

## **Faisal-Weizmann Agreement**

The Faisal-Weizmann Agreement was a short-lived agreement for Arab-Jewish cooperation on the development of a Jewish homeland in Palestine and an Arab nation in a large part of the Middle East (in present-day Syria and Iraq).

The agreement was signed on 3 January 1919 (in London) by Hashemite Emir Faisal, son of Hussein bin Ali (King of Hejaz) and Zionist leader Dr. Chaim Weizmann as part of the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 setting disputes stemming from World War I.

Emir Faisal and Dr. Chaim Weizmann first met in June 1918 in Aqaba (in present-day Jordan) and met again later in 1918 in London.

The Faisal-Weizmann agreement was short-lived, mostly due to the change in British-French Middle East policy regarding the Arab nation. On 7 March 1920, Faisal was proclaimed King of the Arab Kingdom of Syria (Greater Syria) by the Syrian National Congress. However, in April 1920, the San Remo Conference gave France the mandate for Syria resulting in the Franco-Syrian War. The French were victorious and Emir Faisal was expelled from Damascus in August 1920 by French forces. Emir Faisal was King of Iraq from 23 August 1921 to 1933. He promoted pan-Arabism and encouraged Sunni-Shiite unity.



*Dr. Chaim Weizmann (left) and Emir Faisal (right), 1918.*

TEXT OF THE FAISAL-WEIZMANN AGREEMENT  
(3 January 1919)

His Royal Highness the Amir FAISAL, representing and acting on behalf of the Arab Kingdom of HEJAZ, and Dr. CHAIM WEIZMANN, representing and acting on behalf of the Zionist Organisation, mindful of the racial kindship and ancient bonds existing between the Arabs and the Jewish people, and realising that the surest means of working out the consummation of their national aspirations, is through the closest possible, collaboration in the development of the Arab State and Palestine, and being desirous further of confirming the good understanding which exists between them, have agreed upon the following Articles:

Article I

The Arab State and Palestine in all their relations and undertakings shall be controlled by the most cordial goodwill and understanding and to this end Arab and Jewish duly accredited agents shall be established and maintained in their respective territories.

Article II

Immediately following the completion of the deliberations of the Peace Conference, the definite boundaries between the Arab State and Palestine shall be determined by a Commission to be agreed upon by the parties hereto.

Article III

In the establishment of the Constitution and Administration of Palestine all such measures shall be adopted as will afford the fullest guarantees for carrying into effect the British Government's Declaration of the 2nd of November, 1917.

Article IV

All necessary measures shall be taken to encourage and stimulate immigration of Jews into Palestine on a large scale, and as quickly as possible to settle Jewish immigrants upon the land through closer settlement and intensive cultivation of the soil. In taking such measures the Arab peasant and tenant farmers shall be protected in their rights, and shall be assisted in forwarding their economic development.

Article V

No regulation nor law shall be made prohibiiting or interfering in any way with the free exercise of religion; and further the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship without discrimination or preference shall for ever be allowed. No religious test shall ever be required for the exercise of civil or political rights.

Article VI

The Mohammedan Holy Places shall be under Mohammedan control.

Article VII

The Zionist Organisation proposes to send to Palestine a Commission of experts to make a survey of the economic possibilities of the country, and to report upon the best means for its development. The Zionist Organisation will place the aforementioned Commission at the disposal of the Arab State

for the purpose of a survey of the economic possibilities of the Arab State and to report upon the best means for its development. The Zionist Organisation will use its best efforts to assist the Arab State in providing the means for developing the natural resources and economic possibilities thereof.

Article VIII

The parties hereto agree to act in complete accord and harmony in all matters embraced herein before the Peace Congress.

Article IX

Any matters of dispute which may arise between the contracting parties shall be referred to the British Government for arbitration.

Given under our hand at LONDON, ENGLAND, the THIRD day of JANUARY, ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN.

[Translation]

Provided the Arabs obtain their independence as demanded in my Memorandum dated the 4th of January, 1919, to the Foreign Office of the Government of Great Britain, I shall concur in the above articles. But if the slightest modification or departure were to be made [sc. in relation to the demands in the Memorandum] I shall not be bound by a single word of the present Agreement which shall be deemed void and of no account or validity, and I shall not be answerable in any way whatsoever.

(signed) FAISAL IBN HUSAIN (in Arabic)

(signed) CHAIM WEIZMANN

His Royal Highness the Emir FEISAL, representing and acting on behalf of the Arab Kingdom of Hedjaz, and Dr. CHAIM WEIZMANN, representing and acting on behalf of the Zionist Organisation,

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أرأنا ان العرب استغفروا يا كاشف  
تقديرا للمؤلف في الامور التي هي في القيد  
لما تم في وقت صحت وبقاها المتفرقات  
مؤلفه على ما في نسخة هذه هي الامور التي هي في القيد  
تقديره على ما في نسخة هذه هي الامور التي هي في القيد  
في نسخة هذه هي الامور التي هي في القيد  
في نسخة هذه هي الامور التي هي في القيد

Chaim Weizmann

If the Arabs are established as I  
have acted in my manifestos <sup>& Tanya</sup> addresses  
to the British Secretary of State for Foreign  
Affairs, I will carry out what is  
written in this agreement. ~~If any~~  
~~demands are changed to~~.

If changes are made, I can  
not be responsible for failing  
to carry out this agreement.

Feisal ibn  
Hussein



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