One of the areas created out of the old Ottoman Empire after WWI was Palestine. This area was important to both Jews, Christians, and Muslims because this is where much of what was written in the Old Testament, New Testament, and Qur’an took place. There are many religious sites in Palestine sacred to all three religions, none more so than Jerusalem.

In the years prior to WWII, Palestine was divided into Transjordan, on the eastern side of the Jordan River, and an area still known as Palestine on the western side. The British were given the responsibility of governing Palestine until a decision could be made about how to establish a permanent government there.

Most of the people living in Palestine before WWII were Palestinian Arabs. However, since the late 1800’s and early 1900’s Jews from both Central and Western Europe had been immigrating to the area and settling there. Many of these people wanted to create a homeland for Jews in Palestine, because they believed that this was the land that God had promised them thousands of years ago in the stories of the Old Testament. These groups became known as Zionists (those who felt the world’s Jews deserved to return to Zion, or the parts of Palestine where the Jewish people had lived during biblical times). As both the Jews and the Palestinian Arabs tried to hold onto the land, conflict began to break out.

During WWII the Jewish people of Europe suffered terribly at the hands of the Nazi German government. There was widespread anti-semitism (hatred of Jews) in Europe. Over six million Jews were murdered in concentration camps, and thousands of more fled Europe to escape death. This horrible event is known as the Holocaust.

At the end of the war, the Jewish people of the world wanted to take steps to make sure that nothing like this could ever happen again. Many nations of the world felt tremendous guilt as they learned what had taken place at German run concentration camps. Before WWII Jewish groups in the U.S. and Europe had been talking of setting up a homeland in the area of Southwest Asia known as Palestine. At the end of the war the newly created United Nations also began to believe that something should be done for the Jewish people because of their sufferings.

In 1948, the United Nations voted to create a homeland for Jews in part of Palestine. The Jews who were living there accepted the offer and declared the creation of the State of Israel. Palestinian Arabs were not happy with the deal. They felt that their land had been unfairly taken away. The Palestinians along with several other Arab countries refused to acknowledge Israel as a new country. War broke out in 1948 between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Other Arab countries in this region agreed with the Palestinians and helped them during this conflict. The Israelis were able to win this war, and took more land than what had originally been planned.

1. Who was the land of Palestine important to and why? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Prior to WWII what two parts was Palestine divided into, and what European country was in charge of governing them? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who were the *Zionists*? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Briefly explain the Holocaust. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. What world organization created the country of Israel after WWII AND why did many member countries of this organization feel that it was right to create Israel in 1948? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. How did Arab Palestinians feel about the creation of the new country Israel? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. When war broke out in Palestine, what countries joined with the Palestinian Arabs to try to stop the creation of the new state of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

8) Define these terms:

Arab \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Anti-Semitism \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nazi \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9) Write a two or three sentence summary of the Background Essay describing time,place, and story.

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