

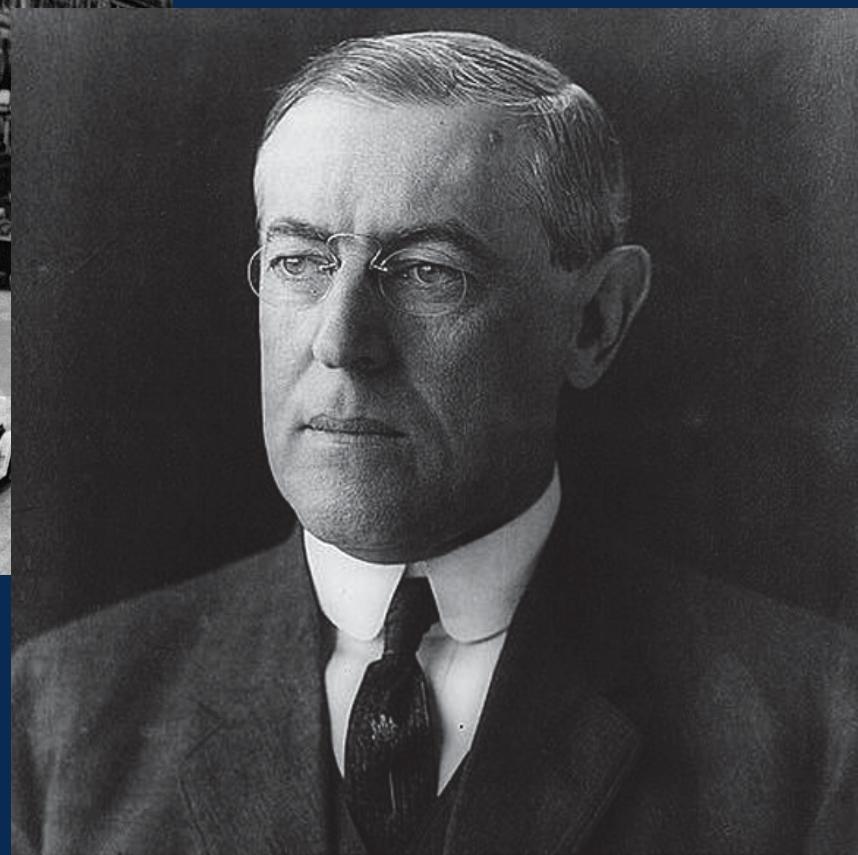
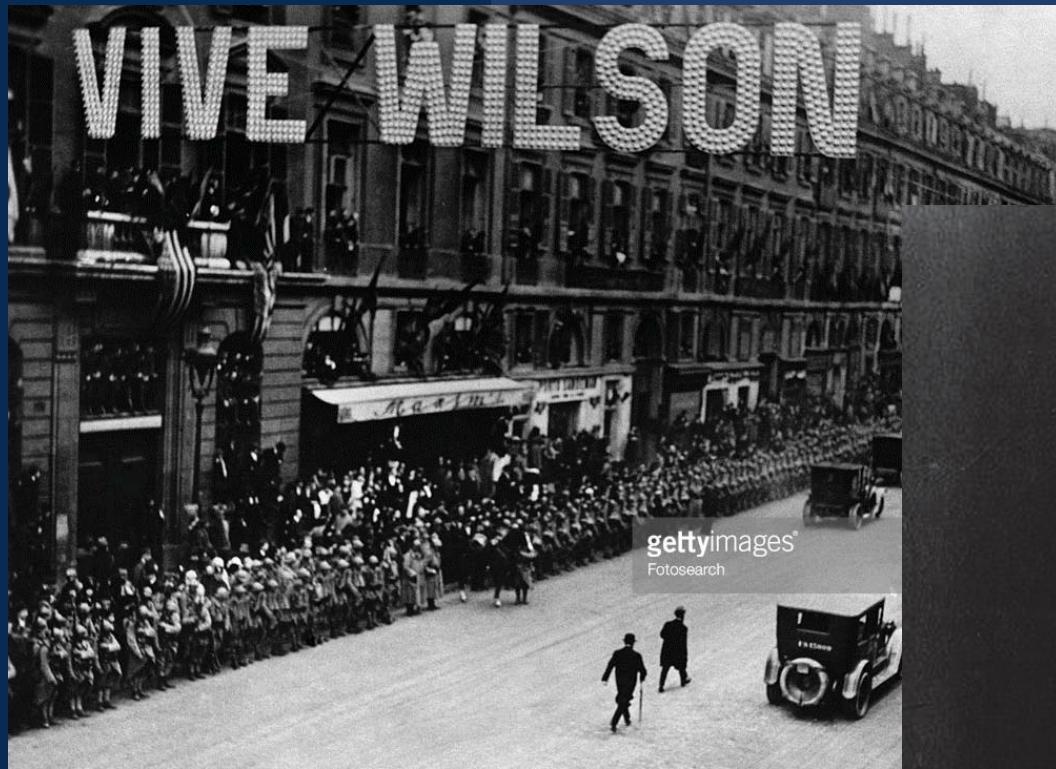
How the West Stole Democracy from the Arabs

Elizabeth F. Thompson

American University

Washington, DC

Pres. Woodrow Wilson at the Paris Peace Conference



Wilson's 14 Points:

V. A free, open-minded, and absolutely impartial adjustment of all colonial claims, based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions of sovereignty the interests of the populations concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined.

XII. The Turkish portion of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations under international guarantees.

Sheikh Rashid Rida



Prince Faisal at the Paris Peace Conference, 1919



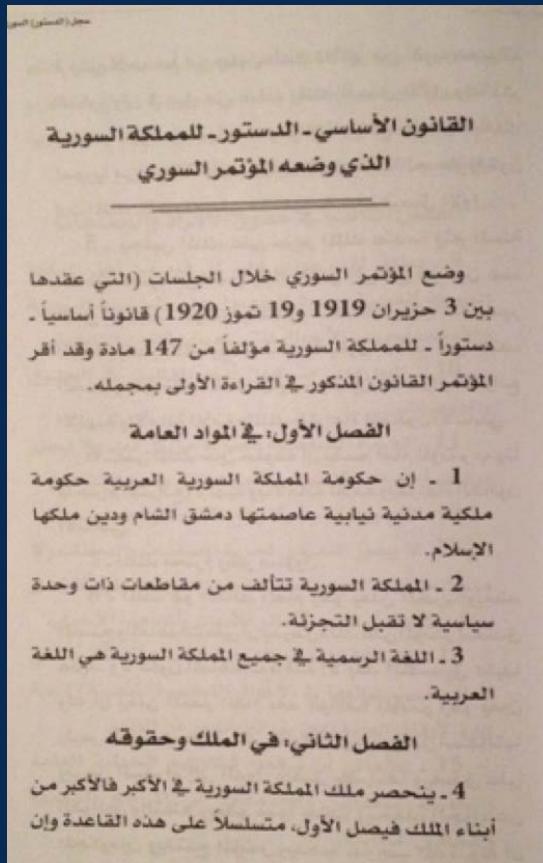
The Syrian Arab Congress at the time of the Syrian Declaration of Independence March 1920



Syrian Arab Congress
Headquarters, Abed Building
Martyrs' Square, Damascus



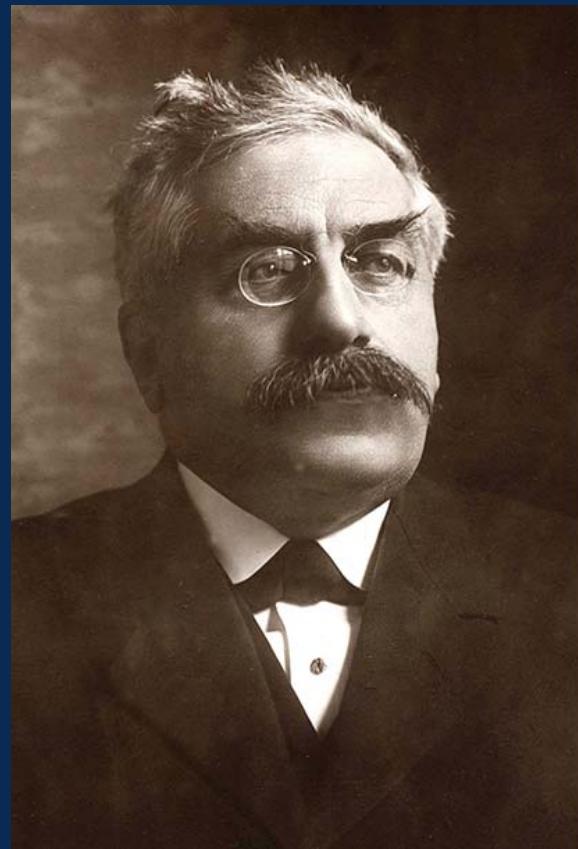
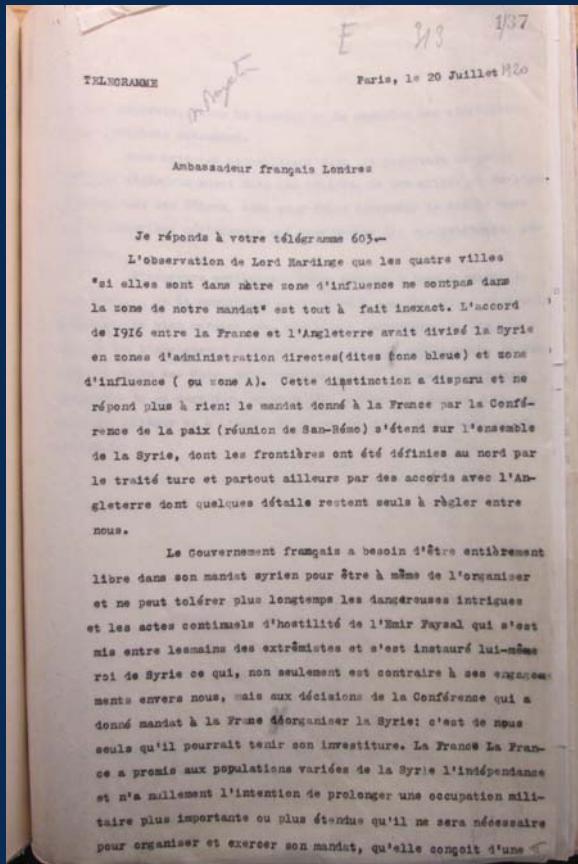
1920 Syrian Constitution



- **CHAPTER 1**
- **GENERAL PROVISIONS**
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- 1. The Syrian Arab Kingdom is a civil representative monarchy. Its capital is Damascus and the religion of its King is Islam.
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- 2. The Syrian Kingdom is composed of provinces that belong to an indivisible political union.
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- 3. The official language in all of the Syrian Kingdom is Arabic.
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Alexandre Millerand, French Prime Minister

July 20, 1920 letter justifying French invasion against “extremists” who declared independence



French Troops Prepare to Occupy Damascus

July 1920



League of Nations Mandates in the Arab World



Rashid Rida in exile in Cairo after 1920
His protégé Hasan al-Banna, founded the Muslim Brotherhood
in 1928



Faisal betrayed by PM Lloyd George and Gen. Allenby, 1919

Faisal crowned King of Iraq, 1921



Abd al-Rahman Shahbandar
Syria's Last Liberal Constitutionalist
Returned from Exile, 1937; Assassinated, 1940

