

IMPERIALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTHWEST ASIA

GEOGRAPHY

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

BRITISH INTERESTS

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

FRENCH INTERESTS

□ French mandates (1923-1944) under the League of Nations

□ Syria



□ Lebanon



RUSSIAN INTERESTS

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

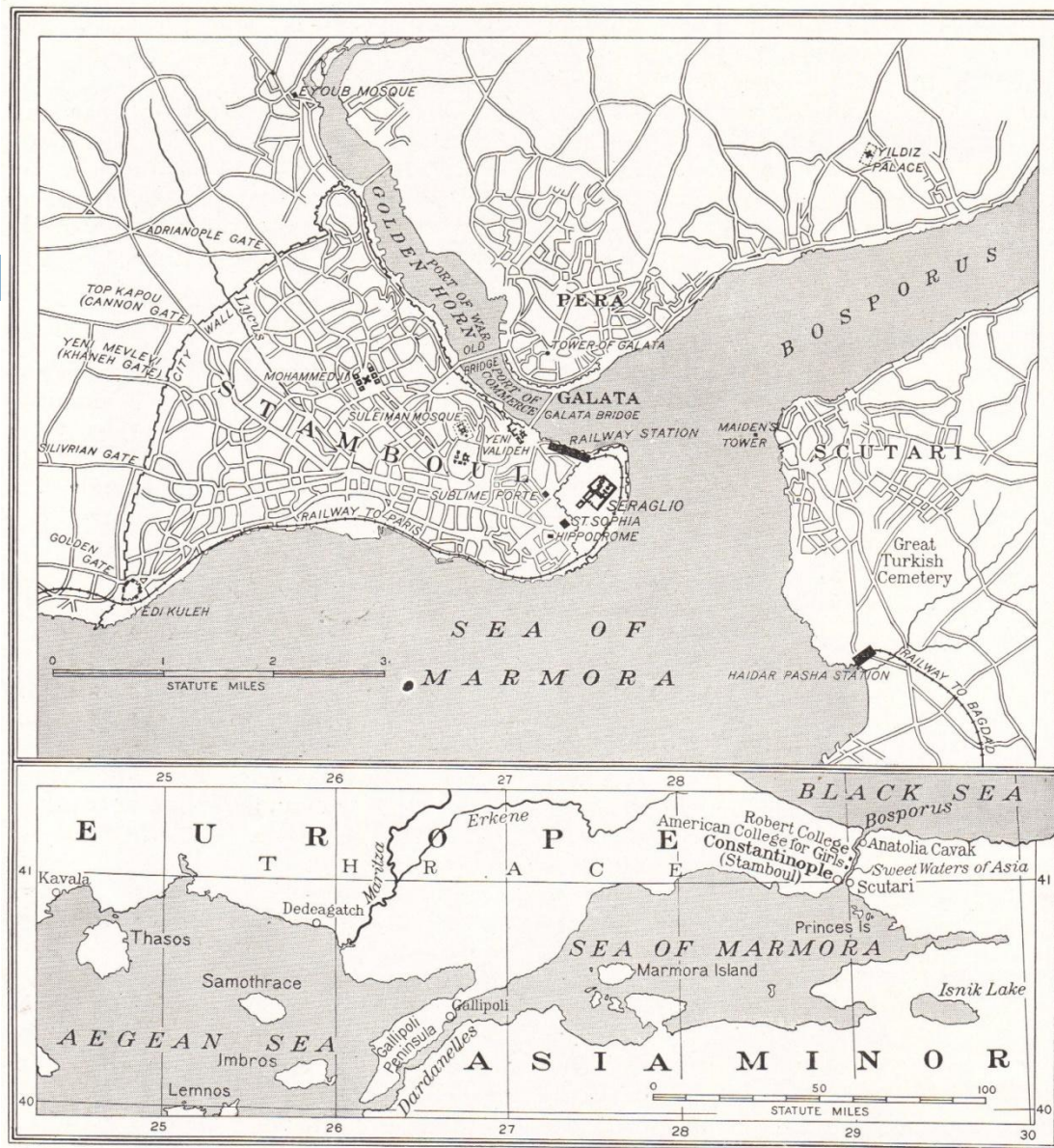


THE BUSY PORT OF STAMBOUL

Photograph from Frederick Simpich

The many recent changes in the world map have closed some old trade routes and opened new ones. With the Dardanelles no longer obstructed the vast regions of the Black Sea coasts and Caucasia are being thrown open to trade.

Istanbul, 1922



Drawn by A. H. Bumstead

A SKETCH MAP OF CONSTANTINOPLE

Its situation at the cross-roads between the East and the West has caused Constantinople's history to be written in blood. While Great Britain, France, and Italy have decided to restore the Turks to full authority in the city (see page 647) and to the Asiatic side of the Dardanelles, provision is made for a broad demilitarized zone and an Allied force is to remain in occupation of the Gallipoli Peninsula to safeguard the free and unimpeded entrance to the Straits. The navigation of the Straits is to be placed under the control of an International Commission under a Turkish president.

GERMAN INTERESTS

- Berlin-to-Baghdad Railroad
 - ▣ If thoroughly completed, it would have allowed transport from Germany, through Iraqi oil fields, to port on the Persian Gulf
 - ▣ Route completed between Berlin and Baghdad by 1940












CONFLICTS BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND RUSSIA

- Russia attempted moving into Afghanistan, India (Pakistan), and Persia (Iran)
- Afghanistan – ruled by Great Britain until independent in 1919
- India (including Pakistan) – ruled by Great Britain until independent in 1947
- 1907 – compromise over Persia (Iran)
 - ▣ Northern third – Russian sphere of influence
 - ▣ Southeastern third – British sphere of influence
 - ▣ Remaining middle third – “no man’s land”
 - ▣ Never colonized but lost territory to Russia and Britain during the Qajar era (1794-1925)



1. Khamseh
2. Qazvin
3. Kermanshah
4. Hamedan
5. Tehran
6. Iraq Adjami
7. Yazd

0 500 km

	Iran at the beginning of the 19th c.		Iranian Attacks		Russian empire limits in 1900
	Losses and gains		1838, Herat Siege by Shah of Iran		1907 Convention
	Losses and gains		1873		Britannic influence
FARS			Russian acquisitions during the 19th c.		

Review Questions

- What two native empires ruled the Middle East and southwestern Asia in the nineteenth century?
- What natural resource of this region was of most interest to foreign imperialist powers?
- What foreign powers held control in this region under mandates granted by the League of Nations?