

United States Naval Academy

Department of History

Spring Semester, 2013

## THE STRUGGLE FOR PALESTINE: THE ROOTS OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

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*Office Hours: By appointment*

### **I. Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the initial stages of the Arab-Israeli conflict, starting from the first waves of Zionist immigration to Palestine through the 1948 war and the establishment of the state of Israel. It will focus on the emerging features of the conflict, the struggle between the Palestinian Arab and Jewish Nationalist movements, and the international involvement in these events. A variety of scholarly studies will provide the background for class discussions. The course will focus on the emergence of the Zionist and Palestinian nationalist movements, British policy in Palestine, the rise of new Zionist and Palestinian leaders, the 1936-1939 Arab Revolt, and the post World War II efforts to establish a Jewish state. Our focus on these events will be linked to broader regional developments in the Middle East, which also play a role in the struggle for Palestine. These include the breakup of the Ottoman Empire, the rise of Arab nationalism, and the modern Arab state system that emerged in the inter-war period. This backdrop links the discussion of the roots of the Arab-Israeli conflict to the wider realm of Middle East studies, and expands this course's scope of inquiry. Understanding the roots and history of this conflict is important for students at USNA, many of whom are likely to serve in the Middle East at some point in their military career.

### **II. Course Requirements and Rules:**

Homework, Quizzes and Class Participation: Students must come to class ready to discuss the day's assigned readings and topics. The method of instruction in this course is lecture and discussion based, so each and every student should expect to participate in the active learning process. Your performance during in-class discussions, on quizzes and on homework assignments (assigned periodically by the professor) will directly affect your grade in this course. (20 points)

Exams: There are two exams in this course, a Midterm, and a Final (date TBD). Format may include vocabulary, text comprehension and identifications; short answer; multiple choice, and essay questions. Questions for the exams will be drawn from course readings, lectures, and current events. Students who actively participate in class and take liberal notes will do better on the exams. (Midterm= 30 points; Final=30 points)

Research Paper: Every student in this course is to write a 10-15 page research paper. Each student will turn in a research paper proposal which the professor must approve. **(Proposal due in class March 28, 2013).**

**The final draft is due on April 25, 2013** . (20 points final draft). (Students are encouraged to form research paper review teams to get peer feedback on their written work; the professor is also willing to read rough drafts)

Note\*\*\*\*\* Plagiarism: All research papers must display original thought and writing. Papers written for other courses taken in the past or concurrently are strictly forbidden as is material taken from other sources and passed off as your own. This is plagiarism, a form of cheating that is clearly an honor violation.

For more on USNA's statement against plagiarism see the following link:  
<http://www.usna.edu/Library/Plagiarism/Plagiarism.html>

Course Grade Distribution:

Homework/Quizzes and Participation= 20 pts (due dates tbd)

Midterm=30pts

Research Paper=20pts

Final=30pts (date tbd).

Total Points Possible: 100

Grading Scale: Traditional—A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=0-59.

**Penalty for late papers and assignments:** Missing the above dates for any work required for this course is unacceptable without prior written approval from the professor (for example: if you are a varsity athlete and you have an away game for one of these dates an alternative due date may be arranged). Any alteration to these dates by approval must be done at least one week prior to the due date, with the exception of serious illness. Without professorial approval, late work will not be accepted for full credit. If you are ill on a due date, have a friend or colleague turn in your work so as not to be penalized.

**\*\*\*\*\*You must complete (and turn in) all assignments and exams for this course in order to pass the class\*\*\*\*\***

### **III. Required Texts:**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999* (New York, 2001).

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents*, Eighth Edition (Boston and New York, 2013)

### **IV. Schedule of Themes and Readings**

#### **Introduction and Preliminary Discussion**

E.H. Carr, "The Historian and His Facts" in idem *What is History?* 2nd Edition (London, 1986), pp. 1-24

Kenneth W. Stein, "A Historiographic Review of the Literature on the Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict", *American Historical Review*, Vol. 96, No. 5 (December, 1991), pp. 1450-1467. **(Blackboard)**

Neil Caplan, "Zionism and the Arabs: Another look at the 'New' Historiography", *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 36 No. 2 (April 2001), pp. 345-360. **(Blackboard)**

Joel Beinin, "Forgetfulness for Memory: The Limits of the New Israeli History", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 34 No. 2 (Winter 2005), pp. 6-23. **(Blackboard)**

Efraim Karsh, *Fabricating Israeli History; The 'New Historians'* (London: Frank Cass, 1997), pp. 37-107.

### **The Origins of Jewish Nationalism, Theoretical Approaches to Nationalism**

Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*, (London, 1972), pp. 3-39; 84-135. **(Blackboard)**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999* (New York, 2001), pp. 37-66.

Anthony D. Smith, *Ethno-Symbolism and Nationalism: A Cultural Approach* (London and New York, 2009), pp. 3-21.

Anthony D. Smith, "Zionism and Diaspora Nationalism", *Israel Affairs*, Vol. 2 No. 2 (Winter 1995); Also appears in Anthony D. Smith, *Myths and Memories of the Nation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), pp.203-224. **(Blackboard)**

### **Arabs and Jews in Ottoman Palestine**

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents*, Eighth Edition (Boston and New York, 2013), Ch. 1.

Israel Kolatt, "The Organization of the Jewish Population of Palestine and the Development of its Political Consciousness before World War I", in Moshe Maoz (ed.), *Studies on Palestine during the Ottoman Period* (Jerusalem, 1975), pp. 311-245. **(Blackboard)**

Neville Mandel, *The Arabs and Zionism before World War I* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1970), pp. 32-57; 223-231. **(Blackboard)**

Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness* (New York, 1997), pp. 9-34, 89-118.

### **The Emergence of Palestinian Nationalism**

Muhammad Y. Muslih, *The Origins of Palestinian Nationalism* (New York, 1988), pp. 1-11, 69-88, 175-224. **(Blackboard)**

Yehoshua Porath, *The Emergence of the Palestinian Arab Movement, 1918-1929* (London, 1974), pp. 31-69.

Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness* (New York, 1997), pp. 145-175.

### **Post World War I Settlements**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 67-106.

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapter 2.

Mayir Verete, "The Balfour Declaration and Its Makers", *Middle Eastern Studies*, 4, 1970, pp. 48-76. **(Blackboard)**

### **British Policy in Palestine**

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapter 3.

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 106-120.

Bernard Wasserstein, *The British in Palestine: The Mandatory Government and the Arab-Jewish Conflict, 1917-1929* (London, 1978), pp. 73-88, 139-164, 236-241.

Taysir Nashif, "Palestinian Arab and the Jewish Leadership in the Mandate Period", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 6 No. 2 (Summer, 1977), pp. 113-121. **(Blackboard)**

Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2006), pp. 1-30, 31-64. **(Blackboard)**

### **Towards a Jewish State**

Kenneth W. Stein, *The Land Question in Palestine, 1917-1939* (Chapel Hill and London, 1984), pp. 40-79; 212-221.

Noah Lucas, *The Modern History of Israel* (London, 1975) pp. 167-185.

### **The Arab Revolt**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 121-160.

Tom Bowden, "The Politics of the Arab Rebellion in Palestine 1936-39", *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 11 No. 2 (May, 1975), pp. 147-174. **(Blackboard)**

### **The End of the British Mandate**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 161-189.

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapter 4.

Steven Spiegel, *The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict: Making America's Middle East Policy, from Truman to Reagan* (Chicago, 1985), pp. 16-44.

Michael J. Cohen, "The Zionist Perspective", in Wm. Roger Louis and Robert W. Stokey (eds.), *The End of the Palestine Mandate* (Austin, 1986), pp. 79-103.

Walid Khalidi, "The Arab Perspective", in in Wm. Roger Louis and Robert W. Stoekey (eds.), *The End of the Palestine Mandate* (Austin, 1986), pp. 103-106.

### **The 1948 War and the Historiographic Debate**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 189-258.

David Tal, "The Forgotten War: Jewish-Palestinian Strife in Mandatory Palestine, December 1947-May 1948", *Israel Affairs* 6 (Spring/Summer 2000), pp.3-21.

Rashid Khalidi, "The Palestinians and 1948: The Underlying Causes of Failure", *The War for Palestine: Renwriting the History of 1948* (eds. Eugene L. Rogan and Avi Shlaim), (Cambridge, 2001), pp. 12-36.

Avi Shlaim, "The Debate about 1948", *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 27 No.3 (1995), pp. 287-304. **(Blackboard)**

Anita Shapira, "Politics and Collective Memory: The Debate over the 'New Historians' in Israel", *History and Memory*, 7, (1995), pp. 9-40. **(Blackboard)**

### **Arab-Israeli Relations, 1949-1956:**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 259-301.

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapters 5, 6.

Benny Morris, *Israel's Border Wars 1949-1956*, (Oxford, 1993), pp. 1-27; 263-291

Colin Shindler, *A History of Modern Israel*, (Cambridge, 2008), pp. 98-122.

### **The 1967 Six Day War and its Aftermath:**

Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 302-346

Michael B. Oren, *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East*, (New York, 2003), pp. 33-126; 170-304. **(Blackboard)**

### **From June 1967 to October 1973**

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapters 7,8.

### **The First Palestinian Intifada:**

F. Robert Hunter, *The Palestinian Uprising: A War by Other Means*, (London, 1991), Chapters 1,3.

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapters 9, 10.

Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 561-610.

### **The Oslo Accords and the Palestinian Authority**

Menachem Klein, "Quo Vadis? Palestinian Authority Building Dilemmas since 1993," in: *Middle Eastern Studies* 33, no. 2 (April 1997), pp. 385-405. **(Blackboard)**

Meir Litvak, "The Islamization of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: The Case of Hamas," *Middle Eastern Studies* 34, no. 1 (Jan. 1998), pp. 148-163. **(Blackboard)**

Menachem Klein, "Hamas in Power", *Middle East Journal*, Vol. 61, no. 3 (Summer 2007), pp. 442-459. **(Blackboard)**

Amal Jamal, "State-Building, Institutionalization and Democracy: The Palestinian Experience", *Mediterranean Politics*, 6:3 (2001), pp. 1-30.

### **The 2000 Camp David Summit and the Outbreak of the Second Intifada:**

Hussein Agha and Robert Malley, "Camp David: The Tragedy of Errors", *New York Review of Books*, August 9, 2001.

Jeremy Pressman, "The Second Intifada: Background and Causes of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict", *Journal of Conflict Studies*, Vol. 22 No. 2 (Fall 2003)

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapter 11.

### **Field Trip: Date TBA-Visit to the Israeli Embassy in Washington; Meeting with Palestinian Representative**

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