

Middle East Nationalism

Before WWI

- Egypt was economically controlled by the British
 - Arab region was part of Ottoman Empire and desired independence
 - Iran (Persia) was not colonized, but was influenced by Russia and Britain



Post WWI

- Ottoman Empire collapses
- Nation of Turkey is created
- Arab region is divided into mandates controlled by the British and French
 - These mandates shaped political map of region for 20th century
 - Angered Arabs in the region as they were allies of Triple Entente
 - European control and influence of mandates wanes in interwar period.
 - Leaders in Middle East, many of whom were western educated, take on a greater role. Desires for nationalism continue.
- Saudi Arabia and Iran were their own nations.
- Egypt was still controlled by the British.
 - Extremely strong push for nationalism.

Turkey

- Ottoman Empire collapses
- Nation of Turkey is created
- Mustafa Kemal (Ataturk) became president and transformed Turkey into a modern state.
 - Secularized Turkey
 - Muslim traditions limited/eliminated
 - Eliminated Arabic elements from Turkish language
 - Forced people to adopt last names
 - Turkey a democracy
- Changes were profound and enduring



Road to Independence: World War II



The Atlantic Charter was drafted by U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt (left) and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (right). In it they voiced support for "the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live."

- Cost of Empire
 - Need to rebuild home country
- Decline in idea of Western moral/cultural superiority.
- Declining support for colonialism
 - Atlantic Charter (1941)
 - Soviets “loathe” colonialism
 - Except for Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Armenia, etc.
 - U.S. against colonialism
 - Prefers to support anti-communist regimes in a nation.

Egyptian Nationalism And beyond

Egyptian Demands for Independence

- The British had occupied Egypt in 1882 since Orabi's revolt
- Egyptian dissent began in the early 1900s; first nationalist parties formed, frustrated by British monopolies and corruption.
- 1906: Dinshaway Incident
 - Revealed British arrogance and superiority in an already tense relationship.
 - Led to inflamed Egyptian nationalism.
- By 1913, British gave in and granted Egypt representation in British Parliament.
 - 1914: WWI begins; British distracted.



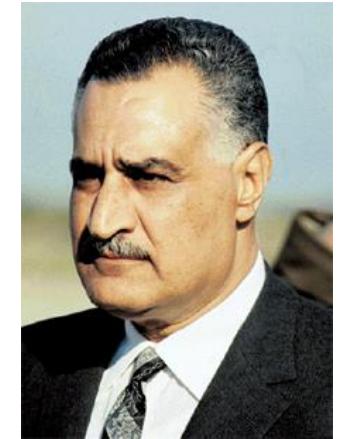
Egyptian Revolution of 1919

- During WWI, the British defended the Suez Canal and used critical resources (cotton) from Egypt in the war.
- 1919: Demand Egyptian representatives at Paris Peace Conference; denied.
- Egyptian Revolution of 1919: revolt against British occupation of Egypt and Sudan
 - 1922: Britain recognized Egyptian independence and British withdrawal began.
 - Led by Wafd Party (nationalist liberal political party)
 - 1923: New constitution that changes Egypt from dynastic rule of *khedives* to a parliamentary monarchy that is nationally-elected.
 - British presence continues until British withdrawal of the Suez Canal zone in 1936.
- Even though Egypt now had independence, later Egyptian politicians were more concerned with power and wealth than with poverty aide, education, health, or labor.



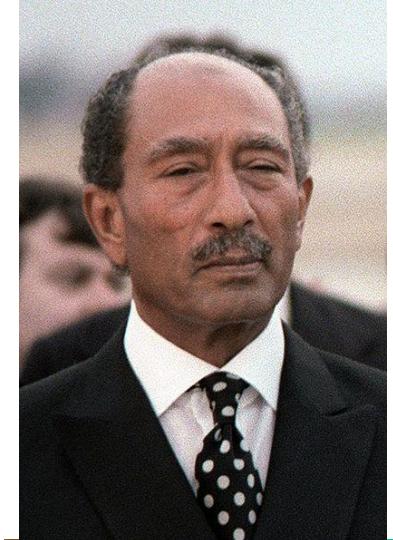
Egypt and Nasser (1954-1970)

- After 1919 Egyptian Revolution, Britain withdraws by 1930s (exception: Suez Canal Zone).
- Arab-Israeli War of 1948
 - Egyptian defeat; Egyptian military revolts
- 1952: Khedive Farouk overthrown
- 1954: Gamal Abdul Nasser took power after a military coup, with help from the Free Officers Movement.
 - Military coups often install military-run governments that suppress civil liberties and do not improve living standards.
 - Nasser sponsored land reform and state-financed education.
- Suez Canal Crisis of 1956: Nasser (with US and USSR aid) end control of British in Suez Canal zone. “Plays” both Cold War sides to his advantage.
 - Restricted foreign investment to ensure Egypt’s economic independence.
- Nasser’s reforms failed because of population boom, lack of proper funding, and heavy costs of military excursions
 - 1967: Six-Day War with Israel; Nasser defeated.



Post-Nasser Egypt

- 1970: Anwar Sadat succeeded Nasser after death
 - Yom Kippur War (or 1973 Arab-Israeli War): Egyptians and Syrians launched surprise attack on Israel on Yom Kippur (holiest day of the year for Jews)
 - Sadat opened Egypt to aid and investment from the US and western Europe
 - Tries to end costly confrontations with Israel; expels Russians
 - Sadat assassinated by Muslim fundamentalist
- Hosni Mubarak succeeded Sadat.
 - 2011: Mubarak overthrown in the Egyptian Revolution in the Arab Spring (wave of revolutions throughout Arab world)
- Mohamad Morsi eventually succeeded Mubarak
 - July 2013: Morsi removed from power



Arabs in the Middle East

Iraq, Syria, Jordn, Saudi Arabia

Arab Independence



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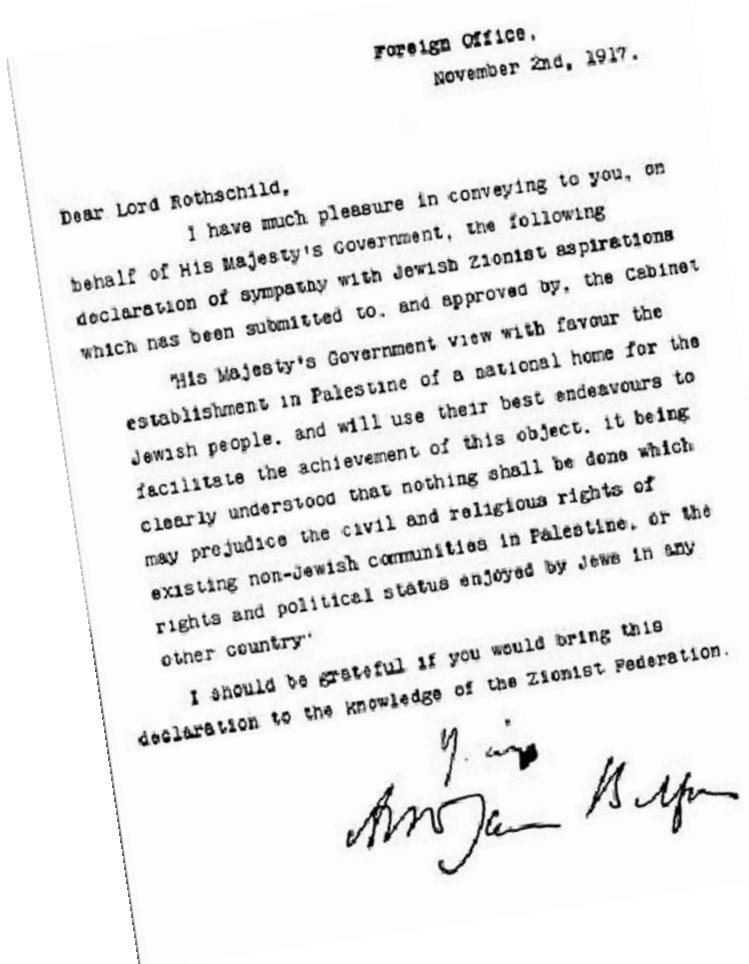
- Saudi Arabia became independent after World War I
- Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Jordan gained independence after World War II with little difficulty
- Complete autonomy was difficult
 - Egypt due to Suez Canal
 - Cold War tensions
 - Other states due to oil
 - OPEC

Regional Unity Difficult

- Problems facing Arab nationalism
 - Cold War splits nations as some allied with the U.S. and others the USSR
 - Differing government types (monarchy, military dictatorships, Islamic revolutionary)
 - Sunni-Shi'a split
- Anwar Sadat (Egypt) facilitated peace process between Arab world & Israel (1978-1980)
 - His reward? He was assassinated in 1981
- Sadat's assassination made Saddam Hussein leader of the Arab world

Israel and the Palestinians

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict



- Claims for a homeland has roots that go back 4000 years
 - Early peoples settled in region; conflicts
 - Dispelled by Romans 1st C
- 20th C Zionist Movement led to Balfour Declaration
- 1948: creation of state of Israel
 - Arabs in Palestine believe these are THEIR ancestral homes

Creation of Israel (1948)

- May 14th, 1948, the United Nations approved the partition of Palestine into Arab regions and Israel.
 - Arab protests; May 15th, 1948 Arab-Israeli War; Israeli victory and expansion of Jewish territory
- Palestinians
 - Sunni Muslims
 - Many were displaced
 - Palestinian State has never been realized.



Palestinian Liberation Organization

- Created in 1964 by Yasser Arafat to promote Palestinian rights
- Often resorted to “terrorism” against Israel
- Negotiated limited Palestinian self-rule in 1993 and 1995
 - PLO was replaced by Hamas as the leading anti-Israeli organization in Palestine



Yasser Arafat, founder of the PLO, and Yitzak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, shake hands after signing the Oslo Accords in 1994

Iran and the Iranian Revolution

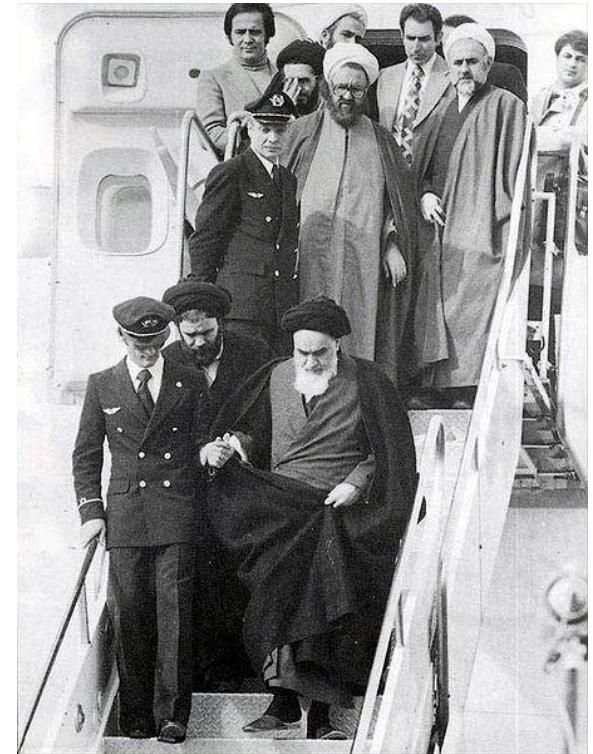
Iranian Revolution

- Preliminary Phase
 - Iran was never colonized
 - Shah Reza Pahlavi ruled as a dictator
 - Used oil profits to modernize Iran
 - Reforms angered the middle class, religious leaders, merchants, rural poor, urban laborers, and the army
- The Event
 - In the late 1970s a decline in oil prices caused massive unemployment and rural unrest



Iranian Revolution

- Initial Phase
 - Sit-ins, riots, urban protests
 - Government exiled religious leaders
 - Military was unwilling to defend the Shah
- Radical Phase
 - Ayatollah Khomeini returned from exile in France & overthrew the Shah in 1979
 - Ayatollah proclaimed himself “jurisprudent”
 - Ayatollah quickly repressed constitutional & leftist revolutionaries



Recovery Phase

- Shiite Fundamentalism
 - Purge Iran of the “satanic” influences of the U.S. & Europe
 - Banned alcohol, coeducational classrooms, mixed swimming, & western entertainment
 - Institute Sharia law
- Iran Hostage Crisis
 - Iranians stormed the U.S. embassy taking 70 Americans captive
- Government Reforms
- Nationalized banks, insurance companies, & large farms
- Attempts at land reform and economic development were minimal due to the Iran – Iraq War (1980-1988)

The Middle East big picture

- Unity is difficult in the region
 - Most are Arabs, but not all (Persians in Iran, Turks in Turkey).
 - Foreign involvement has created divisions
 - Cold War involvement by U.S. and USSR
 - Eg. Iran – Before revolution the U.S. “propped up” Shah. Fundamentalists were supported by USSR after the revolution.
 - U.S. support against Islamic fundamentalism
 - Iraq War 1991 and 2003-2011
 - Sunni-Shi'a divide
 - Not helped by arbitrary borders via Post WWI mandate

The Middle East big picture (cont.)

- Dictators, monarchs, and more recently religious fundamentalists have dominated.
 - Saddam Hussein in Iraq, Shah and then Ayatollahs in Iran, Mubarek in Egypt, Assad in Syria, Saudi monarchs.
 - Favored small elements of population.
 - General population alienated
 - Arab Spring 2011
 - Civil Wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Yemen
- Overly dependent on oil.
 - Other sectors of economy underdeveloped
 - Widespread poverty and unemployment
 - Region more susceptible to fundamentalism and chaos

The Middle East big picture (cont.)

- Impact of religious fundamentalism
 - Terror
 - Subordination of women
 - Popular due to poor economic situation and chaos in the region
 - Poor/unemployed not represented in political realm