Unit 3
North Africa and Southwest Asia Today

Oil and religion are the most powerful forces at work in the region. Oil brings change and challenges, while Islam affects daily life and politics.
North Africa and Southwest Asia Today

SECTION 1 A Troubled Century
SECTION 2 Resources and Religion
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Section 1

A Troubled Century

Today’s conflicts in North Africa and Southwest Asia have roots in the history of the region.
European Nations Take Over

A History of Foreign Control

- In WWI, Ottoman Empire sides with Germany against Allies
  - after defeat, territory is mostly divided between Britain, France
- Foreign control of region increases after WWI, often as mandates
  - mandate—country controlled by another by international agreement
- European powers promise to give mandates independence by set date
  - non-mandate countries have to fight for independence
SECTION 1

Conflict Over Palestine

Formation of Israel
• **Palestine**—British-run Arab area Jews lived in 2,000 years ago
• In 1800s, Jews flee from Eastern European persecution to Palestine
  - after WWII, Holocaust, migration increases
• UN divides area into Jewish, Arab parts in 1947; Arabs oppose plan
• Israel becomes independent in 1948; Arab neighbors declare war on it
• Israel wins first of **Arab-Israeli Wars**

Continued . . .
Conflict Over Palestine

continued

Palestinian Refugees
• 700,000 Palestinian Arabs flee to Arab nations, settle in UN camps
• Some form Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1964
  - PLO does not recognize Israel’s right to exist

Continuing Conflict
• Israel wins third, fourth Arab-Israeli Wars in 1967, 1973
• Territory shifts back and forth between Israel, Arab countries

Continued . . .
continued Conflict Over Palestine

Attempts at Peace

• In 1979, Egypt is first Arab nation to make peace with Israel
• Palestinians in Israeli territories rebel in 1989
• In 1993 agreement PLO recognizes Israel’s right to exist
  - Israel returns land to Palestinians
• Israel, Jordan sign 1994 peace treaty
• Another Palestinian uprising breaks out in 2000
Sources of Conflict

Sunnis and Shi’ites
• Most of area’s Muslims are of Sunni sect; in Iran, most are Shi’ite
• Shi’ites are more likely to accept religious leaders in politics
• Creates conflict between Iran and neighboring Sunni Iraq

Conflict Between Ethnic Groups
• Iraqis are descendents of Arabs from Arabian Peninsula
• Iranians are descendents of Persians from Central Asia
• Different histories, languages add to conflict between Iran, Iraq

Continued . . .
Sources of Conflict

Nationalism
- 20 million Kurds in Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey want own country
  - most are Sunni Muslims, speak language related to Persian

Fundamentalism
- Muslim fundamentalists believe in strict observation of Islam
- In 1979, Shi’ite Ayatollah Khomeini takes over Iran
  - halts westernization, limits women’s freedom
- Fundamentalist movements arise in other countries
Wars in the Region

The Iran-Iraq War
• Iraq’s Saddam Hussein invades Iran in 1980 over oil territory
• After many deaths, no clear winner; both sign 1988 UN cease fire

The Persian Gulf War
• Iraq invades oil-rich Kuwait in 1990; UN puts trade embargo on Iraq
• Persian Gulf War begins January 1991; international force attacks Iraq
- Iraq surrenders in February, leaves Kuwait
- Hussein remains in power; UN embargo against Iraq continues

Continued . . .
continued Wars in the Region

War with Iraq
• In early 2000s, President George W. Bush believes Iraq is a threat
  - thinks Iraq has illegal weapons for terrorist groups
• UN Security Council does not support invasion of Iraq
  - U.S., Britain, other allies invade Iraq in March 2003

Rebuilding Iraq
• Baghdad is taken, Hussein’s regime toppled in April 2003
• In early May, Bush declares major combat operations over
Section 2

Resources and Religion

Oil resources are a powerful influence on the region’s economies, and religion, especially Islam, is a powerful influence on its culture.
The Importance of Oil

Gaining Control
• Oil found in early 1900s; Britain, France, U.S. develop oil fields
• Today, the region supplies almost half the world’s oil
• After WWII, oil industries are nationalized—government runs them
• **OPEC**—Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries—forms in 1960
  - Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, Iraq, Venezuela
    set oil prices, amounts
  - has great power; embargoes on oil exports can create shortages

*Continued . . .*
Developing New Products

- Oil is region’s most important **primary product**—raw material
- Many nations develop **secondary products**—goods from primary products
- Iraqi dates (primary product) make syrup, paper (secondary products)

**Oil Industries**

- Saudi Arabia, others refine crude oil
- Make **petrochemicals** from crude oil, natural gas
- Petrochemicals are used in cosmetics, plastics, detergents, etc.
Religion in the Region

The Influence of Islam on Culture

• Most Jews live in Israel, also in Turkey, Egypt, Iran
• Few Christian communities include Egypt’s Copts, Lebanon’s Maronites
• Islam is dominant religion, influences every country in region
• Five Pillars of Islam are part of daily life:
  - praying five times a day; many Qur’an readings on radio, television
  - all Muslims try to go on haj—pilgrimage—to Mecca once in lifetime

Continued . . .
continued Religion in the Region

Ramadan
- In ninth month of Islamic year—**Ramadan**—Muslims fast
  - do not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset
- ‘**Id al-Fitr**—Feast of the Breaking of the Fast—joyous end to Ramadan

The Muslim Calendar
- Begins in A.D. 622, the year Muhammad fled to Medina
- Each year has 12 months of about 29 days
  - year is about 11 days shorter than Western year
Westernization vs. Traditional Culture

Too Much Western Influence?
• Westernization includes fast food, T-shirts, television, rap music
  - also business, science, medicine, agricultural technology
• Many in region feel Western culture has too much influence
  - fear loss of traditional cultures
• Others are open to adopting European, American ways of life
  - feel they bring higher standard of living and easier, happier life
The Roles of Women

Education, Religion, and Rights

- In Israel, Jordan, and Egypt many women are well educated
  - hold important positions in business, politics, military
- In some countries, religion limits women’s roles
  - Saudi Arabian women cannot attend gatherings with men or drive cars
  - Saudi men can have four wives; women can only have one husband
  - few Saudi women work outside home
Clothing and Culture

Western Styles and Religious Dress

• In Israel, some people wear Western clothing
  - Orthodox Jews’ modest dress includes hats, hair ringlets for men
• In some Islamic countries, women wear *chadors*
  - long cloaks that cover everything but the eyes
  - wearing *chadors* is the law for women in Iran, Saudi Arabia
• Muslim men dress and grow facial hair according to Islamic law
A Disappearing Nomadic Culture

Nomads Settle Down

- Desert nomads once herded sheep, drove traders’ camel caravans
- Today, 1% of population is nomadic
- Trucks replace camels; droughts reduce grazing lands
- Governments make border crossings difficult
Section 3

Egypt Today

Egypt’s modernization has brought progress and problems.
The Suez Canal

**Giving Up the Canal and Control**
- Egyptian ruler Ismail Pasha builds Suez Canal in 1860s
  - cost bankrupts Egypt
- Pasha sells Egypt’s share of Canal to Britain
- Britain has some control over Egypt until 1956
From Ancient to Modern Times

Foreign Rule

- Egypt is ruled by Persians, Macedonians, Romans, Arab Muslims
- Mameluke military group rules from 1250; Ottomans invade in 1517
- France, Britain control Egypt in 1800s
  - Britain gives up absolute control in 1922
  - Britain still controls Egypt’s foreign policy, defense
- Becomes monarchy in 1922; ruled by King Faud, then King Farouk

Continued . . .
From Ancient to Modern Times

Nasser Takes Over

- Egyptian army officer Gamal Abdel Nasser resents British control
- Topples King Farouk in 1952, rules Egypt as republic until 1970

Controlling the Nile

- Nasser builds Aswan High Dam to stop Nile flooding
  - gives farmers steady water; creates electricity, fishing industry
- Nile does not deposit rich soil; artificial fertilizers pollute water
- Dam is a tradeoff—exchange of one benefit for another

Continued...
Section 3

continued From Ancient to Modern Times

Rights for Women
• Women help gain independence, but are denied vote until 1956
• Muslim Personal Status Law limits women’s marriage rights until 1979

A Search for Peace
• Egypt is anti-Israel until President Anwar Sadat signs 1979 treaty
• Leads 1990 Arab opposition of Iraq, seeks Israel-Palestine solution

The Muslim Brotherhood
• Muslim Brotherhood—extremist group seeking Islamic government
• Opposes Egypt working with Israel, U.S.
The Land and the People

Egyptian Cotton
• Most of Egypt is desert; 70% of people live, farm along Nile
• Cotton is major primary product and export, considered world’s best
  - textile industry makes secondary products such as yarns, fabrics

Village Life
• Over half the people live in villages
• Most are **fellahin**—peasant farmers
  - most are poor, uneducated; suffer from malnutrition, disease
Africa’s Largest City

The Capital of Egypt
• Once full of gardens, trees, Cairo is now paved, crowded, polluted
• Population, unemployment grow as villagers come seeking work

Life in Cairo
• Many poor live in older sections, some in cemeteries or on roofs
• Many poor have no work or are unskilled factory workers
• Most well-educated, professional people live on west bank of Nile
The Region’s Cultural Leader

Education and Information

• Egypt has been Arab’s world’s cultural leader for over a century
  - leads region in education, women’s rights
• Many Arabs get information, entertainment from Egyptian media
Section 4

Israel Today

Israel’s current problems are rooted in a long and complicated history.
From Zionism to a Modern State

The Zionist Movement

- Romans destroy Temple in A.D. 70; Jews are without a country
- **Zionism**—Jewish movement to return to Palestinian homeland (Zion)
  - some Jews establish Palestinian colonies in late 1800s

Life on a Kibbutz

- **Kibbutz**—farm village owned in common; members share labor, costs

Kibbutzim Today

- 270 kibbutzim still exist
- Israel uses drip irrigation to produce nearly all its own food
The People of Israel

Israel, a Jewish State
• Established in 1948 with Judaism as state religion; over 80% Jews
• Hebrew is first official language, Arabic is second
  - English is required in schools
• Declaration of Establishment says Israel treats all people equally
  - some feel that does not always happen

Continued . . .
Palestinian Arabs
• About 20% of Israel are Palestinian Arabs; over 90% Sunni
• Can vote, but hold few parliamentary seats; do not serve in army
• Most have low standard of living, poor education, housing, jobs
• Refugees clash with Israelis in Israeli-held Gaza Strip, West Bank

Women in Israel
• Women have always been encouraged to work outside home
• Golda Meir was prime minister from 1969 to 1974
The Law of Return

Recent Immigrants

- 1950 **Law of Return**—Jews anywhere can come to Israel, be citizens
- 3 million Jewish immigrants have arrived since 1948
- USSR let Jews leave in 1987; 1 million have arrived by 2000
- Since 1980s, Jews have come from Ethiopia, East Europe, North Africa
- Immigrants bring new skills, enrich Israeli society
Religion in Israel Today

Jewish Life in Israel

• 1 in 4 Israelis strictly follow Jewish law
  - Orthodox Jews believe Jewish law should form government policy
• Rosh Hashanah—Jewish New Year
• Yom Kippur—Day of Atonement for fasting, reflecting on sins
  - holiest day of year
• Most Israeli Jews are secular—religion has a lesser role in lives
Section 5

Turkey Today

Turkey’s culture blends modern European and traditional Islamic ways.
Between Two Worlds

Westernization

- Turkey is located between Southwest Asia and Europe
- After WWI, Turkey faced question: stay traditional or westernize?
- **Mustafa Kemal**—powerful new Turkish leader in 1920s
  - believes in Westernization, by force if necessary
A Powerful Ruler

Mustafa Kemal Becomes Atatürk

• British occupy Turkey in 1920, after Ottoman Empire’s WWI defeat
• An Ottoman officer and war hero, Kemal opposes British occupation
  - forms Grand National Assembly—legislature, becomes president
  - renames Turkey, declares it a republic, removes Islamic government
• Kemal admires Western way of life; changes alphabet, calendar
• National Assembly names him Atatürk—“Father of Turks”
Changes Brought by Modernization

Islam in Turkey
• Atatürk ends 1,000 years of Islamic law controlling Turkish life
  - believes in secular government, schools
• Some protest the reforms

Women in Turkey
• Atatürk reforms marriage laws to benefit women
• Women can vote, run for office
• In 1990s, a woman named Tansu Ciller is prime minister
Rights and Freedoms Today

The Turkish Constitution
• 1982 constitution includes freedom of speech, press
  - government does sometimes limit freedoms, especially of press

The Kurds
• Live in Turkey’s southeast mountains, and Iran, Iraq, Syria
• Have fought for own state since 1984
• Turkey forces suspected Kurdish fighters out of their homes
  - limits schools’ teaching of Kurdish, its use on television, radio
International Alliances

NATO Membership
• North Atlantic Treaty Organization forms in 1949 to oppose USSR
• Turkey joins NATO in 1952
• NATO membership ensures border protection

Joining the European Union
• Most trade is with Western Europe, so Turkey applies to EU in 1987
• EU is reluctant to include Turkey because of its unemployment
  - millions of Turks work in European countries