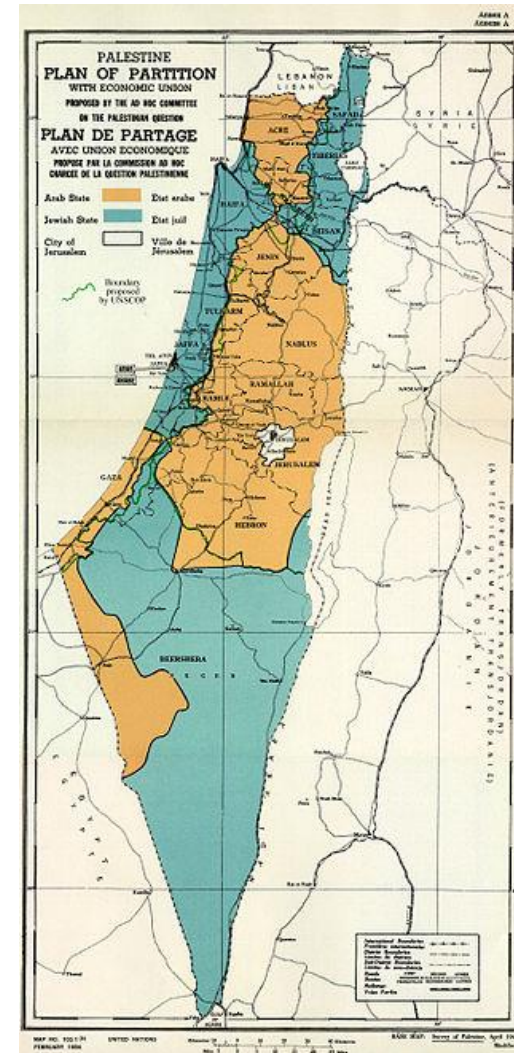


MOMENTOUS DECISIONS

The partitioning of Palestine

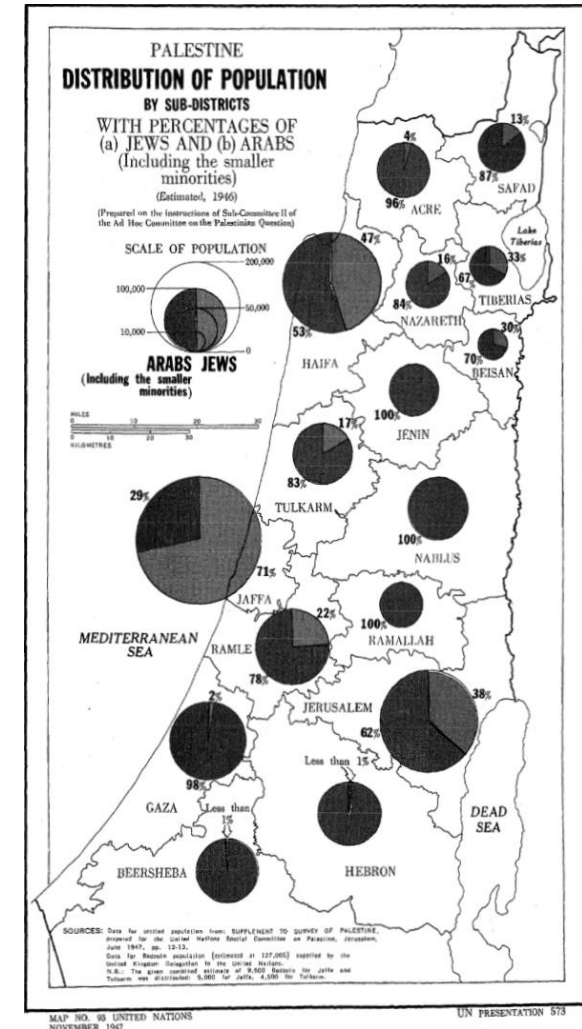
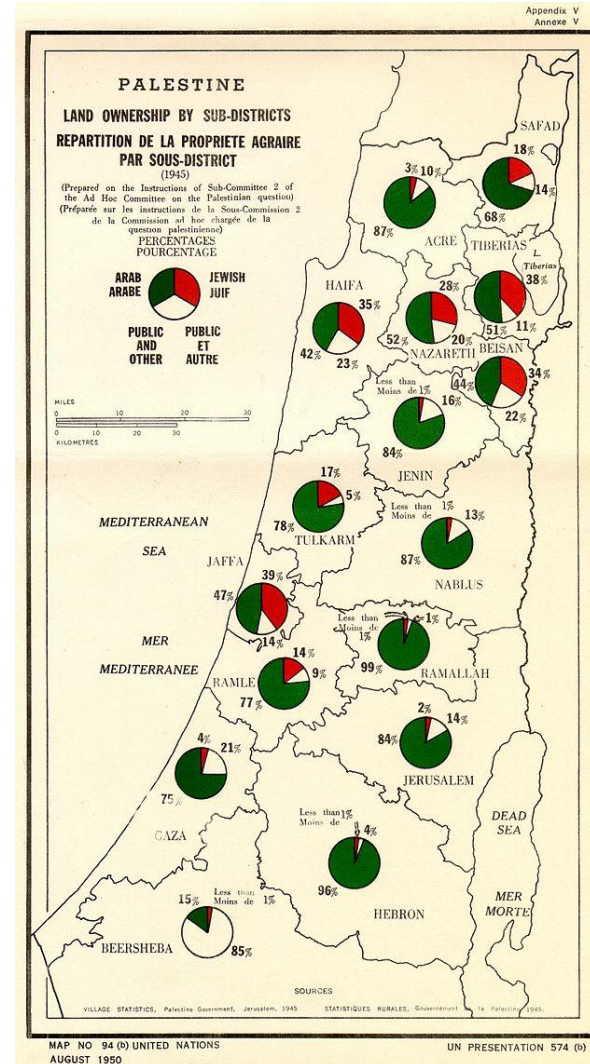
The decision to partition Palestine.

- Who made the decision?
- The United Nations General Assembly.
- When?
- UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (Partition Plan) November 29, 1947.
- Israel = blue.
- Arab Palestine = sienna (clay colour).
- Jerusalem = white.



Two maps reviewed by UN Subcommittee 2 in considering partition.

- Land ownership (%).
- Green = Arab.
- Red = Jewish.
- White = public space.
- Population distribution.
- Black = Arab.
- Grey = Jewish.
- Circles 200,000, 100,000
- 50,000, 10,000.



Background information.

- After the uprising led by Bar Kockhba in 132CE had been quelled, the majority of the Jewish population of Judea was either killed, exiled, or sold into slavery and Jewish religious and political authority, including the Jesus sect, was suppressed far more brutally than previously.
- This meant that Jews did not have a homeland.
- After centuries of living in a diaspora, and many pogroms, the 1894 Dreyfus Affair in France highlighted the fact that the Jews would continue to suffer from arbitrary anti-Semitism until they had their own country.

The Dreyfus Affair. 1.

- Alfred Dreyfus, an obscure captain in the French army, came from a Jewish family that had left its native Alsace for Paris when Germany annexed that province in 1871.
- In 1894, papers discovered in a wastebasket in the office of a German military attaché made it appear that a French military officer was providing secret information to the German government.



The Dreyfus Affair. 2

- Dreyfus came under suspicion, probably because he was a Jew and also because he had access to the type of information that had been supplied to the German agent.
- Major du Paty de Clam, head of investigation, without any expertise, declared Captain Dreyfus had written the “bordereau”.



Railroaded

- The army authorities declared that Dreyfus' handwriting was similar to that on the papers.
- Despite his protestations of innocence he was found guilty of treason in a secret military court-martial, during which he was denied the right to examine the evidence against him.
- Photograph of the bordereau dated 13 October 1894. The original disappeared in 1940.



Humiliation

- The army stripped him of his rank in a humiliating ceremony and shipped him off to [life imprisonment on] Devil's Island, a penal colony located off the coast of South America.



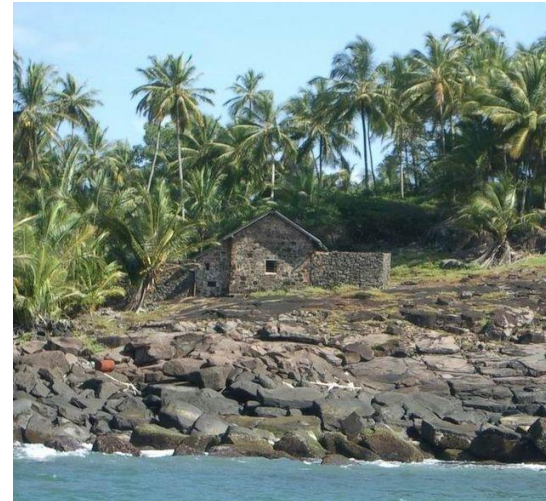
Virulent anti-Semitism

- The political right, whose strength was steadily increasing, cited Dreyfus' alleged espionage as further evidence of the failures of the Republic.
- Édouard Drumont's right-wing newspaper La Libre Parole intensified its attacks on the Jews, portraying this incident as further evidence of Jewish treachery.



Beginning of the way back

- Dreyfus seemed destined to die in disgrace.
- He had few defenders, and anti-Semitism was rampant in the French army.
- An unlikely defender came to his rescue, motivated not by sympathy for Dreyfus but by the evidence that he had been “railroaded” and that the officer who had actually committed espionage remained in position to do further damage.
- Dreyfus's Hut on Devil's Island in French Guiana.



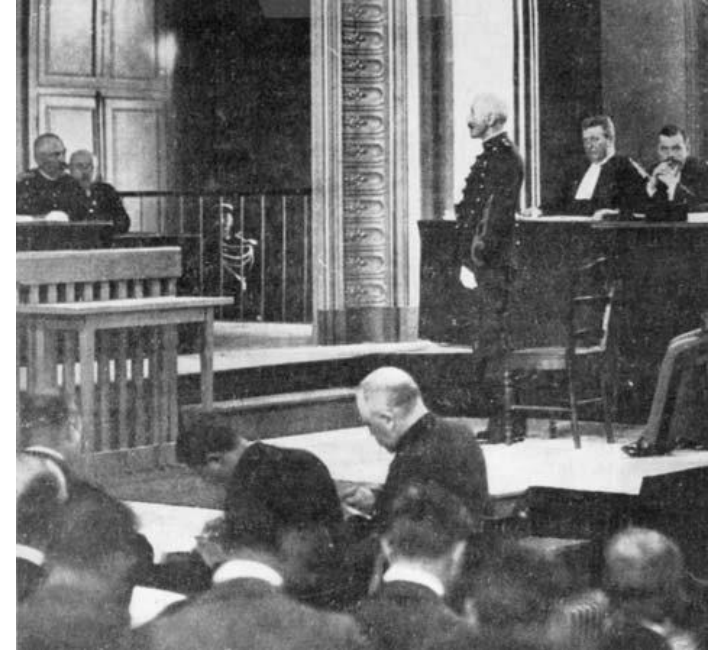
Evidence of innocence of Alfred Dreyfus

- Lieutenant Colonel Georges Picquart, an unapologetic anti-Semite, was appointed chief of army intelligence two years after Dreyfus was convicted.
- Picquart, after examining the evidence and investigating the affair in greater detail, concluded that the guilty officer was actually a Major named Walsin Esterhazy.
- Lieutenant Colonel Georges Picquart dressed in the uniform of the Chasseurs d'Afrique.



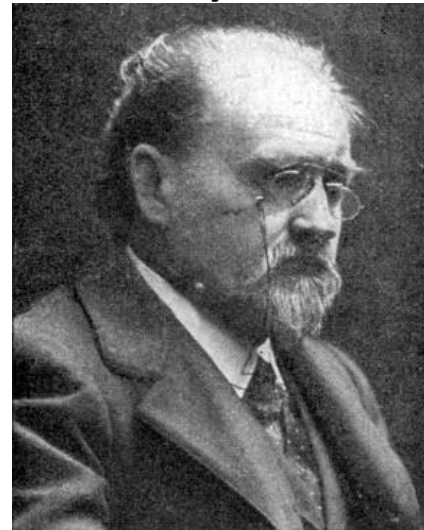
Committed to anti-Semitism

- Picquart soon discovered, however, that the army was more concerned about preserving its image than rectifying its error, and when he persisted in attempting to reopen the case the army transferred him to Tunisia.
- A military court then acquitted Esterhazy, ignoring the convincing evidence of his guilt.



Emile Zola support for Dreyfus

- “The Affair” might have ended then but for the determined intervention of the novelist Émile Zola, who published his denunciation (“J’accuse!”) of the army cover-up in a daily newspaper.
- Zola was found guilty of libelling the army and was sentenced to imprisonment.
- He fled to England, where he remained until being granted amnesty.



The Roman Catholic Church adds its bit

- At this point, public passion became more aroused than ever, as the political right and the **leadership of the Catholic Church** — both of which were openly hostile to the Republic — declared the Dreyfus case to be a **conspiracy of Jews and Freemasons** designed to damage the prestige of the army and thereby destroy France.



Colonel Henry fraudulent documents

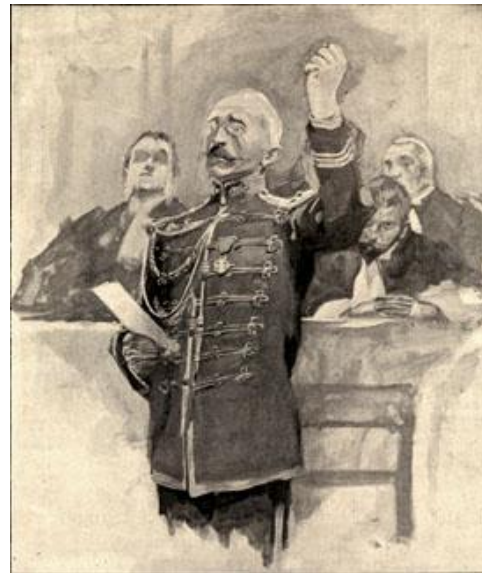
- Sometime later another military officer discovered that additional documents had been added to the Dreyfus file.
- He determined that a lieutenant colonel (Hubert Henry) had forged the documents — which seemed to strengthen the case against Dreyfus — in anticipation that Dreyfus would be given a new trial.



Dreyfus convicted again

- Immediately after an interrogation the lieutenant colonel committed suicide.
- In 1899, the army did in fact conduct a new court-martial which again found Dreyfus guilty and condemned him to 10 years detention, although it observed that there were “extenuating circumstances.”

- Re-conviction of Dreyfus.



Finally exonerated

- In September 1899, the president of France pardoned Dreyfus, thereby making it possible for him to return to Paris, but he had to wait until 1906 — 12 years after the case had begun — to be exonerated of the charges, after which he was restored to his former military rank.
- At right, Captain Alfred Dreyfus rehabilitated.



Church deprived of political power in France.

- “The Affair” had inspired moderate republicans, Radicals, and socialists to work together, and the ultimate exoneration of Dreyfus strengthened the Republic, in no small part because of the conduct of its enemies, most notably the army and the Catholic hierarchy.
- In 1905, the Radical party, emphasising the role of the Catholic leadership in the Dreyfus case, succeeded in passing legislation separating church and state.



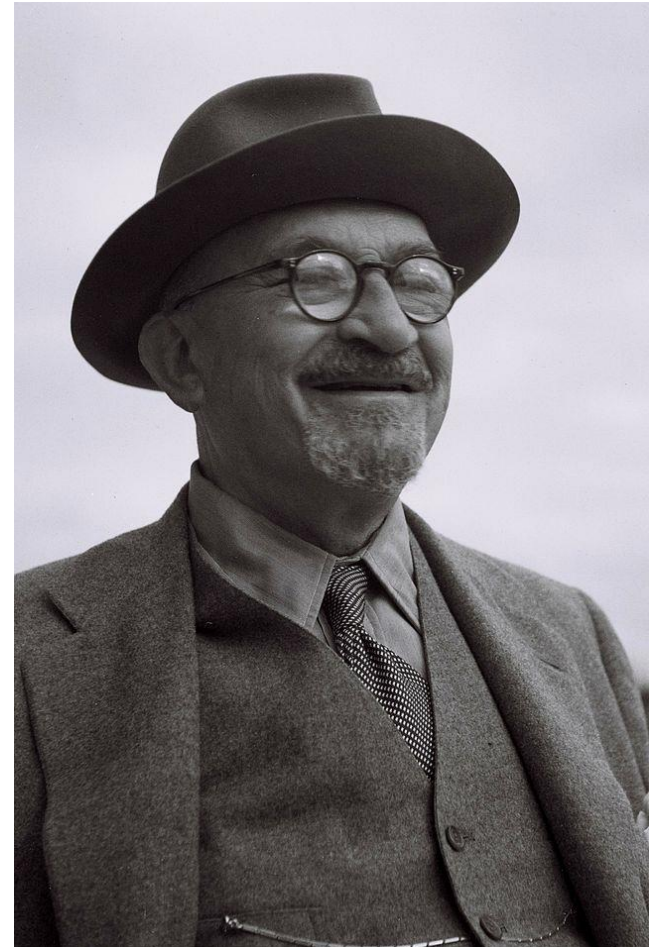
Reaction to rampant anti-Semitism

- In response to the Dreyfus Affair, Jews created the new concept of political Zionism in which it was believed that, through active political manoeuvring, a Jewish homeland could be created.
- Zionism was becoming a popular concept by the time World War I began.
- The delegates at the First Zionist Congress, held in Base, Switzerland (1897).



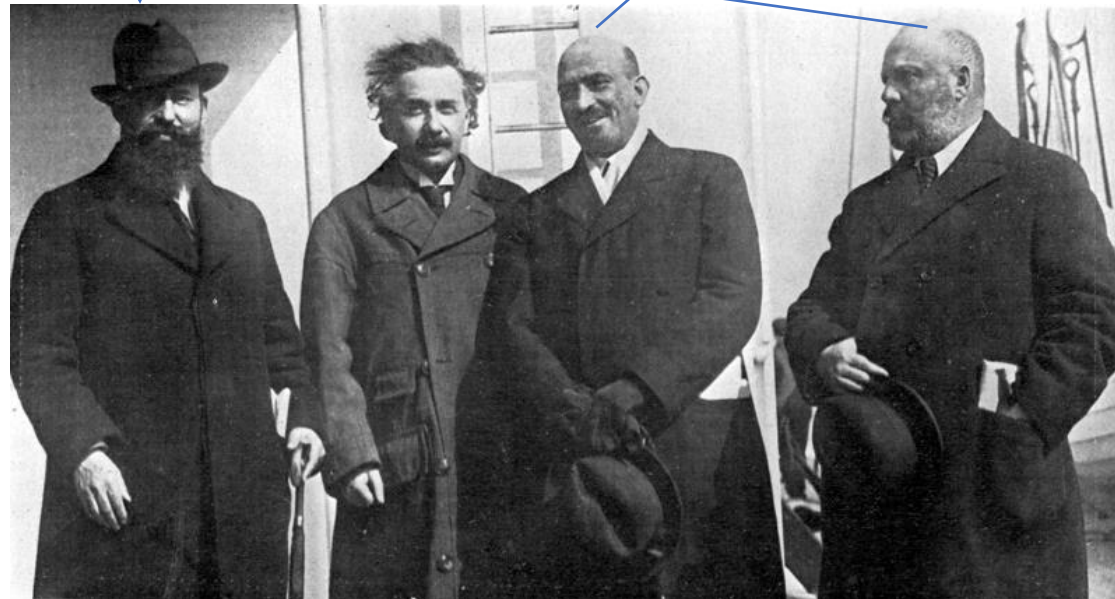
Chaim Weizmann, leader of Zionist movement

- During World War I, Great Britain lacked supplies of acetone.
- Since Germany had “cornered the production” of acetone -- an important ingredient for arms production -- Great Britain may have lost the war if Chaim Weizmann had not invented a fermentation process that allowed the British to manufacture their own liquid acetone.



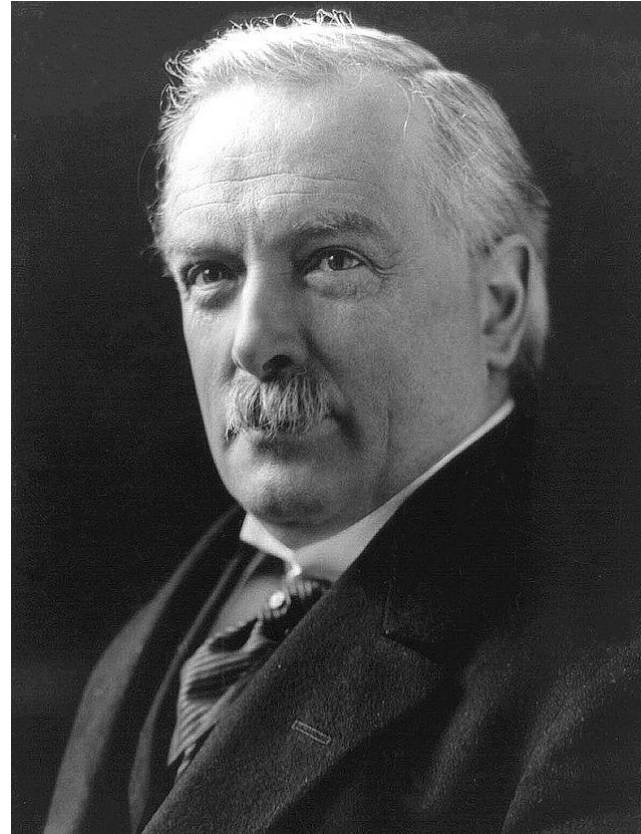
Knowing the right people (I don't)

- It was this fermentation process that brought Weizmann to the attention of David Lloyd George (minister of ammunitions) and Arthur James Balfour, previously the British prime minister but at this time the first lord of the admiralty.



Political machinations

- Weizmann's contact with Lloyd George and Balfour continued, even after, in 1916, Lloyd George became prime minister and Balfour was transferred to the Foreign Office
- Additional Zionist leaders such as Nahum Sokolow also pressured Great Britain to support a Jewish homeland in Palestine.
- The Earl David Lloyd-George of Dwyfor.



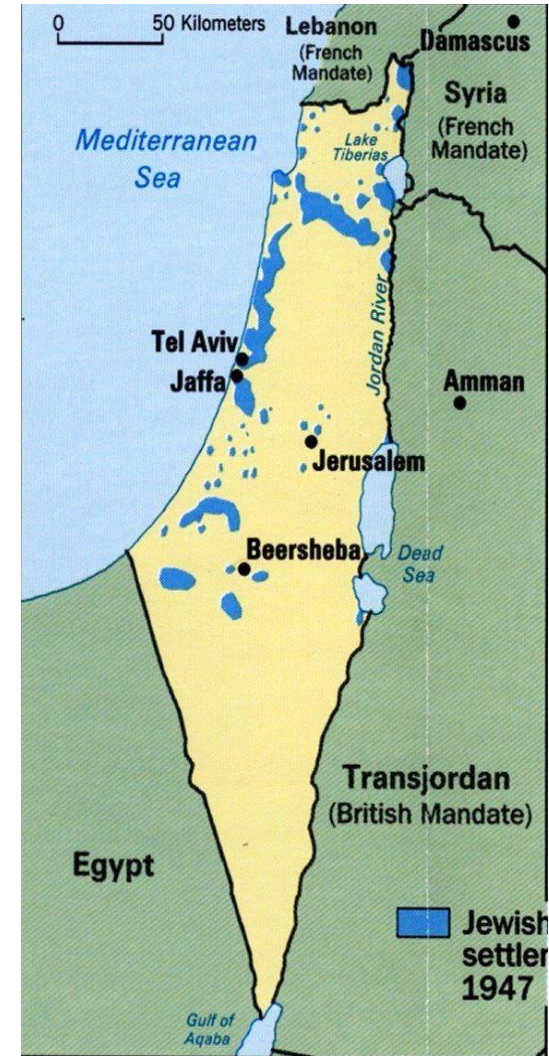
Political motive Of Britain

- Balfour was in favour of a Jewish state, and Great Britain particularly favoured the declaration as an act of policy.
- Britain wanted the United States to join World War I and the British hoped that by supporting a Jewish homeland in Palestine, world Jewry would be able to sway the U.S. to join the war.



League of Nations

- Though the Balfour Declaration went through several drafts, the final version was issued on November 2nd, 1917, in a letter from Balfour to Lord Rothschild, president of the British Zionist Federation.
- The main body of the letter quoted the decision of the October 31st, 1917 British Cabinet meeting.
- This declaration was accepted by the League of Nations on July 24th 1922 and embodied in the mandate that gave Britain temporary administrative control of Palestine.



Broken promise.

- In 1939, Britain reneged on the Balfour Declaration by issuing the White Paper, which stated that creating a Jewish state was no longer British policy.
- It was also Britain's change in policy toward Palestine, especially the White Paper, that prevented millions of European Jews escaping Nazi-occupied Europe and going to Palestine.



The Balfour Declaration: was it possible or only a statement to appease the Zionists?

- 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.
- Yours sincerely,
Arthur James Balfour

The Haganah, The Irgun and The Lehi (The Stern Gang)

They were three independent Jewish, Zionist, underground organisations that carried out military operations against the British in Palestine, from the end of WWI until the re-formation of Israel.

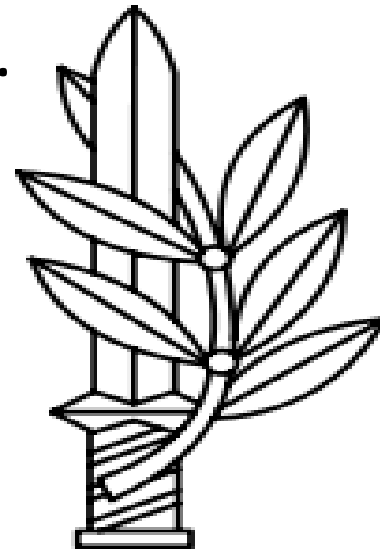
The King David Hotel bombing was an attack carried out on Monday July 22nd, 1946 by the Irgun on the British administrative headquarters for Palestine, which was housed in the southern wing of the King David Hotel Jerusalem.

91 people of various nationalities were killed and 46 were injured.



Haganah

- Haganah (Hebrew: The Defence) was a Jewish (underground/partisan) paramilitary organisation in the British Mandate of Palestine (1921–48), which became the core of the Israel Defence Forces (IDF).
- In 1940, the Haganah sabotaged the Patria, an ocean liner being used by the British to deport 1,800 Jews to Mauritius.
- A bomb was intended to cripple the ship.
- However the ship sank, killing 260.



Irgun

- The **Irgun** (Hebrew: "The National Military Organisation in the Land of Israel"), was another Zionist paramilitary organisation that operated in Mandate Palestine between 1931 and 1948.
- It was an offshoot of the older and larger Haganah.
- Irgun members were absorbed into the Israel Defence Forces at the start of the 1948 Arab–Israeli war.



Lehi

- Lehi or Stern Gang ("Fighters for the Freedom of Israel – Lehi"), commonly referred to in English as the Stern Gang, was a Zionist paramilitary organisation founded in 1940 by Avraham ("Yair") Stern in Mandatory Palestine.
- Its avowed aim was to evict the British authorities from Palestine by resort to force, allowing unrestricted immigration of Jews and the formation of a Jewish state, a 'new totalitarian Hebrew republic'.

Avraham ("Yair") Stern.



The Palmach (Hebrew: "strike forces")

- It was the elite fighting force of the Haganah.
- The Palmach was established on 15 May 1941.
- With the creation of Israel's army, the three Palmach Brigades were disbanded.



Unbelievable!

- Lehi split from the Irgun militant group in 1940 in order to continue fighting the British during World War II.
- Lehi initially sought an alliance with Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany, offering to fight alongside them against the British in return for the transfer of all Jews from Nazi-occupied Europe to Palestine.
- Bargaining with the devil.



I can only shake my head in amazement

- Believing that Nazi Germany was a lesser enemy of the Jews than Britain, Lehi (Stern Gang) twice attempted to form an alliance with the Nazis.
- During World War II, it declared that it would establish a Jewish state based upon "nationalist and totalitarian principles".



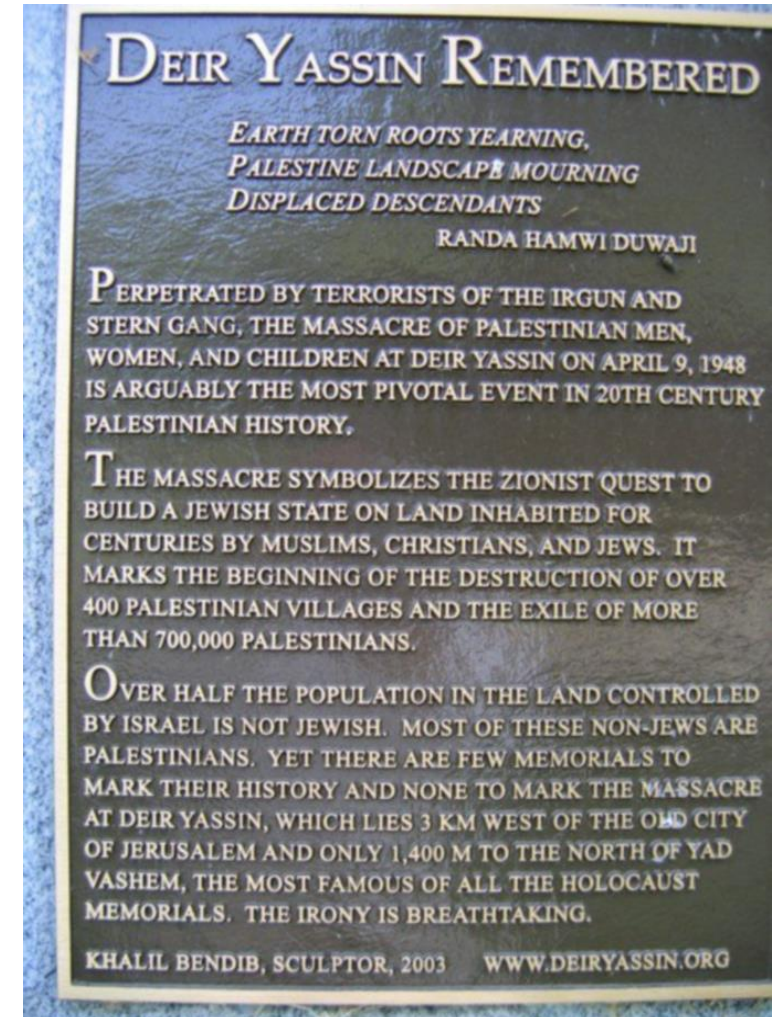
Ruthless fighters

- The Deir Yassin massacre took place on April 9th, 1948, when about 120 fighters from the Zionist paramilitary groups Irgun and Lehi (Stern Gang) attacked Deir Yassin near Jerusalem, a Palestinian Arab village of roughly 600 people.



Saving the Holy City

- The assault occurred as Jewish militia sought to relieve the blockade of Jerusalem by Palestinian Arab forces.
- 107 villagers were killed during and after the battle for the village, including women and children—some were shot, while others died when hand grenades were thrown into their homes.



Inevitable?

- News of the killings sparked terror among Palestinians, encouraging them to flee from their towns and villages in the face of Jewish troop advances, and it strengthened the resolve of Arab governments to declare war, which they did five weeks later.



Irony?

- Deir Yassin today, part of the Kfar Shaul Mental Health Centre, an Israeli psychiatric hospital.



Wonders never cease!

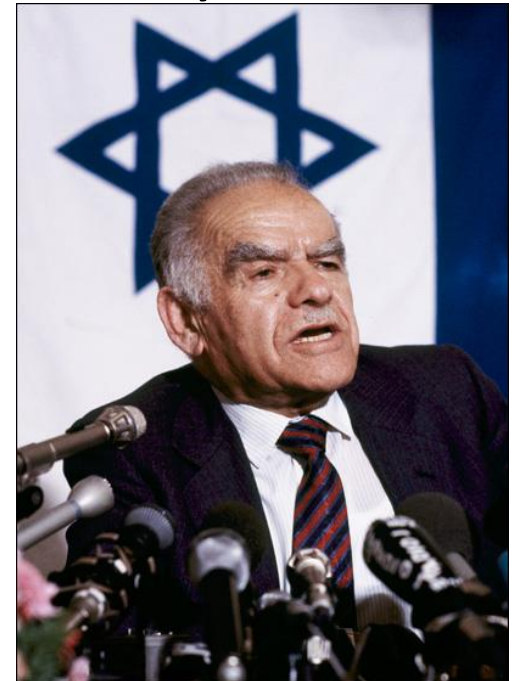
After Stern's death in 1942, the new leadership of Lehi began to move it towards support for Joseph Stalin's Soviet Union.

In 1944, Lehi officially declared its support for National Bolshevism.

Israel granted a general amnesty to Lehi members on 14th February 1949.

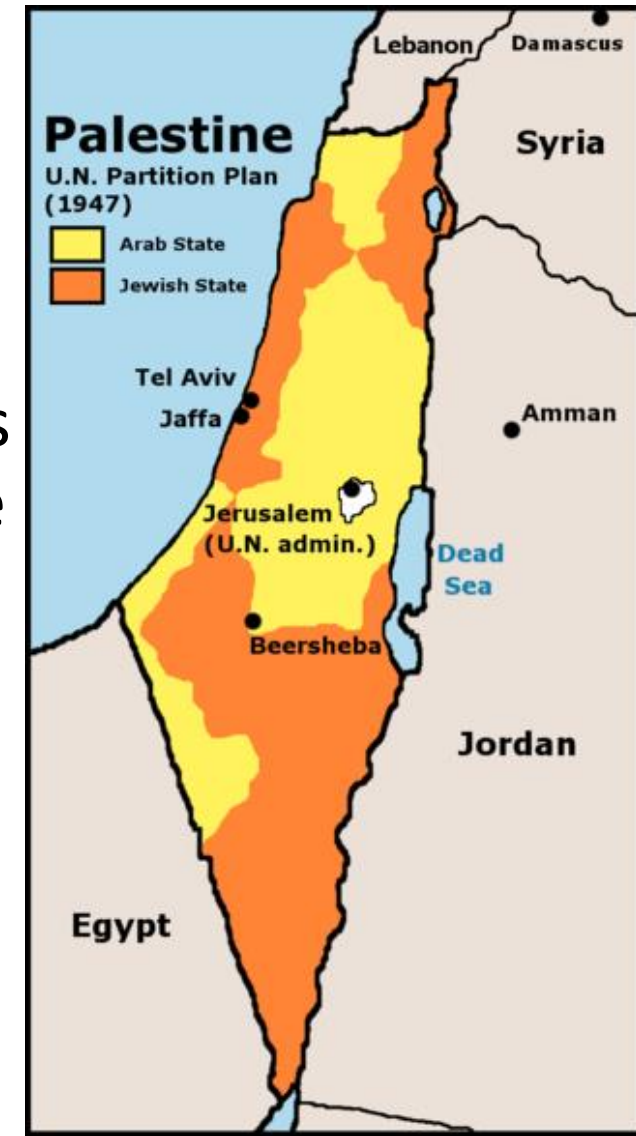
In 1980, Israel instituted a military decoration in the "award for activity in the struggle for the establishment of Israel," the Lehi ribbon.

Former Lehi leader Yitzhak Shamir became Prime Minister of Israel serving two terms 1983–84 and 1986–1992.



War as a result of decision to partition Palestine

- First Arab-Israeli War (1948)
- The Jewish leadership accepted the Partition Plan but Arab leaders rejected it.
- The Arab League threatened to take military measures to prevent the partition of Palestine and to ensure the national rights of the Palestinian Arab population.
- Jerusalem was to belong to neither state, but was to be **administered(?)** separately.



The fight for the possession of Jerusalem

- There was a 'civil war' between the Jews and Arabs between the day the U.N. resolution was passed, and the cessation of the mandate.
- The borders would be frozen, at the boundaries of land occupied by the Jews and Arabs, on the day of the cessation of the British Mandate.
- The Arabs tried to prevent the Jews from supplying Jerusalem which would mean that the city would "remain Arab" (last slide).
- An Arab road block, on the main road to Jerusalem.



Protecting British interests (oil) in the Middle East.

Lieutenant-General Sir John Bagot Glubb, known as Glubb Pasha, was a British soldier, scholar and author, who led and trained Transjordan's Arab Legion between 1939 and 1956 as its commanding general.



An inevitable result?

- On May 14th one day before the British Mandate expired, Israel declared its independence within the borders of the Jewish State set out in the Partition Plan.
- The Arab countries declared war on the newly formed State of Israel beginning the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.
- An Otter armoured car captured by the Haganah from the ALA (Arab Liberation Army- Kaukji's army) in 1948. The car still carries the ALA emblem, a dagger stabbing a Star of David.



The **beginnings** of what we have now.

- After the war, which Palestinians call the Catastrophe, the 1949 Armistice Agreements established the separation lines between the combatants.
- Israel controlled some areas designated for the Arab state under the Partition Plan.
- Transjordan controlled the West Bank and Jerusalem, and Egypt controlled the Gaza Strip.



Reclaiming their ancient land?

- The growth of Israel.

