

Week Fourteen Handout

“God & Caesar – The Ancient Modern Clash”

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The Crucible of the Middle East:

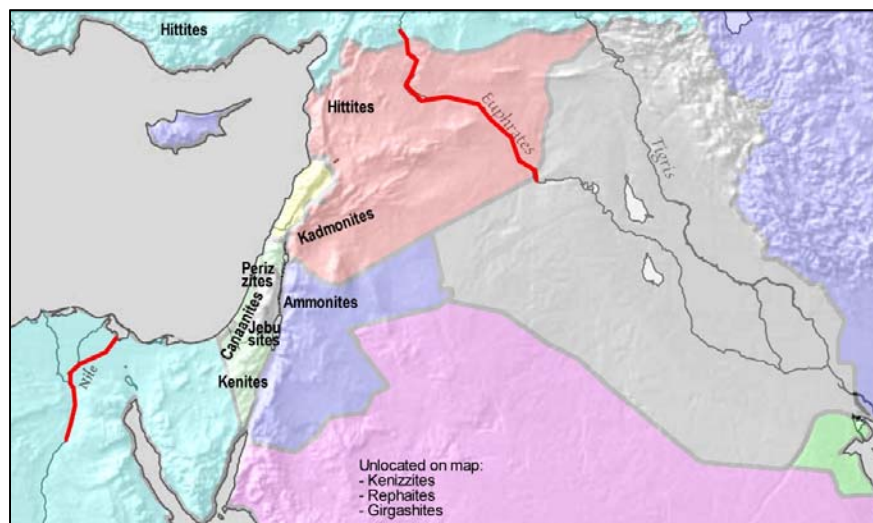
The Enduring Struggle of the Sons of Abraham

Christianity, Islam and Judaism descend from Abraham. Yet, all three have chosen different paths to address the ultimate questions of life. Their divergent theological approaches have frequently led the ‘three sons’ into conflict with one another. No place is this more evident than in the Middle East. This session will look at the roots of the struggle of the sons of Abraham and its potential for resolving the conflicts in Jerusalem, Israel/Palestine, and the Middle East today.

Introduction

Genesis 15:18-21 *On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates— the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites.”*

Joshua 1:1-4 *After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Great Sea on the west.*



Zionism

- ❖ Theodor Herzl – *Judenstaat* (1896) – political Zionism – secular approach
 - ❖ Abraham Isaac Kook – moved to Israel (1904) – Talmudic approach – Chief Rabbi of the British Mandate
 - ❖ Zvee Yhuda Kook (son) – religious Zionist – father of the settlement movement
- Balfour Declaration – November 2, 1917 – Letter from Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to Baron Rothschild – policy of British government

"His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

Key Dates

- 1916 – Sykes-Picot agreement
- 1917 – Balfour Declaration
- 1919 – End of WWI
- 1945 – End of WWII
- 1947 – UN plan for Middle East
- May 15, 1948 – Partition of Palestine into Jewish State and Arab State
- May 15, 1948-January 7, 1949 – War of Independence
- June 5-10, 1967 – Six Day War (pre-emptive by Israel)
- October 6-23, 1973 – Yom Kippur War (pre-emptive by Egypt)
- September 17, 1978 – Camp David Accords
(Peace with Egypt / 1979)
- 1987-1993 – First Intifada (Killing, car wreck, rumors)
- 1991 – Madrid Peace Conference
- 1993 – Oslo Peace Conference
- October 26, 1994 – Peace Treaty between Israel and Jordan
- 2000 – Camp David Talks & Clinton "parameters"
- 2002 – "Quartet" roadmap for peace; Arab League proposal
- 2000-2005 – Second Intifada (Oslo, Al-Aqsa Incident)
- 2005 – Israel withdraws from Gaza
- 2006-07 – Palestinian intra-political conflict / Hamas control of Gaza
- December 27, 2008 – "Operation Cast Lead" in Gaza
- 2010 – Direct talks brokered by U.S.
- September 2011 – Palestine to see recognition as a country at the U.N., including East Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza. Two fellow U.N. states occupying the same land

Key Issues

- 80% of issues agreed upon based on Oslo two-state framework
- Final Status Issues
 - Palestinian Refugees - “Right of return”
 - Compensation
 - Settlements and Borders
 - Mutual Security
 - Jerusalem
- Question – Do we decide easy questions first or hard questions first?
- Question – Two states or one state?

Current Peace Efforts

- Quartet on the Middle East – UN, US, EU, Russia
- Special U.S. envoy – George Mitchell
- USAID – West Bank and Gaza
- Arab League and OIC – Peace proposal endorsed in 2002 and 2007