

Topic	North Africa SW & Central Asia
Cultural	The way of life of a group of people
Population Patterns	
Ethnic Diversity	Differences of groups based on lang., customs, and beliefs.
Infrastructure	Basic urban (cities) necessities streets and utilities
Arabs	Largest group in Middle East. Most are Muslims and follow the Islamic Religion. Arabic is the main language, it unified the various other languages (Egyptian, Phoenicians, Sahara Berbers)
Israelis	Israelites =Jews. Israel was created in 1948 to give Jews a Homeland. They had originally lived on the land, but the Palestinians had been living on the land for centuries. They were forced under Israeli rule. Arabs did not want the Jews on land they had lived on for centuries. Tensions between Arabs and Israelis have led to 4 wars. Only recently have the tensions lessened, but there are still many problems. All sides want Jerusalem.
Turks	From Turkey. Ancestors Ottoman Turks (Ottoman Empire). Mix of various nationalities. Language Turkish
Iranians & Afghanis	<u>Iran</u> : Descendents of Aryans. Came from Southern Russia. Speak Farsi and are Shiite Muslims <u>Afghanis</u> : Mostly Islamic. Many ethnic groups. Speak Various Languages.

Caucasians People	<p>50 ethnic groups in Caucasus area. (European) <u>Armenians</u>: Became independent from USSR 1991. They have their own language. Most are Christian. <u>Georgia</u>: Became independent from USSR 1991. Christian (Orthodox Christian) (European)</p>
Turkic Peoples	<p>Turkics live outside Turkey. Mostly Muslims. Uzbeks & Kazakhs.</p>
Kurds	<p>Speak Farsi, mostly Muslims they do not have a country of their own. Live in Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria & Caucasian land (stans). Treated badly by all.</p>
<p>Population & Resources</p>	
Vital resource	<p>Water: Everyone that has control of water wants to keep control. The rest want it. Been wars over water.</p>
Population Growth	<p>Most growth countries: Turkey, Egypt, Iran Other Growth: Morocco, Uzbek., Algeria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan. Overall growth patterns across the region are increasing.</p>
Urbanization	<p>Large Urban centers (cities) Largest Urban Areas: Istanbul, Turkey; Cairo, Egypt; Tehran, Iran; Baghdad, Iraq. Why: Young people looking for a better life. Problems: Overcrowded, not enough resources, crime, lack of jobs, disease. All of this is a lack of Infrastructure. Population density overtakes Resources.</p>



History & Government	<p>Hunters Gatherers: Traditional economy, Nomadic Herders. World's first to Domesticate animals (sheep, camels cattle, goats, and pigs). Early Civilizations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mesopotamia between Tigris and Euphrates. World's first Cultural Hearth. Fertile Crescent. 2. Sumerians(settled): improvements in soil usage, grew crops all year. Irrigation & Canals. Great strides in science, math, and engineering. Established 12 cities, with Codes of laws to keep order. Used Cuneiform (writing), used wedges-shaped symbols on clay tablets. 3. Egyptians: along the Nile. The flood plain is where the Nile would flood the plains and deposit rich soil, for agriculture. Also used irrigation allowed different crops to be grown all year. Developed 365 day calendar. Built the Pyramids. Created picture writing Hieroglyphics.
Empires & Trade	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Persian Empire: 500 B.C. Empire extended from Nile to the Aegean Sea. Developed Qanats underground canals because they realized water evaporates. 2. Silk Trade: Trade from Asia. Connected through trade, Asia to the Mediterranean. 3. Mongols: Genghis Khan and his nomads terrorized SE Asia, killed tens of thousands, but it led safer trade routes, and the use of paper money.
Religion Revisited	<p>3 Major</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Judaism: oldest monotheism (1 GOD) religion. Torah: Hebrew bible (old Testament)

The Modern Era	<p>2. Christianity: started at 30 AD. Jesus Christ. New Testament: Bible Jerusalem: Holy Land</p> <p>3. Islam: Largest Group in region. 610 AD. God (Allah) spoke to Muhammad, he was from Makkah (Mecca). Muhammad was his prophet. Today 1/5 of the world is Muslim. Hajj the pilgrimage to Mecca. Quran: Islamic bible</p>
Independence	<p>Wars: Crusades & Mongols Lack of resources made this region vulnerable to Europe. Russia also took control of central Asia (the Stans). The Caucasus people profited and became the new middle class, which led to the demand for development of modern countries (Nationalism)</p>
Arab-Israeli Conflict pt2	<p>After the World Wars, European and Russian control in the region gradually ended. By 1960 most of the region was politically free. 1990's was the final push for independence in the region, with the seizure of foreign owned property in their countries</p>
War in Afghanistan	<p>After WWII, Jewish people wanted their own land. They took it from Palestinians. Both sides want land. 1993 started first stages of peace. 1998 Israel gave Palestinians limited control of the Gaza Strip. 2000 violence again. On-going violence and peace talks are going on today.</p>
Border Conflicts	<p>The Taliban was born here. Fought against all western intruders (Russia). America helped the freedom fighters, Lead by Osama Bin Laden.</p>

Today's Government	<p>Very small group of Muslim extremists. NOT ALL MUSLIMS ARE TERRORISTS! After 9/11 we declared war on Afghanistan.</p> <p>Arab countries have border disputes. Iraq and Iran, Kuwait and Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and Israel and Everyone. Lead to the Gulf War when Iraq invaded Kuwait.</p> <p>Today all the countries are still trying to find their place in the region. Democracy is starting to take hold in some countries (Iraq and Afghanistan).</p> <p>Religions: All want control</p> <p>Languages: Arabic #1 because people who became Muslim learned Arabic to read the Quran. Other languages include Hebrew, Farsi, Berber, Turkish, and Pashto.</p> <p>Arts: Ziggurats (temple Meso. and Sum.), Pyramids, Hieroglyphics, Calligraphy, Geometric patterns, elaborate Mosques, and textiles (clothing & material).</p> <p>Literature: Poetry and Epic stories. Today more of a Western influence. Some are now writing more about traditional stories. "The thousand and One Nights" , "Rubaiyat" translated into all languages</p> <p>Everyday life:</p> <p>1/3 pop. Under 15</p> <p>Bedouins: Nomads, desert dwellers, very small group now.</p> <p>Families are close knit groups.</p> <p>People go to Bazaars (farmers market or swap meet) to sell their goods.</p> <p>Most countries' populations have exceeded their resources.</p>
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Education: Most young attend school. Primary is free. Enrollment has gone up. 75% literacy rate. 90% of adults can read and write. A very small percent make it to college (money). Women now make up half of new university students.

Health care has improved, especially in wealthier countries.

Party Time:

Five times a day worship (Muslims).

Religious Holidays: Id al Adha (feast of sacrifice), Yom Kippur and Passover (Jewish Holiday), Christmas (Christian)

Relaxing time: visit family, sports, board games (chess), women can only participate and view women's sports

North Africa, SW and Central Asia TODAY

Food is scarce, oil profits are used to buy food. Only a small part of the land is **arable** 12% (suitable for farming)
Fishing serves alternate food source.
Main Exports are petroleum and oil. Economic goods that are exported are known as **commodities**.

The region has begun to start industries using **petrochemicals** (products derived from petroleum). Some of the things created fertilizer, medicines, plastics and paints. Taking away the production of finished products from the West.

Service industries: banking, real estate, insurance, financial services and tourism.

GDP: Gross domestic product The value of goods and services in a country in a year. Directly related to the value of the country's currency.

In some parts such as Mecca, are tourism centers, seeing thousands of people daily.

Transportation and communications:

Roads, Railroads, and Airlines

Waterways and pipelines: **Suez Canal** (Connects Red Sea and the Med.)

Communications: TV, Radio, Cells, Internet (governments do try to control them)

Interdependence:

More and more the countries in this region must rely on each other, for water, food and oil production.

OPEC: Organization of Petroleum Exporting

Countries.

Algeria, Libya, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates. They decide how much will be pumped, thus affecting the price of oil worldwide.

WATER is still the number one necessary resource. They get their water from rivers, and aquifers. Desalination Plants (Takes salt out of sea water) are becoming more the norm in this region.

Libya: Created two pipelines to bring water to their country (Man Made Rivers)

Aswan Dam: In Cairo, Egypt. But it is now causing problems with the flood plains along the Nile.

Major water problems:

- 1. Dead Sea is drying up**
- 2. Caspian Sea is overfished and polluted**
- 3. Aral Sea has had so much water diverted for drinking and irrigation that it is now a series of small lakes.**