

## ABSTRACT

This study attempts to analyse the various influences which resulted in the foundation of a village in the inhospitable Badia region of Jordan. Safawi, with its population of approximately 1300 was the result of the decision in the early 1930's to build an oil pipeline from Kirkuk in Iraq to Haifa in Palestine, a decision which was not commercially justifiable. The pipeline required the building of a number of pumping stations, one, H5, resulted in the village of Safawi.

This dissertation follows four threads which affected the pipeline decision, namely:-

1. the fight for political control following the outbreak of WW1, through the various peace conferences to the Frontier Treaty of 1926, between Britain, Iraq and Turkey;
2. the creation and internationalisation of ownership of the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) which at various stages involved America, Britain, France, Germany, Holland, Italy and Turkey, as well as an Armenian;
3. the granting of the oil concession involving the use of the mandatory powers;
4. the aspirations of those involved in the choice of the pipeline route.

The study establishes that the relationship between the Great Powers, the native states and oil is not as simple as many claim. The various influences which are emphasised by the analysis are:-

1. *technological change* which in particular increased the importance of oil to the Great Powers;
2. the *economic considerations* which caused tensions within IPC and affected the states involved, in particular Germany and Turkey;
3. *politics* at disparate, though connected, levels including Great Power interactions, regional affairs, the internal dynamics of the different states and company, and the ability of individuals to use their influence;
4. the *ideological* genesis of self-determination as a counter to Lenin's call for peace and revolution, as well as the battle between imperialism/colonialism and self-determination, non-interference and "Open Door" policies.

5. *strategic* considerations especially relating to the perceived need to control the source of oil.