

QUIZ

For use with "How the Middle East Got That Way" on p. 18 of the magazine

How the Middle East Got That Way

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions.

CHECK COMPREHENSION

1. At the beginning of World War I, the area now known as the Middle East was part of

- a Britain.
- b France.
- c the Ottoman Empire.
- d the Mughal Empire.

2. According to the article, which is true of the Sykes-Picot agreement?

- a It was accepted by Arab leaders as a path to peace.
- b It was created in secret.
- c It was based on long-standing divisions between ethnic and religious groups.
- d all of the above

3. Britain and France had promised Arab leaders autonomous lands if the Arabs would

- a give Britain and France access to the oil reserves in the Middle East.
- b put aside ethnic and religious differences and work toward peace.
- c denounce Russia and its rulers.
- d join Britain and France in fighting against the Turks.

4. At the end of World War I, the League of Nations authorized mandates that

- a gave Middle Eastern countries complete independence.
- b gave Britain and France some control over policy and trade in the Middle East.
- c dictated which ethnic and religious groups could live in which Middle Eastern country.
- d none of the above

ANALYZE THE TEXT

5. The central idea of the article is that

- a political instability in the Middle East is here to stay.
- b the Middle East should return to its pre-World War I borders.
- c an agreement carved out during World War I may have a lot to do with the problems in the Middle East today.
- d the possibility of peace in the Middle East is currently in the hands of British and French diplomats.

6. The article discusses the spoils of World War I. The word *spoils* as used here means

- a goods or lands that are taken forcibly.
- b deaths and serious injuries.
- c intense power struggles.
- d devastating effects.

7. You can infer from the article that the U.S.'s stand on the Middle East immediately following World War I was that

- a the League of Nations must squash conflicts between rival religious groups.
- b the Middle East belonged under Turkish rule.
- c the Middle East lands should be autonomous.
- d the Sykes-Picot agreement was fair and necessary.

8. Which phrase from the article best supports your answer to question 7?

- a "Sunni and Shiite Muslims . . . are two distinct sects that have been at odds for centuries."
- b ". . . Americans tried installing a coalition government of Sunnis, Shiites, and Kurds . . ."
- c ". . . Wilson advocated for self-determination of these lands in his Fourteen Points."
- d "The U.S. has supported moderate rebels . . ."

IN-DEPTH QUESTIONS Please use the other side of this paper for your responses.

9. How were tribal and religious differences kept in check in Iraq for decades following World War I? What eventually caused these differences to resurface?

10. Based on the article, how do you think the U.S. and other world powers should deal with the Syrian civil war?