Balfour's Legacy: Britain, Zionism, and the Controversial Path to Israel's Establishment

Ali Mohammed Qader

University of Zakho | Zakho | Iraq

Abstract: The research provides an overview of the rise of the Zionist movement, starting from the establishment of the Jewish Colonial Society in 1891 by Maurice de Hirsch, leading to the formation of the World Zionist Organization and the creation of the Jewish National Fund in 1901. It discusses the controversial debates over the location of a Jewish homeland, including the Uganda Scheme, and the advocacy for Palestine by figures like Herzl. The impact of World War I on the Middle East was influenced by the Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916 and the Balfour Declaration of 1917, which supported the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine. The British Mandate in Palestine, established after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, had significant impacts on Jewish immigration, Arab displacement, and the road to statehood. The United Nations eventually issued a resolution in 1947 to divide Palestine into two states, one for Jews and one for Arabs. This was accepted by Jews but rejected by Arab states. Great Britain's actions towards the end of the mandate aimed to frustrate the establishment of the Jewish state envisioned by the United Nations plan. Drawing on primary and secondary sources from esteemed archives such as the British Library and personal accounts, this research seeks to elucidate the complex historical backdrop, contextualizing key decisions and conflicts that ultimately shaped the creation of the State of Israel. The analysis aims to provide nuanced insights into divergent perspectives held by Palestinians and Israelis regarding the resolution of this enduring conflict, rooted in a legacy of geopolitical manoeuvring and ideological fervour.

Keywords: Jewish question; Great War; British Mandate; Balfour Declaration; Palestine; Jewish State.

"إرث بلفور: بريطانيا والصهيونية والطريق المثير للجدل إلى قيام إسرائيل"

علي محمد قادر

جامعة زاخو | زاخو | العراق

المستخلص: يقدم البحث لمحة عامة عن صعود الحركة الصهيونية، بدءا من تأسيس الجمعية الاستعمارية اليهودية في عام 1891 من قبل موريس دي هيرش، وصولاً إلى تشكيل المنظمة الصهيونية العالمية وإنشاء الصندوق القومي اليهودي في عام 1901. ويناقش البحث المناقشات المثيرة للجدل حول موقع الوطن اليهودي، بما في ذلك مخطط أوغندا، والدفاع عن فلسطين من قبل شخصيات مثل هرتزل. تأثر تأثير الحرب العالمية الأولى على الشرق الأوسط باتفاقية سايكس بيكو لعام 1916 ووعد بلفور عام 1917، الذي دعم إنشاء وطن قومي لليهود في فلسطين. كان للانتداب البريطاني في فلسطين، الذي تأسس بعد انهيار الإمبراطورية العثمانية، آثار كبيرة على الهجرة اليهودية والنزوح العربي والطريق إلى إقامة الدولة. أصدرت الأمم المتحدة في نهاية المطاف قراراً في عام 1947 بتقسيم فلسطين إلى دولتين، واحدة لليهود والأخرى للعرب. وقد قبل اليهود هذا المقترح، ولكن رفضته الدول العربية. هدفت تصرفات بريطانيا العظمى في نهاية الانتداب إلى إحباط إقامة الدولة اليهودية التي تصورتها خطة الأمم المتحدة. بالاعتماد على مصادر أولية وثانوية من أرشيفات مرموقة مثل المكتبة البريطانية والحسابات الشخصية، يسعى هذا البحث إلى توضيح الخلفية التاريخية المعقدة، ووضع سياق القرارات والصراعات الرئيسية التي شكلت في نهاية المطاف إنشاء دولة إسرائيل. يهدف التحليل إلى تقديم رؤى دقيقة حول وجهات النظر المتباينة التي يتبناها الفلسطينيون والإسرائيليون فيما يتعلق بحل هذا الصراع المستمر، المتجذر في إرث من المناورات الجيوسياسية والحماسة الأيديولوجية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المسألة اليهودية؛ حرب عظمى؛ الانتداب البريطاني؛ وعد بلفور؛ فلسطين؛ الدولة اليهودية.

Introduction.

In the late 19th century, Western Jews' interest in Palestine grew due to initiatives like "The Jewish Colonial Society" and Theodore Herzl's "The Jewish State."(Shlomo Avineri, 2017) The Zionist movement gained momentum with the establishment of the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish National Fund, aiming to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine. The Great War in 1914 led to debates and agreements between major powers, such as Great Britain and France regarding the division of the Near East for economic ambitions.

The British Mandate over Palestine, established after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1918, was a system created by the League of Nations to temporarily administer territories previously controlled by defeated states until they could achieve independence. The Mandate included the Balfour Declaration of 1917, committing Britain to support the establishment of a Jewish national home while protecting the rights of all Palestinians. (Shlomo Avineri, 2017)

Nevertheless, the policies of the Mandate exhibited a bias towards Jewish immigration, resulting in the forced relocation of Palestinians and exacerbating the conflict between Jewish and Arab communities. In 1947, the United Nations took action by passing a resolution to partition Palestine into two separate nations, one designated for Jews and the other for Arabs. Israel proclaimed its autonomy in 1948, instigating a conflict with adjacent Arab nations, often referred to as the War of Independence, culminating in Israel's triumph and the formation of the State of Israel.

The present study aims to analyse the effects of the Sykes-Picot Agreement and the Balfour Declaration on the area. This text delves into the intricacies of the British Mandate over Palestine, its formation after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and the consequences of the Balfour Declaration on British governance. This analysis also explores the historical context underlying the establishment of Israel in 1948, including the United Nations' decision to partition Palestine into two separate nations, the War of Independence, and the divergent viewpoints held by Palestinians and Israelis about the ultimate settlement of the conflict.(Guardian, 1948)

The research has been divided into an introduction, three main sections and a conclusion. The first section titled, "The Rise of Zionist Movement and the Quest for a Jewish Homeland in Palestine" Delves into the Zionist movement's origins in the late 19th century, highlighting key milestones like the establishment of the Jewish Colonial Society and Herzl's advocacy for a Jewish state, the World Zionist Organization, and Palestine's endorsement. While the second section named "The Great War and the Middle East: Balfour Declaration and the Division of Palestine" explores the geopolitical landscape of World War I, its impact on Palestine, and the strategic motivations behind British policies, including Chaim Weizmann's Zionism support. Third section "The British Mandate in Palestine: Impact on Jewish Immigration, Arab Displacement, and the Road to Statehood" examines the post-World War I period in Palestine, highlighting the surge in Jewish immigration and the escalating tensions between Jews and Arabs. It also discusses the United Nations' partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, leading to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Some questions are going to be answered during this research, the most important are these, how did controversial agreements like the Sykes-Picot Agreement between major powers impact the division of the Near East and influence the Zionist movement's aspirations in Palestine? How did the British Mandate in Palestine affect the relationship between Jewish and Arab populations in terms of immigration, land acquisition, and displacement? What were the key events and factors that led to the United Nations resolution in 1947 to divide Palestine into two states, resulting in the establishment of the State of Israel and the War of Independence?

This research will be analytical, depending on primary and secondary sources for achieving its goal of bringing together the research of historians in books and journal articles with a range of sources from archives and personal memories from the British Library, Hull History Centre, and the Qatar Digital Archive.

Section One: The Rise of Zionist Movement and the Quest for a Jewish Homeland in Palestine:

The German Baron Maurice de Hirsch (1831-1896) started the Jewish Colonial Society in London in 1891 to support Jewish settlement there. This organization served as the foundation for the racist Zionist movement that Theodore Herzl, an Austrian-Hungarian Jewish journalist, and author, called for in his book "The Jewish State," which he later published in 1896 and advocated for the creation of a Jewish state. This increased interest among Western Jews in the land of Palestine in the late nineteenth century. The First Zionist Congress was held in Basel, Switzerland, the same year, calling for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people in Palestine" that was within the territories controlled by the Ottoman Empire at the time.(Shlomo Avineri, 2017)

Following the rise of extremist Zionist ideology among Jews in Central and Eastern Europe, the World Zionist Organization was established to advance this agenda. A series of Zionist conferences ensued, culminating in the Fifth Zionist Congress held in Basel in 1901, where the establishment of the Jewish National Fund was approved. The primary objective of this fund was to acquire land in Palestine as a perpetual endowment for the Jewish people, restricting its use and employment exclusively to Jews. At the fourth conference in August 1903, the World Zionist Organization ratified the constitution of the Jewish National Fund, specifying its purpose as the acquisition of land in Palestine, its lease solely to Jews, and its prohibition from sale. Subsequently, in 1907, the Jewish National Fund was formally registered in Britain as a private company with limited liability. This period saw a significant influx of Zionist Jewish immigrants into Palestine, estimated at up to 40,000 between 1904 and 1914, resulting in a notable increase in the Jewish population percentage to approximately six percent.(Nassar, 2018)

Most Jewish people in Britain and elsewhere in the world brought the Zionist question under a consideration of great powers to find a solution to this matter. It was clear that if one of the great powers make this dream to come true will get the support of Jewish people throughout the world. The "Uganda Scheme" was a proposal made by the founder of Zionism Theodor Herzl, who present his proposal at the 6th World Zionist Congress in Basel in 1903, to create an independent homeland for Jewish in a portion of British East Africa (Uganda).(Harris & CONFLICT, 2005, p. 4)

Moreover, it was stated that at the beginning of 20th century a proposal was made for the creation of Jewish state in Uganda for Jewish to escape rising antisemitism. For such work Joseph Chamberlain the British Colonial Secretary (1836-1914) during his visit to East Africa was aware of the Zionist Organization's ambitions, he pointed out that "If Dr. Herzl were at all inclined to transfer his efforts to East Africa there would be no difficulty in finding land suitable for Jewish settlers."(Bar-Yosef, 2016, p. 52)

Furthermore, the Rabbinate Conference held in Philadelphia in America in the late nineteenth century issued a statement saying: The spiritual message carried by the Jews is incompatible with the establishment of a separate Jewish political unit. Hence, Herzl thought that turning the issue into a religious issue would win Jews all over the world. He believed that Palestine was the only place that would fit this new invitation. And the Jews in Palestine have a history and they have religious sanctities there. Herzl's opinion prevailed, even after his death. The World Jewish Congress embraced the idea of a Jewish home in Palestine in 1905, a year after his death.(Manna, n.d.)

Section Two: The Great War and the Middle East: Balfour Declaration and the Division of Palestine:

Throughout history, European nations have formed alliances for mutual defence, leading to conflicts. Prior to the Great War, alliances included Russia and Serbia, Germany and Austria-Hungary, France and Russia, Britain and France, and Japan and Britain. The murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand sparked the conflict in 1914.(The Manchester Guardian, 1914) In other words, Austria-Hungary and Serbia went to war on July 28, 1914. Four days later, Austria's partner, Germany, declared war on Russia, Serbia's ally, on August 1. Germany then invaded neutral Belgium on August 3, declaring war on France (an ally of Russia). Because of this, on August 4, France's ally Great Britain declared war on Germany. The Ottoman Empire declared war on Russia in October of the same year. This can be clearly seen in the Herr Von Jagow (the Secretary of State of the German Foreign Office, 1913–1916) Telegraph sent to Constantinople from Berlin on August 4, 1914: "England will possibly declare war on us today or tomorrow. In order to prevent the Porte from breaking away from us at the last moment under the impression of the England action, the declaration of war by Turkey on Russia, if possible, today, appears of the greatest importance."(F. J. Moberly, 1923)

During the great war some controversial debate happened between Great Britain, and his ally friend France, regarding the division of the Near East for their future economic ambitions. The most well-known agreement that solve the misunderstanding between them was the Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916, between Mark Sykes the British member of the de Bunsen Committee and the French ambassador in Beirut George Picot. Furthermore, the British were eager to keep the French as far away from Egypt and the Suez Canal, Persian Gulf as possible. In addition, Britain and France's Sykes-Picot accords in the Near East were a product of their ongoing rivalry leading up to the great war. When the British were given mandates in the area, they already had sway over several territories. (Yakoubi, 2022, p. 3-4)

With regards to the Jewish Question during the war, the Zionist spokesperson in London Chaim Weizmann (1874-1952) had a major impact on British policy. Weizmann was persuasive and tenacious, which served him well in keeping the issue of Zionism on the agenda of the British government and in establishing connections with influential persons in British society. The cabinet's realization that supporting Zionism may benefit British imperial ambitions was a huge boon to his efforts. To prevent France from

occupying territory near the strategically important Suez Canal, Britain must be present in Palestine if it is to continue supporting Jewish settlement there.(Duff, 1936, pp. 270−271)

Furthermore, Britain was considered at that time the most powerful imperialist colonial country in the world. It is worth mentioning that there was a contradiction between the British commitment to the Jewish Question and the commitment to other international promises. As Britain was faithful to the promises that had been given to Jewish people. On the other hand, Britain evaded the implementation of some of the provisions of "Sykes-Picot" with its ally France, especially those related to the situation of Palestine under the dual administration of British and French influence over Palestine. In addition to that, the British stakeholder's promise given to Sharif Hussein to establish the Greater Arab Kingdom was not taken seriously.(Guardian, 1919)

As His Majesty's Government stated that the case is not like the Arab delegation believe that we would establish an Arab state at once. According to Britain,

This representation mainly rests upon a letter dated the 24th October, 1915, from Sir Henry McMahon, then His Majesty's High Commissioner in Egypt, to the Sharif of Mecca, now King Hussein of the Kingdom of the Hejaz. That letter is quoted as conveying the promise to the Sherif of Mecca to recognize and support the independence of the Arabs within the territories proposed by him... The whole of Palestine west of the Jordan was thus excluded from Sir. Henry McMahon's pledge.(Library, 1922)

During the start of World War I, Lord Kitchener decided that the British, French, and Russians would divide the Near East after the war. Sir Mark Sykes was sent to negotiate the specifics of this division. Although the French received less than initially planned and the Russians were only allowed to keep what they had acquired before the war, the idea of involving them in the division and governance of Muslim Asia was maintained. The British successfully implemented the Sykes' plan, acting as patrons of Arab and Jewish nationalism and governing indirectly as defenders of seemingly independent Arab kingdoms. (Fromkin, 1989, p. 18).

Britain and France struck an arrangement in May 1916, with Russian approval, to divide the majority of the Ottoman Empire into five regions. It was called in honour of the primary negotiators, Sir Mark Sykes, a member of the de Bunsen Committee, and Francois Georges Picot. Each nation would have a zone under its direct authority and another zone inside its sphere of influence that would be governed by the Arabs. Palestine was to be governed by the international community.(Marian Kent, 1976, p. 122) The Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916 divided the Ottoman land among the alliance's powers (Britain, France, and Russia). According to this agreement Palestine was highlighted as an international subject but it was under British influence, as Britian represents herself as a responsible for the Jewish question.(Kedourie, 1970)

It turns out that the success of the Jewish in convincing the British Kingdom was of British wish of having a Zionist position in the area for the protection of the British ambition in the area, particularly in the Mediterranean Sea. This was the goal that pushed Britain to the implementation of the Balfour Declaration. Furthermore, The British were eager to keep the French as far away from Egypt and the Suez Canal, Persian Gulf as possible, so they swiftly questioned the so-called Sykes-Picot negotiations, which stipulated that Palestine would be an international zone. (Yakoubi, 2022, p. 3-4)

Arthur Balfour, the British foreign minister, wrote to Lord Rothschild, a key member in British Zionist circles, on November 2, 1917, notifying him that the cabinet had approved the following proclamation of support for Jewish Zionist aspirations:(Kramer, 2017)

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.

This was the infamous Balfour Declaration, a short document that included so many ambiguities and inconsistencies that it perplexed every party it listed.(Cleveland & Bunton, 2018, pp. 312−313)

With regards to the above declaration from Sir Arthur Balfour's Declaration, the Manchester Guardian Newspaper on Saturday 10 November 1917, post an article titled "The Future of Palestine: Manchester Zionist and The Government Declaration."

In Manchester, as in other parts of the country when there is a large Jewish community, Mr. Balfour's declaration of the Government's sympathy with the aim of the Zionist Federation to establish a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine was received yesterday with demonstrations of joy and gratitude and of hopefulness for the future. It is an unexpectedly quick response to appeals made by the great majority of Jewish organisations throughout the country less than a month ago.... Of the quarter of a million Jewish people in this country there are about 30,000 in Manchester.(Mathew, 2013)

Lloyd George's intention to extract his government from the Sykes-Picot Agreement was a crucial factor in the British decision to release the Balfour Declaration in November 1917. This would be accomplished via the Zionists' excellent services. In exchange for the British commitment to assist them in constructing their National Home in Palestine, they vowed to do all they could to secure British rule over Palestine. According to Professor Verité, author of the standard study of the Declaration's origins:

For just as in the Declaration itself there was no guarantee yet that H.M.G. was bound to help in establishing a viable national home within the historic boundaries of Palestine, as envisaged in the Zionist programme, so there was no guarantee in it that Great Britain would alone acquire control over the country. The Zionists and the British continued to need one another after the Declaration. (Vereté, 1970, p. 66).

Moreover, David Fromkin, in his book *A Peace to End all Peace*, argued that,

The assistant secretaries of the War Cabinet, Leo Amery discussed the matter in a memorandum to the Cabinet dated 11 April 1917. Warning against allowing Germany to strike again at Britain through domination of Europe or the Near East after the war, he argued that "German control of Palestine" was one of "the greatest of all dangers which can confront the British Empire in the future."David Fromkin, A Peace to End All Peace. : The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Near East (New York: Avon Books, 1989, 277).

Thus, the question become a matter of great powers whose take the first action towards not the implantation of it, but it needs a sort of promises at first stage so that it become clear to other powers that this issue became mine and no one has a right to interfere. Great Britain was the pioneer in doing that as it was cleared in the Declaration made by Arthur Balfour. (Yakoubi, 2022, p. 3-4) The Balfour declaration of 1917 was like an instrument for interfering in Palestinian affairs and also it was an excuse to control the eastern Mediterranean cost. In the same year the British forces led by General Allenby and capture Jerusalem.(*The Balfour Declaration- World War I Document Archive*, 1917)

It can be understood that one of the Primary aims of British support to the Jewish Issue is to obtain the support of all Jewish throughout the world. In this case without any hesitation all Jewish will support Britain to defeat his enemy. On the other hand, German also attempted to gain the Jewish support make their matter of its primary focus during the war. However, Britian was successful in taking advantage in this regard. Thus, as it is known that Jews, those were under German (Central Powers) control were in favour of British victory. In contrast, the Arab resistance to the Balfour Declaration and British Mandate was strong, leading to the British government's exaggeration in insisting on Jewish rights at the expense of all rights and basic demands of the Palestinian people. The British attempted to establish the Zionist State by establishing the Jewish Legion, providing it with weapons and equipment.

Section Three: The British Mandate in Palestine: Impact on Jewish Immigration, Arab Displacement, and the Road to Statehood:

After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in 1918, Britain had the control over Palestine under the name mandate. The British Mandate is a system created by the League of Nations. The aim of approving the mandate by the League was that the countries that were under the control of the states that lost the war would not be able to govern themselves, and it is better for them to be administered temporarily to a strong and advanced state that would help them achieve independence. (Yakoubi, 2022, p. 3-4)

On March 22, Churchill briefly met with a group of Arabs from Palestine in Cairo. He declined to engage in political conversation but promised to meet with them in Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the location where the Palestine Mission continued with its operations on 24 March 1921. In Gaza, Churchill's train was greeted by a sizable protest the continued existence of the British Mandate in Palestine. Winston Churchill and Herbert Samuel, who had the mistaken impression that they were being welcomed by the locals, waved to the thousands of protesters while they were screaming anti-Jewish slogans.(Sykes, 1965, p. 66)

The League of Nations accepted the British mandate over Palestine in July 1922. Britain committed itself to supporting the establishment of a Jewish political entity in Palestine, with Herbert Samuel as the first High Commissioner in Palestine. Britain encouraged Zionist immigration to Palestine, leading to the displacement of many Palestinians and the establishment of settlements to absorb the immigrant Jews. (Elie Kedourie, 1969, pp. 44-45). Thus, Britain committed itself to supporting the establishment of a Jewish political entity in Palestine. The official implementation of the mandate in September 1923 opened the road for unrestricted Jewish migration to Palestine and the establishment of legally sanctioned institutions that would culminate in the State of Israel twenty-five years later. (Washington, 2008, p. 38). During the British Mandate period, the Jewish migration to Palestine was controversial. Despite

opposition, Britain justified the creation of a Jewish state.(Metzer, 1998, p. 78) Arab discontent escalated, leading to violence. The population of Palestine changed, with a growing Jewish population and a higher Arab population. Britain's actions, including Zionist immigration, have been criticized for not protecting Arab rights.(Seton-Williams, 1948, pp. 121–122)

The Palestinian reaction to the British Zionist state in Palestine was marked by armed operations, uprisings, and revolts. The "Fedayeen" Association initiated organized armed action in 1919 but was aborted. Moreover, in 1920, the Haifa Congress's program of Palestine being an independent Arab country denied any rights of Jews to Palestine, leading to anti-Zionist riots (Nabi Musa Riots). Arabs wanted to control the government and get their independence quickly, while Jews had religious rights in Palestine. These contradictory ideas lead to armed operations and revolts against British and Jewish occupation.(Nabil Sahli, 2020 Translated From Arabic Resource) Furthermore, the Al-Buraq revolution in 1928 sparked Arab support for Palestinians, leading to raids on Jewish communities and British repression. The Palestinian reaction was marked by resistance and conflict.(*The British Mandate: The Briish Mandate Over Palestine 1923-1948.*, 2020)

The substantial surge in the Jewish population in Palestine between 1882 and 1948 was a result of a multifaceted interaction of historical, political, and demographic elements. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, several reasons led to waves of Jewish immigration to Palestine. These included hopes for Zionism, seeking refuge from European persecution, and the desire for economic possibilities. The Jewish population, which started at 24,000 in 1882, saw a consistent growth and reached 94,000 by the outbreak of the Great War in 1914. During this time, there was a rise in Jewish immigration, which was made easier by the British Mandate after the war. As a result, the Jewish population grew to 174,610 by 1931. Due to the growth of anti-Semitism in Europe and the emergence of Nazism, there was a significant influx of Jewish immigrants throughout the 1930s. This resulted in a major rise in the Jewish population, reaching 384,078 by 1936 and reaching 543,000 by 1946.(Al-Naml, 2004, pp. 87–88)

The increasing tensions in Europe and the Holocaust hastened the migration of Jewish people to Palestine, leading to a rapid change in the population demographics. In 1948, the Jewish population in the territory that would later become the State of Israel had significantly increased to over 716,700, making up more than 82% of the entire population.(Statistics, 2008, p. 230) Political events and conditions, including World War II and the founding of the State of Israel, influenced the population development during this crucial time in Palestine. These factors had a significant role in determining the demographic landscape of the region. The increase in the Jewish population also led to increased tensions and confrontations with the Arab community, which played a crucial role in important historical events and ultimately led to the foundation of the State of Israel in 1948. (Mamoun Shehadeh, 2009a) as explained in Table (1) below;

Table (1): Jewish & Non-Jewish Population of Israel/Palestine (1517- Present)(Library, n.d.)

Era	Year	Jews (core population)	Non-Jews	Total Population	% Jewish
Ottoman Empire	1882	24.000	276.000	300.000	8.0%
World War I	1914	94.000	595.000	689.000	13.6%
	1918	60.000	600.000	660.000	8.1%
British Mandate	1922	83.794	673.388	757.182	11%
	1931	174.610	861.211	1.035.821	16.9%
	1936	384.078	982.614	1.366.692	28.1%
	1939	449.000			
	1946	543.000	1.267.037	1.810.037	30.0%
	1947	630.000	1.324.000	1.970.000	32.0%
State of Israel	1948	716.700	156.000^	872.700	82.1%

Since the mandate over Palestine was accepted, the British administration policy was supporting the establishment of Jewish national home. For implementing that Britain selected Herbert Samuel as the first High Commissioner in Palestine, appointed in the year 1920 to 1925. Samuel was Jewish man and his appointment led to the anger of the Arabs, who demanded that Britain should change of its mind from this choice, but the British Mandate administration insisted on her choice of selecting Samuel. It was clear for both Britain and Jewish people that taken this action would not be accepted and would face many obstacles from the Palestinians in

particular and Arabs Muslims in general. Thus, Britain took some steps to put the creation of Jewish state in a legal framework, and to show to the public opinion that it was necessary to have Israel homeland in Palestine.(Kedourie, 1969)

The British Mandate in Palestine from 1927 to 1933 had significant economic implications, including the construction of Haifa Harbor. The British government aimed to establish an independent national government, reaffirm Jewish nationality, and regulate immigration based on economic capacity. They also managed Palestine's natural resources, including Haifa Harbor, which was opened on October 31, 1933, and played a crucial role in the nation's development.(Pappe, 2004, p. 82) Furthermore, the research explores the British government's construction of Haifa harbour in Palestine in the early 20th century, driven by economic and imperial interests. It delves into political and economic complexities, the decision-making process for an oil port, and the financial considerations involved.(Metzer, 1998, p. 166)

Moreover, the Baghdad Haifa Oil Pipeline was a crucial infrastructure project by Britain during its mandate period in Palestine and Iraq, connecting oilfields in Kirkuk to ports in Tripoli, Syria, and Haifa, Palestine. The pipeline played a significant role in Britain's oil strategies and regional economic development.(New York Times, 1935) The construction of Haifa harbour and the connection between Iraq Oil with the Mediterranean Sea addressed the British intention of supporting Jewish question as they will protect British interests in the Near East forever.

Moreover, Britain has made it easier for Jews to buy Arab lands by preventing Palestinian farmers from exporting their products until their prices drop, and they are unable to pay debts and taxes, so they are forced to sell them to the Jews at a low price. Hence, from 1931 to 1935 the Zionists were able to buy more than half a million acres. the area of land controlled by the Jews until 1947 amounted to about 6.8 percent of the area of Palestine and is estimated at 1,588,365 acres, whether by sale or by giving it as a donation from the Mandate government to the Jews. Finaly, the American, British, and Western funds were flowing into Palestine to finance the construction of the Jewish National Homeland.(Mamoun Shehadeh, 2009b)

One can blame Britain in taking these actions for the favour of Jewish. As she was failed in protecting native Arabs rights comparing the with that treatment with Israel rights in the region. In contrast, the Jews have got much more in Palestine than they were promised and then is warranted by their historical rights. At the same time, German was also blamed internationally according to the Holocausts were carried out by German Nazis against the European Jews, especially in the Second World War. But this would not be an excuse for Britain for having failed to fulfil her undertakings to the Palestinian Arabs. It must be said, the Arabs did not commit these crimes against the Jews in Europe so what is their fault to be punished and to pay for Germany's crimes?

The British unfair policy toward the situation in Palestine led to the conflict between Jewish and Arabs. Thus, the His Majesty's Government and the United of Nation start looking for a plan to solve the question of Palestine. For implementing their both decision-makers conducted many discussions and meetings for controlling the unstable situation in Palestine and for selecting the future government of Palestine, for example,

On 2 April 1947, the United Kingdom delegation addressed a letter1/ to the Acting Secretary-General of the United Nations requesting that the question of Palestine be placed on the agenda of the next regular session of the General Assembly and, further, that a special session of the General Assembly be summoned as soon as possible for the purpose of constituting and instructing a special committee to prepare for the consideration of the question by the Assembly at its next regular session. The letter also indicated that the United Kingdom Government would submit an account of its administration of the Palestine Mandate to the General Assembly, and would ask the Assembly to make recommendations, under Article 10 of the Charter, concerning the future government of Palestine.(*United Nations Special Committee on Palestine: Report to The General Assembly*, 1947)

On 29 November 1947, the matter culminated in the United Nations General Assembly issuing the 181 resolutions to divide Palestine into two states, one for the Jews and one for Arabs, with 33 countries voting, 13 against and 10 abstaining.(*The international community says "yes" to the establishment of the state of Israel*, 1947) The Jews accepted this decision because it was in their favour, while, the neighbouring Arab states, and the Arab League rejected it. "Great Britain did everything in its power toward the end of the Palestine Mandate to frustrate the establishment of the Jewish state envisaged in the United Nation plan."(Shlaim, 1995)

According to the Manchester Guardian Newspaper, on May 14, 1948, at 4 pm a simple ceremony was held in a small building of Tel Aviv's Museum the State of Israel was proclaimed, David Ben-Gurion was appointed as its first Prime Minister (1948-1953), but for security reasons the time and place of this event were kept secret. Furthermore, the Newspaper had mentioned that the US President Harry S. Truman (1945-1953) recognized the State of Israel in the same day, as quoted by Reuter he said, "This

Government has been informed that a Jewish State has been proclaimed in Palestine and recognition has been requested by the United States recognizes the provisional Government as the de facto authority of the new State of Israel."(Guardian, 1948)

The Arab population of Palestine and the Arab States rejected the resolution. When Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948, it invaded its territory a few hours later by the forces of five Arab states (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria), with the aim of right and extermination. But the victory was for Israel in the war that was later known as the War of Independence. (Guardian, 1948) According to the Jewish writer Avi Shlaim, the Palestinians understand that they are the victims of what they call al-Nakba or the disaster (the first Arab-Israeli war). On the other hand, Jewish call it the war of independent, because they were the victors, and they were able to act more effectively than their opponents. According to Shlaim emphasis that "The Israelis, whether or not they were conquerors."(Shlaim, 1995)

Moreover, the British Mandate Administration encouraged Zionist immigration to Palestine, believing that Jewish immigrants brought technical, scientific, and professional skills that could benefit the country. This policy led to the displacement of many Palestinians, with British support for Zionist gangs. Britain also facilitated Jewish land acquisition by pressuring Palestinian farmers to sell at low prices. The influx of Jewish immigrants increased their population in Palestine significantly. The British government's actions favoured Jewish interests over Arab rights, leading to conflict between Jews and Arabs. The United Nations eventually issued a resolution to divide Palestine into two states, one for Jews and one for Arabs, which was accepted by the Jews but rejected by Arab states. The declaration of independence by Israel in 1948 precipitated a conflict with the surrounding Arab nations. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a highly disputed matter.

Conclusion:

The establishment of Jewish settlements in Palestine has a very important development namely the creation of the Jewish National Fund with the objective of acquiring land for this. This led to more Jews immigrating into the area. Another option was to consider Uganda as a possible destination for a Jewish state. In the end, Herzl's dream of a Jewish state in Palestine came true because the World Zionist Congress backed him up on it.

Examine pivotal historical events such as the Great War, the Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916, and the Balfour Declaration of 1917, and their enduring implications for Palestine up to the present day. It is possible to argue that British had several reasons for supporting Zionism and establishing a Jewish home in Palestine. British and French strategic pact the Sykes-Picot pact of 1916 shaped the Near East's split and the Zionist cause in Palestine. After the Ottoman Empire fell, the Mark Sykes and Georges Picot agreement defined Middle Eastern zones of influence. Palestine, an international zone, was influenced by Britain due to its Mediterranean strategic interests. Zionist hopes grew throughout this geopolitical manoeuvring. Understanding the potential advantages of Zionism, the British government released the Balfour Declaration in 1917, officially backing a Jewish national home in Palestine. This proclamation supported British imperial goals in the area, notably establishing sovereignty over Palestine against competitors. The Balfour Declaration and General Allenby's seizure of Jerusalem were intended to strengthen British dominance in the Eastern Mediterranean and Sykes-Picot Agreement pledges.

Strategic concerns among other things were countering French influence and spreading their imperialist interests, securing Jewish support during war times. The logical motive behind this moves as revealed through The Balfour Declaration by Britain was intended to gain support from the Jews and establish her dominance over Eastern Mediterranean. This led a series of conflicts and revolts occurred between Arab population in Palestine and British and Jewish occupation. Multiple geopolitical factors, as well as alliances shaped the British actions during this period.

Palestine was a land under the British mandate, established by the League of Nations after the fall of Ottoman Empire, and Britain aimed at preparing Palestine for self-governance and independence. Under this mandate system, Britain pledged to support a national homeland for Jews in Palestine based on Balfour Declaration's vision. The influx of Jewish immigrants triggered conflict and thus dislocation among Arabs.

Furthermore, the immigration, land acquisition, and displacement that occurred under the British Mandate in Palestine had a profound effect on the ties between Jews and Arabs. Displacement of Palestinians and construction of Jewish colonies were outcomes of the Mandate Administration's encouragement of Zionist immigration. Even while the British government recognised the value of Jewish immigrants' abilities, it put Jewish interests ahead of Arab rights.

The British government encouraged land sales by Palestinian farmers at artificially low rates, forcing many of them to flee their homes. There was an upsurge in Arab opposition when some 76,400 Jewish immigrants arrived in Palestine during the Mandate era from Eastern Europe. Moreover, resisting the British Zionist state, the Palestinians staged military operations, revolts, and uprisings. Discord between the Jewish and Arab communities in Palestine was intensified when Herbert Samuel was appointed as the first High Commissioner of a Jewish political entity in the region.

As a result of the fighting between the two groups, the United Nations divided Palestine into two states: the Jewish state and the Arab state. The Arabs opposed the division, but the Jewish people accepted it. Conflict and opposition from Palestinians were the results of the Mandate Administration's efforts to acquire property and encourage Jewish immigration, which put Jewish interests ahead of Arab rights.

During the period of the British Mandate, significant economic occurrences took place, such as the construction of Haifa Port and Baghdad's Haifa oil pipelines, primarily driven by the vested interests of Great Britain. Due to their backing for Jewish immigration into Palestine as well as land purchases, there is an increase in the Jewish population resulting from their British policy in Palestine. These divergent positions taken by the British administration towards Arabs and Jews contributed to the escalation of tensions that necessitated international intervention to resolve them.

During the British Mandate in Palestine, there was a lot of immigration into the area, especially by the Jews, who were being encouraged by Zionism. This policy has displaced many Palestinians and allowed Jews to take over Arab lands. The policies of the British government were clearly in favour of Jewish people, which led to increased hostility and clashes with Native Arabs. Eventually, the United Nations adopted a resolution that called for Palestine to be divided into two states: one for Jews and one for Arabs. However, while Jews accepted this decision, Arab countries rejected it. In 1948, Israel declared its independence, thus sparking a war with neighbouring Arab states. The war ended up being won by Israel, hence establishing her as a sovereign state. The resultant war between Jews and Arabs in Palestine, also known as the War of Independence, had far-reaching implications for this region for a long time.

In other words, the British Mandate Administration's promotion of Zionist immigration and Jewish land acquisition contributed to the 1947 UN resolution to divide Palestine into two states, which led to the State of Israel and the War of Independence. Although the Mandate Administration claimed Jewish immigration provided technical, scientific, and professional capabilities to the nation, British backing for Zionist gangs displaced many Palestinians. By forcing Palestinian farmers to sell cheaply, Britain helped Jews acquire property and land from the displaced. Jewish immigration rapidly boosted Palestine's Jewish population, causing conflict with Arabs. Jews approved a UN decision to split Palestine into Jewish and Arab governments, while Arab states rejected it. The 1948 Israeli declaration of independence sparked the War of Independence with the Arab states. In addition, the British Mandate Administration's promotion of Zionist immigration and Jewish property purchases displaced many Palestinians and created communities for Jews. Jews and Arabs clashed because these acts favoured Jewish interests over Arab rights. The instability in Palestine and the need to handle Jewish-Arab strife led to the UN's decision to split Palestine into two nations. Arab governments rejected the resolution, starting the War of Independence.

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