

# Partitioning of Arabian Peninsula by Britain Is Climax Of 20 Years of Double-Dealing Against Both Arabs and Jews

*Hopes of Both People Fanned and Made Use of for Purposes of British Imperialism Which Needed Suez Canal Safeguard*

By PAUL NOVICK

**Britain Intends to Keep Palestine for Herself.**

The peninsula of Arabistan was partitioned after the world war into a dozen Arab kingdoms. The purpose of British imperialism which helped bring this about was clear and age-old: divide and rule. This, fundamentally, is the reason for the partitioning of Palestine decided upon by His Majesty's Commission under the chairmanship of Lord Peel.

The reasons supplied by the Commission are, of course, loftier than that. It purports to solve the "irreconcilable" interests of the Jews and Arabs in Palestine. It admits, however, that Jews and Arabs always lived peacefully in Palestine and that it was only after the Balfour Declaration promised in the name of His Majesty's government a Jewish National Home in Palestine—that trouble was started, particularly, since the Declaration was issued after Palestine was promised to the Arabs. The Commission admits that, too. Consequently, the tense and restless situation created in Palestine was not the work of the Jews or the Arabs who are blamed by the British imperialists but the work of British imperialism itself.

**20 YEARS OF DOUBLE DEALS**

We are witnessing now the climax of over 20 years of British imperialist double-dealing in Palestine. During the war, the "Holy land" (holy—to the Christian, Jewish and Mohammedan religions) was promised the Arabs in the name of the Koran and national independence. The promise was made in 1915 by the British High-Commissioner in Egypt, Sir Henry MacMahon. The promise was repeated manifold in fiery leaflets showered upon Arab settlements from British airplanes, calling upon the Arab population to enlist in the struggle against Turkey and its Teutonic allies.

Having accomplished the desired results, Great Britain promised

Palestine to the Jews as a National Home. Because of age-old persecution and age-old cravings for National Independence, Jews were made to believe that the dream of time as a safeguard for the Suez Canal, for the "life line" of the Empire, as an outpost on the Mediterranean Sea, as a base for the Mossul (Iraq) oil pipe line which terminates at Haifa (which has been turned into a fortified base for the British navy). For these as well as many other important imperialist reasons Great Britain needs Palestine for itself.

Its reasons for helping the Zionist movement were to bring into Palestine a "healthy" element—"healthy" for the empire. This was openly admitted some time ago by the mouthpiece of the London Foreign Office, Mr. Agur, as well as by the British Zionist leader, Lord Melchett. Everything was done to antagonize, to fan the flames of race-hatred. Now that Jewish and Arab interests are "irreconcilable," Palestine must be divided into three parts—so that Britain can continue its rule.

**PARTITIONING PLAN**

Palestine is a very small and very poor country, about the size of the State of Vermont (around 10,000 square miles). With the exception of the Dead Sea potash deposits it has no natural resources whatever. A considerable portion of the land is covered by barren hills and sand dunes. This land is now to be divided into three parts. About 75 per cent of it is to be joined with the territory of Transjordania ("mandated," like Palestine, to Great Britain) and turned into an Arab State. Great Britain itself will keep Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, and a "corridor" between Jerusalem and the Arab city of Jaffe which will serve as the sea outlet for the Arab State.

Some 2,300 square miles are to be apportioned to the Jewish State. This tiny state, a strip of land along the sea coast, will have a



Partitioning of Arabian peninsula by Britain will solve neither the Arab nor Jewish questions. Proposed boundaries, slicing the land up in the best interests of British imperialism, are shown in the accompanying map. Between the proposed new Jewish "state" and the territory "granted" the Arabs is the large section over which England will exercise direct control.

facts of the matter were that the hopes of the Jews and the Arabs were fanned and made use of for the purposes of British imperialism.

**"LIFE LINE OF EMPIRE"**

British imperialism needs Palestine maximum width of thirty (30) miles. In certain parts it will narrow down to a mere eight (8) miles. The British Corridor will cut into this State. Nazareth will form a British islet inside this state. . . .

**JEWES REJECT THE PLAN**

Little wonder that the Jewish people, with the exception of a very small minority rose against this British imperialist scheme. Many a Zionist experienced a rude awakening, realizing the sinister role played by Great Britain since the days of the Balfour Declaration.

"The Great Betrayal," this is how Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, one of the leading figures of American and international Zionism, termed the plan of the Royal Commission. And a great betrayal it is, a betrayal of the hopes and the trust of the hundreds of thousands of Jews, Zionists and their followers, who believed or wanted to believe in the promises made by His Majesty's Government.

The plan will solve neither the Jewish nor the Arab question, was the equally true comment of another American Zionist leader, Louis Lipsky.

Great Britain does not intend to solve the national liberation problems of the Jews and Arabs. If there was any "danger" of solving these problems by the partitioning of Palestine, the British government would never agree to such a plan. The thing British imperialism fears most is the alignment of Jews and Arabs—inevitably against imperialist rule!

British imperialism has fooled many Jews by its promises. Now it is insulting the Jewish people by reducing the idea of a Jewish National Home to an absurdity.

**OBJECTIONABLE FROM ALL STANDPOINTS**

From the standpoint of Jewish National aspiration the puny Jewish State—which will most probably

the Return to the Homeland, has lost its meaning. Some misled or misled leading people went to the extent of proclaiming the British imperialist as the sons of the Lost Tribes of Israel. The brutal and tragic

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become a British "protectorate," like Iraq—is an insult. From the standpoint of Arab-Jewish relations it can only be an aggravating factor. From the economic standpoint it is just as reactionary and arbitrary. From the standpoint of finding a haven for the thousands of Jews forced to emigrate from Germany and Poland its value is almost nil.

The strip of land which is to become the Jewish State already has a population of 350,000 Jews and 310,000 Arabs, a total of 660,000 (Delaware, an industrial state with a tremendous hinterland to draw upon, has a population of about 350,000). Even if the Arabs would agree to move out, it would be a long, costly and painful affair to transfer them into the Arab State. The Jewish population would have had to bear the burden. In addition the Jewish State will have to pay to the Arab State (according to the plan of the Royal Commission), and the Palestine debt of \$20,000,000 which will have to be paid mainly by the Jewish State.

## ARABS AGAINST PLAN

There would have been the problem of transferring into the Jewish State the 75,000 Jews left in British and Arab territory. But the Arabs, like the Jews, are against the plan. They will not move willingly. They are almost half the population of the Jewish State. The fact that the Arab birth rate is high coupled with the provision of the plan that Jewish immigration is "temporarily" limited to 1,000 souls a month (including immigration by Jewish capitalists who up until now were admitted into Palestine without any restrictions) may resurrect the ma-

jority-minority problem inside the Jewish State itself.

Economically, prospects for the Jewish State are far from rosy. As it is, present-day Palestine is undergoing somewhat of an economic crisis. Investments from the outside which have helped cover the adverse balance (imports in 1936 were over four times the exports) have fallen down sharply. Internal unrest, as well as unfavorable conditions of the world orange market were contributing factors.

Since almost all raw material has to be imported Palestine manufacture cannot compete with German, Japanese and British products. The new Jewish State, without any hinterland whatever, with less land and a much denser population (about 250 per square mile, against 100 in Delaware), with the potash deposits as well as the Jordan electrification project outside its borders, will be in even more precarious a position than present-day Palestine.

From every standpoint the partitioning plan is a reactionary imperialist scheme working against the national, political, economic interests of both Jews and Arabs.

The Arab people as well have come out against the plan. Whatever the intentions, or the future machinations of the Mufti (head of the Moslem clergy in Palestine), or the Emir of Transjordan, or the Arab kings—they all are against the plan. The progressive elements of Palestine as well as of the entire Near East will certainly be against the "surgical operation," as the Royal Commission terms the partitioning plan.

## NOT "HALF A LOAF"

There are Jews who are apt to listen to the persuasions of the Royal Commission that "half a loaf is better than no bread at all." Because of the persecution of the

Jews by the mad dogs of Nazism, because of pogroms and economic extermination of Jews on the part of the government of Poland, the craving for Jewish statehood, for a National Home are stronger than ever.

But this British "protectorate" proposed by the Royal Commission is merely an insult to Jewish national pride, having no economic foundation, and aggravating the Jewish-Arab problem instead of solving it.

Both Jews and Arabs have now had a chance to recognize the role of Great Britain. This is a positive achievement. All conclusions must be drawn from the correct premise that nothing good can come from the hands of British (or any other) imperialism. An understanding between Jews and Arabs must be reached. There are among the Jews people like Dr. J. L. Magnes, head of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and others of the Brith Schalom movement who for a long time have been agitating for an understanding. Progressives among Arabs, class-conscious toilers of both nationalities, are for an understanding. This is the paramount question on the order of business now, alongside with the struggle against imperialism.

It will not be an easy task. Forces have been at work too long to sow discord among Jews and Arabs. But a peaceful understanding between Jews and Arabs whereby the national rights of both nationalities would be safeguarded, with the whole of Palestine and the huge peninsula of Arabistan as an hinterland for the development of both Jewish and Arab economic life is the only solution. There can be no imperialist or chauvinist short cuts! They lead to the jungle of oppression, of national hatreds and struggles. This must be avoided. The enemy is on the imperialist side.