Charting a Text

Directions: Read the text in this packet. Next to each paragraph, chart what the author is “saying” in the margin by utilizing one of the “verbs for says” listed below. The first paragraph is done for you as an example. Please utilize complete sentences.

Verbs for “Says”

- **argues**: Use this verb when explaining a speaker/writer’s argument or overall position.
- **challenges**: Use this verb when explaining a speaker/writer’s concern with a particular group, idea, or belief.
- **criticizes**
- **questions**
- **claims**: Use this verb when summarizing one or more positions held by a speaker/writer.
- **argues**
- **asserts**
- **defines**: Use this verb when paraphrasing a speaker/writer’s definition or understanding of a word, concept, or idea.
- **explains**: Use this verb when summarizing a speaker/writer’s main ideas.
- **states**
- **describes**
- **narrates**: Use this verb when describing a story told by a speaker/writer.
- **reports**: Use this verb when summarizing a speaker/writer’s research findings.
- **reviews**
- **summarizes**
The collapse of the Ottoman Empire after WWI created a lack of central authority in the region. Because of this lack of central authority, European nations stepped in to establish order in the region. The importance of their involvement was the creation of many of the national boundaries that exist today. These boundaries, when established, did not and do not necessarily reflect natural divisions within the region. The partitioning of the Middle East blended different ethnic and religious groups. This artificial blending has been another source of conflict both within the region and with western nations.

The Ottoman Empire had been the leading Islamic state. The partitioning of the Ottoman Empire led to the rise in the “Middle East” of Western powers, such as Britain and France. The earliest resistance to the influence of these powers came from the Turkish national movement and became more widespread in the post-Ottoman Middle East after WWII.

The partition was planned by Western powers in several agreements concerning the Ottoman Empire made during the war by the Allies (Britain, France, and Russia). The British and French partitioned the eastern part of the Middle East (also called “Greater Syria”) between them with the Sykes-Picot Agreement. The Balfour Declaration encouraged the international Zionist movement to push for a Jewish homeland in the Palestine region, which was the site of the ancient Kingdom of Israel, but at the time had a mainly Arab-Muslim population.

When the Ottomans were left with just modern day Turkey, Arabs announced an independent state in Damascus, but were too weak, militarily and economically, to resist the European powers for long, and Britain and France soon re-established control.
During the 1920s and '30s Iraq, Syria and Egypt fought for independence, although the British and French did not officially leave the region until after WWII. But in Palestine, the conflicting forces of Arab nationalism and Zionism created a situation which the British could neither resolve nor get out of. The rise to power of Adolf Hitler in Germany created a new urgency in the Zionist quest to create a Jewish state in Palestine.

Arthur Balfour
Foreign Office, November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.

"His Majesty’s Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, 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."

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Balfour Declaration, 2 Nov 1917