

Faith, Nation, Power

Trace religious and secular forces in Middle Eastern nationalism.

10.7c "Nationalism in the Middle East was often influenced by factors such as religious beliefs and secularism."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show religious beliefs influencing nationalism. Circle details that show secular ideas influencing nationalism, then write 1 beside a detail about foreign mandates.

National Claims in Palestine

- ① After World War I, Britain and France governed former Ottoman lands under League of Nations mandates. These arrangements promised eventual self-government but continued foreign control. Arab nationalism drew on shared language, history, and demands for independence. Some nationalists drew on Islam; others emphasized secular politics and included people of different faiths. Secular political goals concern government and citizenship rather than rule by religious authority. Neither Arab nationalism nor Zionism was a single, uniform movement.
- ② Zionism supported a Jewish national homeland in Palestine, drawing on historical and religious ties to the land. Many Zionists also made secular arguments for national self-determination and protection from antisemitism. Britain's 1917 Balfour Declaration supported a Jewish national home while promising to protect existing non-Jewish communities' civil and religious rights. Jewish immigration increased under British rule. Palestinian Arabs sought their own self-determination and opposed policies they feared would dispossess them or deny political control. Competing national claims intensified conflict.
- ③ In 1947, the UN proposed Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem under international administration. The Jewish Agency accepted partition; Arab leaders rejected it as unjust. Fighting between Jewish and Arab communities followed. Israel declared independence in May 1948 as British rule ended, and neighboring Arab armies entered the war. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were expelled; Palestinians remember this displacement as the Nakba. No Palestinian Arab state emerged. Religious attachments to holy places remained important, alongside political disputes over territory, refugees, sovereignty, and minority rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What religious influence and what secular influence shaped Zionism, according to the passage?

2 How did the mandate system help strengthen Arab nationalist demands?

3 How did Jewish and Arab leaders respond differently to the 1947 United Nations plan, and what happened in 1948?

4 Give one religious issue and one secular issue that continued to shape debates after Israel's creation.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence explanation of how religious beliefs and secular ideas can both shape a nationalist movement. Use one example from the passage and explain one possible challenge for citizens of different faiths.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show religious beliefs influencing nationalism. Circle details that show secular ideas influencing nationalism, then write 1 beside a detail about foreign mandates. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What religious influence and what secular influence shaped Zionism, according to the passage?	Jewish religious connections to Palestine were a religious influence. Shared history and the goal of protecting Jews from antisemitism were secular arguments for a national state.
2	How did the mandate system help strengthen Arab nationalist demands?	Britain and France governed former Ottoman lands under mandates. Many people rejected foreign rule and demanded self-government and independence.
3	How did Jewish and Arab leaders respond differently to the 1947 United Nations plan, and what happened in 1948?	The Jewish Agency accepted partition; Arab leaders rejected it. Fighting began in 1947. Israel declared independence in May 1948, neighboring Arab armies entered the war, and mass Palestinian displacement occurred.
4	Give one religious issue and one secular issue that continued to shape debates after Israel's creation.	Religious attachments to holy places continued. Political issues included territory, refugees, sovereignty, and minority rights.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Zionism shows that nationalism can join religious and secular ideas. Jewish religious connections to Palestine mattered, while shared history and protection from antisemitism were secular arguments for a state. If a government defines the nation through one religion, it must still decide how citizens of other faiths will have rights and representation.

Accept equivalent evidence-based explanations that distinguish religious connections or identity from secular political goals, such as self-government, citizenship, protection, or minority rights. For the open response, accept any accurate example from the passage and a logical challenge involving people of different faiths.