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Section 2. History and archaeology

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Balfour declaration in the history of palestine

During almost four centuries of Turkish reign, Palestine was regarded as a part of “Greater Syria”, it had no sufficient deposits of mineral resources but it turned out to take center stage of European States due to its exclusively beneficial location. And migration to Palestine became possible due to initiation and political establishment of political Zionism in the end of XIX century. It was Zionist movement that had sufficient human resources for capturing Palestine. Zionistic leaders called Palestine Eretz Israel declaring it to be a national center for the Jews all over the world. This term originated from religion “as the name given to Jacob the Patriarch, Israel expresses faith to the God’s promise to Abraham to give the land to his nation.” The term Zionism was used to express hope for return of the Jewish people “but it became to mean something political, identification of a State with land, Zionism with Judaism and became the source of constant conflicts”¹.

On August 29–31, 1897 in Basel, Switzerland, at the First International Zionist Congress, Theodor Herzl presented the Zionist Movement Program suggesting as follows: “1. Assistance to organized, mass colonization of Palestine. 2. Acquisition of the acknowledged by all the states legal right to colonize Palestine. 3. Establishment of permanent organization to unite all the Jewish people in the name of Zionism.” The Congress in Basel adopted Herzl’s Program and was the basis for World Zionist Organization to unite all the Jewish people acknowledging Zionistic program and paying shekel.

¹ Шевелев С. С. Деятельность мандатной администрации в Палестине в 20-е годы XX в. // Востокведный сборник. – Симферополь: ТЭН, 1999. – С. 143 – 161.

After the First Congress the World Zionist Organization started propaganda of Zionistic ideas, and as the result, number of Zionists greatly increased.

Generation of the idea of Zionistic leaders to establish a state in Palestine was of great importance at the international level. The idea to return the Jewish people to the ancestral lands in Palestine should be interesting for the European states pretending to conquer that state. But Zionistic leaders needed to substantiate the idea. For that purpose they used the theory of ancient Zionism proving that Jewish people for thousands of years tried to return to Palestine and to establish there a Jewish State. Norman Bentwich wrote: "Zionism is as ancient as the captivity of the Jewish people in the times of destruction of the temple by Nabuchodonosor."

Zionists understood that further for colonization of Palestine and for establishment of a State they require support of European States. T. Herzl confided to his diary that Britain "more than anyone else is interested in Zionism, as the shortest way to India goes through Palestine"¹.

T. Herzl in his letter to Cecil Rhodes, famous English colonizer explained that the matter of resettlement of the Jewish people to Palestine, establishment of a State in Palestine was actually a colonial issue that could be beneficially solved by Great Britain².

In October 1902 T. Herzl met Joseph Chamberlain, English Minister of Colonies, who in theory didn't reject the idea to establish a Jewish Colony in the South-Eastern part of Mediterranean.

J. Chamberlain sympathized to the idea of resettlement of the Jewish people to Egyptian Bruz (Vadi Al Arish) with consent thereto of Vice-King of Egypt Lord Cromer. T. Herzl insisted on Haifa region hoping to "convince Turkey to lease the region at low price if the Jewish people came to Al Arish and proved that Zionism was a serious matter."

In 1904 *Chaim Weizmann* moved from Russia to Great Britain. On the death of T. Herzl he became the leader of political Zionism. In Great Britain Ch. Weizmann carried vivid political activity in the sphere of propaganda of benefits for Great Britain from supporting Zionist movement. Activity of the Zionist movement should have been directed for industrialization and fortification of status of agricultural settlements in Palestine "at democratic beginning as possible"³.

Soon Ch. Weizmann got acquainted with the future Prime-Minister of Great Britain, Lloyd George, with famous politicians and statesmen of Great Britain, Alfred

¹ Our Roots are Still Olive. The Story of the Palestinian People. – San Francisco: People Press, 1977. – 189 p.

² Шевелев С. С. Деятельность мандатной администрации в Палестине в 20-е годы XX в. // Востокведный сборник. – Симферополь: ТЭН, 1999. – С. 143 – 161.

³ Батенко А., Близняков Р., Малышев Д., Шевелев С. История Палестины: международный аспект (1897–2009 гг.). – Симферополь–Киев. – 2011. – 510 с.

Balfour and Herbert Samuel. After meeting with Ch. Weizmann G. Samuel prepared a memorandum for G. Asquith, Prime Minister, where he proposed to establish British protectorate of Palestine after the end of the war.

The World War I broke out in August 1914, Turkey took sides with Germany. It finally convinced Great Britain that it was high time to start establishing English domination in Palestine. During the World War I at one of the multiple meetings with A. Balfour and Ch. Weizmann the first one announced: "I believe that if guns become silent, you will get your Jerusalem"¹.

When in the end of October 1914 there was held a meeting of the cabinet for discussion of war actions against Turkey Minister of Finances, Lloyd George, invited his colleagues to discuss the issue of final destination of Palestine, and Herbert Samuel, the only person in the Government, urgently turned to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sir Eduard Grey, as for "establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine, which due to close location to the Suez Canal, could do with a good grace concerning the matter, which is of great importance for the British Empire"².

In January 1915 Ch. Weizmann met Lloyd George, who faced Zionism for the first time, when consulted T. Herzl as a lawyer on Al Arish and Uganda projects. In a few days upon declaration of war by Turkey he announced to Herbert Samuel his wish to see Palestine as a Jewish State.

Such pro-English policy delivered benefits when in December 1916 Lloyd George became the Prime-Minister of Great Britain, A. Balfour became the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Milner became a Member of the War Cabinet. All of them adhered to Zionist movement. Lord Robert Cecil, Balfour's assistant, joined them as well.

In February 1917 there was held the first official conference which led to Balfour Declaration. M. Sykes, G. Samuel, leaders of Zionist movement, Rothschild representatives took part in the conference. At the conference there was passed a resolution to refuse common ownership or internationalization of Palestine in favor of British protectorate.

In October A. Balfour authorized Leopold Amery to prepare the project declaration. L. Amery's project was discussed in the Jewish circles, and the chief Rabbi assured that the proposed declaration would be agreed upon by the vast majority of Jewish population. At the decisive meeting of the Cabinet on October 31, 1917 A. Balfour left open the matter whether Palestine should be under British or American protectorate or there could be proposed any other political structure. After the end of disputes he was authorized to write a letter to Lord Rothschild asking to bring its content to

¹ Waines D. A Sentence of Exile: Palestine-Israel Conflict 1897-1977. - Wilmette, Illinois: Medina Press, 1977. - 226 p.

² Черчилль Р., Черчилль У. Шестидневная война. - Иерусалим - М.: Гешарим - Мосты культуры. - 2003. - 320 с.

knowledge of the Zionist Federation. It should be also pointed out, that Arthur James Balfour all his life long was interested in the Jewish people, their history, and the source of such interest was absolute knowledge of the Old Testament¹.

On November 2, 1917 Arthur Balfour, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Lloyd George, wrote a letter to Lord Walter Rothschild which later became known as Balfour Declaration. The text of the letter looked as follows: "I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet. «His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of the object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious' rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country»².

Prior to send the letter Arthur Balfour visited Washington where he consulted the biggest leader of Zionist movement in USA, Member of the Supreme Court of USA, Louis D. Brandeis. A. Balfour introduced himself as a sympathizer of Zionism and assured support of Palestinian project by the World Zionist Organization. Besides, A. Balfour expressed his wish for Palestine to be under common control of Great Britain and USA.

In exchange to Balfour Declaration Zionist Leaders promised to unite all the Jewish people for support of the Entente, and according to D. Lloyd George "kept their word"³. On November 8, 1917 British Press informed of adoption of the new Declaration. That news appeared in newspapers alongside with the news which came from Petrograd, about Bolshevik Revolution. Newspapers expressed certainty that such an epochal event, Balfour Declaration, prepared the basis for establishment of a State: Daily Express heading was as follows "State for the Jewish People", The Times and Morning Post contained headings "Palestine for the Jewish People." The Observer stated that under such circumstances there could be no other more correct and wiser policy decision.

V. Zhabotinsky considered Russian Revolution of 1917 to be a terrible disaster as Russian Jews turned out to be torn apart from the World Jewish Community and stopped participating at Zionistic movement. But the worst thing was that Bolshevism

¹ Поляков А. История антисемитизма. Эпоха знаний. – М. – Иерусалим: Гешарим, 1998. – 448 с.

² Great Britain and Palestine. 1915–1945. Information Papers No. 20. – L., N.-Y.: Royal Institute of International Affairs, 1946; L.: Chatham House, 1946. – 177 p.

³ Under Fire. Israel's 20-year Struggle for Survival (Ed. Robinson D.). – N.-Y.: Norton, 1968. – 381 p.

provoked resistance all over the Europe, i. e. "... without Bolshevism there could be no Hitler, and without Hitler there could be no World War II and Holocaust"¹.

Balfour Declaration presupposed a national Jewish home in Palestine. At the same time, leaders of the Zionist movement made no secret of the fact that purpose of establishment of the National Zionist Organization was to establish a state at that territory. In Paris, at Peace Conference 1919 Ch. Weizmann declared that establishment of a Jewish national home would lead to appearance of a nationality "which would be as Jewish as French nationality is French, English nation is English. Later Jewish people will make the majority of population; they will be ready to establish a Government according to the level of development of the state and their ideals"². For that purpose welcoming future British mandatory administration of Palestine he hoped that 70–80 thousand Jewish people would come to Palestine in the nearest future. Despite its diversity Balfour Declaration generally presupposed that sooner or later in Palestine there would be established a Jewish State. W. Churchill thought that population of the State would be about 3–4 million, Syria and Arabia would be controlled by the Arabs, and Palestine would go to the Jewish people, and Palestinian Arabs would have to bow to the reality³.

Policy of the British Government relating Balfour Declaration was formulated by Lloyd George as follows: "There's no doubt of what the cabinet wanted. It didn't mean immediate creation of a state upon signing of the treaty of peace with no regard to wishes of the majority of population. On the other part, it was presupposed that if the Jews made the majority of population Palestine would become a Jewish Society. The thought of necessity to artificially suppress Jewish immigration for the Jews to constantly make the minority of population never came to mind of anyone of those defining the policy"⁴.

In 1918 Balfour Declaration was acknowledged by France, Italy and USA, and in 1920 upon request of Great Britain, it was included into the Treaty of Sèvres which stipulated transfer of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Mesopotamia under British Mandate. The Arabs as well as Zionists still didn't realize what Balfour Declaration meant in practice. On December 2, 1917 in Covent Garden due to the fact of adoption of Balfour Declaration two Arabic representatives welcomed Zionists on behalf of their

¹ Батенко А., Блазняков Р., Мальшев Д., Шевелев С. История Палестины: международный аспект (1897–2009 гг.). – Симферополь–Киев. – 2011. – 510 с.

² The Political History of Palestine under British Administration (Memoranda by His Majesty's Government Presented in July, 1947 to the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine). – Jerusalem, 1947. – 41 p.

³ The Rise of Israel. Tension in Palestine. – Peacemaking in Paris, 1919. Ed. by Friedman I. – N.-Y.; L.: Garland Publishing, 1987. – 356 p.

⁴ Weizmann Ch. Trial and Error. – N.-Y.: Schocken, 1949. – 493 p.

nation. Soon Ch. Weizmann declared that all the discrepancies between Arabs and Jews became history. The most popular Cairo newspapers Mokattam and Aram wrote that the Arabs should not be afraid of the Jewish State, and British Government just acknowledged legal historical rights of the Jewish people.

UN researches the Origins and Evolution of the Palestine Problem appraises significance of this Declaration for Palestine as follows: "Declaration which determined the direction of subsequent developments in Palestine was incorporated in the Mandate. Its implementation brought Arab opposition and revolt. It caused unending difficulties for the Mandatory in the last stages pitting British, Jews and Arabs against each other. It ultimately led to partition and to the problem as it exists today. Any understanding of the Palestine issue, therefore, requires some examination of this Declaration which can be considered the root of the problem of Palestine."

Thus, it should be pointed out that Balfour Declaration greatly influenced Arabic-Jewish relationships, radically changed the situation in the region and provoked active armed stand-off.

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In the XX century as the overture to a Third World war. Part One

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XX век как увертюра к третьей мировой войне. Часть первая

Людей интересует до сих пор три вопроса: Закончилась ли Холодная война? Что предшествовало Холодной войне? Кто был её инициатором? Порассуждаем и попробуем найти ответ на вопрос о том, что же предшествовало началу Холодной войны. Для этого нам надо вернуться к окончанию Первой Мировой войны (ПМВ).

Итак, окончание ПМВ было ознаменовано крушением 4 империй: Германской, Австро-Венгерской, Османской и Российской. По сути, ПМВ и была «создана» именно для разрушения двух из них – Германской и Российской. Другие две были разрушены как сопутствующие, условно говоря, они были жертвами за-