**Evolution of the Balfour Declaration**

When reading these different versions of the Balfour Declaration, please make note of the subtle but deliberate changes in the wording of each document and compare it to the one previous.

**Zionist Draft, July 1917**

1. His Majesty’s Government accepts the principle that Palestine should be reconstituted asthe national home for the Jewish people.
2. His Majesty’s Government will use its best endevours to secure the achievement of this object and will discuss the necessary methods and means with the Zionist Organization.

**Balfour Draft, August, 1917**

 His Majesty’s Government accepts the principle that Palestine should be reconstitutedas the natural home of the Jewish people and will use their best endevours to secure the achievement of the object and will be ready to consider any suggestions on the subject which the Zionist Organization may desire to lay before them.

**Milner Draft August, 1917**

 His Majesty’s Government accepts the principle that every opportunity should beafforded for the establishment of a home for the Jewish people in Palestine and will use its best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object and will be ready to consider any suggestions on the subject which the Zionist Organizations may desire to lay before them.

**Milner-Amery Draft, October 4, 1917**

 His Majesty’s Government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish race and will use its best endeavours to facilitateth eachievement 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 in any other country by which Jews who are fully contented with their existing nationality (and citizenship).

**Balfour Declaration October 31, 1917**

 His Majesty’s Government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people and will use ther best endevours 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 in any other country.

Smith, Charles. *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007.