

The Middle East and Emergence of Israel:
Focus on Post World War I (1918) to Israel's War of Independence (1948)

Week I –September 15 – Introduction to the Course

Why focus on the Middle East at this time?

Islam and the Middle East

Possible Presentations:

A. Basic Beliefs and the Five Pillars of Islam

B. Diversity among “the faithful”, e.g. origins of Sunni and Shi'a

Reading: *Concise History of the Middle East* – Chapters 3-7

Week II –September 22 – World War I Outcome - Unmet Aspirations

Possible Presentations:

A. Sikes- Picot Agreement

B. Balfour Declaration and the San Remo Conference

C. Resumption of Zionist Activities

Reading: *Concise History* – Chapter 12 and 15

Israel-Arab Reader pp 11-23

Week III –September 29 – Tribalism and Autocratic Rule in Islamic Middle East

Possible Presentations:

A. Hashemite Dynasty (Hussein bin Ali, Sharif of Mecca and ally of Laurence of Arabia); Dynasty continuing in Jordan today

B. The Saudi family; Wahabism and the rise of Saudi Arabia

C. From Persia to Iran and Reassertion of Islamic Power

Readings: *Concise History* – p 57 (10th edition), Chapters 12 and 13

Week IV –October 6 – Struggles for Self Determination

Nationalism –

Ataturk, the Young Turks and the emergence of a modern “democratic” Turkey

Readings: *Concise History* Chapters 10-14

Week V –October 13 – Western Powers Influence on the Middle East

. Kurds without Kurdistan (largest ethnic group in the world without a state)

Possible Presentations:

A. British and French mandates

B. The British White Papers

C. Oil and the Middle East

D. “What Went Wrong” by Professor Bernard Lewis

Readings: *Concise History*: Chapters 9 and 10

Week VI –October 20 – Jewish Tradition and Status in the Islamic Middle East

- A. Morocco
- B. Jerusalem and Palestine

Week VII –October 27 – Jewish Tradition and Status in the Islamic Middle East – Part 2

- A. Baghdad and Iraq -
- B. Istanbul and Anatolia (Turkey) -

Readings: *Concise History*: Chapter 15
Israel-Arab Reader: Chapters 3 and 4

Week VIII –November 3 - The Yishuv (the pre-state Jewish Community)

Possible Presentations:

- A. The first (1882-1903) and second Aliyot (1904-1914) (“going up before WWI)
- B. The third (1919-1923), fourth (1924-1929) and fifth Aliyot (1929-1939)
- C. Aliyah Bet – Illegal Immigration (1933-1948)
- D. The Actions and Activities during WWII
- E. Socialist models come to the Middle East e.g. the kibbutz and moshav movements

Readings: *Israel-Arab Reader*: Chapters 6 and 7

Week IX –November 10 – Palestinian and Arab Perspectives

Possible Presentations:

- A. Pre- Israel War of Independence – Changing demography of Palestine and Creation of Trans-Jordan
- B. Arab riots of 1920-21, the revolt of 1929 and 1939 White Paper
- C. Proposed Partition of Palestine; Peel Commission of 1937 and United Nations Partition Plan of 1947
- D. Arab attitudes during WW II

Readings: *Concise History*: Chapter 15

The Middle East and the Emergence of Israel Bibliography

Basic Texts:

A Concise History of the Middle East, Arthur Goldschmidt, Jr, et.al.

Israel; A Concise History of a Nation Reborn, Daniel Gordis

Other Bibliography

The Israel-Arab Reader – A Documentary History of the middle East Conflict, editors:
Walter Laqueur and Dan Schueftan (An invaluable source for understanding this conflict)

The Zionist Idea, Arthur Hertzberg (The source book for understanding the major force
behind the rebirth of the State of Israel)

A History of the Modern Middle East, William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton

The Modern Middle East, James L. Gelvin

The Middle East (A brief History of the Last 2,000 Years), Bernard Lewis

What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response, Bernard Lewis (An
acclaimed in-depth analysis of loss of civilization leadership and retreat from modernity
in the Middle East)

The Last Ottoman Generation and Making of the Modern Middle East, Michael
Provence

A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples, Ilan Pappé

The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine, Ilan Pappé

Israel; A History, Martin Gilbert (A comprehensive history)

*The Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance
1917-2017*, Rashid Khalid (A strong pro-Palestinian Arab perspective)

My Promised Land, Ari Shavit