

NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE: PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

SINAI

WHERE:

The Sinai Peninsula is the desert region between the Asian and African continents.

WHAT:

The Sinai has a contested history. The Sinai campaign of WWI was fought as Allied Forces needed to secure control of the Suez Canal from the threat of attack by the Ottoman Empire, who were part of the Axis Forces. In WWI, Egypt was a British Protectorate under their control until a treaty was signed in 1936.

Following WWII, Egypt demanded a revision of the Treaty including a complete evacuation of British troops stationed there. Egypt backed the Arabs in Palestine and in 1948 the British Mandate of Palestine expired, and the proclamation of the State of Israel was signed at Tel Aviv.

The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics both recognised Israel, and Arab forces from Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria and Lebanon attacked and invaded Israel. A series of wars were fought between Israel and the coalition of Arab states which saw Israel's military occupy the Sinai Peninsula. The peninsula was eventually returned to Egypt in exchange for their recognition of Israel.

WHY:

The Suez Canal is an artificial sea waterway connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea through the Isthmus of Suez. It is a key trade route between Europe and Asia, and therefore of high strategic importance until other transport routes are developed.

In WWI and WWII, the canal allowed Allied shipping to pass directly from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea and Europe, avoiding a costly and dangerous route around Africa and through the Atlantic Ocean.

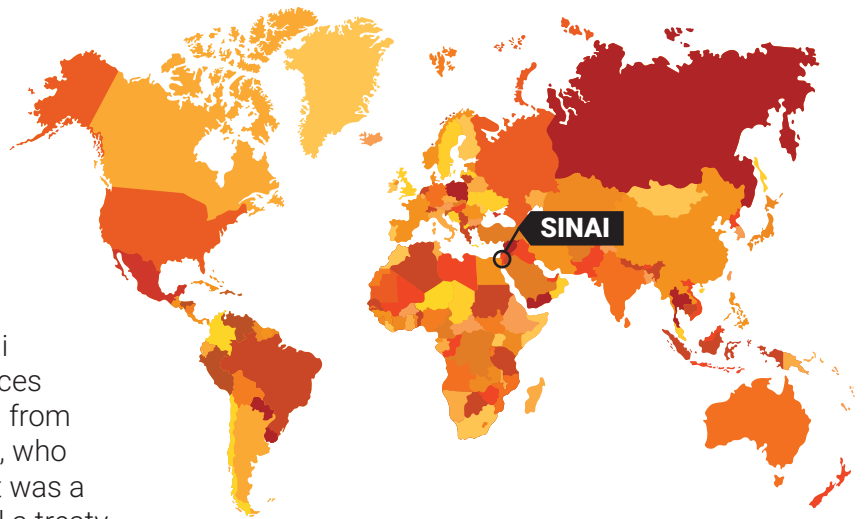
WHO:

The Sinai Peninsula is part of Egypt. Egypt was occupied by the British in 1882 to protect British economic interests. When the Ottoman Empire entered WWI (part of the German Axis), Egypt became a formal protectorate of Britain until their independence was granted in a 1936 Treaty.

An election established a black majority government in 1978.

WHEN:

1979 Israel – Egypt peace agreement.



NZDF PEACEKEEPING IN SINAI MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS

WHAT AND WHERE:

The mission of the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) is to observe and report. Essential tasks assigned to the MFO are:

- Operation of checkpoints.
- Reconnaissance patrols.
- Observation posts along the international boundary.

The Treaty of Peace establishes four security zones. Three zones are in the Sinai in Egypt, and one is in Israel along the international border.

Limitations on military forces and equipment within each zone are stipulated in the protocol of the Treaty.

WHEN:

Australia and New Zealand have been providing support as a part of the Multinational Forces and Observers as servants of Peace in the Sinai Peninsula since 1982. This operation is ongoing.

WHO:

On 25 April 1982, the Multinational Forces and Observers were formed due to the withdrawal of support from the United Nations.

The MFO comprises Military Forces from 11 countries. These countries agree to provide the support of a peacekeeping force (Australia, Columbia, Fiji, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Uruguay) and provide support in the air and on the ground with transportation around the four treaty zones.

WHY:

Our forces observe and report that peace is being maintained by the Egyptian and Israeli people since the signing of the Treaty of Peace.