

History of Israel: British Mandate to 1948



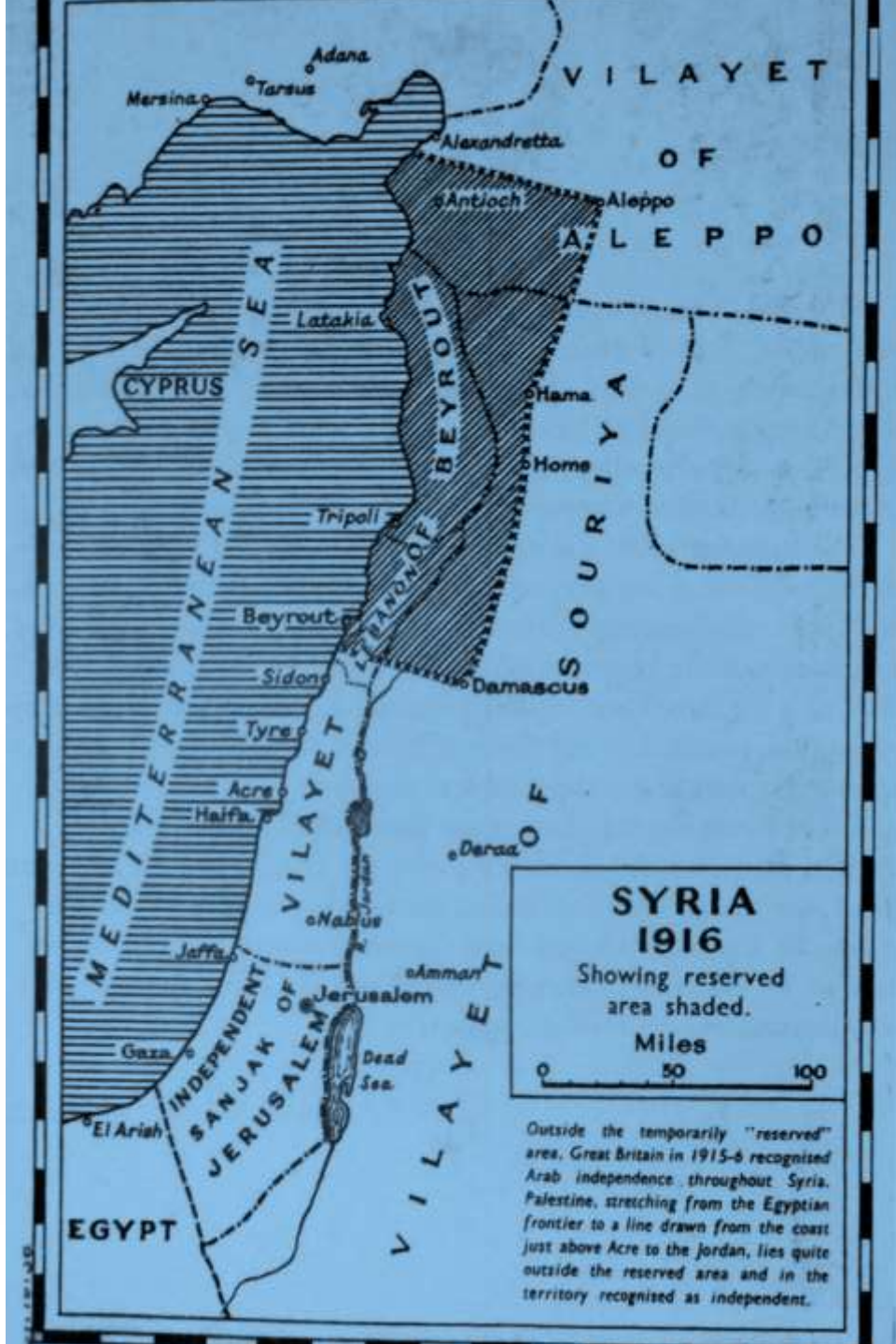
British Promises and Agreements

1916 McMahon – Hussein Correspondence

- Between Hussein Ibn Ali and Sir Henry McMahon, recognizing Arab independence after WWI for the assistance (military + commercial)

1917: Balfour Declaration

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"



Flag:

The Arab Revolt

The meaning:

- Red represents the symbol of the Khawarij, the first Islamic republic
- Black is a symbol of remembrance of the Prophet Mohammad, and a traditional color of Islamic fighters in battle
- White is the color to ride into battle with, and was the color adopted by the Umayyad Dynasty.
- Green is a symbol of the Fatimid Dynasty to symbolize their allegiance to Ali, the Prophet's cousin.



Flag: The Zionist Movement

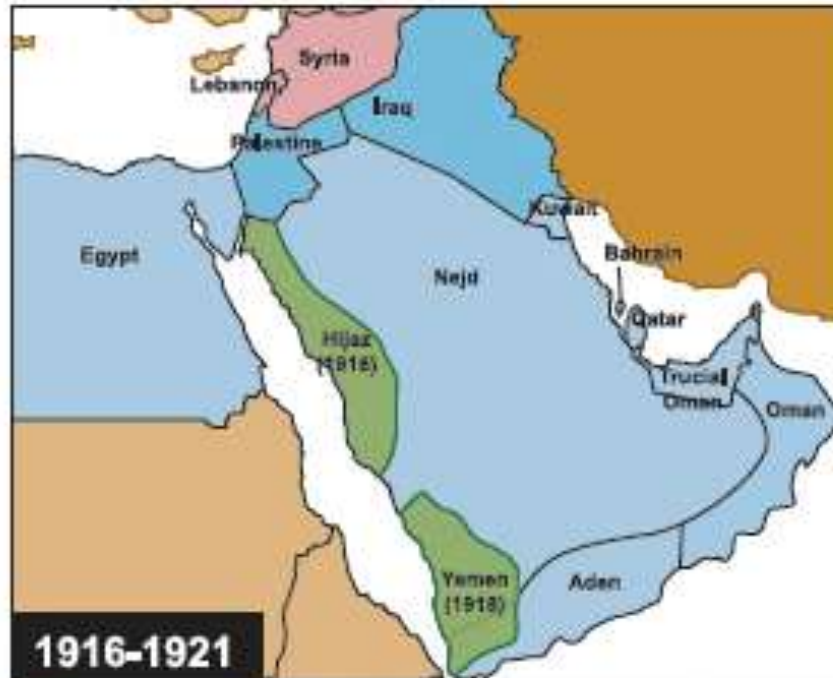
The meaning of the Israeli Authority flag

- Designed for the Zionist Movement in the late 1800s
- Based on the Tallit, Jewish prayer shawl
- The Star of David represents the shield of King David
- Blue and white are the colors of Judah; white is the radiance of the priesthood, and blue, the splendors of the firmament.



The Division of the Middle East & The wars to follow

The Middle East: A neighborhood of young countries



The newly established League of Nations set up "mandates" to be administered by France and England until the new states were ready for self-government. The boundaries established at the end of World War I would be changed several times before assuming their current form.



The independence of most of the Middle East's modern nation-states is relatively recent, although the region is home to many ancient cultures. Several of these states, such as Bahrain and Kuwait, are younger than Israel.

*Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

The British Mandate

Who made decisions?



Consequences of bad promises...

1922

In response to **Arab pressure** (from King Hussein), Britain changed the Mandate and cut off 77% and gave it to the **Hashemites** – soon to become the **Kingdom of Jordan** (which his son **Abdullah** would rule).

1929

Arab Revolt in Palestine (**Hebron** and Tsfat)

1936-1939

Second Arab Revolt (opposing British decisions and promises to the Jewish Agency)

1939

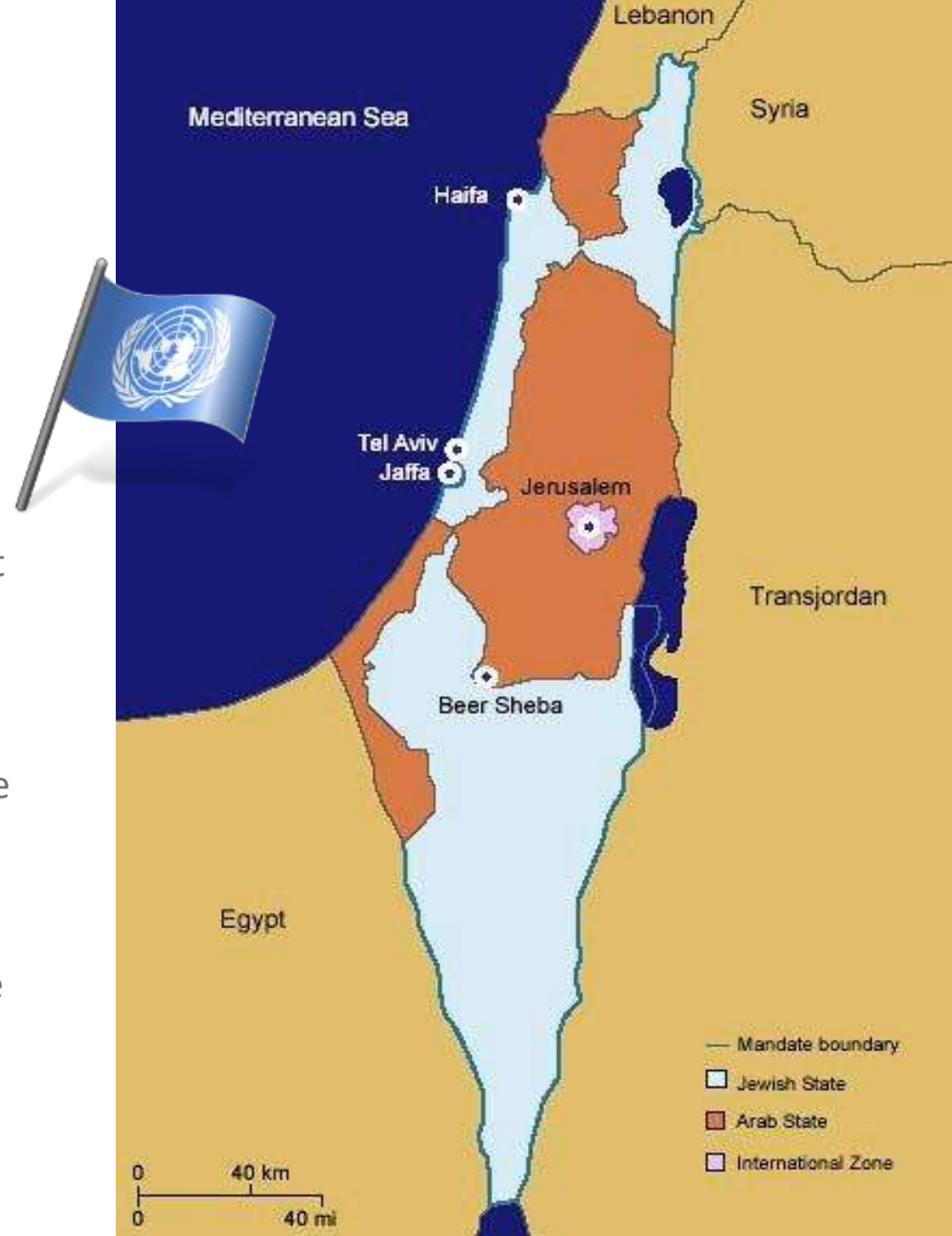
White Papers, classifying the Jews as a **minority** in a future Arab state, and **restricted Jewish immigration**.



1947

UN Partition Plan

- Great Britain passes decision-making powers over Israel to the **UN**
- General Assembly decides to grant Israel independence, **passes Resolution 181** on November 29, 1947, (Vote: 33-13)
- The UN plan created a Jewish state and an Arab state with Jerusalem under international control. Despite the fact that Jews had been a majority in Jerusalem since 1860.



1947

The Jewish State

"ISRAEL...will be based on freedom, justice and peace...ensure complete equality of social and political rights...irrespective of religion, race or sex...guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture...[and] safeguard the Holy Places of all religions."

—Israel's Declaration of Statehood,
May 14, 1948



Number of Countries by Religious Majority

- 67 Roman Catholic
- 49 Islamic
- 49 Protestant
- 14 Eastern Orthodox
- 3 Hindu
- 1 Jewish

1948

War of Independence

Armistice Lines

- The surrounding **Arab leaders objected** to the creation of a Jewish state in the region.
- **Clashes** begin immediately after the UN Plan was passed (1947), mainly in **Hebron and Jerusalem**.
- Israel declared independence, the war lasted until February 1949, when **armistice agreements** were signed with bordering nations.
- This war is called “**HaNakba**”, The Catastrophe” in Arabic by the **Palestinians**, and the **War of Independence** by the Israelis.

