Conflict over Palestine: Zionism & the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, 1945-1947

Abstract

The Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry was charged in 1946 with finding solutions for the Jewish Holocaust survivors still lingering in displaced persons’ camps across Europe, and with proposing ways to end the continuous friction among Jews and Arabs in Palestine. The paper addresses the impact that Zionism had on both the Jewish Holocaust survivors in the displaced people’s camps, and the Zionist leaders who preached its validity to the Committee. The paper makes a distinction between the idea of Zionism and the practice of Zionism, and argues that the idea of Zionism was needed by the Holocaust survivors as it gave them hope, but that the practice of establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine endangered the possibility for a safe and prosperous life for the Jewish people, because the Jewish state would be established in a hostile environment. It argues that the need for cooperation between Jews and Arabs, rather than competition, is still valid today.
The only correct line which really represented the interests of the population of Palestine was that of the Left wing Arab Trade Unions which refused to appear before the commission. Had this boycott been a general one it would have turned the ‘commission of enquiry’ into a complete defeat for imperialist policies. Feudal reaction dominates the Arab masses because of Zionism. The Zionist policy of boycott based on racial discrimination prevents the crystallisation of class consciousness among the Arab workers and turns all the accumulated hate against Arab feudalism into a different channel. The history of the Israel Palestine conflict has its roots in the events of the mid 1800s and the early 1900s. There were a number of issues that need to be addressed, in order to see how the Israel Palestine conflict came about. In this section, we shall discuss political Zionism, the actions of Britain in the Middle East during World War I, and the tensions that followed in Palestine. As Cleveland & Bunton (2013) argue, in order to understand the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in detail, it becomes necessary to examine the interactions among the British, the Zionists, and the Palestin... Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Documents. Mideast Web, Middle East Historical and Peace Process Source Documents. Theodor Herzl: On the Jewish State, 1896. Richard Gottheil, “The Aims of Zionism,” 1 November 1898. Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry, April 1946. Letter from David K. Niles to Matt Connelly, May 1, 1946. Memo from Robert F. Wagner to President Truman regarding the horrors of the treatment of Jews by the Nazis, June 20, 1946. Memo from Colonel A. J. McFarland to the State-War-Navy Coordinating Committee, June 21, 1946. Draft telegram from President Truman to Ben-Gurion at the American Embassy in Tel Aviv protesting the Israeli...