

STANDARDS:

SS7H2 The student will analyze continuity and change in Southwest Asia (Middle East) leading to the 21st century.

- A. Explain how European partitioning in the Middle East after the breakup of the Ottoman Empire led to regional conflict.
- B. Explain the historical reasons for the establishment of the modern State of Israel in 1948; include the Jewish religious connection to the land, the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, and Zionism in Europe.



The Creation of
ISRAEL

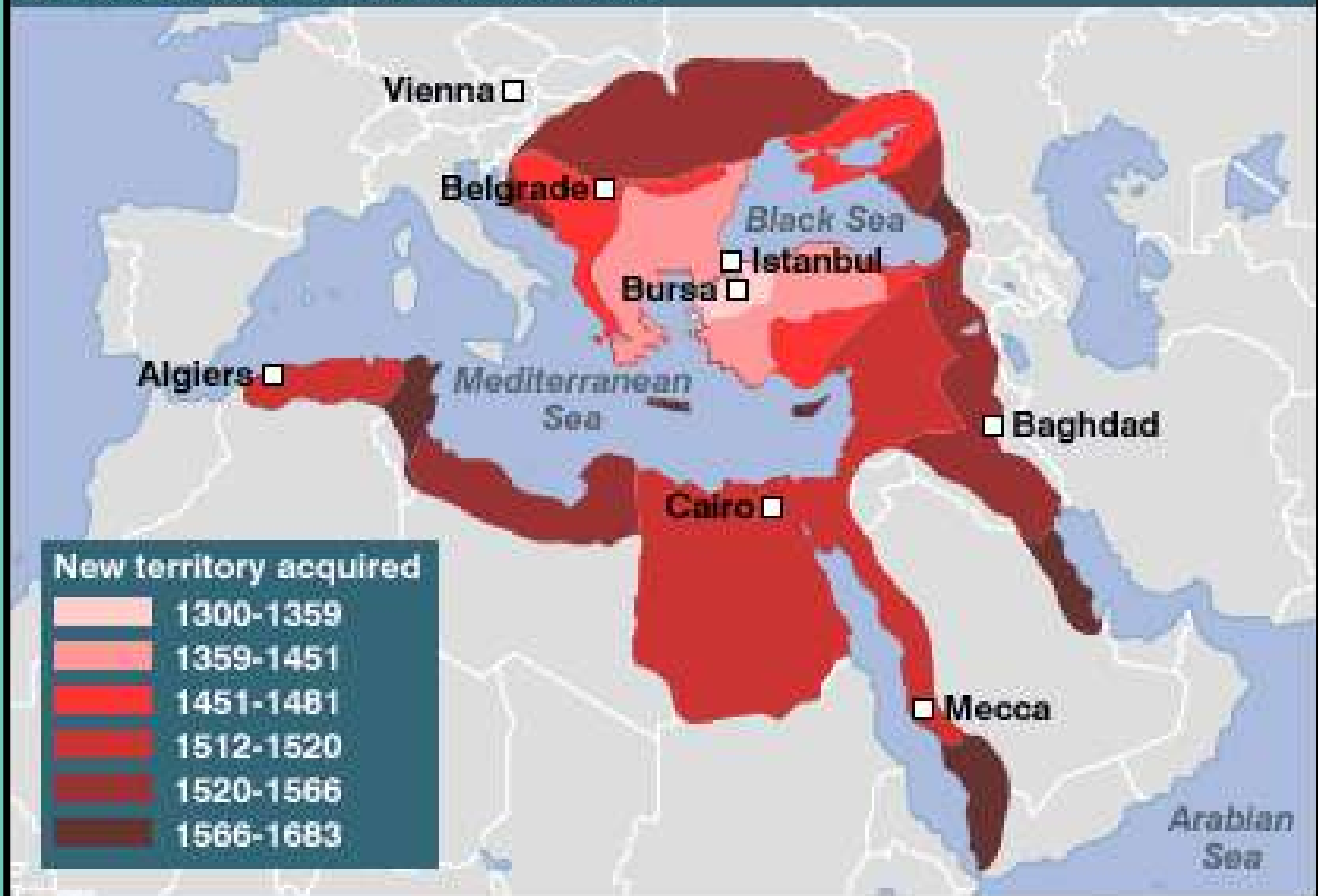
Ottoman Empire

- The Ottoman Turks began as small warrior bands that raided villages on the Byzantine frontier.
- They eventually developed into one of the largest and longest standing empires in the world.
- The Ottoman Empire was ruled by one family from 1299 CE until 1923 CE.

Ottoman Empire

- The Ottoman Turks were known for their ruthless pursuit of land.
- At its height, the Ottoman Empire was six times the size of Texas.
- Its lands stretched from what is now Turkey and parts of southeastern Europe, northern Africa, and southwestern Asia.

THE GROWTH OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

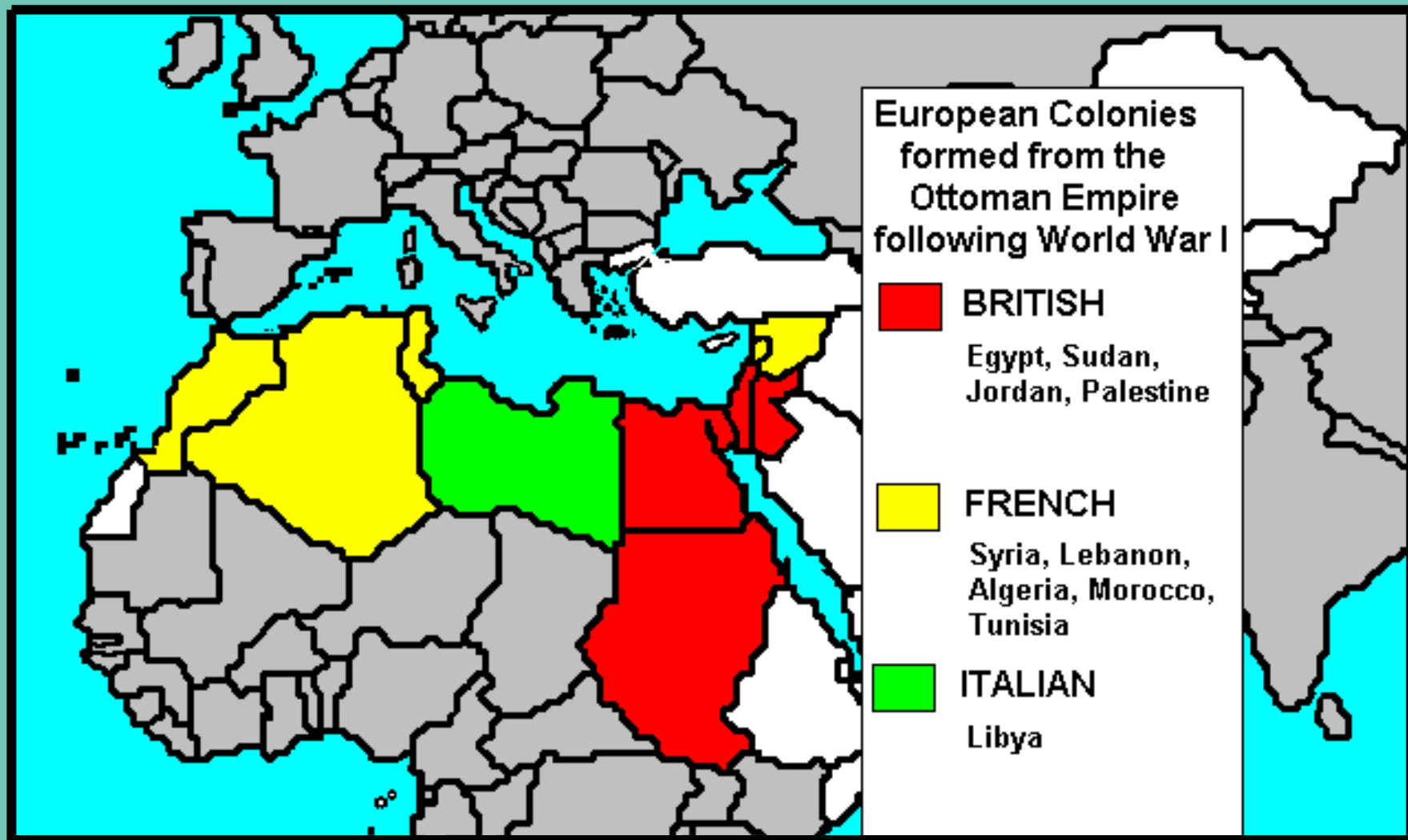


Collapse

- Over time, the Ottoman sultans were not very capable of ruling and the empire began to decline.
- Before World War I, it had already lost big chunks of its empire.
- During WWI, the Ottoman Empire sided with the Central Powers, who ended up losing the war.
- Afterwards, the government collapsed and the land of the former Ottoman Empire was divided among the victorious European countries

Division

- After World War I, France and Great Britain divided up the remaining Ottoman Empire lands.
- France took control of Syria, Lebanon, Algeria, Morocco, & Tunisia.
- Great Britain took control of Egypt, Sudan, Jordan, & Palestine.
- The problems created by this land division have persisted into the Middle East today.



New Borders

- Great Britain and France desired immediate control of the area in order to control oil profits, so they quickly drew up new borders..
- As they divided the land, they drew borders that paid no attention to local cultures and tribes.
- This caused some ethnic and religious groups to be separated by boundaries, while other rival groups were grouped together.

Palestine

- In July 1922, Great Britain officially took control of Palestine as a mandate (similar to a colony).
- Under British occupation, waves of Jewish immigrants poured into Palestine to escape religious persecution in Europe.
 - In 1920, there was 1 Jew to every 10 Arabs.
 - By 1947, there was 1 Jew for every 2 Arabs.
- The Arabs felt that they were losing control of their land, and tension between Arabs and Jews increased.



Zionism

- During the 1880s, Zionism was emerging in Europe.
- The goal of Zionism was to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine secured by public law.
- The Jewish people believed that this was a good time to return to Zion (the holy land).
- Tens of thousands of Jews began moving to Palestine after the Zionist movement began

Jewish Land

- The Jewish connection with this land did not begin with Zionism, but actually dates back over 4,000 years.
- According to Jewish and Christian sacred text, God commanded Abraham to leave his land in Mesopotamia and go to the land that is present-day Israel.
- The Jews have a religious connection to the land and all of their sacred places are located there.

The Western Wall

(Remains of an ancient temple destroyed in 70 CE)



Jewish Land

- Jews believe that if any nation has a right to claim land, then they should be able to claim this area as their own country.
- They argue that they did not leave the land voluntarily, but were forced out by Roman persecution.

Anti-Semitism

- Europeans had been discriminating against Jews for centuries in a practice called anti-Semitism.
- Many people believed the Jews to be an inferior race and held them responsible for the death of Jesus Christ.
- Some countries didn't allow Jews to own property or attend college.



Anti-Semitism

- Anti-Semitism grew enormously in the 1930s when Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party came to power in Germany.
- Hitler blamed the Jews for Germany losing WWI.
 - One of his first actions as Germany's chancellor was to remove the protection of German law for Jews.
- Anti-Semitism spread throughout Europe as Hitler forced other countries to persecute the Jews.



Holocaust

- The Holocaust was the systematic, state-sponsored killing of 11 million innocent people (6 million of whom were Jewish).
- It began in 1933, when Hitler and the Nazis came to power in Germany, and lasted until 1945.
- During the Holocaust, Hitler targeted men, women, and children that he believed to be inferior to “pure” Germans.



Arriving at Auschwitz



Holocaust

- Beginning in 1941, every Jewish person was required to wear a yellow Star of David and forced to live in crowded areas called ghettos.
- A few months later, Jews began being deported to concentration camps.
- These camps were killing facilities with gas chambers that could kill thousands of people at one time.





Teenagers at Auschwitz



Gas Chamber

Evidence

- When Germany began losing WWII, they started killing thousands of Jews every day.
- Hitler wanted to hide the evidence of the mass killing and ordered as many camps as possible to be destroyed.
- As the Allies moved across Europe in 1945, they came across some of the camps and were horrified by what they saw.
 - The survivors were nearly skeletons from lack of food, and piles of corpses were everywhere.



After

- After the war, nearly 250,000 survivors went to camps for displaced persons set up by the Allies.
- Many Jews wanted to enter Palestine, but Great Britain had stopped Jewish immigration into the country.
- People around the world were horrified about this treatment and asked the United Nations to resolve the situation.

Israel

- The United Nations felt it was right to create a Jewish state in Palestine due to their suffering in the Holocaust.
- UN members voted to divide Palestine into Arab and Jewish states.
- At midnight on May 14, 1948, modern-day Israel emerged.
- The dream of the Jewish people for their own nation finally became a reality.



