

SECTION 2

FORCES SHAPING THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST

TEXT SUMMARY

Diversity and nationalism have shaped the Middle East. While most of its people are Muslim, the lands are also home to Jews and Christians. People in the Middle East speak many languages and belong to different cultures. These differences have led to conflict. Likewise, nationalism caused turmoil. Europeans created borders for their Middle Eastern colonies, forcing people of different races and religions to live together. With independence, the artificial divisions led to armed clashes. At the same time, some Arabs dreamed of one unified Arab state.

Resources have had a powerful impact on the region. The discovery of oil brought

power to some Middle Eastern nations, but oil resources are unevenly distributed across the region. The oil-rich nations are able to pay for their own development while those that lack oil must go without. Another precious resource, water, may soon be more important than oil. Nations argue over water rights but also work together to solve water problems.

In many countries, the laws of Islam shape every part of life from government to family to fashion. In the 1950s and 1960s, some people began to take on western styles. Muslim leaders blamed problems on the new ways. By the 1990s, a return to Islam united much of the Muslim world. While Islamic reformers often rejected westernization, they did not reject modernization.

THE BIG IDEA
Ethnic and religious diversity and an Islamic revival are some of the forces shaping the Middle East today.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: Forces Shaping the Middle East

Religious and Ethnic Differences	Natural Resources	Governments	Islamic Traditions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslims, Christians, and Jews • Different sects within religions • More than 30 languages • Religious, racial, and cultural prejudices • Desire for a united Arab state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest oil fields in the world in parts of the region • Oil-rich nations gain wealth and political and economic power • Limited water supply • Arguments over dams and water rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Democracy in Israel and Turkey • Rule by royal family in Jordan and Saudi Arabia • Single-party dictators in Iraq and Syria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laws of Islam influence government, society, and personal life • Anti-western feelings • 1990s revival of Islamic traditions

These forces have created a land of unrest where people fight to claim their lands, defend their faith, and guard their wealth.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What religion has the most influence on the way of life in the Middle East?
2. **Chart Skills** Explain how two resources have shaped the Middle East.

NATION BUILDING IN THE MIDDLE EAST: THREE CASE STUDIES

TEXT SUMMARY

Turkey, Egypt, and Iran have the largest populations in the Middle East. All are Muslim, but each has its own history.

Turkey, after years of military rule, set up a democracy in the 1920s. Then, it joined NATO in the 1950s. In the 1990s, Muslim leaders challenged the tradition of secular government. Ethnic conflicts troubled Turkey. It once aimed to stamp out the culture of the Kurds, but eventually let up. Battles over the island of Cyprus led Greeks and Turks to divide that land in the 1970s.

Since 1950, Egypt has had three strong leaders. Gamal Abdel Nasser ended foreign control and modernized Egypt. He ended British control of the Suez Canal, set up a socialist economy, and built Arab pride. Under Nasser, Egypt lost two wars

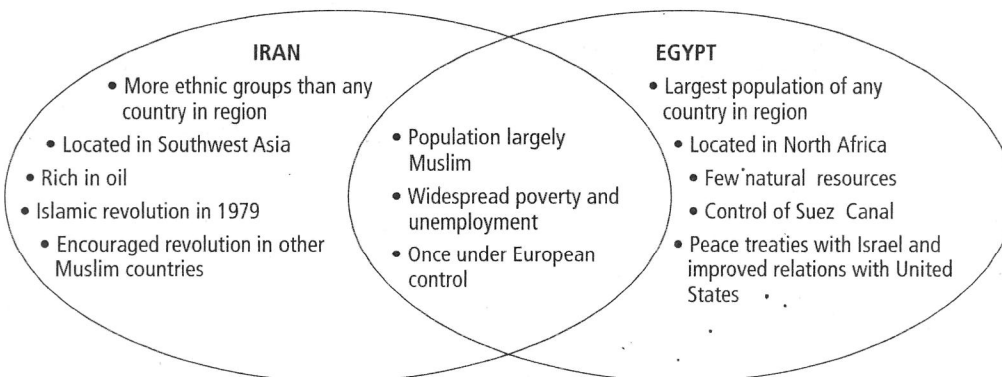
with Israel. In 1970, Anwar Sadat opened doors to private and foreign business. He formed ties with the United States but angered Arabs by making peace with Israel. After Sadat was assassinated in 1981, Hosni Mubarak kept the peace with Israel and improved relations with other Arab lands.

With Western help, the **shah**, or ruler, of oil-rich Iran built industry. He gave land to peasants, granted rights to women, and removed religion from government. However, he used force to keep control. In 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini led a revolt and the shah fled to America. Khomeini died in 1989. More moderate leaders tried to build a modern Iran while staying true to Islam.

THE BIG IDEA

Turkey, Egypt, and Iran have faced similar issues, but have followed separate paths.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: Two Nations of the Middle East



While Egypt and Iran share some of the same problems, each has issues of its own.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What steps did Nasser take to end foreign control of Egypt?
2. **Diagram Skills** How do natural resources differ in Iran and in Egypt?

THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE WORLD

TEXT SUMMARY

Shipping routes and oil fields make conflicts in the Middle East global concerns. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union and the United States each had allies in the region.

In the battle over Palestine, America helped Israel and the Soviets aided the Arabs. Both Arabs and Jews saw Palestine as a **homeland**, or country of one's ancestors. Wars broke out in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973.

Israel, the Jewish state, fought off Arab attacks, took land, and forced Palestinian Arabs from their homes. The Palestinians answered with terrorist attacks. Although Israel reached a historic agreement with the Palestinians in 1993, some Arabs and Jews accused leaders of giving up "promised lands."

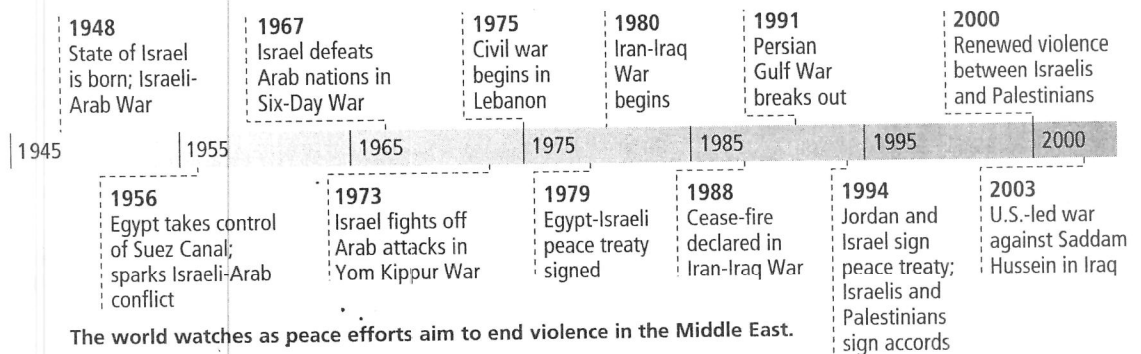
Some Palestinian Muslims fled to Lebanon. There, Muslims fought Christians and Muslim sects fought each other. In 1983, a UN force pulled out after Muslim terrorists killed French and American troops. By 1990, some order returned to Lebanon.

The Persian Gulf has seen three big conflicts. In 1980, an Iran-Iraq War threatened ships and oil fields. In 1987, the United States Navy went to the Gulf to protect the flow of oil. In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait to seize oil fields. The United States saw this action as a threat to Saudi Arabia and the oil flow. In the 1991 Gulf War, United States bombs pounded Iraq while troops freed Kuwait. The war, however, did not destroy Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein or end Middle East tensions. In 2003, a United States-led coalition invaded Iraq and toppled Hussein's regime.

THE BIG IDEA

Global concern arises over conflicts in the Middle East because of vital shipping routes and natural resources.

GRAPHIC SUMMARY: Conflict in the Middle East: 1948–2005



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Explain the role the United States played in two Middle East conflicts.
2. **Time Line Skills** Which Arab nation was the first to sign a peace treaty with Israel?

SURVEY CHAPTER 35
MODERN ERA CHAPTER 22**Test****IDENTIFYING MAIN IDEAS**

Write the letter of the correct answer in the blank provided. (10 points each)

- _____ 1. Why was the nation of Pakistan created?
A. to allow the British to remain powerful in India
B. to persuade the Hindus to give up territory
C. to give Hindus and Muslims their own states
D. to end centuries of fighting
- _____ 2. Whose side did Pakistan take during the Cold War?
A. India's
B. no one's side
C. the Soviet Union's
D. that of the United States
- _____ 3. The word or phrase that best describes the oil resources of the Middle East is
A. sparse.
B. unevenly distributed.
C. thinly but evenly distributed.
D. nonexistent.
- _____ 4. Which is the most highly valued natural resource in the Middle East?
A. timber
B. sand
C. water
D. farmland
- _____ 5. While Islamic reformers rejected westernization, they did not reject
A. democratization.
B. secularism.
C. Americanization.
D. modernization.
- _____ 6. Which of the following moves by Nasser helped end foreign intervention in Egypt?
A. undermining the authority of the military
B. building the Aswan High Dam
C. inviting foreign investment in Egypt
D. seizing control of the Suez Canal
- _____ 7. What action by Sadat angered Arab states?
A. He made peace with Israel.
B. He led two wars against Israel.
C. He built the Aswan High Dam.
D. He cracked down on terrorists.
- _____ 8. The conflict between Palestinians and Jews in Palestine centered around
A. differences in religion.
B. the claim by both groups that it was their homeland.
C. disagreements over borders.
D. the role of the British in Palestine.
- _____ 9. In 1993, a historical agreement was signed between
A. Israel and the PLO.
B. Hamas and the PLO.
C. Israel and Syria.
D. Iraq and Iran.
- _____ 10. In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait to
A. seize oil fields.
B. settle a border dispute.
C. overthrow the Kuwaiti leader.
D. protect Saudi Arabia.