World War II Comes to the Middle East

All opinions and suppositions expressed are entirely those of the presenter and in no way reflect the positions, opinions, or policies of the United States Government or any of its entities.
Presentations

26 Mar  WWII Comes to the Middle East
8 May  The US Meets the Middle East in WWII
18 Sep  WWII Leaves the Middle East with Scars
6 Nov  The War on Terror:
       Why Does the Enemy Do What They Do
Middle East Explanations

Mahan’s Middle East
Middle East and North Africa

The definition that I generally use.
Middle East Influence – 1939

US
French
British
Italian
Spanish
Axis
Independent
US “Protectorates” – 1939 to 2019

Countries with whom the US has an alliance, bilateral defense agreement, or major military installations.
Why is the U.S. in the Middle East?

Oil
Zionism (Religion)

(Great Powers)
Cold War

(Non-State Actors)
Terrorism

http://www.processhistory.org/mapping-the-cold-war/#prettyPhoto/0
Major Themes

• Ever changing Middle East
• Changing imperial influence
• Challenge and Response

Big Questions

• Why is the US in the Middle East?
• How did the US go from no role in the Middle East in 1939 to the present circumstances?
Major Oil News
1908 – First commercially viable production
1910 – First production outside Mesopotamia
1927 – Largest oil field of the time discovered
1938 – Oil discovered in Saudi Arabia
1948 – Saudi Ghawar oil field discovered
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1940 (bpy)</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2016 (bpy)</th>
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<td>USA</td>
<td>1,263,437,747</td>
<td>USA</td>
<td>4,380,000,000</td>
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<td>USSR</td>
<td>205,434,783</td>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>4,088,000,000</td>
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<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>189,823,123</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>3,818,159,150</td>
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<td>Iran</td>
<td>72,116,601</td>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>1,624,803,340</td>
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<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>54,914,032</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>1,456,698,940</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
<td>46,489,130</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>1,452,937,250</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
<td>39,869,565</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>1,336,883,310</td>
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<td>Columbia</td>
<td>25,150,198</td>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>1,133,718,105</td>
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<td>Iraq</td>
<td>23,780,632</td>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>1,067,196,125</td>
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<td>Argentina</td>
<td>19,858,696</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>918,142,535</td>
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<td>Trinidad</td>
<td>19,671,937</td>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>831,092,955</td>
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<td>Peru</td>
<td>12,284,585</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>798,210,105</td>
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<td>Burma</td>
<td>7,525,692</td>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>729,958,025</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
<td>7,484,190</td>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>645,909,475</td>
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<td>Egypt</td>
<td>6,425,889</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>601,510,875</td>
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</table>
Balfour Declaration  
(2 November 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.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur James Balfour

Arthur James Balfour
UK Foreign Secretary

Walter Rothschild
MP and Baron
After World War I
How the Map was Redrawn

Hussein – McMahon Correspondence 1915 – 1916
Sykes-Picot Agreement November 1915 – March 1916
(announced by Bolshevik Russia 23 November 1917)
Balfour Declaration 2 November 1917
Armistice of Mudros 30 October 1918
Treaty of Sèvres 10 August 1920
Cairo Conference February – March 1921
Abolition of Ottoman Sultanate 1 November 1922
Declaration of Republic of Turkey 29 October 1923
Abolition of Caliphate 3 March 1924
Treaty of Lausanne 24 July 1924
Zionism

- World Zionist Organization: 1897
- Theodor Herzl
- Jewish Agency: 1908/29
- Chaim Weizmann
- 1935
- David Ben-Gurion

Aliyah

1st Aliyah (1882-1903)  4th Aliyah (1924-1929)
2nd Aliyah (1904-1914)  5th Aliyah (1929-1939)
3rd Aliyah (1919-1923)  Aliyah Bet: Illegal immigration (1933-1948)

Jewish immigration to Mandatory Palestine

Figures in Thousand

Arab Revolt  Rommel’s Advance
Jewish Groups

Haganah (the defense)

Palmach (acronym: strike force)

Irgun (abbr: the national military organization in the land of Israel)

Lehi (Stern Gang) (acronym: fighters for the freedom of Israel)

“In fact, there is a division of roles; one organization advocates individual terrorism (Lehi), the other conducts sporadic military operations (Irgun) and there is a third organization which prepares itself to throw its final weight in the decisive war.”

– Menachem Begin (Blood in Zion, p12)
Arab Opposition

- Franco-Syrian War (Mar-Jul 1920)
- Black Hand formed (1930)
- Arab Revolt (1936-1939)
  - April-October 1936 Arab Strike
  - Revolt continues in autumn of 1937
- Arab Higher Committee (1936)
- Peel Commission
- Axis Propaganda

Amin al-Husseini
Grand Mufti of Jerusalem
(in office 1921-1948)
... the framers of the Mandate in which the Balfour Declaration was embodied could not have intended that Palestine should be converted into a Jewish State against the will of the Arab population of the country. ... it is not part of their policy that Palestine should become a Jewish State.

... [nothing] to support the view that the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine cannot be effected unless immigration is allowed to continue indefinitely. If immigration has an adverse effect on the economic position in the country, it should clearly be restricted ... If in these circumstances immigration is continued up to the economic absorptive capacity of the country, regardless of all other considerations, a fatal enmity between the two peoples will be perpetuated, and the situation in Palestine may become a permanent source of friction amongst all peoples in the Near and Middle East.

... owing to the natural growth of the Arab population and the steady sale in recent years of Arab land to Jews, there is now in certain areas no room for further transfers of Arab land ...

White Paper
(23 May 1939)

'We will fight the White Paper as if there is no war, and fight the war as if there is no White Paper.'
– David Ben-Gurion
September 1939
Differences between WWI and WWII in the Middle East?

British Crusader tank passes a burning German Panzer IV tank during Operation Crusader.

11 December 1917

27 November 1941

(Great Powers) Cold War
Middle East Influence – 1941

(Great Powers) Cold War

How Communists Menace Vital Materials
Roald Dahl

Dar al Salaam
Nairobi

King's African Rifles
August 1939

Royal Air Force
November 1939

Habbaniya
Haifa

Hawker Hart
Commissioned Pilot Officer
August 1940

Mersa Matruh
Gloster Gladiators

May - June 1941
Eleusina

Hawker Hurricane

No. 80 Squadron RAF
September 1940

Gloster Gladiators

de Havilland Tiger Moth

April 1941

(Great Powers)
Cold War

How Communists Menace Vital Materials

Royal Air Force

Hawker Hurricane

May - June 1941

Habbaniya
Haifa

45° N

Projection: Albers Conic

300
600
900 Miles

900 Kilometers

0

300
600
900 Miles

45° N

Royal Air Force
November 1939

Nairobi

Dar al Salaam

King's African Rifles
August 1939
Arab Legion Activity

Campaign against Iraqi revolt
Campaign against German intervention in Syria
Expansion of the Arab Legion
Preview of North Africa and Lend-Lease

- Great Britain
- Egypt
- Saudi Arabia
- Iran
Conclusion

• Transformation of global economy to oil
• Reshaped Western view of a Jewish state
• Non-state actors are THE actors in Palestine
• WWII ends the Great Power struggle in Europe – that struggle moves to the Middle East

Major Themes

• Ever changing Middle East
• Changing imperial influence
• Challenge and Response
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Voices of an Era
Voices of the IRAQ WAR
Contemporary Accounts of Daily Life

ISIS
An Introduction and Guide to the Islamic State

IRAQ WAR
The Lessons of Modern Warfare

ARMED CONFLICT
The Lessons of Modern Warfare

PIERCING THE FOG OF WAR
Management Change in the Netherlands

BEES AND SPIDERS
Applied Cultural Awareness and the Art of Cross-Cultural Influence

NARRATIVE STRATEGIES
Changing the Way Power Works
Where is the Middle East?

Who gave us the term Middle East?

Alfred Thayer Mahan in September 1902 issue of the British journal *National Review*. 
What are the Roots of Conflict in the Middle East?

Roots of Conflict  
WWI – Present

Deep Roots of Conflict  
Weakening of Empires – WWI

How it really is.
Cairo Conference
(12 March 1921) Transjordan

... establishing a Jewish National Home in Palestine west of the Jordan and a separate Arab entity in Palestine east of the Jordan. Abdullah, if installed in authority in Transjordan, could preside over the creation of such an Arab entity.

Winston Churchill
H.M.G. Secretary of State for the Colonies
February 1921
Battle of Tel Hai
“Birth of the Fighting Jew”

• Associated with the Franco-Syrian War
• Tel Hai was in the French Mandate
• A Shiite Arab militia attacked the Jewish settlement
• Eight Jews and five Arabs were killed
• Joseph Trumpeldor, former Russian officer and decorated 1905 war hero died of wounds

“The Alamo of the Jews in Palestine”
The districts of Mersin and Alexandretta, and portions of Syria lying to the west of the districts of Damascus, Homs, Hama and Aleppo, cannot be said to be purely Arab, and must on that account be excepted from the proposed delimitation. Subject to that modification, and without prejudice to the treaties concluded between us and certain Arab Chiefs, we accept that delimitation. As for the regions lying within the proposed frontiers, in which Great Britain is free to act without detriment to interests of her ally France, I am authorized to give you the following pledges on behalf of the Government of Great Britain, and to reply as follows to you note: That subject to the modifications stated above, Great Britain is prepared to recognize and uphold the independence of the Arabs in all the regions lying within the frontiers proposed by the Sharif of Mecca.

Henry McMahon
British High Commissioner for Egypt

Hussein ibn Ali
Sharif of Hijaz
Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916)

Sir Mark Sykes
British Officer-Diplomat

François Georges-Picot
French Diplomat

Zionism (Religion)
Armistice of Mudros
National Pact
Misak-ı Millî

1. The future of the territories inhabited by an Arab majority at the time of the signing of the Armistice of Mudros will be determined by a referendum. On the other hand, the territories which were not occupied at that time and inhabited by a Turkish majority are the homeland of the Turkish nation.

2. The status of Kars, Ardahan and Batum [Eastern Turkey-Armenia] may be determined by a referendum.

3. The status of Western Thrace will be determined by the votes of its inhabitants.

4. The security of Istanbul and Marmara should be provided for. Transport and free-trade on the Straits of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles will be determined by Turkey and other concerned countries.

5. The rights of minorities will be issued on condition that the rights of the Muslim minorities in neighboring countries are protected.

6. In order to develop in every field, the country should be independent and free; all restrictions on political, judicial and financial development will be removed.
Treaty of Lausanne
24 July 1923
After World War I

The Middle East

1914

1922

OTTOMAN EMPIRE

RUSSIA

CAIRO

Gallipoli

Black Sea

Mediterranean

Beirut

Damascus

Baghdad

Basra

PALESTINE

Jerusalem

Mosul

Arabia

Yemen

North Africa

SOVIE T UNION

How Communists Menace Vital Materials

Cold War

Great Powers

French

British

Italian

Year of independence

1918

1923

1932

1943

1946

1961

500 km
# Types of War

## Examples

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maneuver</th>
<th>Firepower</th>
<th>Narrative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Always Some Combination of All Three</td>
<td>Hans Delbruck’s Theory</td>
<td>Exhaustion (Will)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annihilation</td>
<td>Exhaustion (Physical)</td>
<td>Assyrian Empire (circa 700 BC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Decision</td>
<td>Attrition</td>
<td>American Revolution</td>
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<td>Napoleonic Wars (III/IV)</td>
<td>Napoleonic Wars (VI/VII)</td>
<td>Vietnam War</td>
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<td>Mexican-American War</td>
<td>US Civil War</td>
<td>Iranian Revolution</td>
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<td>OIF I (until 15 April 2003)</td>
<td>World War II (1942-1945)</td>
<td>GWOT / Arab Spring</td>
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<td>Chinese Civil War</td>
<td>ISIS</td>
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<td>Korean War</td>
<td>Ukraine</td>
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<td>Syrian Civil War</td>
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## Theorists

- Carl von Clausewitz
- Antoine-Henri Jomini
- Alfred Thayer Mahan
- Giulio Douhet
- Sun Tzu
- Mao Zedong
- Abu Musab al-Suri
- Abu Bakr Naji
Agenda

WWII Comes to the Middle East

• Major Themes
• Middle East
• Roots of Conflict
• Why is the US in the ME
• Oil
  – History
  – Production
• Zionism (Religion)
  – Transformation of ME
• Terrorism (Non-State Actors)
  – Arab Opposition
  – Battle of Tel Hai
  – Jewish Groups

• Cold War (Great Powers)
  – Difference Between WWs
  – Middle East Influence
  – Changing Influence
  – Fall of France
  – Fighting in Levant
  – Roald Dahl
  – Preview of North Africa and Lend-Lease

• Conclusion