

MEMORANDUM

TO: Book Club
FROM: Pedro
RE: Middle East Study
DATE: 2/10/91

Enclosed are study material and an outline for our Middle East study. Given the breadth of the materials and the subject I do not believe it will be possible to cover everything in one session. Also the volume of the materials I think a longer time period will be needed to read everything.

I have divided the materials into two groups: the first group is an extension of the materials we have been studying on US imperialism is the post-World War II era; and the second is an analysis of the Middle East from the perspective of the National Question. Some materials are marked as review of prior studies and some are supplemental given the volume of the reading.

Bibliography

Overview

1. "Brief Middle East History" which I prepared largely from the World Book Encyclopedia.
2. "Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict for Beginners," Lisa Hajjar, Mouin Rabbania and Joel Beinin, pp 101-111 in Intifada: The Palestinian Uprising Against Israeli Occupation edited by Zachary Lockman and Joel Beinin, 1989 by Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP), published by South End Press, Boston, MA.

US Imperialism and Oil Policy

3. "Israel's Role in US Foreign Policy," speech by Noam Chomsky at Tel Aviv University, April 13, 1988, pp 253-273 in Intifada, Ibid.
4. "Imperial Energies," pp 98-145 in The Brotherhood of Oil, Robert Engler, University of Chicago Press, 1977.*
5. "The Middle East and North Africa," pp208-274 in United States Oil Policy and Diplomacy, Edward W. Chester, Greenwood Press, 1983.**

National Question

- Review:
6. "The National Problem" pp 76-87 in Foundations of Leninism, Joseph Stalin, International Publishers, 1939.
 7. "Defining Self-Determination" pp 1-16 in Paper on Black Self-Determination, James Forman, 1980.

Palestinian Self-Determination:

8. "The Uprising in Palestine," by Editors of Monthly Review, October, 1988, pp 259-272 in History As It Happened: Selected Articles from Monthly Review, 1949-1989, compiled by Bobbye S. Ortiz, Monthly Review Press, 1990.

Pan-Arabism:

9. "Formation of the Baath," pp 183-197 and pp 226-228 and "The Legitimation of Iraqi Baath," pp 229-257 in Republic of Fear, Samir al-Khalil, Pantheon Books, 1989.***

- * This book is authored by a professor of political science at New York University. Important information can be gained from the text even though he is basically an apologist for US policy.
- ** This should be considered supplemental, even though it contains a lot of worthwhile data. The author is a history professor at the University of Texas/Arlington.
- *** Despite the sensationalist title, the book contains a substantial amount of historical material, particularly with respect to the Baath Party perspective and its clash with the Iraqi Communist Party. The only information I could find out about the author was that the name is a pseudonym for an unknown author.

US Imperialism and Oil Policy

1. "Israel's Role in US Foreign Policy," speech by Ross Chassy at Tel Aviv University, April 18, 1988, pp 252-273 in Imperialism, 1989.
4. "Imperial Energy," pp 58-100 in The Brotherhood of Oil, Robert Taylor, University of Chicago Press, 1977.
5. "The Middle East and North Africa," pp 204-274 in United States Oil Policy and Strategy, Edward M. Chertow, Greenwood Press, 1987.**

National Question

- Review: 6. "The National Problem" pp 74-97 in Foundations of Nationalism, Joseph Stalin, International Publishers, 1939.
7. "Defining Self-Determination" pp 1-10 in Basic Principles of Self-Determination, James Forman, 1960.

BRIEF MIDDLE EAST HISTORY

HISTORY OF ISLAM

570	Muhammad born in Mecca
610	Muhammad begins preaching in Mecca, is scorned and eventually driven out.
622	Muhammad flees to Medina and begins preaching there. This is the first year of Islamic calendar.
630	Muhammad and followers return to Mecca and occupy city,
632	Muhammad dies and Abu Bakr elected caliph (leader) and begins jihad (holy war). Islam spreads throughout North Africa and east as far as India.
600's	Split between Sunni and Shiite Moslems: Sunni: Muslim leadership passed to caliphs elected from Muhammad's tribe. Shiite: Leadership restricted to the descendant of Ali, Muhammad's son-in-law. Shiite are located dominantly in Iran and Iraq.

MIDDLE EAST HISTORY

3500BC	Rise of Egyptian and Summarian (Iraq) civilizations.
1900-1400BC	Hittites came to power in Turkey. The 3 civilizations balanced in power.
800BC	All 3 civilizations destroyed, primarily by the Assyrians. <i>from Central Asia</i>
331BC	Alexander the Great conquers all the Middle East. Area remains under Greek control for 300 years, known as the Hellenistic age, Greek language.
30BC	Romans conquer, Latin becomes dominant language.
600's	Rise of Islam, Arabic language.
1000	Seljuk*Turks from <u>central Asia</u> conquer Arab empire.
1300	Ottoman (Turks) conquer Middle East, decline in power. <i>(A Family*) (PERSIA REMAINED PERSIAN)</i>
1800's	Rise of European countries to dominance.
1869	Completion of Suez Canal by French.
1880's	Britain gains in influence in Egypt and sheikdoms of the Saudi peninsula.
1914-1918	WWI: Arabs fought with British and French against the Turks (Lawrence of Arabia). Anglo-Indian force occupies Basra (Iraq) on 11/22/14 in order to protect the oil fields. Force later (10/15) marches on Baghdad, but Turks force a retreat. British stop Turkish offensive to cross Suez Canal (1915) and counters by occupying Palestine, where they were assisted by British sponsored Arab revolt

HISTORY OF PALESTINE

1923

against the Turks. Russians occupy Turkish Armenia until Revolution cause retreat. In 1917 British forces occupy Jerusalem and Damascus.

1920-1930's

Turkey gains independence. The rest of the conquered countries' colonies became part of the Mandated Territories: Iraq and Palestine (including Jordan) to Britain and Syria (including Lebanon) to France.

1950's

Middle East countries gain independence, neo-colonialism
Rise of Pan-Arabism under leadership of Nasser.

1952

Nasser overthrows Farouk

1956

Nasser nationalizes Suez (Abortive British invasion Anthony Eden)

1958

United Arab Republic: Egypt + Syria

IRAQ HISTORY

1921

Britain sets up government under King Faisal I, but maintains control of economic, foreign and military affairs.

1932

British mandate ends, continues military occupation under terms of 1930 treaty.

1933

Faisal dies, son Ghazi takes throne.

1939

Ghazi dies in auto accident, 3 year old son Faisal II takes throne, but actual ruler is Prince Abdul Ilan (uncle).

1939-1945

Repression/Rise of Communism

Iraq army wants to join Axis, Britain sends troops under 1930 treaty and drives pro-Axis leaders out. 1943, Iraq declares war on Axis.

1948

Iraq joins war against creation of Israel, uprising against poor showing in war.

1952

Ba'th PARTY SMALL

uprising quelled '52 Iraqi Ba'th party founded as

1953

Faisal II takes power at age 18.

BRANCH OF Syrian.

1958

turning pt.

Military coup, Faisal and Abdul Ilan killed. Gen. Abdul Karim Qasim becomes premier, reverses Iraq's pro-Western stance, accepts aid from Communist countries.

1961

Kuwaiti Independence

Kurdish rebellion begins, Qasim suppresses.

1963

Arif and al-Bakr (army officers and Baath party members) overthrow and assassinate Qasim. Arif then leads revolt against al-Bakr.

1966

Arif dies and his brother takes control.

1968

al-Bakr returns and overthrows brother Arif, sets up Baathist controlled government.

1970

Cease fire with Kurds

1973

Iraq takes control of foreign oil companies.

1974-1975

new fighting and cease fire with Kurds.

1979

al-Bakr resigns from office and Saddam Hussain succeeds him.

1980-1988

War with Iran.

HISTORY OF PALESTINE

BC	Hebrews first enter area in 3000BC, leave for Egypt and later re-occupy. Roman, Assyrians and others conquer.
EARLY AD	Jewish revolt against Roman rule in 66 and 132AD. Romans drive Jews from area, rename it Palestine. Romans rule Palestine for next 500 years.
600's	Arab control of Palestine.
1000's	Seljuk Turks conquer, control Jerusalem in 1071,
1099	Christian <u>crusades</u> gain control of Jerusalem.
1187	Arabs regain control of Jerusalem.
1200's	Egyptian empires extend to Jerusalem.
1517	Ottoman Turks gain control of Palestine. Population dominantly Arabic Muslim, with small minorities of Christians and Jews.
Mid 1800's	European Jews begin moving to Palestine, dominantly to escape pogroms. <i>Theodor Herzl '63 - Kossaks were Russian (steppes) - crushed the Jews</i>
1880's	Zionist movement seeks independent Jewish state, sets up farm colonies. Arab population grows.
1911	Organized Arab opposition to Jewish settlement.
1914	85,000 Jews out of total 700,000 population. <i>(12% Jews)</i>
1914-1918	WWI: Turkey joins Germany and Austria-Hungary in war. Turkish military government rules Palestine. Great Britain and Allies plan to divide Palestine. 1916: Sykes-Picot Agreement calls for Palestine to be under the control of the Joint Allied governments. Britain offers to back Arab demands for independence in return for Arab support for Allies. Some Arabs revolt against Turkish rule (Lawrence of Arabia). Arabs claim Britain agreed Palestine in area promised to them. 1917: Balfour Declaration issued in attempt to get Jewish support for the war. BD declares British support for Jewish home in Palestine without violating the rights of non-Jews living there.
1920	Palestine mandated to British. Terms of mandate not clear. Zionists claim Britain was supposed to actively help in establish Jewish state. Arabs oppose and riot against Jewish settlement.
1923	Area east of Jordan River separated from mandate. Known as Trans-Jordan.
1930's	Nazi persecution of Jews in Germany brings large numbers of Jewish refugees to Palestine.
1936-1939	Palestinian Arabs revolt against British rule.
1939	Britain limits Jewish immigration and declares end to all Jewish immigration in 5 years.
1939-1945	WWII: Palestinian Arabs and Jews end resistance to British rule. — <i>Suppressed brutally</i>
1945-1947	Holocaust refugees scattered in foreign countries, Britain seeks to limit immigration to Palestine, large scale Jewish resistance (guerilla warfare,

*HAGANA (Irgun - led by Begin) - Jewish Army
Rt. wing terrorist
faction*

'47 - Bombing of Hotel - Jewish terrorism example

	terrorism). Britain asks United Nations to handle Palestinian problem. U.N. Special Commission on Palestine recommends that Palestine be divided into an Arab state and a Jewish state. On November 29, 1947 U.N. General Assembly adopts this plan. Fighting breaks out in Palestine.
1948	On May 14, Jews proclaim independent State of Israel. Arab countries invade Israel in attempt to aid Palestinian Arabs. When fighting ends, Israel borders are larger than U.N. mandate, Egypt and Transjordan hold rest of Palestine, 700,000 Arabs flee and become refugees in neighboring countries. Nasser nationalizes Suez Canal. Britain, France and Israel attack.
1956	
1964	Palestine Liberation Organization founded.
1967	Six-day war leaves Israel in control of West Bank, Golan Heights, Gaza and Sinai.
1973	Yom Kippur war, most fighting ends by June, 1974.
1974	U.N. recognizes PLO as representative of all Palestinian Arabs.
1978	Camp David accords: Israel releases Sinai, signs peace accord with Egypt and agrees to self-government for West Bank and Gaza for a 5 yr. period followed by decision about future status.
1982	Israel invades Lebanon, sets up buffer zone in south Lebanon.

HISTORY OF KUWAIT

1710	First settlers in Kuwait, escape drought to south, find fresh water. Settlers are members of Arab tribe Anaiza.
1756-1762	The tribe elects the head of the Al-Sabah family to rule them as Sabah I.
1775	British make Kuwait starting point in mail service to Syria. British interest in Kuwait grows.
1889	Great Britain becomes responsible for Kuwait's defense.
1934	Concession granted to Kuwait Oil Co. to drill for oil, owned by Britain/U.S.
1936	Drilling begins, vast oil reserves found.
1961	Kuwait gains independence. <i>BRITAIN MASSES FORCES IN KUWAIT</i>
1967	Kuwait sends troops to Egypt, do not fight in war.
1973	Kuwaiti troops take part in Arab-Israeli war, Kuwait join oil embargo.
1975	Kuwait nationalizes Kuwait Oil Company.
1976	National Assembly dissolved when prime minister accuses of blocking legislation.

HISTORY OF SAUDI ARABIA

570	Muhammad born in Mecca.
Mid-1400's	Saud family establishes control over a small near present day Riyadh.
Mid-1700's	The Wahhabi movement, which stressed strict adherence to Islam, spreads across most of Arabia. The Saud family supports the movement and took control of areas converted to Wahhabi beliefs.
1891	Tribal chiefs and the Ottomans gain control of most of Arabia. Saud family flees in exile.
1906-1932	Abd al-Aziz ibn Saud, exiled Saudi leader, conquers large regions of Arabia and established Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
1933	Saudi petroleum industry begins.
1953	Ibn Saud dies and is succeeded by his son Saud.
1964	Saud forced to give up throne and was succeeded by his brother Faisal.
1967	Saudi Arabia supports Egypt, Jordan and Syria in Six-Day War. <i>Join oil EMBARGO</i>
1973	Saudi Arabia stops or reduces oil shipments to some western countries after outbreak of Yom Kippur War.
1975	Faisal is assassinated and is succeeded by his half-brother Prince Khalid.
1982	Khalid dies and is succeeded by his half-brother Prince Fahd.

MIDDLE EAST: ALIGNMENT OF FORCES

Perceptual P.C.: Integrated world capitalism under control of U.S. imperialism vs.
Arabic nationalism

A: U.S. IMPERIALISM	B: ARAB NATIONALISM
U.S. Imperialism <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Military<ul style="list-style-type: none">-NATO (Turkey)-\$3 billion aid to Israel-Aid to "friendly" Arab states-Economic<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Oil companies-Lend Lease during WWII	Progressive World Forces <ul style="list-style-type: none">-USSR (?)-People's Republic of China-Non-Aligned World Movement
Arab Allies to US Imperialism <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Saudi Arabia-Kuwait-Arab Emirates-Morocco	Arab Nationalists (Pan-Arabists) <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Iraq-Syria-Palestine (PLO)-Libya-Algeria
Lebanon----->	
Jordan----->	
	←-----Egypt
Israel <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Occupation of West Bank, Gaza & Golan Heights-World Zionism-Suppression of Palestine	Palestinian Nationalism <ul style="list-style-type: none">-PLO, Intifada