Lecture 3 Outline
Palestine, WWI and the Great Powers

I. The Great Powers and the Middle East: pre-1914
A. Intrinsic versus Instrumental motivations of Western Imperialism till 1900
1. For Brits, mainly instrumental; protection of the routes to India, keeping strategic
Areas out of the hands of other Great Powers: thus Suez Canal and Egypt
2. For Russia, intrinsic, search for warm water ports (but also attempt to replace UK
In India)
3. For French, land to colonize with Frenchmen, i.e. Algeria (Italy, same in Libya)
B. By 1900, the beginning of a new intrinsic motivation: petroleum and its importance
1. First discoveries: Persia/Iran, Bahrain, northern Iraq
C. British policies up to 1914
1. Policy towards the Ottoman Empire till 1914: keep "Sick Man" of Europe alive
As counter to Russian expansion south to warm water ports and threat to ??
2. Along with Suez, the instrumental, strategic motivation to take Malta, Cyprus
And keep Gibraltar

II. The Ottomans up to 1914
A. The Turks have seen their empire dismembered, piece by piece, either through direct
Takeover (French in Algeria), indirect takeover (Brits in Egypt) or losing territories and peoples (mainly Christian) to "independence" movements supported by one Western Christian Great Power or another – Greece, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria etc.
B. The only European Great Power <u>not</u> doing this is Germany; thus Germany by default is the European Power the Ottomans look to for military training and eventual military alliance
C. Germany's victory in Franco-Prussian War 1871 profoundly restructures European alliances, especially for the Brits (Berlin Bagdad railway and "threat" to routes to India
D. In 1914, the Ottomans will make crucial decision to ally with Germany in WWI
E. After Ottoman alliance with Germany, Brits will reverse policy and seek to defeat and dismember the Turkish empire

II. World War I in the Middle East
A. Prelude: British archaeologist in the Middle East: David Hogarth, T.E. Lawrence and Gertrude Bell
B. British War policy: encourage an Arab Revolt against their Turkish rulers
1. The Husayn/McMahon correspondence (Sharif Husayn, Hashemite leader of Mecca) – British Promise to support creation of Arab State after the war. Role of Husayn's sons, Faisal and Abdallah in the Arab Revolt
2. Sykes Picot Treaty: Secret Treaty between Brits, French, et al. to divide up the Arab Middle East among themselves after the War
3. Balfour Declaration 1917 (Bolsheviks publish; Hogarth to Mecca)

4. Anglo-French Declaration (pamphlets distributed) " . . .complete and final liberation of the peoples oppressed by the Turks . . . (with governments set up reflecting the) . . . free choice . . . of the indigenous population"
5. Lawrence, Faisal and the "Arab" liberation of Damascus 1918

III. WWI Aftermath: "Liberation" of Arab peoples

A. "Syrian Arab Republic," led by Faisal, until French invasion and exiling of Faisal & his government: (Battle of Maysalun)
   1. Repeated rebellions of the Syrians against French: violently suppressed
B. In Iraq, massive rebellion against Brits; violently suppressed
C. In Egypt, massive protests and rebellion; violently suppressed

IV. After the War: Versailles and the Cairo Conference: future of the Arabs determined by Western Imperial Interests

A. Versailles, Lawrence, and Faisal
B. The Cairo Conference 1921: Churchill and "Reconciling" conflicting promises
   1. Lawrence, Churchill, Gertrude Bell and the creation of the modern states, the modern map of the Middle East
   2. King Crane commission on the desires of the people of the Middle East
   3. Kingmaking: Faisal becomes "King" of Iraq (Hashemite Kingdom of . . .)
   4. Kingmaking: Abdallah becomes King of Transjordan (Hashemite Kingdom of)
C. League of Nations: in regard to Middle East, a "fig leaf" for imperialist dictate
   1. "Mandates" for Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq: the "legality" of British, French rule over people against their choice, against their wishes
   2. The Palestine Mandate and the Balfour Declaration

Balfour Declaration Nov 2 1917

His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors 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

(Hogarth sent to Sherif Hussein, assured that)
". . . a Jewish state in Palestine was <u>not</u> contemplated"

(Private) Memorandum by Mr. Balfour 1919 (quoted in "From Haven to Conquest" 208)
". . . In short, so far as Palestine is concerned, the Powers have made no statement of fact which is not admittedly wrong, and no declaration of policy which, at least in the letter, they have not always intended to violate"

" . . . in Palestine we do not propose even to go through the form of consulting the wishes of the present inhabitants . . . Zionism, be it right or wrong, good or bad, is rooted in age-long traditions, in present needs, in future hopes, of far greater import than the desire or prejudices of the 700,000 who inhabit that land"

Key terms: the “Hashemites;” Sherif Hussein (of Mecca); “Prince” Faysal ibn Hussein: “Prince” Abdallah ibn Hussein; Gertrude Bell; T.E. Lawrence; David Hogarth