

Pales.

MANIFESTO
OF THE INSTITUTE
OF ARAB
AMERICAN AFFAIRS
ON PALESTINE

*(Submitted to the honorable delegates of
the United Nations Conference on Inter-
national Organization at San Francisco.)*



**THE INSTITUTE OF ARAB
AMERICAN AFFAIRS**

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One of the unfortunate legacies of the last world war is the unsettled situation in Palestine. Political Zionists have lately been agitating for the complete possession of Palestine, and for its recognition as a Jewish commonwealth. The Arabs have never ceased insisting that Palestine is an integral part of Syria, and as such of the Arab world.

The Institute of Arab American Affairs, organized to promote understanding and encourage friendly relations between the United States and the Arabic-speaking peoples, submits, in the name of thousands of loyal American citizens of Arabic-speaking stock, the following pertinent considerations:

1. The Balfour declaration, the "charter" of modern political Zionism, was a unilateral declaration, not binding on the Arabs either morally or legally. It was made without their knowledge or consent. In making it, Balfour offered something which was not his to offer.

It was an unhappy experiment which brought in its wake revolts, bloodshed and deep resentment. The British mandate in Palestine, which incorporated the Balfour declaration, became a defiance of the Arab will and a violation of the 22nd article of the League of Nations covenant, which states that the "well-being and development of the people concerned form a sacred trust of civilization." Instead of carrying out this provision, the mandate became a shameful breach of faith with millions of Arabs and with millions of youths who shed their blood on the battlefields of Europe "to make the world safe for democracy."

Nevertheless, we maintain with many British, that the Balfour declaration has been more than fulfilled. The Jews do have today a national home in Palestine. They

have a cultural home, "a home for the spirit of my people," as one high-minded Zionist leader expressed it. They have an educational system of their own, a university, various cultural institutions, a place to look upon with pride! The British Government never intended to create a Jewish state in Palestine, as it has made it clear in its White Paper of 1922, and again in its White Paper of 1939.

It has been estimated that if the United States had accepted Jewish immigrants and refugees in the same proportion per square mile as Palestine had done we would have welcomed in the last ten years 80,920,000 Jews!

2. The various British official committees investigating the causes of trouble in Palestine—the Shaw Committee, the John Hope Simpson Committee, the Lord Peel Committee—have been unanimous in ascribing the trouble there to a fundamental political cause—the fear of the Arab population of just what is transcribing now before our own eyes. From a demand for a national home in Palestine, Zionists, encouraged by the success of their propaganda in the United States, have been demanding the whole of Palestine as their national state.

3. The British White Paper of 1939 has been misrepresented as an "appeasement" of the Arabs. In fact it is the righting of a grievous wrong done the Arabs. The solution proposed in this White Paper, based on thorough investigations made by the Lord Peel Committee, offered the creation of an independent state in a period of ten years and limited the sale of lands in some parts of Palestine, while prohibiting them in others. By its very nature the White Paper of 1939 was a compromise, and was opposed by Arab nationalists as much as by Zionists. The Arabs, however, have since tacitly accepted it. At long last the British Government, through this document, has recognized that the Arabs of Palestine are entitled to their natural right of self-determination. It is, further and indirectly, a recognition of the geographic, historic and economic unity of Palestine with its neighboring Arab states.

These states are now collaborating to take their place among the democratic and pro-

gressive nations of the world, and to make their contribution to humanity, as they abundantly did in the past.

4. The Arab claim to Palestine rests on a simple historical fact: continued occupation, uninterrupted settlement and unbroken cultural association. It is the right of any people domiciled for centuries in a land to maintain its hold on that land.

The so-called Arabs of Palestine represent the early native stock which inhabited the land of Canaan before the advent of Joshua, or even of Abraham. They are called Arabs because they adopted the Arabic language after the Moslem conquest of the 7th century, at which time the population received fresh recruits from Arabia. Through historic continuity and associations, through a common heritage of racial culture and ideals, the people of Palestine are one with the people of neighboring Syria. Palestine itself has been geographically and administratively, until the last war, an integral part of Syria.

5. World security demands that Palestine be kept in the Arab fold. A Jewish nation there would be impracticable and indefensible. Arabs and Moslems everywhere have expressed themselves in unmistakable terms against its creation.

6. According to Prime Minister Churchill, in his speech following the Yalta Conference, the Arabs have rendered good and meritorious service to democracy in the present war. All the national resources of Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon have been at the disposition of the United Nations. Arab fighters are today with our forces that have penetrated the citadel of Nazism.

7. While the Arabs have borne more than their share of the humanitarian task of granting refuge to thousands of Jewish immigrants and refugees, it is our earnest belief and hope that the solution of the so-called Jewish problem lies in the creation of an atmosphere of true democracy and security everywhere, not in the artificial creation of a Jewish state in Palestine.

“The Turkish portions of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development.”

From the Fourteen Points of
President Wilson.

“ . . .they respect the rights of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they live, and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-determination restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them. . .

“ . . .after the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want.”

From the Atlantic Charter.