

From 1918 to 1948 the number of the Jews multiplied thirteenth times, from 50,000 to 650,000, mostly immigrants from Europe.⁶ As a result of the forced colonization, the number of Jews in Palestine, which did not exceed 8% of the population at the end of the First World War, grew to become about one-third (31%) of the total population in 1948.⁷ However, due to strong resistance from the Palestinians, the acquisition of land by the Jews did not total during the period more than 6.5% (from 2% in 1918).

This implantation of an alien people in an almost exclusively Arab country, followed by their 1948 proclamation of an independent state in Palestine, and the eviction of the majority of its original inhabitants created one of the most explosive problems of the world. Indeed it has convulsed the Middle East during the last five decades, and is still far from being settled.

Since the early year of their mandate rule, British officials were confronted with Arab growing hostility towards Zionism, inspired by their awareness of the given dimension of Balfour Declaration. Senior British official had, however continued to back Zionism until Britain's imperial position was seriously threatened by the revolt of Arab, especially in the 1930's at the onset of World War II. After the end of the World War II in 1945, the British withdrew the obligations stated in the white paper on 1939.⁸

In view of the dangerous and chaotic situation created in Palestine as a result of the massive Jewish immigration and the fierce opposition of its original inhabitants, the British government referred in 1947 the question of the future of Palestine to the United Nations. The General Assembly adopted on 29 November 1947, against the will of the Palestinians, Resolution 181 that provided for the termination of the British mandate, the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states,

6. Ismail Raji Al-Faruqi, *Islam and the Problem of Israel*, London: Islamic Council of Europe, 1980, pg. 57.

7. John Norton Moore, (ed), *op. cit.*, pg. 279

8. George Lenczowsky, *op.cit.*, pg. 396.