

Middle East History Simulation

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The Issue for this History Simulation:

You are to seek agreements so that the Jews and Palestinian Arabs have a home. This history simulation takes place before the modern nations of Israel and Jordan were created and recognized by the United Nations. Discard everything known about the conflict in Middle East for the past fifty years. This region had been controlled by the Ottoman Empire until 1922 and then the British managed the area as a “mandate” until the Jews and Palestinian people could create one, two, or more new countries.

The United States, Great Britain, China, and the Soviet Union would have their own economic, political, military, and strategic interests impacted by the decisions made by your United Nations commission during this history simulation. Future wars with the surrounding Arab nations and even the Superpowers (U.S., Soviet Union, and China) may occur based on your decisions regarding establishment of homelands for the Jews and Palestinian Arabs. The U.N. is also at the bargaining table to try and make peace and also push their own goals which may or may not be desired by either the Jews or Palestinian Arabs.

Simulation Learning Objectives

1. Connect the historical context for the relationships and previous disputes among the three groups during negotiations at the United Nations conference.
2. Recognize how historical context shaped the goals of each group and their negotiation strategies. How could have events turned out different? What are the forces of history at work that make this process for change so difficult?
3. Assess each group’s success in achieving their goals in short term and long term.
4. Consider the merits of those goals considering the ensuing historical events.
5. Speculate about new dynamics and possible changed outcomes if other countries within the Middle East or countries elsewhere in world were involved in the negotiations as well.
6. Experience the challenges and skills needed for effective negotiations.

Your Task: You are members of a United Nations (U.N.) commission composed of leaders of the Jews, Palestinian Arabs, and the United Nations. You know the future of this land will be important to the entire international community. Review the demographic information on other pages about the population. Use that information as a starting point, decide how many countries to create and which regions could be combined into single countries. Another option is to move people on the basis of their religion. Create a new map as a result of these deliberations

Historical Background¹

Ancient Times in the Middle East

The Jews and Arabs had lived together for more than a thousand years and shared a common ancestry. According to the sacred writings of the Torah of the Jews (referred to by Christians as the Old Testament) and the Koran of the Muslims, both groups claimed Abraham as father of their people. Abraham had two sons, Isaac and Ishmael. They were half-brothers since they shared the same father but different mothers. Ishmael was the older of the two brothers. Isaac would be the father of the Jewish people and Ishmael would be the same for the Arab people. Both were considered to be Semites along with other peoples in this region. In linguistics and ethnology, Semitic (from the Biblical "Shem", Hebrew: שֵׁם, translated as "name", Arabic: سامي) was first used to refer to a language family of largely Middle Eastern origin, now called the Semitic languages. This family includes the ancient and modern forms of Akkadian, Aramaic, Hebrew, Arabic, Ge'ez, Maltese, Canaanite/ Phoenician, Amorite, Eblaite, Ugaritic, Sutean, Chaldean, Mandaic, Ahlamu, Amharic, Tigre and Tigrinya among others. As language studies are interwoven with cultural studies, the term also came to describe the extended cultures and ethnicities, as well as the history of these peoples as associated by close geographic and linguistic distribution.

After living in ancient Israel for more than 1,000 years, the Jews were evicted from their homeland by the occupying Roman Empire in 73 A.D. Their people were scattered around the world with many living in Europe and smaller numbers in Africa and Asia. Much later, some immigrated to the United States to practice their faith. They have been assimilated into the cultures of many countries and saw themselves as having a dual identity, one as a citizen of the country that they reside, but also as a Jew forced out of their ancient homeland.

As a people, the Jews have often been victims of brutal persecutions that led to the deaths of men, women, and children. There have been several failed attempts in history to permit the Jews to immigrate back to the Middle East and reestablish a Jewish homeland.

After the Jews left Israel (the name they called this region), this small section of land continued to be home for Arabs an additional 2,000 years. This region was renamed Palestine after the Jews left in 73 A.D. Most Arabs converted to the Muslim faith after 732 A.D. and that became the dominant religious faith and culture throughout the region. The Arabs in this area suffered greatly by the European Crusades that occurred around 1,000 A.D. in which many Arab and Muslim men, women, and children were killed by European armies that came and waged war during ten campaigns in this region over a period of 100 years. A minority of Arabs practice other religious traditions including Christianity.

Palestine was conquered by the Islamic Empire following the 636 CE Battle of Yarmouk during the Muslim conquest of Syria, and the Muslims gave relief from burdensome Roman taxes and religious persecution of Christians. The country was incorporated into Bilad al-Sham province as military districts of Urdunn and Filastin. In 661 CE, with the assassination of Ali, Muawiyah I became the uncontested Caliph of the Islamic World after being crowned in Jerusalem. In 691,

¹ Portions of this overview taken from Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Palestine

the Dome of the Rock became the world's first great work of Islamic architecture. The Umayyads were replaced by the Abbasids in 750. From 878 Palestine was ruled from Egypt by semi-autonomous rulers for almost a century, beginning with Ahmad ibn Tulun and ending with the Ikhshidid rulers who were both buried in Jerusalem. The Fatimids conquered the region in 969. In 1073, Palestine was captured by the Great Seljuq Empire, only to be recaptured by the Fatimids in 1098, who then lost the region to the Crusaders in 1099. Crusader control of Jerusalem and most of Palestine as the Kingdom of Jerusalem lasted almost a century until defeat by Saladin's forces in 1187, after which most of Palestine became controlled by the Ayyubids. A rump Crusader state in the northern coastal cities survived for another century, but despite seven further Crusades, the Crusaders were no longer a significant power in the region. The Mamluk Sultanate was indirectly created in Egypt as a result of the Seventh Crusade. The Mongol Empire reached Palestine for the first time in 1260, beginning with the Mongol raids under Nestorian Christian general Kitbuqa and reaching an apex at the pivotal Battle of Ain Jalut. In 1486, hostilities broke out between the Mamluks and the Ottoman Turks and the Ottomans captured Mamluk Palestine and Syria in 1516.

The Ottoman rule of the country lasted for four centuries, administratively included in the provinces of Ottoman Syria. In 1832, the region was conquered by Muhammad Ali's Egypt, but, in 1840, Britain intervened and returned control of the Levant to the Ottomans in return for further capitulations. The turbulent period of Egyptian rule experienced two major revolts (the 1834 Arab Peasants revolt and 1838 Druze revolt) and a significant demographic change in coastal areas, repopulated by Egyptian Arab peasants and former soldiers of Muhammad Ali. Late 19th century was the timing for regional migrations of Druze, Circassians and Bedouin tribes and also the spike of Jewish immigration and the revival of the Hebrew language. Increasing Jewish immigration in the late 19th and early 20th centuries added considerably to the Jewish communities in Jerusalem, Safed, Tiberias and Jaffa.

The British Create “Mandate Palestine” in the 1920s

A variety of nations and empires have controlled the area known today as Israel and Palestine. Before 1922, it was controlled by the Ottoman Empire. Britain sought to increase its influence and captured Jerusalem in 1922 and the League of Nations formally awarded a mandate to Britain in 1922. “Mandates” gave power to other nations for the purpose of managing a geographical area until it was ready to gain its independence. They were officially approved by the League of Nations which preceded the current United Nations. Residents of the area disagreed with the British determining when Mandate Palestine was “ready” for independence. The plans discussed among countries in the League of Nations identified separate homelands for the Jews and Palestinian Arabs. Maps of those proposals shifted among the various proposals. Maps are provided at the end of this overview document to show how the land could have been divided into new countries.

The possibility of a Jewish homeland in Palestine had been a goal of Zionist organizations since the late 19th century. Zionists are Jews who work for creation of a revived Jewish nation that previously was called Israel. The British endorsed this desire through the Balfour Declaration of 1917: *“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.”

Goals for the Jews, Palestinian Arabs, and the United Nations

Three groups are at the bargaining table for this history simulation focus on potential creation of the new countries for the Jews and the Palestinian Arabs in the same region which included what was called Palestine and Trans-Jordan in the mid-1940s. Not only are representatives from these two peoples, but also the United Nations who have their own priorities for resolving the Middle East crisis. Often in this simulation, the discussions among these three groups focus on creation of two countries for the Jews and Palestinian Arabs. Another option is to create a single country that contains both Jews and Arabs with careful constitutional guarantees for all groups living there and perhaps involvement of U.N. peace keeping troops.

Each of the three groups often had conflicting and different goals. These goals explain why each had specific objectives for the negotiations that sometimes were similar but often different from one another. Please use the following information to help argue and justify your group’s goals. Geography is very important in this simulation. Study the maps at the end of this handout. Disregard what you know eventually happens in this area with establishment of future countries. There is no requirement for you to replicate the present situation, but to create a better future in the region by the decisions you make before new countries are formed.

Palestinian Arab Delegation

Amin al-Husseini as Leader



The Arab delegation is led by **Amin al-Husseini**. He is a Palestinian Arab nationalist and Muslim leader in that region. He traces his ancestry to the Prophet Muhammed. Al-Husseini shifted his interest from promoting pan-Arabism to local nationalism for Palestinian Arabs. He actively opposed Zionism (creating a new separate country for the Jews). He was accused of leading protests that led to rioting to advocate for an independent Palestine. Al-Husseini was sentenced to a long prison term but was pardoned by the British since they viewed him as a strong leader who could unite the Arabs. The British appointed him as Grand Muffat Jerusalem, a position to promote Islam and rally Arab nationalism to oppose Zionism. At the end of his career, he opposed the United Nations plan to partition the region and create a new Jewish country. He also opposed a plan to create the modern nation of Jordan from the previous British mandate area of Palestine also called Trans-Jordan. For more information about him, see the short Wikipedia biography.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amin_al-Husseini

The Arabs in the Middle East were concerned by the rapid immigration of Jews from around the world into the region called Palestine. The U.N. prohibited the Jews from moving into the Trans-Jordan region located to the east of Palestine. Both of these regions were under control

of the British as Mandate territories. Since the U.N. was already restricting immigration of Jews into Trans-Jordan, they wanted strict quotas of Jews that could immigrate into Palestine.

Some Jews and Christians already were living in the region of Palestine. Most of them lived along the coastline. The U.N. expected the new Arab nation would have specific provisions in their constitution to protect the rights of all people regardless of nationality or religion such as freedom of religion, speech, assembly, and other rights that were commonly included in national constitutions of most nations.

The Arabs wanted to move more of their people into Palestine since their ancestors had lived there for more than 3,000 years. They wanted unrestricted immigration quotas into Palestine since they believed this was already their nation even though the U.N. had not made an official ruling yet. The new country needed borders that were defensible from the Jews who were claiming this land and also to protect from neighboring Arab countries. These surrounding Arab countries might want to annex or expand their borders and take over the Trans-Jordan and Palestine territories. In addition to defensible borders, they also needed direct access to waterways to make it easier to move agricultural food, manufactured goods, and other items more easily in and out of their new nation.

The Arabs requested the U.N. recognize the Palestine territory as their nation solely. From the Palestinian Arab perspective, this was already their country since they had been nearly the sole residents of the region since the Jews left 2,000 years earlier. Along with recognition by the U.N. of their borders, the Arabs also wanted the U.N. to recognize Jerusalem as their capital since it was within their borders. As a general rule, the U.N. permits nations to name their own national capital without interference. If the U.N. recognized a different region as a new homeland for the Jews, the Arabs expected them to recognize their new nation of Palestine and respect their choice as their national capital as well as their borders.

Since the Palestinians would initially have with little to no military forces, they would accept the U.N. to place peace-keeping troops inside their new country to protect them from countries on their border who might invade or annex their land. The Arabs were also interested in forming military alliances with China and the Soviet Union to protect them against war. In addition to being willing to send military troops from China or the Soviet Union to help repel an attack, they were also agreeable to provide high-technology offensive and defensive weapons to the Palestinians. It was possible that either China or the Soviet Union might secretly provide a small number of nuclear weapons to use in defense of their country in case of an invasion. The Palestinian leaders refused to say whether or not they had nuclear weapons. The uncertainty might be enough to prevent any outside country from invading. Part of their fear was that the United States might provide military protection, advanced weapons, and nuclear bombs for defense of a new Jewish nation.

The Palestinian Arabs were recognized as industrious and hard-working people. It was common for them to work across the borders in countries such as Egypt, Iraq, and Syria. They were not required to go through rigorous border crossings as long as they had a government-issued worker permit (similar to a Green Card in the U.S.) or other official documentation.

These permits allowed them to live in the country as long as they had the approved worker permit which allowed them to stay for a specific number of years before seeking renewal.

Jewish Delegation

David Ben-Gurion as Leader



The Jewish delegation is led by **David Ben-Gurion**. He is a Jew that possessed an early passion for Zionism (*resurrecting the country of Israel in its original location*). Ben-Gurion was the de facto leader of the Jewish community in Palestine, and largely led its struggle for an independent Jewish state in the Palestine Mandate controlled by the British. He was born in Poland which was eventually controlled by Russia. At age 14, he and several other friends formed a youth club, promoting Hebrew studies and emigration to what he called the Holy Land. Ben-Gurion grew up in a peaceful Polish town populated with Jews,

Poles, and Russians. Ben-Gurion urged restraint and not to retaliate when there was violence by Arabs against Jews living in British Mandate Palestine. He was willing to compromise to accomplish a purpose. He believed in equal rights of Arabs and that they should be paid the same as a Jew. Ben-Gurion wanted more than just peace, he wanted collaboration with the Arabs. For more information about him, see the short Wikipedia biography,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Ben-Gurion

For the Jews, obtaining a new homeland for their people is a deeply religious return back to their heritage that had been violently taken away from them by the Romans in 73 A.D. Ancient Israel had been their home for more than a thousand years. For them, it was the “*Promised Land*” they received from God after their captivity in Egypt for generations and the cruel treatment and death they faced from their captors. Significant religious events occurred inside of ancient Israel. Jerusalem had special meaning for them as it was their ancient capital and also the site of the holy temple where important religious practices were held. Jerusalem is mentioned over 450 times in their sacred writings and in the Old Testament for the Christians. They planned to once again make Jerusalem again their political capital as well as the center for economic and religious activity. When they were dispersed by the Romans, they fled to Africa, Europe, and Asia. The Jews faced discrimination and death often throughout their history in exile from Israel. The opportunity to reunite with their homeland and to reunite with their separated brothers and sisters throughout the world provided an opportunity to become whole again.

Since they sought to reunite the Jewish people in a new homeland, they did not want any regulations regarding immigration quotas into this land. The Jews did not ask for any financial help from the U.N. or other nations. The Jews would bring wealth, resources, and a strong work ethic to build up the new country to be economically self-sufficient.

This desire to reunite the Jewish people was not shared by any of the Arab nations in the Middle East. The leaders of a new nation knew that they would face the potential for war at the very beginning of their existence. Therefore, they needed to have defensible borders to make attack from potential adversaries more difficult. Having one of their borders along the sea

would provide one less invasion route and ports to engage in commerce and import/export. They did not want their country to be so narrow in size that it would be easier for an invading force to cut the new nation in half. While the Arabs already living in the proposed new nation of the Jews were welcome to stay as citizens of the new Jewish country, strict regulations would be made for potential Arab immigrants. Checkpoints would be maintained by the Jewish military along the border to monitor people from neighboring countries that wanted to work inside the new country. Since the land inside the country was reserved for the large numbers of Jewish immigrants, the foreign workers were not to be allowed to stay overnight. They would need to possess officially-issued work permits by the government. This regulation system also was needed to stop potential terrorists from entering the country. The Jewish leaders expected that neighboring countries would monitor their own people regarding violence committed against the Jews in their new country. Those residents of other countries would be arrested, tried, and punished if they engaged in violence or planned to engage in violence against the Jews. If lawbreakers were caught inside the new Jewish nation, that government would do the same for them without returning them to their original country.

The Jewish leaders wanted the U.N. to help guarantee their security. They expected U.N. military forces to immediately attack any country that threatened or engaged in an invasion of the new Jewish nation. However, the U.N. troops were not to be stationed inside of the new country. The Jews did not trust the U.N. since there were many member countries that opposed the creation of a new Jewish nation. While a remote chance, they did not want the U.N. forces to be inside the Jewish nation and then suddenly attack their nation and attempt to disarm the military and occupy its capital of Jerusalem. The new nation also resisted attempts to make it agree to not sign a military alliance with NATO or specifically the U.S. to help defend them. For all they knew, some or all the Arab countries already had secret military alliances with China and the Soviet Union. Jewish military leaders did not want to be prohibited from accepting or purchasing weapons from Britain or the U.S. since those were needed to defend their small country from the huge Arab nations that surrounded them. The Jewish leaders wanted to establish uncertainty whether they possessed nuclear weapons or not to decrease the chances that an Arab country would try to either destroy their nation or to invade it. Therefore, they would not sign a nuclear-free zone agreement since they believed China and the Soviet Union were potentially ready to give or sell advanced weapon systems and nuclear bombs to neighboring Arab countries.

While 2,000 years ago the Jews and Arabs had lived together in relative harmony, it would not be realistic to easily resume that relationship again. Jews had been moving back into the Palestine territory ruled by the British Mandate starting in the late 1800s. In order to provide space for the many immigrants who wanted to enter a new Jewish nation, some Arabs would need to be relocated. The Trans-Jordan territory, also ruled by the British Mandate, was located beside Palestine to the east. Since it was not declared to be a new nation yet and had low population density, the Jews reasoned that the United Nations could create this as a new nation for the Arabs and help pay for the relocation. The Jews would be willing to also provide limited financial assistance.

United Nations Delegation

Oswaldo Aranha as Leader



The U.N. delegation is led by **Oswaldo Aranha**. He is a Brazilian politician, diplomat, and statesman. He was eventually selected to serve as President of the United Nations General Assembly. Aranha practiced law for eight years. Afterwards, he was selected to serve as Assistant Police Commissioner in Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil. He served in elective office as Mayor, member of state legislature, and elected to the National Congress. He served in the Brazilian Cabinet as Minister of Finance, Minister of Justice, and Minister of External Relations with other countries (similar to the U.S. Secretary of State). For more information about him, see the short Wikipedia biography, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oswaldo_Aranha

The United Nations was created as successor to the old League of Nations. While the League provided a place for nations to talk with each other, it had no military force to intervene in disputes and take military action to protect people. The new United Nations can create a U.N. military force to bring peace to a region and even engage in military combat. The creation of a new Jewish nation presented the first major event that the U.N. could have stationed troops in these Middle Eastern countries. While Palestinian Arabs might have welcomed the U.N. soldiers to protect them from the Jews, the Jews did not want the U.N. involved. This is why they did not want the U.N. to station troops inside their new country that might interfere with their country's political system and dictate their borders. Having the U.N. inside a country is a sign to the world that they are unable to maintain peace and need others to protect them. However, most everyone could welcome the U.N. pledge to intervene with their military to prevent attacks from other countries. Since the U.N. perceives themselves as the peacekeepers for the world, they do not want either Jews or Palestinians to accept military assistance from outside countries, especially the Superpower countries such as China, Soviet Union, or the United States. The U.N. also does not want countries in the Middle East to formerly join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) led by the U.S. or the Warsaw Pact led by the Soviet Union since this could bring those nations to directly intervene in the Middle East or potentially engage in war with one another since NATO and Warsaw Pact are primarily military alliances to protect other members of their coalition. A drawback of relying on the U.N. to act during a war is that it could take weeks or months for them to vote for a military intervention and more time to build a coalition of troops from the U.N. countries to intervene.

Having a country "*recognized*" as a legitimate and official independent nation by other countries or political organizations is very important. When a country is recognized, it is viewed as legitimate and deserving of its land and is a potential economic partner for mutual trade agreements. If it is not recognized by another country, it could be a prelude of conflict or war and perhaps being taken over and included as part of the other. It is not in the interest of a newly formed Jewish nation to recognize Palestine as a new country since it would appear they accepted the other as a legitimate country that should be respected. The Jewish leaders wanted the land occupied by the Palestinian people for use by their Jewish people for living and farming purposes. Palestinian Arabs had the same concerns about Jews. Both wanted to have a new nation recognized by the United Nations as legitimate countries and even better for them if the other was not recognized by the U.N.

A general principle by the United Nations is when a new nation is created, everyone living there and granted citizenship and not be forced to move. The children of these residents would be permitted to stay as well. However, the new nation could set up strict regulations regarding the number and country of origin for people who wanted to immigrate into the new country. A way to promote peace within the countries among the different ethnic and religious groups was to have a national constitution that protected the rights of the minority groups. A British-style parliamentary style of democracy requires a cluster of smaller political parties to compromise and work together to govern the nation since no one political party was in the majority. Such a political system might ensure better treatment of the Jews, Muslims, Christians, and other minority groups living in these Middle Eastern countries.

To better understand the priorities of the United Nations, the following is taken from their official documents. *The Four Purposes of the United Nations*²:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
3. To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
4. To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

Mutual Issues for the Jews, Palestinian Arabs, and United Nations

Land Ownership

Land ownership is a high priority for everyone. The challenge for the Jews and Arabs is that they used to live in the same geographic area 2,000 years ago. The ancient name for the region was Israel. When the Jews were forced to flee this area due to persecution by the Roman Empire, the Arabs spread out to occupy the land abandoned by the Jews. The Arabs lived in the area that was renamed "Palestine" and remained undisturbed for nearly 2,000 years. During the late 1800s Jews began to gradually migrate back into Palestine. This emigration rapidly escalated as Jews sought refuge in their old homeland in the Middle East. The British controlled this area of the Middle East as a Mandate. Mandates were areas of land under the jurisdiction of another country, often one of the old European countries that had colonies in other countries. The British were sympathetic to the Jews and had campaigned for the recreation of the old nation of Israel throughout the first half of the 20th century (for

² United Nations Charter. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter1.shtml>

example, the Balfour Proclamation). Therefore, the British permitted the emigration of Jews into a land that was dominated by the Arabs in Palestine. However, the British prohibited immigration of Jews into Trans-Jordan which was also part of the British Mandate. Both the Jews and Arabs needed a country with access to the coastline and ports to easily bring in and export goods. Having defensible borders of the country were critical for its survival from potentially hostile surrounding countries.

Location of the Country's Capital

Equally important to recognizing a country is designating the national capital. This is the location for the political system and is symbolic of their country throughout the world. Much like Berlin during the Cold War period, Jerusalem was symbolic for whoever claims it for religious or political purposes. The Jews, Muslims, and Christians hold special meaning for Jerusalem. All three religions trace important events in their religions to occurring inside Jerusalem. The ancient capital of Israel was Jerusalem.

The Great Temple for the Jews was located inside the city. The Romans destroyed the Temple when they occupied the city around 73 A.D. This section of the Jerusalem remained mostly unoccupied until the Muslim faith claimed another important religious event occurred exactly on the same spot as the ancient Jewish Temple. To remember the event, the Muslims built the "Dome of the Rock" worship center and other buildings on the surrounding land. Some Jews want to tear down that building and rebuild their old great temple. Doing so would probably begin a new war in the Middle East between the Arab countries and the Jews. Christians care about Jerusalem due to the same events from the Old Testament important to the Jews (which the Christians see as part of their spiritual ancestry) as well as the events that occurred within the city that involved Jesus of Nazareth.

Economic, Security, and Citizenship Interests

The Jews and the Palestinian Arabs do not want the United Nations to restrict the number of potential immigrants from a culture or religion. As a sovereign nation, both do not want outsiders restricting their rights as an independent nation. Small and young nations want to grow quickly so they could create a military force that could deal with potentially hostile neighbors and build a self-sufficient nation with a diversified economy that could support itself. On the other hand, the neighboring Arab countries believed that desire for rapid growth of a new Jewish nation would justify building more new housing developments in land formerly occupied by the Palestinians. For this reason, the Arabs appeal to the U.N. to restrict immigration of Jews into this region. The Jews simply saw the building program as a return back to conditions in the area 2,000 years ago when they had homes, businesses, and villages in the area.

Regardless of the personal feelings between the Jews and Arabs, both had economic ties with one another. There were not enough Jewish workers for new agricultural production, businesses, and industry factory workers. This would lead to recruitment of Arabs from neighboring countries. If a new country was formed for the Jews, Arabs would be hired to work during the day inside a Jewish nation. At night they would have to go back to their home

country since the Jews wanted only Jewish immigrants to reside in the country. High unemployment rates for Arabs in the region along with low wages in their countries left them with no practical alternative but to work inside a new Jewish nation. Since the Jews were worried about terrorists coming into the country, they wanted a strong security system along the borders and throughout the country to check Arabs as they entered, did work, and left. Checkpoints could be located throughout the country with military personnel checking all who pass through that they have worker permits and identification cards. The neighboring Arab countries had poor living conditions for many of its people. A few within the surrounding countries enjoyed the new wealth from exporting oil. The majority of people in those countries lived in poverty. The Arabs needed high paying jobs and they could be found inside a new Jewish nation as long as they understood they could not live inside that country.

There are similarities between the need of the Arab workers for a new Jewish nation and the financial benefit of undocumented workers doing jobs that other Americans do not want to do in the United States. The U.S. government leaders struggle how to fairly treat these workers but also protect the safety of the U.S. The government says this is why immigration has been more restrictive and in some cases a travel ban from some countries to the U.S. Historically, the United States has used rigorous standards to permit immigration into the country. These immigrants needed to demonstrate they had workforce skills that would enable them and their families to become economically independent of government help. Naturalized citizenship in the U.S. for the new immigrants required them to be proficient in English, pass a citizenship test of basic information, undergo a personal interview with government officials, take an oath of allegiance to the U.S., and have been in the country for a specified number of years. The U.S. created a process for non-citizens to obtain a worker card (green card) so they could stay in the country and work and then decide if they wanted to pursue the citizenship process. The worker permit had to be renewed on a periodic basis. While current U.S. immigration and citizenship rules are much more complicated than explained in this paragraph, use this information for discussion of creating such policies for countries formed as a result of this history simulation.

Part of the reason that many of the Syrian immigrants are welcomed into countries like Germany is that the current German population are not producing enough children to replace the current workers and future employment needs. This is true through most of Europe. Due to rapid influx of new immigrants from Africa and Syria, some domestic problems have occurred when there is not a national movement to include these new people into the country and create an inclusive culture. In some countries like France, the new Arab immigrants gravitate to smaller living areas to be supportive of each other. Poverty and unemployment rates are high in these immigrant communities. They do not feel included in their new homeland and some historic residents and business owners of the country discriminate against them. Consider using the above information to think about decisions that could be made during this history simulation.

Overview of Population Tables and Maps of the Region

The population tables for the different regions of this area and the number of people who were Muslim, Jewish, Christian, and others living there in the early 1940s. This information can be helpful when creating one or more new countries. A goal of the United Nations was to create new countries that consisted mostly of one type of ethnic or religious group. They thought that doing so would reduce the chance for internal civil war between different ethnic groups. It is not easy to move people from one region to another. People have homes, businesses, and long-term history where they live. Imagine for yourself what it would have been like for you and your family if you ordered to move out of your home and be transported to a nearby state. Imagine if you lost everything and no one compensated your family for loss of the home and the family business. What sort of compensation would you expect for this loss? Use this information along with the maps during your negotiations to justify requests.

After the population tables, maps identify how the region was organized before a new Jewish or Palestinian nation were formed. The British initially controlled all the land as a Mandate with the anticipation that the land would be released from British control to create independent nations.

Use this population information when you consider developing borders for a new Jewish and Palestinian nation. Remember it is difficult to move populations of people from their historic homes and emotionally distressing for them as well. It certainly does not make the negotiating any easier, but it also explains why it has been so difficult to find peace in the Middle East over the past fifty years. Or the last 2,000 years for that matter.

United Nations Census of Palestine in 1945 by Town and Sub-District

<i>Locality</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Muslims</i>	<i>Jews</i>	<i>Christian</i>	<i>Others</i>
	Total	1,845,560	1,076,780	608,230	145,060	15,490
	Urban	894,570	328,810	447,840	115,980	1,940
	Rural	950,990	747,970	160,390	29,080	13,550
Acre Sub-district (North of Jerusalem)		73,600	51,130	3,030	11,800	7,640
Tiberias Sub-district (NE of Jerusalem)		41,470	23,940	13,640	2,470	1,420
Nazareth Sub-district (North of Jerusalem)		49,910	30,160	7,980	11,770	-
Haifa Sub-district (Coastline)		253,450	95,970	119,020	33,710	4,760
<u>Samaria District (West of Jordan river)</u>						
Jenin Sub-district (West Bank)		61,210	60,000	-	1,210	-
Nablus Sub-district (West of Jordan River)		94,600	92,810	-	1,560	230
Tulkarm Sub- district (West of Jordan river)		93,220	76,640	16,180	380	20
<u>Jerusalem District (West of Jordan River)</u>						
Ramallah Sub-district (West of Jordan River)		48,930	40,520	-	8,410	-
Jerusalem Sub- district (West of Jordan River)		253,270	104,460	102,520	46,130	160
Hebron Sub-district (West of Jordan River)		93,120	92,640	300	170	10
<u>Lydda District (Coastal)</u>						
Jaffa Sub-district (Coastal)		409,290	95,980	295,160	17,790	360
Ramle Sub-district (Coastal)		134,030	96,590	31,590	5,840	10
<u>Gaza District (Near Egypt, Coastal)</u>						
Gaza Sub-district (Near Egypt)		150,540	145,700	3,540	1,300	-
Beersheba Sub- district (Near Egypt)		7,000	6,270	510	210	10

SEPARATION OF TRANSJORDAN

In 1921, the British established the Emirate of Transjordan in the area east of the Jordan River and closed it to Jewish settlement, although Transjordan remained part of the British Mandate for Palestine.

