

Guide to Reading

Section Preview

Religious traditions have shaped the history of this subregion.

Content Vocabulary

- culture hearth (p. 452)
- natural boundary (p. 453)
- cuneiform (p. 452)
- embargo (p. 453)
- qanats (p. 452)
- ziggurat (p. 454)

Academic Vocabulary

- participate (p. 451)
- assumed (p. 453)

Places to Locate

- Turkey (p. 451)
- Iran (p. 451)
- Iraq (p. 451)
- Tehran (p. 452)
- Mesopotamia (p. 452)
- Fertile Crescent (p. 452)
- Persian Empire (p. 452)

Reading Strategy

Identifying As you read about the Northeast subregion, complete a graphic organizer similar to the one below by filling in the major ethnic groups of each country.

Country	Ethnic Groups
Iran	
Iraq	
Turkey	

INDIANA ACADEMIC STANDARDS
 Geography and History of the World

GHW.1.1, GHW.1.2, GHW.1.4, GHW.2.1, GHW.2.2, GHW.3.1, GHW.3.2, GHW.3.3, GHW.4.3, GHW.4.4, GHW.5.1, GHW.5.2, GHW.5.5, GHW.6.1, GHW.6.3, GHW.6.5, GHW.7.1, GHW.7.2, GHW.7.4, GHW.8.1, GHW.10.1, GHW.10.2, GHW.10.3, GHW.10.6

In a region where cultures are fundamentally tied to religions, Islam is the most practiced of them all. For hundreds of years, it has defined people's lives and is now the fastest-growing religion in the world.

 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VOICES AROUND THE WORLD

“Borne aloft five times a day, from Shanghai to Chicago, Jakarta to Timbuktu, the music of Islam’s call to prayer stirs the soul of devout Muslims everywhere. Whether cast from metal loudspeakers over teeming city streets or lifted as the murmured song of camel drivers kneeling in the sand, it begins with the same Arabic phrase Muslims have used for nearly 1,400 years, Islam’s melodic paean to the Creator.”

—Don Belt, “The World of Islam,”
National Geographic, January 2002

An Iraqi man at morning prayer



Population Patterns

MAIN Idea Ethnic diversity and the Muslim religion have profoundly shaped the population of the Northeast subregion.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU How many different ethnic groups exist in your city or town? Read to learn about the similarities and differences among the peoples of the Northeast subregion.

Descendants of the ancient civilizations in this region continue to exert a cultural, political, and social influence today.

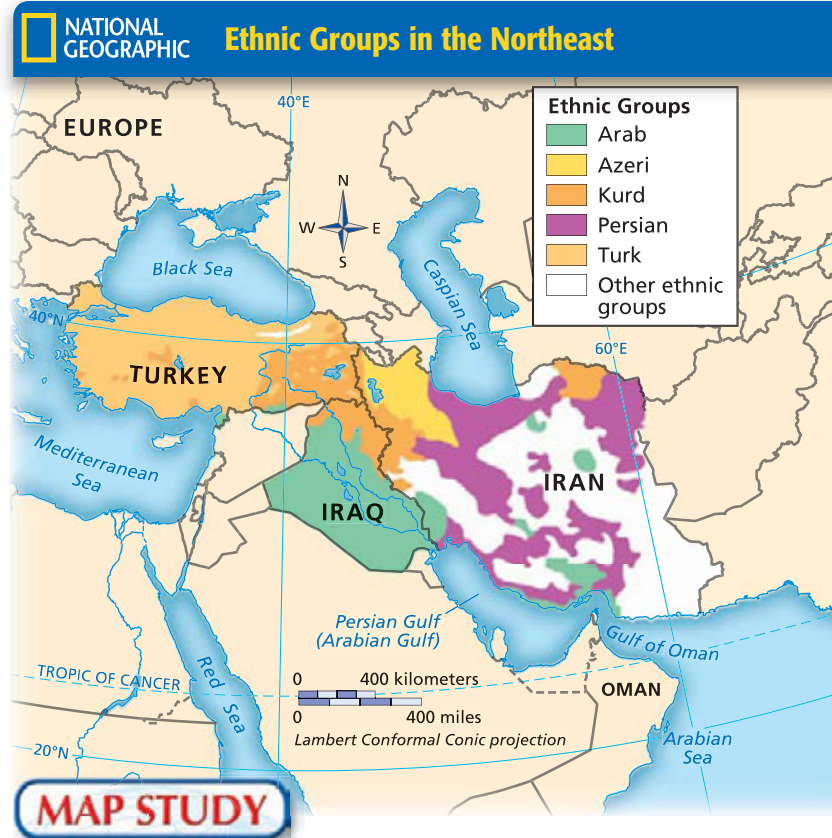
The People

Ethnic populations in the Northeast migrated from Central Asia and the Arabian Peninsula. Though their languages and customs connect with their ancestral homes, the religion of Islam is a dominant aspect of these cultures.

Turks Over the past 8,000 years, many peoples have occupied Anatolia, the Asian part of what is today the country of **Turkey**. Each group added its own customs and beliefs to the area's culture. Turkic peoples migrated to the peninsula in the A.D. 1000s from Central Asia. One group, known as the Ottoman Turks, later built the Ottoman Empire, which ruled much of the eastern Mediterranean world for more than 600 years. Most Turks practice Islam and speak the Turkish language. Their culture blends Turkish, Islamic, and Western elements.

Iranians Almost 67 million people live in **Iran**, a land that was once called Persia. The word *Iran* means “land of the Aryans.” Many Iranians believe they are descendants of the Aryans (AR•ee•uhnzh), Indo-Europeans who migrated into the region from southern Russia around 1000 B.C. The Persians, or Iranians, managed to maintain their culture and language even when invaded numerous times over the centuries. Iranians speak Farsi, also called Persian, and almost 90 percent of them practice the Shia branch of Islam.

Arabs With ethnic ties to the Arabian Peninsula, the majority of people living in **Iraq** are Arabs. Most Arabs in Iraq are Shia Muslims, and about 35 percent are Sunni Muslims. Arabic is the language most commonly spoken in Iraq.



- 1. Place** In which countries are Kurds found?
- 2. Human-Environment Interaction** Compare the physical map on page 412 of the Regional Atlas to the map above. Why do you think Iran is more ethnically diverse than its neighbors?

Kurds The Kurds have lived for more than 2,000 years in the mountainous border areas of Turkey, Iraq, and Iran. Most Kurds are Sunni Muslims and speak Kurdish, a language related to Farsi. Their customs and dress also differ from those of the Arabs in the region. The Kurds have no country of their own, though they call their territory Kurdistan. Many Kurds often **participate** in efforts to win self-rule. However, such efforts have been repeatedly crushed by their Turkish and Arab rulers. A Kurdish shepherd expresses the views of many Kurds:

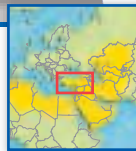
“The Arabs have punished us too much, for too long,” [says Omar Rahan]....“They attacked this village in 1977, then again in 1986 and 1991. They destroyed every house, every tree. Every time we came back and rebuilt.”

—Frank Viviano, “The Kurds in Control,”
National Geographic, January 2006



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

As a result of various historical influences, Turkish culture is a combination of traditional customs and an effort toward modernization.



Place What civilizations and empires have left a lasting impression on the Northeast subregion?

Density and Distribution

The Northeast's most populous countries are Turkey and Iran, each having nearly 70 million residents. About 29 million people live in Iraq.

Large cities and towns are common in this subregion. More than half of Iranians and Turks live in cities. Most of the population in Iraq lives in the area that stretches from Baghdad to the Persian Gulf. Population densities range from 110 people per square mile (43 per sq. km) in Iran to 244 per square mile (94 per sq. km) in Turkey.

The large urban areas of Istanbul, Turkey; **Tehran**, Iran; and Baghdad, Iraq, dominate social and cultural life in their respective countries. Many cities have become overcrowded due to the rapid influx of villagers seeking a better life. Some cities have tried to cope by installing traffic control systems and improving public transportation. Iran has tried another solution—moving some of its government offices to various towns and villages away from its capital, Tehran. By doing so, Iran hopes to improve services in outlying areas and slow Tehran's rapid growth.

READING Check **Regions** Which ethnic group that lives in Iran, Iraq, and Turkey has not been able to claim self-rule?

History and Government

MAIN Idea Ancient empires and thriving civilizations influenced the early history of the Northeast, which today is being shaped by the oil industry and relations with the outside world.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU Which ethnic groups have lived in your part of the country for centuries, and which are newer arrivals? Read to learn about the rise and fall of empires in the Northeast.

Some of the world's greatest civilizations have flourished in the Northeast. Many discoveries made during the height of these civilizations shaped the subregion's history.

Civilizations and Empires

Many civilizations arose in **Mesopotamia**, the area between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. This area became one of the world's first **culture hearths**, or centers where cultures developed and spread outward. Mesopotamia was part of a large, rich agricultural region known as the **Fertile Crescent**.

Mesopotamia was home to the Sumerian civilization. The Sumerians mastered farming by growing crops year-round and by using canals to irrigate them. They made great strides in mathematics and engineering and created a code of law. They kept records by using a writing system called **cuneiform** (kyu•NEE•uh•FAWRM), wedge-shaped symbols written on clay tablets.

The Phoenician civilization, which began along the eastern Mediterranean coast around 3000 B.C., traded widely across the Mediterranean. They also developed a revolutionary new alphabet in which letters stood for sounds that formed the basis for many modern alphabets.

During the 500s B.C., the **Persian Empire** extended across the region. One of the Persians' great engineering achievements was the building of **qanats**, or underground canals. They knew that irrigation water would evaporate in surface canals, so they built these underground canals to deliver water from the mountains to their farmlands.

The Ottoman Empire, which lasted for 600 years, was centered in present-day Turkey. It spanned an area that covered northern Africa, western Asia, and southeastern Europe.

The Modern Era

Western Europe controlled large areas of the Northeast by the late 1800s. Britain controlled Iraq until 1932, and since then Iraq has experienced periods of turmoil, including the more recent Iraq War with the United States.

The Ottoman Empire came to an end during World War I. The empire was finished, but the country of Turkey was established in 1923. The secular republic is now a candidate to join the European Union.

Today's Iran borders Iraq on the eastern side of the Zagros Mountains. The mountains provide a physical boundary, also called a **natural boundary**. Modern Iranians have experienced political and social upheavals as well. In 1979 the nation's secular government was overthrown during the Islamic Revolution. Clerics, or mullahs, came to power and continue to dominate the country's politics to this day.

The Era of Oil

The discovery of oil in the Persian Gulf in the early 1900s did not immediately bring riches to this region. Over time, however, the wells produced a large quantity of oil and came under the control of regional powers. In the late 1950s, the Gulf states of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, along with Venezuela, formed the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). This group agreed to regulate production in order to keep oil prices high. As the demand for oil grew, OPEC gradually **assumed** more power. In 1973 OPEC imposed an **embargo**, or a ban on trade, on oil when it became angered over the Arab-Israeli War.

READING Check **Human-Environment Interaction**
How did the discovery of oil in the Northeast influence power in the subregion?

Culture

MAIN Idea Religion and language shape everyday life in the Northeast subregion.

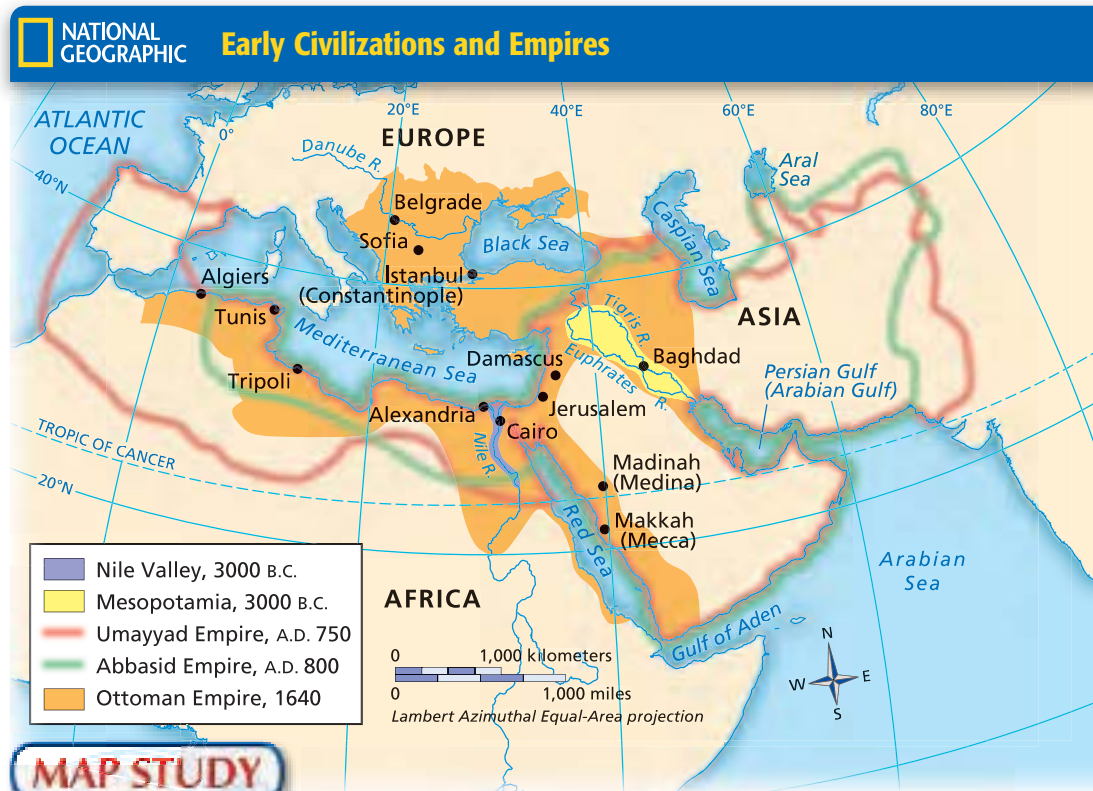
GEOGRAPHY AND YOU In what ways does sharing a language with your peers affect your everyday life? Read to learn how Islam influences life in Iran, Iraq, and Turkey.

Even though Islam is the dominant religion in the Northeast subregion, each country has unique cultural characteristics.

Language and Religion

Though most people who live in Islamic countries of the Northeast speak Arabic, this is not the case in Iran and Turkey. Turkic peoples speak Turkish in Turkey, and Persians speak Persian, or Farsi, in Iran, which was once called Persia.

Shia Muslims are the most populous religious group in both Iraq and Iran. In Turkey, the majority of those who practice Islam are Sunni.



- 1. Location** Which body of water lies southeast of the Tigris-Euphrates area?
- 2. Regions** Compare this map to the political map on page 414 of the Regional Atlas. Which present-day country in the Northeast subregion was not part of the Ottoman Empire?

Use **StudentWorks™ Plus** or **glencoe.com**.



Culture

The Arts

The Iranian city of Eşfahān is the center of production of the Persian rug. Eşfahān rugs—which are considered the most consistently fine wool rugs made in the world today—are knotted on silk or cotton foundations, with up to 400 knots per square inch.



Education and Health Care

Education is required through grade 6 in Iraq and grade 8 in Turkey. The literacy rate is 80 percent in Iran and 86 percent in Turkey. Before the revolution, less than 50 percent of Iranians could read or write. However, since Iran’s Islamic Revolution, efforts have been made to reform education from a secular to a religious focus.

Health care in the subregion varies. Iraq is struggling to rebuild its hospitals since the Persian Gulf War in 1991. In other countries, hospitals are government-owned but often suffer from doctor shortages in rural areas.

The Arts

The early civilizations created sculptures, fine metalwork, and large buildings. In Mesopotamia the Sumerians built large, mud-brick temples called **ziggurats**, which were shaped like pyramids and rose high above the flat landscape.

Literature in the Northeast is based on strong oral tradition, epics, and poetry. The *Rubáiyát* by the Persian poet Omar Khayyám is an example.

READING Check **Regions** What challenges do educational systems in the Northeast face?

SECTION 3 REVIEW

Vocabulary

1. Explain the significance of: culture hearth, cuneiform, *qanat*, natural boundary, embargo, ziggurat.

Main Ideas

2. Describe the ways in which ethnic diversity and Islam have profoundly shaped the population of the Northeast.
3. How are the oil industry and relations with the outside world shaping the subregion today?
4. List examples of how religion and language shape everyday life in the Northeast subregion.
5. Use a table like the one below to list important contributions made by the following ancient civilizations and empires.

Civilization	Contributions
Mesopotamia	
Sumeria	
Phoenicia	
Persia	

Critical Thinking

6. **Big Idea** Has the religion of Islam unified the different cultures of this subregion? Give examples.
7. **Determining Cause and Effect** What are the main causes of conflict in the subregion today?
8. **Analyzing Visuals** Compare the physical map on page 412 of the Regional Atlas with the map of early civilizations on page 453. How did location and environment aid the development of Mesopotamia?

Writing About Geography

9. **Narrative Writing** Think about the language, religion, education, and customs in this subregion. Then write an essay comparing the ways of life there with your own.

Geography  **ONLINE**

Study Central™ To review this section, go to glencoe.com and click on Study Central.



COMPARING İSTANBUL AND SINGAPORE: What factors were involved in the location and growth of these two cities?

Both İstanbul and Singapore are located at important crossroads for international trade, resulting in their status as two of the world’s greatest commercial centers. In the Middle Ages, European demand for Eastern goods led to the rise of İstanbul as a key link between Europe and Asia. When the Ottoman Empire gained control of the city in the 1400s, Europeans had to find a new way to transport goods between Europe and Asia. The water route they found made Singapore one of the major outposts for trade between Europe and Asia.

What is the significance of İstanbul’s location?

İstanbul—called Byzantium until 330 A.D. and then Constantinople—is Turkey’s most populous city, and its cultural and financial center. Between 750 B.C. and 550 B.C., the Greeks, seeking good farmland and increased trade, developed the site of İstanbul. For centuries after the Greeks, empires fought over İstanbul because of its location. Situated on two continents (Europe and Asia), it controlled a narrow passageway where overland trade routes crossed the peninsula. The

water surrounding the city made it easy to defend and gave it control of the important passage between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. These advantages helped İstanbul become a wealthy trading city, and eventually Europe’s largest city during the Middle Ages.

Until the 1100s, İstanbul was Europe’s chief center for the exchange of products between West and East. European demand was great for goods like silk from China and spices from Southeast Asia and India. In the late 1200s the Ottoman Empire recognized the strategic importance of İstanbul’s location. In 1453 the Ottomans laid siege to the city and established it as their capital. With the Ottoman Empire in control of this important crossroads, Europeans looked to the seas for trading routes to Asia.

How did Singapore become a major trading port?

Like İstanbul, Singapore’s location provides the island nation with a distinct economic and defensive advantage. Singapore is located at the tip of the Malay Peninsula, at the mouth of the Strait of Malacca, which passes between present-day Malaysia and Sumatra.



Urban Growth

The Strait of Malacca is a main waterway connecting the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea.

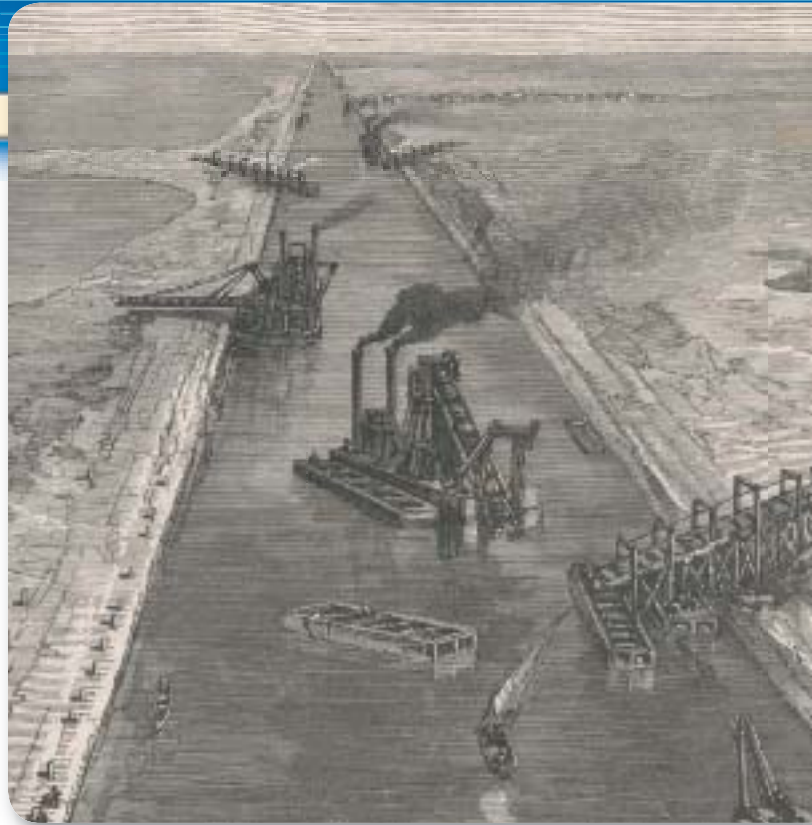
By the late-1400s, while the Ottoman Empire controlled İstanbul, Europeans looked for a water route to Asia. The Strait of Malacca became a viable alternative. In the 1500s the Portuguese gained control of the Malay Peninsula, establishing their main outpost at Malacca, just north of Singapore Island. The British were also experiencing expanding trade in the East Indies (the islands of Southeast Asia and the Malay Peninsula) and saw the need to set up a port in the area. In 1795 the British captured Malacca, but realized the need for a strategic settlement that would protect their merchant fleet as it entered the strait. Sir Thomas Raffles of the British East India Company surveyed many islands in the area and, on January 29, 1819, landed on Singapore. Recognizing the island's strategic location, he immediately began negotiations to set up a port. The city of Singapore soon became the major trading port for vessels traveling through the Strait of Malacca.

In 1869 the opening of the Suez Canal catapulted Singapore toward becoming one of the world's most important trade centers. Before the canal, European ships bound for Asia had to first circumnavigate Africa. The canal opened a direct route from Europe to Asia. Vessels journeyed from the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal to access the Red Sea. Ships then sailed on across the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean to arrive in Asia. As a result, Singapore became a central commercial port for ships traveling between Europe and Asia, and its population and economy exploded.

How do the cities compare?

Both cities had a foothold in the ever-growing trade between the East and the West at different points in history, resulting in the rise of both cities as principal trading powers. İstanbul reached its height of power in the twelfth century, and Singapore reached its height in the 1800s.

Today, İstanbul and Singapore are still leading trade hubs as well as important manufacturing centers. While İstanbul outranks Singapore in terms of GDP, Singapore has a much higher GDP per capita and is considered the busiest port in the world. Much of Singapore's income is generated through entrepôt trade. An entrepôt is a place where goods can be imported and exported without the cost of duties, and traders often sell their goods there rather than travel the full length of a trade route. The entrepôt in turn sells those goods throughout the rest of the trade route for a profit.



▲ In 1869, completion of the Suez Canal allowed ships to sail from Europe to Asia without navigating all the way around the southern tip of Africa.

Manufacturing is also important to both cities. Singapore's economy relies heavily on the manufacture and export of electronics and information technology products. İstanbul, on the other hand, derives much of its income from the textiles and clothing industry. Its economy is shifting, however, toward the automobile and electronics industries.

Strategically located between the East and the West, İstanbul and Singapore are historically valuable trading centers. Even so, as markets have shifted and technology has expanded global exchange, both cities have had to adapt to the world's changing economic needs. Today, centuries later, İstanbul and Singapore still enjoy the benefits of world trade, but have broadened into new markets that include such industries as manufacturing, tourism, and information technology. Both cities are experiencing continued economic growth.

THINKING CRITICALLY

1. **Identifying** Where is İstanbul located, and why is it located there?
2. **Describing** When did Singapore develop and why?
3. **Comparing** How are the locations of İstanbul and Singapore similar?



SECTION 4

The Arabian Peninsula

Guide to Reading

Section Preview

The desert climate and coastal regions, along with the religion of Islam, have formed today's Arabian Peninsula.

Content Vocabulary

- sheikhdom (p. 458)
- hajj (p. 458)
- shari'ah (p. 458)
- ibadhim (p. 458)
- emir (p. 458)

Academic Vocabulary

- labor (p. 458)
- dominant (p. 458)
- priority (p. 458)

Places to Locate

- Kuwait (p. 456)
- Saudi Arabia (p. 456)
- Bahrain (p. 456)
- Oman (p. 456)
- Yemen (p. 456)
- United Arab Emirates (p. 456)
- Qatar (p. 456)

Reading Strategy

Taking Notes As you read about the Arabian Peninsula, use the major headings of the section to create an outline similar to the one below.

- I. Population Patterns
 - A.
 - B.
- II. History and Government

INDIANA ACADEMIC STANDARDS Geography and History of the World

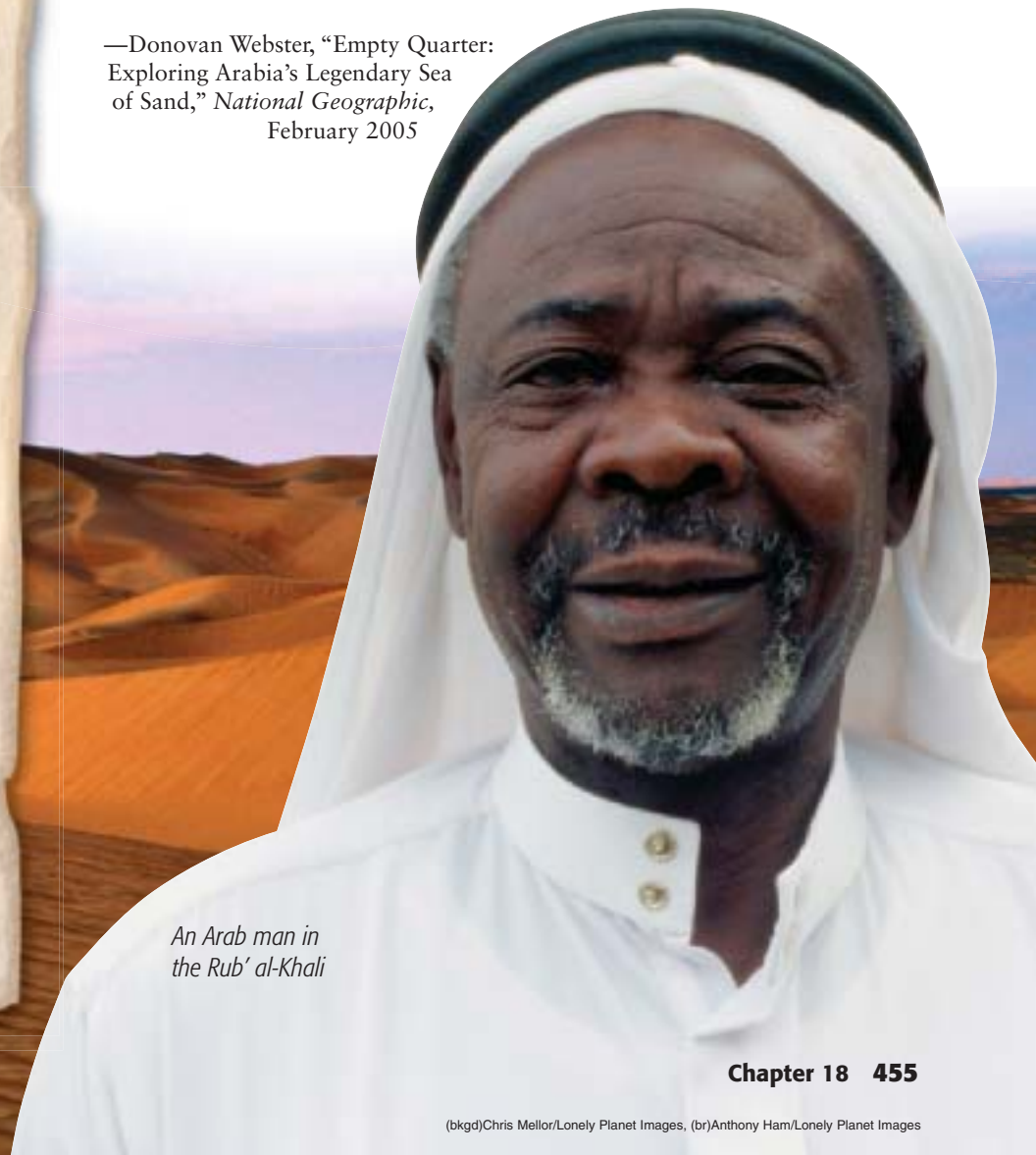
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The Arabian Peninsula is a mix of tradition and modernity, of religion and growing commerce. The one element in the region that has not changed over time is the Arabian Desert's severe climate. Throughout history, the people of the peninsula have adapted to its climate, especially the nomadic peoples.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VOICES AROUND THE WORLD

"For thousands of years this territory has resisted settlement as one of the Earth's hottest, driest, and most unyielding environments. Yet it's also home to a culture on the edge, a proud bedouin society working to adapt its mix of Islam, ancient tribal custom, and newfound oil riches to a demanding and fast-paced modern world."

—Donovan Webster, "Empty Quarter: Exploring Arabia's Legendary Sea of Sand," *National Geographic*, February 2005



An Arab man in the Rub' al-Khali

Population Patterns

MAIN Idea A shared religion, a common language, and rapid modernization have formed today's Arabian Peninsula.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU Is the area where you live changing in noticeable ways? Read to learn how the Arabian Peninsula is a mix of tradition and modern cultures.

The harsh desert climate of the Arabian Desert has led most people to live along the coasts. Their lives are shaped by traditional Islamic culture and modernization driven by the oil industry.

The People

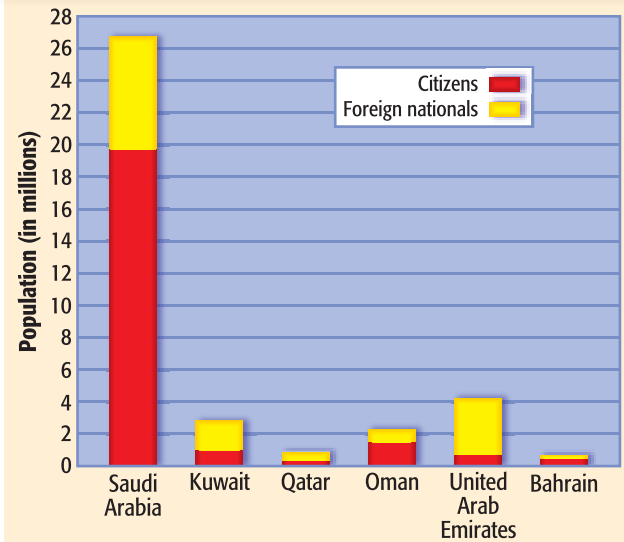
Most people in the subregion—about 56 million—are Arabs. Most Arabs are Muslims, but a small percentage follows Christianity or other religions. Islamic culture and the Arabic language have had a significant impact here.

Arabic-speaking peoples have lived on the Arabian Peninsula since before the spread of Islam. Many Arabic-speaking people today, however, descend from ancient groups such as the Egyptians, Phoenicians, Saharan Berbers, and peoples speaking other Semitic languages. In **Kuwait**, for example, the majority of people are Arab, but, instead of originating on the Arabian Peninsula, they migrated from other states in the region when oil was discovered in the first half of the 1900s.

Many people from South Asia also live in the larger cities of the eastern Arabian Peninsula. Muslims from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Iran have immigrated to this area to find jobs.

Density and Distribution

As in North Africa, harsh desert and lush coastal climates dictate where the majority of people live on the Arabian Peninsula. Bedouin still roam the large Arabian Desert and settle in oases, but many have migrated to cities. This settlement pattern has become common in **Saudi Arabia**, where population densities can be as high as 2,600 people per square mile (1,000 per sq. km) in cities and some oases. Yet, because the country has over 829,996 sq. miles (2,149,680 sq. km), the density for all of Saudi Arabia is only 30 people per square mile (11 per sq. km). In **Bahrain**, 89 percent of the



Source: U.S. Department of State, www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/

GRAPH STUDY

- 1. Place** Which country has the largest population of foreign nationals?
- 2. Place** Which country has about the same number of citizens as it does foreign nationals?

Use **StudentWorks™ Plus** or glencoe.com.

population lives in its two main cities, Manama and Al Muharraq. In **Oman**, more than half of the population lives along the coastal plain.

Arab people in **Yemen** are historically a more settled group than Arab nomads. They have lived mostly in villages and small towns. The bedouin, however, have adapted to the desert as they roam for water and grazing areas for their herds. In contrast, 95 percent of the bedouin population of Saudi Arabia is now settled.

The discovery of oil in the early 1900s led to increased wealth, modernization, and immigration in many Arab countries. In many of these countries, such as the **United Arab Emirates**, these new arrivals make up a majority of the population. Only 15 to 20 percent of the people in the United Arab Emirates are citizens. Foreign workers make up more than 50 percent of **Qatar's** (KAH•tuhr) population and more than 60 percent in Kuwait.

READING Check **Movement** What discovery helped lead to modernization in some countries on the peninsula?

History and Government

MAIN Idea Conquering empires and unified governments have imposed cultures on the peoples of the Arabian Peninsula that remain influential to this day.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU How do you think the culture of the United States might be shaping other cultures around the world? Read to learn about how the peninsula was shaped by various forces in its early and recent history.

Though some countries on the Arabian Peninsula are quite young, the histories of their peoples are long. Many of these histories through the 1800s are similar, as people of the region sought protection from Great Britain to fight off rule by other outsiders, such as the Ottoman Empire. This region also saw the birth of Islam, which has become a crucial part of each state's culture in the peninsula.

Early Cultures and Conquests

For 5,000 years vibrant cultures have existed on the Arabian Peninsula. One of the oldest centers of civilization in the area existed in Yemen between the 1100s B.C. and the A.D. 500s.

Because of the peninsula's harsh climate, it has been difficult for large settlements to exist anywhere but along the coast. An island near Kuwait was used by ancient Greeks as a huge trade center for about 2,000 years.

After a local powerful family gained control of territory on the Arabian Peninsula around 1750, it struggled against invasion by the Ottoman Empire and others. The Unified Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was finally established in 1932.

Also threatened by the Ottoman Empire, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar signed treaties with Great Britain for protection in the 1800s and early 1900s. Parts of Yemen were under British control from the 1800s until 1967. Oman was independent for most of its history.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC The Spread of Islam



MAP STUDY

- 1. Location** Which cities were not part of the Abbasid Empire?
- 2. Regions** How far west did Muslim lands extend by 750?

- Muslim lands at Muhammad's death, 632
- Territory added, 633–661
- Territory added, 662–750
- Abbasid Caliphate, 800

Independence

Countries throughout the region gained independence slowly. Kuwait eventually won independence from the British in the mid-1900s. The United Arab Emirates was established in 1971 when its treaty with Britain ended. It was formed from a group of tribal **sheikhdoms**, territories ruled by an Islamic religious leader.

Though Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Oman are monarchies, the more conservative Saudi government follows **shari'ah**, or Islamic law, based on the Quran. Kuwait and Qatar are constitutional emirates, which are ruled by **emirs**, or princes.

Standards of living vary widely across the region and even within countries. Urbanized countries with economies based on oil production, manufacturing, or trade have relatively high standards of living. Some oil-rich countries in the region are so prosperous that they have **labor** shortages and depend on foreign workers.

Qatar's oil and gas reserves have given its people one of the highest per-capita incomes in the world. It is possible that changes in Qatar's political future will occur as well. The ruling emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa, deposed his father in 1995 and has claimed a commitment to democracy.

READING Check **Human-Environment Interaction**
Why did Arabian Peninsula states sign treaties with Great Britain?



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is one of several modern cities on the Arabian Peninsula built using the profits from oil.

Regions What heavily influences the standard of living in the subregion?

Culture

MAIN Idea Religious beliefs and a common language influence everyday life on the Arabian Peninsula.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU How does culture help unify the United States? Read to learn about the different religious sects of Islam.

Though the Arabian Peninsula is currently most known for its oil resources and Arab culture, more and more foreign workers are bringing their own cultures to the area. The influence these cultures will have on the region is only just beginning to emerge as the large cities become more modern and continue to demand more labor for growing industries.

Religion and Language

Sunni and Shia Muslims are the **dominant** sects of Islam in most states on the peninsula. Most Muslims believe in making a pilgrimage, or **hajj**, to Makkah at least once in their life. However, one can find different sects of Islam in the region. A form of Islam practiced in Oman, called **Ibadhism**, differs from the Shia and Sunni sects. Those who practice Ibadhism are said to practice a moderate conservatism because they choose their ruler by communal consensus and consent. Oman is the only Islamic country to have a majority Ibadhi population. Another branch of Muslims, the Wahhabi sect of the Sunni branch, advocates the literal teachings of the Quran.

As in other Arab countries, Islam influences the language in the Arabian Peninsula. Most people speak and pray in Arabic. South Asian and Afro-Asian languages can also be found, along with English.

Education and Health Care

Most children and young people in the subregion attend school. Public education is strongly supported in Kuwait and Qatar, where the literacy rates are 83 and 89 percent, respectively. Bahrain's government has used its oil revenues to cover education costs and has a literacy rate of 89 percent. Oman is primarily focused on developing a trained workforce and has given secondary and post-secondary education high priority.

As in other subregions in this part of the world, health care varies widely from country to country, and even more widely from urban to rural areas. Government-owned hospitals are not always fully staffed. Sometimes people rely on private groups to provide health care and other social services. Often private health care is associated with a particular social or religious group.

The Arts and Celebrations

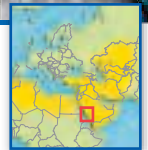
Architecture provides some of the best examples of art on the Arabian Peninsula. Mosques and palaces are the best-known examples of Islamic architecture. Because Islam discourages depicting living figures in religious art, Muslim artists work in geometric patterns and floral designs. They also use calligraphy, or elaborate writing, for decoration. Passages from the Quran adorn the walls of many mosques.

Religious holidays and observances often bring family and community together. Many Muslims mark Id al Adha, the Feast of Sacrifice, by making a pilgrimage to Makkah. They also observe Ramadan, a holy month of fasting from dawn until dusk ordained by the Quran.

READING Check **Regions** What has contributed to the emphasis on education in some Arabian states?



Al-Masjid al-Haram, a large mosque in Makkah, is considered by Muslims to be the holiest place on Earth.



Regions How do Muslims celebrate their religion?

SECTION 4 REVIEW

Vocabulary

1. Explain the significance of: sheikhdom, *shari'ah*, emir, hajj, Ibadhism.

Main Ideas

- Describe how conquering empires and unified governments have affected population patterns on the Arabian Peninsula.
- How does Islam influence everyday life in the countries of the Arabian Peninsula?
- Use a web diagram like the one below to list the different ways a shared religion, a common language, and rapid modernization have affected culture and government on the Arabian Peninsula.



Critical Thinking

- Exploring Cause and Effect** How has the development of the oil industry played a role in modernizing the peninsula?
- Determining Cause and Effect** How will increasing literacy rates help countries on the peninsula modernize?
- Analyzing Visuals** Compare the political map on page 414 of the Regional Atlas with the map showing the spread of Islam on page 457. Which present-day countries were part of Muslim lands at Muhammad's death?

Writing About Geography

- Expository Writing** Think about the language, religion, education, and customs in this subregion. Then write a paragraph or two comparing the ways of life there with your own.

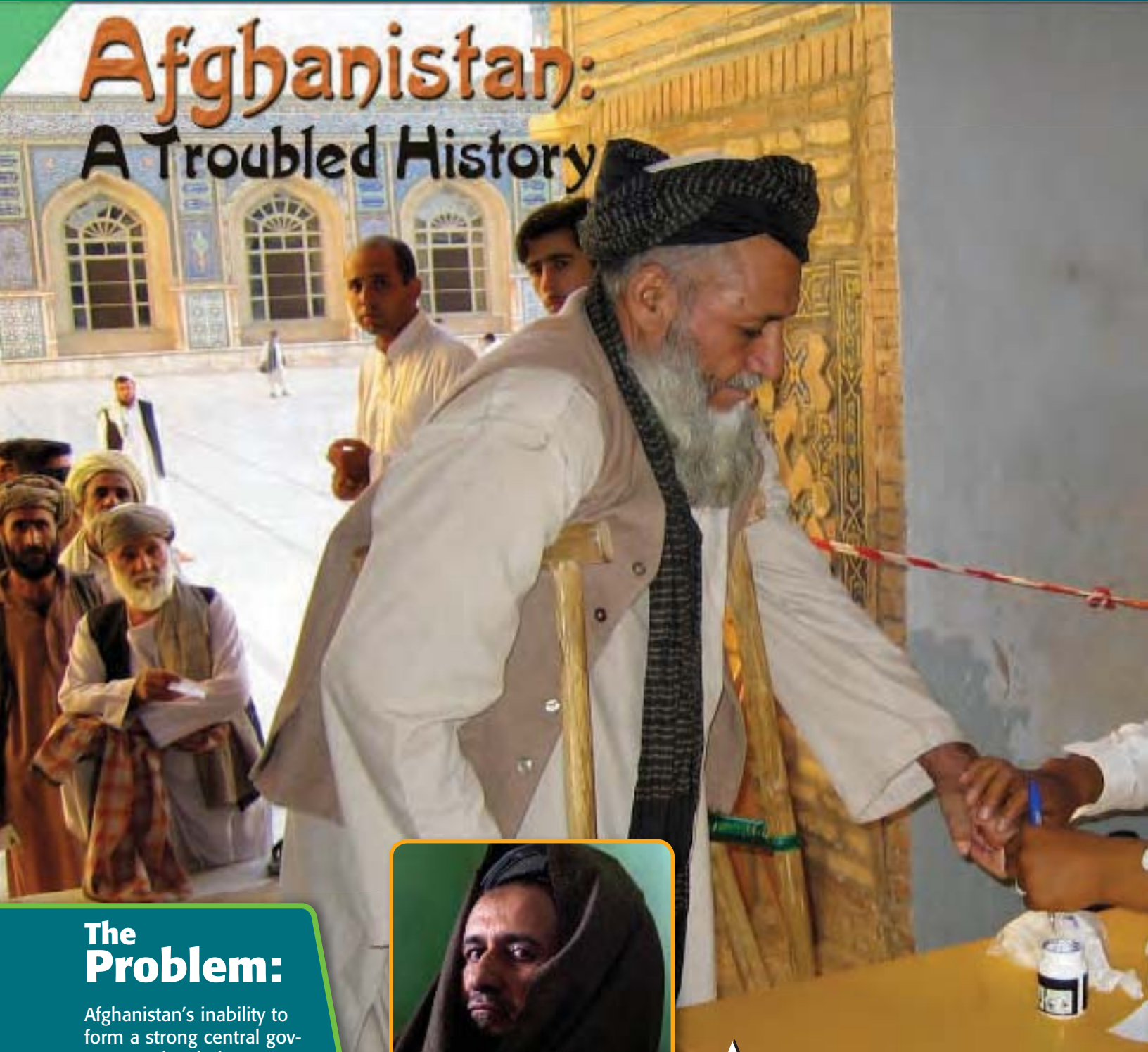
Geography **ONLINE**

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WHY GEOGRAPHY MATTERS

Afghanistan: A Troubled History



The Problem:

Afghanistan's inability to form a strong central government has led to terrorism and instability in the country. Obstacles such as warlords, a decentralized power base, and the lack of a democratic history stand in the way of the formation of a national democratic government.



Warlord Mullah Akhtar

Warlords Internal fighting along ethnic lines has given rise to warlords. These men command their own armed forces used to solidify control in the areas they occupy.



Voting These Afghan citizens are voting in a national election. Voters are required to dip a finger in ink when voting. An ink-stained finger signifies that the citizen has voted. This process helps prevent voters from voting more than once.



Afghanistan: Ethnic Groups



Challenges

Situated on trade routes linking the Middle East and South Asia, Afghanistan has often fallen victim to invaders. In the last 30 years Afghanistan has again faced external forces like invasion by other nations as well as internal forces such as ethnic diversity. These forces threaten the country's stability.

How has the Soviet Union been involved?

In 1979 the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, hoping to shore up the communist regime. Fearing an expansion of Soviet power, the United States, Britain, and China provided arms to guerilla rebels. In 1988 the United States, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Soviet Union signed agreements for the withdrawal of Soviet forces. Following the Soviet withdrawal, the rebel group Mujahadeen stormed the capital at Kabul and overthrew the government, creating the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Who are the Taliban? In 1995 the Taliban, an Islamic military group promising to restore order, rose to power. They cracked down on rampant crime and drug trafficking, but they also severely limited the rights of women and used violence to enforce laws.

How has the U.S. been involved? International terrorist Osama bin Laden was believed to be hiding in Afghanistan. When the Taliban refused to turn him over to stand trial for terrorism, the United Nations imposed trade restrictions. Following the 2001 attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the United States attacked Afghanistan and ousted the Taliban. American forces worked with Afghans to try to stabilize the government, and in 2004 Hamid Karzai was named Afghanistan's president in the country's first successful election.



One Solution:

The support of peace organizations combined with foreign aid may help strengthen and stabilize Afghanistan by helping to build an infrastructure, including a strong communications system. The economic development of the country would help in forming a national identity.



U.S. secretary of state Condoleezza Rice (right) shakes hands with Afghan president Hamid Karzai.

THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY

- Human Systems** Research U.S. involvement in Afghanistan in more depth. Why do you think a stable Afghan government is important to the United States?
- Places and Regions** Look at the map of the various ethnic divisions in Afghanistan. Why has uniting the country under one centralized government been so difficult?

Guide to Reading

Section Preview

Central Asia's geography and climate have created challenges for the region that sits at the crossroads between continents.

Content Vocabulary

- enclave (p. 465)
- mujahideen (p. 465)
- exclave (p. 465)

Academic Vocabulary

- maintain (p. 465)
- imposed (p. 465)

Places to Locate

- Afghanistan (p. 463)
- Turkmenistan (p. 463)
- Tajikistan (p. 463)
- Uzbekistan (p. 463)
- Armenia (p. 463)
- Georgia (p. 463)
- Kazakhstan (p. 463)
- Amu Dar'ya (p. 463)
- Syr Dar'ya (p. 463)
- Silk Road (p. 464)
- Samarqand (p. 464)
- Azerbaijan (p. 464)
- Kyrgyzstan (p. 465)

Reading Strategy

Categorizing As you read about Central Asia, complete a graphic organizer similar to the one below by filling in the different ethnic groups.



INDIANA ACADEMIC STANDARDS Geography and History of the World

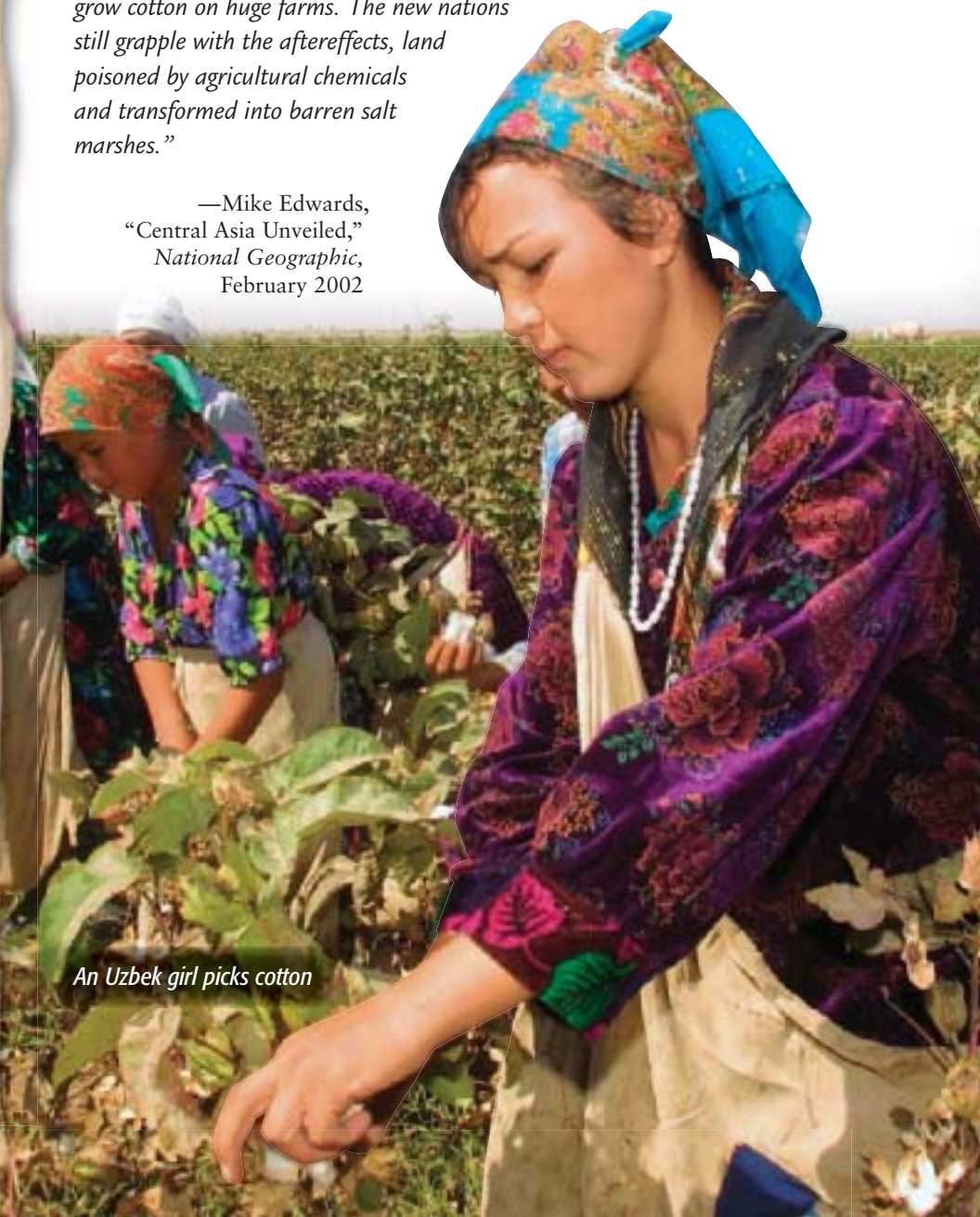
GHW.1.1, GHW.1.2, GHW.2.1, GHW.3.1, GHW.3.2, GHW.3.3, GHW.4.1, GHW.4.2, GHW.4.3, GHW.5.5, GHW.6.3, GHW.7.1, GHW.7.2, GHW.7.3, GHW.10.2

Over the centuries Central Asia has been a crossroads of cultures and empires, as well as a destination for people emigrating from their homelands to escape harsh political or economic situations. The subregion's diverse climate constantly makes demands on its people as well.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VOICES AROUND THE WORLD

“The Stans’ common denominator is the harshness of their shared landscape, sweeps of desert and near desert riven by soaring mountain chains. . . . Mountains mean life. Snowmelt feeds the rivers that support cities and farms. . . . Engineers in the Soviet Stans harnessed the Amu Darya and Syr Darya to grow cotton on huge farms. The new nations still grapple with the aftereffects, land poisoned by agricultural chemicals and transformed into barren salt marshes.”

—Mike Edwards,
“Central Asia Unveiled,”
National Geographic,
February 2002



An Uzbek girl picks cotton

Population Patterns

MAIN Idea Invasions, domination by numerous empires, and the rugged landscape have created challenges for Central Asia.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU How is your life shaped by the physical landscape around you? Read to learn how Central Asia's land, climate, and location have shaped the subregion's population patterns.

The crossroads of Central Asia is home to numerous ethnic groups. Some historical Central Asian peoples vanished long ago—defeated in wars, wiped out by famines, or absorbed by more powerful groups. Others survived and flourish today.

The People

Afghanistan sits in the southern tip of Central Asia, south of **Turkmenistan**, **Tajikistan**, and **Uzbekistan**. This mountainous country is home to many ethnic groups that reflect centuries of migrations and invasions by outsiders. Pashtun is the predominant ethnic group.

More than 50 ethnic groups and nationalities live in the Caucasus area. Armenians and Georgians are among the largest ethnic groups there. Armenians make up 98 percent of the population of **Armenia**, which became independent after the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991. **Georgia** also became independent after the fall of the Soviet Union.

Most Turkic peoples outside of Turkey live in the republics of Central Asia. These include Uzbeks and Kazakhs. The Uzbeks form the largest Turkic group in the region and make up the majority population in Uzbekistan. Of the Central Asian Turkic peoples, only the Kazakhs are a minority in their own country, **Kazakhstan**.

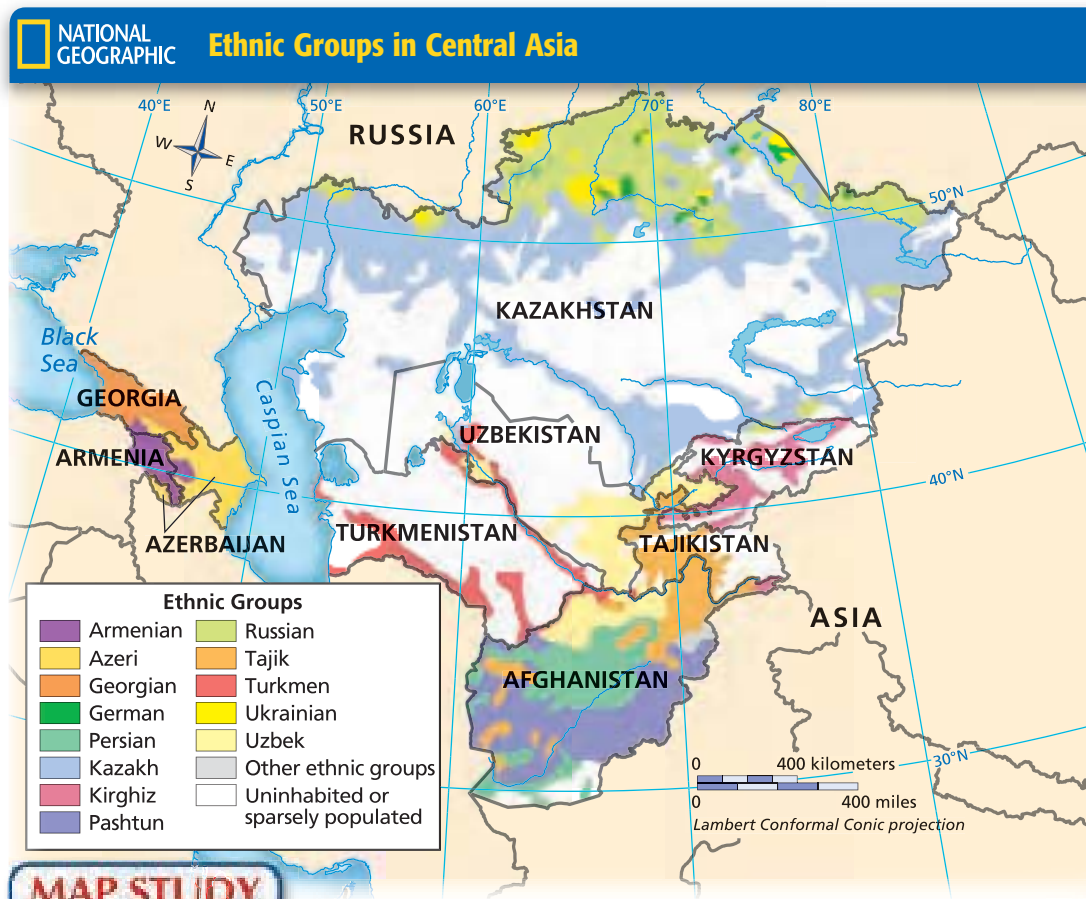
Density and Distribution

The population of Central Asia is spread unevenly across its mountainous terrain. However, large populations do exist in some countries. Afghanistan is home to 29.9 million people and is the most populous country in the subregion.

Throughout history, the subregion's population has been shaped by conflict. In 1915 about 1 million Armenians in Turkey were massacred, deported, or died of illness at the hands of the Ottoman Turks. Recently, about 20 percent of Armenia's population has left the country looking for a more prosperous life. In Georgia, around 300,000 of its people are displaced.

The majority of Tajikistan's people live and work in river valleys. The two major rivers of Central Asia, the **Amu Dar'ya** and the **Syr Dar'ya**, flow through Tajikistan.

READING Check Location What do Kazakhs, Uzbeks, and Turkmen have in common?



MAP STUDY

- Place** Which country is the most ethnically diverse?
- Regions** Where are most Russians in Central Asia concentrated?

History and Government

MAIN Idea The location of Central Asia has left the region's people vulnerable to centuries of invasion and to new challenges in the modern era.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU How has location helped or hurt your community? Read to learn how the countries of Central Asia struggled against invasion and oppression to arrive at independence.

Emerging from centuries of domination by other cultures and empires, the newly independent countries of Central Asia are working to find economic and political stability.

Cultures and Conquests

Central Asia is a crossroads of cultures that have roots 2,500 years old. Georgia's ancient history, for one, includes the development of a language and culture that are unlike any other.

Another civilization, the kingdom of Urartu, dates back to the 800s B.C. Its rule extended over

the entire Caucasus region. It later became part of the Roman Empire, and its people adopted Western political, philosophical, and religious ways.

Beginning about 100 B.C., parts of Central Asia prospered from the **Silk Road**, a trade route connecting China with the Mediterranean Sea. Many cities in the region, such as **Samarqand** in present-day Uzbekistan, thrived as trading stations along this route.

Because of Central Asia's accessible location along this trade route, it has come under the control of various empires. In the A.D. 1200s, Genghis Khan led Mongol forces—members of nomadic tribes that previously lived north of China—to invade the area and establish a vast empire. The Mongols killed tens of thousands of people to gain control, but later they brought many improvements to the region, such as paper money and safer trade routes. Other empires that unified the region at different times were led by Alexander the Great, Persians, Arabs, and Ottoman Turks.

Armenians resisted conquest, however. Today Armenia is located next to the Muslim countries of Turkey and **Azerbaijan**, but over 90 percent of its people practice a form of Christianity. This

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC The Silk Road



MAP STUDY

- 1. Movement** Over which rivers did the Silk Road pass?
- 2. Regions** Which present-day countries in Central Asia did the Silk Road pass through?

makes Armenia an **enclave**, a territory that is culturally or ethnically different from surrounding larger cultures.

Azerbaijan maintains an Islamic culture although it is nearly surrounded by the Christian region of the Caucasus. Today its population forms an **exclave**, or a distinct group of people who are isolated from the main or larger part of the country.

The Russian Empire unified parts of Central Asia in the 1800s. By 1936, Central Asia had become an extension of the Soviet Union. Under Soviet rule, Central Asian peoples were objects of Soviet economic, political, and cultural control. Large numbers of people in **Kyrgyzstan** fled to escape harsh conditions. Many countries, however, experienced increased literacy and standards of living.

Independence

Numerous Central Asian countries declared independence almost simultaneously when the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991. Armenia has experienced some measure of stability and economic reform. Tajikistan, on the other hand, experienced chaos after the breakdown of a central authority. The country continues to **maintain** a Russian military presence.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 prompted a military reaction from Afghan freedom fighters, known as the **mujahideen**. After the Soviets were gone, the fundamentalist Islamic Taliban took control of most of the country. The Taliban **imposed** an extreme interpretation of Islam on the country.

Though some countries are moving toward political and economic stability, poverty and unemployment are widespread. Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Georgia are hopeful that gas and oil resources will provide economic stability.

Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the United States overthrew Afghanistan's Taliban-led government. That government had sheltered Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, who had claimed responsibility for the attacks on the United States. Despite holding elections in 2004, the new Afghan government still faces serious problems in ruling its territory and providing basic services for its people.

READING Check **Regions** In what ways are Central Asian countries trying to establish democratic systems of government?

Teen Life in Armenia

Armenia is a very young country by most standards, gaining its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. Approximately the size of Maryland, Armenia is home to nearly 3 million people, most of whom are ethnic Armenians. Education is extremely valued, but the minority groups within Armenia do not attend school with the ethnic Armenians. They have their own schools.

Did you know . . .

- Armenians consider chewing gum in public to be impolite.
- City children often gather in the courtyards of their apartment buildings to play soccer, one of the country's most popular sports.
- Chess is extremely popular. There are special schools that very young children attend to learn the game.
- Students attend school for about 10 years beginning at the age of 7. They must pass difficult exams to attend a university.
- Most Armenian children do not own bikes because the mountainous terrain of the country makes riding difficult.
- All 18-year-old men are required to serve 18 months in the Armenian military.



Culture

MAIN Idea The people of Central Asia share many cultural characteristics and experiences.

GEOGRAPHY AND YOU What region of the country do you live in, and what culture do people share there? Read to learn about the different types of art practiced in Central Asia.

Central Asia is home to cultures influenced by empires centuries ago. Age-old traditions exist alongside many new changes.

Language and Religion

The vast majority of people in Central Asia speak a form of the Turkic languages. The Armenian, Tajik, and Afghan Persian and Pashto languages are Indo-European and are spoken in Armenia, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan, respectively. Georgia is the only country in the subregion with a wholly unique language and alphabet. Russian remains the official language in Kazakhstan and is still widely spoken in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Islam is the predominant religion throughout Central Asia, with most Muslims practicing the Sunni branch. The majority of Azerbaijani Muslims, however, follow the Shia branch. Christianity is

the majority religion in two countries, Armenia and Georgia. Ninety percent of Armenians follow the Armenian Apostolic Church, which dates back to the A.D. 300s. Georgians practice Christianity in the Georgian Orthodox Church.

Education and Health Care

Education is universal across Central Asia and mandatory through secondary school in a few countries. Afghanistan and Uzbekistan are lagging, but in other Central Asian countries, literacy is at or above Tajikistan's level of 88 percent. Armenia and Georgia have rates of 99 percent.

Health-care resources have been lacking in Central Asia since the breakup of the Soviet Union. Years of internal civil strife and economic challenges have left few financial resources to be spent on social programs.

The Arts

The peoples of Central Asia have a rich literary tradition. In the 1800s and early 1900s, great novelists emerged throughout the subregion. When the subregion fell under the oppressive control of the Soviet Union, however, the arts suffered. They have enjoyed a resurgence since the fall of communism.

READING Check **Regions** What challenges does the subregion face in educating its populations?

SECTION 5 REVIEW

Vocabulary

1. Explain the significance of: enclave, exclave, mujahideen.

Main Ideas

2. Describe how invasions and domination by numerous empires have created challenges for Central Asia.
3. How does the rugged landscape impact the population patterns of Central Asia?
4. How has the location of Central Asia left the subregion's people vulnerable to centuries of invasion?
5. Create a table like the one below to list the cultural characteristics and histories that are shared by the people of Central Asia.

Cultural Characteristics	History

Critical Thinking

6. **Big Idea** How have the geography and climate of Central Asia influenced the economies of the region?
7. **Determining Cause and Effect** How did the Afghan people resist Russian and Soviet rule?
8. **Analyzing Visuals** Study the map of the Silk Road on page 464. How many present-day countries did the Silk Road go through?

Writing About Geography

9. **Expository Writing** Think about what it would be like to be a member of an ethnic group that is conquered by another ethnic group. Write a letter to a family member suggesting ways that the family can maintain its ethnic identity.

Geography  **ONLINE**

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ETHNICITY AND CULTURE

- North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia has been a cultural crossroads for much of human history.
- The region has two important cultural hearths in Mesopotamia and the Nile Valley.
- The region has a large amount of ethnic diversity. Many customs, languages, and beliefs are represented here.
- This diversity of peoples has led to conflict in parts of the region.



Pyramids at Giza, Egypt



LOCATION AND TRADE

- The region's fertile rivers and central location made the land a valuable resource.
- Empires in the region grew rich from trade. As Europe grew more skilled at sea travel, the empires' powers grew weaker.
- Oil has helped make the region wealthy again. It has also led to conflict as countries fight over the rights to oil reserves in the region.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION

- Religion is very important to the people of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia.
- It is the birthplace of three of the world's major religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
- It is also home to the holiest sights of these religions. Muslims must make a pilgrimage to Makkah (Mecca) in Saudi Arabia. Jerusalem is the Jewish capital and religious center. Christians also hold Jerusalem close, because many of Jesus' acts took place there.



Muslim women pray in Iran

NORTH AFRICA, SOUTHWEST ASIA, AND CENTRAL ASIA

CHAPTER 18

INDIANA STATEWIDE TEST PRACTICE

TEST-TAKING TIP

When you have finished, check to be sure that you have answered every question.

Reviewing Vocabulary

Directions: Choose the word or words that best complete the sentence.

1 Cities in the region have grown so fast that _____, basic urban necessities, cannot keep up.

- A nomadism
- B domestication
- C infrastructure
- D urbanization

2 _____ is belief in one god.

- A Hajj
- B Idealism
- C Monotheism
- D Polytheism

3 A center where a culture develops and spreads outward is a _____.

- A cuneiform
- B qanat
- C ziggurat
- D culture hearth

4 Law based on the Quran is called _____.

- A qanat
- B kum
- C monarchy
- D shari'ah

5 An _____ is a territory that is culturally or ethnically different from surrounding larger cultures.

- A exclave
- B area
- C enclave
- D autonomous republic

Reviewing Main Ideas

Directions: Choose the best answers to complete the sentences or to answer the following questions.

Section 1 (pp. 438–442)

6 From whom did North Africans learn about nationalism?

- A Arabs
- B Berbers
- C Muslims
- D Europeans

Section 2 (pp. 443–447)

7 Although several major religions began there, the eastern Mediterranean's dominant religion today is _____.

- A Christianity
- B Judaism
- C Islam
- D Buddhism

Section 3 (pp. 450–454)

8 In which country of the Northeast are Arabs the dominant ethnic group?

- A Iran
- B Turkey
- C Iraq
- D Kurdistan

Section 4 (pp. 455–459)

9 The discovery of oil has attracted large numbers of migrants to the Arabian Peninsula from _____.

- A the United States
- B Europe
- C South Asia
- D East Asia

Section 5 (pp. 462–466)

10 The predominant ethnic group in Afghanistan is _____.

- A Pashtun
- B Armenian
- C Turkish
- D Azeri

Go On 

Critical Thinking

Directions: Choose the best answers to complete the sentences or to answer the following questions.

11 Why did Egyptian civilization endure, while other river valley civilizations did not?

- A Egypt's location provided protection from invasion, and resources that allowed civilization to flourish.
- B Egypt conquered all other civilizations and absorbed their cultures.
- C Global climate change caused other river valley civilizations to abandon their homes and seek new sources of water.
- D Other river valley civilizations were wiped out by bubonic plague.

Base your answer to question 12 on the map and on your knowledge of Chapter 18.



12 What is the predominant ethnic group in Israel?

- A Kurds
- B Palestinians
- C Jews
- D Iranians

Need Extra Help?

If you missed questions. . .	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Go to page. . .	440	445	452	458	465	441	447	451	456	463	GT443A–GT443B	469	469	469

Constructed Response

Directions: Analyze the passage and write a short essay to answer each question that follows. A well-written essay will:

- thoroughly answer each question
- support statements with examples
- use information given in the passage and the chapter to draw logical conclusions

In 1917, when Great Britain ruled parts of the eastern Mediterranean region, the government issued the Balfour Declaration. In time the Balfour Declaration enabled the founding of present-day Israel.

Foreign Office
November 2nd, 1917

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's [the British] Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet:

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours sincerely

Arthur James Balfour

13 How did the Balfour Declaration contribute to the formation of a Jewish state?

14 What did the British say about the rights of the people who already lived in this area?

STOP

Geography ONLINE

For additional test practice, use Self-Check Quizzes—Chapter 18 on glencoe.com.



CONNECTING TO

THE UNITED STATES

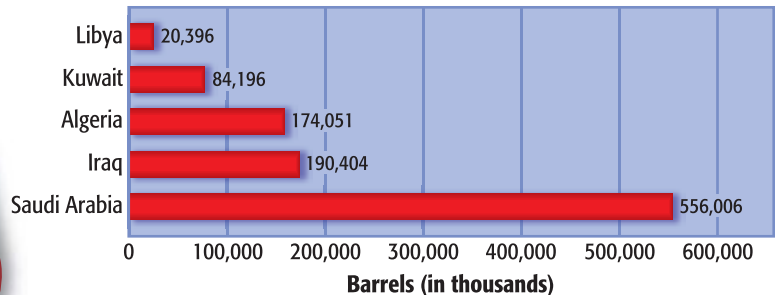


Iraq's first parliamentary election since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein was held in December 2005. An estimated 240,000 Iraqis living in the United States, like this woman in Detroit, Michigan, were eligible to vote in the election by absentee ballot.

Just the Facts:

- Approximately half of the Arab population in the United States is concentrated in five states: California, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York.
- Dearborn, Michigan, is home to the largest mosque in North America. Thirty percent of Dearborn's population is Arab American.
- The cell phone was developed in Israel at the Israeli branch of Motorola.
- The alphabet was created in the land of the Phoenicians, which is now Lebanon.

U.S. Crude Oil Imports by Country, 2005



Source: www.eia.doe.gov, U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Importing oil The United States is the world's largest energy consumer. A large portion of U.S. oil is imported from countries in this region.



Making the Connection

World cultures are interconnected in many ways, and much of what we encounter in our daily lives finds its past and present in the countries of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia.



Beef kabobs and rice pilaf

Food—Influencing Our Dinner Tables A wide variety of foods we eat daily comes from this region. Some of the most recognizable include melons, kebabs, yogurt, and rice pilaf.

Energy—Keeping Us on the Move The United States is the world's largest energy consumer, importing about half of all of its oil. The United States consumes about 20 million barrels of oil each day, most of which comes from this region. Currently, Saudi Arabia is the greatest supplier of oil to the United States.

Religion—A Melting Pot of Beliefs Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, the three most practiced religions in the United States, trace their origins to North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia. The region still holds great significance today for all three religions. The city of Makkah, in Saudi Arabia, is the holiest site in Islam. Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, is the holiest city of Judaism and is also of special importance to Christianity and Islam.



Judaism, which began in this region, is one of the three most practiced religions in the United States.



Paula Abdul, a well-known choreographer, singer, and television personality, is of Syrian descent.

Region's Immigration to the United States by Country (2004)

Country	Immigrants
Iran	10,434
Egypt	5,522
Israel	4,160
Morocco	4,128
Turkey	3,833
Lebanon	3,811
Iraq	3,494
Jordan	3,431
Syria	2,256
Afghanistan	2,137

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security

THINKING GEOGRAPHICALLY

- Human Systems** Research one of the religious sites mentioned in this feature. Explain its significance within the context of one or multiple religions.
- Environment and Society** Investigate some of the uses of oil other than gasoline for cars. What products are created using oil? How do these products impact your daily life?

NORTH AFRICA, SOUTHWEST ASIA, AND CENTRAL ASIA