After the Empire

Arab nationalism and European rule after World War I

SS24.WH.8b "Summarize the effects of the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, including the rise of Arab nationalism and the European Mandate System."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two effects of Ottoman rule ending, circle evidence of Arab demands for self-rule, and number two ways European mandates shaped the region.

Who Would Govern?

1. Imagine a family in Damascus hearing that the Ottoman government, which had ruled their city for centuries, had lost World War I. Ottoman rule in many Arab lands ended as the empire broke apart. During the war, some Arab leaders had fought Ottoman forces, hoping for independence; others had different goals or remained loyal. Arab nationalism, the belief that Arabs should govern themselves as a people, had begun before the war. After Ottoman defeat, it gained strength as activists demanded a voice in choosing new governments. Yet the end of imperial rule did not mean that every former Ottoman territory became independent.

2. Britain and France emerged from the war with plans for much of the region. Under the League of Nations Mandate System, they were given authority to administer former Ottoman territories, supposedly until those territories could govern themselves. Britain received mandates for Iraq and Palestine; the area east of the Jordan River was administered separately as Transjordan within the Palestine mandate. France received mandates for Syria and Lebanon. Mandates were described as temporary guidance, but Britain and France controlled major political decisions. For many Arab nationalists, replacing Ottoman rulers with European administrators fell far short of the independence they expected.

3. The clash became visible in Syria. In 1920, Arab leaders backed a kingdom under Faisal in Damascus, but French troops defeated its forces and removed him. In Iraq, an uprising against British rule in 1920 pushed Britain to change how it governed; Iraq gained formal independence in 1932, though British influence continued. In Palestine, British policies and competing Arab and Jewish national claims contributed to rising tensions. Across the region, new borders and governments took shape under mandates, while demands for self-rule continued. The empire's dissolution opened a chance for independence, but the mandate system limited who held power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Ottoman defeat affect Arab nationalism, and why did it not begin Arab nationalism?

2. Summarize the difference between the Mandate System's stated purpose and its effect on political power.

3. How does the example of Syria show a conflict between Arab nationalism and the Mandate System?

4. Summarize two different effects of European rule described in Iraq and Palestine.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are an Arab speaker addressing League of Nations officials in 1921. Write a four-sentence statement explaining one hope raised by Ottoman defeat, using Syria and Iraq as evidence about who held power, and proposing one specific change to the mandate system that would better support self-rule.

ANSWER KEY

After the Empire

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.8b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two effects of Ottoman rule ending, circle evidence of Arab demands for self-rule, and number two ways European mandates shaped the region. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Ottoman defeat affect Arab nationalism, and why did it not begin Arab nationalism?	**Arab nationalism had begun before the war, but Ottoman defeat strengthened demands for a voice in forming new governments.**
2	Summarize the difference between the Mandate System's stated purpose and its effect on political power.	**Mandates were supposed to prepare territories for self-government, but Britain and France controlled major political decisions.**
3	How does the example of Syria show a conflict between Arab nationalism and the Mandate System?	**Arab leaders backed Faisal's kingdom in Damascus, but French troops defeated its forces and removed him.**
4	Summarize two different effects of European rule described in Iraq and Palestine.	**In Iraq, an uprising pushed Britain to change how it governed. In Palestine, British policies and competing Arab and Jewish national claims contributed to rising tensions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

We hoped that the Ottoman Empire's defeat would allow our communities to choose their own governments. In Syria, French troops removed Faisal, while the Iraqi uprising showed that people also resisted British rule. These events show that mandates can place crucial decisions in European hands instead of local hands. The League should require elected local assemblies to approve major decisions and set firm dates for transferring power.

Accept other accurate summaries that distinguish Arab hopes for self-rule from European control under the mandates. For Part 3, the proposed change should specifically shift political power toward local people.