the world have not. This is apparent from a glance at the areas that get marginal treatment in this *Atlas: North Africa and nearer Asia*. While Europe has, in
terms of political geography, stood still for thirty years, these lands have been transformed. For a start they have been decolonized, the middle-eastern
countries in the immediate post-war years (Syria, the Lebanon and Trans-Jordan in 1946, Egypt in 1947 and Palestine in 1948), the rest of the North African countries bar Algeria in the 1950s (Libya in 1951, Tunisia and Morocco in 1956) and Algeria, where the whole process was delayed by the attempt of the million-strong white settlers to preserve their special status, in 1962. Moreover, though in every
case but one decolonization has simply transformed a colonial territory into an independent state, the
exception has created such tension throughout the area that it seems likely there is a lot more history of a
very old-fashioned sort still to come. The state of Israel, proclaimed by the Jewish settlers in Palestine
when the British left the country, has won all four of the wars it has fought with its Arab neighbours—in 1948, in 1956, in 1967 and 1973—and currently its
army is in control of all the Arab bits of Palestine and slices of Syria and Egypt too. But few believe
that the last word has yet been said on Israel's frontiers or indeed on the final shape of the states to
the north and east of it: Lebanon, Syria and Jordan (as Trans-Jordan has been known since 1949).²

Historical atlases don't usually deal in geographical change, but there are clearly a lot more lakes in Russia on this last map than there were
when we started. Soviet engineers are responsible in their quest for more and more hydro-electric power, they have built a great many dam; these new lakes
are reservoirs created by the half-dozen largest of them. In every case the blueprints for these projects
were drawn up in Stalin's day and three of them had

(continued overleaf)