

# Chapter 9

Religion



06 Jun Religious and Nationalistic Conflict in Middle East The main theme emerging from this text is dishonesty and mistrust. There exists political dishonesty among the states in Middle East which has resulted to mistrust amongst the parties involved. Religious differences between the Muslims, Christians, and Jews do not help matter either. It has only served to propagate religious animosity. Primarily, the existence of the state of Israel is loathed by all Arab groups. Creation of the state of Israel in the midst of Arab land is perceived as offensive and pro-Western which was disliked by the majority of Arab population. Prior to the First World War, the Jewish immigrants and Palestinians coexisted peacefully despite the confusion created by Jewish inhabitation of the area. However, the events of the First World War resulted into a protracted religious and nationalistic conflict that persists to date (White 258-286).

The British wanted to win the war against the Germans. Therefore, it fuelled Arab's hostility against the Turks with the promise of establishing a united Arab country at the end of the way. Instead of establishing a united Arab country as it had promised, the British divided the region into territories governed by families. These territories rivaled each other leading to eventual emergence of independent states such as Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Gulf States. The British also promised the Jews that it will create a Jewish nation in Palestine. Creation of the state of Israel increased tension in the region which resulted into repeated wars between the Arabs and the Israel. Israel defeated the Arabs in each of these wars forcing the Arabs to turn to terrorism.

Change of international policies can prevent future occurrence of the conflict. The international community should play a key role in demarcating

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the boundaries separating the countries. In addition, the countries should recognize each other as a sovereign state and also respect their religious differences.

Work Cited

White, Jonathan. *Terrorism and Homeland Security*, 7th ed. Cengage Learning, 2011. Print.