United Kingdom and the Kurds during World War One: A Critical Analysis of British documentary sources: 1914-1920
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There is a large literature on British involvement in southern Kurdish regions in relation to their policies in Mesopotamia. This literature treats British policies in this region, known as Southern Kurdistan or later as Northern Iraq, separately from the temporary British interests in other Kurdish regions. Despite being temporary, British interests in the rest of the country and how these interests were imagined by policymakers, provide important sources about the historical conditions in these regions.

There are several questions that can be asked for a critical engagement with the British archival records on the Kurds during World War One. How did British policy towards the Kurds evolved over the course of the war? How can the “Kurdish policy” of Great Britain provide insight into some other, more general phenomena of the time such as Pan-Islamism, self-determination, and imperial rivalry? What can we learn from the archives about the daily life, economic situation, internal dynamics, and social life of the Kurds, as well as other ethnic and religious groups in the region? What do the archival materials tell us about how people are put into certain categories, such as Kurd, Muslim, religious/ethnic minority, tribal, or nomad during this historical period? How do these archival materials represent Armenian-Kurdish relations? Finally, and most importantly: Can these archival materials help us frame new understandings of nationalism in general, and the emergence and evolution of Kurdish nationalism in particular? In what ways do British relations with the Kurds, or with certain Kurds, during the war help us understand modern nation-state formation and its challenges in the Middle East?