

4b Source analysis handout

Why did Britain govern Palestine-Israel between 1920 and 1948?

The League of Nations

* The establishment of the League of Nations was an important **consequence** of WWI
* It was an **international organisation** set up with the primary aim of **avoiding another world war**
* The idea was that countries would settle disputes by **negotiating**, and they would also commit to **disarmament** (reducing their weapons)
* One of the key individuals behind this was US President **Woodrow Wilson**. Wilson believed in **self-determination**

What did this mean for Palestine-Israel?

* Before WWI, Palestine-Israel had been **part of the Ottoman Empire**
* The Ottoman Empire had joined the war on the side of the **Central powers** including Germany in October 1914
* When the Central powers were **defeated**, who was going to govern the territories of the former Ottoman Empire? The League of Nations discussed this and came up with the idea of the **Mandates system**

The Mandates system

* The idea that the territories of the former German and Ottoman empires, including **Palestine-Israel**, would be governed by the victorious powers of WWI until the League of Nations deemed that they were **ready to govern themselves**
* The territories of the former German and Ottoman empires were divided into three groups. The former territories of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East were all **Class A Mandates.** This meant that their **independence was recognised,** but they would still be under **British or French control**
* This included *Iraq*, *Syria*, *Lebanon*, *Transjordan* and *Palestine-Israel*
* Mandates were meant to be **fairer than colonies** because the governing power was responsible to the League of Nations, and ultimately the aim was for the territory to achieve self-determination so **govern itself**. In reality, however, Mandates were still quite colonial in nature

Palestine-Israel

* Britain was assigned the Mandate for Palestine-Israel in **April 1920**
* In **July 1920**, Britain established a civil administration in the country
* The Mandate was legally approved in **September 1923**
* Britain’s governance of Palestine lasted until **1948**