



A Troubled Century

TERMS & NAMES

- mandate
- Palestine
- Arab-Israeli Wars
- Kurd
- Persian Gulf War

MAIN IDEA

Today's conflicts in North Africa and Southwest Asia have roots in the history of the region.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Regional conflicts affect the security and well-being of people around the world.



European Nations Take Over

When World War I ended, the history of modern Southwest Asia and North Africa began. During the war, the Turkish Ottoman Empire had sided with Germany against Great Britain, France, and Russia. After the Ottoman Empire's defeat, most of its former territory was divided between Great Britain and France. The stage was set for major conflicts that still trouble the region today. (See the map on page 454.)

TAKING NOTES

Use your chart to take notes about North Africa and Southwest Asia.

Problems	Solutions	Resulting Problems
History of foreign influence		
Changes in world markets		

Independence Days in Southwest Asia and North Africa

Country	Controlling Power	Taken Over	Achieved Independence
Algeria	France	1847	July 5, 1962
Bahrain	Great Britain	1880	August 15, 1971
Egypt	Great Britain	1882	February 28, 1922
Iraq	Great Britain	1920	October 3, 1932
Jordan	Great Britain	1921	May 25, 1946
Kuwait	Great Britain	1899	June 19, 1961
Lebanon	France	1920	November 22, 1943
Libya	Italy	1932	December 24, 1951
Morocco	France (1/3 under Spain)	1912	March 2, 1956 (April 1956 from Spain)
Oman	Portugal	late 1500s	1650
Qatar	Great Britain	1916	September 3, 1971
Sudan	Egypt/Great Britain	1898	January 1, 1956
Syria	France	1920	April 17, 1946
Tunisia	France	1881	March 20, 1956
United Arab Emirates	Great Britain	1952	December 2, 1971
Yemen	Great Britain	1882	1967 (South Yemen) May 22, 1990 (union of North and South Yemen)

SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Chart

1. Which European nation controlled the most countries in the region?
2. In which century did most countries on the chart achieve independence?

A History of Foreign Control Europeans had been taking control of the region since before the 19th century. After World War I, this control often took the form of mandates. A **mandate** is a country placed under the control of another power by international agreement. The European powers promised to give their mandates independence by a certain date. Countries that were not mandates often had to fight for independence.

Conflict Over Palestine

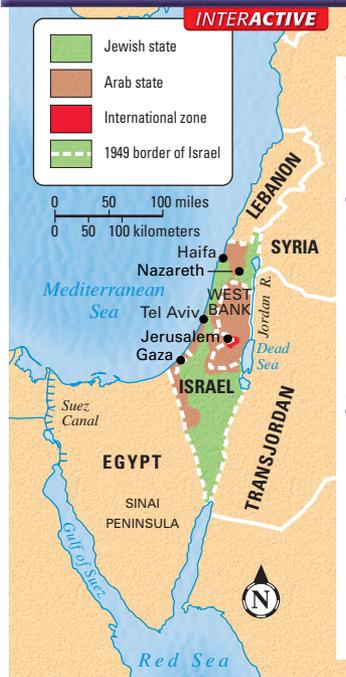
After World War I, Great Britain controlled **Palestine**, an Arab region that was also the land the Jews had lived in 2,000 years earlier. Starting in the late 1800s, Jews fleeing persecution in Eastern Europe had begun migrating there again. After World War II and the Holocaust, many Jews were left homeless and the number who wanted to migrate to Palestine increased.

Palestine, however, was already home to Arabs who had no desire to see their homeland become a Jewish state. Arabs in other countries backed them up. In 1947, Great Britain asked the United Nations to solve the problem. The United Nations divided Palestine—one part for Jews and another for Arabs. The Jews accepted the plan, but the Arabs did not. In May 1948, Jewish leaders declared Israel an independent state. Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon immediately declared war on Israel. The Israelis won the first of the **Arab-Israeli Wars**. (See the map on page 451.)

Reading Social Studies

- A. Summarizing**
What was the main source of conflict between the Jews and Arabs in Palestine?

Changing Boundaries in Palestine, 1947–49



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Map

- 1. Region •** What country occupied the Sinai Peninsula in 1967?
- 2. Region •** What happened to Arab-owned states in the region in the first 20 years after Israel was founded?

The Arab-Israeli Wars, 1967 and 1973



Palestinian Refugees About 700,000 Palestinian Arabs had to leave their homes. They fled to other Arab countries or settled in camps set up by the UN. In 1964, some Palestinian people formed the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The PLO refused to recognize Israel's right to exist.

Continuing Conflict In 1967 and 1973, Israel won the third and fourth of the Arab-Israeli Wars. Conflict continued even in peacetime. Over the years, territory passed back and forth between Israel and Arab countries. (See the map above.)

Attempts at Peace In 1979, Egypt became the first Arab country in the region to make peace with Israel. Leaders of Egypt and Israel discussed the Palestinians' wish for their own state. Ten years later, Palestinian Arabs rebelled in the territories controlled by Israel. Finally, in 1993, Israel and the PLO signed an agreement. The PLO recognized Israel's right to exist. Israel returned land to the Palestinians. The next year, Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty. In 2000, however, another Palestinian uprising broke out.

Sources of Conflict

Among all the peoples of the Middle East, religious differences contribute to conflict. Jews and Arabs claim holy sites in Jerusalem. Religious conflicts between Christians and Muslims have erupted in Egypt, Lebanon, and Sudan. Conflicts also occur within religions.

Region •
 Hebrew (top line) is the official language of Israel. Arabic (second line) is the language of many other countries in the region. ▼



Sunnis and Shi'ites Islam, for example, has two main sects, or groups—Sunnis (SUN•eez) and Shi'ites (SHEE•YTS). Most Muslims in the region are Sunni. In Iran, however, most people belong to the Shi'a branch of Islam. Shi'ites are more willing than the Sunni to accept religious leaders as political leaders. This difference has contributed to conflict between neighboring Iran and Iraq. The most powerful Iraqis are Sunni.

Conflict Between Ethnic Groups Trouble also occurs when different ethnic groups come into conflict. For example, like most people in the region, Iraqis are descendants of Arabs who spread out from the Arabian Peninsula in the 600s. Most Iranians, however, are Persian, people originally from Central Asia who have lived on the Iranian plateau for 3,000 years. Arabs and Persians have different histories and speak different languages. These differences contribute to conflicts between Iran and Iraq.

Nationalism Some ethnic groups want their own countries. At least 20 million **Kurds**, for example, live in mountainous areas of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, and other countries of the region. Most Kurds are Sunni Muslims and speak a language related to Persian. Many Kurds have died in their fight to gain their own state.

Fundamentalism Muslim fundamentalists believe Islam should be strictly observed. In 1979, Shi'ite leader Ayatollah Khomeini (EYE•yuh•TOH•luh koh•MAY•nee) took over the government of Iran. Khomeini objected to the way the former ruler had been westernizing the country. Khomeini's government passed laws forbidding the sale of alcohol and limiting the freedom of women. Fundamentalist movements have also arisen in other countries in the region, often coming into conflict with people who have less strict beliefs.

Wars in the Region

The neighboring countries of Iran and Iraq had long disputed who owned the oil-rich territory between them. In 1980, Iraq, led by its absolute ruler Saddam Hussein, invaded Iran.

The Iran-Iraq War The war lasted eight years. As many as one million people died, including soldiers as young as 11 and 12. Neither side could gain a clear victory. In 1988, both countries finally signed a cease-fire agreement developed by the United Nations.

Reading Social Studies

B. Contrasting
 What is an important difference between Sunnis and Shi'ites?

Vocabulary

ethnic group: people who share a common and distinctive culture, heritage, and language

Vocabulary

ayatollah: respected religious leader

Vocabulary

embargo:
a government
order forbidding
trade with other
countries

The Persian Gulf War In 1990, Iraq invaded the small oil-rich country of Kuwait. The United Nations imposed a trade embargo to prevent Iraq from importing goods or exporting oil. The embargo took away most of Iraq's income, but Hussein continued to fight. On January 16, 1991, the **Persian Gulf War** began when an international armed force began missile attacks on Iraq, followed by a ground attack on February 24. One hundred hours later, Iraq surrendered. Iraq was out of Kuwait, but Saddam Hussein stayed in power. The UN-imposed embargo remained in effect.

War with Iraq By the early 2000s, President George W. Bush had come to believe that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was hiding dangerous illegal weapons. The Bush administration was afraid that terrorist groups might use these weapons to attack the United States. The United States was unable to persuade the UN Security Council to support an invasion of Iraq. On March 20, 2003, however, the United States, joined by Britain, Australia, and other allies, invaded Iraq.

Rebuilding Iraq On April 9, 2003, U.S. forces gained control of Baghdad and toppled Hussein's regime. By early May 2003, President Bush announced that combat operations in Iraq had ended. (See the Special Report on page 750.)

Culture • In Baghdad, a statue of Saddam Hussein is toppled to show the end of his rule. ▼



SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Terms & Names

1. Explain the significance of: (a) mandate (b) Palestine (c) Arab-Israeli Wars (d) Kurd
(e) Persian Gulf War

Using Graphics

2. Use a time line like this one to write the dates of major wars in Southwest Asia and North Africa.



Main Ideas

3. (a) How have European nations contributed to turmoil in Southwest Asia and North Africa?
(b) In what ways has religion been a source of conflict in this region?
(c) What are some of the different ethnic groups in this region and how have they come into conflict?

Critical Thinking

4. Forming and Supporting Opinions

Do you think the United Nations should be more involved in settling conflicts in Southwest Asia and North Africa?

Think About

- ♦ the system of mandates
- ♦ conflict in the region
- ♦ the UN in the Persian Gulf War

ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Trace a **map** of the countries of Southwest Asia and North Africa. Write each country's name and the year it achieved independence on the map.