

# The Origins of the Arab-Jewish Conflict in Palestine

UT Austin, Spring Semester, 2007

## The Course Purpose:

To study and analyze the development of the Arab-Jewish conflict, both sides' positions, the issues at stake and the disputes over them, in combined chronological and thematic approach.

## The Method:

Reading, scrutinizing documents and discussions in class

## Commitments:

Active participation, mid-term papers, exam.

## Topics:

1. The beginnings of the Zionist enterprise in Eretz-Israel, the Arab response and the Jewish attitudes to the "Arab Question".
2. From the Balfour Declaration to the Mandate: the contradictory British commitments to the Arabs and the Jews.
3. The Military Administration and the new national character of the conflict: The Palestinian Congress and the Zionist Commission.

4. The beginning of violence: The riots of 1920 and 1921
5. The establishment of Transjordan Emirate and its separation from the national Home: The Cairo conference of 1921 and Churchill's White paper of 1922
6. The religious aspect of the conflict: the Wailing Wall crisis and the riots of 1929
7. Zionist scepticism and Arab militancy after the riots
8. The demographic, economic and settlement competition
9. The Palestinian Revolt and its repression; the White Paper of May 1939
10. The search for solutions: partition, federation, bi-nationalism, cantonization and the "minorities block"
11. The impact of the Second World War on the conflict
12. From a local to regional conflict: the Arab states, the Arab League and the question of Palestine.
13. The four focuses of the conflict: the legitimacy of Israel, the borders, the refugees and Jerusalem

## Bibliography

Y. Gelber, Jewish-Transjordanian Relations, 1921-1948, London 1996

Y. Gelber, Palestine 1948, Brighton 2001

Y. Gorni, Zionism and the Arabs

R. Khalidi, Palestinian Identity, New York 1997

W.R. Louis, *The British Empire in the Middle East, 1945–1951: Arab Nationalism, the United States and Postwar Imperialism* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1984).

B. Morris, *Righteous Victims*, New York 2000.

B. Morris, *The Refugee Problem Revisited*, Cambridge 2004.

Y. Porat, *The Emergence of the Palestinian-Arab national Movement*, London 1974

Porath, Yehoshua. / *The Palestinian Arab National Movement : from riots to rebellion, 1929-1939.* / London / 1977

S. Tevet, 'The Palestinian Refugee Problem and Its Origin', in: *Middle Eastern Studies*, 26 (2), 1990, pp. 214–49.