

Middle East

- Muslims, 85% Sunni, 15% Shi'a
- Palestine most of middle east under Ottoman control, then mandates of Britain and France after WWI
- WWI had promised independent Palestine, did not happen, also in 1917 Brits had formed Balfour Declaration promising Jewish homeland in Palestine
- Many Jewish immigrants before WWII due to Hitler's policies
- Holocaust made many world leaders feel guilty that they hadn't helped them, almost guaranteed creation of a Jewish state
- Arab Palestine had supported Axis during WWII
- Brits only ones left in Middle East by 1946, more concerned with oil and Suez canal, mandate would be over in 1948
- Needed Jewish homeland and not anger Palestinians and Arab neighbours = impossible
- Brits set up Arab League in 1945 to help create a unified and prosperous Arab community, was set up to gain their support = backfired and fiercely opposed creation of Israel
- Jewish leaders angry that Brits had dragged on Balfour Declaration
- Britain could not win
- Jewish groups turned violent, bombed British headquarters in Jerusalem
- Brits gave Palestine to the UN
- UN recommended partition to Jewish/Arab, Jerusalem under UN trusteeship = Jews agreed Arabs did not
- Resolution passed with 2/3 majority = US & USSR did not support it
- Fighting broke out, Brits remained to make sure no sides grabbed territory that was not theirs, over 750,000 Arabs fled in fear, were never allowed back
- US asked Brits to stay after mandate ended to try to keep peace = they refused
- David Ben-Gurion wanted formal recognition of the separate state of Israel, Harry Truman agreed, Marshall extremely opposed

- 5 Arab armies (Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan) on border with Israel and stated that the Jewish state would be destroyed if created
- British mandate ended on May 14, 1948, Jews proclaimed the state of Israel, US & USSR formally recognized the state, and war broke out.