

Arab World in the Twentieth Century: Major Developments and Their Impacts

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Abstract

Twentieth century is the century of the enormous changes in the world historical timeline from the bloodletting world wars, nuclear proliferation, technological advancement, great depression, formation of world power blocks, capitalism, fascism, and communism to the rise of terrorism. On the other hand, the discovery of the hidden wealth of fossil fuels beneath the sandy deserts of the Arabian peninsula history of entire Middle East changed and the new destiny of the history was determined meanwhile new political events in the global north and global south formulated a new historical time line in the Arab countries. From the deterioration of the Ottomans, emergence of Zionist movement, formation of the new Jewish state – Israel in the heart of the Muslim home land, the European colonization and de-colonization, Suez canal crisis, the Arab Israel wars and the conflict of Palestine are the major historical events of the twentieth century Arab world. The objective of this paper is to assess the significance of the historical events of the twentieth century in the Arabian Peninsula in order to highlight their impacts on the ongoing issues of the Middle East such as the Palestine issue, the Kurdish issue and Islamic militancy in the Middle East Syrian conflict etc.

Keywords: Zionism, Arab World, Suez Canal crisis, Arab Israel wars, fascism, great depression, Balkans crisis, young Turks, genocide, world wars, gulf countries, Middle East, revolution, rebellions, the clash of civilization.

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INTRODUCTION

This study concentrates on the Arab World which is the land of intercontinental regions and which is centered on Western Asia, North Africa and Asia Minor which comprises of an area of three million square miles with a population of more than 371 million people. Located between the Gulf of Persia and the Mediterranean Sea the land called “Arabia” along with the north Africa, Iran,

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Iraq, Turkiye and the modern Middle East is present on the crossroads of Africa, Asia and Europe.² About the three quarters of the Arab World is covered by the deserts. The environment of the Arab peninsula is hot and the temperature rising 150 degree Fahrenheit in summer day time and the average annual rain fall does not accede 3-4 inches. The occasional rain arrives with heavy storms and floods and as a consequence of these rains the clumps of grass and spring of shrubs bloom. There appear various oases with the fresh spring waters which gives life to the shrubs and trees in the deserts. For centuries nomads have traveled from desert to desert in the search of water.

The largest mountain ranges run along the western and southern edge of the Arabian Peninsula the mountains of Arabia are 1000 to 12000 feet high from the sea level.³ There are 21 states in the modern Arab world which is stretched from sub-Sahara to Middle East including (in alphabetical order) Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, UAE and Yemen. The majority of native people living here are called Arabs who are speaking the Semitic Arabic language. Some Arabs called their home land “Al-jazeera” the land of island. Mediterranean sea to the north and the red sea to the east the Suez canal is located in Egypt, connecting the Indian ocean to the Atlantic ocean. Most of the Arabian countries comprised of the lands of deserts and oasis however there are the hidden treasures of natural oil beneath these deserts. Arabian countries are the major producers and exporters of the petroleum to the rest of the world. These countries are culturally and historically enriched since the time period in which Islam was spread – often called the era of the renaissance of the Arabian region, The Arabic style of the building edifices, Islamic literature, wisdom, mysticism and calligraphy are the heritage of the Arab peninsula. The holy cities of the Makah and Madina and their religious institutions are considered as the face of the Islamic civilization. Yearly millions of Muslims across the continents, from global north to the global south visit for the pilgrimage of the holy city of Makah.

The Arab world is inhabited by diverse groups of people with diverse historical backgrounds and cultural heritage. Since the seventh century onward with the dawn of Islam the destiny of the Arab nation transformed. Before the advent of Islam Arabs were a collection of the backward nomadic people but after the arrival of the Islam within few centuries Arabs became one of the powerful empire builders of the world and their empire stretched from Central Asia to Spain. However, the power was shifted from Arabs to external powers after the 12th century. Turks, since the eleventh century dominated the peripheries of Abbasid Empire where the Turkic military dynasties got power from their former Arab masters. In the thirteenth century the new threat from the Mongol destroyed the Abbasid Caliphate. The Ottoman Empire was created by the Turkish military tribesmen in the year 1299, which was succeeded as the emerging empire in the next centuries. Until 16th and 17th century the Ottoman Empire was on the peak of the expansion of its territories from Balkans to sub-Saharan Africa and Arabian Peninsula confirming the demise of the regional

² *world atlas* . 2 3, 2013. <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/the-largest-countries-in-the-middle-east.html> (accessed 3 17, 2023).

³ *The Geography of the Arabian Peninsula FULL TEXT with Pictures.pdf*. 3 1, 2021. <https://www.neshaminy.org/cms/lib6/PA01000466/Centricity/Domain/439/Chapter> (accessed 2 17, 2023).

hegemony of Arab. There was the hegemony of the Ottomans Caliphate⁴ over the Arabs until first World War in the twentieth century⁵.

With the fall of the Ottoman Empire in the beginning twentieth century as a consequence of a number of factors including their defeat in World War I, the allied powers took control of many parts of the Ottoman Empire, under the Treaty of Sevres, 1920. Britain took the control over the Palestine and Iraq on the other side France took the control over the Syria, southern Anatolia and Lebanon.⁶ The formal international recognition and independence was given to Hejaz along with the Macca and Medina its important cities. The Treaty of Sevres failed to deal with the Kurds issue even there was initial agreement on the boundaries of the Kurdistan but Kurds rejected because it failed to include the region called the Van.⁷ The history of the 20th century in the Arab world is also encompassed by the formation of the new states, with the formation of the Israel in 1948, Arab world went into number of nationalist movements and wars which are explained the next sections in detail.

The Twentieth Century: An Era of Great Change

The twentieth century is the era of enormous historical movements and changes whether these changes are political, socio economic or scientific, twentieth century is the century of the great significance in the human history. It is the era of the secret alliances, race for armaments, narrow nationalism, aggressive imperialism, lack of machinery to regulate international relations and so on. There were many economic, social and political results of the World War I however this war ended with the treaty of Versailles and the formation of the League of Nations. The abolishment of the Ottoman Empire after the first world war is one of the major historical changes in the twentieth century, after the bloodshed of first and second world wars, the terminal decline in the French, Spanish and British colonial empires and then the process of decolonization in sub-Saharan, African and Asian in the twentieth century the era of freedom movements in the world and the emergence of the newly born states in the world map and there is history of the formation and the deformation of the newly born states like Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. The transformation of the steam engines to the more advanced diesel engines after the discovery of the diesel in the 1910 which was effort to the fast transportation and the discovery of the new wealth of crude oil beneath the lands of Arabian peninsula, the advancement from railways to supersonic jets, inter-continental ballistic missile systems, increased use of the Suez-canal which is the construction of the world new sea route which connects the Mediterranean sea to the red sea and the Suez-canal crisis are considered as the most important events in the world history as well as the Middle Eastern history of the twentieth century. Further, the Zionist movements leading to the

⁴ The Ottoman Sultan Selim I proclaimed himself the caliph of Islam in 1517 after his conquest of Mamluk Egypt and hence the Caliphate was proclaimed by Ottoman rulers till the end of the Ottoman Empire in 1923.

⁵ Assets publishing service the govt of UK. *assets publishing service* . 1 1, 2001. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/16871/arab_world_introduction_cultural_appreciation_booklet.pdf (accessed 2 18, 2023).

⁶ This has been already decided some three years' prior in the "Sykes-picot agreement" in the year 1917. See Robin Wright, "How the curse of Sykes Picot still haunts the Middle East", *The New Yorker*, April 30 2016, <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/how-the-curse-of-sykes-picot-still-haunts-the-middle-east> accessed 2.10.2023

⁷ Michael M. Gunter, "The Kurdish Problem in International Politics", *The Kurdish Problem in International Politics*. In: Joseph, J.S. (eds) *Turkey and the European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2006 https://doi.org/10.1057/9780230598584_6 accessed 4.9.2023

formation of the modern state of Israel igniting the Arab Israel wars is also unforgettable event in the Arab historical timeline. With the improvement of telegraph – new communication system which was one of the fastest communication services as compared to the previous centuries. Consequently, the newspaper revolution took place in the twentieth century. The turbulent decades of the World War I in which millions of people lost their precious lives and infrastructure was blown, the decades of the great depression, the instable markets and the bankruptcy in the decades of 1930s gave birth to the new terminologies like nationalism, fascism, communism and isolationism etc. Later on the formation of the League of nations after the world war one the outburst of the second world war with more dangerous and advanced technologies the destruction of the cities of Japan after the atomic attacks, the nuclear proliferation, the Berlin blockade and the formation of “iron curtain”, the Chinese revolution, the Vietnam war, Cuban missile crisis the formation of world organization the UNO, World Bank, International Monetary fund, the Marshall Plan, the Cold War the arrival of the first human on the moon the introduction of more and more advance technologies are the main events in the time line of the history. The USA’s emergence in the world as the sole superpower after the breakup of Soviet Union in 1992 was defined as the End of history by Francis Fukuyama⁸. In the Clash of Civilizations a famous book written in the last decade of the 20th century, the American political scientist Samuel P. Huntington stated that there will be no clash between the countries and the states of the world but there will be clash between the civilizations of the world.⁹

The Ottoman Empire and its Downfall in the Twentieth Century

Ottoman Empire was known as one of the longest ruling empires in the world history which is also called the tri-continental empire which spread over Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Balkans in Europe and the northern coasts of the black sea. Eventually in the 20th century Ottoman Empire was abolished after the world war one. The great Ottoman Empire was split into different parts under the imperial western colonial powers when the Ottoman Empire which was the part of the central powers was defeated by the allies. During the seventeenth and eighteenth century the total population of the Ottoman Empire was almost 30 million people and total territory of 777,000 square miles however in the year 1914 the territory reduced from 777,000 to 337,000 square miles and population reduced to 26 million due to the Balkan fragments.¹⁰ The terminology of empire didn’t exist in the Ottoman political affairs because the rulers of Ottomans used the title “KAYSER”, “HALIFE” and “HAQAN” for the rulers and each terminology has a different meaning, there can be a little bit doubt regarding the existence of the polity the single institutionalized and generalized concept of the Ottoman state, because of the collective subjects and the territories. Different aspects of the people state and territory under unified umbrella termed as the “DEVLET-I ALIYYE-E OSMANIE” the exalted wealth of the Osmania dynasty.¹¹ The Ottoman Empire was a frontier between the Islamic lands and the Christendom, in the sixteenth century the merchandise of the eastern empires continued to reach the western empires by coming up of the ships to the sea-ports of the red-sea. The volume of the international trade passing through this way slowly decreased and the involvement of the Ottomans in the world economic system

⁸ Francis Fukuyama, *The end of history and the last man*, New York: Penguin books, 1992.

⁹ Samuel P. Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 72, No. 3 (Summer, 1993), pp. 22-49; Michael Green, *A global history of 20th century*, London: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2005

¹⁰ Donald Duarteart. *The Ottoman Empire*, New York : Cambridge University Press, 2005.

¹¹ Einar Wigen, "Ottoman Concepts of Empire", *Contributions to the History of Concepts* 8, no. 1 (2013): 44–66. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43610931> accessed, 4.4.2023

weakened. The inflation of the 17th century in the Ottoman Empire's monetary system affected the economy while improper taxation system of the 17th century was also harming the economy, there was no improvement in the agriculture system of the Ottomans. On the other hand, England revolutionized the entire agriculture system with the help of new innovation and the technology, the printing press revolutionized the entire Europe since the 15th century by producing the new scientific, socio-economic literature. After 19th century there was no culture and intellectual breakthrough in Turkey, there was no new creativity in the art and literature and science and technology.¹² Like many of other empires of the world there were internal problems in the Ottoman Empire such as financial weakness, corruption, rebellion military defeats as a result of which Ottoman Empire was called the "sick man of Europe" in the twentieth century.¹³ The consequences of Balkan wars of 1912-1913 were also of catastrophic tragedy for the Ottoman Empire in which 125,000 men lost their lives and thousands of civilians died from diseases and other causes.¹⁴ The fall of the Ottoman Empire in the beginning of the World War I changed the entire history of the Arab world which resulted in the formation of new Arab states, the formation of the Israel and which also gave birth to the various conflicts in the Arabian Peninsula.

Arab World in the Twentieth Century and Its Historical Movements

In the beginning of the twentieth century the map of Arab world was totally different from the map of Arab world in the last decade of the nineteenth century. This all happened due to defeat of the Ottomans at the hand of the allied powers which resulted in the beginning of a new wave of European colonization. The Ottoman caliphate ruling since five centuries was divided by European powers into segments after the world war; the partition of the Ottoman Empire was executed under several agreements by the allied powers. In the year 1914 when Ottoman Empire proclaimed the war against the Entente powers the vast majority of the Arab's supported the Ottomans due to their loyalty and the Islamic cause, in the year 1915 and 1916 the Amir of Makah the Hashemite leader Sharif Hussein, on a secret British instigation, agreed to lead a rebellion against the Ottoman Empire with the support of only few tribes which were loyal to him. Arabs according to the Islamic traditions believe that the Caliph will be always from the tribe of "Quraish" family and this debate over the appointment of caliph of the "Quresh" family existed since long time, at the time of the Ottoman Empire. Egyptian intellectuals such as the Abdur-Rehman Al-kawabi objected to the Ottoman ruler that they had ceased the power from the Abbasid rulers by force.¹⁵ The revolt started from the Hejaz of nowadays Saudi Arabia which shook the foundations of the Ottoman Empire. The rule of the Young Turks and their policies of Turkification and promoting of the Turkish language were some main causes of the Arab nationalism. The revolt resulted in the capture of the city of Jeddah due to the railway connectivity they failed to capture the holy city of medina up till the end of war.¹⁶ Further, Ottoman government considered Armenian people a wartime threat to the empire so most population of Armenians were uprooted from Anatolia and forced migrated to

¹² Bernard Lewis. "Some Reflections on the Decline of the Ottoman Empire." *Studia Islamica*, 1980: 27-36.

¹³ Jhonson Robert, "The decline of the Ottoman Empire", *History Review Research Library*, 2005: 52.

¹⁴ Richard C. Hall, *1914-1918-Online International Encyclopedia of the First World War*, 10 8, 2014. https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/pdf/1914-1918-Online-balkan_wars_1912-1913-2014-10-08.pdf accessed 16. 3. 2023.

¹⁵ Nurullah Ardıç, "Genealogy or Asabiyya? Ibn Khaldun between Arab Nationalism and the Ottoman Caliphate." *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, Vol. 71, No. 2, October 2012: 315-324.

¹⁶ Abdul Qadir, "Arab Revolt of 1916", *Journal Of Education & Humanities Research ISSN: 2415-2366 Institute of Education and Research (IER), UOB, Quetta Pakistan VOL.3.NO 1, 2017, 2017: 9.*

the Syria. According to western authors this migration was genocidal approximately one million Armenians were reportedly killed in the way.¹⁷In 1916 England entered in the Sykes-picot agreement with France and they secretly planned to divide the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire among themselves Iraq and Palestine was to be taken by Britain and greater Syria was granted to France.

In the year 1917 under the Belford declaration the British government promised and gave surety to create a Jewish state on the Palestinian land which would be the Jewish homeland, while protecting the religious rights of the of the existing people of the area. Britain sought to gain wartime support from the Jewish communities in the USA and Europe and to ensure the security of the territory which was adjacent to the Suez canal. This declaration was akin to the Sykes-Picot agreement which also ignored the earlier pledges of the Arab independence.

With the objectives of protecting the holy cities of the Makah and Madina and safeguarding the trade route to India, Ottomans arrived in Yemen in 16th century, however after WW1 the Yemen became independent of the Ottomans. In the year 1918 Yemen got independence from the Ottoman Turks rule. Until 1962 Yemen was declared as an independent state and ruled by imams however latter on, their aroused a civil war in Yemen. The conservatives of Yemen were supported by the Saudi Arabia and Britain while socialists were supported by Egypt. Several military groups were formed in the time of the Ottoman era of which the first military group was formed by Imam Yahiya 1904-1948.

In the year 1948 the northern Yemen joined the Arab republic as a member of Arab United States. The decades of the British engagement in the South Yemen which was turned into the crown colony of the British in 1937 and there was establishment of the federation of the South Arabian emirate's in the year 1959 with six sheikhdoms' and nine joined some three years' latter, and the other tribal states formed the state of the South Yemen which was known as the People's Republic of Yemen, in the year 1967. With the withdrawal of the British the boundaries were not clearly demarcated with the north and south Yemen. In eastern frontiers of Yemen the boundaries with the Saudi Arabia are still contested, in the twentieth century and in the twenty first century there recorded many clashes between the Saudi Arabia and Yemen regarding the border disputes in the south Yemen. The internal political conflicts also broke out in the year 1986 which is known as the southern Yemen civil war which resulted in the deaths of thousands of people and tens of thousands of people were forced to exile.¹⁸

Faysal who was the son of Sharif Hussain became the king of Iraq in the year 1921 by the support of Great Britain to control the country under the mandate system. In the year 1922 the Great Britain grant Egypt independence and gave the status to the local ruler the king, but Britain kept for itself to control communication, security, defense and protection of foreigners and the control of the Sudan was kept in its hand.

Meanwhile, Mustafa Kamal Atta-Turk the former hero of the Ottoman army, proclaimed the independence of Turkey as a republic, in the year 1923 Mustafa Kamal was elected as the Turkey's

¹⁷ Gabriele Rasuly-Paleczek, *Migration and its Impact on Armenia - A feild practice*, 2017: Department for Social and Cultural Anthropology University of Vienna , Vienna

¹⁸ Zoltan Barany, " Yemen's Armies From Ottoman Rule To Unification." *Center for Strategic and International Studies, CSIS*, 2016: 10.

president and the Ottoman Empire was formally abolished as a new republic was formed on the basis of the modernization and secularization. The renunciation of Turkish claim over the non-Turkish territories of the Ottoman Empire was formalized in the Treaty of Lausanne in year 1923. The mandate of the Great Britain took the jurisdiction over Palestine while the modern Turkey was founded on the basis of the modernization. The system of bureaucracy and governance was very different from the Ottoman governance model. The reforms were made in the educational, judicial and various systems and steps were taken toward the improvement of the communication systems.¹⁹

From year 1925-27 a revolt for the creation of the Druze state was raised. To drive away the French from this action inspired all the Syrian revolt, which resulted in the death of 6000 people in the greater Syria.

In the year 1926 Abdul Aziz ibn Saud conquered Makah and Medina, the kingdom of Najd and Hejaz were unified to the modern Saudi Arabia

The victory of the Abdul Aziz ibn Saud led to the end of rule of the Hashemite family, Al-Sharif was the last ruler of the Hashemite family to rule Hejaz, under the leadership of the ibn-Saud Wahhabism became an official religious sect in the Arabia and which led to foundation of the new Islamic movements of jihad in Afghanistan.²⁰

In the year 1932 Iraq gained nominal independence from Britain but signed a treaty for the granting of same privileges which were given to Egypt.

In the year 1936 due to Nazism the population of Jews increased from 30% to round about 80% as a result of which many Arabs were dispossessed from their lands for the new comers. On the other hand Arabs launched spontaneous rebellion against the Zionist movement, and this revolt was carried out for three years and the Britain succeeded in crushing it.

In the year 1943 Lebanon got independence from France, the constitution of 1926 was implemented with the agreement called National pact which promised that the president would be a Christian.

In the year 1945 the League of Arab States was formed in Cairo to work for the Arab independence and to oppose the Zionist movement. Later on in 1946 Syria, Jordan, Lebanon got independence from the French and British colonization but later on in the year 1947 A Special UN commission on Palestine recommend the partition of Palestine in two separate states "Palestine" and "Israel" one Muslim and another Jewish. Arabs rejected this plan. Violence between the Arab's and Jews reached to uncontrollable levels. The Jewish forces began to remove the Arab's from the UN allotted territory. Until the spring of the year 1948 round about 400,000 Arabs were poured out of the Palestinian territory as a result of which a refugee crisis began in the land of the Israel.

¹⁹ W. N. Medlicott, "The Emergence of Modern Turkey by Bernard Lewis." 612-613. London: Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, Vol. 25, No. 1/3 (1962), <https://www.jstor.org/stable/610932> pp. 612-613, 1962. Accessed 2.4.2023

²⁰ Ramon Knauerhase, "Saudi Arabia: A Brief History." *Current History*, Vol. 68, No. 402, *The Middle East*, 1975, 74-79.

On 14th of May 1948 the Great Britain withdrew its military personal form the lands of Palestine, a few hours later David Ben Gurion declared the independence of the Israel state, which was quickly recognized by the USA and USSR on the 15th May. Then the Israel was invaded by the five Arab nations but the attack was poorly coordinated. Israel pushed back the Arab armies and in the month of July same year Cease-fire was declared. The formation of the state of the Israel is one of the bewildering movements in the timeline of the world history. At the same time there was the beginning of the cold war, and there was seen the shift of world super power form Great Britain to the USA. In the era of the cold war Israeli foreign policy was not clear but in the latter year Israel adopted pro-western policy during the cold war, however number of the visits made by the British military delegations and US secretary of states to Israel to discuss the US and British security concerns in the Middle East in 1950's, in the formative phases of the Israel Moscow supported the partition of the Palestine but later on when Israel supported the USA in the Korean war the relations between the Israel and Moscow split up. However there seemed ups and downs in the USA and Israel relations in 1954 with the decisions to provide arms and military plans to Arabs such as Iraq and Egypt. The Baghdad pact of 1955 was beneficial for the Israel foreign policy and settlement of the conflict in the Middle East but later on once against the Israel went in to war with the Egypt in which US refused to provide armaments to Egypt. Since the formation of the Israel there have been recorded number of conflicts with the Arab world and still the issue of Palestine and Israel is entangled.²¹

In the year 1952 the political situations rapidly deteriorated in Egypt due to the Egyptian revolution and the waft which was led by Mustafa Al-Nahas abolished the treaty with Britain. The movement for the gain of the total freedom gained momentum, the Egyptian officers Muhammad Naguib and Gamal Abdel Nasser overthrew the monarchy established in the year 1841. King Farooq went in to exile where he died a few years later. On 1st November 1954 National Liberation Front of Algeria instigated war of independence against the French colonial rule.

In the year 1954 Gamal Abdel Nasser seized power in the Egypt he led the revolutionary command council. In the next two years he abolished all the political parties and disbanded the constitution. He introduced the agrarian reforms he redistributed the land by taking off all the lands from the rich and redistributed to the poor farmers. The negotiations with the British led to the evacuation of the British forces from the Suez Canal. In the starting period of Nasser government Muslim Brotherhood was seen favorably but latter on hundreds of the Muslim brothers were imprisoned and tortured. In the year 1956 Nasser was elected as the president of Egypt, he nationalized the Suez canal, at first the relations of the Nasser with the US were good latter on the Nasser policies for positive neutralism, his antagonism towards the oil rich monarchies, and opposition to the Baghdad pact angered the USA as a result of which he was viewed as an obstacle in the Middle East, after the nationalization of the Suez canal he offered the monetary compensation on the Suez canal shareholders that it will be open to the all countries including Israel, latter on the France, Britain and Israel invaded Egypt. In the same year Morocco and Tunisia gained independence from France.

²¹ Avi Shlaim, "Israel between East and West, 1948-56." *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 36, No. 4, 2004: 657-673.

The Maghreb Unity Congress was held in Tangier on 27th to 30th April 1957 which was attended by Tunisian and Algerian nationalists. It recommended the establishment of the permanent secretariat for the formation of the Maghrebian unity. In the year 1958 the Syrian and Egyptian armies joined the forces to form the United Arab Republic Gamal Abdul Nasser was elected as the president of the United Arab republic U.A.R, in Syria the communist land redistribution programs were introduced, in the same year Abdul Karim Qasim became the president overthrowing the pro-western monarch.

In the year 1959 the construction of Aswan High dam begun in Egypt with the assistance of the USSR. However, in the year 1961 mutual dis agreements and suspicions between the Syria and Egypt resulted in the dissolution of the United Arab Republic U.A.R. In the same year in the northwest parts of Iraq Kurds rebelled against Abdul Karim Qasim, whose inability to put down the revolt contributed to his down fall in the two years.

In the year 1962 imam Muhammad al Badar was over thrown by army officers of Yemen in less than a week when he assumed power after his father, monarchy was abolished in Yemen and there was eruption of the civil war between the royalists and the republicans. Later on Egypt sent troops to help the socialist republicans and on the other hand the royalists were supported by the Jordan, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

In the same year Algeria also got independence from France after 132 years after the war of the seven and half years due to which fifteen million people were dead. Ahmed ben Bella was declared as the leader of the African regime he was the leader of the socialist orientation.

The year 1967 a war of six days broke out between the state of Israel and Syria due to the border clashes between both countries, Syria sought help from Egypt and Egyptian troops were on high alert even Egypt closed the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba to Israel, Jordan and Israel went to a mutual defense treaty and mobilize troops. Egyptian air crafts were destroyed by the Israel and the Egyptian troops were in the Sinai peninsula and the Israeli military crashed the Egyptian troops and they advanced on the Suez canal, Egyptian troops were withdrawn. Thousands of Egyptian troops were captured and killed; Syrian troops were also defeated by the Israel army which captured the strategic Golan Heights. Later on in the year 1968 the United Nations passed resolution that Israel will withdraw its troops from the occupied territories and return all the occupied lands which was occupied during the war and called for a resolution for Palestinian refugee problem. Syria and Egypt accepted it but Israel rejected it.

In the year 1969 yasir Arafat was elected as the chairman of the liberation committee of PLO, in the same year Mu'ammarr al-Qadafi overthrew king Idris of Libya and emerged as a dictator. All the American and British military personals were expelled from the Libya. Qadafi allied himself with Nasser of Egypt and the wave of nationalization begun in the Libya.

In the year 1820 The general maritime treaty was signed by the British government with the rulers of the Sharjah, Abu Dhabi, Umm Al Quwain and Ras Al Khaimah tribal chiefs to protect the sea route and the British Indian vessels, other treaties with the Britain were also signed to stop the import of slaves and armaments. With the end of the treaty in the December 1971 the Trucial states

ended with the formation of the new sheikhdoms of Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al Kamiah, Sharjah and Um-Al-Quwain.²² (Zahlan 1978)

In the October 6th 1973 the Jewish holyday of the “youm kipur”, in the month of Ramadan Egypt and Syria launched a joint attack on the Israel it was first bombardment in the Israel by the Egyptian planes Egyptians recaptured the parts of the occupied lands, Syrian forces attacked Israel in the parts of the Golan heights and they also achieved victory. Israel asked US president Nixon for help and US order immediate uplift of military equipment to the Israel. UN passed resolution 388 which called cease fire on all the ends. All the Arab countries decided to impose an oil embargo on the US and EU countries as a result of which oil hardship emerged in the west.²³

In the year 1975 the king of Arabia Faisal who played an important role in the imposition of the oil embargo on the western countries was assassinated by member of his family. Later on he was succeeded by his brother named as king Khalid.

The 1979 a historical Shia revolution in Iran and Soviet intervention in Afghanistan shocked the west. This led to an unending US Iran conflict and a ten year war in the Afghanistan with the USSR. Later on in the year 1980 war of nine year broke out between Iraq and Iran on a border dispute.

In the year 1988 there was declaration of the Palestinian state in the nineteenth session of the Palestinian National Council. Within days’ number of countries recognized PNC and condemned terrorism in all its forms. In the year 1990 Kuwait was invaded and annexed by Iraq due to its historical background wherein it was part of Iraq before the British creating it. The international community condemned it and imposed sanctions on Iraq. Later on in the next year 1991, in the name of “operation desert storm” the united stated led war on Iraq to free Kuwait from occupying Iraqi forces. Later on US restored the independence under the ruling family of Kuwait.

By the end of the twentieth century, the collapse of USSR was the collapse of one of the major partners of the some of the Arab countries who were also the buyers of arms from USSR.

Conclusion

Twentieth century is the century of the rapid change and development in the world, there are great scientific, socio-economic and political developments recorded in the world historical timeline of twentieth century. In case of the Arab history there are significant changes in this era, in the first decade of twentieth century with the breakdown of the Ottoman Empire in to different segments as a result of WW1 and with the advent of the western imperial powers more disability can be seen. Twentieth century is called the century which gave birth to unending conflicts in the Arabian Peninsula from the breakdown of Ottoman Empire to the Arab Israel wars. The breakdown of the Ottoman Empire is the breakdown of the central and major power of the Arab world and the era of the start of western imperialism. According to the Sykes-picot agreement the imperial France

²² Rosemarie Said Zahlan, "The Origins Of The United Arab Emarates", *British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data* , 1978: 20.

²³ Charles D. Smith, "Palestine And The Arab-Israeli Conflict 1948–1970", *Arab-Israeli Relations, 1917-1970: The Middle East Online, Series 1, Cengage Learning*, 2005: 5, https://www.gale.com/binaries/content/assets/au-resources-in-product/arab-israeli-essay_smith_palestine.pdf accessed 23.4.2023

and imperial Britain divided the Arab world and they colonized and decolonized Arab states according to their will. The formation of the state of Israel was according to the mandate of Britain under the Balfour declaration in which it was clearly stated by Britain regarding the formation of the Israel. The state of Israel always supported the agenda of UK and USA and it is one of the major partner states of western capitalist powers in the Middle East. The historical timeline of Arab peninsula of twentieth century can be divided into two halves, in the 1st half of the twentieth century the deterioration of the Ottomans, colonization and the Arab rebellion occurred, in the second half of the twentieth century with the formation of the Israel more conflicts in the Arab history are recorded in which thousands of people lost their lives and infrastructure was blown up. With the advent of cold war the bi-polar arrangement of world politics, like other regions of the world the leaderships of the Arab world was also diverted into pro-communist and pro-capitalist blocks and they were supported by super powers from time to time which resulted the military uprisings and conflicts which always remained one of the main cause of unending conflict in the region. The second main cause is the formation of the state of Israel in the heart of Muslim land of the Palestine which has always ignited the conflicts. The third main reason of the un ending conflict in the Middle East is the lack of democratic culture among the majority of Arab states. Absolute monarchies and dictatorships are camouflaged under the so-called ideology of Islamic model government (caliphate). In fact, it has little to do with the Islamic political system. Most of the Arab kingdoms are blatant despotism based on power politics in the name of Islam. The Arab unsolved conflicts of twentieth century are still continued in the second decade of the twenty-first people always remained between hope and despair for the solution of these conflicts.

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