



## **MacArthur Memorial Education Programs**

### Mapping the Legacy of World War I in the Middle East

**Directions:** On the map below, label the North Sea, the Alps, the Ottoman Empire, Serbia, Russia, Austria-Hungary, Germany, Belgium, France, and Great Britain. Drawing on your knowledge of the 1914 alliances in Europe, choose two colors and use one to color in the Allied nations and one to color in the Central Powers.

By the end of 1914, trenches stretched more than 400 miles from the North Sea to the Alps in Switzerland. The war that everyone thought would be a quick war had turned into a stalemate. The Allied Powers and the Central Powers proved unable to defeat each other.

Draw a circle around the Balkans. This is the area where World War I began. If the war started in the Balkans, why does the fighting stretch across Western Europe? Why do you think the war eventually spread to the Middle East?



**Directions:** Use the maps below to answer the following questions.

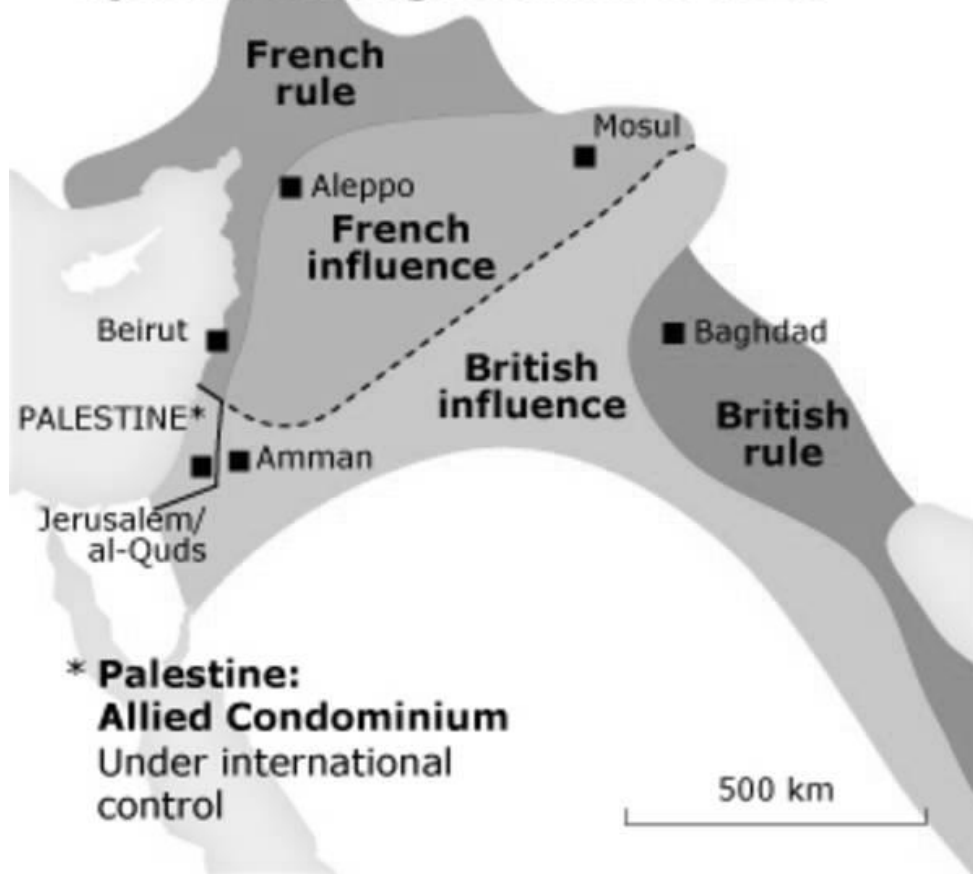
1. Examine the map of the Middle East in 1914. What entities control this territory? What European nations have interests or territory in the Middle East?

2. In 1914, the Ottoman Empire was known as the “sick man of Europe.” What do you think this phrase meant? Examine the territory the Ottoman Empire controls. What do you think will happen to this territory if the Ottoman Empire collapses?



3. What side does the Ottoman Empire fight on in World War I?

## Sykes-Picot Agreement in 1916

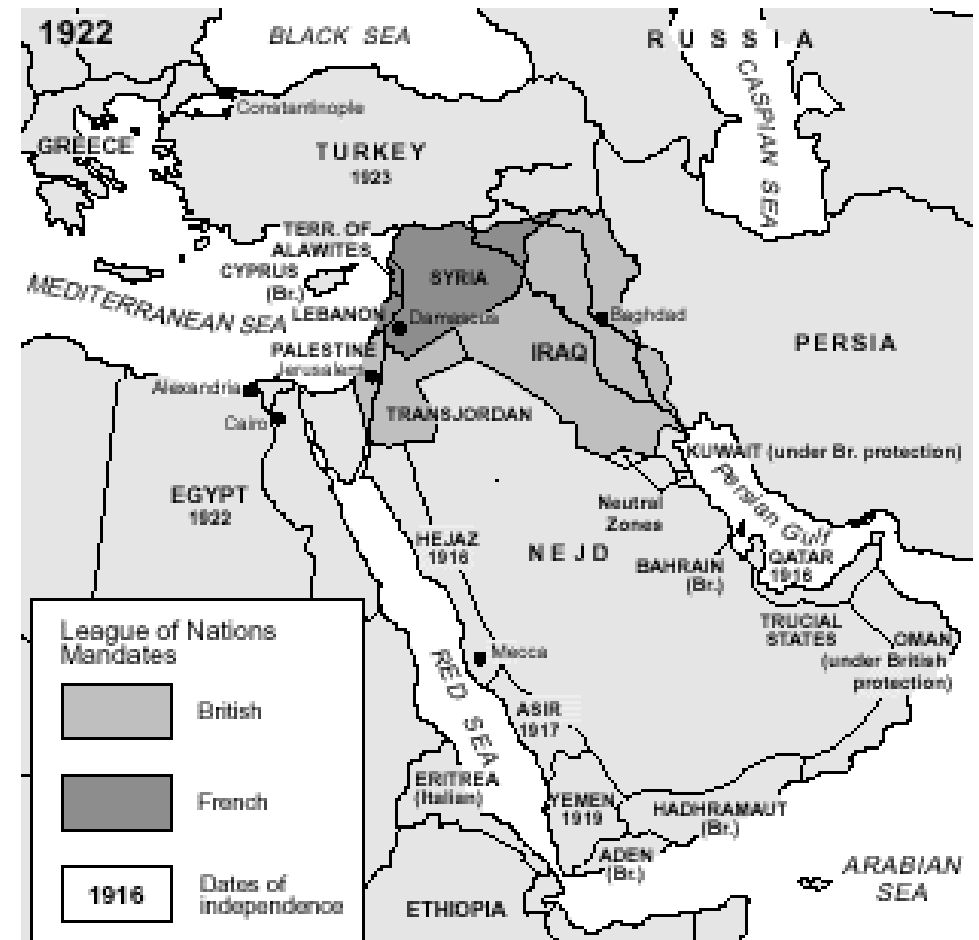


1. The Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916 was a secret agreement between France and Great Britain to redraw the borders of the Middle East once the Ottoman Empire had been defeated. Do you recognize some of the cities on this map? Based on the 1916 Agreement, which European nation was going to control these cities?

2. People living in the Middle East were not consulted during the formation of the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Many were living under Ottoman rule and had been promised independence if they would help the Allies fight against the Ottomans. When the Sykes-Picot Agreement became public, how do you think they felt?

1. Examine this map of the Middle East in 1922. After World War I, who controlled much of the Middle East?

2. Which countries do you recognize from today that existed in 1922? Are there countries that no longer exist? Are there new countries?



3. Historians consider World War I to be an event with a “long shadow.” What does this mean? Can you think of any issues or crises today that involve these countries in the Middle East? Even a century later, could these events be related to World War I?