

Loyola College (Autonomous)
Chennai – 600 034.

LECTURE SERIES : ISRAEL and PALESTINE

A special lecture on the topic 'Israel and Palestine' was arranged by the department on 16th September 2015 for the PG students. Mr. Nagappatinam K. Sendil, a Distinguished Alumni and Geopolitical Consultant, France was the speaker for the day. The lecture was held at the Smart Hall of the Mathematics Department.



Prof. Arputha Selvi, Vice-President of Loyola History Association welcomed the gathering and introduced the topic. The speaker was honoured with a shawl by his own professor Dr. Yesubakthan.

The speaker started addressing with the reference from the Bible on the topic for the day. He was kind enough to give students the permission to stop him wherever they found him difficult to follow. He gave a brief note on the ancient and medieval history of the Palestine. He pointed out the sort of persecution, Jews had faced under different tyrants and their miserable refugee life in different parts of the world. He found himself to be very comfortable without having any predetermined biases.



He spoke widely on the Arab settlements in the Palestine and explained vividly on their inevitable attachments with the land. He portrayed the Jewish refugee in front of the house of a wealthy Jewish settler in France and French settlers in finding his poverty stricken compatriots which geared up fear of isolation from his neighbours in France. This made the settled, wealthy, urban Jewish elite to fund the Zionist movement. He recalled the growth of nationalism in Europe and demand for new states for each ethnic group. He raised the problem of geographical uncertainty as Jews had no separate geographical entity as such Serbs, Slovaks or Germans. So they relied on the biblical mention of Israel.

He then moved on to the First World War and after the war Palestine was given as a mandate for Zionist biased Britain. The Zionist during the British Mandatory rule purchased the lands from absentee landlords and evacuated poor Arab peasants from the land. The persecution of Jews under Hitler and his Nazi party gave the world powers more compassion and sympathy towards Jews. The speaker gave special emphasis on the history of 'Lawrence of Arabia' and his wars. He elaborately mentioned the foundation of Israel as a state and cornering of Palestine and its Arab population. He also pointed out the rapid growth of Israel as a world power. He spoke on Egyptian crisis on Suez problem and hailed all the possible efforts of peacemaking with Israel and Palestine.

The concluding parts mentioned the Oslo pact signed between Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel and Yasser Arafat, leader of Palestine Liberation Organization and expressed his grief on the stopping of peace talks after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin in 1995. He concluded with a message that the powerful should be ready to give some concessions as the weak is not in a position to do so.



The lecture gave way to question time. Mr. Vijay Paul of II BA asked the question why USA patronage the Israel in every possible instances. The guest speaker on his elaborate reply mentioned the historic electoral relation with New York Jews and Harry .S. Truman and sarcastically said the 'classic vote-bank tactics has become a hobby now'.



Dr. Arputhaselvi
Vice President



Dr. Yesubakthan



Ms. Vidula Miriam
Mathew, II MA



Mr. Ranganathan
Coordinator, Shift II

Ms. Vidula Miriam Mathew of II MA Applied History presented the Reflection on the lecture. She expressed the gratitude on behalf of the PG students for bringing out the most controversial issues of contemporary world in a very simple way. She added that knowing the history of an issue throw us more light to understand its complexity. The programme came to a conclusion with the vote of thanks given by Prof. J. Ranganathan, Coordinator, Shift II, Department of History.