

Farther south is the state of Yemen.

Finally, lying between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers and extending from Kurdistan to the Persian Gulf is the great plain of Mesopotamia, the southern part of which is often called Irak.

All the districts so far mentioned were provinces in the Turkish Empire. The remaining parts of the Arabian Peninsula, however, were largely governed by their native sheiks and paid little or no allegiance to the Sultan of Turkey.

The war has brought about profound changes in this part of the world. Many of the new boundaries have not yet been definitely fixed and, on account of the backward and unsettled state of the country and the difficulties of transport, are likely to remain uncertain for some time to come.

The King of the Hejaz, who was influenced by Britain to enter the war, has been made nominally independent, but is in reality much under the influence of Great Britain, which furnished him with all the instruments of war and strongly supported him in his claim for independence. Moreover, a large part of Arabia is likely to be brought under his control, and thus indirectly under the control of Great Britain.

Turkey retains not only a part of European Turkey, but also almost all of Anatolia and Kurdistan. The boundaries of the new state of Armenia, yet to be settled, will probably extend to the Black Sea. It will be, however, chiefly an inland, mountainous state with its centre in the Armenian cities of Mush and Van, the one to the west and the other to the east of Lake Van.

Syria, with the exception of Palestine, comes under the French mandate. The port of Beirut is the chief city in French Syria, Aleppo and Damascus being the two inland cities of greatest size.