

# Dissecting Britain's empire 'from Dan to Beersheba'

by Patricia Noble-Schenk

---

### **A Peace to End All Peace: Creating the Modern Middle East, 1914-1922**

by David Fromkin

Henry Holt & Co., New York, 1989

635 pages, hardbound, \$39.95

---

Once the cynical Anglomania of author David Fromkin is taken into account—along with certain lies of history that go into his analysis—*A Peace to End All Peace* is a valuable tool in learning about the creation of the modern Middle East. Fromkin's is the first book to cover the period 1914-22, in which the international oligarchy, led by the British Arab Bureau, carved out the Middle East as we know it today, while the people living in these areas, being treated as the equivalent of cattle, had absolutely no say about what happened to them.

Fromkin tells us that, at the "peace negotiations" after World War I, President Woodrow Wilson of the United States, Prime Minister Lloyd George of Britain, and Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau of France, were described by an observer, "These three all-powerful, all-ignorant men, sitting there and carving up continents, with only a child to lead them." An Italian observer wrote, "A common sight at the Peace Conference in Paris was one or other of the world's statesmen, standing before a map and muttering to himself: 'Where is that damn'd. . . ?' while he sought with extended forefinger for some town or river that he had never heard of before." Lloyd George, who kept demanding that Britain should rule Palestine from (in the Biblical phrase) Dan to Beersheba, did not know where Dan was. When he finally figured it out a year later, he asked for a British boundary further north than had been agreed upon. In the end, Lloyd

George added nearly a million square miles to the British Empire.

Iraq and what we now call Jordan, for example, were British inventions, lines drawn on an empty map by British politicians after World War I, while the boundaries of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq were established by a British civil servant in 1922, and the frontiers between Muslims and Christians were drawn by France in Syria-Lebanon and by Russia on the borders of Armenia and Soviet Azerbaijan.

Although what Fromkin says is very interesting, his omissions, especially given his credentials as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, are equally interesting:

1) He wholly omits the key concept needed to understand history of any period—that history is a struggle between two factions: one, the republican; the other, the oligarchical.

2) While covering the British and Russian roles in the Middle East, he largely omits the Soviet-British collaboration, the Anglo-Soviet Trust, emphasizing the "Great Game" aspect of British-Soviet relations around control of India.

The scope of this book is quite large, with much interesting information; however, history should not be simply of academic interest, so I will focus on a particular aspect extremely relevant today.

Studying the inter-war period, one gets a frightening sense of hindsight, for it is *exactly* the same alliance of forces, manipulated by the British, as that which comes into play today. Take the example of the "nations" of Saudi Arabia and Israel: Their roots come from the worst cultist historical perversions of the Jewish and Muslim religions, and the "nations" were synthetically created by the British decades ago, in order to unleash the horror we see unfolding before our eyes today. Then, as today, the Palestinian people are paying a dear price.

Equally important is the fact that the focus of attack in the manufactured crises in both 1914-22 and today is a strong

Germany.

Just as today Germany is inspiring and leading the world with the peaceful revolution of the past year, Germany at the turn of the century was the leading cultural force in the world, centered around rapid industrial growth, and had replaced Britain as the world's leading industrial and financial power. Partly due to the insanity of British "free trade" policies, and partly due to the implementation in Germany of the development policies of the great economist Friedrich List, Britain's power in the world was vitally threatened. Prior to the war, the British set up France and Russia as Germany's enemies, and used the decay of the Ottoman Empire as a way to set off World War I, to stop Germany's economic power. The very same policies by Margaret Thatcher today, have just led to the resignation of her longest-standing cabinet minister, Geoffrey Howe. With any luck, the Iron Lady herself will be a thing of the past.

Fromkin shows how Israel was established by Britain for its own reasons, contrary to the fairy tale that a great religious revival was a basis for creation of a "Jewish homeland." Although Fromkin himself does not attribute the "British Israelite" cult tradition as being a major motivation for the form in which Britain established Israel, he does discuss the mystical cult in *A Peace to End All Peace*. Perhaps because it's more acceptable in polite company, Fromkin does attribute significance to Britain's desire for a continuous land route between the African and Asian sectors of the British Empire, of which Palestine was the crossroads. In what became Lebanon, France was the protector of the Maronite (Roman Catholic) community, and there and elsewhere Russia was the protector of the Orthodox confession. With no Protestant community in the region, the British developed the Zionist movement to serve their purposes, at the same time confident that they had the non-Palestinian, Bedouin Arabs (Hashemites and Saudis) firmly in their control.

### **The British Israelite cult**

Lloyd George wanted to encourage the development of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. He was a Protestant fundamentalist, who identified with the centuries-old tendencies in British Nonconformist and Evangelical thought to push restoring the Jews to Zion. He was of the British Israelite grouping.

In the mid-1600s, two English Puritans residing in Holland, the Cartwrights, petitioned Britain, "That this nation of England, with the inhabitants of the Netherlands, shall be the first and the readiest to transport Izrael's sons and daughters in their ships to the Land promised by their forefathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob for an everlasting Inheritance." They believed, like many of today's fundamentalists, that the reestablishment of Israel would bring about the Second Coming. Palmerston pushed for a Jewish Palestine in the Ottoman Empire in the 1830s and 1840s, when the rebelling Viceroy of Egypt, Mehemet Ali, backed by France, marched

on Syria and threatened the "territorial integrity of the empire." Palmerston's policy "became connected with a mystical idea, never altogether lost in the 19th century, that Britain was to be the chosen instrument of God to bring back the Jews to the Holy Land," according to Sir Charles Wilson, a leading authority on Palmerston's diplomacy.

With the beginning of war in 1914, we have such as H.G. Wells joining the chorus, "What is to prevent the Jews having Palestine and restoring a real Judea?" At the time, according to intelligence reports, only 1% of the Jewish people were interested in creating a Jewish state. In fact, official British Jewish community leaders opposed the project bitterly: They considered it a danger to Jews who lived in Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire. But, as for British motives, Lloyd George was quite explicit, "The Jews might be able to render us more assistance than the Arabs" in the Palestine campaign. Jan Smuts, who was offered the command to invade Palestine in 1917, was also quite clear on the matter: "The Old Testament . . . has been the very marrow of Dutch culture here in South Africa." He believed, "the day will come when the words of the prophets will become true, and Israel will return to its own land."

### **Palestine, the weak point in the Empire**

A second, key motivation to create a Zionist state was to link the African and Asian parts of the British Empire, which meant total control of Palestine. "The Cabinet, from the beginning, had thought of annexing Mesopotamia. As for Arabia, arrangements had been made with the local rulers who had asserted their independence: They were subsidized and could be relied upon to remain pro-British. That left Palestine as the only point of vulnerability. As the bridge between Africa and Asia, it blocked the land road from Egypt to India and, by its proximity, it threatened the Suez Canal and hence the sea road as well," Fromkin wrote. Given the capture of German East Africa, Britain had a continuous stretch of territories between, on the one side, Cape Town, an Atlantic Ocean port at the southern tip of Africa, and on the other, Suez, which bridged the Mediterranean and the Red Sea at the continent's northeastern tip. With the addition of Palestine and Mesopotamia, the Cape Town to Suez stretch could be linked up with the stretch of territory that ran through British-controlled Persia and the Indian empire to Burma, Malaya, and the two Dominions in the Pacific—Australia and New Zealand. Palestine was the key, missing link, Lloyd George explained: "For the British Empire, the fight with Turkey had a special importance of its own. . . . The Turkish Empire lay right across the track by land or water to our great possessions in the East—India, Burma, Malaya, Borneo, Hong Kong, and the Dominions of Australia and New Zealand."

One of the great ironies of the situation, from the standpoint of history as revised by the Anglo-Americans, was that the British feared that Germany would use its good relations with the Jewish people, who were allowed to flourish in

Germany, while the pogroms were occurring throughout the Jewish areas in Poland and Russia, to set up an "alternative Zionism," based on such development projects as the Baghdad-Berlin railroad. As Lord Amery said, "German control of Palestine" was one of "the greatest of all dangers which can confront the British Empire in the future." Jews were generally pro-German, therefore "Zionism" was a British-Russian plot, run through just a few Zionist puppets, such as Chaim Weizmann, the first President of Israel. The Russians supplied the cannon-fodder in the form of the Jewish bodies fleeing from the murderous pogroms. If Germany were to link the common interests of Muslims, Jews, and Christians in the Middle East around an economic development program, it would have put an end to British hegemony in this area, and eventually to their domination in the world.

Of note, given British control over Saudi Arabia and Israel, is the view Zionists had of the Bedouin Arabs, as opposed to the more urbanized Palestinians. Of Faisal, the first Arab ruler for the British, Chaim Weizmann said, "He is the first real Arab nationalist I have met. He is a leader! He is quite intelligent and a very honest man, handsome as a picture! He is not interested in Palestine, but on the other hand he wants Damascus and the whole of northern Syria. . . . He is contemptuous of the Palestinian Arabs whom he doesn't even regard as Arabs!" David Ormsby-Gore, Lord Harlech, told a Zionist meeting, "the true Arab movement really existed outside Palestine. The movement led by Prince Faisal was not unlike the Zionist movement. It contained real Arabs who were real men. The Arabs in trans-Jordania were fine people. West of the Jordan, the people were not Arabs but only Arabic speaking. Zionists should recognize in the Arab movement, originally centered in the Hejaz (Saudi Arabia), but now moving north, a fellow movement with high ideals." Hence the historic roots of the Saudi-Israeli alliance as British Arab Bureau puppets in a war they will fight on Britain's behalf.

## A voice of reason in defense of science

by Patrick Ruckert

---

### **Trashing the Planet: How Science Can Help Us Deal with Acid Rain, Depletion of the Ozone, and Nuclear Waste (Among Other Things)**

by Dr. Dixy Lee Ray, with Lou Guzzo  
Regnery Gateway, Washington, 1990  
206 pages, hardbound, \$18.95

---

Writing about what the world was like at the time of her youth, the still mentally very youthful Dr. Dixy Lee Ray says: "It was a time of optimism and progress. It was a time of improvement in our standard of living that made our society and our nation the envy of the world. It was a time when the use of knowledge was expected, when the myriad applications of science through technology made living on this planet easier and better, and gave us more time to enjoy it by increasing our life span beyond three quarters of a century."



Dr. Dixy Lee Ray

U.S. Atomic Energy Commission

She then contrasts this to our present era: "Such progress continues, but it seems that hardly anyone enjoys it any more. Too many people have exchanged confidence for despair, too many have come to fear technology and to hate and reject anything nuclear or chemical-related. Despite all the evidence of our physical well-being beyond the dreams of all previous generations, we seem to have become a nation of easily frightened people—the healthiest hypochondriacs in the world!"

So begins a thoroughly delightful book, chock full of facts, arguments, polemics, and humor. We must hope that it will be published in a paperback edition soon, and that millions of copies will flood the nation.

For, if there is any capacity for reason and rigorous thought still remaining in the nation, then Dr. Ray's book is an important contribution to destroying the arguments and the credibility of the cult known as environmentalism.

Dr. Ray is the former governor of the state of Washington, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, assistant secretary of state in the U.S. Bureau of Oceans, longtime member of the Zoology Department of the University of Washington, and director of Seattle's Pacific Science Center. *Trashing the Planet* is a handbook for the defense of human progress against those forces who wish to establish an "environmentalist world order," which seeks to reduce individual man to the level of beasts and reduce human population by the billions.

### **Optimists make the best scientists**

Dr. Ray is a scientist in the best sense of that word: not a technician who may master procedures and facts, but a human being who is committed to bettering the human condition. To realize that goal she has dedicated her life to enhancing those qualities in her fellow citizens that distinguish them