

## Student Handout 10.6A, McMahon's Response to Husayn (Source 3)

Background: Sir Henry McMahon was the British governor of Egypt who received the letter from Sharif Husayn. When McMahon wrote this answer, he was promising things not only for himself, but for the government of Great Britain. As you read, look at map 1 on Student Handout 10.6B to locate the places McMahon lists. The investigative question for this source is, How did McMahon's promises and limits affect the map of the Middle East?

Directions:

**Investigative Question:** Break down the investigative question into its three parts. Write each part below.

A.

B.

C.

### First Read: Vocabulary

Read the document and underline words if you are not sure of their meaning. Circle the word "interests" wherever it appears in the document. This word has a special meaning in documents about imperialism. It is a kind of code. Think about its meaning as you read through the document.

### Second Read: Author's Perspective and Purpose

Answer the following questions about the Letter from Sharif Husayn Ibn-Ali to Sir Henry McMahon (Source 2).

1. From what region in what empire does Sharif Husayn come?
2. What is Husayn's job?
3. Husayn was given this job by the Ottoman Empire, but does he want to keep his region in the Ottoman Empire?
4. What ethnic group does Husayn say he represents?

With your partner, read McMahon's Response to Husayn (Source 3) again and find the answers to the following questions.

5. From what country does Henry McMahon come?

6. Whom did he inform about Husayn's letter?
7. For whom does McMahon work?
8. What is his job?
9. Did McMahon decide by himself what to promise Husayn?
10. Was this letter written before, during, or after World War I?
11. What does Great Britain want Husayn to do that relates to World War I?
12. What other countries are named in this letter?
13. In the war, on what side were those countries?
14. What concerns would McMahon have about making promises to Husayn?

### **Third Read: Text-Dependent Questions**

Reread the document paragraph by paragraph and answer the following text-dependent questions.

#### **Paragraphs 1 and 2:**

1. Why is McMahon writing this letter?
2. Is the tone of these paragraphs positive or negative?
3. What specific words are evidence for your answer to question 2?

#### **Paragraph 3:**

4. What should happen to the districts of Mersina and Alexandretta?
5. According to McMahon, why should that happen? Cite a quotation from the text as evidence that supports your answer. Do not write entire sentences, only the phrase that provides evidence. Then put the quote into your own words to answer the question.

**Paragraph 4:**

6. What does “in the name of” mean?

7. Which word in this sentence means “promises”?

8. The first part of the long sentence puts a limit on the territory that Husayn was claiming. McMahon does not state exactly what territory might be excluded but is vague instead. Read the first part carefully, and fill in the blanks. He is saying that Great Britain might not be \_\_\_\_\_ to act if the interests of her ally, \_\_\_\_\_, would be harmed.

9. Later, if France wants more territory, what can the British tell Husayn?

**Paragraph 5:**

10. What does McMahon promise? Cite a quotation from the text as evidence that supports your answer. Then put the quote in your own words to answer the question.

11. Which part of the sentence limits the promise?

**Paragraphs 6 and 7:**

12. What is the limit that McMahon places on seeking advice from Europeans?

13. Which words signal that limit?

**Paragraph 8:**

14. What does Great Britain have already in the vilayets of Baghdad and Basra?

15. The words “necessitate special administrative arrangements” are a euphemism, a soft or vague word or phrase substituted for a harsh or unpopular word or phrase. The harsh phrase would be “we want to control that area.” Why would McMahon use this euphemism?

16. What three reasons does McMahon give?

17. Which words signal that he is about to give reasons?

18. Of the three reasons, which do you think is most important to Great Britain?

**Paragraph 9:**

19. Why would McMahon remind Husayn of the Turks (the Ottoman Empire) in this last paragraph?

**Fourth Read: Vocabulary**

Return to the words you underlined in the second read. List them below. To the best of your ability, provide a definition. Should you need to, use a dictionary and select the best definition that helps you better understand the source.

In your own words, write down what you think is the meaning of the code word “interests” in this document.

**Fifth Read: Answer the Investigative Question**

Read the text to determine the central ideas. Answer the three parts of the investigative question, How did McMahon’s promises and limits affect the map of the Middle East?

A.

B.

C.

**Corroboration and Inferences:**

By 1920, what was the outcome of McMahon's letter? Did the British keep McMahon's promise? Why or why not?

Now consider the results for the two groups.

Arabs

- a. Consider the other sources in this set. Which source might indicate how the Arabs would feel about these promises and limits?
  
- b. Based on this document, how might the Arabs have responded to reading this letter? Why?
  
- c. Cite one or more quotes from the other source to support your answer.

Syrians

- d. Consider the other sources in this set. What document might indicate how the Syrians would feel about these promises and limits?
  
- e. Based on this document, how might the Syrians have responded to reading this letter? Why?

- f. Cite one or more quotes from the other source to support your answer.

