

## Jordan is Palestine

Last year "International Intelligence" explained how the names Israel and Palestine (Philistine) have been applied alternately throughout the ages to the same territory, depending on the power in possession. This point is being made by an international organization called the "Jordan is Palestine Committee" which has rightly pointed out that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a twentieth century creation occupying territory that was part of Palestine. Unfortunately the organization draws the wrong conclusion from this, namely that the Jordan River should form an international frontier between Israel and Palestine, thus missing the point that the two names designate the same territory.

The State of Israel is one of the most ancient in the world having been founded c. 1200 BCE (conventional chronology) or c. 1400 BCE (revised chronology). It lost its sovereignty when it was forced to accept Assyrian suzerainty in 743 BCE and ceased to exist c. 721 BCE when Sargon II, King of Assyria, deported the inhabitants. Over two thousand-five hundred years later in 1948 the State of Israel was reborn. It was immediately confronted with the question of the definition of its frontiers, a problem which thirty-five years later remains unsolved.

The River Jordan is not the present frontier of Israel as "The Administered Territories" have not been annexed.

*The river has never been the frontier of Israel.*

Reference to an historical atlas will show that throughout nearly all five centuries of its existence the first State of Israel occupied territory<sup>on</sup> both sides of the River Jordan, which thus, flowed through the heart of the country.

The frontier was marked by the Syrian Desert, east of the Jordan Valley, until sovereignty was lost to the Assyrian Empire. In 732 BCE the River Jordan was made a border (not an international frontier) by the Assyrian Government to demarcate the area of direct Assyrian administration from the vassal

states, of which Israel was one. Twelve years later Israel ceased to exist when it was annexed and made part of the Assyrian Province of Samaria.

The Ottoman Empire contained no administrative unit known as Palestine and therefore the reference to that territory in the Balfour Declaration of 1917 left the question of its delineation open. Roman Palestine (135-638) and Arab Palestine (638-1099), each included territory on both sides of the River Jordan. Thereafter, administratively the name fell into disuse. In 1920 the northern part of the Jordan Valley became part of the French Mandate of Syria and Lebanon. The rest was constituted the British Mandate of Palestine. In 1923 however the part of Palestine east of the River Jordan was made the separate Mandate of Transjordan with Abdullah bin Hussein, member of the Hashemite family and thus a descendant of the Prophet Mohamet, as Emir. In 1946 it was granted independence with Abdullah as King and changed its name to Jordan.

The River Jordan has thus only served as an international frontier from 1946 to 1948 when it divided the territory of the British Mandate of Palestine from that of the newly independent Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The Jordan Valley is a natural geographical unit with the river as its axis not its border. That is why Zionists have always claimed it "in toto" including the headwaters which are in the Republic of Lebanon.