



News Release
For Immediate Release

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The Palestine Deception 1915-1923, New Book
Published by the Institute for Palestine Studies

“There will be trouble in Palestine.”

Eyewitness British journalist predicts the devastating results of the Balfour Declaration and the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine

Washington, DC, October 14, 2014 – **“What in 1917 did the war-worn British public, what did the Jews of Russia, what did any general body of people outside the Near East know about the composition of the population of Palestine? Nothing.”** The Institute for Palestine Studies has just released an enlightening edited collection of articles from the British war correspondent J. M. N. Jeffries, foreshadowing the devastating results of Britain’s Palestine policy. [*The Palestine Deception*](#) is available for purchase online at www.palestine-studies.org.

Jeffries’ articles, published originally in the *Daily Mail* and reproduced in full for the first time in [*The Palestine Deception*](#), highlight **Britain’s duplicity in its dealings with the resident population of Palestine**—arguing that clear, written pledges of Arab political independence, offered in 1915–16 as a means of gaining local military support in the war against Germany and her Ottoman ally, had been decisively contradicted by the terms of the Balfour Declaration in 1917 which promised a Jewish national home on the same land.

In a compelling introduction by Dr. William M. Mathew of the University of East Anglia, U.K., Mathew argues that Jeffries’ firsthand accounts of Palestine and ardent criticism of British policy, published at a juncture when the Mandate for Palestine was still some months short of its full legal implementation, **nearly changed the course of history**.

“We ought to evacuate Palestine at once and not remain there. We ought, that is to say, to fulfil our first and earliest promise to the Arabs who are seven-eighths of the population of Palestine, and give them independence, instead of trying to force on them with our aircraft and bayonets the rule of a mere fraction of Zionists.”

Jeffries notably provided the first public translation from Arabic of the correspondence between British High Commissioner in Egypt, Sir Henry McMahon and Sharif of Mecca, Hussein bin Ali, promising Arab political independence—texts that the British government refused to release until 1939. As described in the introduction to *The Palestine Deception*, Jeffries’ revelations in his *Daily Mail* articles led to calls from within the House of Lords to revise the terms of the Balfour agreement and **ominous predictions by British politicians of turmoil to come in Palestine**.

“The general conclusion of my inquest on the ‘Palestine Question’ was that the name prejudged the issue. The Colonial Office talked so loudly about the ‘Question’ that it concealed cleverly that there was no Question till we had made one. As for the Jews, their attitude is understandable. If I were a Jew, I believe I should imagine I had rights in Palestine, and be a Zionist. The more guilty parties are not the Jews, but our politicians who know the Jews have no such rights but for their own purpose encourage them to think they have.”

The Institute for Palestine Studies’ publication of [The Palestine Deception](#) nearly a century after these events transpired opens the door to discussion of the past 100 years of the Arab-Israeli conflict and what could be today if Jeffries had succeeded in urging the British government to abandon the Balfour Declaration. [The Palestine Deception](#) is available for purchase in paperback for \$14.95 (plus shipping) through the Institute for Palestine Studies at www.palestine-studies.org.

The editor of the article collection, William M. Mathew will be speaking at SOAS University of London on October 28, 2014 at 5:45pm in the Khelili Lecture Theater. Mathew’s lecture on *The Palestine Deception* is titled [British Policy and Arab Displacement in Palestine, 1915-23: Contingency, Imperialism, and Double-dealing](#).

To request a copy of *The Palestine Deception* or to schedule an interview with the Editor, William M. Mathew, please contact Paige Brownlow at 202-342-3990 ext. 13 or paigeb@palestine-studies.org.

About the Editor

William M. Mathew is a Senior Fellow in History, University of East Anglia, U.K. His previous books include *The House of Gibbs and the Peruvian Guano Monopoly* (1981; Spanish edition in 2009); *Edmund Ruffin and the Crisis of Slavery in the Old South: The Failure of Agricultural Reform* (1988, 2012); *Agriculture, Geology, and Society in Antebellum South Carolina: The Private Diary of Edmund Ruffin, 1843* (1993, 2012). As part of his current project on the British political and imperial contexts of the Balfour Declaration and Palestine Mandate, 1917–23, he has published articles in the *Journal of Palestine Studies* and the *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*.

About the Institute for Palestine Studies

The Institute for Palestine Studies (IPS) is the oldest institute in the world exclusively devoted to documentation, research and publication on Palestinian affairs and the Arab-Israeli conflict. IPS is entirely independent and committed to preserving the collective memory of Palestine and educating the public on the realities of Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

IPS has published more than **700 books** in Arabic, English and French examining different aspects of the Palestine question, Zionism, Israeli policies and the roles of major powers in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Institute publishes comprehensive and groundbreaking books from some of the most prominent intellectuals and experts in the field. To purchase a book or see a complete list of IPS publications visit, www.palestine-studies.org.