

The Establishment of Israel

A Brief History

Israel

- 1800 BCE – **Hebrews:** nomadic tribes from Canaan (later called Palestine and present day Iraq)
- Hebrews considered themselves the chosen people: direct descendants of Abraham and Isaac as opposed to Arabs who believe themselves to be direct descendants of Abraham and Ishmael
- Hebrew belief was Monotheistic - Judaism (Jews)



- 1500 B.C.E. – **Hebrews** moved to Egypt because of a **drought**– used by Egyptians as a work force.
- 1250 – **Moses** led Hebrews back to Canaan (across Sinai)
- 1025 – Formed Kingdoms of Judea and Israel. Kings David and Solomon build the first temple in 1000 BCE



- 586 B.C.E - Conquered by Babylonians – **1st temple destroyed** – first Diaspora (scattering of people)
- 539 BCE - Babylon falls to Persian Rule (Cyrus)
- 300 BCE Persians allowed Hebrews back - built a second temple (165 BCE.)

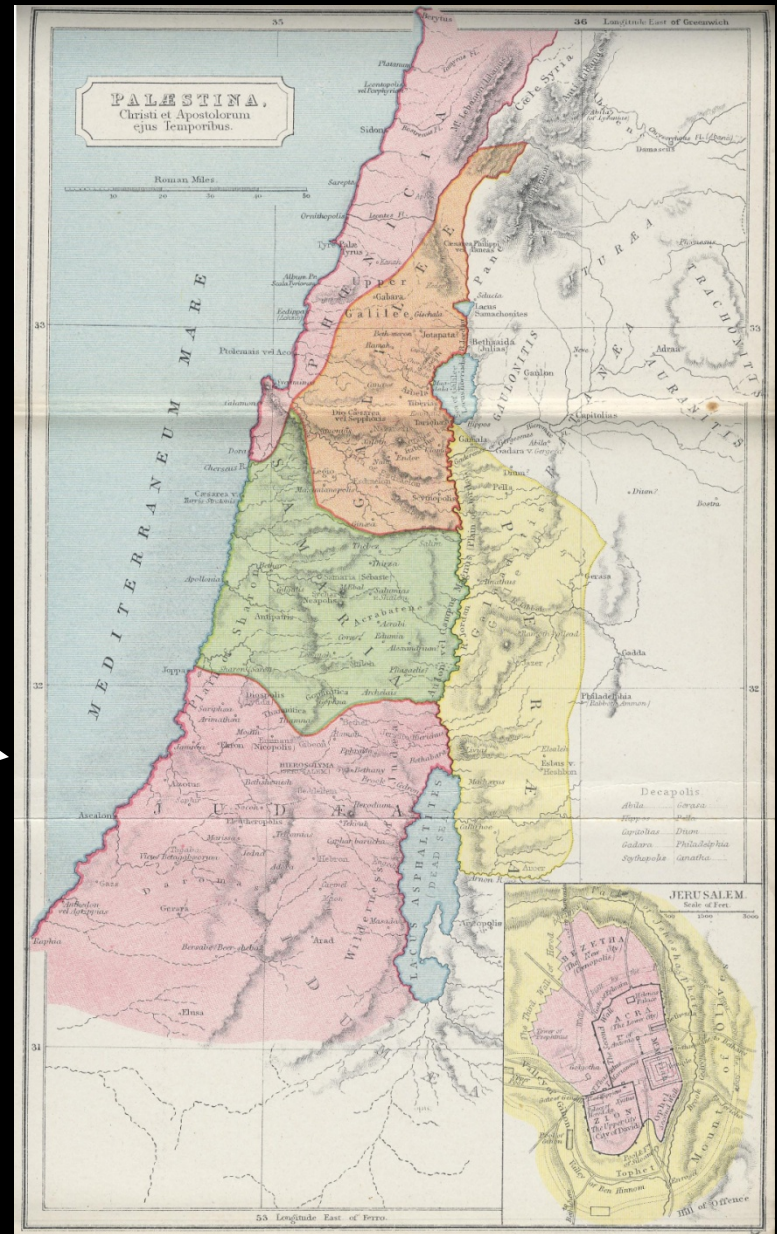


Projected model of the 2nd Temple



Wailing Wall – the remaining remnants of the 2nd Temple.

- 70 CE Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the second temple - second Jewish Diaspora (scattering Jews to other parts of the world).
- Romans renamed the area *Syria Palaestina* (after the Hebrew enemy Philistines)



- 313 CE **Christianity** centers in Jerusalem (due to Roman Emperor **Constantine**)
- 639 CE – Muslim Arab armies capture Jerusalem – build the **Dome of the Rock**
- 1096 CE Pope sends men to recapture the Holy Land (**Crusades**). Christians did not defeat the Arabs.
- 1516 – 1917 **Ottoman Turks** (Muslims) take over Palestine.



The Dome of the Rock



- Late 1800' s: **Zionism** – a movement among European Jews to set up a Jewish homeland in Palestine.
- Persecution of Jews (Anti-Semitism) became rampant in Europe due to: Jews kept to themselves in communities, churches, usury.



- WWI: The Ottoman Empire sided with Germany and Austria Hungary
- Britain's promises:
 1. Arabs land in Palestine if they help fight the Ottomans.
 2. Jews a national homeland in Palestine for Jewish support during the War.(Balfour Declaration)

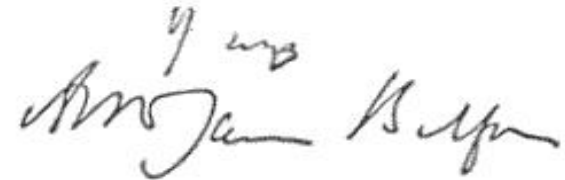
Foreign Office,
November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

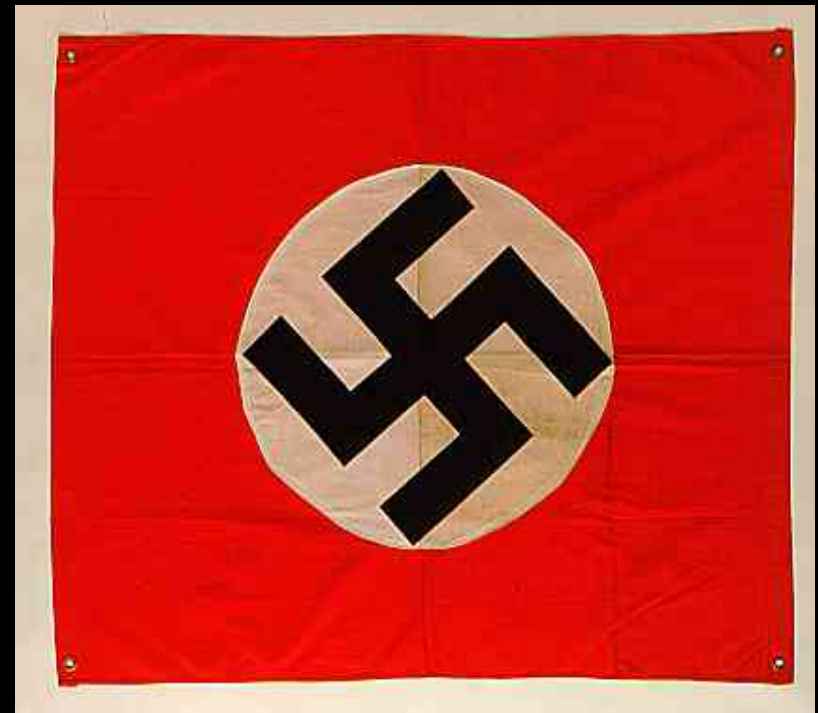
"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country".

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

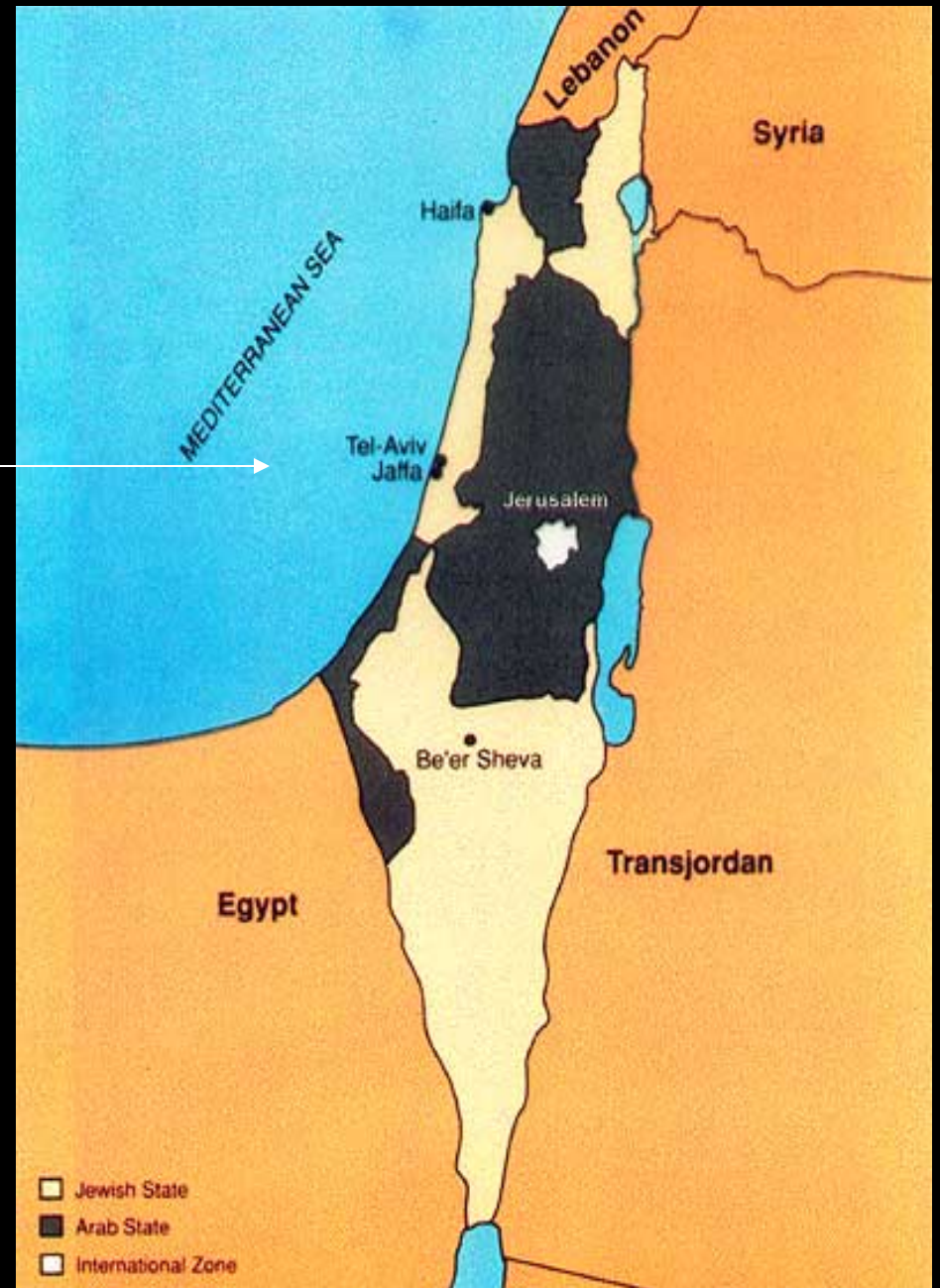


Balfour Declaration, 2 Nov 1917

- WWII 1930-40' s: Nazis rise to power – many Jews fled to Palestine – Jewish numbers restricted to Palestine. (immigrants or refugees?)
- Result of WWII – Palestine turned over to the United Nations in 1947.



- **1947 United Nations Partition Plan:** The U.N. splits Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state.
- Arabs object to giving *any* territory to Jews.



1948 Israeli War for Independence

- Jews announce the creation of Israel.
- Arab nations declare war at once, and military forces are sent.
- **1949** - Israel defeats Arab forces with the help from the **U.S.** Armistice is called by UN. UN annexes almost half the area set aside for Arabs under the UN partition plan + half of Jerusalem. Jordan gets **West Bank**, Egypt gets **Gaza Strip**, and Syria gets **Golan Heights**.
- Arab **refugees** flee to those three areas.



- 1956: Egypt nationalizes Suez Canal (completed by French in 1869, then controlled by Britain because of access to Indian colony)
- Egypt blocks Israel's use of the Suez Canal
- Israel, Britain and France attack Egypt. Conflict ends in a UN cease fire.



- 1964: Creation of the **PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization)**. The primary goal – a state for Palestinian Arabs. Leader was **Yasser Arafat**.



- 1967; The Six-Day War – Israel initiates a strike on Egyptian air force on the ground – destroys them
- Israel captures East Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan, the Golan Heights from Syria, the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt. All three become known as the Occupied Territories.

