

preserving the civil and political rights of the Arabs. Britain was given the mandatory power by the League of Nations. It was to establish a Jewish national home in Palestine according to the Balfour Declaration. Then there was the entire tense struggle between the Arabs and the Jews after 1919 or 1920 when the mandate was finally given to the British. In 1922 Churchill had divided off Transjordan from Palestine. That was to be the Arab state and Palestine was to be the Jewish national home. But they wrote into the mandate "while preserving the civil and political rights of the Arabs." Then they went through lots of troubles. The British as the mandatory power during the 20s and 30s decided to side more and more with the Arabs. The Jews and others involved called it divide and rule. Keep them at loggerheads and that means you will stay there. Then they issued the White Paper in 1938 or '39 which restricted Jewish immigration. The League of Nations Mandates Commission said that was contrary to the mandate. They had no right to do that under the mandate. It was contrary to the traditional interpretation that had always been accepted and passed by majority vote.

JK: So, the League of Nations did actually object to the White Papers.

Epstein: They did not accept it. Then the war broke out and the Jewish people of Palestine were naturally opposed to Hitler