

The provinces the mandates for which fall to Britain are of exceptional interest. Palestine, the Holy Land, with all its hallowed memories, has at last been taken from the blighting control of Turkish tyranny and placed under the protection of the British Empire. On the south it is continuous with Egypt by means of the Sinai Peninsula, also a British possession. Then again Mesopotamia, the home of the great world powers of Assyria and Babylonia, comes under the British flag.

It will be necessary to refer briefly to each of these territories.

Anatolia.—This is a land of great mineral resources and has many productive valleys, but, owing to the misgovernment of the Turks, its industries have never been developed. It is the real home of the Turks, and the only part of the world in which they form the predominant portion of the population. Along much of the Aegean Coast Greeks form the largest element of the population and are the chief traders. They are especially influential in the great seaport of Smyrna, which is really a Greek city. As has already been stated, this city, together with a strip of coast land over one hundred miles long and sixty wide, has been made independent of Turkey and is likely to become a part of Greece.

Armenia.—This is a cold, mountainous country, with settlements chiefly in the deep, fertile valleys. In very few parts of this province do the Armenians form the majority of the population. In Turkish Armenia the total number of Armenians before the recent massacres was about a million and a half, while the number of Moslems was nearly five millions. However, on account of their superior intelligence, industry, and business ability, the influence of the Armenians has been great beyond their numbers in many parts of Asiatic Turkey.

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