

"The Peace on The Horizon - 70 Years after The World War 2 in the Middle East"(5)

[\(Japanese Version\)](#)

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Prologue

5. Britain's triple tongue diplomacy during World War I (2)

(2) Sykes-Picot Agreement



With McMahon-Hussein Correspondence, the second one of "Britain's triple tongue diplomacy" was the secret agreement so-called "Sykes-Picot agreement" to divide Middle Eastern territory of the Ottoman Empire by Britain and France (and Russia).

British diplomatic advisor Mark Sykes and French diplomat Francois Georges Picot drafted about the division of the Ottoman Empire at the end of 1915 when the victory of the UK, French and their allies became sure. Russia also joined with the secret agreement. Three countries have mutually signed the agreement officially known "Asia Minor Agreement" in May 1916, in Petrograd, Russia. This agreement was generally called "Sykes-Picot Agreement" after taking names

of two diplomats. It was just before the uprising of Hussein, Sharif of Makkah, according to the McMahon-Hussein Correspondence (see previous section).

In this secret agreement for territorial division, the UK gained Southern Syria and South Mesopotamia. France became the ruler of Syria, southern Anatolia and Mosul district of Iraq. Russia was given the Black Sea coast. In more detail in the Middle Eastern region, the UK and France divided the Mediterranean coast. From southern Anatolia to Beirut were directly governed by France. France also got the power in the northern Mesopotamian region from Damascus to Aleppo and Mosul. Compared with the current border line, France dominated the territory from the southern part of Turkey throughout Syria including northern Iraq and Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the UK controlled directly the area from Baghdad to Basra adding the Kuwait and the east coast of the Persian (Arabian) Gulf. The desert zone spreading from Amman to the northern part of the Arabian Peninsula were under UK's influence. This area covers Jordan, southern part of Iraq and GCC countries-Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and UAE.

Palestine, which would be the biggest hot spot in the Middle East in future, was dealt as the co-governorate of UK and France.

"Sykes-Picot Agreement" was a product of the imperial colonialism competing between three countries; the UK, France and Russia. The interest of Arab nation, who had maintained a moderate peace and order throughout the region for thousands of years, had never been taken into consideration. In 1917 only one year after the signing of the agreement, Russian revolution had broken out. The secret agreement was revealed by the Soviet revolutionary government. The Arabs, who had been asking for fulfillment of the "McMahon-Hussein Correspondence", have shown antipathy against UK & France.

(To be continued ----)

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