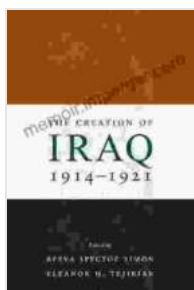


Unveiling the Genesis of a Nation: The Creation of Iraq, 1914-1921



The birth of Iraq as a modern state is a captivating tale of geopolitical machinations, imperial ambitions, and the aspirations of a nascent nation.

"The Creation of Iraq, 1914-1921" by historian Toby Dodge chronicles the pivotal years that shaped this Middle Eastern crucible.



The Creation of Iraq, 1914-1921 by David Abulafia

4.6 out of 5

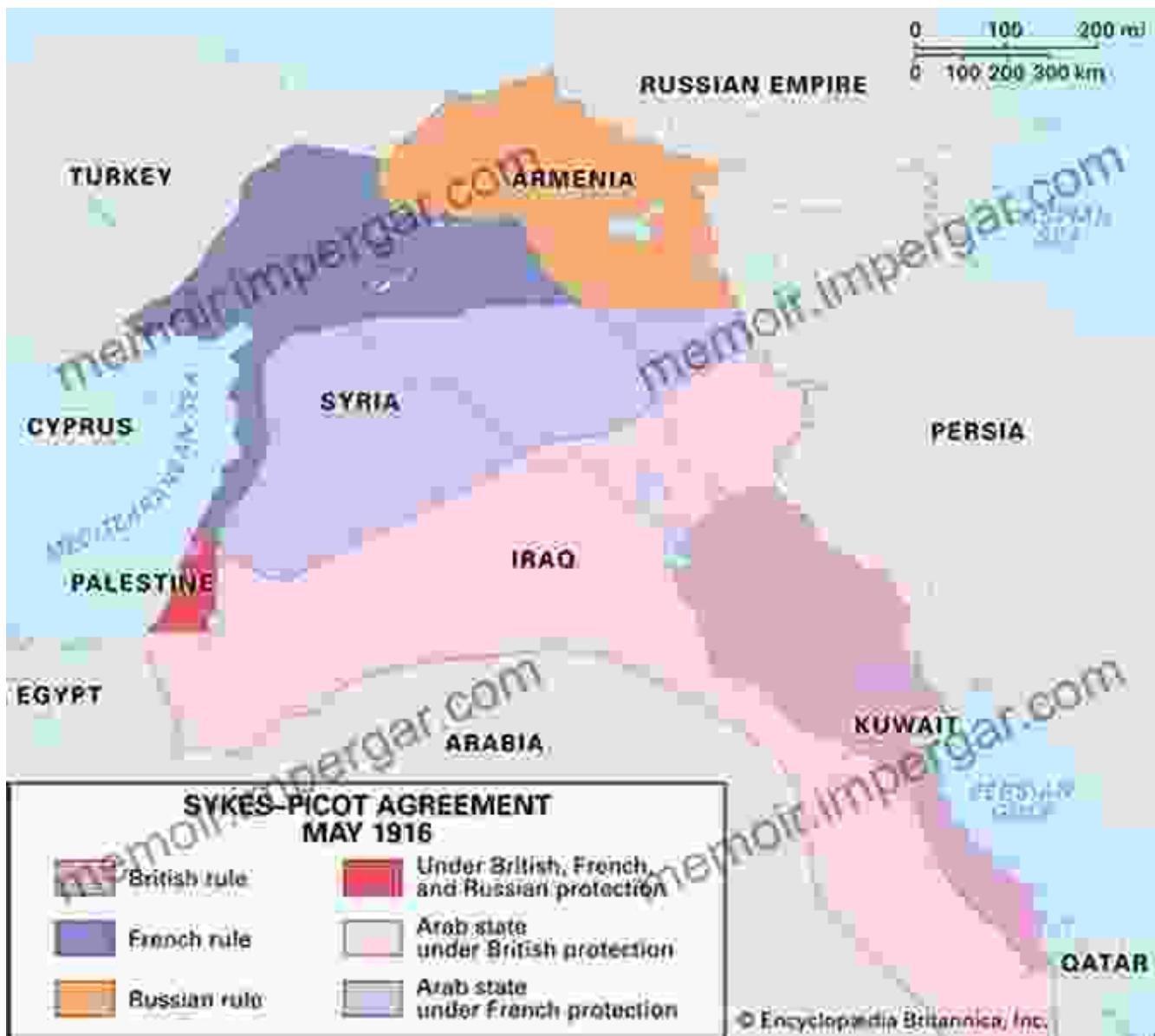
Language : English
File size : 952 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 208 pages

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The Ottoman Legacy

Iraq's origins lie in the sprawling Ottoman Empire, which controlled the region for centuries. The Ottomans' predominantly Sunni Muslim rule coexisted with a diverse population of Shiite Muslims, Christians, and Jews. Internal divisions and mounting external pressures weakened the empire, setting the stage for its eventual collapse during World War I.

British Imperialism and the Sykes-Picot Agreement



As war erupted in 1914, Britain and France sought to secure their influence in the Middle East. The Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916 secretly divided the Ottoman lands into spheres of influence. Mesopotamia (later Iraq) fell under British control.

The British Invasion and the Fall of Baghdad

In 1917, British forces invaded Mesopotamia, capturing Baghdad in March 1918. The Ottoman garrison surrendered, marking the end of centuries of

Ottoman rule in the region.

Post-War Challenges

The British faced immense challenges in governing Iraq. The country was ethnically and religiously diverse, with a deep-seated distrust of foreign powers. Nationalist movements emerged, demanding self-determination.

Arab Revolt and the Establishment of the Iraqi Kingdom



In 1920, the Arab Revolt, led by Faisal I, erupted against British rule. Britain responded by suppressing the revolt and installing Faisal as King of Iraq under a British mandate.

The British Mandate and the Shaping of Iraq

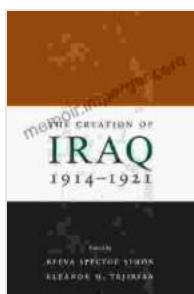
The British Mandate period from 1921 to 1932 witnessed significant political, economic, and social transformations. The British created a

centralized administration and introduced modern banking and education systems. However, they also faced persistent opposition from Iraqi nationalists, who demanded complete independence.

Independence and the Birth of Modern Iraq

In 1932, Iraq achieved full independence under King Faisal I. The country embarked on a period of economic development and modernization. However, the legacy of British rule, ethnic tensions, and regional conflicts would continue to shape Iraq's destiny.

"The Creation of Iraq, 1914-1921" offers a comprehensive and nuanced account of the tumultuous events that gave birth to the modern Iraqi state. Toby Dodge's meticulous research and engaging narrative bring to life the complex interplay of international and domestic forces that shaped the country's trajectory. Whether you're a historian, a student of international relations, or simply curious about the Middle East, this book is an essential read for understanding the origins of Iraq and its enduring legacy.



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