

LIST I

HIU34083/84 British and French Colonialism in the Middle East, 1919-39 (Ramazan Öztan)



The history of the modern Middle East is profoundly shaped by the introduction of British and French colonial rule over the region in the aftermath of the First World War. Prefacing this two-decade-long history were the centuries of Ottoman rule over the empire's Arab provinces, the memories of which also played into popular perceptions of the imperial pasts and national presents. The module will familiarize students with the key scholarly discussions addressing various aspects of this complex history. By situating the making of the region in a broader context, we will discuss the scramble of former Ottoman territories after the Great War and the contentious introduction of the League of Nations' mandates to the Middle East. We will trace developmentalist discourses and postwar visions for the future that facilitated the onset of colonial rule, examining how these visions were implemented in terms of administration, infrastructure, and economy, and the ways in which imperial rule was challenged by the broader sectors of the region's population. Weekly discussions will center on a variety of primary and secondary sources, surveying key themes, such as humanitarianism, peace-making, borderlands, property, nationalism, minorities, displacement, gender, environment, nomadism, narcotics, archeology, resource extraction, and memory. This approach will enable students not only to develop a keen understanding of the region's complex past, but also undertake independent projects aligned with their own research interests.