

Lecture 15: The 20th Century - Part 2

PALESTINE

- the League of Arab States (1945): Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Transjordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia,
- the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) / May 15, 1947
 - recommends the division of Palestine into a Jewish state, a Palestinian state, and a “free city” of Jerusalem --- all combined in an economic union
 - division of Palestine approved by vote of the General Assembly (Nov. 29, 1947)

ISRAEL

- departure of the British High Commissioner (May 14, 1948)
and declaration of the State of Israel
 - David Ben-Gurion in Tel Aviv
 - Chaim Weizmann and Goldie Myerson
- the ARAB-ISRAELI WAR of 1948 / “the WAR of ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE”
 - Moshe Dayan (1915 – 1981), Yitzhak Rabin (1922 – 1995), Shimon Peres (1923 >)
- election of Chaim Weizmann as the 1st President of the State of Israel
 - David Ben-Gurion: Prime Minister (1948 – 1953, 1955 – 1963)
 - the Knesset (Parliament)
 - the “Law of Return”
 - “Jerusalem is the capital of Israel”
- Israel is admitted to the United Nations (May 1949)
- Arab-Israeli War ended (July 1949)
 - Israel controlled 78% of Palestine
 - incl. Galilee and the Negev and West Jerusalem (the New City)
 - Transjordan controlled the West Bank and East Jerusalem (the Old City)
 - Egypt controlled the Gaza Strip (the southern Palestinian coast)
- Arab response: “Push Israel into the sea”

The Hashemite Kingdom of JORDAN

- Hashemite = direct descendants of Mohammed through his daughter, FATIMA
- King Abdullah (r. 1946 – 1951)
- King Hussein ibn-Talal (r. 1953 – 1999)

Israel benefited from a highly trained and motivated citizenry to create a this nation-state, assisted by the enmity of the surrounding Arab countries because the constant state of siege forced the people of Israel to unite against a common danger -this gave them a sense of UNITY and a sense of MISSION -and hanging as a tragic backdrop: the memory of the Jewish Holocaust in Europe as a justification for the State of Israel

EGYPT

- Independence of Egypt (1922) = the Kingdom of Egypt
 - King Fu'ad (r. 1922 – 1936) and King Farouk (r. 1936 – 1952)
 - the Muslim Brotherhood
- the REPUBLIC of EGYPT (July 1952)
 - Col. Gamal Abdel NASSAR and the “Free Officers”
 - abolition of political parties (1953)
 - the National Union
 - Nassar becomes President (1956 – 1970)
- the SUEZ CRISIS (1956)
- the United Arab Republic (UAR) from 1958 - 1961

The SIX DAY WAR (June 1967)

“We are making mincemeat of everything on the ground.”
-Ariel Sharon, Moshe Dayan, Yitzak Rabin,

- Israel acquires:
 - the Sinai and the Gaza Strip (from Egypt)
 - the West Bank and all of Jerusalem (from Jordan)
 - the Golan Heights (from Syria)

Creation of the PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO)

-recognized as the representative body of the Palestinian Arabs

- YASSER ARAFAT (1929 - 2004) becomes Chairman in 1969

1970 -“Black September” -- Jordan drives out the PLO

- ANWAR SADAT replaces the deceased Nasser as President of Egypt

1972 -the Munich Olympics : the “Black September” Group takes hostages

- Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel : “We intend to remain alive.
Our neighbors want to see us dead.
This is not a question that leaves much room for compromise.”

1973 -October: the YOM KIPPUR WAR (Yom Kippur = Day of Atonement)

1975 – 1976 -civil war in Lebanon

1977 -the Likud Party replaces the Labour Party in Israel:
Prime Minister MENACHEM BEGIN

- Anwar Sadat travels to Israel and addresses the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament)

1978 -Sept: the CAMP DAVID ACCORDS, led by U.S. President Jimmy Carter
-Dec: Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin receive the Nobel Peace Prize

- 1979 -PEACE TREATY between Egypt and Israel
- Egypt gave full diplomatic recognition to Israel
 - Egypt regained the Sinai peninsula and Israel abandoned the settlements that had been built there
 - the treaty also gave assurances that a self-governing authority would be created for Palestinian Arabs living in the Gaza Strip and West Bank
 - most Arab countries denounced the treaty
 - refused to accept Israel's occupation of these territories
 - the PLO refuses to acknowledge Israel's right to exist
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MESOPOTAMIA > IRAQ

- after World War I
 - the Ottoman provinces of Mosul, Bagdad and Basra are merged and under British control
- Faisal al-Hashimi (1885 - 1933)
 - proclaims himself King of Syria in Damascus (1920)
 - the French kick him out
 - he becomes King of Iraq (1921)
 - alliance with Great Britain
- the Kingdom of Iraq (1925 - 1958) / a constitutional monarchy
 - King Faisal I (r. 1921 - 1933)
 - King Ghazi (1912 / r. 1933 - 1939)
 - King Faisal II (1935 - 1958)
 - the DEVELOPMENT BOARD
 - a board of experts responsible for major projects
 - flood control, bridges, schools, hospitals, public buildings

The REPUBLIC of IRAQ

- military overthrow of the monarchy (July 1958)
 - Abd al-Karim QASIM
 - the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party ("Revivalist")
 - coup 1968
 - Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr (President and Prime Minister) and Saddam Hussein
 - July 16, 1979
 - SADDAM HUSSEIN becomes President and Prime Minister
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PERSIA

- a glorious past : Achaemenid / Parthian / Sassanid / Safavid empires
- Reza Khan > Reza Shah Pahlavi (r. 1925 - 1941)
- MOHAMMAD REZA PAHLAVI (1919 / r. 1941 - 1980)
 - Shahanshah (King of Kings) and Aryamehr (Lord of the Aryans)
 - Dr. Mohammad Mosaddeq, Prime Minister (1951 - 1953)
 - nationalization of the Iranian oil industry
 - exclusion of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company
 - overthrown by a CIA / British operation (1953)
but Shah Pahlavi remains in power
 - the WHITE REVOLUTION
 - great modernization of Iran and transformation into a global power
 - extension of civil rights to women
 - October 1971: the 2,500th anniversary of the Persian monarchy
 - festivities in Persepolis
 - growing restlessness and opposition to the Shah (1970s)
 - Communists
 - Islamic clerics and their supporters
 - liberal forces / the middle classes
 - U.S. President Jimmy Carter (1977 - 1981)
 - the Ayatollah Ruhollah KHOMEINI (1902 - 1989) / SHIA MUSLIM
 - QOM seminary
 - departure of the Shah (Jan. 16, 1979)
 - new Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar
 - return of the Ayatollah Khomeini (Feb. 1, 1979)
 - new Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC of IRAN

- Ayatollah KHOMEINI as Supreme Leader of Iran (r. 1979 - 1989)
- Shah Pahlavi admitted to U.S. for medical treatment (Oct. 1979)
- Iran Hostage Crisis (Nov 4, 1979)
 - attempted rescue (April 25, 1980)
 - release of the hostages (Jan. 20, 1981) on the day of the inauguration
of President Ronald Reagan
- the Iran-Iraq War (1980 - 1988)
- FATWA (judicial condemnation) against Salman Rushdie (1989)
- death of Khomeini (June 4, 1989)