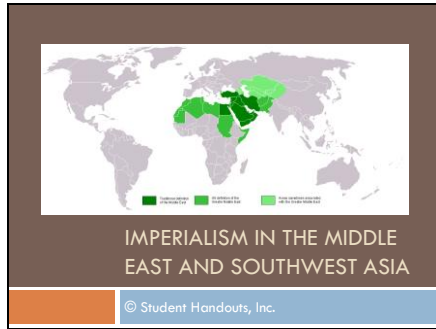


Slide 1



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Slide 2

### 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

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Slide 3

### 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

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Slide 4

### FRENCH INTERESTS

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



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Slide 5

### 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



Istanbul, 1922

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Slide 6



A SECOND WAY OF OVERSEASING

The situation of the world has changed since the First and the Second World Wars. Constantinople is now the 15 million city of the world. While Turkey, Greece, France, and Italy have developed the Balkans as a continent, the only remaining land mass for the Allied side of the world is the peninsula of the Middle East. It is the only remaining land mass for the Allied side of the world. It is the only remaining land mass for the Allied side of the world. It is the only remaining land mass for the Allied side of the world.

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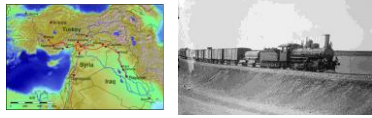
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Slide 7

### 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 1914



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Slide 8

### 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)

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Slide 9



Map showing spheres of influence and territorial acquisitions in the Middle East and surrounding regions. Key features include:

- Green: Sphere of influence of Great Britain (1907)
- Red: Russian sphere of influence (1907)
- Blue: British sphere of influence
- Yellow: Russian sphere of influence
- Red and white stripes: Russian acquisitions during the 19th c.
- Green and white stripes: British acquisitions during the 19th c.
- Black arrows: Russian attacks
- Red arrows: British attacks
- Red circle: 1907 Convention
- Red line: Russian empire limits in 1907
- Blue line: British influence
- Green line: British influence

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Slide 10

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?

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