

1917 - 2017

100 Years of Balfour

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Reactions to the Balfour Declaration

Newspapers' Reactions to the Balfour Declaration
November 1917

"Britain Favors Zionism"
New York Times

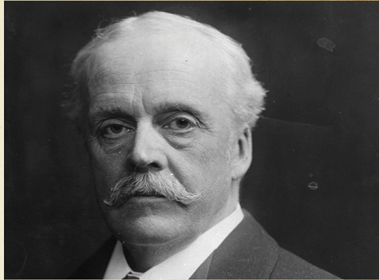
"Next Year in Jerusalem"
The Scotsman

Lord Beaverbrook, owner of the Daily Express



"It is indeed a victory for the Jews, but equally a British triumph"
The Globe

"A State for the Jews"
The Daily Express



Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour

"It would be a great gain that the Jews become a nation and not a hyphenation"
The Irish Times

"This extraordinary people"
The Manchester Guardian

The Times of London headline, 9th November 1917



British newspaper headlines following the news of the Balfour Declaration



Chaim Weizmann & Emir Faisal, Aqaba, May 1918

Arab reaction to the Balfour Declaration was mixed. Zionist leaders had hoped to win Arab support for the restoration of the Jews to Palestine; they saw a win-win situation, that would benefit Jews and Arabs alike. There were expressions of mutual respect and co-operation when two Arab representatives attended a Zionist celebratory meeting in London's Covent Garden on 2nd December 1917, one month after the Balfour Declaration was sent to Lord Rothschild; and on 3rd January 1919, Chaim Weizmann and the Arab leader Emir Faisal signed an agreement which became known as the Faisal-Weizmann Agreement. Amongst other points, the Agreement committed both parties to carrying into effect the Balfour Declaration of 1917, calling for a Jewish national home in Palestine. However, this conditional Arab acceptance of the Balfour Declaration soon turned into rejection when, less than one year after the Faisal-Weizmann agreement was signed, a Syrian Congress held in Damascus in March 1920 rejected the Balfour Declaration and elected Faisal King of a united Syria which was to include Palestine - though he was quickly removed and became King of Iraq.