

**THE MIDDLE EAST**  
**CROSSROADS in CONFLICT or ON the ROAD to PEACE?**  
*Notes Compiled By Debbie Lange*  
*Updated April, 2016*

Questions/Terms  
/etc.

**Where and Why?**

A. Includes the northern part of Africa

- |            |            |            |          |          |
|------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|
| 1. Morocco | 2. Algeria | 3. Tunisia | 4. Libya | 5. Egypt |
|------------|------------|------------|----------|----------|

B. Includes Southwest Asia

- |            |                 |            |             |                 |
|------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1. Turkey  | 5. Israel       | 9. Oman    | 12. Bahrain | 15. Iran        |
| 2. Cyprus  | 6. Jordan       | 10. U.A.E. | 13. Kuwait  | 16. Afghanistan |
| 3. Lebanon | 7. Saudi Arabia | 11. Qatar  | 14. Iraq    | 17. Pakistan    |
| 4. Syria   | 8. Yemen        |            |             |                 |

C. Includes Central Asia

- |               |                 |               |               |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Kazakhstan | 3. Turkmenistan | 5. Tajikistan | 7. Azerbaijan |
| 2. Uzbekistan | 4. Kyrgyzstan   | 6. Armenia    |               |

D. Surrounded by Seas and Deserts

- |                  |                 |                  |                  |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Mediterranean | 4. Persian Gulf | 7. Sahara        | 10. Rub al Khali |
| 2. Black Sea     | 5. Arabian Sea  | 8. Thar Desert   | 11. Nafud        |
| 3. Caspian Sea   | 6. Red Sea      | 9. Nubian Desert | 12. Syria        |



**Why is this a region?**

1. Many different definitions of the Middle East
2. Our definition is based on
  - a. Religion—predominantly Islam
  - b. A crossroads

Summary

Questions/Terms  
/etc.

## Physical Features—The Land

### A. Seas and Deserts

### B. Not very mountainous

1. Caucasus Mts.
2. Taurus Mts.

3. Elburz
4. Zagros Mts.

5. Plateau of Anatolia
6. Plateau of Iran



### C. Rivers—4 major

1. Nile River
2. Indus

3. Tigris
4. Euphrates

} Mesopotamia



### D. Climate

1. Very dry—little ppt—high cell and continentality
2. Concentrated rainfall—most runs off

### E. Resources—Mineral & Oil

1. Est. 70% of the world's known reserves of oil lie in the ME
2. Produce 45% of the world's annual supply (mainly Saudi Arabia, the U.A.E., Iran and Iraq)
  - a. Most are members of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) est. 1960.
  - b. Members: **Algeria**, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, **Iran**, **Iraq**, **Kuwait**, **Libya**, **Nigeria**, **Qatar**, **Saudi Arabia**, **United Arab Emirates**, Venezuela.
3. Turkey—deposits of iron, chrome, and copper
4. Iran—may have iron ore
5. Israel—produces large quantities of phosphates
6. Saudi Arabia—some gold



### F. Resources—Farmland

1. Only 7% is actually under cultivation
2. River valleys and coastal land
3. Depends on irrigation
4. Some underground water supplies
5. Oasis are important



## Summary

1. What role have physical features had on the history and development of the Middle East?
2. How has climate shaped population patterns in the Middle East?
3. How have the natural resources of the region influenced economic growth?

Questions/Terms  
/etc.

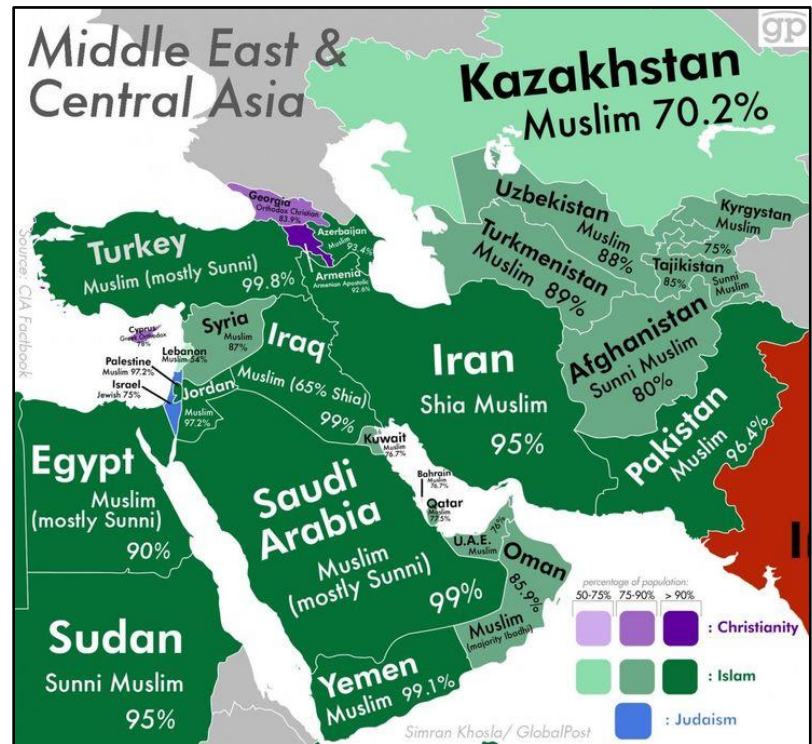
## I. Cultural Features—The People

A. Widest possible mixture of races and cultures. (a crossroads)

1. Semites (Arabs, Assyrians, & Hebrews), Turks, Greeks, Egyptians, Hittites, Persians, Armenians, Azeris, Balochs, Bengalis, Circassians, Copts, Crimean Tatars, Druze, Filipinos, Gagauz, Georgians, Kurds, Lurs, Maltese, Mandaean, Maronites, Mhallami, Ossetians, Pakistanis, Pashtuns, Punjabis, Roma, Samaritans, Shabaks, Sindhis, Somalis, Sri Lankans, Tats, Turks, Turcomans, Yazidis, Zazas, etc.



2. Muslims [Sunnis and Shias] 93%, Jews 1.6%, Christians 3.7%, Others 1.6%



## B. Where do they live?

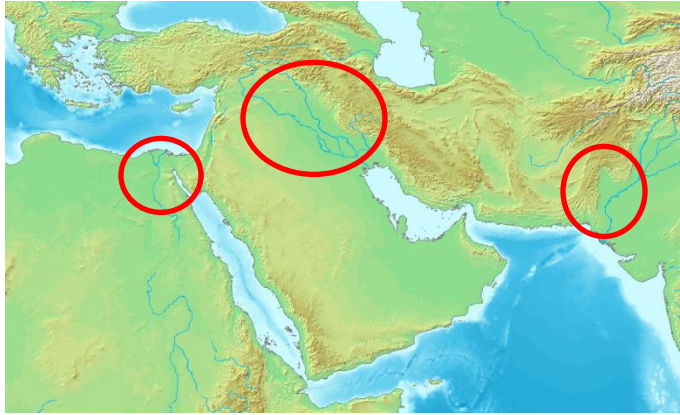
1. Along the coasts, rivers and near oases
2. 70% of the people are peasants living in small villages  
25% live in cities or large towns  
5% are nomadic peoples (mainly Bedouins [an Arabic semi-nomadic group descended from nomads who historically inhabited the Arabian and Syrian deserts. Their name means "desert dwellers" in Arabic language.] and Berbers)



Questions/Terms  
/etc.

## The History

- A. Longest recorded history in existence
- B. Earliest known civilizations



1. Mesopotamia (“land between the rivers”)—Tigris & Euphrates River (Iraq)
  - a. 8000 BC (?)
  - b. Sumerians
  - c. Organized government—leaders, taxes, public buildings, public projects (irrigation system)
  - d. Religion was formalized
  - e. Labor began to specialize
  - f. Written language, paintings, sculpture, mathematics, special architecture
  - g. Domestication of plants and animals
  - h. Use of the wheel
  - i. Firing of clay, use of copper & bronze
2. Mesopotamia was constantly being invaded (Akkadians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Chaldeans, etc.)  
Egypt—the Nile River Valley
  - a. 6000 BC (?)
  - b. Egyptians advanced rapidly—more protected (deserts and seas) from invasions
  - c. Organized political, economic & social systems
  - d. Massive architectural construction & statuary
  - e. Irrigation system
  - f. Written language—**hieroglyphics** (pictorial symbols)—papyrus (paper)
  - g. Calendar
3. Indus Valley—(Pakistan)
  - a. 2500 BC
  - b. Organized streets, drainage systems, etc.
  - c. Work in Bronze
  - d. Alphabet



## C. Invasions through time

1. All or part of this region have had different peoples controlling it.—Romans, Persians (Iranians), Arabs, Turks, Semitic speaking people [Hittites (from Turkey), Assyrians (in Iraq), Babylonians (in Iraq)], the Europeans, etc.

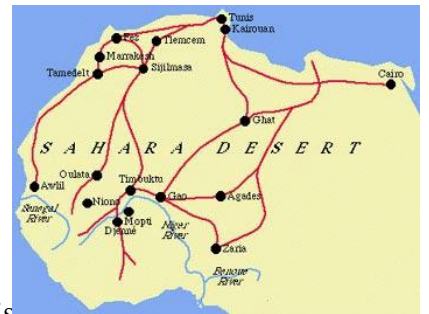
Questions/Terms  
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2. One of the first empires—**The Greek Empire**
  - a. 356-32 BC
  - b. Alexander the Great
  - c. Controlled from Greece & Egypt to the Indus River
  - d. Alexandria, Egypt—capital city
  - e. Spread of Greek ideas and influences



3. **The Roman Empire**
  - a. Began to spread East in 146 BC
  - b. Controlled area from 31 BC—410 AD
  - c. Expanded the roads, reservoirs, and irrigation
  - d. Trade became very important

4. **The Arab Empire**
  - a. In the middle of the 7<sup>th</sup> century a new power emerged—the Arabs
  - b. In 622 AD (year 1 on the Muslim's calendar) the Prophet Mohammed established the rule of Islam in Medina (n. of Mecca—the holy city of Islam)
  - c. Spread—including everything from the Atlantic Ocean (the Iberian Peninsula & Morocco) across northern Africa to the Indus River. Developed advanced trade, cities and libraries under Arab rule. Camel caravans created new trade networks across the Sahara.
  - d. Unified the nomadic people through religion, and language to develop a culture
  - e. The Empire broke up into groups by the 1250's



5. **Ottoman Empire**
  - a. Ottoman Turks from central Asia.
  - b. Ruled from 1500's until 1910's (end of WWI)
  - c. Supported Germany in WWI
  - d. Britain supported the Arab revolt against the Ottomans

#### 6. **European Territories**

- a. Between WWI and WWII most of these countries were territories of the UK and France
- b. British Territories
  - 1) Iraq      3) Palestine (Israel)      5) Pakistan      7) Kuwait
  - 2) Jordan      4) Egypt      6) Cyprus
- c. French Territories
  - 1) Syria      2) Lebanon      3) Libya



Questions/Terms  
/etc.

## 7. Independence

- An educated middle class developed feelings of nationalism.
- Most of the countries gained independence after World War II from the imperial control [called “decolonization”]

### Belief Systems (a quick review)

#### A. Judaism

- Religion of the ancient Hebrews
- Abraham was their leader
- Began about 600 BC
- Jerusalem was the capital of Judea and the site of their temple
- Most Jews fled Judea during the Roman Empire
- Judea was renamed Palestine and by 70 AD the majority of the people were Arabs.



The Wailing Wall, Jerusalem

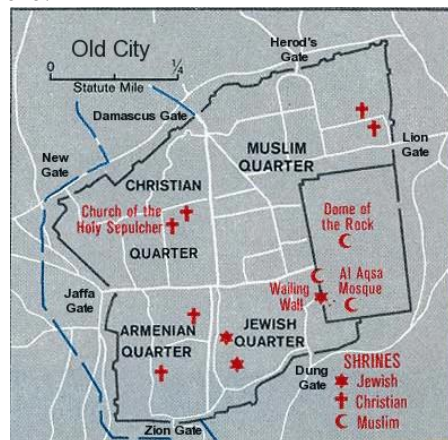
#### B. Christianity



- During the Roman Empire Jesus Christ was born in Judea/Palestine/Israel
- He was a Hebrew and Jew
- His followers believed he was the Son of God sent to save them from the Romans
- This was the beginning of Christianity
- Jerusalem was where Jesus was put to death by the Romans in 33 AD

#### C. Islam

- Founded by Muhammad, an Arab born around 570 in Mecca
- Joined the nomadic Arabs into an organized society
- Followers of the Islamic religion are Muslims
- They regard Jerusalem as a holy city because it is believed that Muhammad was transported to Heaven from there.



## II. Women's Rights

- In almost every aspect of life, the status of men is higher than that of women. For the most part, women remain in private, domestic places, and are subject to ridicule and harassment by men in public life on the streets. Life is both socially and economically difficult for unmarried or uneducated women.

Questions/Terms  
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B. In recent years women in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia have secured more rights, greater access to education and a modest increase in their political representation.

C. According to a World Economic Forum Gender Gap index



Eman el-Emam was one of about 30 women judges sworn onto the bench in April 2007 in Egypt, despite opposition.

Rank	Economy	Score
28	United States	0.740
47	Kazakhstan	0.719
53	Israel	0.712
63	Ghana	0.704
95	Tajikistan	0.675
96	Azerbaijan	0.675
117	Kuwait	0.646
119	UAE	0.646

Rank	Economy	Score
122	Qatar	0.645
123	Bahrain	0.644
127	Tunisia	0.634
128	Algeria	0.632
130	Turkey	0.624
134	Saudi Arabia	0.605
135	Oman	0.604
136	Egypt	0.599

Rank	Economy	Score
138	Lebanon	0.598
139	Morocco	0.593
140	Jordan	0.593
141	Iran	0.580
142	Chad	0.580
143	Syria	0.568
144	Pakistan	0.559
145	Yemen	0.484

[the highest possible score is 1 (equality) and the lowest possible score is 0 (inequality)]

### Summary

1. How have multiple invasions influenced the history and governments of the region?
2. How have indigenous ethnic groups shaped population patterns in the Middle East?
3. How have migrations shaped population patterns in the Middle East?
4. How have Islam and the Arabic language helped define much of the culture and society of the region?
5. What factor has helped many countries in the Middle East become rising middle-income countries?
6. How have changes in population impacted its workforce? [Hint: think of emigration]

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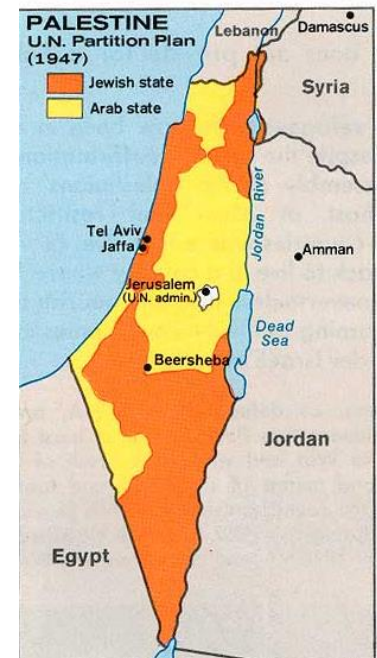
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Questions/Terms  
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## Areas of Conflict Today

### A. Israel and the Arab World

1. Jewish people first settled this area between 1900 BC and 1700 BC
2. **Judea**—developed about 600 BC
3. Romans took over—**Jews fled** after have control for about 700 years.
4. Renamed **Palestine** even though the Jews still claimed the area.
5. Became a part of the Arab Empire
6. Then the Ottoman Empire in the 1500's
7. Ottomans lost to Britain in WWI when the Ottomans supported Germany.
8. During period it was controlled by the British many **Jews returned** because the UK supported a Jewish homeland
9. More Jews fled to Palestine during the Nazi's rule in the 1930's
10. **The Jews and Arabs began to fight**
  - a. Different cultures—way of life
  - b. Religions
  - c. Land
  - d. etc.
11. Britain lost control in the 1940's
  - a. Busy with WWII
  - Busy rebuilding
12. Went to the newly formed United Nations for help
13. In 1947 the UN voted to divide the area.
14. In **1948** Britain withdrew and **Israel became an independent country.**—*Two countries—Palestine and Israel*
15. The Arabs rejected the UN's decision and division of territory.
16. Palestine with the help of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Saudi Arabia attacked Israel.
17. **Palestine lost all territory and ceased to exist as far as the UN was concerned.**
  - a. The UN supported Israel
  - b. The US, UK, etc. helped Israel
  - c. The Arab League did not recognize Israel—Continued to recognize Palestine
18. 1949 the UN gets a cease fire
19. Then in 1956 Israel (with help from the UK and France) invaded Egypt after persistent terrorist raids by the **PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization)**
20. After 9 days of fighting the UN arranged a cease-fire and sent a **UN Emergency Force to the Sinai Peninsula to keep peace.** (11 years)
21. In 1967, Egypt demanded the UN withdraw—they did.
22. Egypt took over the **Gaza Strip** and closed shipping in the **Gulf of Aquaba** in May.
23. In a 6 day war in June the Israelis took the **Gaza Strip, the Sinai Pen., Old Jerusalem**, Syria's **Golan Heights** and Jordan's **West Bank**.
24. The UN arranged another cease-fire.
25. In 1973, Egypt & Syria attacked Israel and were supplied with USSR military airlifts.
26. The US responded by supplying Israel with an airlift.
27. Israel pushed Syria back and pushed Egypt back.—Took over the Suez Canal.
28. Eighteen days later—another cease fire.



Questions/Terms  
/etc.

29. Israel's Prime Minister **Menachem Begin** and Egypt's Prime Minister, **Anwar Sadat** (assassinated for this), began peace talk with **Jimmy Carter**.



30. **In 1979, Israel and Egypt sign a formal peace agreement and established diplomatic relations.**
31. In 1982, Israel returns the Sinai Pen. to Egypt.
32. Meanwhile, the PLO is still attacking Israel from other Arab countries.
33. In 1975-1976, a **civil war breaks out in Lebanon** between the **Christian Forces and Muslims**.
- Balance had changed with the Palestinian refugees entering Lebanon.
  - The PLO shifted its organization to Lebanon when Egypt started peace talks with Israel.
34. Israel supports Lebanon—Syria and Arab World support the Arab revolutionaries.
35. In 1978, **Israel invades Lebanon to attack the PLO.**
36. Syria invades Lebanon in 1981 “to protect” Lebanon and installs USSR supplied surface-to-air missiles (SAM’s)
37. Both Syria & Israel refuse to leave until the other does.
38. The UN sent in forces to get a cease-fire in 1983
39. **UN forces are pulled out when they were unable to get a cease-fire.**
40. 1980’s—kidnapping of foreign nationals by Islamic militants became common (All were released by 1992).
41. Guerilla attacks from southern Lebanon continued with retaliation air raids from Israel through 1993.
42. **In Sept. 1993, an historic agreement between Israel and the PLO was signed.**
- The PLO recognized Israel’s right to exist,
  - Israel recognized the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians.
  - They agreed to limited Palestinian self-rule in Gaza & the West Bank beginning with Jericho.
  - Three men involved—**Yitzhak Rabin** (assassinated for this), Israel’s Prime Minister, **Yasser Arafat**, the PLO leader and **Bill Clinton**.
43. **On July 25, 1994, Israel and Jordan signed a declaration ending their 46-year state of war.**
44. On September 28, 1995, an Israeli-PLO agreement expanded Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.
45. On November 4, 1995, Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Jew.

Questions/Terms  
/etc.

46. The world supports peace talks but conflict continues.
  - a. Hezbollah (formed in Lebanon in 1982) continues to attack Israel. Lebanese Shi'ite group wants to create an Iranian-style Islamic republic in Lebanon and remove all non-Islamic influences from the area. Strong anti-Western and anti-Israel.
  - b. The HAMAS (Islamic Resistance Movement) formed in 1987. They operate primarily in the Gaza District. They want to establish an Islamic Palestine in place of Israel. They reject the PLO's movement to peace.
  - c. There have been many suicide bombings in Israel. Israel has retaliated with the killings and arrests of suspected terrorists.
47. In 2001, Ariel Sharon, a hardliner was elected as the prime minister of Israel. Since then the violence has escalated on both sides.
48. In June 2002, Israel began building a controversial barrier in the West Bank to restrict Palestinian access to Israel. (World Court said it was a violation of international law.



49. Move to remove all Israelis from Gaza by the Israel government and from four settlements in the West Bank (although they still part of Israel). They are giving the Palestine Authority control over the area under the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement. Yasser Arafat dies. Hamas leader is elected to head the Palestinian Legislative Council in 2006.
50. Clashes continue.
51. Unrest during the Arab Spring uprisings in 2011 have led to continued instability in the area.
52. There have been four concerted efforts to resolve final status issues between the sides since 2000. The conflicts continue.
53. There have been 350 peacekeepers from the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) in Jerusalem. They monitor ceasefires, supervise armistice agreements; prevent isolated incidents from escalating, and assisting other UN personnel in the region.

Summary

Questions/Terms  
/etc.

## B. Iran vs. Iraq

### 1. The Iranian Revolution

a. In 1978, groups within Iran began demanding reform



- 1) Iran was one of the leading oil producers in the world—money was coming into the country.
- 2) Most of the people lived in poverty and were under-paid.
- 3) Most of the income from the oil went to the Shah of Iran's family and high officials in the government, for building projects, and for arms and munitions.
- 4) The people also feared the **SAVAK** (the Shah's secret police) because of their methods of torture and murder.

b. The Revolution was lead by a Muslim religious leader—**Ayatollah Khomeini**

- 1) Khomeini was a fundamentalist who rejected Western ways.
- 2) He wanted a return to the basic rules and values of Islam.
- 3) He had spoken out against the Shah and had been exiled to France for nearly 15 years before he returned to lead the revolution.



- c. In January 1979, the Shah decided to take a “vacation” in Egypt.
- d. There were riots, oil worker strikes and Iran was in chaos.
- e. Khomeini returned and took over the country and putting in his own Prime Minister.
- f. Many former government officials, generals and SAVAK members were executed.
- g. Things did not settle down in Iran.
  - 1) Many people did not agree with the executions.
  - 2) Objected to the strict interpretation of Islamic law.
  - 3) The women lost a lot of freedom they had gained during the Shah's time.
- h. The U.S. was unhappy with the fall of the Shah
  - 1) We had many military posts along the Iran/USSR border.
  - 2) Khomeini did not want the U.S. (or any westerners) in his country.
- i. The relations between Iran and the U.S. got worse.

Questions/Terms  
/etc.

- 1) We admitted the exiled Shah into the US in October of 1979 for medical treatment.
- 2) In November **militant Iranian Muslims seized the U.S. Embassy in Teheran.**
  - a) They held the personnel as hostages.
  - b) They said they would release them when the Shah was returned to Iran to stand trial.
  - c) The seizure of the embassy was a direct violation of international law.
  - d) Iranian students in the U.S. were deported.
  - e) Banks froze Iran's assets in the U.S.
  - f) Allies of the U.S. were also asked to impose economic sanctions against Iran (Few did because of their dependence on Iranian oil.).
- j. The Shah's death in July 1980 did not affect the hostage situation.
- k. **The hostages are finally released on January 21, 1981** (15 months)—an agreement was made with the U.S. releasing Iran's assets.

## 2. Iraq vs. Iran

- a. There has been a history of skirmishes between Iraq and Iran.
  - 1) The Kurds are an ethnic minority group in Iran and Iraq.
  - 2) They have tried to gain control of the two countries.
  - 3) Iraq felt that Iran was encouraging the Kurds to fight.
  - 4) Iraq attacked Kurd settlements in Iran many times.
- b. In 1980, Iraq attacked Iran.
  - 1) Attempted to overthrow Khomeini when they thought he was vulnerable.
  - 2) They wanted control over the Shatt al-Arab waterway that divides Iran and Iraq.
  - 3) They also wanted control of the province of Khuzistan in Iran because of its rich oil reserves.
- c. Relations are still shaky between Iran and Iraq, although there has been a cease-fire since August 1988.



## C. Iran vs. the world

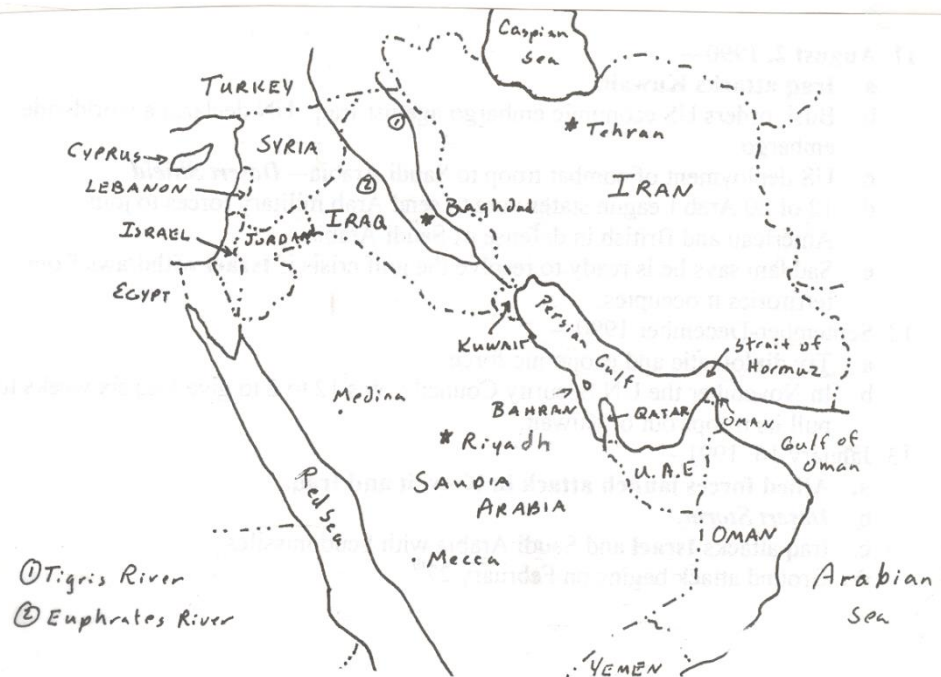
1. The US authorized sanctions on foreign companies that invest in Iran because of alleged support of international terrorism.
2. Iran is suspected of developing nuclear weapons and harboring al-Qaeda terrorist.
3. The UN Security Council has passed a number of resolutions calling for Iran to suspend its uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities and comply with its IAEA obligations and responsibilities, and in July 2015 Iran and the five permanent members, plus Germany (P5+1) signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) under which Iran agreed to restrictions on its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

## D. Iraq vs. Kuwait—War in the Persian Gulf

1. 1759—Kuwait is ruled until the present by the Al-Sabah dynasty.
2. 1899-1961—UK ran Kuwait's foreign relations and defense.
3. 1932—Iraq became independent from the UK (had taken control of Iraq at the end of WWI from the Ottoman Turks).

Questions/Terms  
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4. 1958—A republic in Iraq was established after a revolution.
5. 1961—Kuwait became independent from the UK. Iraq claimed Kuwait as a part of Iraq under the Ottoman Turk's empire.
6. 1963—Iraq recognized Kuwait's sovereignty, but the border was never marked.
7. 1979—**Saddam Hussein took over Iraq.**
8. 1980-1988—Border war between Iraq and Iran
  - a. Left economy in shambles
  - b. Foreign debt of \$70 billion
  - c. Reconstruction costs est. at \$200 billion
9. 1981—Israel destroyed a nuclear reactor near Baghdad claiming that it could be used to produce nuclear weapons.
10. July 1990—
  - a. **Demands all war loans be forgiven from the Iraq/Iran War.**
  - b. **Wants Kuwait to repay the \$2.4 billion it claimed Kuwait had stolen in oil** (claims Kuwait had stolen oil worth \$2.4 billion from the Rumailah Field that straddles the border of Kuwait and Iraq).
  - c. **Claims Kuwait was producing over their OPEC production quotas**—hurting Iraq's capability of selling their oil for the price that they need.



- d. **Wanted a "Marshall Plan" be created to rebuild Iraq.** (He wanted the other Arab countries to pay for Iraq's reconstruction to compensate it for its sacrifices in protecting them from Iran's Islamic revolution.
  - e. **Iraq claims Kuwait as a former part of their country** under the Ottoman Turk Empire. Said that the British artificially created Kuwait.
11. August 2, 1990—
- a. **Iraq attacks Kuwait.**
  - b. US deployed combat troop to Saudi Arabia—***Desert Shield***.
  - c. 12 of 20 Arab League states vote to send Arab military forces to join American and British in defense of Saudi Arabia.

Questions/Terms  
/etc.

12. January 16, 1991—
  - a. **Allied forces launch attack in Kuwait and Iraq.**
  - b. ***Desert Storm.***
  - c. Iraq attacks **Israel** and Saudi Arabia with Scud missiles.
  - d. Ground attack begins on February 27<sup>th</sup>
13. **February 27, 1991**—Bush announced a **suspension of military operations** in the Persian Gulf declaring, “Kuwait is liberated... Iraq’s army is defeated. Our military objectives are met.”
14. Relations were very unstable.
  - a. The UN had economic embargoes against Iraq.
  - b. The UN periodically sent in teams to see if destruction of all nuclear and chemical weapons and plants had occurred. Iraq was resistant to unrestricted UN access.
  - c. Occasional fighting occurred when Kurdish factions erupted or Kurdish-Iraq skirmishes occurred.
  - d. A no-fly zone in the north and south was established which led to various skirmishes throughout the 90’s and early 2000’s.
  - e. Saddam Hussein offered asylum to Bin Laden after September 11<sup>th</sup>
  - f. Saddam Hussein offers rewards to suicide bombers’ families.
15. In September 2002, President George W. Bush accused Iraq of repeatedly violating UN resolutions to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, to refrain from supporting terrorists, and to end repression of their citizens.
16. On March 19, 2003 a US led coalition invaded Iraq. This was known as **Operation Iraqi Freedom**. Hussein fled and the government fell. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, President Bush declared that major combat there was over.
17. On June 28, 2004, the US officially transferred sovereignty to a transitional Iraqi government.
18. Saddam Hussein stood trial in Iraq for crimes he committed while leader of Iraq. He was put to death on December 30, 2006.
19. 2004 US transferred sovereignty to Iraqi government.
20. US final withdrawal of troops on December 15, 2011
21. Unrest between the Sunni, Shiite and Kurds over leadership of Iran continues.
22. Since early 2015, Iraq has been engaged in a military campaign against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) to recapture territory lost in the western and northern portion of the country.

Summary

Questions/Terms  
/etc.

## E. Afghanistan

1. History of invasions
2. In 1749, became an independent monarchy.
3. The USSR was interested in Afghanistan
  - a. In 1919, diplomatic relations were established
  - b. Sent over \$1 billion in aid since WWII
  - c. Interested in natural gas and possible oil reserves
  - d. Also wanted an open port.
4. In 1973, a military coup established a republic.
5. Leadership has changed many times with the former USSR supporting pro-Soviet governments and attempted overthrows of governments which were not pro-Soviet.
6. In 1979, a civil war began.
  - a. The Soviet Union sent in troops.
  - b. The USSR withdrew their troops in 1989 after 10 years of fighting in a guerrilla war.
  - c. It lasted until 1992 when the non-Soviet backed regime were defeated.
7. What was the US's involvement?
  - a. The US and its allies condemned the USSR invasion.
  - b. Many countries boycotted the 1980 summer Olympic Games held in Moscow. (The USSR would then boycott the Los Angeles Olympics.)
  - c. The US lifted its ban on the sale of arms to Pakistan. (Most of the arms sold to Pakistan ended up in the Afghan rebels' hands.)
  - d. When the USSR withdrew from Afghanistan we agreed not sell arms any more.
8. In 1996, the Taliban, "an insurgent Islamic fundamentalist faction," captured Kabul and set up a government.
9. They controlled 90% of the country—enforcing strict codes of behavior and dress.
10. US bombed facilities, we said there were terrorist training camps run by a wealthy Saudi businessman, Osama bin Laden thought to run Al Qaeda (a terrorist organization with operatives all over the world). [We blamed him for being behind the bombing of two US embassies in 1998 in Africa (in Kenya and Tanzania. We also blamed him for the bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000)].



### Bin Laden issues call to fight U.S.

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — On fences and car windows throughout northwestern Pakistan, small posters are popping up carrying a message to Muslim youth from suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden: Join a holy war to the death against the U.S.

In another message circulating in Pakistan, the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, vowed Afghanistan would never revoke the



**BIN LADEN**

refuge given bin Laden, one of the 10 most wanted men in the U.S.

Bin Laden's message circulating in Pakistan's deeply conservative Northwest Frontier Province depicts burning U.S., Indian and Israeli flags and a cocked Kalashnikov rifle ready to fire.

"The youth should contact us as soon as possible," the message says. "It is our responsibility to free the world from their [U.S.] control," it said. "The non-Muslim world should know it well that a Muslim is always ready to die in the name of God."

Washington has accused bin Laden of masterminding the 1998 twin attacks on its embassies in East Africa and wants bin Laden to stand trial on terrorism charges either in the United States or a third country.

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Questions/Terms  
/etc.

11. On September 11, 2001, terrorist used planes as bombs to bomb the World Trade Centers in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. A third plane went down in Pennsylvania.
12. We believe that bin Laden was behind the attacks and began to attack the Taliban government when they did not turn him over to us to stand trial. The Taliban government fell.
13. In March 2002, Operation Anaconda was launched to hunt down Taliban and al-Qaeda officials in the mountains.
14. In March 2003, the US ended major combat Operations and NATO officially assumed control of peacekeeping forces in August.
15. Jan. 26, 2004, a new constitution took effect.
16. May 2011, bin Laden is found and killed by American Forces in Pakistan.
17. Fighting continues even though the US and our allies are slowly pulling our troops out of Afghanistan.
18. Despite gains toward building a stable central government, the Taliban remain a serious challenge for the Afghan Government in almost every province. The Taliban still considers itself the rightful government of Afghanistan.
19. The opium trade coming out of Afghanistan has grown. Drug sales continue to finance the insurgents and terrorist actions.
20. There is also a concern that Pakistan has given sanctuary to the terrorists.

#### **F. Pakistan**

1. Pakistan gained its independence in 1947 from Britain. In 1988 East Pakistan broke off and became Bangladesh.
2. Conflicts with India and China over Kashmir began (site of the world's largest and most militarized territorial dispute). All three countries claim this region. The UN has had peacekeepers there since 1949.
3. Pakistan and India also have water rights disputes over the Indus River.
4. To the surprise of much of the world, two new nuclear powers emerged in May 1998 when India, followed by Pakistan just weeks later, conducted nuclear tests
5. Prior to 9/11 there were close ties with Afghanistan's Taliban government. Under U.S. pressure, Pakistan broke with its neighbor to become the United States' chief ally in the region.
6. In Nov. 2003, Pakistan and India declared the first formal cease-fire in Kashmir in 14 years. In April 2005, the two capitals of Kashmir—Srinagar on the Indian side and Pakistan's Muzaffarabad—were connected uniting families that had been separated by the Line of Control since 1947.
7. Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, was exposed in Feb. 2004 for having sold nuclear secrets to North Korea, Iran, and Libya.
8. Pakistan has launched major efforts to combat al-Qaeda and Taliban militants, yet the country remains a breeding ground for Islamic militancy, with its estimated 10,000–40,000 religious schools, or madrassas. The Taliban continue to cross back and forth between eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan's tribal areas.

Summary \_\_\_\_\_

Questions/Terms  
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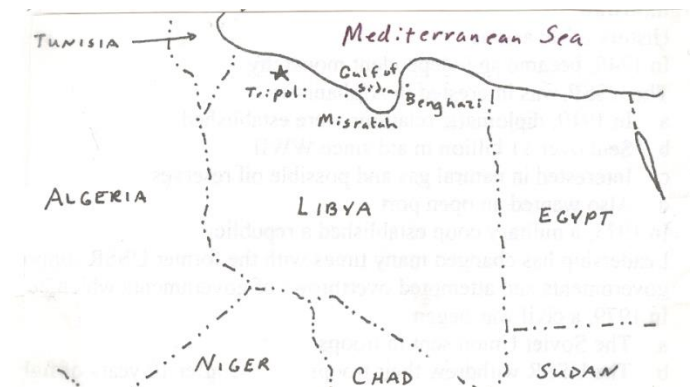
## G. Libya

### 1. History

- a. First settled by the Berbers (nomadic groups).
- b. Ruled by various groups including the Italians (1912-1930), the British and the French (until the end of WWII).
- c. Became an independent constitutional monarchy in 1952.
- d. In 1969, **Col. Muammar al-Qaddafi** seized power from 80 year old King Idris.
- e. Began to apply his peculiar blend of Islamic fundamentalism.
  - 1) Closed down the US and British military bases.
  - 2) Expelled 25,000 descendents of Italian colonials.
  - 3) Nationalized foreign banks.
  - 4) Decreed that everything be written in Arabic.
  - 5) He banned liquor imports.
  - 6) He imposed the **Sharia** (Islamic Law).
- f. Qaddafi supported “liberation” movements around the world.
  - 1) Gave money to different groups.
  - 2) Gave refuge to terrorists.
  - 3) Maintained terrorist training camps where thousands of people of various nationalities learn guerrilla warfare.

### 2. US and Libya

- a. 1980—the US Embassy in Tripoli is burned.
- b. 1981-1984—
  - 1) Libyan Embassy in Washington is closed.
  - 2) Libyan fighters fire on US jets and the US shoots down 2 Libyan jets



- c. 1984-1985—
  - 1) A British policewoman is killed and 10 exiled Libyan demonstrators are wounded in front of the Libyan Embassy in London.
  - 2) Terrorist attacks occur in Vienna and 20 people are killed—US accuses Libya of backing this.
- d. 1986—
  - 1) Libya fires six missiles at US aircraft from the USS Saratoga and the Coral Sea during naval-air exercises.
  - 2) US planes destroy a missile base and two patrol boats in the Gulf of Sidra.
  - 3) A **nightclub in West Berlin is bombed** by terrorists killing one American and one Turkish woman, and wounding many others including 50 Americans.
  - 4) **The US blames Libya—bombs Libya.**

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- e. Since 1988, relations have not been good. The UN imposed economic sanctions on Libya and on foreign companies that invest in Libya.
3. Libya agreed in 2003 to renounce terrorism. The UN lifted sanctions.
4. In 2004, the US renewed diplomatic relations with Libya.
5. See “**Arab Spring**”
6. In 2012, Libya formed a new parliament and elected a new prime minister. The country subsequently elected a new parliament in 2014, but remnants of the outgoing legislature refused to leave office and created a rival government. The UN since September 2014 has been working to reconcile the governments and encouraging them to form a national unity government.

Summary

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#### H. Algeria

1. In 1989, voters approved a new constitution, which cleared the way for a multiparty system.
2. In 1992, canceled elections that Islamic fundamentalists were expected to win.
  - a. Banned all non-religious activities at Algeria’s 10,000 mosques
  - b. President was assassinated.
3. 1992-1997—
  - a. Repeated attacks on high-ranking officials, security forces, foreigners, etc. by militant Muslim fundamentalists.
  - b. Pro-government death squads were also active.
  - c. An estimated 60,000 were killed.
4. In 1995, elections and a referendum were held and they banned any Islamic political party
5. The government in 2011 introduced some political reforms in response to the Arab Spring. Algeria’s reliance on hydrocarbon revenues to finance the government and large subsidies for the population is under stress because of declining oil prices.
6. Violent protests continue to occur mainly by Algeria’s Berber minority.

#### I. Bahrain

1. Bahrain got its independence from Britain in 1971.
2. Since 1970 they have tried to diversify its economy since the decline in oil production and reserves, in the process developing successful petroleum processing and refining, aluminum production, and hospitality and retail sectors, and also to become a leading regional banking center, especially with respect to Islamic finance.
3. The Sunni-led government has long struggled to manage relations with its large Shia-majority population. In 2002, a constitutional monarchy was declared. Most power resides with the king.

Questions/Terms  
/etc.

4. In early 2011, amid Arab uprisings elsewhere in the region, the Bahraini Government confronted similar pro-democracy and reform protests at home with police and military action. Ongoing dissatisfaction with the political status quo continues to factor into sporadic clashes between demonstrators and security forces.

#### **J. Cyprus**

1. Became independent in 1960
  - a. Unrest has occurred since
  - b. One group wants to join with Greece. The Turkish minority doesn't.
2. Turkish Cypriots voted and declared independence in 1975 to form the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
  - a. Not recognized
  - b. Greeks were moved out of Turkish controlled areas.
3. In 2003, the border was once again opened between both parts of the country.
4. The UN is trying to get both sides to reunify. Greek Cyprus says no. Turkish Cyprus says yes.
5. 2004 Cyprus joined the EU still divided.

#### **K. Egypt**

1. Unrest in the 80's between Muslim fundamentalists and Christians.
2. 1990's—rising tide of Islamic fundamentalists violence.
3. 2010-2013, violence continues as Arab Spring insurgents overthrow the government. Problems continue. The military has taken control of the country.
4. In 2014-2015, voters approved a new constitution elected a new government.
5. Egypt is trying to defend its borders from Sudan to the South, Gaza on the Sinai Peninsula and Saudi Arabia claims over several islands.

#### **L. Lebanon**

1. Continues to have guerrilla bases and villages in the south such as the Hezbollah who oppose peace between Israel and the PLO.
2. Israeli forces continue to strike suspected guerrilla bases in southern Lebanon.
3. Refugees from Syria are flowing into Lebanon to get away from the civil war. On Today there are over 1 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon. They joined almost 500,000 Palestinian and 6,000 Iraqi refugees. Their numbers have made Lebanon the country with the highest per capita concentration of refugees in the world. Violence has also crossed into Lebanon.

#### **M. Morocco**

1. Polisario, a guerilla movement, proclaimed Western Sahara independent from Morocco in 1976—bitter fighting occurred.
2. Signed a cease-fire in 1990. A UN-sponsored referendum on self-determination for Western Sahara was rejected by Morocco.
3. Following Arab Spring demonstrations the monarchy implemented some constitutional changes.

Questions/Terms  
/etc.

#### N. Turkey

1. Kurd militants are demanding an independent state.
2. Violence erupted between 1991 and 1999. [Kurdistan movement and fundamental Islamic movement.]
3. The Kurdistan Workers' Party announced that it would abandon its 14-year old insurgency after its leader (Abdullah Osalan) was arrested and convicted of terrorism in 1999.
4. In an effort to make itself more attractive for potential EU membership, Turkey has begun revamping some of its repressive laws and policies. In 2003, its parliament passed a law reducing the military's role in political life and offered partial amnesty to PKK members, many of whom have sought refuge in northern Iraq. In 2004, Turkish state television broadcast the first Kurdish language program and the government freed four Kurdish activists from prison. Turkey also abolished the death penalty in all but exceptional cases.
5. Many refugees from Syria have fled to Turkey since 2011. Violence has also occurred.

#### O. Arab Spring

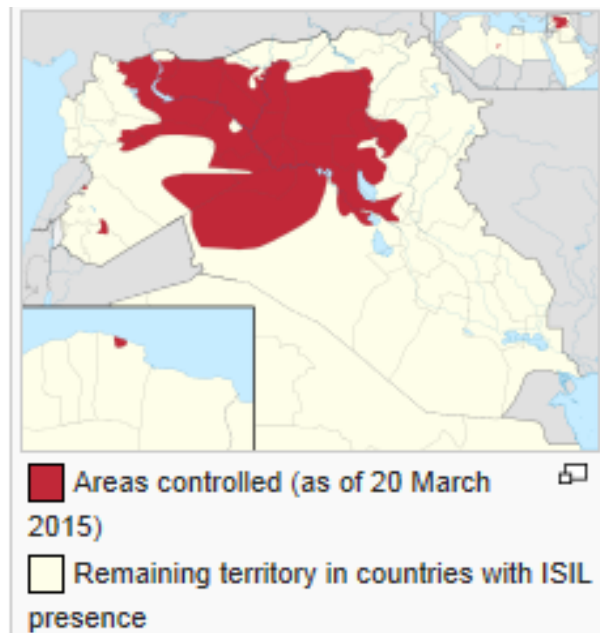
1. **Arab Spring** is a term for the revolutionary wave of demonstrations and protests (both non-violent and violent), riots, and civil wars in the Arab world that began in December 2010.
2. By December 2013, rulers had been forced from power in
  - a. Tunisia [former leader sentenced to life in prison],
  - b. Egypt (twice) [Mubarak resigned; sentenced to life in prison],
  - c. Libya [Mummar AL-QUADDAFI is overthrown, captured and killed], and
  - d. Yemen (Ali Abdullah Saleh resigns);
  - e. civil uprisings had erupted in Bahrain and Syria; major protests had broken out in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, and Sudan; and minor protests had occurred in Mauritania, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, Western Sahara, and the Palestinian territories.
3. The protests have shared some techniques of civil resistance in sustained campaigns involving strikes, demonstrations, marches, and rallies, as well as the effective use of social media to organize, communicate, and raise awareness in the face of state attempts at repression and Internet censorship.
4. Many Arab Spring demonstrations have been met with violent responses from authorities, as well as from pro-government militias and counter-demonstrators. These attacks have been answered with violence from protestors in some cases. A major slogan of the demonstrators in the Arab world has been *Ash-sha`b yurid isqat an-nizam* ("the people want to bring down the regime").

Summary

Questions/Terms  
/etc.

## P. Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

1. The **Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)**, also known as **Islamic State of Iraq and Syria** or **Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS)** or **Islamic State**, is an Islamic extremist rebel group controlling territory in Iraq and Syria, with operations in Lebanon, Libya, the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt, and other areas of Africa and Asia. On June 29, 2014, the group proclaimed itself to be a worldwide caliphate with **Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi** being named its caliph (leader) and also renamed itself **Islamic State**. The new name and the idea of a caliphate has been widely criticized and condemned, with the UN, various governments, and mainstream Muslim groups refusing to acknowledge it. As caliphate, it claims religious, political and military authority over all Muslims worldwide and that "the legality of all emirates, groups, states, and organizations, becomes null by the expansion of the khilāfah's (caliphate's) authority and arrival of its troops to their areas". Many Islamic and non-Islamic communities judge the group unrepresentative of Islam.



2. The United Nations has held ISIL **responsible for human rights abuses and war crimes**, and Amnesty International has reported **ethnic cleansing** by the group on a "historic scale". The group has been designated as a **terrorist organization** by the United Nations, the European Union, the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Malaysia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Syria, Egypt, India, and Russia. Over 60 countries are directly or indirectly waging war against ISIL.
3. The group originated in 1999 and was commonly known as al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI)—when the group pledged allegiance to al-Qaeda in 2004. The group participated in the Iraqi insurgency which had followed the March 2003 invasion of Iraq. In January 2006, it joined other Sunni insurgent groups and eventually proclaimed the formation of the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI).
4. Under the leadership of al-Baghdadi, ISI sent delegates into Syria in August 2011 after the Syrian Civil War had begun in March 2011. On 29 June 2014, the group renamed itself: 'Islamic State'.

Questions/Terms  
/etc.

5. ISIL is known for its well-funded **web and social media propaganda**, which includes Internet videos of the beheadings of soldiers, civilians, journalists, and aid workers, as well as the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage sites. A trade in ancient artefacts is used to fund group activities.
6. Goals
  - a. A significant goal of the group has been the formation of an Islamic state.
  - b. Specifically, ISIL has sought to establish itself as a Caliphate, an Islamic state led by a group of religious authorities under a supreme leader—the Caliph—who is believed to be the successor to Muhammad.
  - c. Demands the allegiance of all devout Muslims worldwide, according to Islamic jurisprudence [When the Caliphate was proclaimed, ISIL stated: "The legality of all emirates, groups, states and organizations becomes null by the expansion of the khilafah's [caliphate's] authority and arrival of its troops to their areas." This was a rejection of the political divisions in the Middle East that were established by Western powers during World War I
  - d. In late 2014, a member of ISIL claimed that they would humiliate U.S. soldiers in Syria and raise the "flag of Allah" over the White House. The same member also threatened to "liberate" Istanbul if Turkey did not open a dam that has been limiting the flow of water to Syria and Iraq. Recruits are encouraged to "set out in jihad" if they "desire what God had promised." Speaking to Westerners, one fighter from Belgium said, "God willing, the Caliphate has been established and we are going to invade you as you invaded us. We will capture your women as you captured our women. We will orphan your children as you orphaned our children."

Formation (as Jamā'at al-Tawhīd wa-al-Jihād)	1999
Joined al-Qaeda	October 2004
Declaration of an Islamic state in Iraq	October 2006
Claim of territory in the Levant	April 2013
Separated from al-Qaeda	February 2014
Declaration of Caliphate	June 2014
Claim of territory in Libya, Egypt, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Afghanistan, and Pakistan	November 2014

## Q. Syria

1. Syria gained independence in 1946 after being a part of the Ottoman Empire. It remained in a state of political instability during the 1950s and 1960s.
2. In a coup of 1970, Hafez al-Assad and his Baath Party took power. Syria was ruled autocratically by Assad during 1970–2000, and after Hafez al-Assad's death in 2000, he was succeeded by his son Bashar al-Assad.
3. Since 2011, the insurgents of the Arab Spring tried to overthrow the monarchy and a civil war has continued .....See notes from the Conflict Unit.