



**Geography Skills**

Nationalist movements emerged after World War I, leading to the creation of new states in the Middle East.

**1. Interpreting Maps**  
Study the map's key. What does the shading on the map indicate? What do the red lines on the map represent?

**2. Applying Geography Skills** Identify the countries on the map that are controlled by the British and the French. How did European control of these areas impact Arab nationalism?

By 1918, another four hundred thousand Armenians had been massacred. Russia, France, and Britain denounced the Turkish killing of the Armenians as “against humanity and civilization.” Because of the war, however, the killings went on.

**Emergence of the Turkish Republic** At the end of World War I, the tottering Ottoman Empire collapsed. Great Britain and France made plans to divide up Ottoman territories in the Middle East. Only the area of present-day Turkey remained under Ottoman control. Then, Greece invaded Turkey and seized the western parts of the Anatolian Peninsula.

The invasion alarmed key elements in Turkey, who were organized under the leadership of the war hero Colonel Mustafa Kemal. Kemal resigned from the army and summoned a national congress calling for the creation of an elected government and a new Republic of Turkey. His forces drove the Greeks from the Anatolian Peninsula. In 1923, the last of the Ottoman sultans fled the country,



Kemal Atatürk

which was now declared to be the Turkish Republic. The Ottoman Empire had finally come to an end.

**Reading Check Evaluating** How did the Ottoman Empire finally end?

**The Modernization of Turkey**

President Kemal was now popularly known as **Atatürk** (AT•uh•TUHRK), or “father Turk.” Over the next several years, he tried to transform Turkey into a modern state. A democratic system was put in place, but the president did not tolerate opposition and harshly suppressed his critics.

Atatürk’s changes went beyond politics. Many Arabic elements were eliminated from the Turkish language, which was now written in the Roman alphabet. Popular education was introduced. All Turkish citizens were forced to adopt family (last) names, in the European style.

Atatürk also took steps to modernize Turkey’s economy. Factories were established, and a five-year plan provided for state direction over the economy.



Atatürk also tried to modernize farming, although he had little effect on the nation's peasants.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of Atatürk's reform program was his attempt to break the power of the Islamic religion. He wanted to transform Turkey into a secular state—a state that rejects religious influence on its policies. Atatürk said, "Religion is like a heavy blanket that keeps the people of Turkey asleep."

The caliphate was formally abolished in 1924. Men were forbidden to wear the fez, the brimless cap worn by Turkish Muslims. When Atatürk began wearing a Western panama hat, one of his critics remarked, "You cannot make a Turk into a Westerner by giving him a hat."

Women were forbidden to wear the veil, a traditional Islamic custom. New laws gave women marriage and inheritance rights equal to men's. In 1934, women received the right to vote. All citizens were also given the right to convert to other religions.

The legacy of Kemal Atatürk was enormous. In practice, not all of his reforms were widely accepted, especially by devout Muslims. However, most of the changes that he introduced were kept after his death in 1938. By and large, the Turkish Republic was the product of Atatürk's determined efforts.

**✓ Reading Check Identifying** What radical step did Atatürk take to modernize Turkey?

## The Beginnings of Modern Iran

A similar process of modernization was underway in Persia. Under the Qajar dynasty (1794–1925), the country had not been very successful in resolving its domestic problems. Increasingly, the dynasty had turned to Russia and Great Britain to protect itself from its own people, which led to a growing foreign presence in Persia. The discovery of oil in the southern part of the country in 1908 attracted more foreign interest. Oil exports increased rapidly, and most of the profits went to British investors.

The growing foreign presence led to the rise of a native Persian nationalist movement. In 1921, Reza Khan, an officer in the Persian army, led a military mutiny that seized control of **Tehran**, the capital city. In 1925, Reza Khan established himself as shah, or king, and was called **Reza Shah Pahlavi**. The name of the new dynasty he created, Pahlavi, was the name of the ancient Persian language.

During the next few years, Reza Shah Pahlavi tried to follow the example of Kemal Atatürk in Turkey. He introduced a number of reforms to

strengthen and modernize the government, the military, and the economic system. Persia became the modern state of **Iran** in 1935.

Unlike Kemal Atatürk, Reza Shah Pahlavi did not try to destroy the power of Islamic beliefs. However, he did encourage the creation of a Western-style educational system and forbade women to wear the veil in public.

Foreign powers continued to harass Iran. To free himself from Great Britain and the Soviet Union, Reza Shah Pahlavi drew closer to Nazi Germany. During World War II, the shah rejected the demands of Great Britain and the Soviet Union to expel a large number of Germans from Iran. In response, the Soviet Union and Great Britain sent troops into the country. Reza Shah Pahlavi resigned in protest and was replaced by his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

**✓ Reading Check Comparing** How was Reza Shah Pahlavi's modernization of Persia different from Atatürk's transformation of Turkey?

## Arab Nationalism

World War I offered the Arabs an opportunity to escape from Ottoman rule. However, there was a question as to what would replace that rule. The Arabs were not a nation, though they were united by their language and their Islamic cultural and religious heritage.

Because Britain had supported the efforts of Arab nationalists in 1916, the nationalists hoped this support would continue after the war ended. Instead, Britain made an agreement with France to create a number of mandates in the area. These mandates were former Ottoman territories that were now supervised by the new League of Nations. The league, in



*Sultan Ibn Saud, who established the kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

turn, granted league members the right to govern particular mandates. Iraq, Palestine, and Jordan were assigned to Great Britain; Syria and Lebanon to France.

For the most part, Europeans created these Middle Eastern states. The Europeans determined the nations' borders and divided the peoples. In general, the people in these states had no strong identification with their designated country. However, a sense of Arab nationalism remained.

In the early 1920s, a reform leader, **Ibn Saud**, united Arabs in the northern part of the Arabian Peninsula. Devout and gifted, Ibn Saud (from whom came the name *Saudi Arabia*) won broad support. He established the kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932.

At first, the new kingdom, which consisted mostly of the vast desert of central Arabia, was desperately poor. Its main source of income came from the Muslim pilgrims who visited Makkah and Madinah.

During the 1930s, however, U.S. prospectors began to explore for oil. Standard Oil made a successful strike at Dhahran, on the Persian Gulf, in 1938. Soon, an Arabian-American oil company, popularly called Aramco, was created. The isolated kingdom was suddenly flooded with Western oil industries that brought the promise of wealth.

**✓ Reading Check Examining** How were many Middle Eastern states created after World War I?

## The Problem of Palestine

The situation in **Palestine** made matters even more complicated in the Middle East. While Palestine had

been the home of the Jews in antiquity, few had lived there for almost two thousand years. While some Christians and Jews did live in Palestine, it was inhabited primarily by Muslim Palestinians. Britain, however, stated its intention to support a national home for the Jews in the 1917 Balfour Declaration: "His Majesty's Government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people."

The British promised that the Balfour Declaration would not undermine the rights of the non-Jewish peoples living in the area. Still, Arab nationalists were angered. They questioned how a national home for the Jewish people could be established in a territory that was 80 percent Muslim.

In the meantime, the promises of the Balfour Declaration drew Jewish settlers to Palestine. The Zionist movement (see Chapter 20) had advocated the return of Jews to Palestine since the late 1890s. During the 1930s, tensions increased between the new arrivals and the existing Muslim residents. At the same time, the rising persecution of Jews in Nazi Germany caused many European Jews to flee to Palestine. By 1939, there were about 450,000 Jews in Palestine.

The British, fearing aroused Arab nationalism, tried to restrict Jewish immigration into the territory. In 1939, the British declared that only 75,000 Jewish immigrants would be allowed into Palestine over the next five years. After that, no more Jews could enter the country. This decision would eventually produce severe conflicts in the region.

**✓ Reading Check Explaining** Why did the Balfour Declaration produce problems in Palestine?

## SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

### Checking for Understanding

- 1. Define** genocide, ethnic cleansing.
- 2. Identify** Abdulhamid II, T. E. Lawrence, Atatürk, Reza Shah Pahlavi, Ibn Saud.
- 3. Locate** Tehran, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Palestine.
- 4. Explain** why the British supported Arab nationalist activities in 1916.
- 5. List** the mandates assigned to Great Britain and France.

### Critical Thinking

- 6. Evaluate** Why was it difficult for the Arab peoples to form one nation?
- 7. Summarizing Information** Make a diagram like the one below showing eight aspects of the modernization of Turkey.



### Analyzing Visuals

- 8. Examine** the photo on page 782 showing Armenian children who lost their parents. Why were hundreds of thousands of Armenians killed or driven from their homes by the Turks?

### Writing About History

- 9. Expository Writing** Locate information regarding the current political policies of Iran. Write two paragraphs comparing this information with the policies of Reza Shah Pahlavi. Document your sources.