

Borders and Conflict

Tracing how European decisions shaped postwar tensions

SS7H2.a "Explain how European partitioning in the Middle East following WWI led to regional conflict."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each statement about a European decision or policy. Circle each result or conflict connected to a decision, then write matching numbers above each connected pair.

Lines Drawn After War

- ① Before World War I, the Ottoman Empire ruled much of Southwest Asia. When the empire lost the war, Britain and France helped decide how to divide former Ottoman lands. In the 1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement, the two powers planned zones of control. After the war, the League of Nations gave Britain and France mandates, or temporary authority to govern several territories. European officials drew or supported new borders mainly to protect their own strategic interests, including trade routes and access to resources.
- ② These borders did not always match where ethnic and religious communities lived. Iraq, placed under a British mandate, included Kurdish people in the north and many Sunni Arab and Shia Arab communities. Britain installed a monarchy and governed with limited local agreement. In 1920, Iraqis from different communities joined a revolt against British rule. Although Britain put down the revolt, resentment over outside control and struggles over power among groups continued to create tension in the new state.
- ③ Palestine was another British mandate. During and after the war, British policy created competing expectations. The 1917 Balfour Declaration supported a national home for Jewish people in Palestine, while Britain had also encouraged Arab hopes for self-rule after Ottoman rule. Many Arab residents opposed growing Jewish immigration and feared losing political control. Jewish and Arab communities clashed, and Britain struggled to govern. By creating mandates and commitments without agreement from all local peoples, European partitioning left disputes that contributed to later regional conflict.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What interests mainly guided European officials when they drew or supported new borders?

2 How did British rule in Iraq help lead to the 1920 revolt? Use two details from the passage.

3 What two competing expectations did British policy create in Palestine?

4 Explain one way European partitioning contributed to later regional conflict.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly four sentences explaining how European partitioning led to conflict in either Iraq or Palestine. Include two details from the passage, explain a cause-and-effect chain, and state one continuing problem it created.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each statement about a European decision or policy. Circle each result or conflict connected to a decision, then write matching numbers above each connected pair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What interests mainly guided European officials when they drew or supported new borders?	They mainly protected European strategic interests, including trade routes and access to resources.
2	How did British rule in Iraq help lead to the 1920 revolt? Use two details from the passage.	Britain governed Iraq with limited local agreement and installed a monarchy. Iraqis from different communities revolted against this outside British rule in 1920.
3	What two competing expectations did British policy create in Palestine?	Britain supported a national home for Jewish people in Palestine while also encouraging Arab hopes for self-rule.
4	Explain one way European partitioning contributed to later regional conflict.	European powers created borders, mandates, and commitments without agreement from all local peoples. This caused resentment, clashes, and struggles for political power.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In Iraq, British officials governed a new country that included Kurdish, Sunni Arab, and Shia Arab communities. They installed a monarchy with limited local agreement. People from different communities joined the 1920 revolt because they opposed outside control. This example shows how European partitioning could create resentment and later struggles over power.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect European mandates, borders, or promises to local resentment, revolt, clashes, or struggles over power. For the open response, require exactly four sentences, two accurate passage details, and a clear cause-and-effect explanation.