

Read “Moslem Federation,” Washington Post, May 1941

Helpful definitions:

Mohammedans: Term once used for Muslims

Axis Powers: Countries led by Germany, Italy and Japan opposed to the Allies (led by the U.K., U.S.S.R., and U.S.A., and France), during World War II (1939-1945).

Sinkiang: Term once used for northwestern Chinese province of Xinjiang, home to a large population of Chinese Muslims.

Transjordan: Term once used for country of Jordan

Houris: Arabic term used in the Quran to describe the “chaste” and “modest” “companions of equal age” found in Heaven.

Lingua franca: Language used between people of different mother tongues to make communication possible.

Secular: not religious

Drang nach Osten: German for “yearning for the east” or “drive toward the east.” The term became a motto of the German nationalist movement in the late nineteenth century.

Gibraltar and Ceuta: British and Spanish ports, respectively, at the western entrance to the Mediterranean Sea. British-controlled Gibraltar is on Spain’s southern coast, and Spanish-controlled Ceuta is on Morocco’s northern coast. The two cities have long been fought over by rival powers due to their important status as gateways to the Mediterranean.

The Riffs: Native Berber people of northern Morocco, called Rifian because they speak the Rif Berber dialect.

Wilson principle of self-determination: Foreign policy advanced by Woodrow Wilson during WWI stating that nations have the right to choose their sovereignty and political status without interference from other governments.

Feuhrer: German title meaning leader, most often associated with Adolf Hitler.

Follow-up questions:

(answer questions in paragraph form)

1. What does the writer see as the greatest challenges facing the British in deciding what to do about the Middle East?
2. What assumptions or generalizations does the writer make about Middle Eastern countries and peoples?
3. Do those assumptions and generalizations play into her political guidance for the region? How so?
4. What do you think she means by the last paragraph of the article? What is her ultimate recommendation for the region?
5. How do you think the writer would respond to current conditions in the Middle East? Was her advice well-guided? Mistaken? How so?

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5. How do you think the writer would respond to current conditions in the Middle East? Was her advice well-guided? Mistaken? How so?