ARAB NATIONALISM

Marek Čejka
Since 16. century was the Middle East ruled by Ottoman Empire
The Largest Expansion of the Ottoman Empire
Since 17. century Ottoman Empire is weakening

- Loss of territory (mainly in Europe)
- The Middle East ruled by Ottomans till 1917 is inhabited mainly by Arab (not Turkish) population
- Many Arabs are influenced by ideas of the Western nationalism and self-determination
- Primary target of Arab nationalism are Turks (not Zionists, Europeans, USA etc.)
- First Arab nationalists were Arab Christian intellectuals, not Muslims
Arab Nationalists

Sharif Hussein from Hashemite Tribe
Guardian of the Holy Places in Mekka and Medina
Emir Faisal
(Sharif Hussein’s Son)
Emir Abdullah (Hussein’s son)
Ottoman Empire in 1914
The Turks are fighting alongside German and Austrian Empires
The Britons and French want to defeat Turks at the Middle East
1915 – Galipolli Disaster
The Britons are looking for new possibilities on how to defeat Turks
The Britons established contacts with Arab nationalist leaders
The Arabs wanted their own Arab state. The Britons promised to support Arab state. Arabs promised to help the British to fight Turks.
British Commander and military advisor

General Allenby and emir Faisal

Lawrence of Arabia
Alois MUSIL
1916 – Arab Uprising against Turks
1916
Secret Sykes-Picot agreement
Tough battles in the Middle Eastern Front
Turkish armies are commanded by the German officers

von Sanders  von Falkenhayn  von Kressenstein
1917 – Defeat of Turks

- Capture of Jerusalem and Damascus, victory in Iraq – end of Turkish rule at the Middle East
- The Arabs want their state
- The Britons are pretending support but they know that France will not allow it. Short-living Arab state in Syria is crushed by French Army
- The Arabs are disappointed by British and French approach
- Turks are defeated but Arabs consider European superpowers to be a new oppressors
1920 – San Remo – Mandates at the Middle East

League of Nations Mandates, 1920
European Dominance in the Middle East

The Inter-War Period in the Middle East: Foreign Control

Legend:
- British Mandate
- French Mandate
- Spanish Mandate
- Italian Colony
- Colony
- Independent

400 Miles

Notes:
1. Later South Yemen
2. Later People's Democratic Republic
3. Later People's Kingdom
4. Later People's Republic

Map showing territories and colonies during the Inter-War Period in the Middle East.
Most of Muslim Countries became Independent after WW2
The Middle East after WW2

- Britain and France are very unpopular in Arab World
- On contrary, new superpowers, USA and USSR have good possibilities and trust of Arabs
- The Middle East starts to be the centre of foreign policies of the new superpowers – influence of the Cold War
- Most of the new Arab(Muslim) states are nationalistic (secular), not Islamistic
- In most of the cases Islamic movements are in opposition against ruling regimes in Arab(Muslim) World
Gamal Abdel Nasser
Muammar Khaddhafi
Bashar and Hafez Assad
Yasser Arafat
The generation of charismatic Arab nationalist leaders had gone

- Arab Nationalism disappointed many Arabs and Muslims
- Corruption, Poverty, Failures in Wars and Politics, Secularization, Growing Western influence
- During the Cold War Nationalist regimes were either allies of West or allies of East – they were sometimes considered to be their vassal states
- Many Arabs and Muslims started to look for new political alternatives
- Good chance for ISLAMISTS, who were criticizing all above mentioned