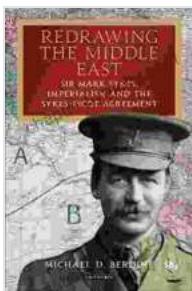


Sir Mark Sykes: Imperialism and the Sykes-Picot Agreement

Sir Mark Sykes was a British diplomat, traveler, and politician who played a significant role in shaping the Middle East during World War I. He is best known for his involvement in the Sykes-Picot Agreement, which divided the Ottoman Empire between Britain and France.

Sykes was born in London in 1879. He was the son of a wealthy landowner and was educated at Eton College and Oxford University. After graduating, he traveled extensively throughout the Middle East, where he developed a deep understanding of the region's history and politics.

In 1914, Sykes was appointed as a member of the British delegation to the Paris Peace Conference. At the conference, he played a key role in negotiating the Sykes-Picot Agreement, which divided the Ottoman Empire between Britain and France. The agreement was secret and was not made public until after the war.



Redrawing the Middle East: Sir Mark Sykes, Imperialism and the Sykes-Picot Agreement

by Michael D. Berdine

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 5616 KB
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Screen Reader : Supported
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Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 485 pages



The Sykes-Picot Agreement had a profound impact on the Middle East. It created the modern borders of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. It also led to the establishment of British and French mandates in the region, which lasted until the 1940s.

Sykes died in 1919, shortly after the end of World War I. He was 40 years old. He is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Sykes was born in London on March 16, 1879. He was the son of Sir Tatton Sykes, 5th Baronet, and his wife, Julia. Sykes was educated at Eton College and Christ Church, Oxford, where he studied history and modern languages.

After graduating from Oxford, Sykes traveled extensively throughout the Middle East. He visited Egypt, Sudan, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, and Persia. During his travels, he learned Arabic and Persian and developed a deep understanding of the region's history and politics.

In 1904, Sykes published his first book, "Through Five Turkish Provinces." The book was a travelogue of his experiences in the Ottoman Empire and was well-received by critics.

In 1911, Sykes was elected to Parliament as the Conservative MP for Hull Central. He served in Parliament for two years, during which time he became a vocal critic of the British government's foreign policy in the Middle East.

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The Sykes-Picot Agreement was a secret agreement between Britain and France that divided the Ottoman Empire into spheres of influence. The agreement was negotiated by Sykes and Francois Georges-Picot, a French diplomat, in 1916.

The agreement divided the Ottoman Empire into five zones:

- **Zone A:** This zone included the provinces of Aleppo, Damascus, Homs, Hama, and Latakia. It was assigned to France.
- **Zone B:** This zone included the provinces of Mosul, Baghdad, and Basra. It was assigned to Britain.
- **Zone C:** This zone included the provinces of Nablus, Jerusalem, Hebron, and Jaffa. It was designated as an international zone.

- **Zone D:** This zone included the provinces of Adana, Marash, and Urfa. It was assigned to France.
- **Zone E:** This zone included the provinces of Aydin, Smyrna, and Konya. It was assigned to Italy.

The Sykes-Picot Agreement was not made public until after World War I. When it was finally published, it was met with widespread criticism from Arabs, who felt that they had been betrayed by their British and French allies.

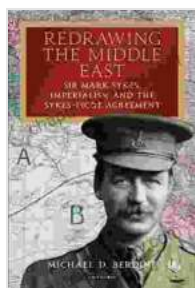
The Sykes-Picot Agreement had a profound impact on the Middle East. It created the modern borders of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. It also led to the establishment of British and French mandates in the region, which lasted until the 1940s.

Sykes is a controversial figure in history. He has been criticized for his role in dividing the Middle East and for his support for British imperialism. However, he is also admired for his intelligence, his understanding of the Middle East, and his commitment to his beliefs.

Sykes' legacy is complex and contested. He was a man of his time, and his actions must be understood in the context of the early 20th century. He was a brilliant diplomat and a passionate advocate for British imperialism. However, he was also a flawed human being who made mistakes.

Sykes' life and career provide a fascinating glimpse into the complexities of British imperialism in the Middle East. He was a man of great intelligence and ambition, but he was also flawed and made mistakes. His legacy is

complex and contested, but he remains a significant figure in the history of the Middle East.



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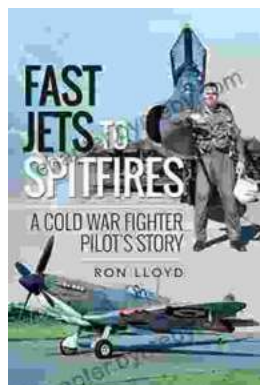
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