

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY OF THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA



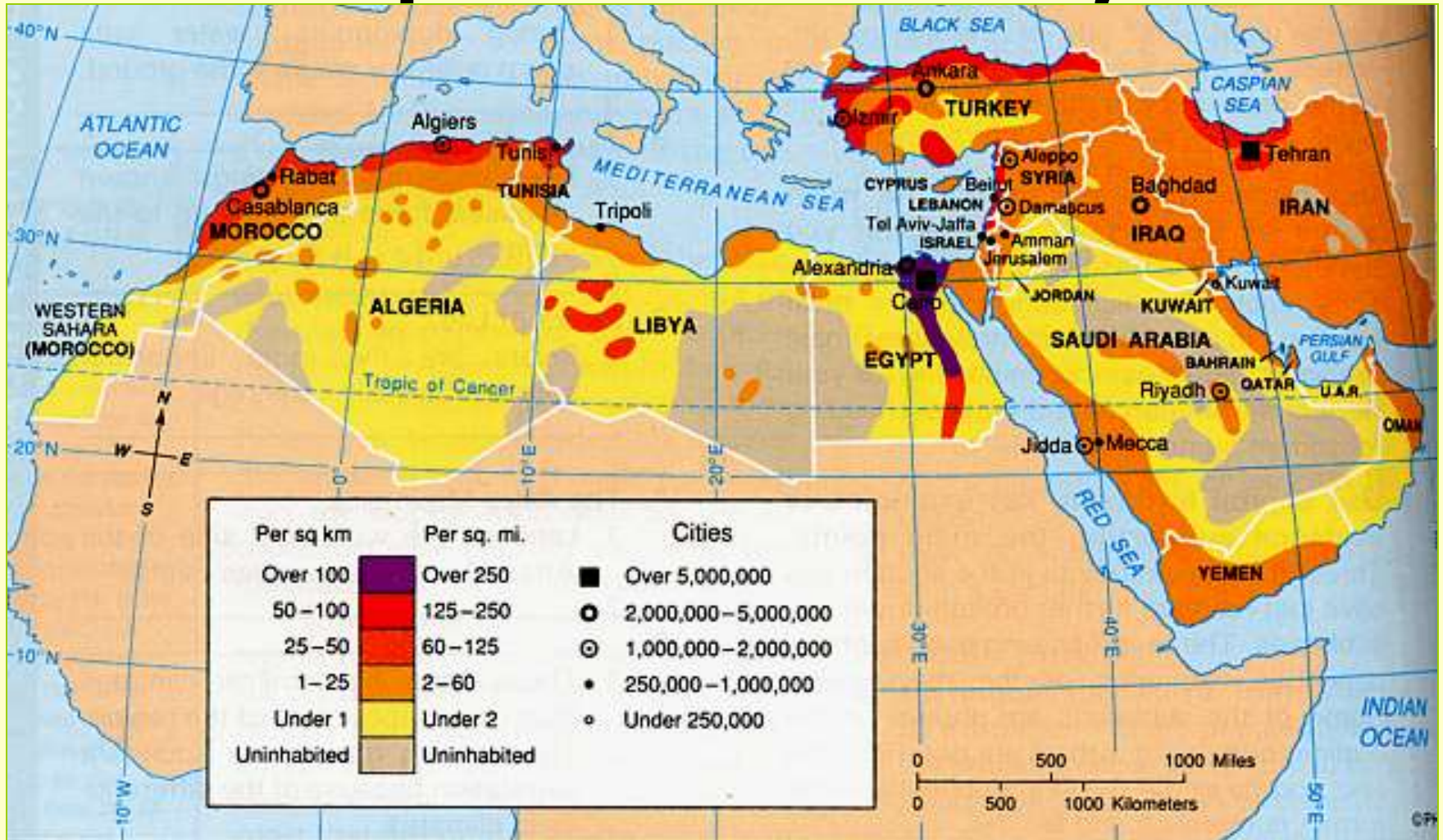
On the southern Nile River – a land of contrast – lush green & desert

WARNING: ONLY

WRITE WHAT IS

IN **RED FONT!!!**

North Africa/Middle East: Population Density



Question: Which area is the most populated? Why?

NORTH AFRICA



- Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt

Egypt: The “Gift of the Nile”



**Annual Nile Flooding =
better soil for growing crops**

**95% of the Egyptian
people live on 5% of
the land!**



One of the most famous ancient civilizations



Modern EGYPT

- One of Africa's most industrialized countries.
- Oil is Egypt's main export.
- Limited natural resources.



Arab Spring 2011:
Hundreds of thousands of people protesting in Tahrir Square in Cairo. This led to the removal of the corrupt president.



Burned government building next to national history museum that houses King Tut's treasures



Protesters remove portraits of Ex-president Mubarak in Sohag City in upper Egypt

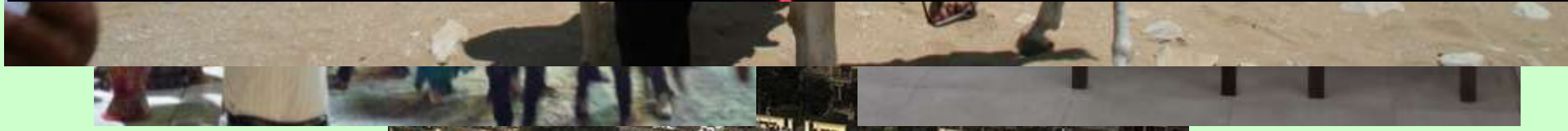


Cairo, Egypt: Most Populated City in



17,000,000+
People!
NYC=12 mill





Bedouins

Nomadic desert dwellers in the North Africa region



Seen rugs like the ones above? They are inspired by the Bedouin designs below



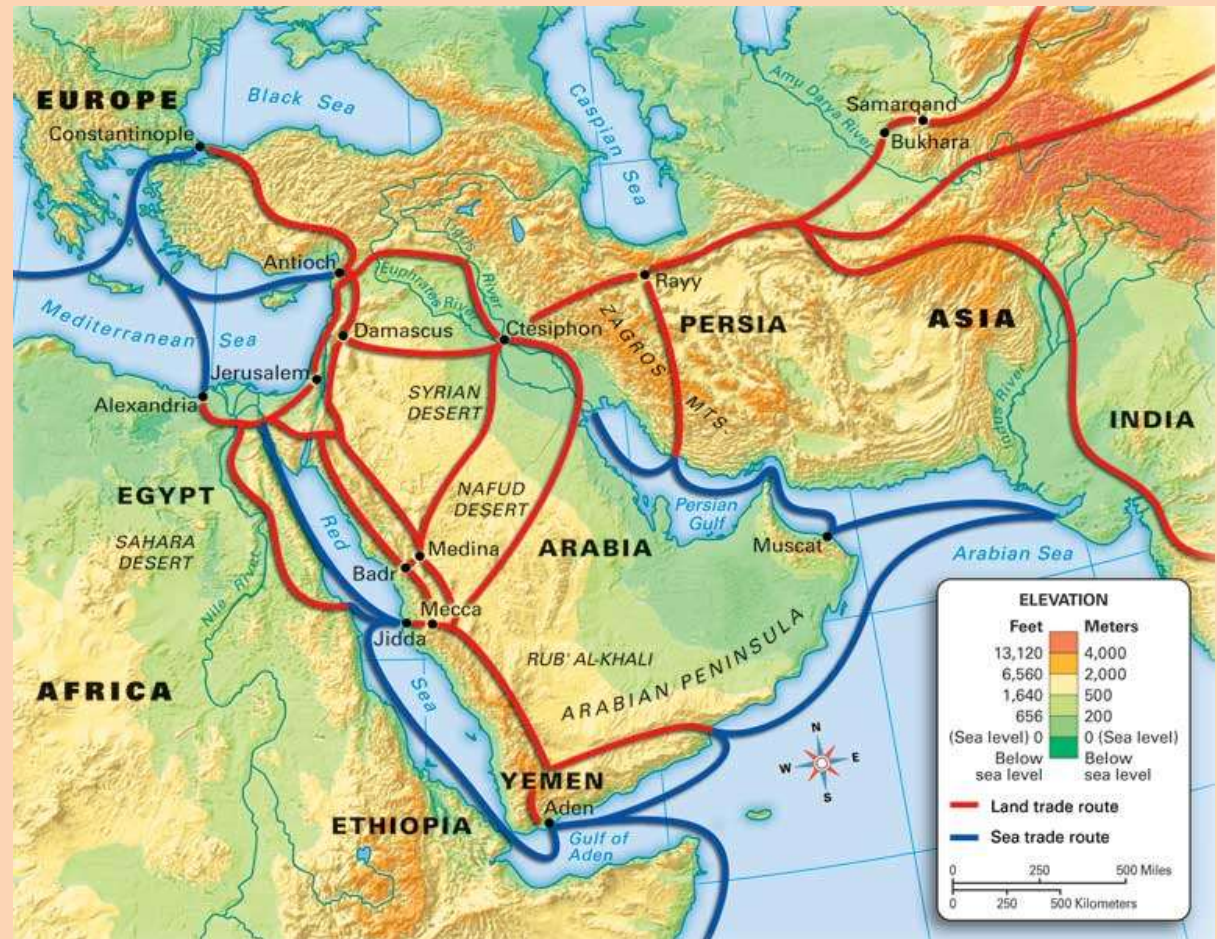
THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
- **Because of the location, they are a crossroad for culture and trade.**



Transportation of Resources

- The areas waterways are key for the transportation of oil from the region to the rest of the world



EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

Turkey, Lebanon,
Jordan, Syria, &
Israel



- **JEWISH:** King Solomon built the First Temple; only piece still standing is the *“Western Wall”*
- **MUSLIM: Dome of the Rock**, houses the spot where Muslims believe the Prophet Muhammad rose into heaven.
- **CHRISTIAN:** sacred location of the **crucifixion of Jesus**

Dome of the
Rock

Western
Wall



Arab-Israeli Conflict Today

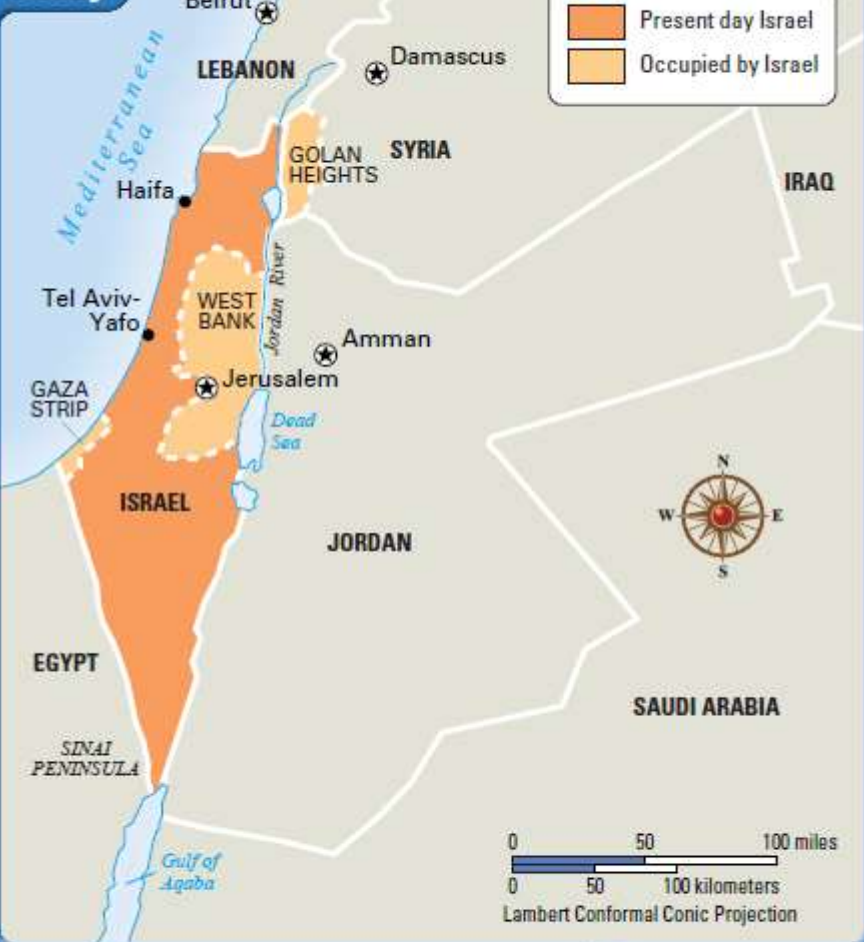
- Israel—Jewish State
- Palestine—Arab/Muslim State
- Hamas—Palestinian **Rebel** Army (fighting against Israeli army)
- The Arabs and Israelis have fought for decades (since Israel's founding as Jewish state)
 - The most recent uprising has occurred because of the abduction and murder of 3 Israeli teenagers by Palestinians. The Israelis responded by abducting and murdering a Palestinian teenager.
- Intifada—Palestinian uprising against Israel
- *We will be doing a project on this topic after February Break
So we will come back to it later with more details!*

Creation of Israel

1922



Today



SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- 1 PLACE** Which bodies of water form a natural boundary between Jordan and Israel?
- 2 PLACE** Which three areas are occupied by Israel?

THE NORTHEAST REGION



Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan

Rich in history: Mesopotamia

“Cradle of Civilization”



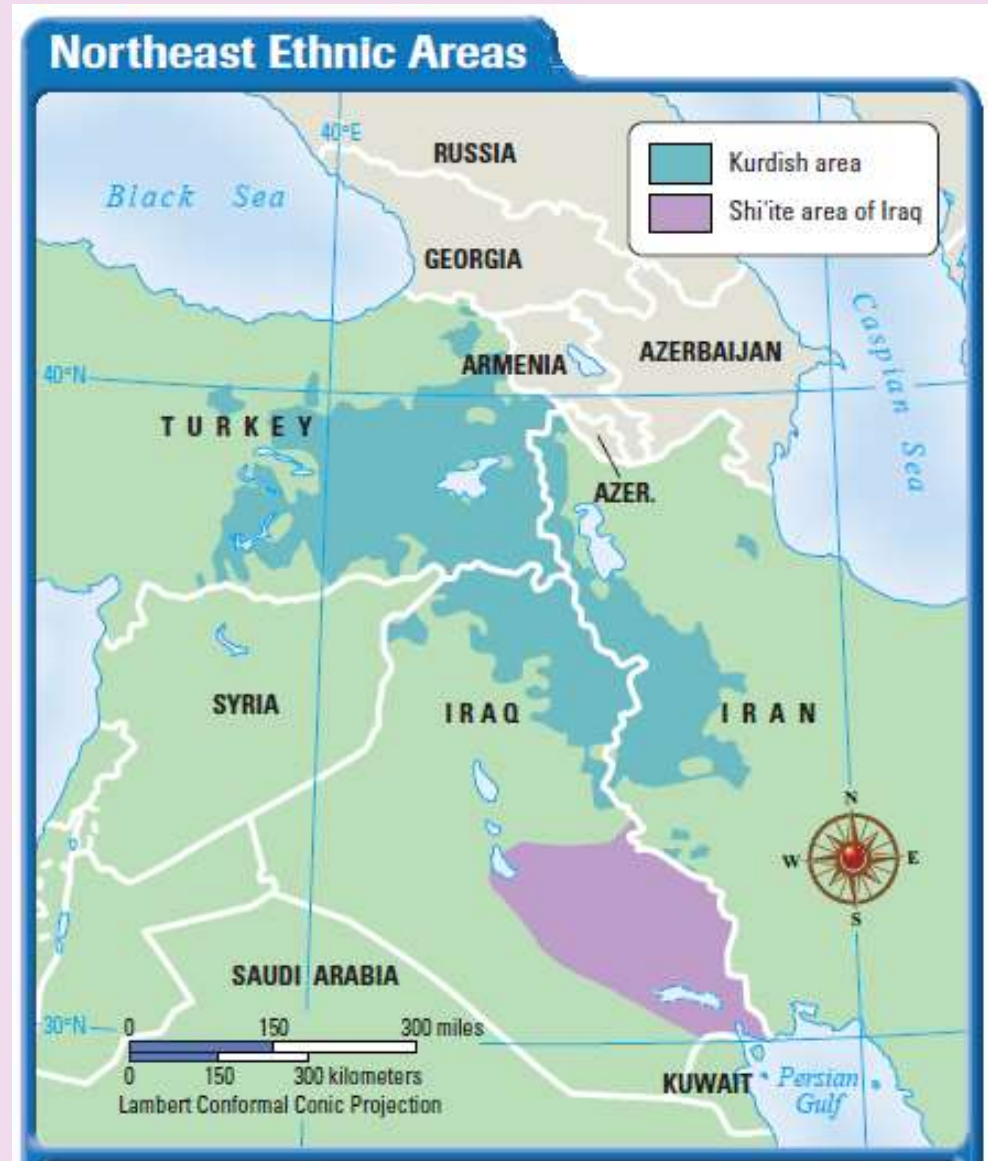
Tigris & Euphrates Rivers

- Due to access to fresh water this location had the first:
- civilizations
- written language
- farming



Clashes over Land: The Kurds

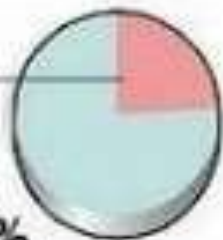
- Kurds have been called a stateless nation
 - Were promised a homeland after WWI but never received it





Turkey

Kurds: 15.4 million



24%
of Turkey's pop.

Syria

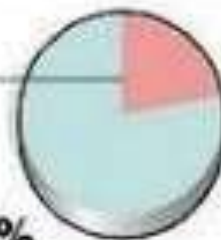
Kurds: 1.3 mil.



9.5%
of Syria's pop.

Iraq

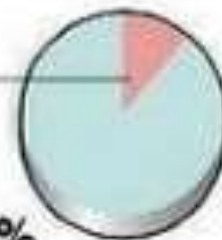
Kurds: 4.3 mil.



22%
of Iraq's pop.

Iran

Kurds: 6.8 mil.



11%
of Iran's pop.

Clashes over Land: Persian Gulf War

- Iraq and Iran fought a war from 1980 and 1990, over control of oil fields.
- **1990–1991, Iraq invaded Kuwait, starting the Persian Gulf War.**
- **The United States and 32 other nations fought to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait and keep oil fields open.**

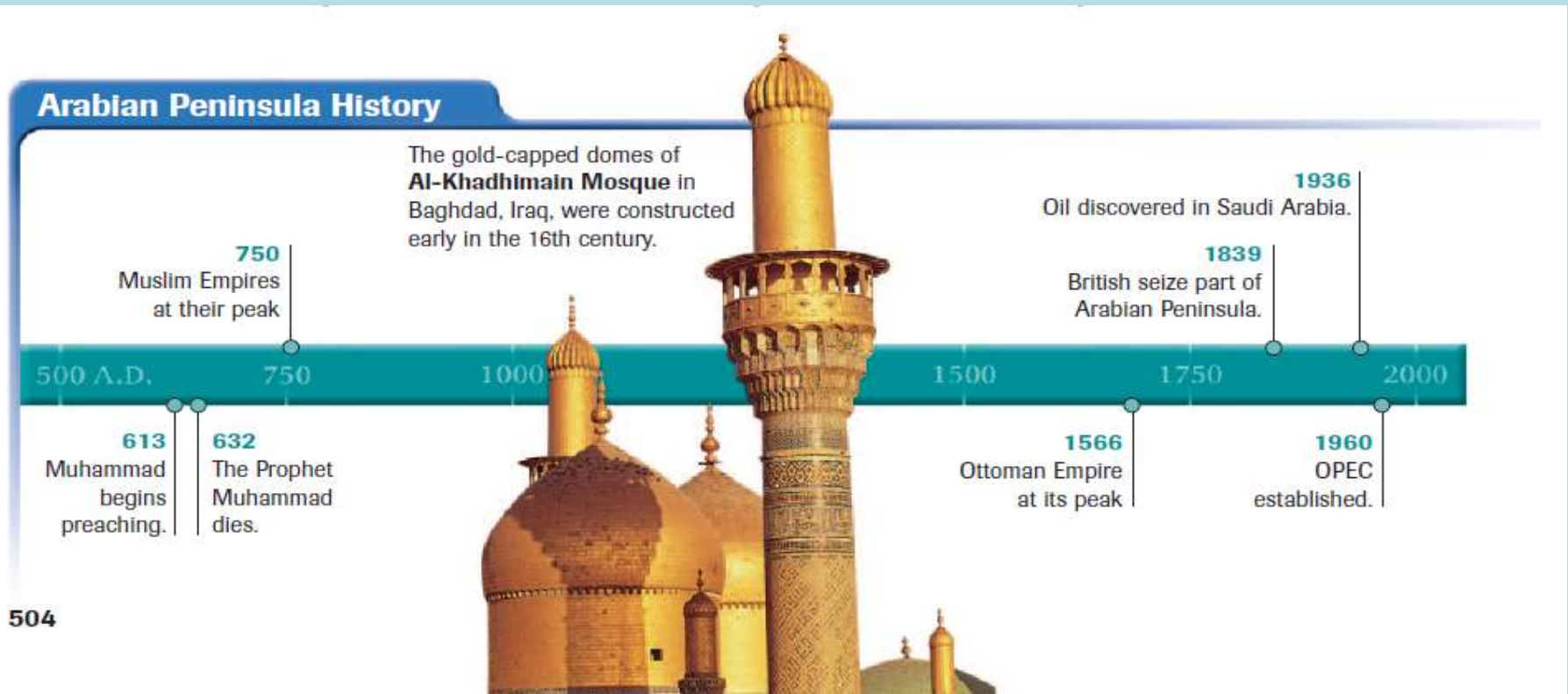
Iran: Traditional vs. Modern

- Fundamentalist Muslim-want a very traditional and strict interpretation of Islamic law
- Technology & Globalization have made the youth of Iran very modern



THEOCRACY

- The governments of lands controlled by Muslims were theocratic. **Theocracy means religious leaders control the government.**
 - Rulers relied on religious law and consulted with religious scholars on running the country.



Theocracy in the Middle East:

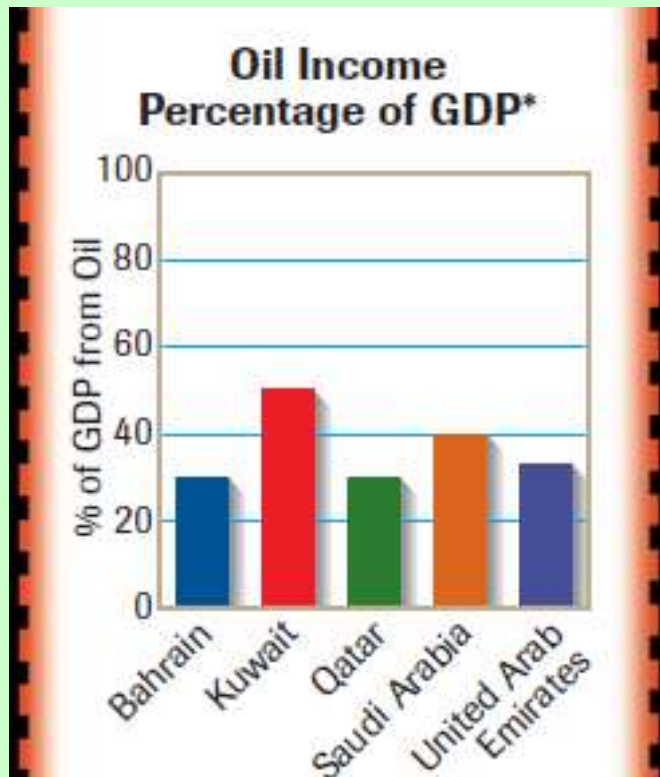
Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Mauritania are Islamic theocracies. The Vatican City is the only Christian theocracy, although its laws are still limited to the secular laws of Italy. Most theocracies are usually authoritarian in nature and often jail religious and political dissidents.

Most of the laws in these countries are based on Sharia, or the Islamic law. Homosexuality is punishable by death in these countries (with the exception of Pakistan, Malaysia, and Afghanistan), which is dictated based on Sharia law, which also dictates dress codes and women's roles. All of the said Islamic countries except Iran and Saudi Arabia have some form of freedom of religion, although it is very limited by western standards. Iran and Saudi Arabia are very strict in their Islamic laws, while others are a bit looser yet still socially repressive and conservative by western standards.

Iran and Vatican are the only theocracies that are ruled by a religious figure (the Grand Ayatollah and the Pope). The rest are either ruled by an absolute king (i.e. Saudi Arabia), a President (i.e. Sudan), a Prime Minister, or both (i.e. Pakistan). The case of Iran is unusual; it is not a democracy since the country often silences and jails political and religious opponents, but it is not really a dictatorship. It is considered to be an oligarchic republic ruled by a group of clerics and the Grand Ayatollah.

ECONOMY

- The principal resource *in the economy* of the Arabian Peninsula is oil.



Oil and the Economy

Many of the oil-producing countries are heavily dependent on oil as a major source of business. Kuwait, which is almost floating on oil because its resources are so great, generates about one-half of its GDP from petroleum. Notice in the chart below that the nations in this subregion are dependent on oil for at least 30 percent of their GDP.

Because oil is a non-renewable resource, it will eventually run out. These nations must work to find other sources of income to replace oil revenues when they are depleted.

OPEC

- In 1960, a group of oil-producing nations, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, established an organization to coordinate policies on selling petroleum products. The group is the **Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries**, also known as OPEC. The purpose of OPEC is to help members **control worldwide oil prices and production**. OPEC is a powerful force in international trade. Other Southwest Asian members include Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Iraq.

Land of Contrasts: Wealth



United Arab Emirates (Dubai and Abu Dhabi)



Land of Contrast: Poverty



Yemen



Iraq



Libya



Refugee camp in Syria

- Countries in this region have **marketplace** (bazaar) **economies** and cannot compete with world markets
- A marketplace in Arabic is a suq (pronounced “sook”)



© 2000 by Leo Paul Dana

How Much Do You Want to Pay?

CULTURE OF THE SOUTHWEST ASIA & NORTH AFRICA



Languages of the Middle East

- 5 major language groups in the Middle East.
 - Arabic (1st), Turkish (Turkey), Persian (2nd), Hebrew (Israel), Farsi (Iran)
 - English as the main second language among the middle and upper classes.



خ	ح	ج	ث	ت	ب	ا
kha	haa	jiim	thaa	taa	baa	alif
ص	ش	س	ز	ر	ذ	د
saad	shiin	siin	zaay	raa	thaal	daal
ق	ف	غ	ع	ظ	ط	ض
qaaf	faa	ghayn	ayn	thaa	taa	daad
ي	و	ه	ن	م	ل	ك
yaa	waaw	ha	nuun	miim	laam	kaaf



Religions



- **Judaism:**

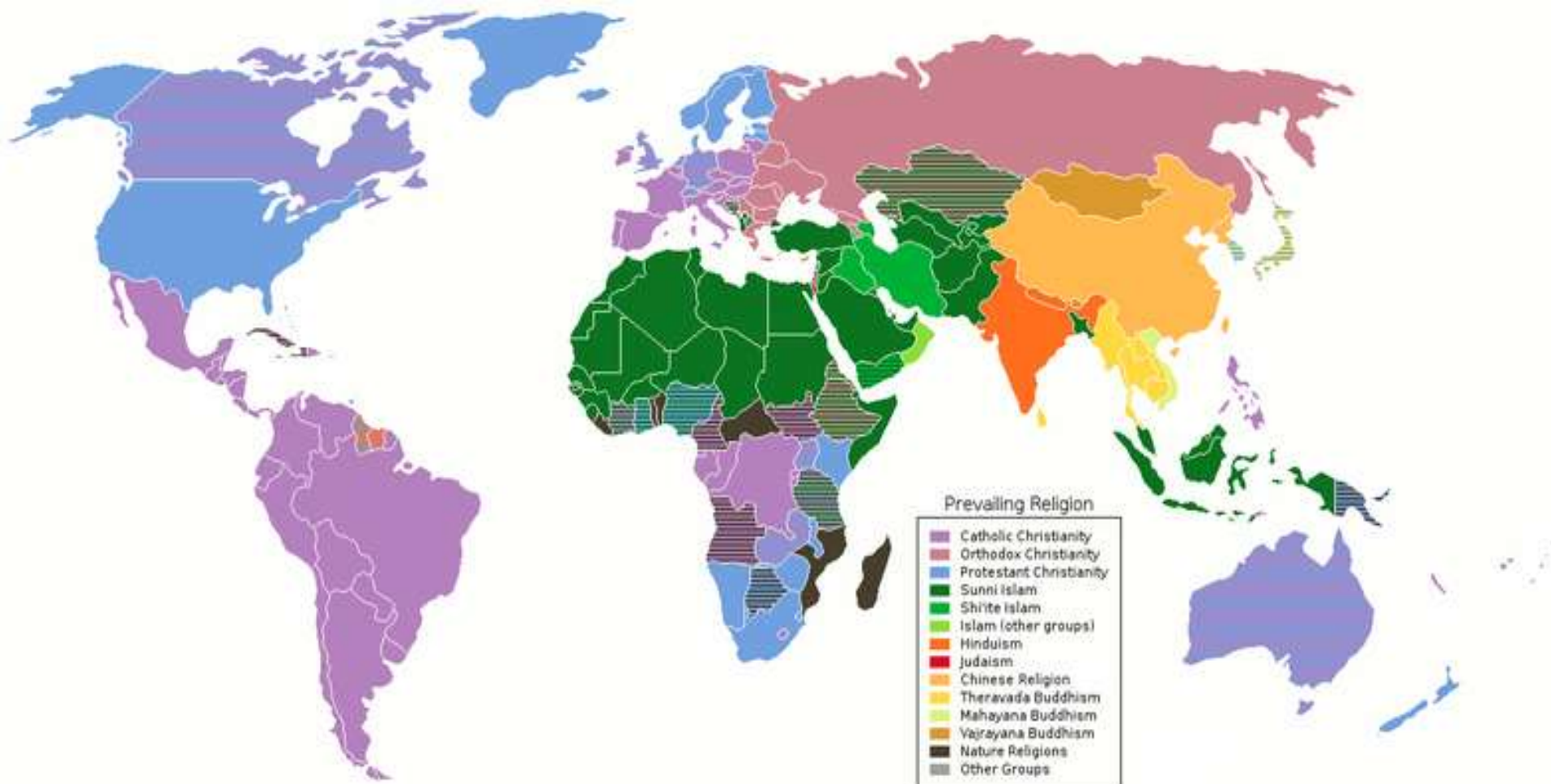
- Concentrated in Israel
- Established more than 3,200 years ago
- **Oldest monotheistic religion**
- Basic laws & teachings come from **Torah (Holy book)**
- **Place of worship = Synagogue**

- **Christianity:**

- Evolved from the teachings of Judaism (2,000 yrs. ago)
- **Monotheistic**
- Based on teachings of Jesus Christ (Son of God to Christians)
- **Holy Book Bible**
- **Place of worship= Church**
- **2 major divisions:**
 - Catholics & Protestants

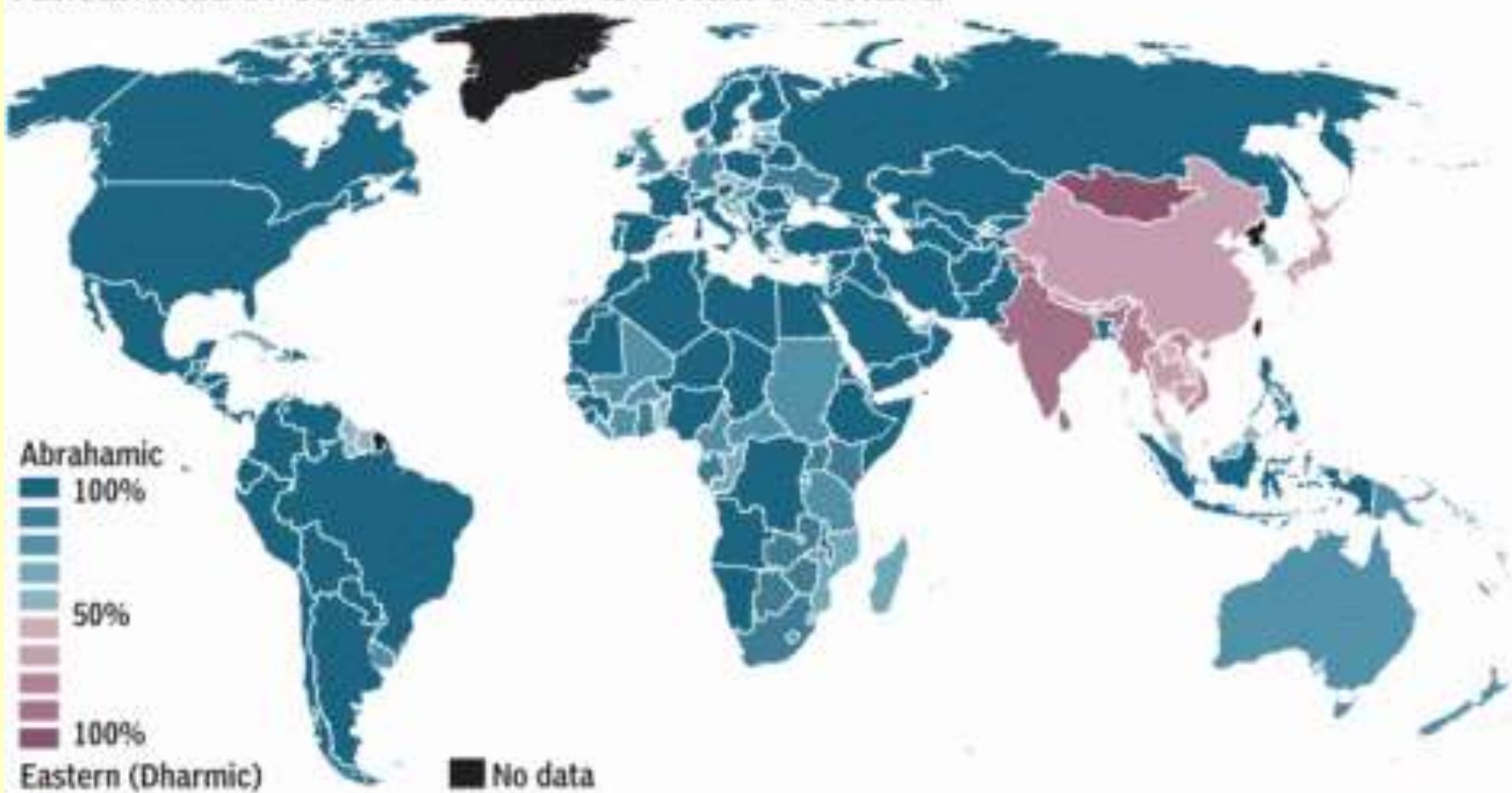
- **Islam:**

- **Based on teachings of Prophet Muhammad**
- **Monotheistic**
- **God is Allah (Arabic)**
- Close ties to Judaism and Christianity
- **Holy Book = Qur'an**
- **Place of worship= Mosque**
- 2 major divisions:
 - Sunni and Shiite



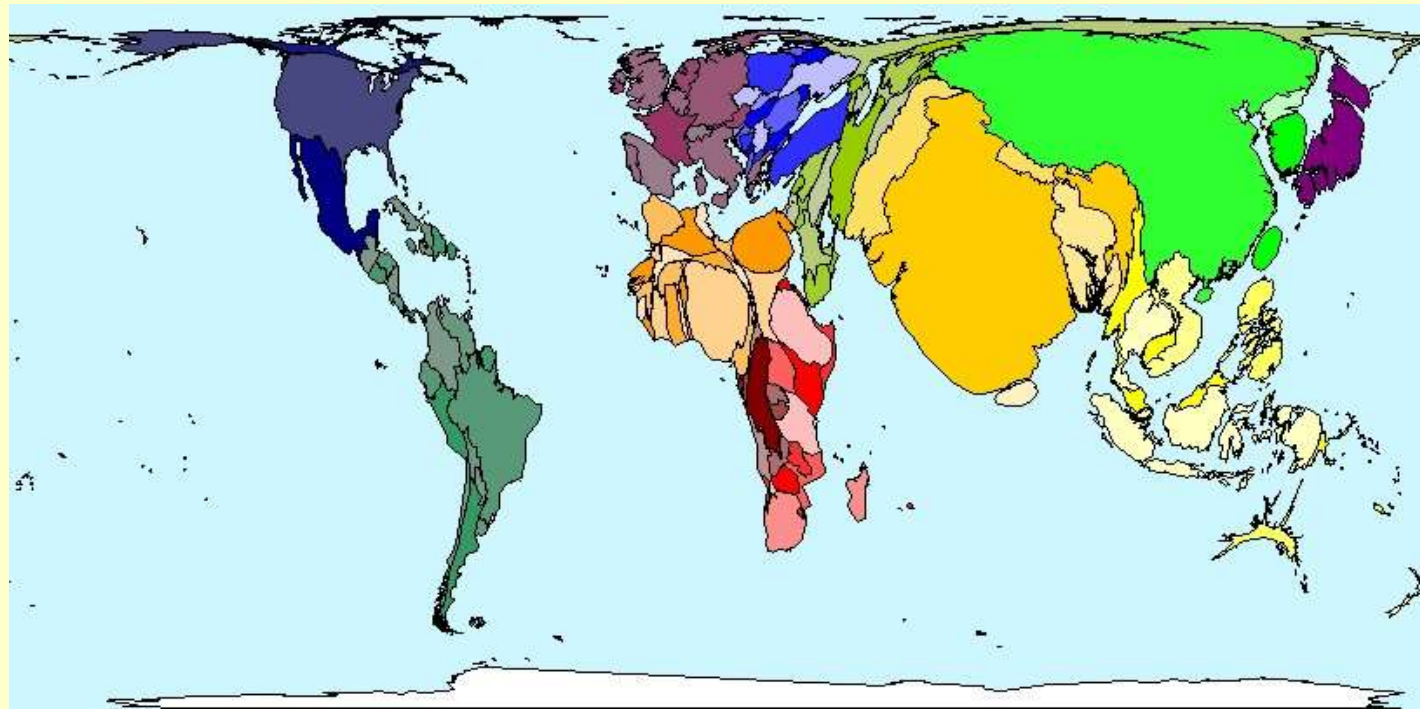
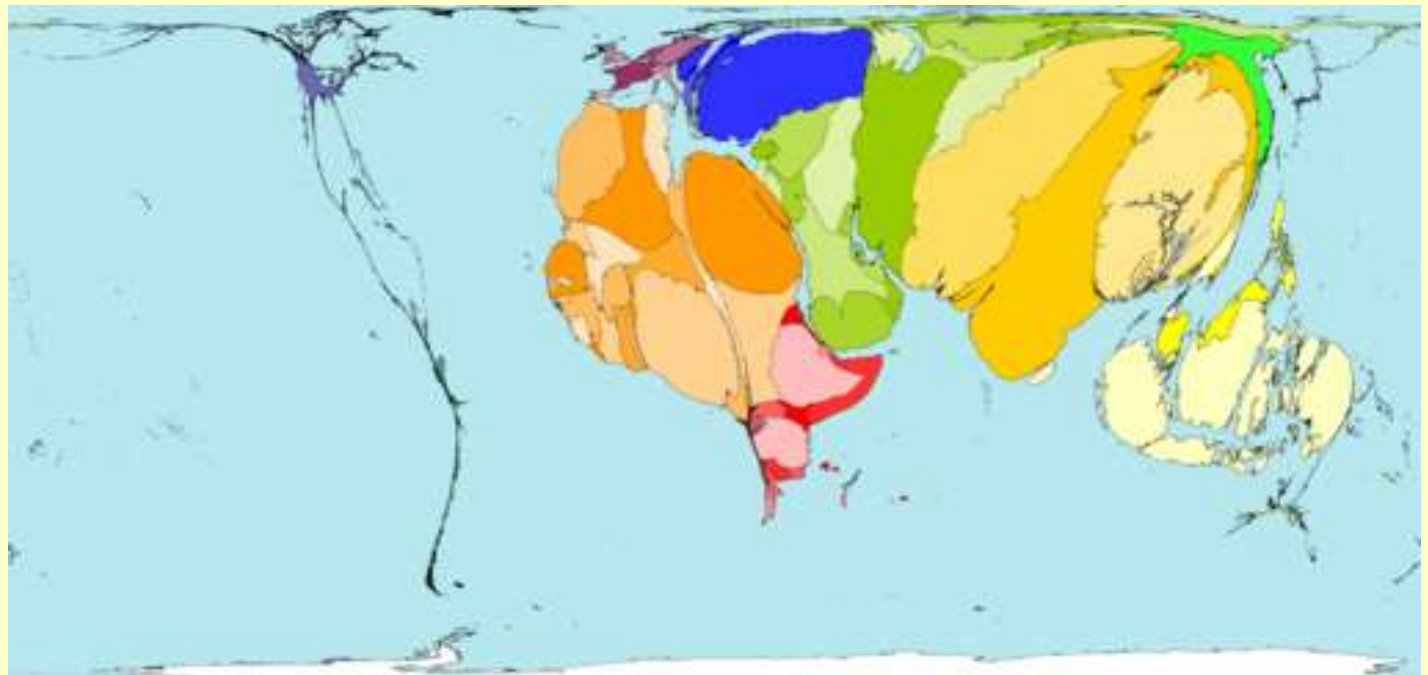
ABRAHAMIC AND DHARMIC RELIGIONS

PERCENTAGE OF COUNTRY FOLLOWING THAT DOCTRINE



SOURCES: PEW FORUM ON RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE, ADHERENTS.COM, AND WIKIPEDIA.ORG

Cartogram showing Muslim population



Cartogram showing world population

Coptic Christians



- One of the oldest groups of Christians – mostly found in Egypt

Coptics get a tattoo of the Coptic cross on their wrist to show unity & is an old way of identification



The Five Pillars of Islam

– requires certain **religious duties of all Muslims.**

- **Faith** All believers must testify to the following statement of faith: “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.”
- **Prayer Five times a day**, Muslims face toward the holy city of Mecca to pray. They may do this at a place of worship called a mosque or wherever they find themselves at the prayer times.
- **Charity (giving to the poor)** Muslims believe they have a responsibility to support the less fortunate by giving money for that purpose.
- **Fasting During the Islamic holy month of Ramadan**, Muslims do not eat or drink anything between sunrise and sunset. This action reminds Muslims that there are things in life more important than eating. It is also a sign of self-control and humility.
- **Pilgrimage (hajj)** All able Muslims are expected to make a pilgrimage (hajj) **to Mecca** at least once during their lifetime.

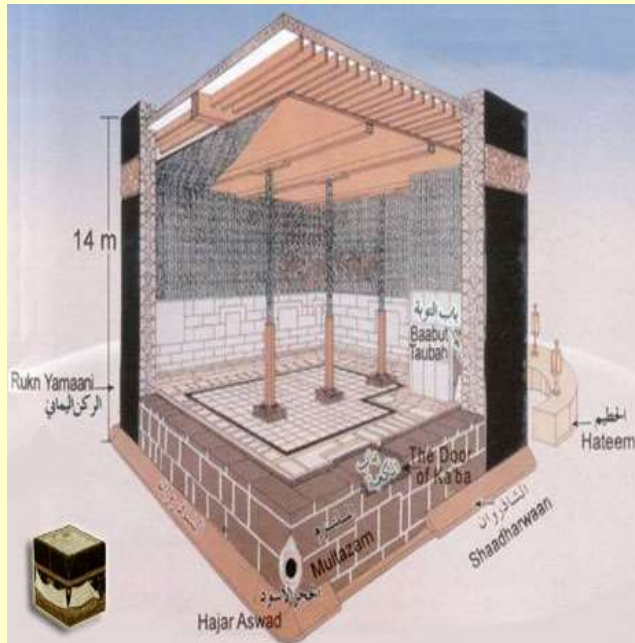


15
minutes

Pilgrimage to Mecca...



PLACE Thousands of Muslim pilgrims gather at the holy site of the Ka'aba in Mecca. The Ka'aba is the black box at the right in the picture.



2 minutes

Hajj



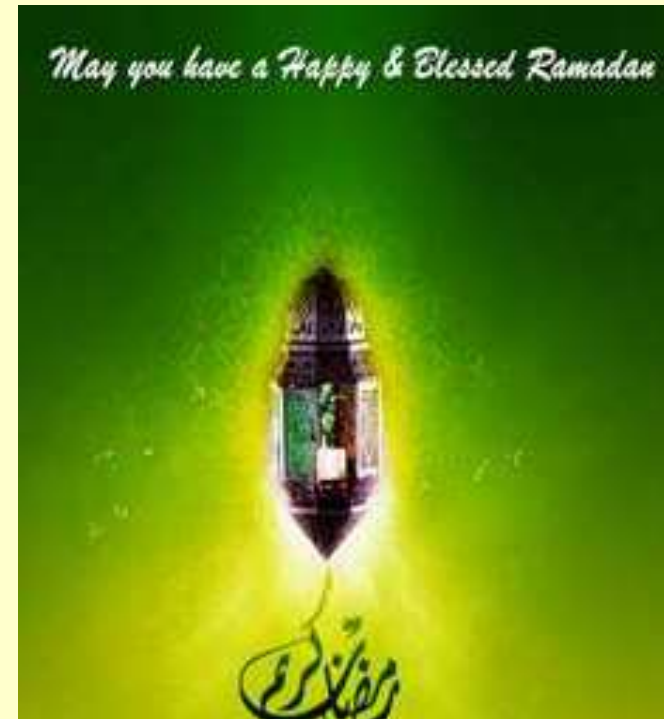
Mecca



Ramadan

What is it?

- **Fasting** during the day (no food, no water, no smoking)
- At sunset a meal is shared with friends and family & usually consists of traditional foods
- **Eid al-Fitr** is a festival at the **end** of Ramadan
- Muslims practice acts of **charity** throughout the month
- The lantern is the symbol of the holy month



SUNNI VS. SHIITE

Sunnah “Sunnis” (80-90%)

- Sunni Muslims agree with the position taken by many of the Prophet's companions, that the new leader should be elected from among those capable of the job. This is what was done, and the Prophet Muhammad's close friend and advisor, Abu Bakr, became the first Caliph of the Islamic nation. The word "Sunni" in Arabic comes from a word meaning "one who follows the traditions of the Prophet."

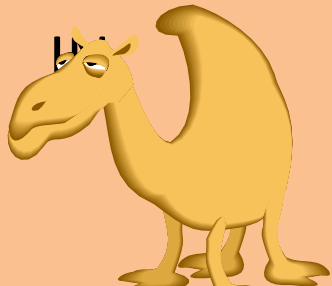
Shia “Shiites” (10-20%)

- On the other hand, some Muslims share the belief that leadership should have stayed within the Prophet's own family, among those specifically appointed by him, or among Imams appointed by God Himself.
- The Shia Muslims believe that following the Prophet Muhammad's death, leadership should have passed directly to his cousin/son-in-law, Ali bin Abu Talib. Throughout history, Shia Muslims have not recognized the authority of elected Muslim leaders, choosing instead to follow a line of Imams which they believe have been appointed by the Prophet Muhammad or God Himself. The word "Shia" in Arabic means a group or supportive party of people. The commonly-known term is shortened from the historical "Shia-t-Ali," or "the Party of Ali." They are also known as followers of "Ahl-al-Bayt" or "People of the Household" (of the Prophet).

MODERN LIFE

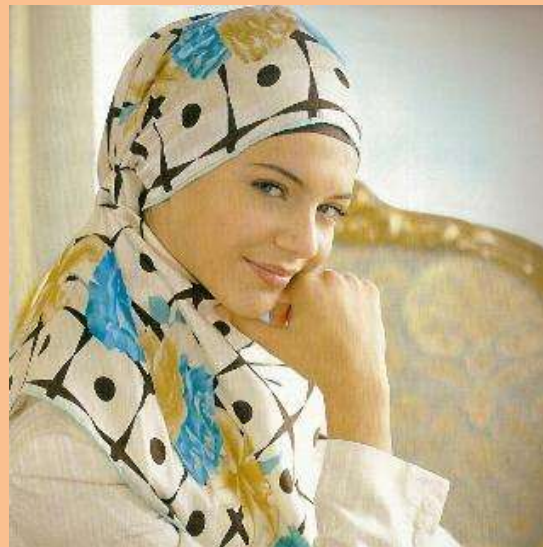
- Changes on the Arabian Peninsula during the 20th century were dramatic.
- **Urbanization**
- Emphasis on modernizing
 - **Use of Western technology and machines have disrupted traditional ways of life.**
 - Camels OUT cars and cars

Gas is cheaper than water



MODERN LIFE

- Despite its rapid modernization, some aspects of Muslim culture have remained the same for centuries.
 - Women: cover their heads, hair, and sometimes faces with a **scarf or veil called a hijab**



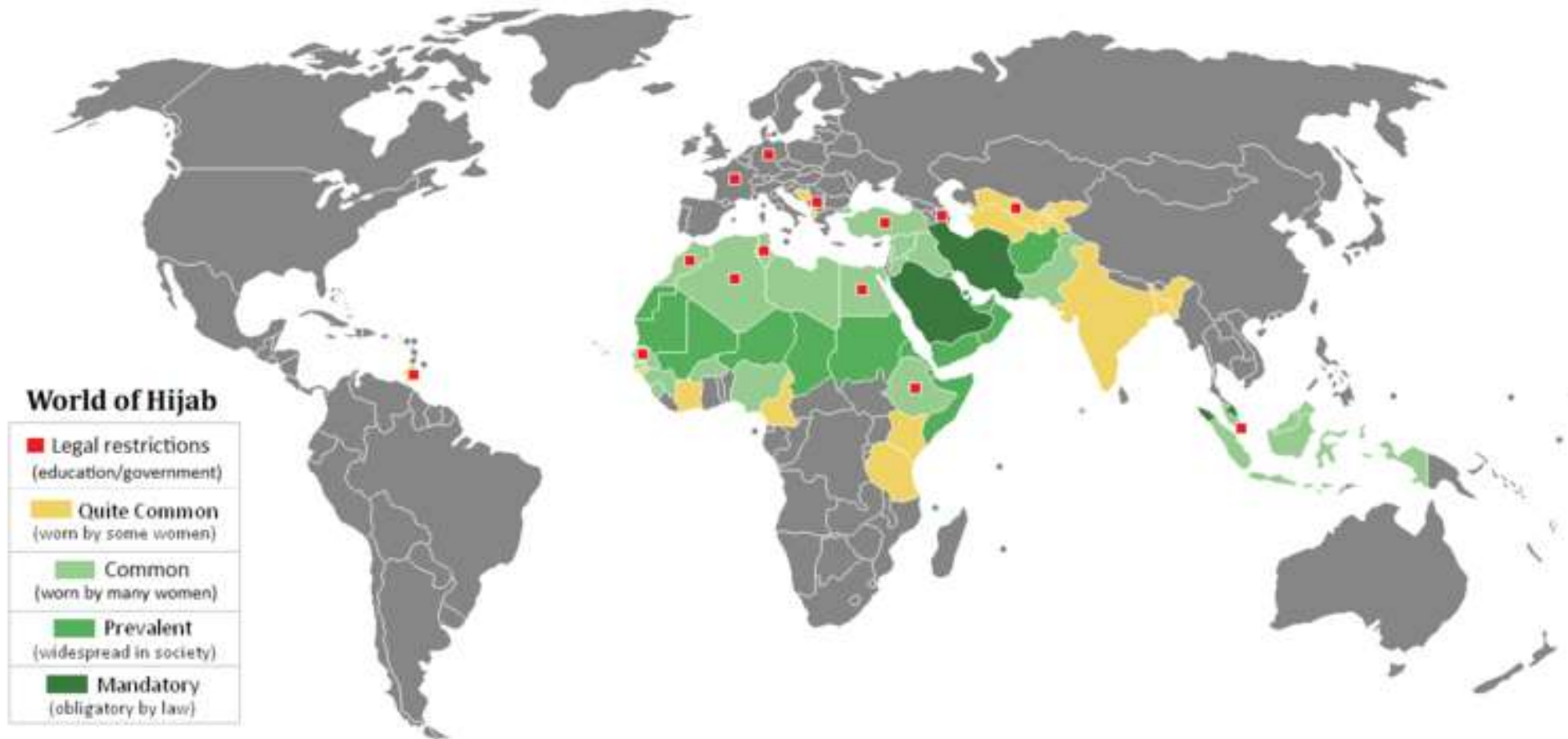
The Tehran Times: Street Fashion



Middle Eastern Women



Fashion, tradition, or law?



Land of Contrasts: Freedom vs. Repression?



Traditional City



- ▲ Umayyad Mosque built 705-715 AD.
- ◀ Suq (Shopping Mall) Al-Hamiddiyah.

Modern City



Modern Dubai



Modern Cairo

- Multi-Story apartment buildings is the new residential pattern.

Western Influence



There is an active debate in most Middle Eastern communities about how much Western culture and technology can and should be adopted before such influences begin to compromise their culture, traditions, and identity. This discussion will require defining that identity to some degree.

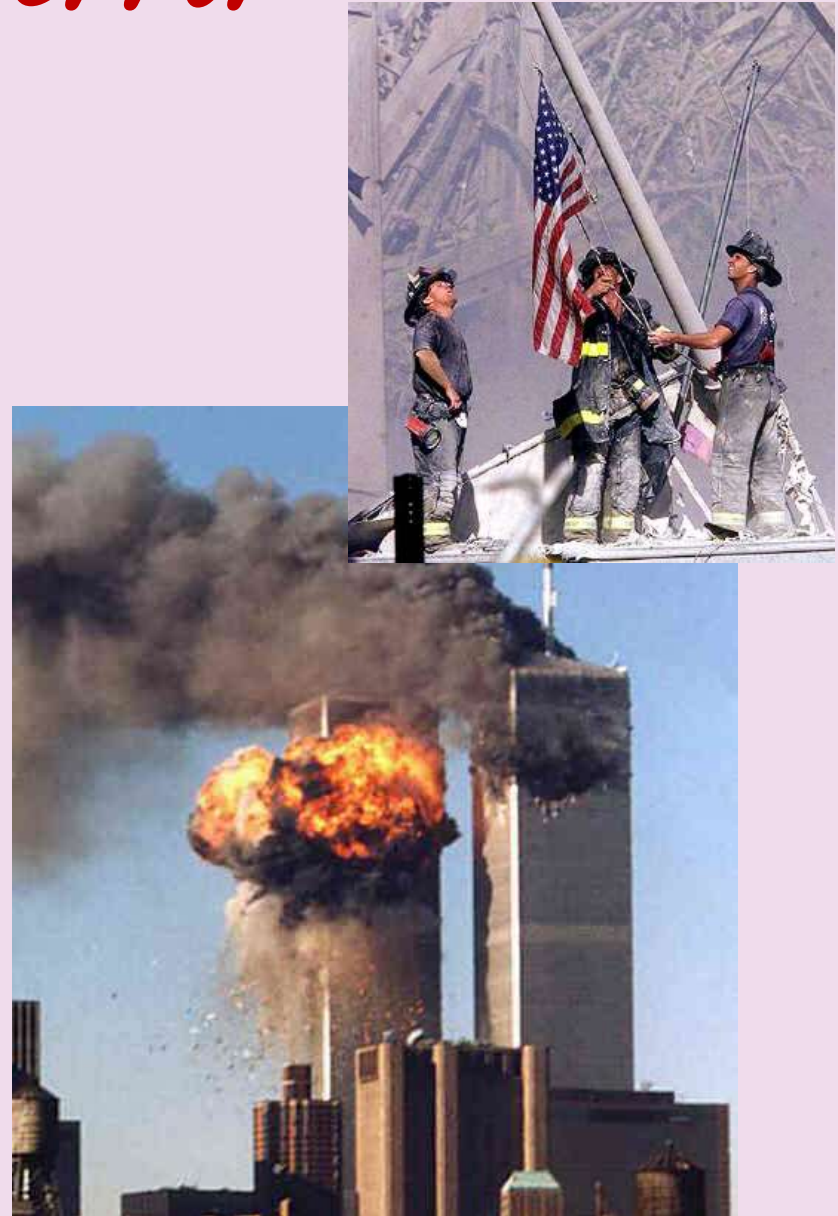
How does technology and media influence this??

Some countries may have strict governments who oppose the West for the most part, yet their people embrace global and western culture. Example: Iran

“Daily Show: The Kids are Allah Right” <http://www.cc.com/video-clips/eqvniu/the-daily-show-with-jon-stewart-jason-jones--behind-the-veil---the-kids-are-allah-right>

War on Terror

- Within a month of the attacks of 9/11/01 the U.S. and their allies invaded Afghanistan, who was thought to be hiding the people responsible for the terrorist attacks.
- In 2003, fear for national security prompted the United States to declare war on Iraq and its leader, Saddam Hussein.



Overthrow of the Taliban

- **Taliban**
 - **Fundamentalist Muslim political group protecting Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda terrorist network in Afghanistan**
- **March 2002, the Taliban was removed from power**
- **May 2011, Osama bin Laden killed**

Overthrow of Saddam Hussein

- **Saddam Hussein: Iraqi dictator believed to be continuing to develop and expand a weapons of mass destruction program**
- **Operation Iraqi Freedom**
 - March 2003 to stop Hussein's ability to wage mass war or aid terrorists
 - Major combat technically ended May 1, 2003 started to work toward democracy in Iraq

- **Saddam Hussein was captured by American forces in December of 2003**

- Charged and put on trial by the interim Iraqi government for crimes against humanity

- Specific charges included the murder of 148 people, torture of women and children and the illegal arrest of 399 others.

- **Found guilty and sentenced to death in Nov 2006, hanged a month later in Dec 2006**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQPIREDW-Ro>



Saddam Hussein shortly after capture by American forces, and after being shaved to confirm his identity

ISIS Threat

- Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
 - Goal—To create an Islamic state governed by their terrorist group with NO opposition (other religions, other ethnic groups, etc.)
 - How they're trying to accomplish their goal?
 - Mass murder
- <http://news.yahoo.com/video/isis-163638618.html>



Syrian Crisis

- War with ISIS is destroying cities and communities
- People are trying to escape; but have no where to go.
- In Europe & America many are scared that the refugees leaving Syria may have ISIS followers hiding among them.
- <http://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2015/09/09/refugees-syria-war-amanpour-pkg.cnn>



Checkpoints

1. What language is dominant in Middle East?
2. List the 3 religions from oldest to newest.
3. Explain the views on prophets between the 3 religions.
4. (a) What is the Muslim holy book? (b) What is the holy book for Judaism?
5. (a) What are the 5 Pillars of Islam? (b) What is the hajj?
6. What is the difference between Sunni and Shia?
7. What is the term for religion controlling government?
8. (a) What resource makes the most money? (b) What other resource is important due to its scarcity?
9. What group is known for being a stateless nation?
10. Why did the US go to war in Afghanistan?
11. Why did the US go to war with Iraq?