

**Volume 7**

**Number 041**

**Modern Middle Eastern Map II**

**Lead: It is possible that the Middle East might have avoided becoming embroiled in the First World War had it not been for the scheming of Enver Pasha.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: Despite internal weakness, the Ottoman Empire, which for centuries prior to 1900 had dominated a large part of Middle East, still ruled at least nominally upward of twenty million people in the Balkans, Turkey, Palestine and Transjordan. Yet, the many problems**

**and persistent conservatism of the Empire had generated efforts at reform and occasional revolts. The most significant rebellion came in 1908 led by a secret society within the Army known as the Young Turks. One of the organizers of the Young Turk Revolution was Enver Pasha. Coming from meager origins, Enver joined the Young Turks as an apprentice officer and in 1913 led the coup d'état that restored his party to power. He became Ottoman Minister of War in 1914 and just before the outbreak of hostilities in Europe secured a secret treaty with the Germans.**

**For some time the Ottoman government had been seeking an**

**alliance partner that would protect the Empire from great power interference. The German Treaty made that possible. Through diplomatic intrigue, and working with the Germans he was able to provoke Russia to declare war on the Turks. By senselessly dragging the empire into the war against the allies, Enver had thrown the entire region into turmoil. For generations, western European powers, especially Great Britain, had bolstered the Ottoman Empire as check on Russian expansion.**

**When the war was won and the Empire was no more, it would be possible for the allies to re-shape the Middle East as they pleased.**

**Therefore, while the war dragged on in Europe, using colonial troops in the Persian Gulf and encouraging Arab guerilla attacks in Palestine and Arabia, the allies gradually pushed the Empire to the brink of destruction. Next time: Winston Churchill and the Modern Middle Eastern Map.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

## Resources

**Bogle, Emory.** *The Modern Middle East from Imperialism to Freedom: 1800-1958.* Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall Publishers, 1996.

**Fromkin, David.** *A Peace to End all Peace: Creating the Modern Middle East 1914-1922.* New York: H. Holt, 1989.

**Kedourie, Elie.** *England and the Middle East: The Destruction of the Ottoman Empire 1914-1921.* Hassocks, England: The Harvester Press, 1978.

Copyright by Dan Roberts Enterprises, Inc.