The Un-redacted Balfour Declaration
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Lord Balfour wrote his “declaration” as Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom in 1917 at the end of WWI. British troops under General Allenby marched into Palestine occupying it from the defeated Turkish Ottoman Empire.

The Zionist movement led from 1897 by Theodore Herzl of Hungary, aimed to establish a homeland for European Jews who were suffering through the pogroms of Eastern Europe. Lionel Walker of London, the 2nd Lord Rothschild, an ardent and prominent Jew, received Balfour’s letter on behalf of active Zionists, for the promotion of their cause. It proclaimed his British government’s support of a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine.

Under the Mandate of the League of Nations, British policy of encouraging emigration of European Jews to Palestine began after WWI, accelerated by the Holocaust of the early 1940’s, continued until 1947. The Balfour Declaration became the bedrock of the Zionist movement continuing to this day, despite the bloody conflict which began in 1948. Then Jewish militias drove 750,000 Palestinians from their homes and lands with 531 villages destroyed and killed many. Takeover continues today as settlements in Palestine’s “West Bank” and as a blockade of impoverished Gaza. That is not what Balfour and his government anticipated.

The letter (“declaration”) continues “…it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.” This important clause of the declaration is seldom referenced, neglected and almost forgotten. Why?

The redacted version of the Balfour Declaration became the justification for the creation of a Jewish state that progressively cleanses it of Balfour’s “existing non-Jewish communities.” He obviously cared for both Arab and Jewish populations. Should we?