



HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL

# REVISION OF THE PALESTINIAN MANDATE

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MOVENU 2011, my name is Simonetta Spavieri and I will serve you as the Secretary General for this Ninth Edition that we have named “Voluntaries for Peace” convinced of the duty that youth has towards the achievement of a better world. I am honored to oversee the contents of MOVENU next to the Academic Coordinators, Maria Pinzón, Jacobo Cordido y Daniella Nacad. Together, we have committed to ensure the academic excellence of MOVENU, to which we believe necessary different conditions given by the delegates and the Dias. From you delegates, we hope to find commitment on being proactive speakers of your thoughts, smart creators of solutions and forgers of solid consensus. From the Dias we shall offer efficient and non-obstructive moderation, dedication, knowledge of agenda topics and the following study guide which shall serve to you as a first immersion in the topic.

The study guide is set in different sections that can help to understand the committee’s agenda. Firstly, a section regarding the mandate and functions of the committee, then the topic issue explained with its background and different aspects. Finally, a section related to the different bloc positions can orientate you to understand your official position and role in the committee and the section “questions a resolution must answer” should allow you to understand the kind of solutions that are expected as a result of the discussion you will be part of. Another document that as a delegate you should refer to is the General Rules of Procedure of MOVENU 2011 and those specific rules for specialized committees, all of these available on our website.

We would like the result of this academic and social experience to be the renewal of commitment from us youngsters in serving as tools for change of our social realities. The invitation is to prepare to the debate in your committee of MOVENU 2011 with the awareness that to confront the problems of our generation it will be required the same level of preparation, as well as your interest and actions. You have demonstrated to be pre-occupied by entering this event, we wish to see us all occupied in finding solutions during the days of MOVENU and occupied afterwards in applying our strength in voluntary initiatives that can contribute to the development of our country and the world.

We are available to assist you during your preparation to MOVENU through the official e-mails for each committee, academic coordinator and the Secretary General, as well as other digital media set by each Dias for your committee.

Specifically for your committee: [hsc.movenu2011@gmail.com](mailto:hsc.movenu2011@gmail.com) , [ca.jcordido.movenu2011@gmail.com](mailto:ca.jcordido.movenu2011@gmail.com) and through Facebook: Historical Security Council MOVENU 2011

Wishing to meet you all in October,

Simonetta Spavieri

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**UNITED NATIONS 1948**

**(MOVENU 2011)**

**HISTORICAL  
SECURITY COUNCIL**

**OFFICIAL RECORDS**

**THIRD YEAR**

**CARACAS  
VENEZUELA**

Honorable Plenipotentiaries,

We have strived to provide a topic that can rouse much debate and discussion not only about a critical event in history, but also about the capacity and responsibility of the Security Council. I hope that you will join me in going back in time to 1948, an incredibly challenging year for the Security Council, throughout which, multiple resolutions regarding the Palestinian Question were passed.

We shall entertain the situation on February 10<sup>th</sup> of 1948, going forward with the suggestion made by Secretary-General's letter (*Dated 2 December 1947 (document S/614) regarding the resolution 181 adopted by the General Assembly (document A/516)*) in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of the operative part of the resolution, which includes the recommendations or requests addressed to the Security Council. The Security Council certainly has to take note of such matters and study them when its attention is called to them, and the Security Council has to determine to what extent it can accept or apply such requests or recommendations.

The recommendations of the General Assembly are not binding, and Member States are not required by force to accept them. Member States may or may not accept them, and the same applies to the Security Council. In this respect, there are many examples. Many resolutions of the General Assembly were sent to the Security Council, which were not adopted. Adoption was prevented by one member or more than one member.

This is a matter of a Non-Self-Governing Territory with which we are dealing. The question of Non-Self-Governing Territories is dealt with in only three chapters in the Charter of the United Nations. Only Chapter XI applies to the colonies under the special administration of certain powers, and the other two chapters apply to Territories under Trusteeship or mandate. There was created another category of Non-Self-Governing Territories administered in a new form, adding new articles to the Charter.

The General Assembly is attempting to create a permanent trusteeship, a trusteeship without a trustee. Where is the Trusteeship Agreement? The General Assembly made the City of Jerusalem a permanent Trust Territory. Who is the administrator-the General Assembly? Is there any arrangement? Is there any trusteeship agreement? And is there an Article of the Charter which permits such a system or such a rule? Is it a new creation? The Security Council needs to consider all this points because it is bound to respect and protect in order to keep the peace in the middle-east region.

In order to end this letter, Isabel Pisani and María Andreína Tinoco join me as Vice Presidents of this Council, for us is truly an honor to be your Chair in the Historical Security Council at MOVENU International 2011, where our purpose must be learned from history's problems by uncovering strategies and questions that the past did not have time for, and finally pose them to today's international community ourselves.

Abraham Pedraza  
Chair of the Historical Security Council, 1948  
MOVENU International 2011, Caracas, Venezuela  
HSCMOVENU@GMAIL.COM

## **TOPIC: The Situation in Palestine**

### **HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE**

International peace and security has always been dependent upon the cooperation of Great Powers. When there wasn't any international organizations, 1815-1914, the "Concert of Europe" was achieved virtual organization that lead to a semi-formal system in which Europe's leading powers: Austria, Prussia/Germany, France, Russia and Great Britain, agreed to prevent any of them from attempting to establish hegemony. The rise of Germany, especially as a naval and colonial power, along with the simultaneous emergence of Japan and the United States as active international players, ensured the demise of this system, in the form of the First World War.

The new system that emerged in 1919, the League of Nations,

failed to maintain peace and security worldwide, being the most terrible outcomes: the Second World War. The failure of the Council of the League of Nations brought the need of restoring international peace and security, using a multilateral mechanism to achieve that goal.

The San Francisco Conference, celebrated between April 25 and June 26 1945, created an international organization to fulfill the demands and requests made by the nations at that time, trying to solve the main problems that resulted from the ineffectiveness of the Council (from the absence of some Great Powers, to questions related to the lack of consensus in the decisions and problems with the application of the concepts of collective security and enforcement of the actions made by the League members).

Having the capacity of enforcement as one of its main motto, the United Nations resulted from the negotiations at the San Francisco Conference. They established in Charter, the role of the Security Council (UNSC) as the UN organ with the power to enforce the Organization's principles and the decisions made by the winners of the

Second World War that would become the Security Council's permanent members. The importance of this Council rests in the fact that is the only United Nations body that has decisions that must be followed by all of the members of the Organization. The beginnings of the Security Council are deeply tied to those of the United Nations.



A general view of the First session of the United Nations Security Council held on 17 January 1946 at Church House, London. N.J.O. Makin of Australia is presiding.

One would never have existed without the other. To see evidence of this one need only to read the first article of the UN Charter:

*The Purposes of the United Nations are: To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.*<sup>1</sup>

The birth of both entities started with The Declaration of St. James Palace which emerged from a June 1941, meeting

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<sup>1</sup> Charter of the United Nations (1945), Article 1, 26 June 1945.

attended by nine exiled governments that were living the ravages of World War II play out on their sovereign lands and the other five countries who were deeply concerned about the fate of the civilized world.<sup>2</sup> At this time Europe was on the brink of falling to the Axis powers, yet these governments were engaged in the discussion and signing of a declaration with the intention of staging changes that would henceforth affect the way governments resolved international issues. Part of the Declaration read as follows:

*"The only true basis of enduring peace is the willing cooperation of peace: peoples in a world which, relived of the menace of aggression, all may enjoy economic and social security: "It is our intention to work together, and with*

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.kik-kultur.dk/UN.htm>

*other free peoples, both in war and peace, to this end.”<sup>3</sup>*

These were the words that reflected the representatives of Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa. Their fateful meeting with the exiled governments of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Yugoslavia, and General de Gaulle representing France began the process that led to the international organization known as the United Nations.<sup>4</sup>

On January 1, 1942, the United Nations Declaration was signed by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, Maxim Litvinov, of the USSR, and the T. V. Soong, of China.<sup>5</sup> A day later the Declaration was signed by twenty-two other nations. Then, as World War II

was drawing to a close, China, Great Britain, the USSR, and the United States met at Dumbarton Oaks (a 19th century mansion in Washington, D.C.) to develop an organizational plans for the UN.

*“The Dumbarton Oaks draft centered mainly round the Security Council.”<sup>6</sup> This Council was given the responsibility of preventing future wars, and it was responsible for making decisions on what actions the United Nations needed to take. “Another important feature of the Dumbarton Oaks plan was that member states were to place armed forces at the disposal of the Security Council in its task of preventing war and suppressing acts of aggression.”<sup>7</sup>*

The one problem with the Dumbarton Oaks plan was the lack of a voting procedure in

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<sup>3</sup> Guide to the Charter of the United Nations 5e, (New York: United Nations Publications, 1958), p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.kik-kultur.dk/UN.htm>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.kik-kultur.dk/UN.htm>

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<sup>6</sup> Herbert VereEvatt, the United Nation (Boston: Harvard University Press, 1948), 11.

<sup>7</sup> Guide to the Charter of the United Nations, p. 6.

the Security Council. This was resolved at the Yalta Conference in February of 1945 by Prime Minister Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin. After Yalta, the San Francisco Conference was set for April 25th, 1945. Months later after many heated debates and at the insistence of the major powers, the veto power was made official in Article 30 and was extended to the five countries commonly referred to as the "Permanent 5".

The UNSC was now responsible to maintain international peace; the Security Council has its framework and setting procedures described on Chapter V, VI and VII of the UN Charter, dealing with threats to international peace and security in an efficient way in order to avoid a similar earlier tragedy, according to the article 39 of the Charter. The Chapter VI declares that all States shall settle their disputes through pacific means,

such as negotiation and mediation. The Chapter VII, on the other hand, deals with threats to peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression.

The Council, therefore, is responsible for a collective security system in which the states should settle their disputes pacifically, with the exception of self-defense and UNSC approved situations. It is important to point out that, together with the International Court of Justice, the UNSC is the only UN organ that has mandatory resolutions, granting to the Council a central role within the organization.

The Security Council held its first historic meeting in January 17, 1946 at Church House, London, and has been taking actions for peace ever since.

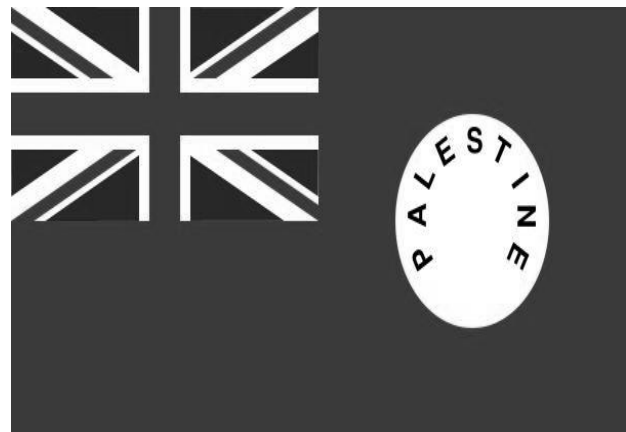
## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

After the defeat of the Ottoman Empire at the end of the Great War, the League of Nations assigned the administration of Palestine to the United Kingdom as the Mandatory Power under the Mandates System adopted by the League, which stated its transitory command until the independence of the Palestine nation.

In 2 November 1917, the British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour wrote a letter to the leader of the British Jewish community, Baron Rothschild, as a sign of *"sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations"*, a letter that would be later known as the Balfour Declaration, which declared:

*"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"*.



Flag of the British Mandate for Palestine  
(1917-1947) Extracted from:  
[www.shellhouse.org](http://www.shellhouse.org)

Five years later, in 1922, the United Kingdom facilitated the Jewish immigration and encouraged Jewish settlement on the land. This event brought devastating results among the people of Palestine, since their wishes weren't taken into account, even though the League of Nation's Covenant stressed the fact, that "the wishes of

these communities must be a principal consideration in the selection of the Mandatory"<sup>8</sup>.

Willing to investigate the Palestine situation, the British appointed a royal commission in 1936 called The Peel Commission, which recommended the partition of the country between Arabs and Jews. Once again, unlike the Jews, the Arabs rejected the idea.

The Arabs were opposed to the Jewish immigration because, their land had already taken in 100thousand immigrants out of the half million who fled from the Third Reich only by 1933. Therefore, they initiated several attacks against the Jews, who claimed the land in the name of their forefathers.

Nevertheless, in 1939 the Britons restricted the immigration of the Jews to Palestine to 75thousand for a

period of five years, since the country had a disproportionate share of displaced Jews. But The Jewish Agency and the Haganah continued to smuggle Jews into Palestine.

Meanwhile, both Arabs and Jews felt the Mandate of the British Empire to be a violation of their natural and inalienable rights and an infringement of assurances of independence given by the Allied Powers to Arab leaders in return for their support during the war. The result was mounting resistance to the Mandate by Palestinian Arabs, followed by resort to violence by the Jewish community as the Second World War drew to a close.<sup>9</sup>

Seeing that the problem went out of the control of the UK, they submitted it to the United Nations on the ground that the Mandatory Power was faced with conflicting obligations that had proved irreconcilable. On

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<sup>8</sup>Mandate for Palestine of 1922

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<sup>9</sup> <http://unispa1.un.org>

November 29, 1947, after much debate and discussion, the UN General Assembly recommended the partition of Palestine into two states one Palestinian Arab and the other Jewish, with Jerusalem internationalized. The partition plan did not bring peace to Palestine, and the prevailing violence spread into a Middle East war halted only by United Nations action.

With this, the United Nations accepted the responsibility of finding a just solution for the Palestine issue.

## HISTORY OF THE PROBLEM

Different names throughout time: Phillistia in the bible, Palestine for the Syrians, and Palestine for the Persians<sup>10</sup>. From 450 BC to 1917 AD, Palestine was a name for a geographic region that lies between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. July 24<sup>th</sup> 1922 the League of Nations

decided that this region was to become a territory with an identity but under the Mandate of Great Britain, with the ulterior motive to become an independent state.

More than 5 thousand years of known history, conquered by: the Egyptians, Babylonia, the Persians, the Greeks, the Roman Empire, the Muslims, the Ottomans<sup>11</sup>, the history of the Palestinians have been anything, but monotonous. One odd characteristic that cannot be attributed to any other piece of land in the world, and the cornerstone of the disputes for this land, is that 3 religions claim

Jerusalem as a sacred place of devotion: Christians, Muslims and Jewish.



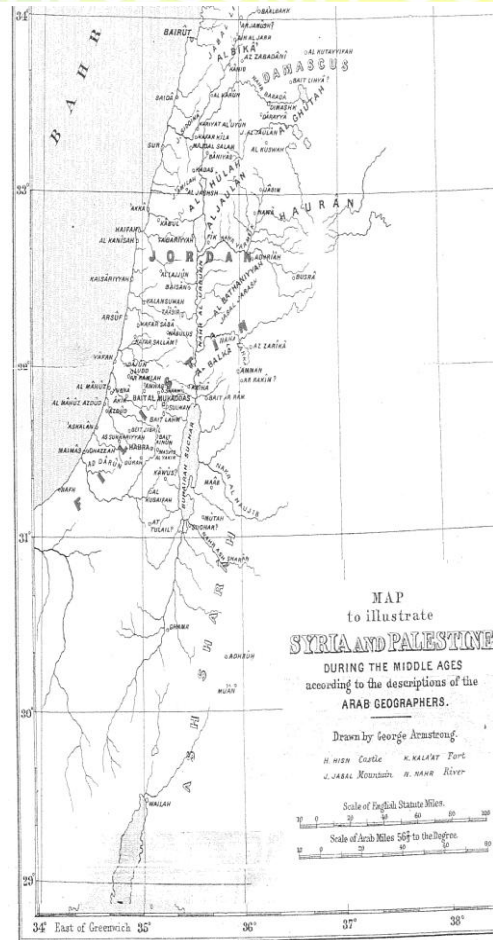
<sup>10</sup>Pappe, 2006

<sup>11</sup><http://www.palestinehistory.com/history/brief/brief.htm#01>

Many cultures and races have mixed themselves consistently, the presence of the Jewish marked the beginning of the written history of these people, but the reality is that not only the Jewish have dominated this land, the Muslims have also done so in determined periods. By 1517 AD, the Ottoman Turks made the first divisions in districts and its governance given to the Arab Palestinians. Towards 1845, the Jewish population increased 5 times its number, this growth tendency never reversed, and it is then when Zionists movements start to rise.

## Zionism

The Zionist movement arose in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in Europe, its main focus were the nationalist feeling and territorial acquisitions, inspired in European



Map of Palestine during the middle Ages according to the description of the Arab geographers, drawn by Geo. Armstrong, from *Palestine Under the Muslims: A Description of Syria and the Holy Land from AD 650 to 1500*, by Guy Le Strange, London 1890

colonialism that was applied to shrink the Ottoman Empire<sup>12</sup>.

Moreover, Zionist assertions of the contemporary relevance of the Jews' historical ties to Palestine<sup>13</sup>, coupled with their

<sup>12</sup><http://www.palestineremembered.com/Acre/Palestine-Remembered/Story452.html>

<sup>13</sup>[www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Israel/Zionism\\_Impact.html](http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Israel/Zionism_Impact.html)

land purchases and immigration, alarmed the indigenous population of the Ottoman districts that comprised Palestine<sup>14</sup>. Seeing the urgency of detaining land purchases in order to maintain an Arab majority, a group of Muslims and Christians called the attention of the Ottoman regime and effectively the Jewish were banned of buying land in the Jerusalem District.

On 1914, the Palestinians and the Zionists tried to meet their aspirations, the Palestinians asked the Zionists to present with a document that stated: 1. precise political ambitions, 2. Willingness to open school for Palestinians and 3. Their intentions of learning Arabic and integrating with the predominant Palestinian population, they rejected this proposal, and the possibility of meeting both people were starting to look scarce.

The Zionist movement established their policies with the intention of applying them for 30 years, the dispossession and the expulsion of the Palestinians were a result of this, focused on their need of:

1. Attaining Jewish majority and
2. acquire statehood. Non-recognition of the political and national rights of the Palestinian people was a KEY Zionist policy. The aims of attaining administrative and political powers in order to found a true Jewish state were based on certain fundamental doctrine of Zionism:

1. It was inherently righteous because it met the need among European Jews to conquer their own land.
2. The civilization of the Middle East: European culture was superior to indigenous Arab culture.
3. External support was needed from a major power;

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<sup>14</sup>Ann M. Lesch for [www.palestineremembered.com](http://www.palestineremembered.com)

relations with the Arab world were a secondary matter.

4. Palestinian nationalism was either illegitimate or nonexistent.

5. If the Palestinians would not reconcile themselves to Zionism, they would do so by force.

*"After we become a strong force, as a result of the creation of a state, we shall abolish partition and expand to the whole of Palestine."* - Ben-Gurion

*"In the course of time we shall expand to the whole country ...this is only an arrangement for the next 15-30 years."* - Chaim Weizmann

Therefore, in order to apply practically this doctrine, they undertook the following steps:

1. Build political structures that could assume state functions

2. Create a military force.

3. Promote large-scale immigration.

4. Acquire land as the inalienable property of the Jewish people.

5. Establish monopolistic concessions. (E.G. The labor federation, Histadrut, tried to force Jewish enterprises to hire only Jewish labor).

6. Setting up a Hebrew-language educational system.

After the Palestine Mandate was ratified in 1922, the Zionist Organization had the responsibility to cooperate in economic, social and development matters affecting the "Jewish National Home". The Zionists were strongly critical of British efforts to establish

a Legislative Council in 1923, 1930, and 1936. They realized that Palestinians demands for a legislature with a Palestinian majority ran counter to their own need to delay establishing representative bodies until the Jewish community was much larger. The promise of establishing the National Home was the reason of a large-scale migration of jews coming from Europe, which would later collaborate with the efforts of aiming power.

### **The Zionist Conferences**

The First Zionist conference held in Basle, Switzerland from August 29 to 31 in 1897 settles on Palestine, then part of the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire<sup>15</sup> in the Basle Declaration or Basle program. It was organized by the Zionist Organization chaired by Theodor Herzl<sup>16</sup>. Even though at first the Zionism had

major opposition from the Jewish community because it was considered extremist, but after the Holocaust in the Second World War was revealed, its acceptance grew significantly.

*"Were I to sum up the Basel Congress in a word - which I shall guard against pronouncing publicly - it would be this: At Basel I founded the Jewish State. If I said this out loud today I would be greeted by universal laughter. In five years perhaps, and certainly in fifty years, everyone will perceive it."* - Theodore Herzl<sup>17</sup>

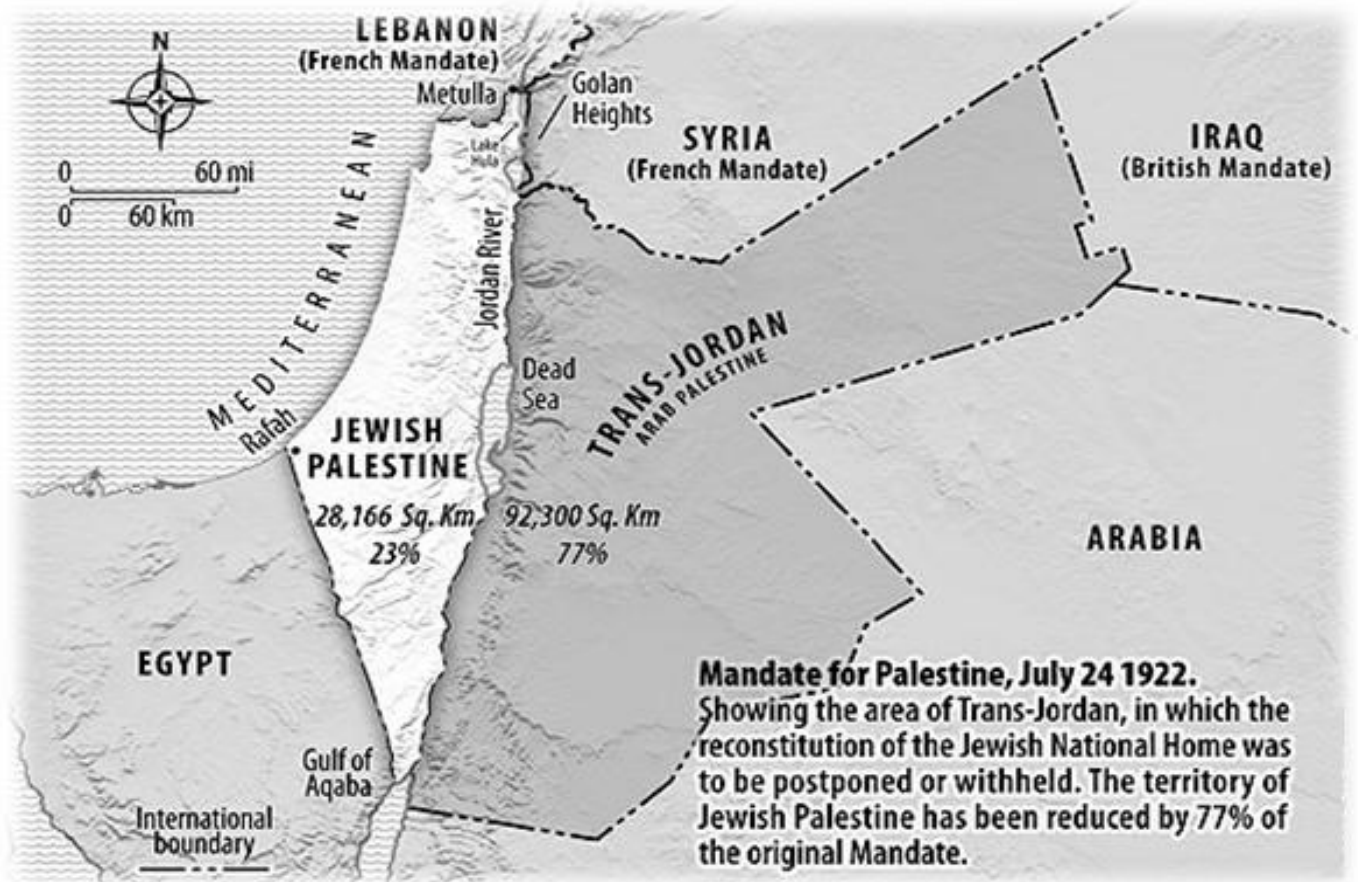
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<sup>15</sup><http://www.palestinecampaign.org/files/basicfactsheet.pdf>

<sup>16</sup>Jewish Virtual Library: The first Zionist Congress and the Basel Program.

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<sup>17</sup>Jewish Encyclopedia



The importance of these congresses relies on the decisions that they made towards their goal of the Jewish settlement in Palestine, were actually applied to the reality of Palestine such as:

The people's bank or Jewish Colonial Trust, adoption of the "Hatikvah" as the national anthem, the Jewish National Fund that incentivized the purchase of land in Palestine

or "Israel" as they called it, they had a say in agriculture, settlement, education, land, finance, immigration and statistics. Even though they weren't part of the government, their opinions were taken as good advisory during the British Mandate and evidently deteriorated the stability of the Palestinian people.

### The British Mandate

The Balfour Declaration on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1917 stepped Palestine closer to their goal: independence. The British occupation was supposed to create a balance in the population because the mandate stated that *"nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of the existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine"*<sup>18</sup> but it didn't mention national or political rights, which was the aim of the Zionists. The High Commissioners were Sir Herbert Samuels (1920-1925) and Sir Allan G. Cunningham (1945-1948).

In previous years, the British government had made contradictory promises for the future of Palestine; these would lead to 30 years conflict-ridden British Mandate:

1. Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916): With France and Russia, "Palestine has to be under international administration"
2. Husayn-McMahon Correspondance (1915-1916): Palestine would be included in the zone of Arab Independence; this was the trigger to the Arab revolt.
3. Balfour Declaration (1917): encouraged colonization of Palestine by the Jews, under British protection.

The British sought a Jewish mandate with the protection of the Arab minorities, but this means would never become a reality and the Britons role to maintain security inside Palestine converged with the power-struggle that the Jewish minority or *yishuv*, but favored, against the Arab majority, neglected. The British umbrella was substantially important to the

<sup>18</sup> Balfour Declaration (Annex #)

growth and consolidation of the *yishuv*, enabling it to root itself firmly despite Palestinian opposition. Although British support diminished in the late 1930s, the *yishuv* was strong enough by then to bear up the Palestinians on its own.

The Palestinians' manifestations against Jewish immigration, land purchases, and political demands were a day-to-day issue. Palestine has the same right of independence and self-determination as Egypt, Transjordan and Iraq; those rights were granted to them by Britain without violent demonstrations. According to Ann M. Lesch, professor in political science and Middle East affairs<sup>19</sup>: "*The Palestinians argued that Palestinian territory could not and should not be used to solve the plight of the Jews in Europe, and that Jewish*

*national aspirations should not override their own rights*".

The decade of the 30's was even more evident de opposition of the Arab Palestinians of the imminent settlement of the Jews in their territory, during half of 1936, there was a general strike that resulted in the creation of the Arab Higher Committee, that would become the central political organ of the Arab community, and in 1937 there was an extensive rural revolt.

This uprising was composed by a very diverse group of people from displaced peasants to merchants and professionals in towns; they all were united by the fear of losing the things they owned to the hands of the *yishuv*. The leaders were elite families that could have direct communication with the British high command and administration; together they formed the Arab Higher Committee that would later be

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<sup>19</sup> Villanova University, Pennsylvania, United States of America.

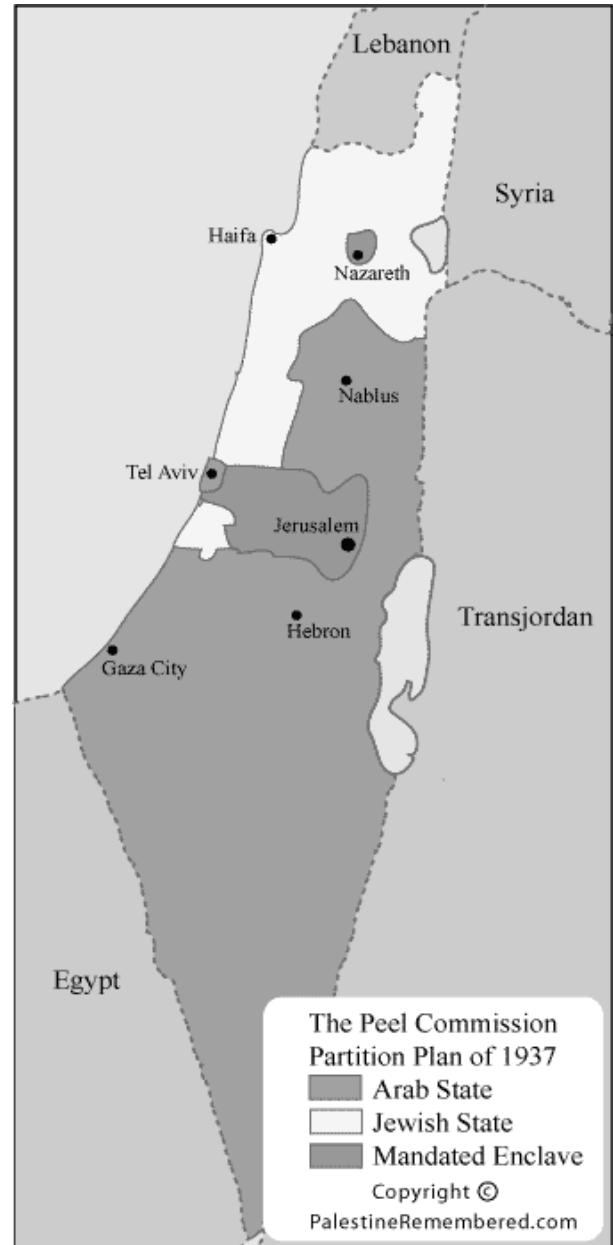
banned by the British administration in October 1937, ending up in the detention of all their members.

The National Defense Party was the only Palestinian political party that was willing to abide to the territorial partition, so long as the Palestinians could *"obtain sufficient land and merge with Transjordan"*<sup>20</sup>.

Nevertheless, the British Peel Commission plan, formed by the United Nations General Assembly's plan for partition, announced in July 1947 the distribution of territories that not even the National Defense Party could accept and joined the Palestinian Arabs claims.

According to Ann M. Lesch's paper about Zionism and its impact: during the Palestine Mandate period the Palestinian community was 70 percent rural,

75 to 80 percent illiterate, and divided internally between town and countryside and between elite families and villagers.



<sup>20</sup>Raghib Al-Nashashibi: mayor of Jerusalem from 1920 to 1934

Notwithstanding the Palestinian Arab majority and the broad rejection to these policies, they could not gain the necessary strength to stand up to the British and the Zionists. In the 1940's it was attempted to regain political status after the Arab Higher Committee was forbidden, the Arab countries gave scarce diplomatic and military support to the Palestinians, due to apprehension by the leading powers of the moment that gave them their independence recently.

By this moment, 1947, the Arab Majority was descending to 68% and was even more evident when the partition came into force when 55% of Palestinian territory granted statehood to Jews.

### Jewish National Fund<sup>21</sup>

During the fifth Zionist Congress, 1901, it surged a proposal to create a Jewish National Fund (JNF) to purchase land in Ottoman Empire - Controlled Palestine. Theodor Herzl stated in the congress: "After striving for so many years to set up the fund, we do not want to disperse again without having done anything... the fund shall be the property of the Jewish people as a whole". This led to the first gathering of capital that resulted in 200.000 pounds.

YonaKrementzky was appointed as the first head of the JNF and the headquarters would be in Jerusalem. By 1903, 50 acres of land were the first purchase the JNF made and the objective of the first decade was to establish the first Jewish City, Tel Aviv, where they live in collective communities

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<sup>21</sup> <http://www.jnf.org>

(kibbutz), they set up administered farms, founded schools and provided aid to create higher education institutions.

July of 1920: representatives of Zionist organizations all over the world met after the First World War ended to define strategies to apply. They decided that the donations that they collected would be used to purchase land that would pass from generation to generation to all Jewish people. The next year the acquisition of lands increased by 4 times the amount in 1920. The JNF had six main areas of work: ecology and a forestation, water, community improvement, research and development, tourism and recreation, and education.

**Commissions of Inquiry (COI):  
Haycraft Commission and Shaw  
Commission**

The British Administration contemplated the possibility of creating an act of entrusting

or giving authority<sup>22</sup> to a group of experts to give results about certain event occurred in the territory mandated that would have to come to winding up the exact occurrence: the causes, the consequences and recommendations to the High Commission towards the action plan to assume due to this findings. Two of the most important of them were the Haycraft Commission (1921) and the Shaw Commission.

- The Haycraft Commission: was created after the Jaffa Riots that took place may 1921; large scale attacks on Rehovot, Petah Tikva, and other Jewish areas. The death toll among the Jews was 47 with 140 wounded, and the Arabs 48 killed and 73 wounded. The High Commissioner decided to negotiate with the Arabs and stopped the Jewish immigration. As a result, Winston Churchill

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<sup>22</sup> Merriam Webster Dictionary

emitted in June 1922 a White Paper<sup>23</sup>.

The report that this COI agreed stated: *"The racial strife was begun by the Arabs, and rapidly developed into a conflict of great violence between Arabs and Jews, in which the Arab majority, who were generally the aggressors, inflicted most of the casualties<sup>24</sup>".* But then, they argued: *"The fundamental cause of the riots was a feeling among the Arabs of discontent with, and hostility to, the Jews, due to political and economic causes, and connected with Jewish immigration, and with their conception of Zionist policy as derived from Jewish exponents."*

- The Shaw Commission: During this wave of violence, the British came to the following conclusions, after having studied it thoroughly:

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<sup>23</sup> A White paper is an informal name for a parliamentary paper enunciating government policy.

<sup>24</sup>Haycraft Commission of Inquiry result.

1. The demonstrations of violence were due to *"disappointment of their political and national aspirations and fear for their economic future."*<sup>25</sup>

2. The fear for the unstoppable growth of the JNF.

3. The ambiguous policy undertaken by the British regarding the settlements of Jewish and Palestinians.

To this report, there was a dissenting opinion, Lord Snells that declared:

1. An immediate statement of British intentions in Palestine

2. A re-examination of immigration policy

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<sup>25</sup> Report of the Commission on the Palestine Disturbances of August, 1929

3. A scientific inquiry into land usage and potential

4. A clarification of the Zionist Organization's relationship with the Mandate

### Later Events (1938-47)

The Arab uprising until 1939 was triggered by increased Jewish immigration in conjunction with rising Arab nationalist sentiment. Following the revolt, the British Peel Commission proposed a Palestine divided between a small Jewish state (about 15%), a much bigger Arab state and an international zone. The Arab leadership rejected the plan.

The Jewish Agency also rejected the borders in the British plan, but established their own committees on borders and population transfer so that they could offer an alternative

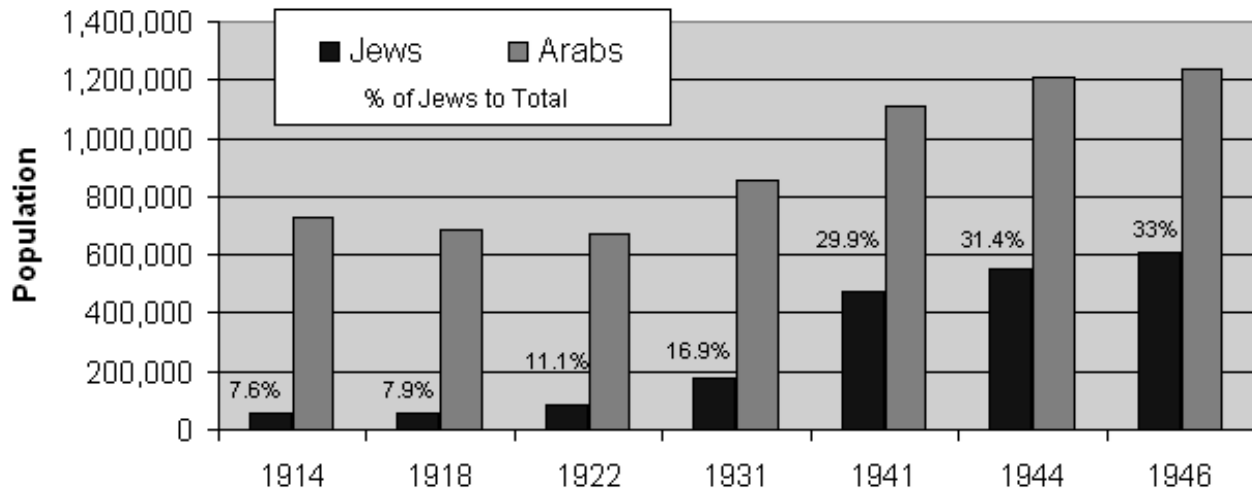
plan of their own. Both of the proposals contained provisions for the relocation of the Arab population to areas outside the borders of the new Jewish state.

The plans were developed along the lines of the Greco-Turkish transfer. After these proposals were rejected by the Arab side, the British changed their position and sought to eliminate Jewish immigration to Palestine.<sup>26</sup>

This was seen as a contradiction of the terms of the mandate, and an anti-humanitarian catastrophe, in light of the increasing persecution in Europe.

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<sup>26</sup> <http://united-nations-partition-plan-for-palestine.co.tv/>



The ban on the Jewish immigration by the British led to the Biltmore declaration of 1942, in which the Zionist Leader, David Ben Gurion made explicit the Zionist goal of an independent state in Palestine, in order to ensure the right of free immigration. The military arm of the Zionist movement was the Hagannah, an underground army formed to defend against Arab riots.<sup>27</sup> In 1938, the Jewish dissidents broke away and began forming their own underground groups, the Irgun and later the Lehi. The Irgun directed terror against Arabs, while the Lehi at first

confined itself to fighting British imperialism by terror.

During the war, the Palmach, a special Haganah unit was formed to prepare for a possible invasion from Syria, controlled by the Vichy French. During most of the war the Haganah and Palmach cooperated with the British. For a time in fact, especially during the period of 1944, the Haganah and Palmach were actively engaged in rounding up the Irgun and Lehi members. However, after the war all the Jewish military groups became active in fighting the British.

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.mideastweb.org/181.htm>

The Haganah organized numerous attempts at illegal Jewish immigration, to bring the 250,000 refugees living in European Displace Persons camps to Palestine in every boat they could find. The violence between Jews and British is not the only, also violence with Arabs escalated.<sup>28</sup>

With the White Paper of 1939, the British Government had determined that it was under no legal obligation to facilitate the further development of the Jewish National Home, by immigration, without respecting the wishes of the Arab population. The 1939 Zionist Congress denied the moral and legal validity of the White Paper.

The decision of the Permanent Mandates Commission was divided, regardless of their duty "to advice the Council of the League of Nations on all matters relating to the

observance of the Mandates". Four members felt the White Paper violated the terms of the mandate, while three members did not.

The Zionist Congress continued to publicly propose that Palestine should be established as a Jewish Commonwealth according to the Biltmore proposals, while they were willing to accept a partition plan in principle.

Afterward the United States pressure to end the anti-immigration policy led to the establishment of The Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry in 1946. It was a joint British and American attempt to agree on a policy regarding the admission of Jews to Palestine. In April, the Committee reported that its members had arrived at a unanimous decision, approving the American condition of the immediate acceptance of 100,000 Jewish refugees from Europe

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<sup>28</sup> <http://www.mideastweb.org/briefhistory.htm>

into Palestine. It also recommended that there be no Arab, and no Jewish State.

The report also explained that in order to dispose, once and for all, of the exclusive claims of Jews and Arabs to Palestine, there be a clear statement of principle to establish that Jews shall not dominate Arabs and Arabs shall not dominate Jews in Palestine, although the U.S. President Harry S. Truman angered the British Labour Party by issuing a statement only supporting the 100,000 refugees and refusing to acknowledge the rest of the committee's findings.

When the Jewish and Arab leadership could not agree on a course of administration that would lead to a unified independent state, the government of the United Kingdom requested that the Question of Palestine be placed on the Agenda of the United

Nations General Assembly. They asked that the Assembly make recommendations, under Article 10 of the Charter, concerning the future government of Palestine. The British proposal recommended that a special committee be established to perform a preliminary study designed to assist the General Assembly in developing recommendations.

The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) was an advisory committee to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Palestine Question. Membership on the Ad Hoc Committee was open to all the members of the United Nations. The General Assembly resolution called for the establishment of a United Nations Palestine Commission with a mandate to implement the plan of partition.

The United Kingdom recognized the United Nations Palestine Commission as the successor government of Palestine. But the

United Nations had not agreed to fall heir automatically to all of the responsibilities either of the League of Nations or of the Mandatory Power in respect to the Palestine Mandate.

It had merely agreed to facilitate the transfer of sovereignty from the Mandatory to the provisional governments and to administer and govern a small trusteeship.

After considerable debate, the United Nations General Assembly decided on partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem to be an internationalized city. The plan enjoyed the warm support of the Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellite governments. Josef Stalin hoped that the new Jewish state would be a bulwark against British imperialism. Owing to the support of President Truman, and despite State Department advice and Department of

Defense pressure, the United States likewise supported the partition plan, and ensured its passage.

Meeting in Lake Success N.Y. November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly approved the partition plan, with 33 votes in favor, 13 against, 10 abstentions and one absent (see list at end of document).

The Palestinians and Arabs felt that it was a total injustice to ignore the rights of the majority of the population of Palestine. The Arab League and Palestinian institutions rejected the partition plan, and formed volunteer armies that infiltrated into Palestine beginning in December of 1947.

The original plan proposed by the majority in September 1947 gave the Arab town of Beersheba to the Jewish state. The US State Department tried

to detach the entire Negev from the Jewish state.

A compromise, following the intervention of Haim Weizmann with President Truman, gave Birsheba and the city of Yaffo to the Arab state. Resolution 181 also declared Jerusalem to be a *corpus separatum* a separate body, to be run under an international UN administration. The area to be run in this way included all of Jerusalem, Bethlehem and BeitSahour, to encompass the Christian holy sites.

## **PAST INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS**

### **United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP)**

*"The General Assembly may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the present Charter, and, except as provided in Article 12, may*

*make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both on any such questions or matters"* - Article 10, Chapter IV - UN Charter.

Guided by this principle, the government of the United Kingdom requested the General Assembly (GA) to establish a discussion about the question of Palestine along with the creation of a committee that would write reports on the matter for the primary UN organ.

That is how on May 1947, the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) was founded, destined to look into the causes and possible solutions of the problem.

Made of 11 representatives from different nations like Canada, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, India, Iran, Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, Uruguay **and** Yugoslavia, the committee made

an exhaustive trip through Palestine, Lebanon and Syria without forgetting displaced persons' camps in Germany and Austria. The outcome was a report which expressed the activities they made (e.g. attending to public and private hearings) in the different places they visited and it analyzed several aspects of the territories like religion, economics, geo- and demography. Afterwards they wrote the recommendations they would make regarding the subject. These were:

1. Termination of the British mandate for Palestine.
2. Independence for the State of Palestine.
3. Transitional period before the declaration of the independent State, for it to accomplish the required preparations and conditions to be independent.



4. The UN shall administrate the State of Palestine during its transitional period.
5. Respect for Holy Places and religious interests.

6. Responsibility for Jewish displaced persons.
7. Ensure the principles of democracy and the fundamental freedoms.
8. As a previous condition to independence, Palestine shall abide the principles of the United Nations and promote peaceful relations within all States.
9. Maintenance of the economic unity of Palestine.
10. Capitulation of all foreigners' privileges.
11. To ask for the support of all the peoples of Palestine to achieve peaceful goals.
12. The solutions for Palestine do not apply to solve the general Jewish problem.
13. Partition of the State of Palestine.

Since the adoption of this past recommendation, the General Assembly wrote the resolution which marked history: GA RES 181.

### **Resolution 181**

It was on November 29<sup>th</sup> 1947 when the General Assembly adopted the recommendations of the UNSCOP and decided to make a document with them, focusing on the fact of the division of Palestine in two nations: one Jewish and one Arab, settling the sector of Jerusalem-Bethlehem under international administration. Even though, the resolution had economic and religious benefits for both sides, the partition clause was the one to cause more trouble. While the Jewish state received "the Coastal Plain, stretching from Haifa to Rehovot, the Eastern Galilee (surrounding the Sea of Galilee and including the Galilee panhandle) and the Negev, including the southern outpost

of Umm Rashrash (now Eilat)", to the Arab state was given "the Western Galilee, with the town of Acre, the Samarian highlands and the Judean highlands, and the southern coast stretching from north of Isdud (now Ashdod) and encompassing what is now the Gaza Strip, with a section of desert along the Egyptian border" <sup>29</sup>.

But from the ideal of a divided Palestine result a divided GA. On the one hand, a majority of 33 countries (i.e. USA, Russia, France and Australia) supported the Jews and voted for the non-binding resolution to be implemented, but on the other, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the rest of the Arab nations formed an opposition block with the promise that they would implement force if the document was implemented.

Bewared of this situation, on the resolution was written the following paragraph:

*"... determine as a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression, in accordance with Article 39 of the Charter, any attempt to alter by force the settlement envisaged by this resolution."*<sup>30</sup>

Nevertheless, this condition didn't stop the Arabs to accomplish their promise, and so they started a Civil War on November 30 1947.

## **Blocs and Positions**

**Great Britain:** Due to the Ottoman Empire's power gained in the Middle East, the communication between Europe and India through the Suez Canal was at risk, the British saw an opportunity into acquiring the Palestinian territory along with

<sup>29</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Nations\\_Partition\\_Plan\\_for\\_Palestine#Proposed\\_division](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Partition_Plan_for_Palestine#Proposed_division)

<sup>30</sup><http://www.mythsandfacts.com/conflict/10/resolution-181.pdf>

Transjordan. They merged these intentions with the French, who already had a clear goal of taking over some territories in the Middle East. From this, the Sykes Picott Agreement emerged, with the acceptance of the USSR as well. Even though they established the "international administration of Palestine", later on they acknowledged the rights of the Palestinians and the Mandate shifted its purpose into resulting Palestine as independent, and preparing the Arab Palestinians to when that moment came. The biggest contradiction that the British administration encountered in this Mandate period was: the Immigration policy. They had stated in response of the General Assembly's resolution concerning the Palestinian Question, that they would not allow illegal immigration in the Palestinian territories, and also proved to have detained several ships of Jews sailed from Europe to prevent their income in their

"protected territory", nonetheless they also established in the Security Council that they would accept all the Jewish immigration in order to help with the task of creating a Jewish states, but in practice, they prevented that by stating several measures that would delay that goal. As it can be concluded, the British stance seem to be always dancing back and forth between the interests of the Jewish and the Palestinians, with no clear north, or at least not clear for the international community.

**France:** were allies of the British. They both signed the Sykes-Picott Agreement which granted influence or control to these countries in the area of the Arab Kingdom of Syria, which was later divided in 6 regions: Damascus, Sanjak of Alexandretta, Aleppo, Jabal Druze, Alawite and Greater Lebanon. France will later give them independence as two

states: Syria and Lebanon. This independence granted to these countries where the main inspiration for the territories under British administration to claim for theirs. They never showed any inherence with the British administration under the Arabs territories and their policies seemed to be similar in theory, but in practice, the British presented more shifts due to alliance with the Zionist movement.

**China:** During these times in the post-World War II, China was still at war in the second stage of the Chinese Civil War, the Republic of China, commonly known as Taiwan, was recently created. The Chinese were always defenders of the liberation of the countries from colonial intentions; therefore, the relations between the Chinese and the Palestinians were always at peace, for not to say they had great relations.

**United States of America:**

Following President Truman's recognition of Israel, both the State and Defense Departments made a major shift in their evaluation of the new state. This was based on their enhanced appreciation of Israel's military capacity after its unchallenged territorial expansion beyond the lines proposed by the 1947 UN Partition Resolution exposed the military inferiority of Palestinians and surrounding Arab states. Israel came to be viewed as a potentially significant ally in protecting U.S. regional interests, including oil.

In a draft memorandum prepared in 1945 for President Truman, the Coordinating Committee of the State Department offered a succinct summary of what it regarded as urgent problems requiring attention at the highest levels of the administration among them were those regarding Palestine.

Gordon Merriam, chief of the State Department's Division of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA), observed: "Whatever short- or long-range solution is put forward, unless it is associated with the expenditures of large sums in connection with the carrying out of a far-reaching development plan applied not only to Palestine, but also to neighboring countries, will surely result in bitter altercation and bloodshed. It will also result in domestic political repercussions, and heavy pressure from the Near Eastern countries."<sup>31</sup> This memorandum described the Palestine question as "probably the most important and urgent at the present time. Unless our attitude in regard to it be clarified in a manner which will command the respect and as far as possible the approval of the peoples of the Middle East, our Middle East policy will be

beset with the gravest difficulties."<sup>32</sup>

**Soviet Union and Satellites:** For

Soviet and its satellites foreign policy decision-makers, pragmatism took precedence over ideology. Without changing its official anti-Zionist stance, from late 1944, until 1948 and even later, Stalin adopted a pro-Zionist foreign policy, apparently believing that the new country would be socialist and would accelerate the decline of British influence in the Middle East. The USSR began to support Zionism at the UN during the 1947 UN Partition Plan debate. It preferred a Jewish-Arab bi-national state. But if this proved impossible, as did happen, it indicated that it would support partition and a Jewish state.

So on May 14, 1947, the Soviet ambassador Andrei

<sup>31</sup><http://occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com/2011/05/24/us-policy-in-israel-palestine-1948-%E2%80%93-the-forgotten-history/>

<sup>32</sup>[http://www.lexisnexis.com/documents/academic/upa\\_cis/10033\\_CFPalestineUN19451949.pdf](http://www.lexisnexis.com/documents/academic/upa_cis/10033_CFPalestineUN19451949.pdf)

Gromyko announced: "As we know, the aspirations of a considerable part of the Jewish people are linked with the problem of Palestine and of its future administration. This fact scarcely requires proof... During the last war, the Jewish people underwent exceptional sorrow and suffering... The United Nations cannot and must not regard this situation with indifference, since this would be incompatible with the high principles proclaimed in its Charter... The fact that no Western European State has been able to ensure the defense of the elementary rights of the Jewish people and to safeguard it against the violence of the fascist executioners explains the aspirations of the Jews to establish their own State. It would be unjust not to take this into consideration and to deny the right of the Jewish people to realize this aspiration."<sup>33</sup>

**Arab League Countries:** The Arabs have always asked for their freedom and independence. On the outbreak of the First World War, and when the Allies declared that they were fighting for the liberation of peoples, the Arabs joined them and fought on their side with a view to realizing their national aspirations and obtaining their independence. England pledged herself to recognize the independence of the Arab countries in Asia, including Palestine.

The Arabs played a remarkable part in the achievement of final victory and the Allies have admitted this. In 1917 England issued a declaration in which she expressed her sympathy with the establishment of a National Home for the Jews in Palestine. When the Arabs knew of this they protested against it, but England reassured them

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<sup>33</sup>[http://www.zionismisrael.com/zionism\\_ungromyko2.htm](http://www.zionismisrael.com/zionism_ungromyko2.htm)

by affirming to them that this would not prejudice the right of their countries to freedom and independence or affect the political status of the Arabs in Palestine. While the Second World War was still in progress, the Governments of the Arab States began to hold consultations regarding the reinforcement of their cooperation and the increasing of the means of their collaboration and their solidarity, with a view to safeguarding their present and their future and to participating in the erection of the edifice of the new world on firm foundations. Palestine had its worthy share of consideration and attention in these conversations.

These conversations led to the establishment of the League of Arab States as an instrument for the cooperation of the Arab States for their security, peace and well-being. The Pact of the League

of Arab States declared that Palestine has been an independent country since its separation from the Ottoman Empire, but the manifestations of this independence have been suppressed due to reasons which were out of the control of its inhabitants. The establishment of the United Nations shortly afterwards was an event about which the Arabs had the greatest hopes. Their belief in the ideals on which that organization was based made them participate in its establishment and membership.

Since then the Arab League and its Governments have not spared any effort to pursue any course, whether with the Mandatory Power or with the United Nations, in order to bring about a just solution of the Palestine problem: a solution based upon true democratic principles and compatible with the provisions of the Covenant of the League of Nations and the Charter of

the United Nations, and which would at the same time be lasting, guarantee peace and security in the country and prepare it for progress and prosperity.

### **Questions a Resolution Must**

#### **Answer (QARMA)**

1. How shall be the conducted the enforcement of the General Assembly Resolution 181? Which would be the course of action that the International Community should take?
2. In case of not enforcing the decision of the General Assembly, which would be the form of administration / government that should be established in the region? Should they be independent of controlled by an organization, a coalition of countries or just one country?

3. Is there any trusteeship agreement within the Resolution 181? And is there an Article of the Charter which permits such a system or such a rule? Is it a new creation that should be address in the UN Charter?

4. Does the UNSCOP shall gain a different approach with the Arab and Jew communities in order to have a real support of the recommendations established?
5. Is it possible to establish a Reconciliation Process between the Arabs and Jews in Palestine? And the Region?

### **Position Papers**

On the technical side, the position paper will follow the format of approximately 2 double spaced pages, 12 point Times New Roman font. Position paper must present information in a clear, succinct manner, and shall not exceed 4 double spaced

(12 point font) pages. The Position paper is essential to organizing one's thoughts, conducting research, and developing creative solutions to such problem. If you have any further questions on the position paper, please feel free to contact us by the following E-mail, [hscmovenue@gmail.com](mailto:hscmovenue@gmail.com).

### Closing Remarks

Now we've come to the end of our study guide, but don't get too excited: this is only the beginning. As the Historical Security Council, you have the responsibility, not only to do everything in your power to create the most effective global response to the dispute in Palestine, but also to create innovative solutions on the matter. Since you will have the opportunity to know what happened in that time and later, we hope for a substantive and rich debate, filled with potential new scopes to answer this complicated question. Thus, we highly encourage you to put your biggest effort in doing additional research, especially regarding

your country's involvement with the topic. Keep in mind, that preparation is the key for an entertaining and successful debate. Our recommendation is to look beyond the numbers and consider the short and long-term impact - politically, socially and economically - of fruitfully addressing the territorial challenge. This committee is one whose importance has been historically respected in the international community. Take into consideration that from day one we will be in 1948 and the futures of a large number of people will be at stake with the resolutions developed in our conference room. If at any point any sort of confusion arises, please do not hesitate to contact us. Your job is far from over, but we ensure you that it will be deeply rewarding.

Remembering Winston Churchill's words: "*History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it*", so let's see if we'll change history by the time of the adjournment of the meeting.

See you in October!