

Lecture 14: The 20th Century - Part 1

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The Ottoman Empire

- Sunni, but tolerated most religions
- Sufi and “Folk Islam”
  - veneration of Muslim saints, pilgrimages to Muslim shrines, devotional prayers

WAHHABISM

Muhammad Ibn Abd al-WAHHAB (1703 - 1792)

- the founder of the Wahhabi movement

The primary Wahhabi doctrine:

- the **ABSOLUTE MONOTHEISM** of ALLAH
  - polytheism (“shirk”) is the one unforgivable sin
- those who did not agree with al-Wahhab were not misled, rather, they were not Muslims at all
- any Muslim who does not follow the Sharia (the Islamic law) strictly **is not a Muslim**
- once people have heard the call of “True Islam” and understood it, if they rejected it “their blood and treasure were forfeit”

Muhammed ibn SAUD (1710 - 1765)

- pact with al-Wahhab (1744)
  - Saud would protect and propagate the Wahhab doctrines
  - and al-Wahhab “would support the [Saud] ruler, supplying him with “power and glory”
  - Allah would provide Saud with plunder from conquest
- an alliance between the Saudi family and the Wahhabi “mission”
- a pact that has held for 250 years until today

Abdul Aziz bin Muhammad bin Saud (r. 1765 - 1803)

- “convert or die”
- attack upon the Shia city of Karbala and the shrine of Husayn (Ali’s son)

Attack of the Ottoman army, execution of the Saud emir,  
and exile of the Saudi and Wahhabi leadership (1818)

- end of the 1st Saudi State (1744 - 1818)

## 2nd Saudi State (1819 - 1891) in the NAJD (central Arabia)

### Abdul Aziz ibn SAUD (1875 - 1953) / “the Founder”

- a 5th generation descendant of Muhammed ibn Saud
- new leader of the House of Saud (1901)
- recaptured Riyadh (1902)
- allies with the British during World War I (1915 - 1927)
  
- proclaims the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (1932)

### Continued alliance with the Wahhabi Ulama (religious leaders)

- coercion must be used to enforce the following of the Sharia
    - a committee to “Command Good and Forbid Evil”
      - prayer attendance enforced by flogging
      - no contact with non-Muslims
      - absolute prohibitions against alcohol, extramarital sex (beheading), etc
  - hostility towards non-Muslims and heretics must be visible and unequivocal
  
  - the virtuous Islamic civilization vs. the corrupting influence of the West
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## WORLD WAR I

- European powers go to war (August 1914)
- the Entente Powers (Britain, France, Russia)
- the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, then the Ottoman Empire)

### -the BALFOUR Declaration (Nov. 1917)

- British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour  
to Baron Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish community

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.

### -T.E. Lawrence (1888 - 1935) > “Lawrence of Arabia”

- end of WWI (October and November 1918)

## PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE

- Treaty of Sèvres with the Ottoman Empire

## The TURKISH REPUBLIC (1923)

- Mustafa Kemal (1881 - 1938) / “Atatürk”
- secularization of the new Turkish state
  - the Sultanate and the Caliphate are abolished
  - universal suffrage (for all adults, including women)
  - a parliamentary government with a Prime Minister and President
  - dismantling of all religious institutions; religion is a private matter
  - the Sharia is discarded, and the Swiss code of laws is adopted
  - the Western alphabet, calendar and metric system become mandatory
  - Constantinople is officially changed to “Istanbul”  
and Ankara becomes the new capital city

The French “mandate” > Syria and Lebanon

The British “mandate” > Palestine, Transjordan, Mesopotamia (Iraq)

## Palestine

- the Jewish Agency (1929)
- the Arab High Committee (1936)
- the 1939 White Paper (a Palestinian state in 10 years)

## Mesopotamia

- the Ottoman provinces of Mosul, Bagdad and Basra are merged
- Faisal al-Hashimi (1885 - 1933)
  - proclaims himself King of Syria in Damascus (1920)
  - the French kick him out
  - becomes King of Iraq (1921)
    - alliance with Great Britain
    - constitutional monarchy (1925 - 1958)
- King Ghazi (1912 / r. 1933 - 1939)
- King Faisal II (1935 - 1958)

## WORLD WAR II (1939 - 1945)

- the Axis Powers
  - Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, Imperial Japan
- the Allies
  - Britain, France, the United States
- war on civilian populations

## Palestine

- new waves of immigration after 1945
- the bombing of the King David Hotel in Jerusalem (July 1946)
- the British headquarters

## The League of Arab States (1945)

- Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Transjordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen

## The United Nations creates the U.N. Special Committee on Palestine [ UNSCOP]

- recommendation:    -the partition of Palestine
  - a Jewish state
  - a Palestinian state
  - Jerusalem as a free city under U.N. control
- bound together in an economic union

- vote of the U.N. General Assembly (Nov. 1947)

## Declaration of the state of Israel (May 14, 1948) in Tel Aviv

- the Arab-Israeli War of 1948

## -the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (1948)

- Hashemite = direct descendants of the Prophet Muhammed through Fatima and Ali

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