

# Jewish Nation Will Be Formed in Palestine

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**T**HAT a Jewish nation certainly will be one of the things which will come out of the great evil of the war is positively announced for the first time by Judge Julian W. Mack, president of the Zionist Organization of America, in the following interview:

"Out of the peace conference, or at the latest, the first meeting of the league of nations," said he to me last evening, at the Harvard Club, New York, "is coming a Jewish commonwealth in Palestine. Or, to put it another way, the thing for which the Jewish people have dreamed and prayed and for 2,000 years worked for is coming true—before our very eyes and in our own days.

"Great Britain is pledged to it; America has given whole-hearted approval to the great project; France generously has assented to it, as have Italy, Japan and Holland; bleeding Serbia has blessed the Jewish aspiration; Greece, China, Siam, Holland, Cuba, all these countries and more, have indorsed the approval of the great powers.

"The Socialist Internationale, the American League of Labor and Democracy, the American Federation of Labor and the British labor party have placed themselves on record in full approval of it; a majority of both houses of the United States Congress of last year—the war Congress—expressed, over their own signatures, a determination to vote for a resolution favoring the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine should a plan for one be presented for their approval; nine American state legislatures petitioned the peace conference in favor of the great idea. It is one of the biggest things that have come out of the war, this eagerness on the part of the world to right a monstrous wrong, and at last, after many centuries, to do justice to the Jew. It is the finger of God that is pointing the way. It could not be otherwise.

"The French revolution fixed for all time the liberty of man; the great war has fixed for all time the rights of the smaller nationalities to existence. Zionism—to call the Jewish national aspiration by its familiar name—typifies the Jewish quest for liberty for all the smaller nationalities. This is the platform on which it has stood during the twenty years of its present political organization: 'For every people, however small, the right to national existence on its own soil, to develop its own culture. For the Jewish people, Palestine!'

"It is the finest exemplification of what President Wilson had in mind when in the fourteen points he spoke of the right of even the smallest nationality to live its own life, on its own soil and develop its own culture. Now the Jewish people is to come into possession of its own land. Palestine will eventually be predominantly a Jewish land, with a Jewish people living a Jewish life and developing a Jewish culture. And the benefits of this development will be shared by all the inhabitants, Moslem, Christian and Jewish alike, and they will benefit the world.

"Certain fundamental principles for Palestine were embodied last year at our convention in what is now well known as the 'Pittsburgh program.' Here are some of the planks of the program:

"Political and civil equality irrespective of race, sex or faith of all the inhabitants of the land.

"To insure equality of opportunity we favor a policy which shall tend to establish the ownership and control of the land and of all natural resources and of all public utilities by the whole people.

"All land owned or controlled by the whole people should be leased on such conditions as will insure the fullest opportunity for development and continuity of possession.

"The co-operative principle should be applied as far as feasible in the organization of all agricultural, industrial, commercial and financial undertakings.

"The fiscal policy shall be framed to protect the people from the evil of land speculation and from every form of financial oppression.

"In the words of the great founder of political Zionism, Theodore Herzl, the Jewish commonwealth is to be a model state, for the common weal. It is to embody all that is good in government, in social relationship, and seek to free itself of all that has proved itself evil.

"Forty years ago began the first serious effort to win the soil. Out of pogrom-ridden Russia came a band of devoted pioneers to establish the first Jewish agricultural colony in Palestine. They were heroes, they were martyrs. On the foundation laid by these martyrs there have grown up fifty flourishing colonies, villages, cities, urban settlements, a school system, financial institutions.

Head of American Zionists Says Dreams of Two Thousand Years Are Coming True—War Has Fixed for All Time the Rights of Smaller Nations—Land Can Support Five Millions.



JUDGE JULIAN W. MACK,  
President of the Zionist organization of America.

"Twenty-two years ago, in response to the summons of Theodore Herzl, the Zionist movement, as a political organization, was created and adopted for its program: 'The establishment in Palestine of a homeland for the Jewish people, recognized and guaranteed by public law.' Today we count 150,000 members in the United States and hundreds of thousands, millions, all over the world. Millions, as was recently announced, are waiting with burning impatience the hour when they may proceed to Palestine to begin the new life.

"Before analyzing that tissue of rumors, violent exaggerations, misstatements and pure Turkish propaganda, which forms the basis of much of the opposition to Zionism, it is well briefly to consider the problem of Palestine and the reason why the Zionist proposals to the peace conference for its solution have commended themselves to the delegates for their moderation and justice. The Zionist solution of the problem of the future of Palestine is required first, by the need for healing the present world's oldest national tragedy and, secondly, by the need for reclaiming Palestine again for civilization.

"During the last score of centuries of the separation of the Jewish people from Palestine, neither conquerors nor the various populations down to and including the present population, have done anything to make that great land productive in spiritual and economic values. The Zionist movement through its schools, internal self-government, courts to which the Arabs have come for justice, and all the labor and sacrifice whose benefit for the native population is acknowledged by the Arab leader, Prince Feisal, is making the land productive again, and has this reinforced the Jewish right to Palestine sanctified by a two-thousand-year history of persecution, suffering and striving.

"The Palestine of today with its slopes left bare and unprotected by the felling of forests has resulted in the washing away of its most fertile soil (the same thing ruined much of China), its large marshes breathe malaria, its wide districts are tilled only sporadically and primitively, and its population of only 700,000 as against the millions of the past must be regenerated.

"The regeneration of Palestine, all experts agree, requires a population such as it does not possess at present, and an accordingly large, vigorous and progressive body of settlers for whom the restoration of the land to its ancient glories will be an ideal calling forth a high degree of devotion and sacrifice.

"Palestine can and must be regenerated as other countries have been, by the introduction of an industrious and enterprising population—in a word, by the repatriation of the Jewish nation and its development into a Jewish commonwealth.

"legitimate interest of the present population would be injured, for the Jews have no intention of going to Palestine as a class to exploit its economic possibilities—rather, they intend to settle on the land as producers and to carry on productive occupations of every kind in harmony with and for the mutual benefit of the present and the future population.

"In the opinion of men who have studied the problem in all of its bearings, the country, which today has only a population of 700,000, can be reclaimed so as to support a population of 5,000,000 persons. The country today has no more than forty persons per square mile, while Egypt, under British administration, has 800; Belgium, 632; Holland, 573, and Palestine's neighbor, Lebanon, has 400 persons to the square mile.

"The regeneration must begin by making the land accessible to new settlers. The country is suffering from the vice of absentee landlordism—the locking up of vast estates by owners—Effendis, a class of Arabs created by the Turks, who have no interest in the real development of the land, but live from the oppressive rental which they draw from tenants cultivating it in the most primitive and sporadic fashion.

"The most glaring of misleading statements is the tale that Zionist agents offered during the week ending June 30 the sum of \$15,000,000 for a tract of land in Palestine. Even assuming that they had that huge amount at their disposal for such or any other purpose, the thing would be impossible because Palestine is enemy occupied territory, held by British arms, subject to whatever disposition of the land may be made by the peace conference or the league of nations. As Maj. Ormsby-Gore, British representative on the Palestine administrative commission, who, addressing a Jewish conference in Jaffa, on June 17, 1918, said:

"At present we are bound to carry on the Turkish system of law, taxation and government. We are bound to do this by international law, and it is against Turkish law to sell land in Palestine to Jews.' The whole story of Jewish settlement in Palestine would be different if this were not the case. Can any one believe, in the face of this law, and in the face of Great Britain's determination to abide by it, that the Zionist organization would be likely to risk so colossal a sum? Surely it would be a hazardous venture.

"One of the statements which I question is that there are 600,000 Moslems, 75,000 Christians and 75,000 Jews in Palestine. The official figures as given out by the British military authorities (O. E. T. A.) are: Moslems, 512,000; Christians, 60,880; Jews, 66,883. Here you have a discrepancy of over 50,000. Again, consider the statements that the Arabs resent the issuance of governmental proclamations in Hebrew. In fact, all governmental pro-

clamations are issued in three languages—English, Arabic and Hebrew. The Palestine News, the official newspaper issued by the military administration, is published in the three languages; the police or gendarmerie wear Arabic or Hebrew insignia, depending upon whether the wearer is a Moslem or a Jew, and the stamp of the military governor of Jerusalem is in both Hebrew and Arabic.

"Consider also the statement that the three Jewish regiments in Palestine are a source of irritation to the 'natives.' In truth, these Jewish regiments of the British army of occupation are made up of young men born in Palestine. Nothing is said of the fact that these regiments campaigned with Allenby, for the liberation of the land and all the inhabitants thereof, from Turkish tyranny, and that their valor was the subject of special mention in the official war communiques.

"Another statement is that the 'natives' are resentful, because of the 'presence of a large number of Jews on the staff of the occupied enemy territory administration which is ministering the country until Paris acts.' A visitor to the O. E. T. A. office, in fact, must be impressed by the noticeably small percentage of Jews on the staff. The only Jewish employees are a few girl clerks, hired because they speak English.

"Without even going into the great question of why Palestine is so all important to the Jews from the historic, political, economic or spiritual points of view, let us approach the question from the angle of very recent facts.

"On November 2, 1917, the Hon. Arthur James Balfour, British foreign secretary, issued the following official declaration:

"His majesty's government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object' (note the clear words of the following clause, 'it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.')

"Early in March, 1918, King George appointed the Palestine administrative commission. In the official announcement of the purpose of this commission one of the objects stated was 'to help in establishing friendly relations with the Arabs and other non-Jewish communities.' Every step undertaken by the commission has displayed solicitude for the non-Jewish communities. When food ships were dispatched by Jewish organizations to relieve war distress, no discrimination was made; when the American Zionist medical unit sailed for Palestine it carried a special gift of money from Mr. Nathan Strauss, a Zionist, to the Moslems, and the medical ministrations of the unit are freely extended to all the inhabitants of Palestine, without any distinctions whatever.

"But perhaps more to the point is the statement made last summer by the Archbishop of Mount Sinai, Porphyrus II of the Greek Catholic Church in Palestine, and spiritual head of the vast majority of the Christian population of Palestine, as follows:

"The Jews, as bearers of the old Hebraic civilization which has had much profound influence in modern civilization and which is still operating today as in Prophet Isalah's idea of a league of nations, will, now that they shall be restored to Palestine, bring all their innate capacities to bear upon the development of the country, which has been desolated by Turkish misrule, and will, as is already proved by the Zionist colonies, introduce in the population a spirit of progress and emulation, so that in the course of time Palestine will again become a land flowing with milk and honey.

"During the second week of last September the British premier, Lloyd George, received deputations from three peoples who desired to express their gratitude through him to England for holding out to them the assurance that their national aspirations would be gratified. The peoples represented were the Arabs, the Armenians and the Jews. Replying to the Jewish address, Lloyd George said:

"I have today had the honor of receiving addresses from the representatives of three elements most intimately concerned in the establishment of a rule of order and justice in an area which has hitherto been the prey of tyranny and outrage.

The fulfillment of the historic hopes and aspirations to which you refer in your address is, I believe, an essential corollary to the necessary enfranchisement of the oppressed peoples of the near east.

"The 'Arab question' had its hour at the peace conference. The opponents of Zionism, the advocates of an integral Syria, the advocates of an American protectorate over Turkey, all capitalised the Arab question. Paris heard from the lips of the Turkish representatives the threat of an anti-Zionist war which this writer says 'conceivably may bring down Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, Afghanistan and India and involve the world in a new chaos.' It deserves as little consideration now as it received from the allied council. The opponents to Zionism in Paris were effectually silenced by Prince Feisal, crown prince of the Arab kingdom of the Hedjaz, in a letter to Felix Frankfurter, former United States assistant secretary of war, chairman of the United States War Labor Policies Board, who was in Paris in the interest of the Zionist movement.

"A Syria which includes Palestine is a diplomatic fiction. There has never been a Syrian nation or state including Palestine. From time to time both Palestine and Syria have been included in the same empire—in the ancient world, the empire of the Euphrates or the empire of the Nile; in the classical world, Rome; in our own time, Turkey. But there never was a Syrian state nor a Syrian nation which ruled over Palestine. Palestine throughout Jewish history, unlike Syria, fought against alien rule and established its own independence and vindicated its own right as an entity. Geographically and economically nature has given Palestine all the characteristics of a separate land. The only thing which Palestine and Syria have in common, and this they have in common only since the days of Islam, is that the vernacular of the majority of the people both in Palestine and Syria is Arabic.

"But the common vernacular does not make an integral Syria or Syrian nation. Under the Turks all the people were organized in Syria and Palestine, not according to their tongue, but according to their church. The church was the foundation of the millet. The vernacular was not and is not today the badge of a nation in Syria or in Palestine. If it were we should have not an 'integral Syria,' but a common uniform nation and state embracing Egypt, north Africa, Arabia and Mesopotamia, as well as Palestine and Syria. 'Integral Syria' is simply a diplomatic fiction invented by some diplomats and by little bands of agitators.

"It would be idle to deny that certain elements are very much disturbed over the prospects of a large Jewish settlement in Palestine. But it would be interesting to learn on what the statement is based that there is a unified opposition there to the Zionists. On that score Adolph Hubbard, who spent eight months in the country as administrator for the American Zionist medical unit, says in his report:

"The only newspapers in Palestine are government publications, and while these are of value, they cannot be accepted as guides to public opinion. As far as the 'native' population is concerned, they are of still less value, because of the small percentage able to read. The only means of spreading information in the country, except by the official newspaper, is by word of mouth. I can recall two instances illustrating how far the native is dependent upon this method. A few days after Gen. Allenby's advance had started I heard the town crier announcing in the streets of Jaffa that Haifa had been taken, and later a similar announcement was made of the taking of Damascus. The town crier is a hold-over from the Turks, and the British authorities found it necessary to continue this living newspaper as a means of disseminating information. Surely there is no unified public opinion to be found among the wandering Bedouins who constitute one-fourth of Palestine's population; nor in the mud villages of the Fellahin.

"Now as to the alleged fear that the Jews will oust the natives: It must be borne in mind that a good part of the land does not belong to private owners, but is government property.

"Without disturbing in the least the private owners and their land, there is still plenty of room for a new settlement. If Palestine is to become 'the keystone of the Cape to Cairo-Calcutta arch' it will certainly need to be far more densely populated than it is now.

"When the Jewish nation predominated in Palestine the country played its great role in the history of the world. To fill Palestine again with Jewish colonies will not make the present inhabitants strangers in their own land; it will raise the standard of living and make them a healthier, happier—yes, a better—people. To prohibit Jewish immigration would be to continue the stagnation into which Palestine fell under Turkish rule.

"Tel-Aviv is only one bit of evidence of what the Jews have been able to accomplish in Palestine during the past forty years in spite of Turkish oppression. Each one of the fifty Jewish colonies has its own dramatic history, just as each one is an example of what is in store for Palestine under the loving development which the Jews are planning.

"Finally, there will be no anti-Zionist war in Palestine, nor any other dire calamities predicted, unless, indeed, race bitterness be used as propaganda to inflame the native mind."

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