Abstract

This contribution focuses on the Arab revolt in Palestine in the years 1936-1939. This uprising was a breakpoint in the Arab-Jewish coexistence and its consequences affected the rest of the British Mandate period. This contribution shows how the Yishuv’s attitudes changed towards Arabs, while Arabs attacked Jewish settlements and inhabitants and sabotaging the economy. Revolt was a result of a persisting long-term Arab frustration which arose from fear of Jewish domination and desire for sovereignty. Some parts also refer to British reactions and searching for solution of the crisis. Policy of Great Britain as a mandatory power depended on many aspects of current situation in the Middle East and in Europe.

The neighbouring Arab lands, which either reached their independence in the past, or struggled for it, did not have a common and stable opinion in the question of uprising. Their response was important for Britain to solve the problem.

The first chapter concentrates on long-term and short-term reasons for the revolt. It describes the differences between both communities and changes on Arab political scene. The second part is focused on the beginnings of the uprising which was connected with six-month general strike. This chapter is oriented on describing the atmosphere of the strike. It sums up the opinions from abroad, particularly the opinions of Hashemite dynasty which was interested in good relationships with Western powers, and also shows Jewish and British reactions. Next part analyses the starting British effort to find a solution, especially Peel commission’s presence in Palestine and its recommendations. The last chapter shows consequences of British acceptance of the Peel report, which brought more violence and unrest throughout all Palestine and a change of the policy of other Arab countries towards the rebellion. It also summarizes Jewish attitudes and turn of the British opinion towards the Zionist policy in Palestine.