand National Assembly of Turkey (Turkish national movement) led by **Mustafa Kemal Atatürk**. The treaty also led to the international recognition of the sovereignty of the new **Republic of Turkey as the successor state of the defunct Ottoman Empire**. This treaty settled the Anatolian and East Thracian parts of the partitioning of the Ottoman Empire (= this treaty regained Turkey some land they lost in 1920 as a result of **Treaty of Sèvres**)

Article 22 of the *Covenant of the League of Nations* required all nations to help undeveloped countries whose peoples were “not yet able to stand up by themselves under the strenuous conditions of the modern world”. All agreed that this was to be the “sacred task of civilization”. Thus when the peacemakers faced the task of managing the German and Turkish colonial possessions, they decided to create the “**Mandatory System**”.

What is mandatory system? A mandate is a command to carry out an agreed policy and the peacemakers awarded three kinds of mandate (**A, B, C**) to selected nations who, in return, would be responsible to the League for the welfare of the peoples placed in their care.

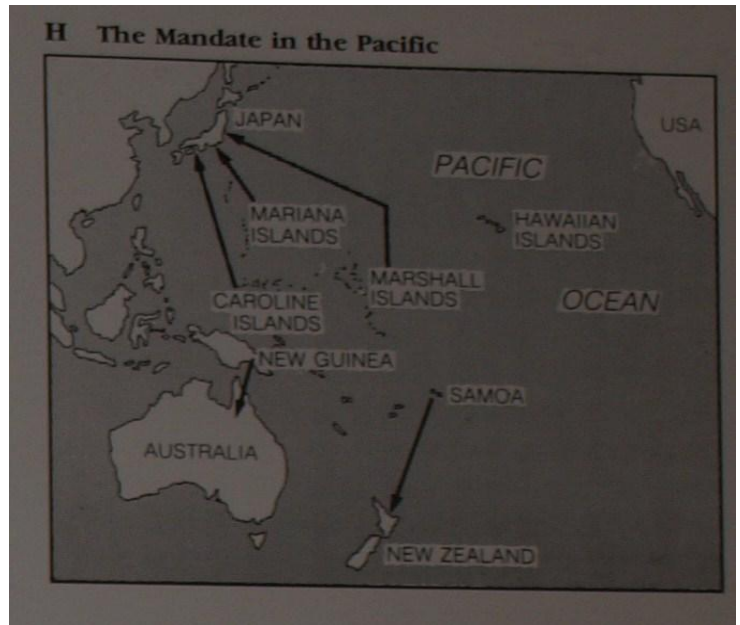
“A” mandate countries: were to become **independent in the very near future** – and on this condition Britain gained Palestine, Iraq and Transjordan. France received Syria and the Lebanon.



The defeated Ottoman empire was dissolved into the **Republic of Turkey and several smaller nations**, including Yemen, plus the new Middle East Allied "mandates" of **Syria and the Lebanon** (future Syria, Lebanon and Hatay State - Hatay Province remained a part of the French Mandate of Syria according to the Treaty of Lausanne, but in 1938 gained its independence as the Hatay State, which later joined Turkey with a referendum in 1939), **Palestine** (future Transjordan – today as Jordan; and Israel), **Mesopotamia** (future

Iraq). The League of Nations was proposed as much as a means of consolidating these new states, as a path to peace.

The British Mandate of:	The French Mandate of:
Iraq, Palestine, Transjordan	Lebanon, Syria



“B” mandate areas - were less advanced regions with no immediate prospect of independence. “B” mandates were in **Africa** where Britain and France divided German **Cameroons** and **Togoland**. Belgium gained **Ruanda-Urundi** in northwestern German East Africa, Great Britain obtained by far the greater landmass of this colony, thus gaining the ‘missing link’ in the chain of British possessions stretching from South Africa to Egypt (Cape to Cairo), Portugal received the **Kionga Triangle**, a sliver of German East Africa. German South West Africa was mandated to the **Union of South Africa**.

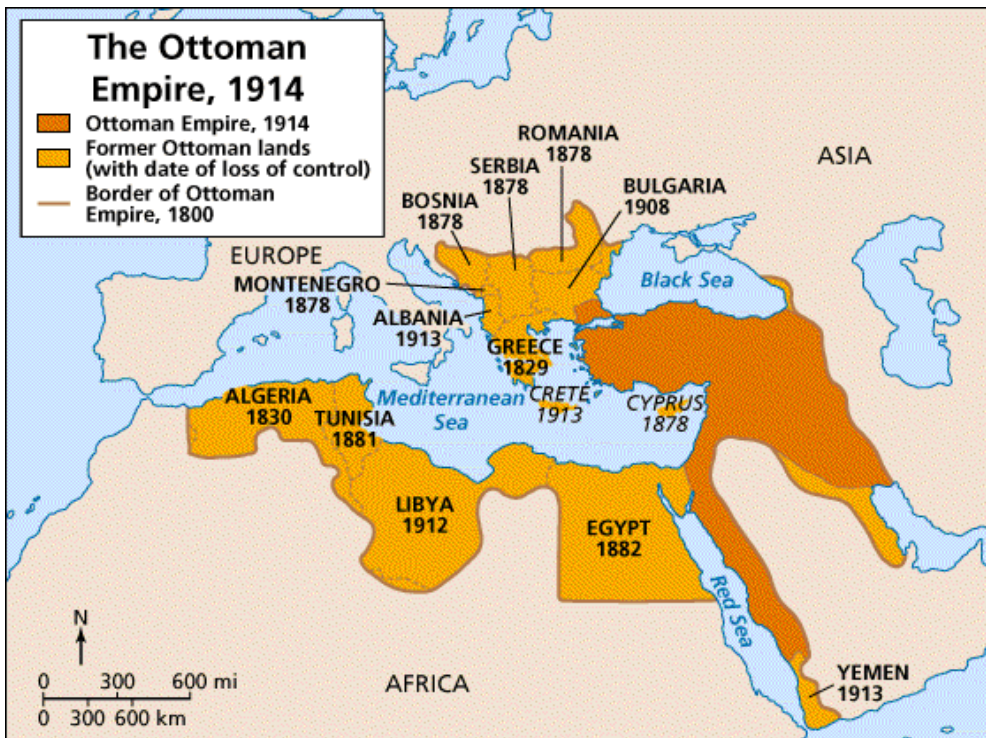
“C” mandate areas were **sparsely populated and underdeveloped**, because of their exceptional backwardness, they were handed over to the powers who had originally conquered them from the Germans. In the Pacific, **Japan** gained Germany’s islands north of the equator (**the Marshall Islands, the Carolines, the Marianas, the Palau Islands**) and **Kiautschou** (in Slovak Tiao-čou) in China. **German Samoa** was assigned to **New Zealand**; **German New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago** and **Nauru** to **Australia** as mandatory.

These changes had **two very important results**:

First, British and French empires **increased in size** so that between 1919 and 1939 they were to be at the height of their powers. On the other hand Japan, who had played very little part in the actual fighting in the World War, emerged richly rewarded with new sources of trade and the Mariana, Marshall, and Caroline Islands which quite unlawfully she transformed into military bases.

Secondly, nobody bothered to consult the peoples who lived in the mandated areas; some naturally objected to these new arrangements. For example, the **Arabs** in the Middle East had been of **enormous help in fighting the Turks**.

Lawrence of Arabia had led them to believe that the British would reward them with new lands and he hinted that they would also receive Palestine. But in 1917 the British Secretary, Balfour, had declared that: „His Majesty’s government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and will use its best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object. It is understood this would not prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing



non-Jewish communities in Palestine.” Yet over 90% of the people living in Palestine were Arabs. So when the British began to honour their promise to the Jews by permitting limited Jewish immigration into Palestine, the Arabs were understandably infuriated – and this was to lead to years of hostility between Jew and Arab in the Middle East.

Near East:



German colonies:

