

## Imperialism in the Middle East and Southwest Asia – Outline

### I. Geography

- a. Diverse region stretching around the eastern Mediterranean coast to the Indus Valley
- b. Includes Afghanistan, Persia (Iran), and the Turkish empire
  - i. Ottoman Turks defeated in World War I
    - 1. Ottoman lands administered by the League of Nations
- c. Rich oil reserves

### II. British interests

- a. Suez Canal in Egypt, 1869
  - i. Short route between Mediterranean Sea and Indian Ocean
  - ii. Egypt independent from Great Britain in 1922
    - 1. But British controlled canal until 1960s
- b. Mandates following World War I – under the League of Nations
  - i. Mesopotamia – Iraq
  - ii. Palestine – Israel
    - 1. Included Transjordan (Jordan)
- c. Kuwait
  - i. Declared by invading Britons after World War I to be an “independent sheikdom under British protectorate”
  - ii. Independent in 1961

### III. French interests

- a. French mandates (1923-1944) under the League of Nations
  - i. Syria
  - ii. Lebanon

### IV. Russian interests

- a. Russians (Soviets after 1917) sought control of Constantinople (Istanbul)
  - i. Warm-water port linking the Black Sea to the Mediterranean Sea
- b. Acquisition and control of territory in Caucasus and Central Asia

