

**The Greatest**  
**Challenge in the**  
**Modern**  
**Middle East**

# ***Historical Perspective of Middle East Turmoil***

- Much of today's Middle Eastern turmoil can potentially be attributed to the Post-WW I division of the Ottoman Empire
- “To the victors go the spoils”
- England and France were the major players in the Ottoman Empire's divisions with Greece, Italy, Russia, and others playing lesser roles.
- The USA initially rejected the Treaty of Versailles and did not sign until August 1921
- Consequently, the USA was not a major player

# The Ottoman Empire



## ***After the War to End All Wars***

- **WWI formally ended on November 11, 1918**
- **The Treaty of Versailles signed June 28, 1919**
- **The League of Nations chartered January 10, 1920**
- **Secretly during the war, Britain and France met and signed the Sykes–Picot Agreement, May 19, 1918**
- **This agreement basically set out the plan for breaking up, partitioning, and managing the territories comprising the Ottoman Empire**
- **The Ottoman Empire controlled Palestine from about 1299 until the end of WW I**

## ***A Complex Problem***

- **The huge conglomeration of territories and peoples was ultimately divided into several new states.**
- **The partitioning of the Ottoman Empire after WW I led to the initial domination of the Middle East by Western powers such as Britain and France, and saw the creation of the modern Arab world and the Republic of Turkey**
- **There have been complex problems ever since and we are still wrestling with them today**

## ***The Map Redrawn***

- **New countries were created, or new borders defined of what was the Ottoman Empire, generally between WW I and WW II**
  - **Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia (2 kingdoms became 1), Iran, Yemen, Egypt, (Jordan – May 1946)**
  - **British protectorates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar**
  - **Greece and Russia added territory to their original national borders**
  - **Turkey fought a war of independence against British and Greek occupation and became a democratic republic, September 1923**
  - **British mandate for Palestine in effect until May 1948**



# Post 1949 Middle East



# British Mandate Palestine





# ***The Nation of Israel***

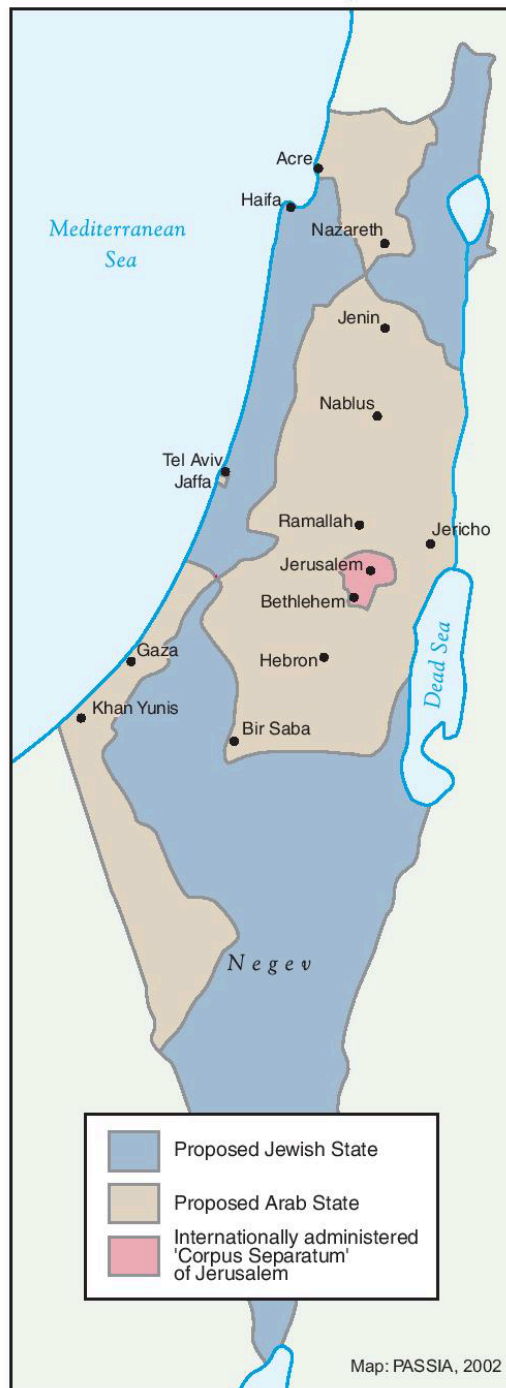
- **Balfour Declaration issued, 2 November 1917, “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.”**
- **29 November 1947, UN Resolution 181 – end the British Mandate of Palestine and partition into an Arab State and a Jewish State**
- **Israel accepted the Resolution, the Arab League did not**
- **Israel declared independence on 15 May 1948**
- **Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon invaded, “we will push them into the sea.”**

# Palestine

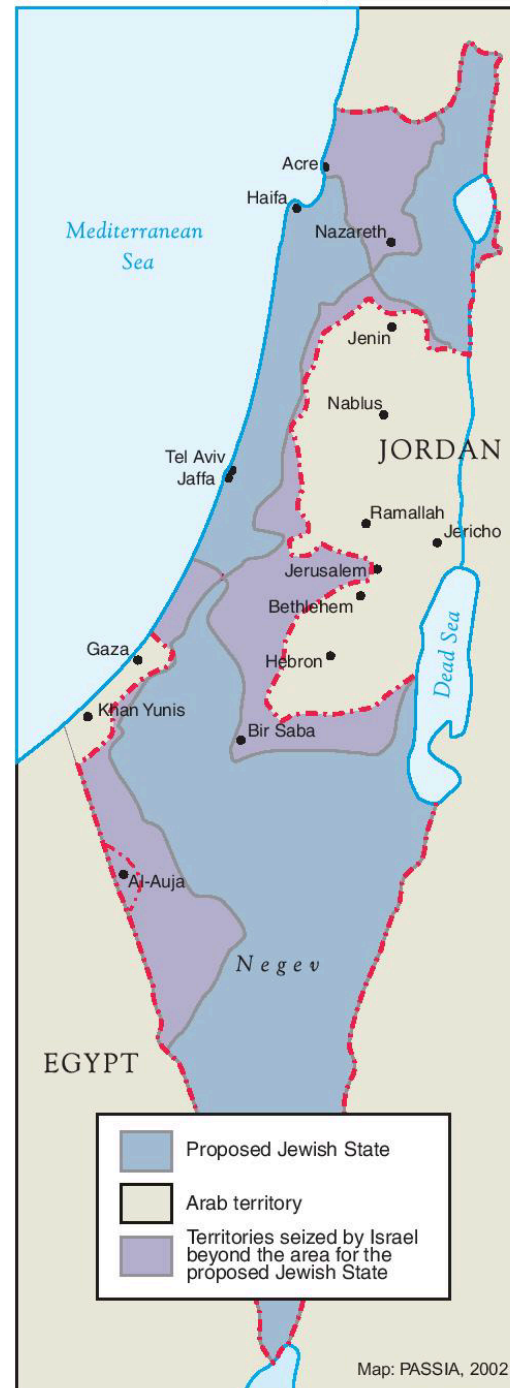
## U.N. Partition Plan (1947)



UNGA Partition Plan, 1947



Armistice Lines, 1949



## ***Victory and Defeat***

- **Between February and July 1949 Israel negotiated armistices with each invading Arab State fixing “temporary” frontiers**
- **The Palestinian refugee problem began**
- **Israel had captured about 50% of the area allocated as an Arab State in the original UN Partitian Plan**
- **Israel titled it the “War of Independence”**
- **Arabs call the conflict “Nakba” (catastrophe)**
- **This was the bloodiest war for Israel to date, with over 6000 fatalities**

## ***A Right of Exist?***

- This seems to be THE question concerning Israel's existence today
- 28 of the 193 UN member nations still do not recognize Israel. Plus, Cuba, North Korea, and Venezuela
- Palestinian National Authority condemns any agreement with Israel as dishonorable
- There have been five more “Israel national” wars since 1948
- We must ask: WHAT IF BOTH SIDES HAD ACCEPTED THE UN PARTICIAN PLAN IN 1947?



