

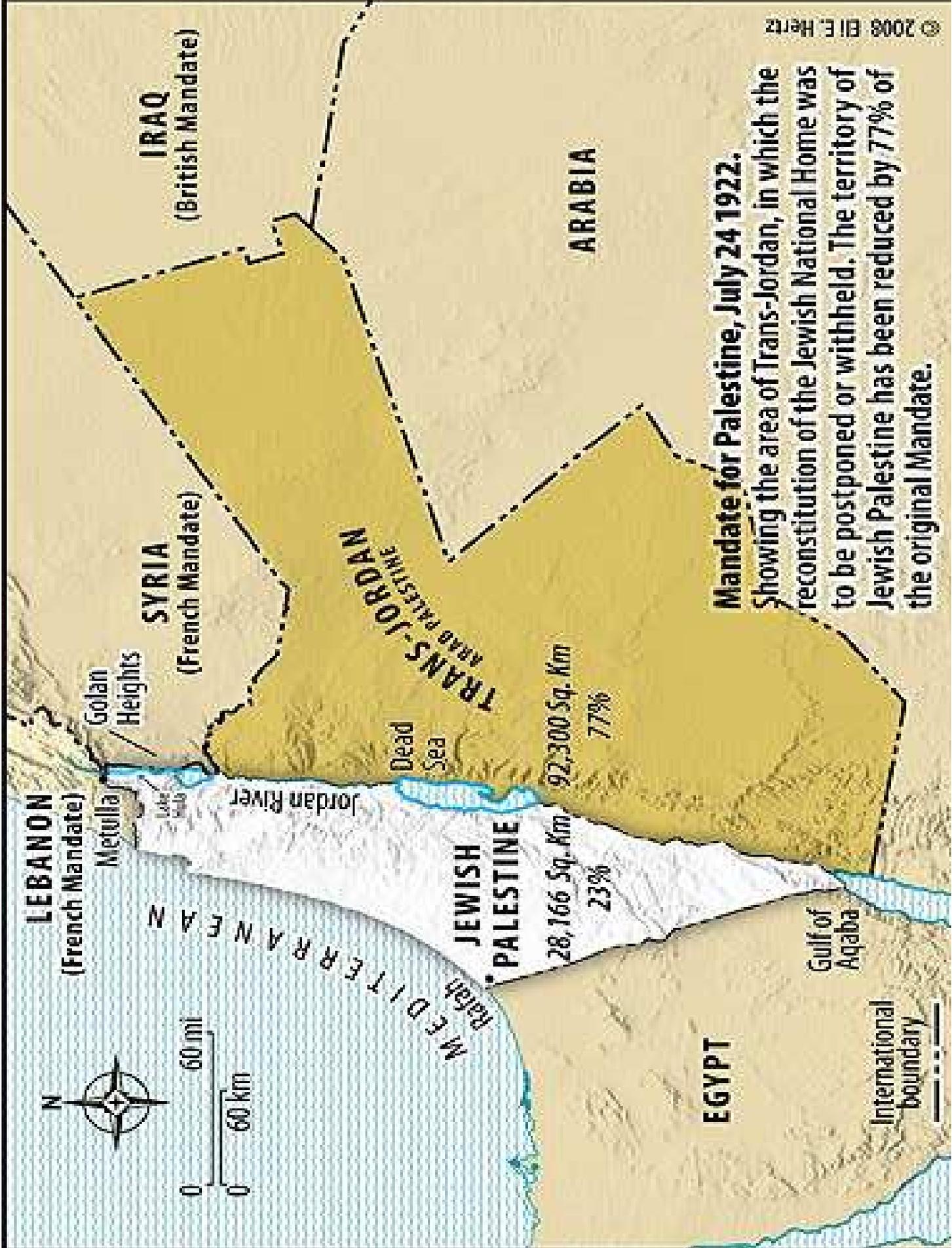
Prof. B. Pierrri
History of Italian Foreign Policy

**Fascist Middle Eastern Policy: The First
Months of War, Jun-Oct 1940**

March 24th, 2015

Holy Land

- **Transjordan and Palestine to be united in federated monarchy: if not the Italian king, choice among Arab princes**
- **Only Sephardic Jews (Spanish origins) to be incorporated**
- **Jewish emigration stopped, undesirable elements to be expelled and leave room for Arabs, better than Christians**
- **Jewish education system to be de-Zionised**

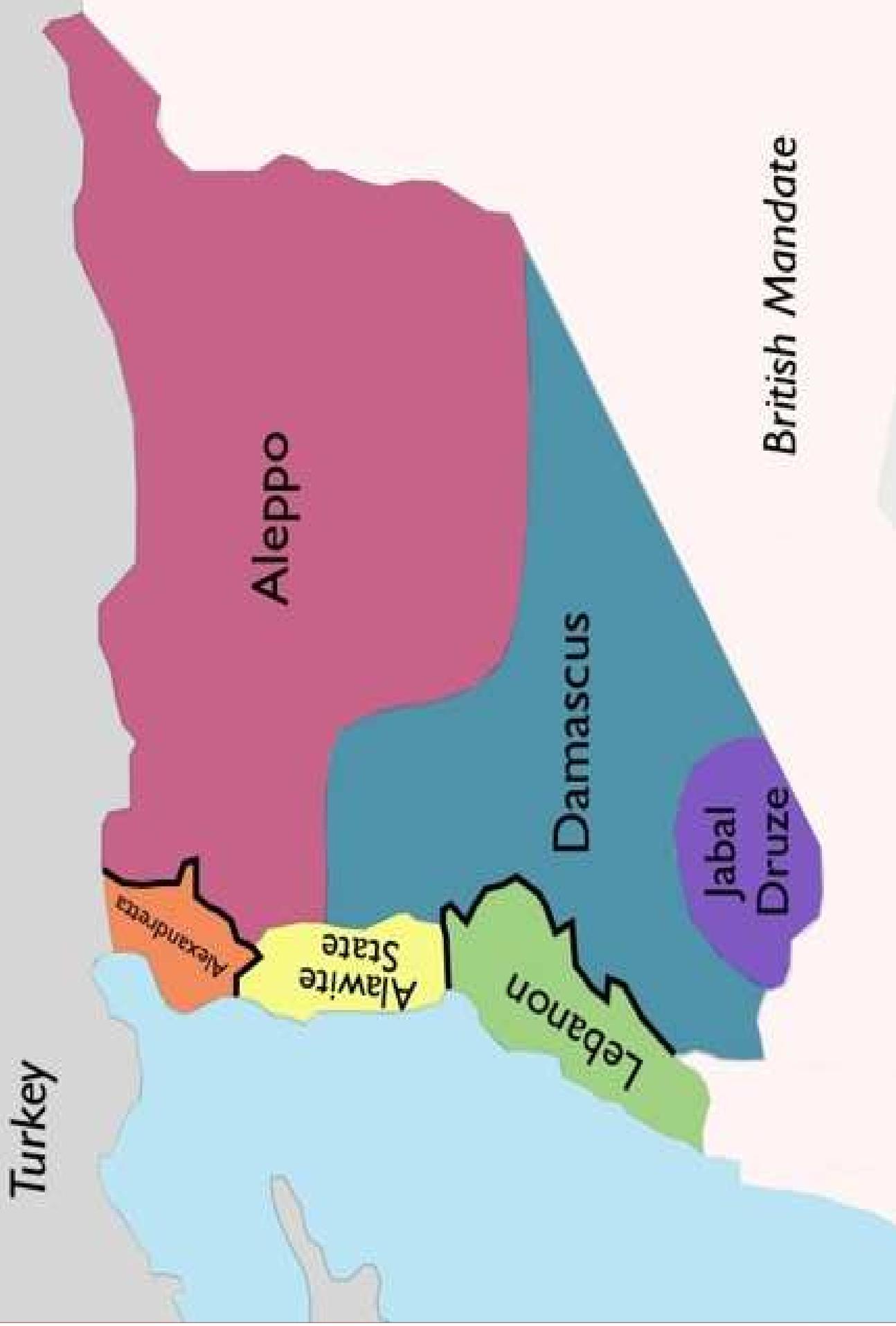


Mandate for Palestine, July 24 1922.
 Showing the area of Trans-Jordan, in which the reconstitution of the Jewish National Home was to be postponed or withheld. The territory of Jewish Palestine has been reduced by 77% of the original Mandate.

Arab Countries

- **Syria to become independent republic, giving complete autonomy to region of Druzes and Alawites**
- **Independence subordinate to alliance with Italy, Italian economic domination, Italian military bases, preferential status of Italian language in schools and protection of Christian minorities**
- **Lebanon to receive only mandate-style independence, with Italian commissioner ruling the country**
- **Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Transjordan, Sinai to form Levant State with a structure like Switzerland and ethnically homogeneous cantons. Everything under Italian mandate**

States of French Syria c. 1924



Cyprus

- A) Cyprus under Roman, Venetian, and Genoan domination for 600 years**
- B) Italy fought to liberate world from British domination of seas**
- C) Three possibilities for Cyprus**
 - 1) Direct Italian domination (preferred)**
 - 2) Autonomy within Italian empire**
 - 3) Union with Greece - this only two weeks before invasion of Greece**

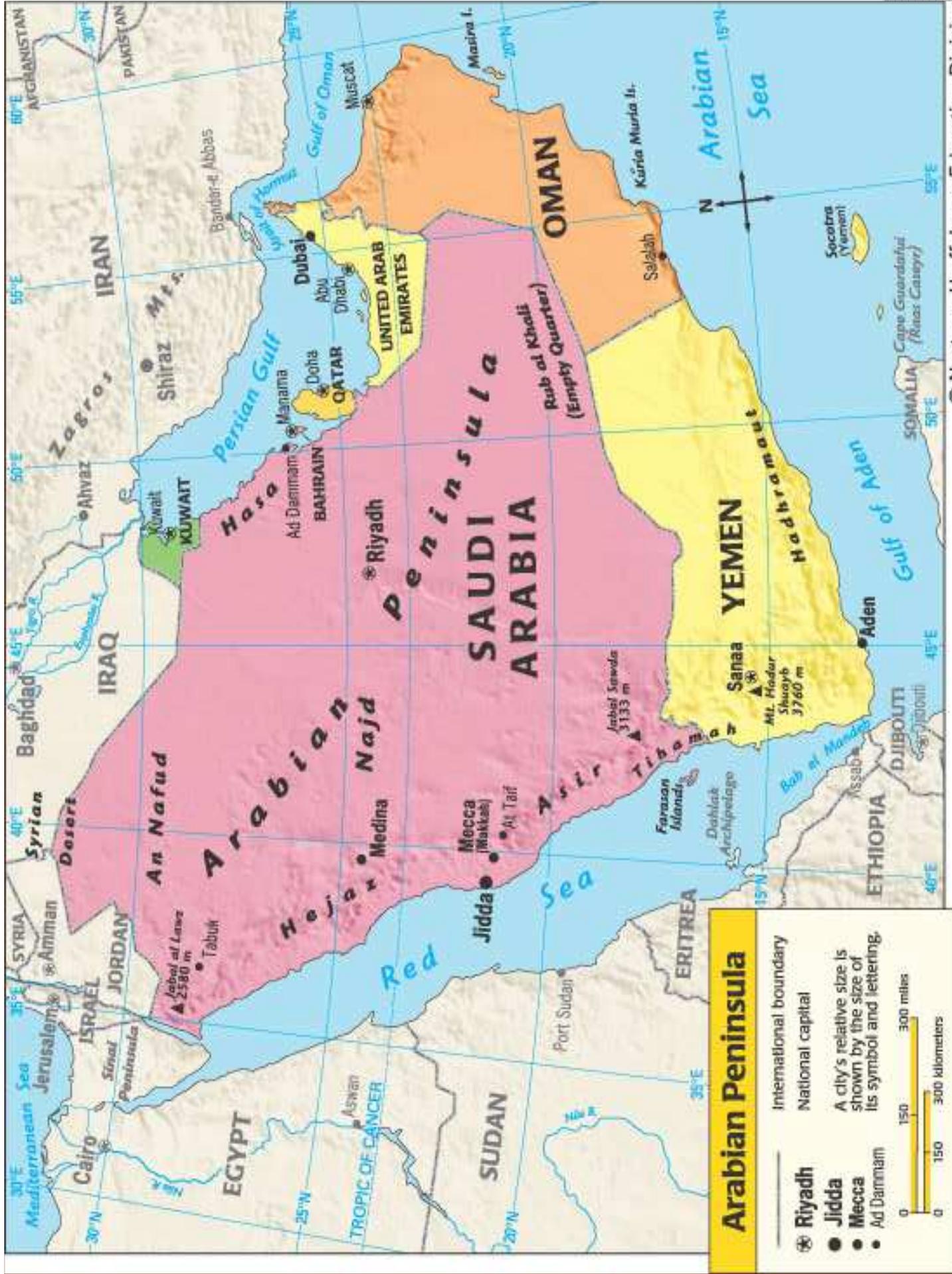


Iraq

- **Out of Italian zone of influence, as defined by Hitler**
- **In Sept Foreign Ministry recommended Iraq to remain independent and sign mutual defence pact with Italy**
- **Iraq perceived as weak country surrounded by enemies and ethnically disunited**
- **Strong independent Iraq to serve Italian interests**
- **Extension of Iraqi borders at expense of Iran, Kuwait, Syria, Turkey**
- **In return of military protection, Italy to be given oil concessions at that time held by Iraq Petroleum Company**

Arabian Peninsula

- A) Aden under direct Italian control**
- B) Bahrain under direct Italian control**
- C) Yemen and Saudi Arabia independent**
- D) Oman to become Italian protectorate**
- E) Djibuti under total Italian control**



Arabian Peninsula

- International boundary
- Riyadh
- Jidda
- Mecca
- Ad Dammam
- National capital
- A city's relative size is shown by the size of its symbol and lettering.

0 150 300 miles
0 150 300 kilometers

Italo-German-Arab triangle

- **Oct 23 Joint Italo-German Declaration on Arab Affairs**
 - A) Axis powers had watched with interest Arab struggle for independence**
 - B) Arabs could count on Axis sympathy in future**
 - C) No mention about Arab union of specific countries**
 - D) Italy did not want any Arab aid, in order not to pay diplomatic price**

Italian poor teeth

- **Bismarck once said that Italy had big appetite, but small teeth**
- **Dec 1940 Hitler expressed similar view:**
 - **Failure of Italian campaigns had effect of compressing Italian claims within natural borders of Italian capabilities**
 - **Rommel sent to North Africa to salvage Libya from falling in British hands**
 - **Italy's parallel war over**