



# The British and French Mandates

## ATTITUDE, POLICY AND LEGACY

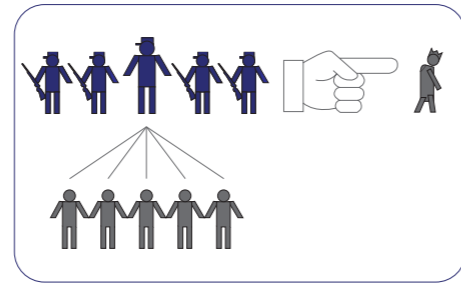
### Reason for the French Mandate

- 1) Fears of Russian and German encroachment
- 2) The French main argument: Colonies would contribute to the revival of France as a great power. - „traditional interest“
- 3) “Mission Civilisatrice” France’s moral duty to extend the benefits of her civilisation and her language to a wider world
- 4) Business interests in the Lebanese silk industry (lost his importance in the 1930s)

### Note

- 1) The principal dynamic of French colonial expansion was nationalism rather than capitalism.
- 2) This was also connected with the concept of the “mission civilisatrice”, of France’s moral duty to extend the benefits of her civilisation and her language to a wider world, which was also tied to ideas of assimilation and association.
- 3) French had educational and religious interests and a sense of moral purpose.
- 4) Syria was not especially important to France in strategic terms. The French had no naval base or significant air links.
- 5) Heavily French invest in military (ground forces) effected more violent resistance.
- 6) France had never established much of a client base beyond the ranks of her „traditional supporters“; but allowed relatively free elections over the years.

### Policy



#### Bourgeois Autarchy

- The French sent the King away
- direct subjugation of the natives required heavily invest in military
- France had never established much of a client base beyond the ranks of her „traditional supporters“
- The French allowed relatively free elections after a while

### Attitude



#### Mission Civilisatrice

- educational upbringing
- religious education
- moral education
- planning (urban and infra-structural development)
- French way of living

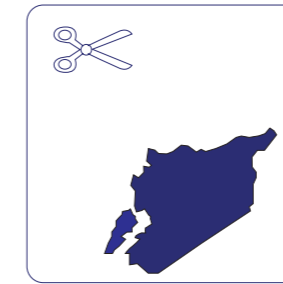
### Territorial Policy



#### Countertrade

- 1936 Syrian province of Alexandretta and Antiochia, with large Turkish minority, ceded to Turkey
- As a trade off: Turkish neutrality in world policy

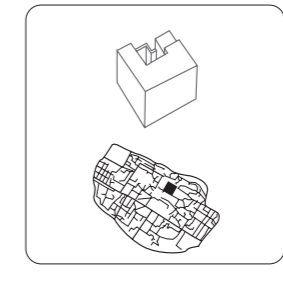
### Partition



#### Intention: western state

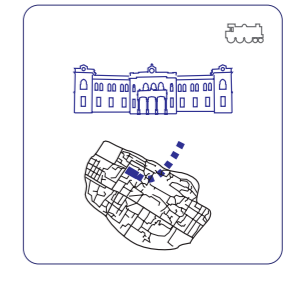
- Creation of a western state for the Christian minority was the main reason to cut out the Lebanese area and found Lebanon in 1943 - a working concept for the next thirty years (1975 start of the Lebanese civil war)

### Legacy

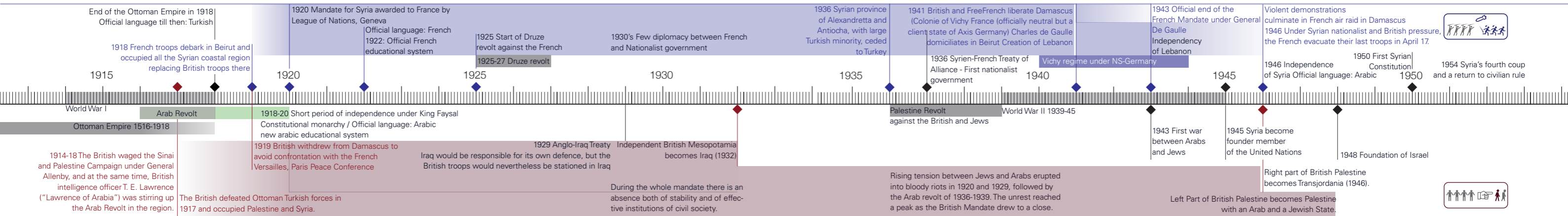


- local courtyard house (up)... became a suburb house with garden

Modern infrastructure and public monuments such as Hijaz-Station in Damascus.



- Hausmannian city planning
- Boulevards including tramways



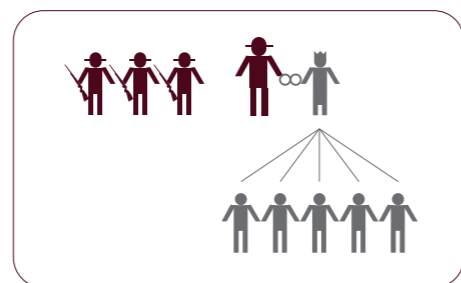
### Reason for the British Mandate:

- 1) Fears of Russian and French encroachment
- 2) The importance attached to Egypt and the route to India
- 3) Closer relations to Mesopotamia and Kuwait (amongst others, because of the oil)
- 4) British interests in the Red Sea and Persian Gulf

### Note

1. British governments had no particular feeling of moral purpose in their policies.
2. Britain regarded a degree of parsimony as necessary (in terms of state spending, infrastructure, architecture, invest in military)
3. Creation of a class of native clients, so called local allies, which both depended upon Britain and upon which Britain itself depended, though the balance was obviously unequal.

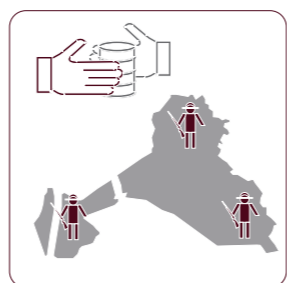
### Attitude



#### Bourgeois Monarchy

- The British accepted the King
- indirect subjugation of the natives
- The British cultivated key local allies since the beginning of occupation like townsmen and religious leaders
- small and efficient armed services

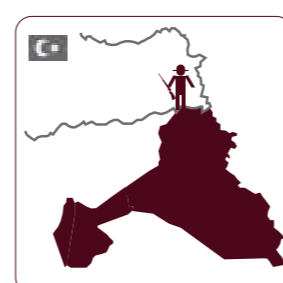
### Policy



#### Indian Concept

- small cost, earnings as much as possible
- establish administration and planning offices
- social and cultural infrastructure
- public institutions such as the Hadassah Hospital and the Central Post Office

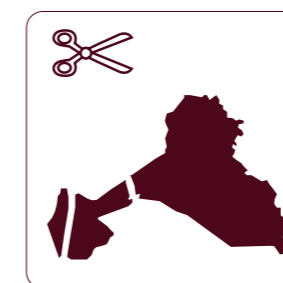
### Territorial Policy



#### Sustain the boundaries

- The British were interested in leaving stable and independent states.

### Partition



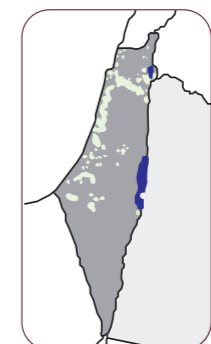
#### Intention: Creation stable partner states

- The British saved a lot of rights and shares before they left the country - that was much more profitable and at least more popular in Britain. For instance: A full and complete concession for seventy-five years was granted by the Iraq Petroleum Company Transjordan

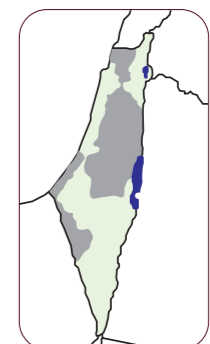
### Legacy:

Technical services or government departments connected with public works, agriculture, education, medicine and public health, the cadastre and land registration were founded. But there was an absence of stability and of effective institutions of civil society.

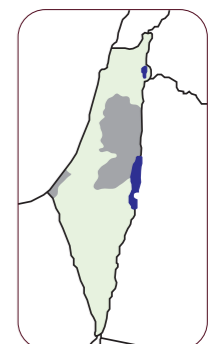
- Palestine as an Example: Attacks on the Jewish population by Arabs had three lasting effects:
- 1) They led to the formation and development of Jewish underground militias
  - 2) It became clear that the two communities could not be reconciled, and the idea of partition was born.
  - 3) The British responded to Arab opposition with the White Paper of 1939, which severely restricted Jewish land purchase and immigration.



Till 1947 Jewish settlements in Palestine under the British Mandate (green)



1947 U.N. Partition Plan for Palestine: Arab State (gray) Jewish State (green)



British Palestine in 2009 Israel (green) Palestinian territories (gray)