

## GERMAN POLICY TOWARDS THE PALESTINIAN CASE 1917-1933

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### **Abstract**

During World War I, Germany competed with Britain to win the Zionists' favor by declaring a national home for the Jews, but Britain prevailed by declaring the Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917, Lord Rothschild, after its defeat in World War I and concluding the Treaty of Versailles 1919. The Weimar Republic, whose position was vacillating in the Palestinian cause, was established on despite its support for the establishment of a national home for the Jews in Palestine, and in view of the consequences of the Versailles Treaty on the internal conditions of Germany, Hitler succeeded in reaching power through the elections on January 30, 1933.

The Nazi Party took power and thus began a new page in Germany's policy towards the Palestinian cause. The study structure was divided into an introduction and two axes. First: Germany's position on the Palestinian cause until 1917. Second: German policy towards the Palestinian cause 1917-1933. And a conclusion that included the most important findings and recommendations, including: 1 - The efforts of the Zionists resulted in the success that led Britain to give Zionism its support in establishing the Jewish state, and giving it the Balfour Declaration of 1917. For this reason, Palestine witnessed the beginning of the immigration of Zionist pioneers, this immigration that was financed by European Jewish capitalism.

5- After fifteen years, the Zionists were able to obtain what Herzl could not obtain from his British supporters, especially the imperialist care and protection of the Jewish national home, in the form of the Balfour Declaration, the Balfour Declaration of the British Foreign Secretary to the British Jew Lord Rothschild.

- The Balfour Declaration means the division of Palestine between the Arabs who settled in it many centuries ago and among immigrants who entered the country in abnormal political conditions after a decision announced by the monarchy that included the division of Palestine between Arabs and Jews and left a small part under the British Mandate. 7- The planned dismemberment of Palestine is not in line with the promises Provided by the British government to redress the Arabs and preserve their rights Introduction

The study was devoted to explaining the German policy towards Palestine, which was linked from the beginning to the Jewish question, and had two interrelated aspects: the first represented the policy of emigrating German Jews abroad, by supporting the efforts of the Zionist movement aimed at encouraging immigration to Palestine and establishing a national home for them there, and this policy did not change. Throughout the period extending from the era of the empire that arose with the first German unity through the First World War, until the Weimar Republic, which ended at the hands of the National Socialist Party known as the Nazi Party in 1933.

First: Germany's position on the Palestinian cause until 1917

The Arab Mashreq region occupied an important position in the colonial competition between the colonial countries of Europe, especially between Britain and France in order to control it, and with the unification of Germany in 1871 under the leadership of its Chancellor Bismarck, and by investing and employing differences, especially those existing at the time between Britain, France, Russia, Austria, and Italy as the countries The European pivot, the way became

clear for Germany to play a role at the European and international levels, as Germany's ambition led it to search for vital tributaries to advance its European and international role in a decided manner, especially in Central and Eastern Europe.

This increased the intensity of the conflict between it and the European countries, as all of these countries were still looking at the Ottoman Empire as the front gateway to Europe, hence Germany's exceptional interest in the eastern parts of the Ottoman Empire, especially the Arab region that includes the Levant (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine), Mesopotamia, the Arabian Peninsula (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen), and the Arabian Gulf region. In its policy and achieving its goals in the Ottoman Empire, Germany relied on multiple approaches (military, missionary, settlement, economic, social, and exploratory) (2) The establishment of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) and the convening of its first conference in Basel, Switzerland, on August 29-31, 1897 (3), led by Theodor Herzl

(4), the beginning of the political Zionist action organizing the establishment of the Jewish state on the land of Palestine, as Herzl stated in the opening sermon of the Zionist Congress, "Here we are laying the foundation stone in building the house that will house the Jewish nation" (5).

In order to build this house, the Zionists agreed on the following measures: 1- Organizing large-scale Jewish immigration to Palestine.

2- Attempting to obtain international recognition of the legitimacy of settlement in Palestine. On these foundations, Zionism began to work (6), and Herzl decided to follow all possible ways to establish this Jewish state. Herzl's attempts to win over the major powers began, as he was keen to achieve the Zionist project through diplomatic contacts, and tried to encourage the major powers, especially Britain, to adopt this project in light of the interests that the colonial West could reap (7).

Therefore, the leaders of the Zionist movement and its advocates resorted to the rulers of countries that have direct links with Arab Palestine. In 1898, Tsarist Germany expressed its keenness and friendship towards the Ottoman Caliphate during the visit of Emperor William II to Istanbul, on his way to pilgrimage to Palestine, declaring upon his arrival in Damascus his friendship to the Islamic world, as Germany had the opportunity on this visit to reveal its activity in the affairs of Arab countries, the German Emperor received the President of the Zionist Congress, Theodor Herzl, and the latter suggested to the Emperor the establishment of a Jewish association, which he called

The Association for the Lands of Syria and Palestine "is managed by the Zionist Organization, and Herzl suggested that this association be placed under German protection, but the German Emperor rejected this proposal, because on the one hand he wanted to avoid interfering in the internal affairs of the Ottoman Caliphate, and on the other hand he feared that he would lead this work. To annoy, or provoke, the other major powers, Britain and France, as they initially viewed the German influence in the Ottoman Caliphate as a way of balancing the Tsarist Russian influence, and the French influence in that Caliphate (8).

But the German emperor assured the Zionist delegation, headed by the founder of Zionism, that "Zionist endeavors in Palestine, which respect the sovereignty of his ally, the Ottoman Empire, can rely on his full sponsorship" (9).

Herzl contacted the German authorities before this visit, as Jewish newspapers published articles calling for the establishment of a Jewish colony in the Middle East under German protection. It

is more than welcome

The second was Ambassador Polenburg, who told him: "Our movement exists, and I do not expect one of the great powers to support us. I thought first of Britain, and that is normal, but I would be more pleased if it were Germany" (10). The emperor had no objections to colonialism as long as he was in this way, until he said "there is room for everyone," but meant the Germans, the Jews, and the natives.

Maintaining distinguished economic relations with the Ottoman Empire remained the basis of Germany's orientation towards the East, and despite the importance of that visit by Emperor William II to Jerusalem, which symbolized the alliance between Germany and the Ottoman Sultanate, it eventually sought to strengthen German economic influence in the Ottoman Empire, and led to The establishment of the German Bank of Palestine (Deutsche Palestina Bank) in the city of Jerusalem, and the establishment of branches in the rest of the Palestinian cities. This is why the German emperor refused Theodor Herzl's request to obtain a permit that supports the Jews' purpose to establish a Jewish state in Palestine, in order to avoid angering the Ottoman Sultan, and as a result He expressed his influence on Germany's economic interests in the Ottoman Empire, as well as his lack of conviction in the ability of the Zionist movement to settle in Palestine (11).

Herzl decided to pursue all possible ways to establish this Jewish state, and began his attempts to win the great powers; Because he strongly opposed any attempt of gradual infiltration into Palestine, as his plan was to obtain a charter from the Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid II (1876-1909) granting the right to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine (12).

Herzl tried in vain to persuade the Ottoman Empire to sell him Palestine, give the Jews autonomy in it under Ottoman sovereignty, open the doors of Jewish immigration to Palestine instead of Europe, and work to establish a Jewish government affiliated with the Ottoman Sultan in Palestine, and that was when the Zionist leader Herzl met in 1901 with Sultan Abd Al-Hamid the second, but the latter refused the request vehemently, saying: "I advise him never to proceed in this matter, I cannot sell, even one foot in the empire, because it is not mine but my people, and my people obtained this empire by spilling their blood, and they later nourished it with their blood." We will cover her with our blood before we allow anyone to rape her from us" (13).

This prompted the Sultan to issue a law banning Jewish immigrants from residing in Palestine for more than three months. The Ottoman Empire gave Jewish immigrants red cards to make it easier for them to monitor them, and expel them from the country if they stayed there for more than three months (14).

In the face of this failure, Zionism transferred its activities to Britain, which at that time had wide-ranging colonial aspirations in the Middle East, and was occupying Egypt and taking control of matters there. Part of the Sinai Peninsula to establish the "national home", and perhaps it chose that; Because Sinai is part of Egypt occupied by Britain, and Sinai, with regard to Zionism, is the closest place to Palestine and falls under British influence, and the closest point to jumping over Palestine when the opportunity arises, in addition to some religious memories, which they have in this place, and the officials in Britain was ready at that time to listen to the demands of Zionism (15).

As soon as the First World War approached, Germany and Britain fought to end the Zionist ambitions, which are a tool for their colonial benefits.

During that war, Germany sought to exclude Britain from the Arab and Asian lands and deprived

it of supplies from southern Iraq paralyzing the movement of its fleet, but it did not succeed in that because those German ambitions were stronger than its military and economic capabilities, so it

prevailed in the battles that took place in this region In cooperation with the Arabs themselves in 1916 (16).

Second: German policy towards the Palestinian cause 1917-1933 1- German policy towards the Palestinian cause 1917-1919

The major countries raced to win the friendship of the Jews on the eve of World War I; This is due to the exacerbation of the danger of a Zionist movement hostile to the Allies, as it was in 1917

1917 was decisive in the history of World War I, as Germany launched a war on the Allies in submarines at a time when their fronts in Europe were subjected to great defeats, and despite the entry of the United States into the war on the side of the Allies, Europe came close to recognizing that Germany was an invincible power, while it was Peace initiatives are increasing, as an important event occurred, the March 1917 revolution in Russia, which overthrew the tsarist rule, and in which the authority signed a separate armistice with Germany in December 1917. Since that date, Germany and Russia have gained the approval of Jewish communities in Europe and abroad, and in the same year 1917,

In the same year 1917, William II decided to issue a statement declaring the establishment of a national home for the Jews in Palestine due to its historical and religious importance and its strategic location between Asia and Africa (19).

As soon as the British were aware of William II's intentions, they quickly embraced the idea of that homeland and gave the Jews, who were represented by Lord Rothschild, a promise by British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour (1916-1919) to establish a national home for the Jews on November 2, 1917 (20)

And it ended in the First World War with the defeat of Germany and its allies, and the Peace Conference was held on the eighteenth of January 1919 at the Palace of Versailles. The colonial powers and monopolistic interests had their weight in influencing the conference and its decisions, despite the participation of seventy delegates from twenty-seven countries that achieved victory. In the war, it is worth noting that Arab delegations participated in the conference and demanded the Allies for the independence of the Arab countries, in order to fulfill the repeated promises of the allies during the war years. Colonial countries allied with Zionism

The position of the Weimar Republic on the Palestinian issue 1919-1933 After the end of the First World War and the collapse of the German

Empire, and during the first years of the establishment of the Weimar Republic, Palestine did not mean anything with regard to the German Jews who gained the right to equality with other Germans, according to the Constitution of the Republic, which emphasized freedom of religion, and the absolute separation between citizenship and religious belief, the freedom that the Jews enjoyed under the republic opened up to them all areas of political, economic, and social life (25). The presence of Jews in German power contributed to allowing hundreds of thousands of Jews to move

The study reached several conclusions, including:

1- The First Zionist Congress, held in Basel, Switzerland, on August 28, 1897, affirmed that the goal of Zionism is to create a “national home” for the Jews in Palestine, and the Zionist movement devoted its efforts to reach that goal by any means possible.

2- The military coup that overthrew the Ottoman Sultan Abdul Hamid 1908 is one of the important events in the history of the modern world and has profound direct and indirect effects on the Arab countries, especially those within the Arab state.

3- The Jews had a role in planning the coup and pushing it to achieve their goals in Palestine and the Arab countries.

The direct goal of the Jews from the coup was to control the Ottoman Empire economically. As for their long-term goal, they would have in the Ottoman Empire a center of influence that they would use to achieve their greatest goal, which is the establishment of an independent Jewish state in Palestine.

5- The efforts of the Zionists resulted in the success that led Britain to grant Zionism its support in establishing the Jewish state, and giving it the Balfour Declaration of 1917. For this reason, Palestine witnessed the beginning of the immigration of Zionist pioneers, this immigration that was financed by European Jewish capitalism.

6- After fifteen years, the Zionists were able to obtain what Herzl could not obtain from his British supporters, especially the imperialist patronage and protection of the Jewish national home, in the form of the Balfour Declaration, the Balfour Declaration of the British Foreign Secretary to the British Jew Lord Rothschild.

- The Balfour Declaration means the division of Palestine between the Arabs who settled it many centuries ago and between immigrants who entered the country in abnormal political conditions after a decision announced by the monarchy that included the division of Palestine between Arabs and Jews and left a small part under the British Mandate.

8- The Palestinians realized, following the Mandate, that they would find themselves a minority in front of a Zionist flood in a country they had settled in for many generations, and that the planned dismemberment of Palestine was not in line with the promises made by the British government to do justice to the Arabs and preserve their rights.

The Palestinian issue was one of the most famous problems left by the British colonial policy since its occupation of Palestine in 1917 and its placement under the British Mandate in 1922. The British government agreed with the Zionist movement to usurp the land of Palestine and expel its Arab people by force.

(1) Farouk Sitan Al-Shanaq, Germany's position and policy towards Jerusalem, the International Conference on Jerusalem held in Amman 4-8/10/2009, pp. 1-2.

(2) As the manifestations of German multi-disciplinary interest came as follows:

1- Prussian military missions to the Ottoman Empire based on the request and request of the Sublime Porte to restructure, train and arm the Ottoman armies, and others to German military academies.

- Political and economic cooperation between Germany and the Ottoman Empire by raising the diplomatic representation between the two countries at the level of a commission to an embassy in 1876.

4- Germany's endeavor to expand its sphere of influence, taking advantage of the impact of its military aid in the victory of the Ottoman Empire in its wars with its neighbor Greece and the echo that that aid left at the Sublime Porte by advancing projects, the most important of which is the project of building a railway between Ankara (Quwaina), Baghdad and Basra on the Arabian Gulf, as well as Germany's participation in The establishment of the Hejaz Railway, in order to establish the German influence in the Ottoman Empire and a German economic and political attack on the British sphere of influence in the Gulf and the eastern and southern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula.

Herzl announced the movement's program, as the goal of Zionism is "a recognized and legally secured homeland in Palestine", and this is achieved

through organization, settlement and negotiation under the umbrella of the imperialist countries. As Herzl did not mention a single reference to the Arabs in his book "The Jewish State", which was the basis on which Zionism was based. One Million Arabs. For more details see: Ghazi Hussein, The Jewish Settlement in Palestine from

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