

## A Brief Summary of Chapters 1,2,4,5

**Jordan (Aramaic name first given to the river meaning: descending) divided to three "natural" regions from west to east and follow anti-Lebanon mountains northwards and Hijaz in south :**

**1. Great rift valley (Ghor in North + Wadi Araba in South)**

Ghor's climate and land: hot and highly fertile land

Town in Ghor: Shuna

Wadi Araba: gravel and sandy desert

**2. Highlands (the main transjordan) (in general climate: dry and temperate, mostly steepes)**

- Sawad al-Urdun (Irbid and Ajlun) = very fertile
- West highlands of Balqa (Wadi Shu'ayb and Salt)
- East highlands of Balqa (Amman and Madaba)
- Bilad al-Sharat (Karak and Shawbak)

**3. Gravel Plateau (Desert 75% of total area and has Azraq oasis)**

**Jordan currently divided to 5 *muhafazat*:**

1. Irbid
2. Amman
3. Salt
4. Karak
5. Extreme south (Maan and Aqaba)

-During Islamic period Jordan divided to two *Ajnad*

-During Mamluk region: Jabal Ajlun center of rebel tribal emirate ruled by Ghzawis in the southern *safaqa (al-safqa al qibliyya)* mamlaka of Damascas

-During Ottomans: District of Ajlun became a Sanjuk (administrative district) of the *Eyalet* (province, later re-named Vilayet) of Damascus (Eyalet al-Sham) with their allies Ghzawi as *Sanjakhbeyis*. The chief of Ghzawi was Amir al-Hajj to protect pilgrims till 17th century

-Later, Ottomans divided transjordan to three divisions: Sanjak of Ajlun, *Kaza* of al-Balqa, and *mutasarrifiyya* of karak (*mutasarrifiyya* is like sanjak but *Kaza* is smaller, and the Balqa *Kaza* followed Nablus Sanjak and later Karak *mutasarrifiyya*)

-Arab Kingdom of Syria divided transjordan among Two *Liwas*: liwa of Hawra (similar to ajlun sanjak) and liwa of karak (similar to karak *mutasarrifiyya* but included till Tabuk)

## Historical importance:

- Caravan trade (most during Umayyad period then revived by Hijaz railway in 1908)
- Pilgrimage (used to be name *masharif al-Hijaz*)
- natural meetings of highways

## Historical Background:

- Jericho 20000 BC (Pre-historic)
  - Canaanites 3000 BC (Pre-historic) (Canaanite language)
  - Adomites 2000 BC (Pre-historic)
  - Moabites 2000-800 BC (mainly around Karak region) (Pre-historic) (Aramaic language)
  - Nabateans in the Hellenistic period: the period between the Alexander the Great and Roman empire rise( 600 - 106 BC) (Transition from Aramaic to Arabic language)
  - Roman: Decapolis (10 cities) of which were Um Qays, Jarash, Amman (Philadelphia)
  - Sassanids (Persians)
  - Byzantine (allowed family of Ghassan to rule the region, called Ghassanids)
  - Islamic Caliphate: Orthodox caliphs (632-661)
  - Umayyads (661-750)
  - Abbasids (750-1258) and Crusades (established Frankish Kingdom) (1097-1291)
  - Ayyubids (1193-1261)
  - Mamluks (1261-1517)
  - Ottomans (1516-1923) (Muhammad Ali Occupied the region briefly)
- WW1: 1914-1918

## Trans-Jordanian tribes:

-Due to Wahhabi movement in Najd, Anaza bedouins: Banu Sakhr, Huwaytat and Adwan families from North Arabia settled in Jordan

-Christian families from Karak to Madaba

-Circassians to Amman from Russian persecution

## Muhammad Ali Pasha:

-Egyptians expelled French campaign occupation and soon he came to power in 1805

-The Albanian was a vali to the Ottomans but grew too powerful

-Helped rooting Wahhabis and later Morea Greeks but Europe intervened and Greece was lost from Ottomans

## **The Tanzimat:**

- by Hatti-Sherif of Gulhane
- new laws to enforce order in the weak Ottoman empire then
- laws included parliament and constitutional formation as well as increased centralization management
- later abandoned but readopted by Young Turks revolt 1908

## **Young Turks:**

- AbdulHamed the second was the caliph then
- Belonged to CUP (Committee of Union and Progress)
- German trained
- Established Turkification (they are Turkish Nationalists) and ended the "Hamidian despotism"
- transformed to dictatorship in 1913

## **Arab revolution:**

- Originally Abdullah's idea after meeting Kitchener in Egypt
- Hussein-McMahon correspondence
- al-Fatat (a young arab society in damascas) and al-Ahd (arab officers in Ottoman army) (the Arab nationalists) supported it and maintained contact with British
- Christians support
- some educated Arabs called for decentralization instead
- general muslims believed Ottomans as protector of faith and were suspicious of Sharif Hussein-British relation
- June 1916- October 1918
- advised by T. E. Lawrence
- supported by Huwaytat and few from Banu Sakhr as well as North Arabia in Jawf
- Hussein was announced king of Hijaz by British in 1916

## **The Arab kingdom in Syria (1918-1920):**

- government of Damascus in 1 October, 1918
- headed by Feisal (3rd son of Sharif Hussein) in behalf of king Hussein
- Jaafar al-Askari military commander of Balqa and areas south to it
- neglected transjordanians
- July 1920 Maysalun battle, and Gouraud became France's High Commissioner of Syria, French Occupation
- Feisal escaped to Britain at first and didn't want to rule transjordan
- Feisal later took throne to Iraq monarchy

## **Failed pre-Arab revolts against Ottomans:**

- local sheikhs of non-Bedouin clans drained of their powers, and no longer bribed with money, and tax
- Majali clan led Shawbak revolt 1905 and Karak revolt 1910, the latter due to military conscription and disarming of civilians

## **Treaties:**

- 16 May, 1916 Sykes-Picot agreement
- 2 Nov, 1917 Balfour Promise handed to Lionel Rothschild in a letter
- 1919 treaty of Versailles, a pre-step to San Remo
- San Remo 1920, establishment of mandate and taking of Balfour promise officially
- British took transjordan mandate in an offhand manner, and hence made it easier to Abdullah to establish state there, and transjordan was out of direct mandate of Palestine

## **Fall of government of Damascus:**

-Led to three separate governments in transjordan and Britain assigned advisor to each:

- Government of Ajlun (center in Irbid)
- Government of Salt (center in Salt), most successful due to docile Christians and Circassians there
- Government of Moab (center in Karak), most chaotic, advisor: Kirkbride (Met Abdullah first in 1921)

## **Abdullah (second son of Sharif Hussein) :**

-Arrived in Maan from Medina in 21 Nov, 1920

-Good speaker, persuasive

-loved the luxury life

-clever and smartest of his brothers

-loved chess

-tolerant and open minded (optimist fatalist) (opposite to his father)

-his father took advice from him

-least favored by his father, jealous of Feisal; Feisal was: popular, very handsome, skilled, more committed to Arab national cause and better with urban people while Abdullah more transparent and better with Bedouins and tribes than Feisal

-Arab nationalist at first had no patience with Abdullah's history talks, repelled by Abdullah pomp and luxury love, and didn't find him funny, Zirkili was one example of such nationalists

## **Abdullah's Success in Jordan (reasons related to Abdullah):**

-personality perfect to tribal life

-rich political and military past

-Hijaz topography and social community similar to Transjordan

Had everything, but needed:

- Money
- military assistance
- goodwill

-all these provided by Britain especially due to pressure from Kura rebellion and Wahhabi threat in south (Abdullah had no choice) PRICE: greater submission to Britain

-Helping factors:

- Fluidity of Jordan's politics (British uncertainty about it)
- failing of arab nationalists in Feisal's time
- organized military force

-Abdullah was in Amman in 2 march, 1921 and many tribes sheikhs greeted him there

-first british high commissioner of mandatory in palestine: Herbet Samuel

-25 May, 1923 recognition of Transjordan (birth of Jordan) as a "mintaqa" not imara as Abdullah respected his father

-Hussein came to Jordan and established a court in Jordan valley and was very respected by Abdullah

-Al-Saud ended Hashemite rule in Hijaz by capturing of Jidda in 20 december, 1925, Hussein exiled to Cyprus, then died in Amman in 1931, buried in al Aqsa mosque

Forming Country:

-Churchill gave Abdullah 6 month period in March 1921 to prove himself in Jordan but was extended to 1923

-First Government 11 April, 1921 headed by Rashid Tula'

-government called Majlis al-Mushawirin and later al-Hay'a al-Markaziyya, and consisted of 8 members, three of Istiqlal party, 1 from Transjordan Ali al-Sharayiri only

-the country seen by British as buffer zone and human reservoir for Palestinian refugees

## **The army:**

-till 1926, the security forces mainly Arab nationalists same as government

-Arab Legion in October 1923 headed by Frederick Peake from 1923-1939 who was in bad relations with Abdullah till 1928

- John Glubb "Pasha" head of Desert Force (Quwwat al-Badiyah) formed in 1930, became the high commander in 1939, and was very close to Abdullah

## **British advisors:**

- to keep Abdullah under control

- First was Albert Abromso 1921 was too lenient with Abdullah and later replaced

- Philby (1921-1924), shaky relation with Abdullah towards the end

- Cox (1924-1939) uncomfortable relationship with Abdullah

- Kirkbride (1939-1946), 1946 became the first british minister in Jordan, and then British ambassador till 1951 at Jordan, he was favored by Abdullah

### **Abdullah's policy with British:**

- based on stalling and procrastination to gain time or gain what Abdullah seeks

- must follow their will but always made bargains

- British needed Abdullah for his ability to manage tribes easily

### **Abdullah and the Arab Nationalists:**

- needed the Arab nationalists till 1926 because few educated Transjordanians and to keep the country for every Arab image he wanted but failed later on to achieve due to British and Transjordanians pressure

- resignation of Rashid Tula' in 1923 as requested by British and Mazhar Raslan in his place (less anti-british)

- British forced Abdullah to assign Rikabi (a political hypocrite who allied with whom had power) instead of Hassan Khalid as prime minister due to French pressure to demolish Arab nationalists from Transjordan

- Rkiabi-Abdullah mutual hatred, and Rikabi cleansed government and military of Arab nationalists by 1926 which pleased Cox and Peake, and Abdullah got the blame instead of Rkiabi

- Rikabi prime minister (1922-23, 1923-26), was possible candidate to replace Abdullah

- March 1927, formation of Hizb al-Sha'b from Transjordanian arab nationalists and had awareness of Jewish settlements in Palestine, led protests later on, but was calmed down in 1928 after the constitution formation

### **Abdullah and the Bedouin tribes:**

- Kura revolt in 1920 led by Kulayb al-Shurayda due to personal hatred of Ali al-Sharayiri in government, refusal of tax payment, and wanted to be a separate district from Irbid, supported by French since borders weren't properly drawn

- Military action failed, Abdullah solved this diplomatically by a visit in 1921, and rebel minimized

- after agreeing to British terms in 1923, before the birth of Transjordan, the Kura rebellion was silenced for good by British air forces kept at an airbase in Marka and Peake's land troops

-Abdullah kept Mithqal al-Fayez of Banu Sakhr close since his territory is next to Wahhabi territory and since he was first Balqa chief to meet him in amman

-Sultan al-Adwan rivalry with Banu Sakhr and accusations of Abdullah to be British puppet led to August 1923 revolt

-Revolt supported by young educated Transjordanians aware of palestinian issue and whom wanted more role in government and positions

-British and Philby supported this revolt to force Abdullah to come back to them

-Peake's forces wiped out the Adwan rebellion

-1926 Wadi Mosa rebellion, looted local gendarmerie and government house

### **Anglo-Transjordan agreement:**

-20 Feb, 1928 Jerusalem

-al-imara al-Sahriyya ( East Province) (Abdullah hated named Transjordan, which was given by British)

-British control over foreign affairs, armed forces, communications, and state finance, in exchange for financial support

-Constitution formed in 16 April, 1928 calmed many protests and parliament elections next year (Legislative Council) 21 members