

Husseini, Hajj Amin Al

(1895--1974), Grand Mufti of Jerusalem; prominent Arab-Palestinian leader and Nazi collaborator.

In his position as a Muslim religious leader, Husseini encouraged Arabs in Palestine to riot and commit other acts of violence against Jews. At the beginning of World War II, Husseini escaped to Iraq, where he endorsed a pro-Nazi revolt. After the revolt was suppressed, he went to Italy and then to Germany. From October 1941 onward, Husseini allied himself with the Axis powers. His motivations were to obtain support from them for Arab nationalistic goals, and lend his support to the "Final Solution."

Husseini contributed to the Nazi war effort by setting up Bosnian Muslim battalions that were attached to the *Waffen-ss*. These soldiers fought Partisans in Bosnia and massacred civilians there. Husseini also tried to convince the Axis authorities to bomb Tel Aviv, and to extend the "Final Solution" to the Jews in North Africa and Palestine. When he was informed of various Nazi plans to exchange Jewish lives for goods or large sums of money, he strenuously lobbied against them.

After the war, Husseini was arrested in France, but he escaped and found refuge in Egypt. He continued to be active in Arab matters until his death.