



A revisionist look at the Sykes-Picot Agreement and the Balfour Declaration

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ABSTRACT:

I have been recently working on a book on the emergence of the Near East under Neo-Colonialism after WWI.

Much of the developments of this period have been represented as the effects of competition over tracing maps and partitioning the territories of the ex-Ottoman Empire by the two colonial powers, Britain and France. Little attention has been given to the underlying, yet transparent factors: the scramble for ports, railways, waterways and agricultural and natural resources, namely oil. Many of these were to be expropriated as war booty from the Ottoman Sultanate and Imperial Germany, to form the economic basis of an indirect colonial rule based on local ruling elites and economic control of resources. The competing arguments for the legitimization of the Mandates, the new internationally-guaranteed forms of temporary and indirect colonialism, relied on shifting and changing claims for the protection of the non-arab, non-sunni religious and ethnic minorities.

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Unpublished Papers:

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Neubert, Clara, Book Review, "Die Bagdabahn - Schienen zur Weltmacht", in *Sykes-Picot- One Hundred Years Later*, Graduate Seminar, Prof. Fawwaz Traboulsi, CAMESn AUB, 2016.

Neubert, Clara, *The Baghdadbahn Railway*, in *Sykes-Picot- One Hundred Years Later*, Graduate Seminar, Prof. Fawwaz Traboulsi, CAMES, AUB, 2016.