

# Resource Guide:

Double-sided

Beyond the Frontlines: A Quick Guide to the Middle East After WWI

SCHOLARS CIRCLE



## Dr. Olga Kirschbaum-Shirazki

Olga is a historian, editor, co-founder of Tel Aviv Review of Books, and Visiting Fellow at the Tel Aviv Institute. She received her PhD in Modern European history from New York University focusing on inter-group and inter-faith relations as well as nationalism, colonialism, and international politics in the modern period.

## Dr. Olga Kirschbaum-Shirazki

Historian, editor, co-founder of Tel Aviv Review of Books, and Visiting Fellow at the Tel Aviv Institute.

### OLGA'S UPCOMING LECTURES

- Legal Dimensions: Navigating the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict on the Global Stage
- The Left and the Conflict



Contact Dr. Olga Kirschbaum-Shirazki

Website: [www.tarb.co.il](http://www.tarb.co.il)

Email: [olga.kirschbaum@gmail.com](mailto:olga.kirschbaum@gmail.com)

Learn more at  
[chaimitzvah.org](http://chaimitzvah.org)

# Common Q&A's

## **When did the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict start and why?**

There have been tensions between Arabs and Jews within the historical land of Israel from the Arab conquest onwards. Nevertheless the conflict between Israeli and Arabs/Palestinians starts with WWI because it is during this period that enough Jews want a Jewish state again and that a Jewish state becomes a possibility diplomatically.

## **Is the Palestinian conflict a unique conflict?**

Many scholars like to say the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is unique, while others compare it (falsely) to colonial conflicts between settlers and colonizers in the Americas or Australia. Neither approach makes sense historically or geographically. Instead the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be understood in relation to other conflicts between small national groups such as the Maronites and Kurds and historically imperial groups like the Arabs and Turks in the post-WWI period.

# Key Takeaways

- ☑ The Middle East, Caucuses, and North Africa is a region of many nations and religions ruled over by larger empires for more than 2,500 years, of which the last was the Ottoman Empire.
- ☑ For many nations in the region, the fall of the Ottoman Empire offered the chance to be sovereign for the first in hundred if not more than a thousand years.
- ☑ The allied powers promised small nations like the Jews, Kurds, Assyrians, Maronites, Druze, and others national sovereignty after the war, but in the end through the post-WWI treaties, they favored historically imperial peoples like the Turks and Arabs with lasting results to this day.
- ☑ Understanding the lasting negative impact of the post-WWI treaties can help bring peace to the region.

Contact Dr. Olga Kirschbaum-Shirazki

Website: [www.tarb.co.il](http://www.tarb.co.il)

Email: [olga.kirschbaum@gmail.com](mailto:olga.kirschbaum@gmail.com)

Learn more at  
[chaimitzvah.org](http://chaimitzvah.org)