

winter. It gets relatively little rain, but some areas have significant springs. Fourth is the Negeb desert and semidesert in the southern part of the country. It comprises almost half of the area of the country. It is hot and dry in the summer and cold and dry in the winter. It gets very little rain and has no irrigation water.

1.2.2 The Mandate

Palestine was under Ottoman control for 400 years, which ended with their defeat in World War I (WWI). The British military campaign to occupy the country lasted from October 1917 to September 1918. However, even before the occupation of the country was completed, the British government issued the Balfour Declaration on November 2, 1917, in which it supported the “establishment in Palestine of a National Home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object.”²

After WWI, the League of Nations was established whose covenant included the provision that the colonies that were under the control of the defeated powers were to be entrusted to a mandatory power until such time when the people of these colonies are able to govern themselves. In 1920, and against the wishes of the Arabs of Palestine, Great Britain was “allotted” the Mandate for Palestine, which was formally approved by the League in July 1922³ and which incorporated the Balfour Declaration.

²*Survey I*, 1.

³*Ibid.*, 4.