

Mr. Maury Fovich  
WTTG-TV  
Wisconsin Ave at Harrison St.  
Washington, D.C.

4/23/85

Dear Maury,

My reporting experiences prior to the work of which you are aware prompt this letter following your today's presentation of an anti-Israeli panel.

I agree with you that all views ought be aired, and I think that we can expect partisans on emotional issues to distort and misrepresent some, as Redgrave did. But I do not believe that it is right for your trust and that of the audience to be imposed upon by outright lies, which is what your Palestinian lawyer did.

My last daily reporting (radio) included the war that led to the establishment of the State of Israel. Prior to military service in World War II I was an investigative reporter specializing in exposes of the Nazis.

I recall clearly that the Grand Mufti Of Jerusalem, so-called spiritual leader of the Arabs, was an overt Nazi, broadcasting from Berlin, from which he escaped to lead Arab anti-Semitism and to foster rather large Arab emigration into what became the State of Israel. A land to which both sides can make legitimate claims. The grand mufti also provided and induced Arab havens for former Nazis, and your research people ought have little difficulty confirming this if it interest you. They were particularly active in Nasser's Egypt. And they had enormous influence in the Arab world.

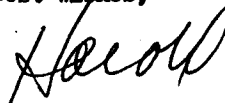
Anyone with any knowledge of the bible and the history of that era knows that in his alleged "beginning" your Arab lawyer was not honest. It is precisely the dishonesty that is essential for the pretense that Jews lack a right to the land of their origin. But his biggest lie is that Jews have more than 50% of "Palestine" and the Arabs less than 50%.

You are not old enough to recall what Palestine really was for centuries and at the time of the collapse of the Turkish empire at the end of World War I, but I am and after a few inquiries obtained a map of it, from the Jerusalem Post. A copy is enclosed. As you can see, all of Jordan was part of Palestine, and it was at the time of that partition understood that it is the Arab part. It is much greater in extent than what is now Israel, what "perfidious Albion" withheld from the Jews in that partition.

At the time it was established and until after Israel was established, the Arab state was actually known as what it is, the part of Palestine across the Jordan, or "Trans-Jordan." In keeping with the Arab deception that it is not Palestine, the monarch eliminated "Trans" from its name, thereby misleading many perhaps well-intended people. What is now known as the west bank (of the Jordan) was not to have been included in the Arab state and, indeed, it is the very land, Judea, from which comes "Jew."

There are no easy solutions to emotional problems, but there is no solution that can be both just and based on knowing and deliberate lies.

Best wishes,



Harold Weisberg  
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**HARRY KISSINGER** expressed longing of those perplexed by Arab-Israeli dispute and its colonial legacy when in 1973 he bellowed majestically: "The past is dead." But as the article "Is Jordan Really Palestine?" (*Jerusalem Post* — 17 June) reconfirms, the past still lives very much with us. Bernard Wasserstein is correct in noting that many aspects of the conflict are of "more than merely anti-Jewish interest." The historical context, therefore, cannot be discarded; nor should it be dealt with superficially or bent to serve one's

perhaps nowhere is this borne out more than in the historical links in the east quarter of this century between Cisjordan or "western Jordan" on the one hand, and Transjordan on the other. Precisely because this relationship — past, present and future — of the West Bank of the Jordan River to the east is at once so relevant and so little researched and understood, it deserves a more objective and comprehensive treatment than that provided by Wasserstein. His criticism stems primarily from his having confused historical fact with political advocacy. Relying upon himself the task of writing the "popular myth" that is Palestine, Wasserstein is not thorough in answering the questions that ever were

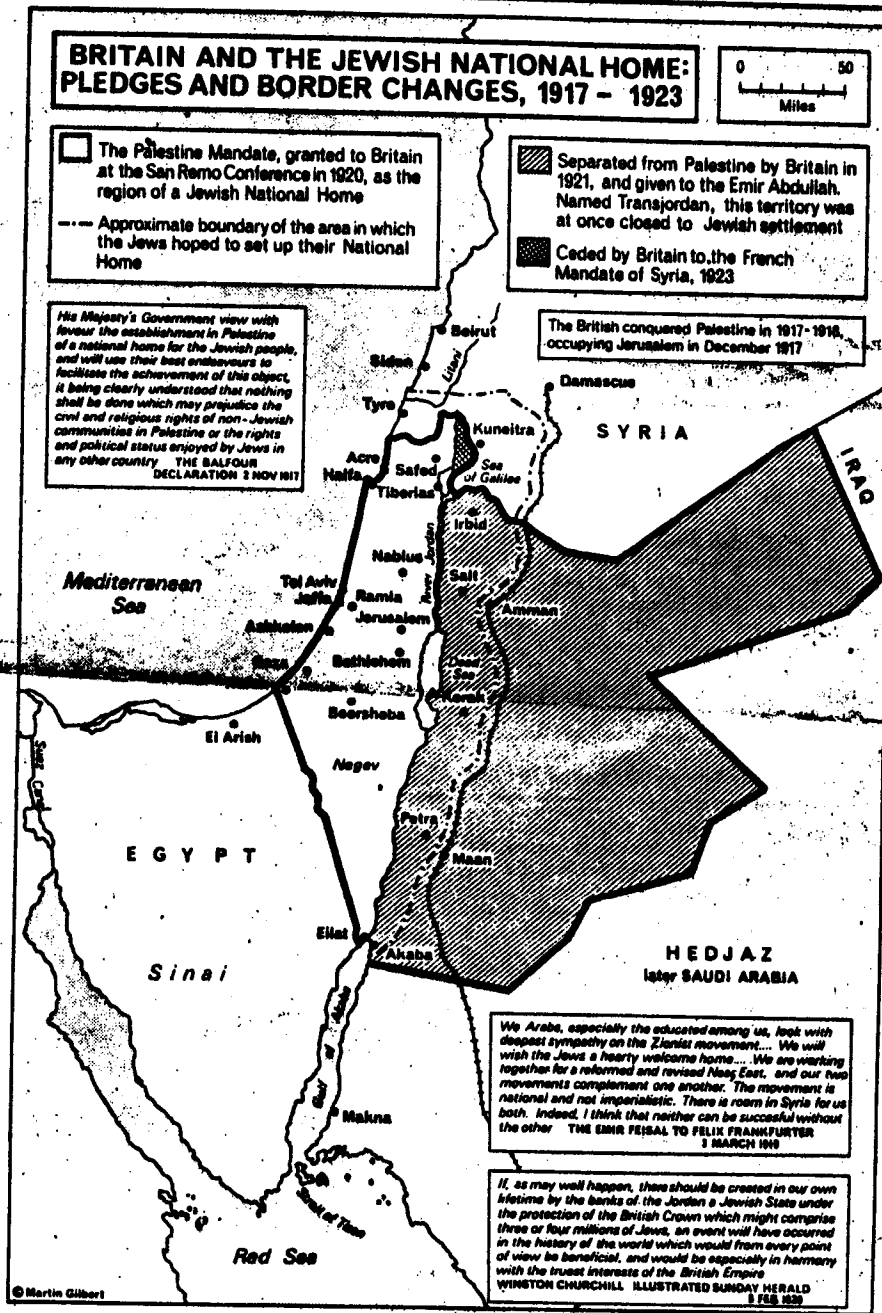
asked. Other due to space limitations, Wasserstein's position, made explicit only in the article's final sentence, is that he abandons the historian's duty of marshalling evidence selected by channelling it toward a predetermined viewpoint. Especially significant is his conclusion that not even the facts, should they be known the way of the Israeli-Zionist agreement he prefers and "must surely become the objective" of Israeli foreign

policy. MERITORIOUS this goal may be for Wasserstein and how can he justify dismissing so important, contrary or untidy a body of historical material as irrelevant? Palestine and Transjordan were initially perceived not merely by a fringe of Jewish nationalists but by the British. Ben-Gurion and the Zionists — as a single political entity? Our concern is, consequently, is not whether the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will be Palestine, but at what critical point it was separated, making its separation in the years 1921-1922 an act of partition.

In the aftermath of World War I the resolution of the Ottoman

# PARTITIONING

By AHARO



The maps above are taken from 'The Arab-Israeli Conflict'

contenders. Their memorandum to the Paris Peace Conference states unequivocally that the proposed eastern boundary of Palestine

was in the interest of the British Empire. Advantage to those like Abdullah who were more purposive. Disproving the image of Great Powers as wholly rational and calculating.

It is at this point that the explanation arises, convening a conference