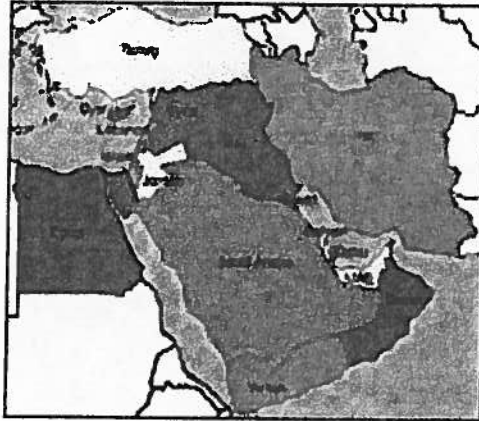


## Middle East



### Geography

- The Middle East is mainly **desert**.
- People live near the coast and rivers, often separated by hundreds of miles.
- Scarcity of fresh water is a concern.
- The **Tigris-Euphrates** (*Fertile Crescent*) river valley is a “cradle of civilization”.
- Location at the crossroads of 3 continents (Europe, Africa, Asia) has made the M.E. a trading center and important strategic location.

### History

- Ancient civilizations include –
  - **Hebrew** – monotheism, Ten Commandments
  - **Egyptian** – pyramids, astronomy
  - **Phoenicians** – alphabet
- The M.E. was *imperialized* by the Europeans, with independence following WWII.
- Israel was founded in 1948, as a homeland for the **Jews** (*Zionism*). This event caused tensions with the **Palestinians** (Arab) population that lived in Palestine. A clash of nationalism occurred over control of the land.
- Israel captured territory (West Bank, Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights) as a result of winning the **Six Days War** in 1967, which has caused continued tensions.
- The **Palestinian Liberation Organization** (PLO), originally led by **Yassir Arafat**, seeks a permanent homeland for the Palestinians and has used terrorism to achieve its goals.
- In 1978, the **Camp David Peace Accords** was signed between **Israel** (**Menachem Begin**) and **Egypt** (**Anwar Sadat**). It was mediated by US President **Jimmy Carter** in order to bring an end to war between Israel and Egypt.



- A cycle of war and peace has continued between Israel and many of its Arab neighbors.
- In 1979, **Ayatollah Khomeini** led an Islamic fundamentalist revolution in **Iran**. The revolution was a reaction to the westernization of Iran by **Shah Reza Pahlavi**. Ayatollah Khomeini declared Iran an *Islamic republic* (strict adherence to Islamic law, rights taken away from women, anti-Western). The law of the land is the **Koran**. Iran is now led by confrontational leader **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad**.
- In 1980, Iraq (**Saddam Hussein**) invaded Iran. The war lasted until 1988.
- In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. When Iraq refused to withdraw from Iraq, the U.S. and its allies began the Persian Gulf War (1991). The U.S. quickly won the war, Kuwait was liberated, but Saddam Hussein stayed in power.
- On Sept. 11, 2001 the U.S. was attacked in NYC and Washington D.C., by **al Qaeda** terrorists. The U.S. attacked Afghanistan (**Taliban**) because we accused them of harboring terrorist groups. The Taliban was removed from power in Afghanistan.
- In 2003, the U.S. invaded Iraq. The U.S. accused Iraq of harboring terrorist groups. **Saddam Hussein** was captured in Dec. 2003, tried for crimes against humanity and executed in Dec. 2006.

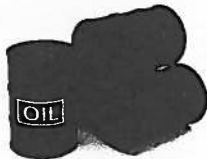


### Religion

- The Middle East is the home to 3 monotheistic religions – **Judaism, Christianity, Islam**.
- Islam is the major cultural force in the region. The spread of Islam is a good example of cultural diffusion.

### Economy

- The Middle East has 2/3 of the world's known oil reserves and oil profits are the basis of the region's economy.
- **OPEC** (*Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries*) regulates oil prices by controlling oil supply.



### Contemporary Problems

- Tensions over land (Arab-Israeli, Iran-Iraq, Iran-Kuwait, ...) and religion (Christian-Muslim, Arab-Israeli, ...) continue to be a problem.

# Middle East

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Geography</b></p> <p>Desert-</p> <p>Fertile Crescent-</p> <p>Suez Canal-</p> <p>“Crossroads of 3 Continents”-</p> <p>Abundant Natural Resource-</p> <p>Scarce Natural Resource-</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Holy Land</b></p> <p>Which 3 religions consider this area holy?</p> <p>“Jerusalem Crisis”-</p> <p>Shi’ites vs. Sunnis-</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Empires of Influence</b></p> <p>Byzantine-</p> <p>Mongols-</p> <p>Ottoman Turks-</p> <p>Christian Crusaders-</p> <p>European Imperialists-</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Golden Age of Islam</b></p> <p>When?</p> <p>What made this era so important in history?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Iran</b></p> <p>Shah Reza Pahlavi-</p> <p>Ayatollah Khomeini-</p> <p>Islamic Fundamentalism-</p> <p>“Hostages”-</p> <p>Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988)-</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key People (Early History)</b></p> <p>Constantine-</p> <p>Justinian-</p> <p>Mohammed-</p> <p>Suliman the Magnificent-</p> <p>Kemal Attaturk-</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPEC</b></p> <p>Mission-</p> <p>“Political Weapon”-</p> <p>1973 Oil Embargo-</p> <p>Success?-</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Iraq</b></p> <p>Saddam Hussein-</p> <p>Kurds-</p> <p>Persian Gulf War-</p> <p>Operation Desert Shield-</p> <p>Operation Desert Storm-</p> <p>Eco-Terrorism-</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Miscellaneous Events/People</b></p> <p>General Abdel Nasser-</p> <p>Suez Crisis-</p> <p>Civil War in Lebanon-</p> <p>Colonel Mommar Khadafi-</p>

# Middle East

## Israel

Zionism-  
Balfour Declaration-  
Effect of the Holocaust on the Rise of Israel-  
David Ben-Gurion-  
Menachim Begin-  
Yitzhak Rabin-

## Palestine

Terrorism-  
Palestinian Liberation Organization-  
Intifada-  
Yassir Arafat-  
Occupied Territories-  
Refugees-

## Conflict in the Holy Land

Partition of Palestine (1948)-  
Israel's War for Independence (1948)-  
Suez Crisis (1956)-  
Six Day War (1967)-  
Yom Kippur War (1973)-  
1987 Intifada-  
2001-2002 Intifada-  
Camp David Accords (1978)-  
What price did Anwar Sadat of Egypt pay for signing the Camp David Accords? Why?  
Attempts at Peace (1990's)-

## Terrorism

Osama bin Laden  
Al-Queda-  
 Hamas/Hezbollah/Islamic Jihad-  
Taliban-  
What complaints do the Islamic Fundamentalist terrorists have against that United States and Western European nations?  
Islamic Fundamentalism vs. Secularism  
September 11, 2001-

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) The Middle East's designation as a "cultural crossroads" developed primarily as a result of the region's
  - A) technological achievements
  - B) religious unity
  - C) political stability
  - D) geographic location
- 2) Which geographic feature has been most responsible for the population distribution in the Middle East?
  - A) presence of high plateaus
  - B) availability of natural harbors
  - C) location of water
  - D) abundance of oil deposits
- 3) Which condition is a major obstacle to economic development in the Middle East and northern Africa?
  - A) use of strip mining to obtain minerals
  - B) scarcity of water resources
  - C) reliance on capitalist economic systems
  - D) lack of access to world markets
- 4) Which statement concerning production and use of oil and gas is most accurate?
  - A) Energy resources have exceeded need in the past ten years.
  - B) The Middle East's reputation as an oil-producing region is not justified by the facts.
  - C) Energy use is out of balance with energy production in most areas of the world.
  - D) The United States energy use is consistent with its current energy resources.
- 5) One similarity among the earliest civilizations of India, China, and the Middle East is that they
  - A) developed in river valleys
  - B) established democratic types of government
  - C) evolved a belief in one God
  - D) were highly industrialized societies
- 6) The city of Jerusalem is important because it
  - A) has become the center of industrial development for Palestinian Arabs
  - B) has religious significance for Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
  - C) is a major port for Israel
  - D) serves as the financial center of the Middle East
- 7) An important long-term result of the Crusades in the Middle East was the
  - A) creation of a large Christian state on the Red Sea
  - B) restoration of the Byzantine Empire
  - C) destruction of Muslim military power
  - D) increased tension between Muslims and Christians
- 8) In the Middle East during the Golden Age of Muslim culture, scholars were encouraged to
  - A) reject all knowledge that was Western in origin
  - B) ignore the achievements of Chinese culture
  - C) preserve and expand ancient Greek and Roman learning
  - D) accept medieval western European religious ideas
- 9) The Middle Eastern leaders Kemal Ataturk, David Ben-Gurion, and Yasir Arafat are *best* known for their support of
  - A) colonialism
  - B) fascism
  - C) nationalism
  - D) communism
- 10) Since World War II, the reason the Persian Gulf region has become increasingly important to many industrialized nations is that
  - A) Egypt has undergone rapid modernization
  - B) Western nations have refused to trade with the Middle East
  - C) Israel has given economic assistance to Syria and Saudi Arabia
  - D) the economic strength of the oil-producing nations has increased
- 11) The Middle East is of global importance today because it
  - A) allows major European powers to retain their spheres of influence
  - B) remains a primary source of uranium
  - C) has become a model of economic and political equality
  - D) provides much of the petroleum used by industrial nations
- 12) The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was formed primarily to
  - A) help Middle Eastern nations form alliances with Western powers
  - B) force developing countries to abandon policies of nonalignment
  - C) give member nations more influence in world markets
  - D) allow the former Soviet Union to develop greater influence in the Middle East
- 13) Which statement *best* describes the Middle East during the 1980's and 1990's?
  - A) International cooperation brought about an era of peace.
  - B) Palestinians in the occupied territories wanted greater integration into Israeli society.
  - C) Arab unity had not been achieved.
  - D) The nations of the Middle East adopted a common foreign policy.
- 14) A major goal of *both* Zionists and Palestinian Arabs in the Middle East has been to
  - A) become leaders in the production of oil
  - B) strengthen Israel's hold on the West Bank
  - C) establish their own independent countries
  - D) unite the Middle East by a single religion

- 15) As the peace process continues in the Middle East, a major stumbling block to a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict is the question of
- land and civil rights for Palestinian Arabs
  - control of the Arabian Peninsula
  - representation of Palestinian Arabs and Israelis in the United Nations
  - ownership and operation of the Suez Canal
- 16) Which statement is *best* supported by a study of the history of the Middle East?
- Differing religious beliefs have been a frequent source of conflict in the region.
  - Few cultural and political differences are found among the nations of the region.
  - The people of the region have generally adopted the ideas and values of Western culture.
  - The nations of the region have been instrumental in the development of democratic ideals.
- 17) In 1979, the signing of the Camp David accords by Egypt and Israel indicated that
- nationalism was no longer a force in Middle Eastern politics
  - the differences between Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims had been settled
  - the Soviet Union dominated Middle Eastern affairs
  - former enemies were able to negotiate
- 18) A major cause of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979 was the concern by Islamic leaders that
- Israel had lost its influence in the Middle East
  - religious leaders were becoming too powerful
  - traditional values were being undermined by Western ideas
  - women were being denied political rights
- 19) In which Middle Eastern nation is Islamic fundamentalism the major guiding force?
- Turkey
  - Iran
  - Jordan
  - Israel
- 20) "Today, as in the past, political instability is a threat to world peace. The current political instability of the Middle East may one day draw the major powers into a war."

The author of this statement is most likely comparing the situation of the Middle East in the 1980's to that of

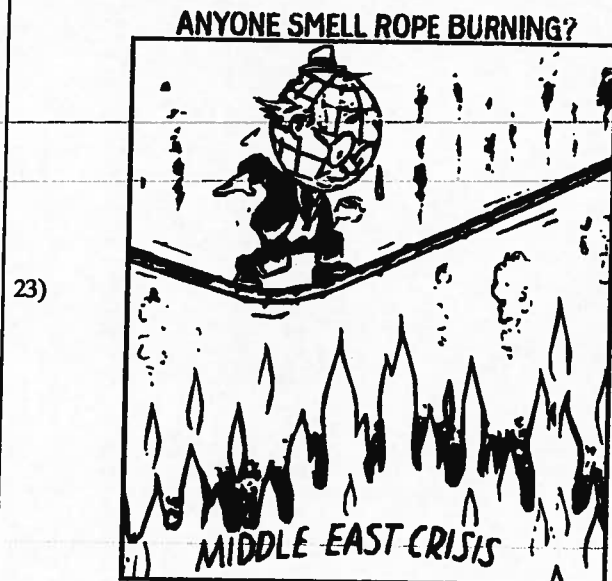
- the Balkans during the decade preceding World War I
- the United States during the decade preceding the Civil War
- Great Britain during the decade preceding the American Revolution
- the African colonies during the decade preceding World War II

- 21) In Middle Eastern society, women have increasingly been at the center of a conflict between the forces of modernization and the

- shortage of capital for industrial development
- pressure for a Palestinian homeland
- need to reduce the birth rate
- values of traditional Islamic culture

- 22) Which was the major result of the Nuremberg War Trials?

- Soldiers were required to pay for the property damages they caused during the war.
- National leaders were held personally responsible for war crimes against humanity.
- The State of Israel was created as a home for victims of the war.
- Prisoners from all countries were immediately released from captivity.



The *main* idea of the cartoon is that the crisis will

- be controlled by Western democracies
- totally destroy the Islamic religion
- eventually affect the entire world
- be confined to the Middle East