

# UNIT 7

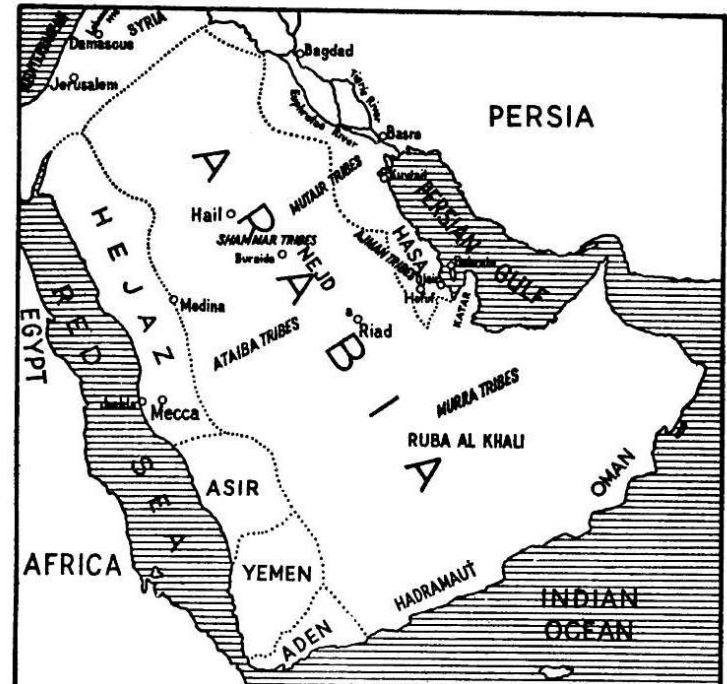
## SOUTHWEST ASIA

# **CHAPTER 21**

**PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTHWEST ASIA:  
HARSH AND ARID LANDS**

# 21.1: LANDFORMS AND RESOURCES

- The Arabian Peninsula
  - Most distinctive landform in SW Asia
  - Borders:
- The Anatolian Peninsula
  - Turkey
  - Marks:



# The Suez Canal

- The canal runs north-south across the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt to:
- It separates the African continent from Asia, and it provides the shortest water route between Europe and the lands lying around the Indian and western Pacific oceans
- The Suez Canal is one of the world's most significant waterways as it supports 8% of the world's shipping traffic and almost 50 ships pass through the canal daily



# Bosporus and Dardanelles Straits

- The Dardanelles Strait, a vital transportation bridge between the :
- The Bosporus Strait connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara
- Bordered on both sides by the massive city of Istanbul, the strait is one of the planet's most strategic waterways
- Both separate Asian Turkey from European Turkey:

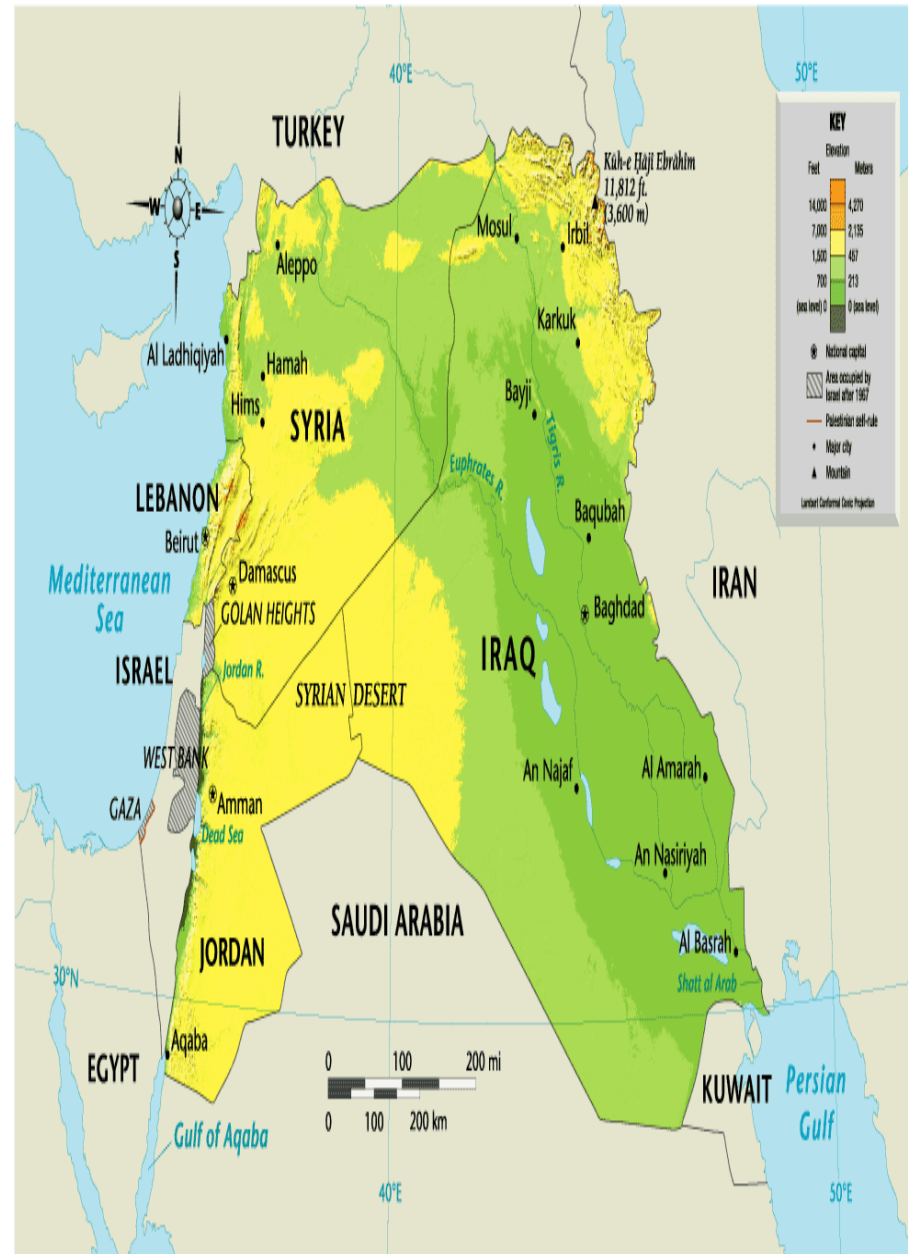


# Straits of Hormuz

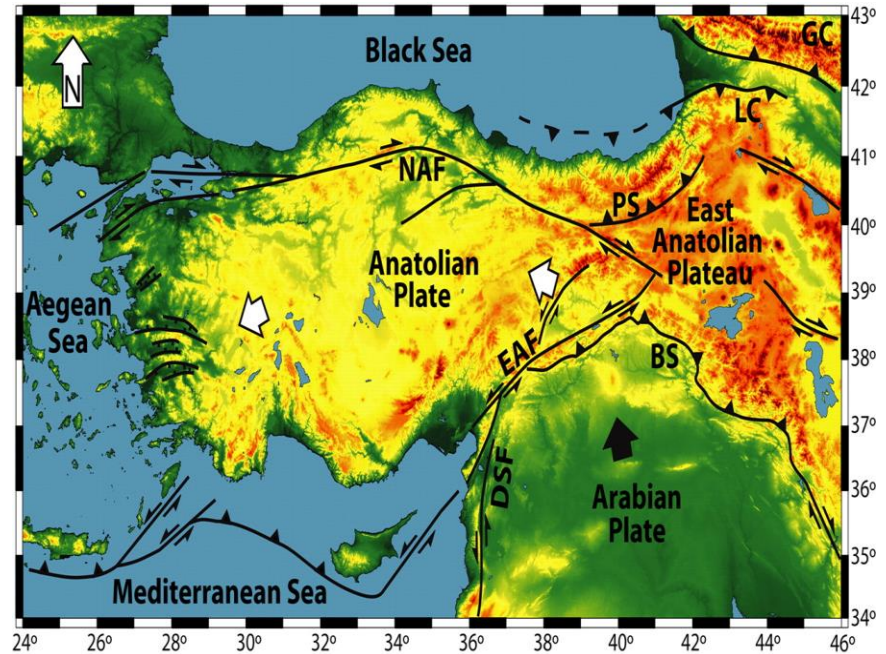
- The Strait of Hormuz is considered one of the most, if not the :
- Much of the oil from Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates passes through it.



- Plains
  - Cover much of Arabian Peninsula
  - Dry, sandy, windy
  - Sparsely populated by:
  - Northern plain of Afghanistan:



- Plateau
  - Iran
    - Surrounded :
    - Stony, salty:
  - Anatolian Plateau
    - High elevation
    - Some areas used for:



- Mountains
  - Hindu Kush, Zagros, Elburz, Taurus = major ranges
  - Separate:
    - People look to move through region



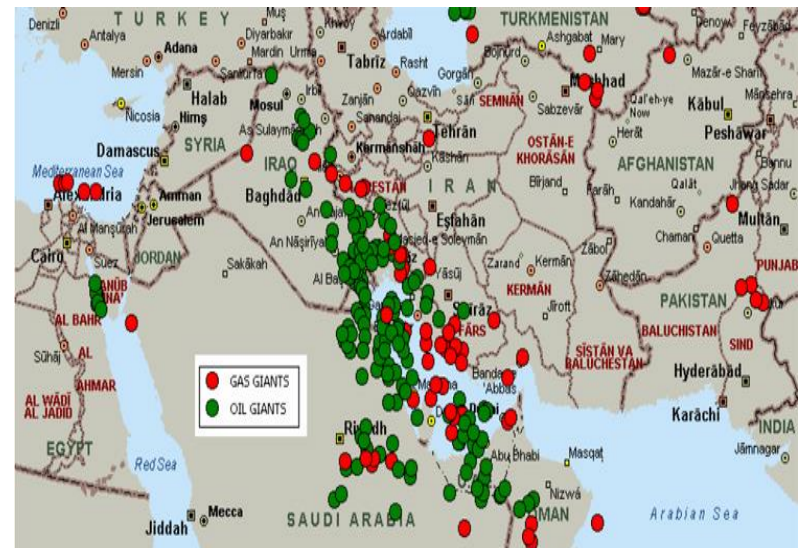
- Water
  - Key to :
  - Precious resource in:
  - Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
  - Jordan River
  - Dead Sea
    - 1,349 feet below sea level:



- Resources

- Oil

- Most :
    - Arabian Peninsula, Iran, Iraq
    - Home to ~:



- Water

- Most plentiful in :

- Hydroelectricity

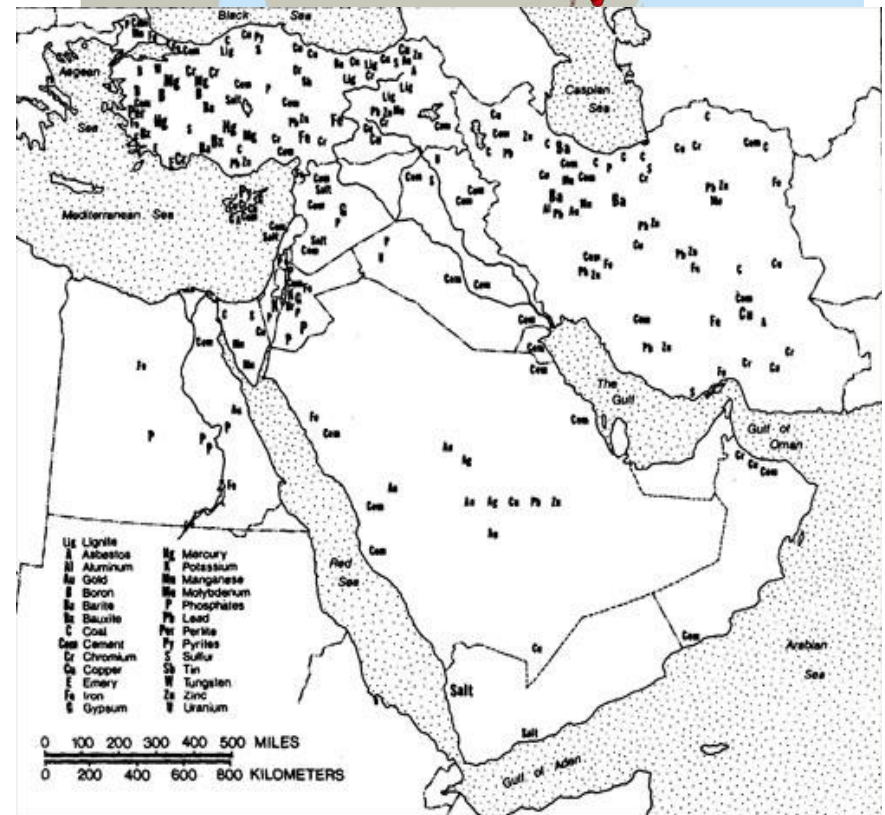
- Minerals

- Scattered and :

- Coal

- Iran & Turkey

- Salts – Dead Sea



# The Dead Sea

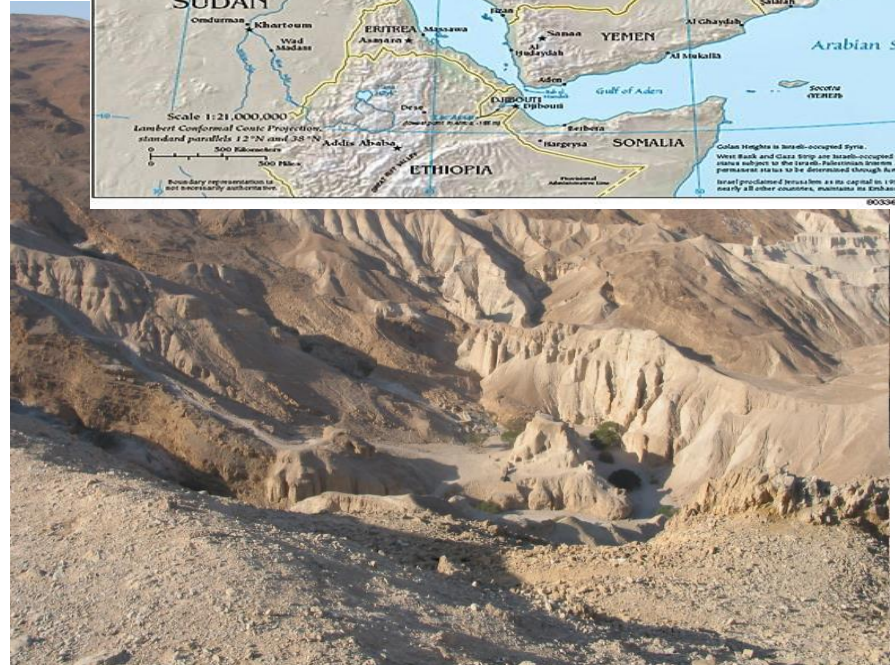
- Also called the Salt Sea, is a salt lake bordering Jordan to the east and Israel to the west
- Its surface and shores are 423 metres (1,388 ft) below sea level, Earth's lowest elevation on land.
- It is 8.6 times saltier than the ocean, and cannot support life
- It has long been a tourist attraction and it has been the supplier of a wide variety of products, from balms for Egyptian mummification to potash for fertilizers. People also use the salt and the minerals from the Dead Sea to create cosmetics



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzBJy6BXf5Y>

# 21.2: CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

- Deserts - Sand
  - Reduce:
  - Limit interaction with environment
  - Rub al-Khali – vast sand desert
  - An-Nafud – Severe sandstorms, brutal heat
  - Syrian
  - Negev:



- Deserts – Salt
  - Salt flat deserts in Iran
    - Salt crusted, surrounded by:
    - Almost:
    - Dasht-e Kavir – central Iran
    - Dasht-e Lut – eastern Iran
- Semiarid Lands
  - Edge deserts
  - Grass and shrubs
  - Agriculture and grazing





# DASHT -E KAVIR Desert

- This plateau of north-central Iran
- Often referred to as the :
- Largest desert in the country
- Mostly uninhabited
- Covered with:



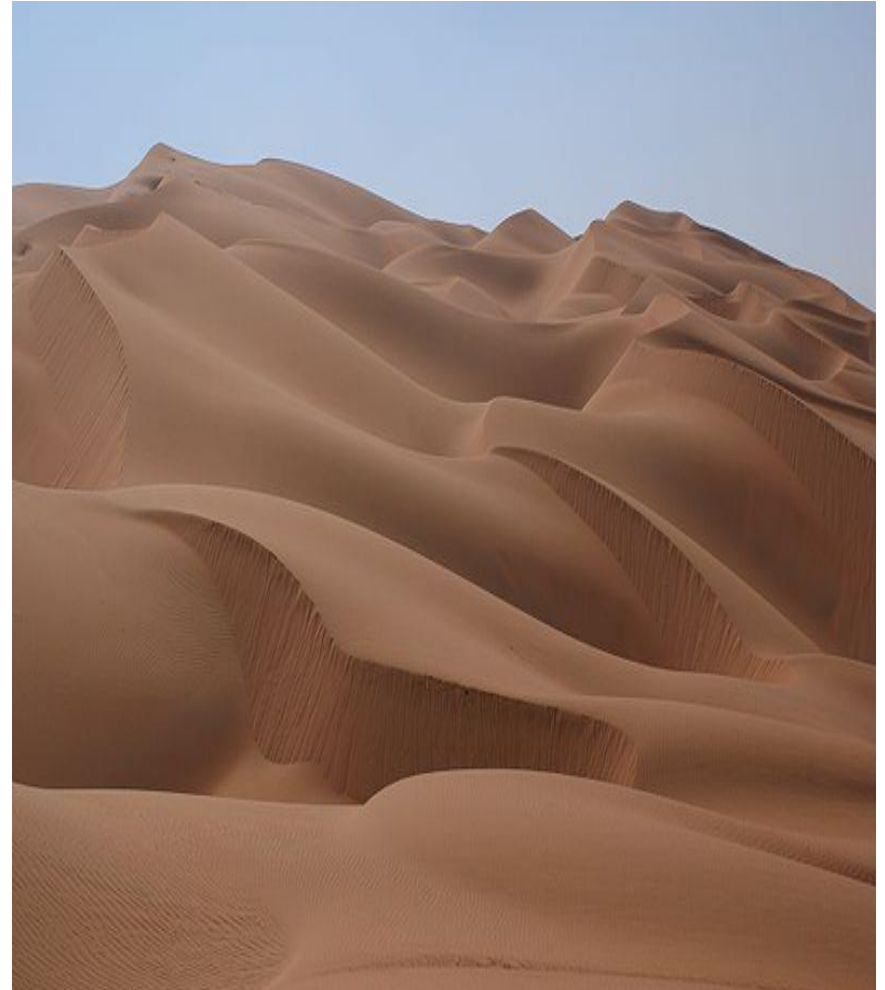
# DASH -E LUT (*Lout Desert*)

- This region of eastern Iran is an arid, wind-blown desert, completely surrounded by mountains.
- In the summer months, it can be one of the:
- In some areas here rain has not been measured.



# Rub al-Khali Desert

- The:
- It is famed for huge sand dunes that can extend for over 25 miles.
- It covers most of southern Saudi Arabia, and is almost:

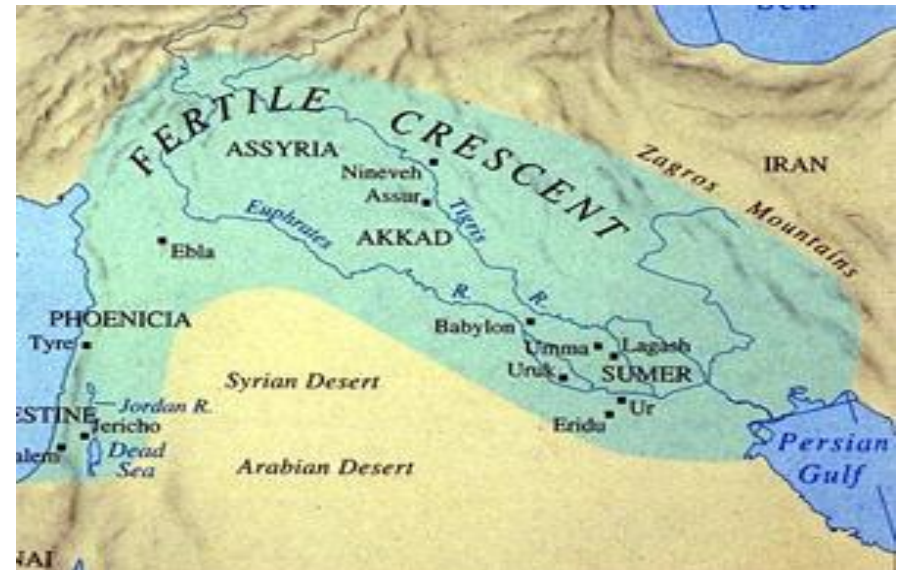
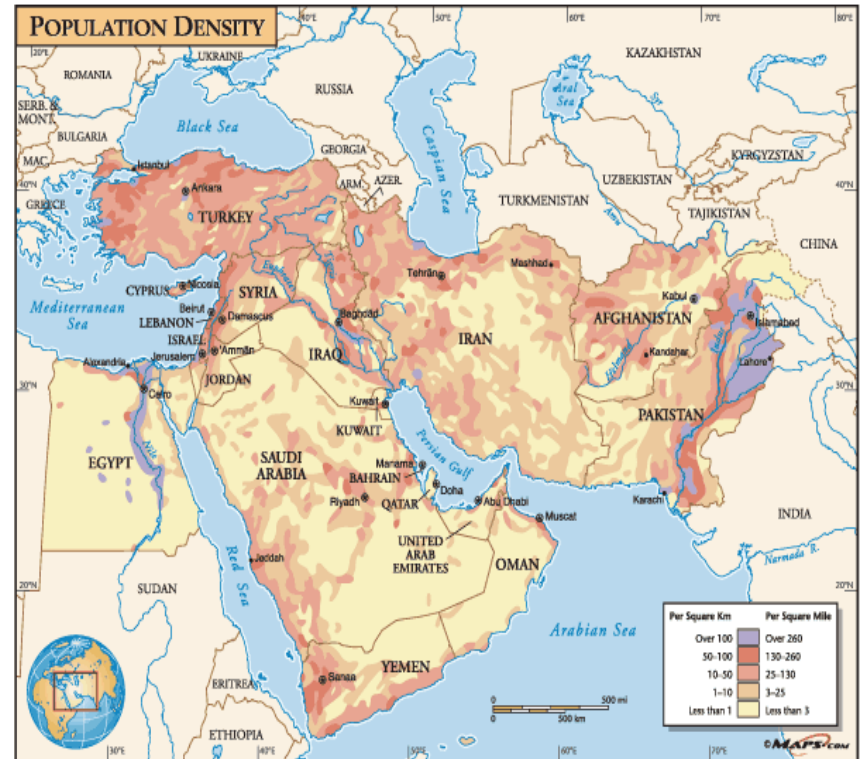


# An-Nafud Desert

- Desert of western Saudi Arabia – which is part of the Arabian Desert - is famous for gigantic sand dunes, some reaching over 100 ft.high
- It is distinguished by:



- Coast Lands
  - Mild, rainy winters, dry summers
  - Along:
  - Year-round growing season
  - Densely:



# 21.3 HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION

- Water

- Fresh water in great demand but short supply
- Use dams, irrigation systems, and modern technology to provide for needs.
- Dams provide hydroelectricity, but construction has been controversial
- National Water Carrier project
- Drip Irrigation
- Desalinization
- Fossil Water



# Drip Irrigation

- Israelis have transformed stretches of :
- Since 1948, the Israeli's have believed their survival depends on transform desert into usable land
- Technological advances such as **drip irrigation** have enabled the Israelis to :

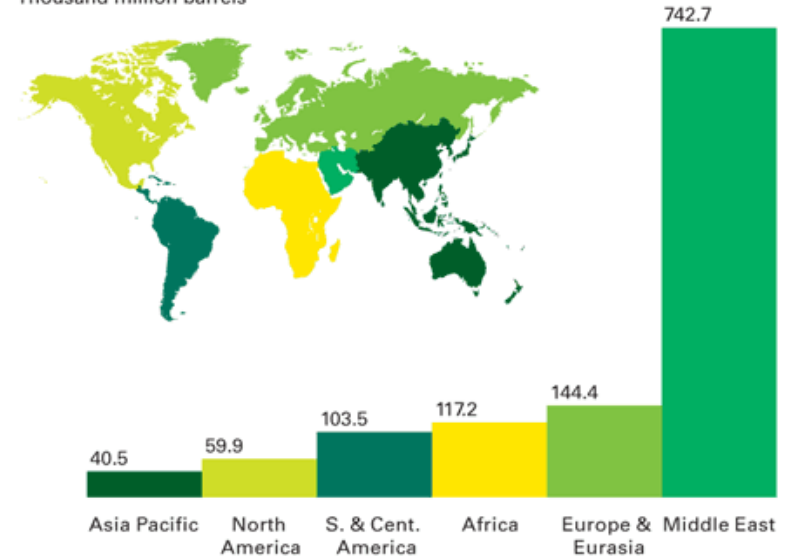


Drip (trickle) irrigation waters crops efficiently.  
Credit: Nova Scotia Agriculture and Fisheries

- Oil

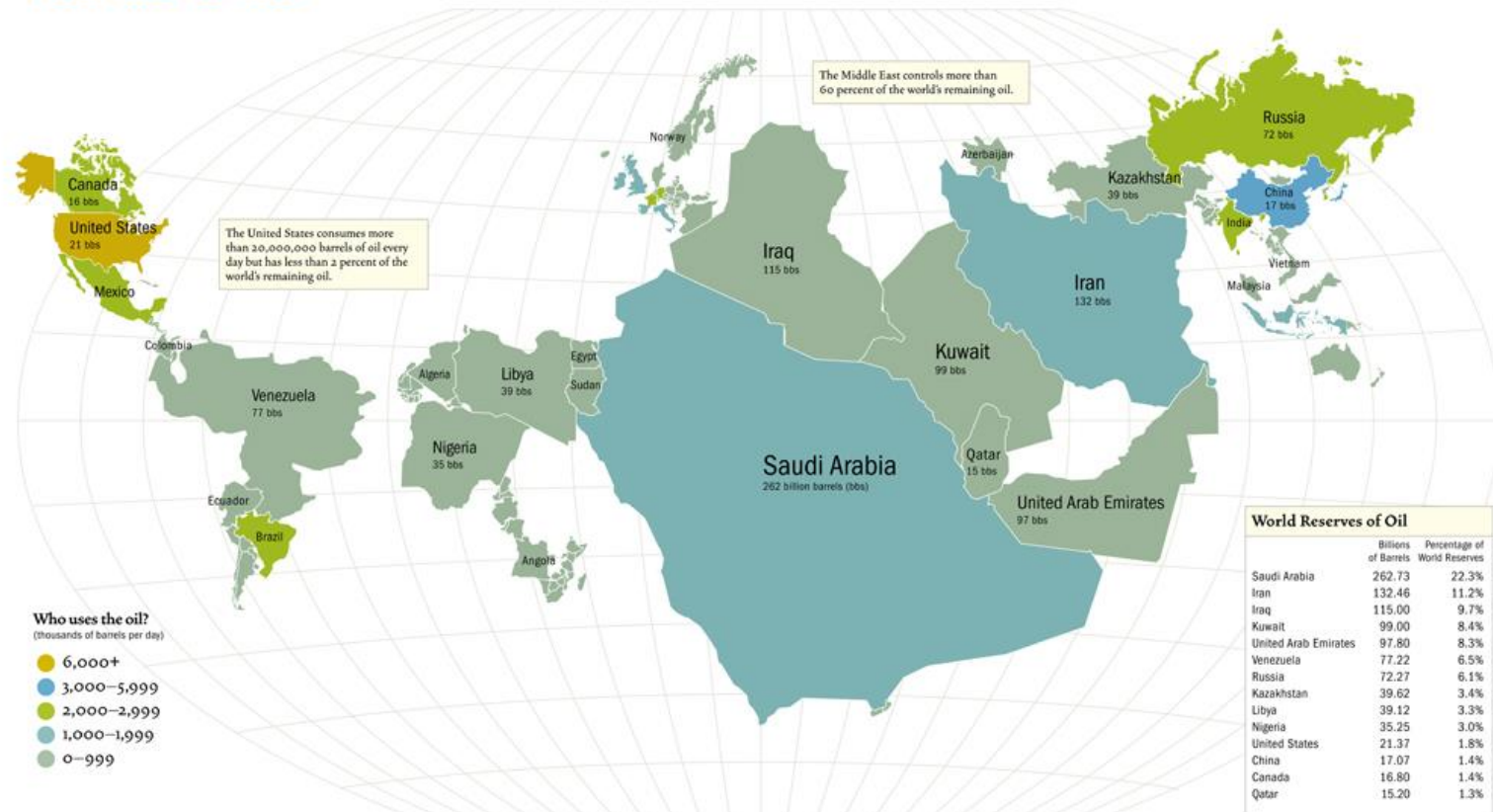
- Home to ~ 1/2 of world's reserves
- Petroleum products important to world economy
- 1<sup>st</sup> :
  - *Al-Ghawar*
  - Crude oil
  - pipelines
  - Petroleum processing and methods of transport
  - Production levels
  - Spills

Proved reserves at end 2006  
Thousand million barrels



# Who has the oil?

## Who has the oil?



Each country's size is proportional to the amount of oil it contains (oil reserves); Source: BP Statistical Review Year-End 2004 & Energy Information Administration

# **CHAPTER 22**

**HUMAN GEOGRAPHY OF SOUTHWEST ASIA:  
RELIGION, POLITICS, AND OIL**

# 22.1 THE ARABIAN PENINSULA

- Geography/History
  - Location at intersection of Africa, Asia, and Europe has:
    - Arabic, Turkish, Farsi languages
    - Original inhabitants = Bedouins
      - Nomadic peoples lived in harsh desert and developed fighting skills



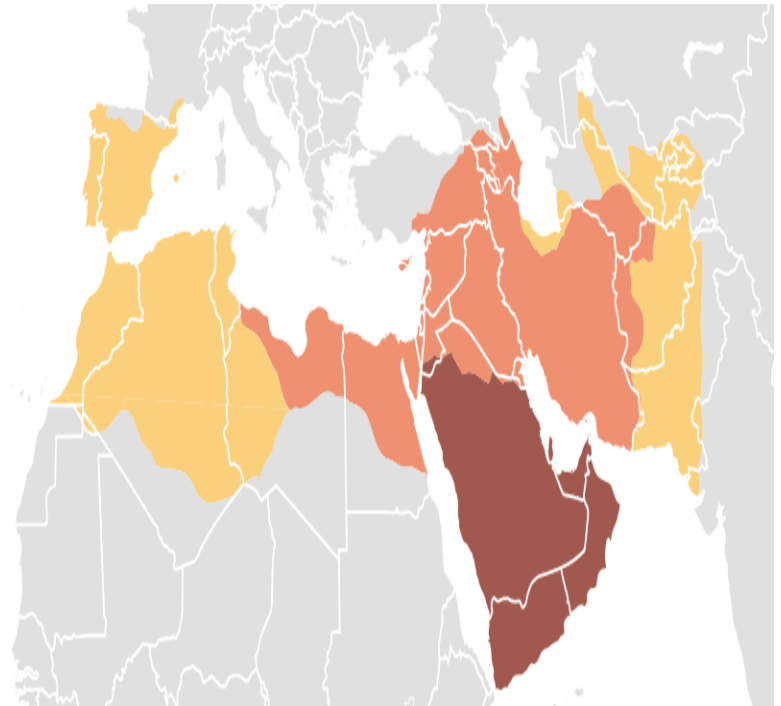
- Islam
  - Monotheistic religion based on:
  - Unifying force for peoples of the Arabian peninsula
  - People who practice :



- 5 Pillars of Islam
  - Faith
  - Prayer
    - Mosque
  - Charity
  - Fasting
    - Ramadan
  - Pilgrimage
    - hajj



- Islam spreads
  - Bedouin fighters helped to conquer new lands and put Muslim leaders in control of them
  - The :



- Islam in government
  - Theocracy
  - Legal system based on Shari'ah



# Shari'ah Law

- *Shari'a* is an Arabic word meaning “path” or “way.” Today it is used most commonly to mean “Islamic law”
- *Shari'a* tries to describe in detail all possible human acts, dividing them into permitted (*halal*) and prohibited (*haram*)
- The mandates of *shari'a* are extremely harsh compared to modern Western standards. They infringe on many modern principles of human rights, religious freedom, and equality of all before the law



Deera Square, central Riyadh. Known locally as "Chop-chop square", it is the location of public beheadings

<http://www.discoverthenetworks.org/viewSubCategory.asp?id=774>

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=616052n>

- Colonialism
  - Beginning in the late 1700s, discontent and ethnic and religious rivalry caused Ottoman power to deteriorate
  - By the 1800s, the empire began to weaken.
  - Great Britain, France, and Russia began to interfere in the affairs and territories of the Ottoman Empire and Egypt
  - After WWI:
    - The independent Arab state:
    - The remaining Ottoman lands were divided into a number of nations and:



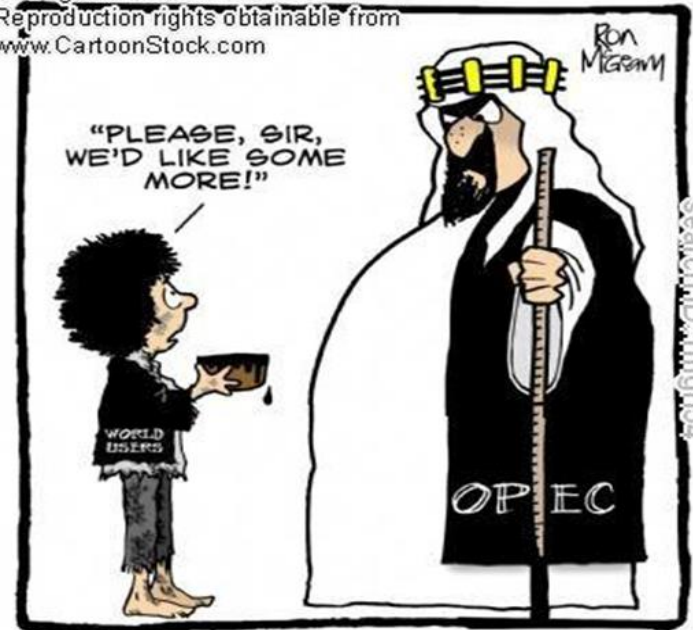
# Saudi Arabia

- The modern Saudi state was founded in:
- One of his male descendents rules the country today as required by the country's 1992 Basic Law.
- King ABDALLAH bin Abd al-Aziz ascended to the throne in 2005



- Economy
  - Oil discovered in the region in 1932 and is the Arabian Peninsula's primary resource
  - Oil \$\$\$ used to fund infrastructure
  - OPEC:

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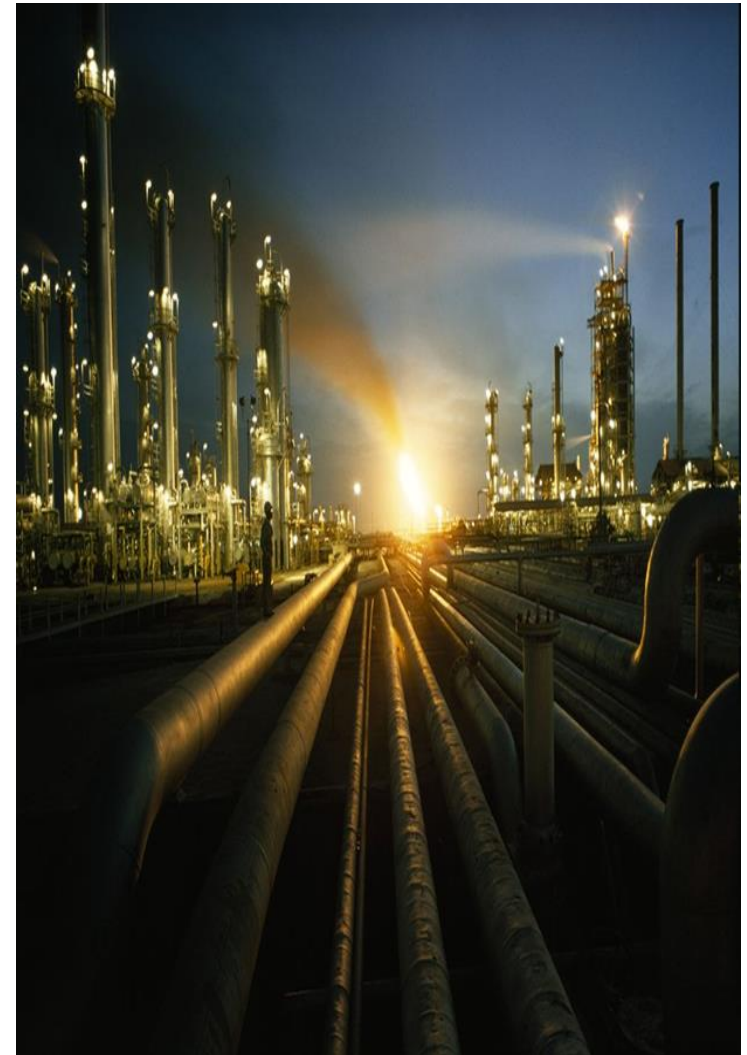


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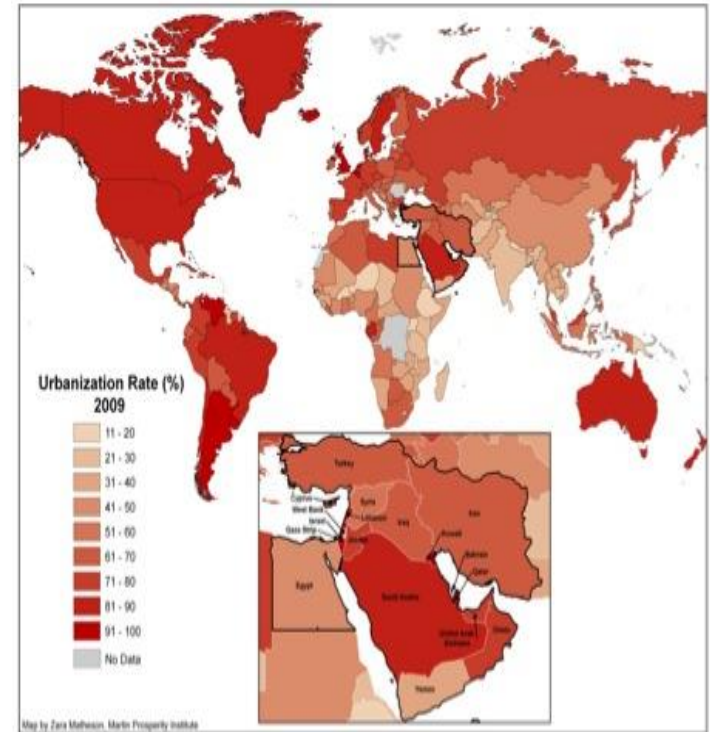


# Oil Dominates the Economy

Selected Oil and Gas Pipeline Infrastructure in the Middle East

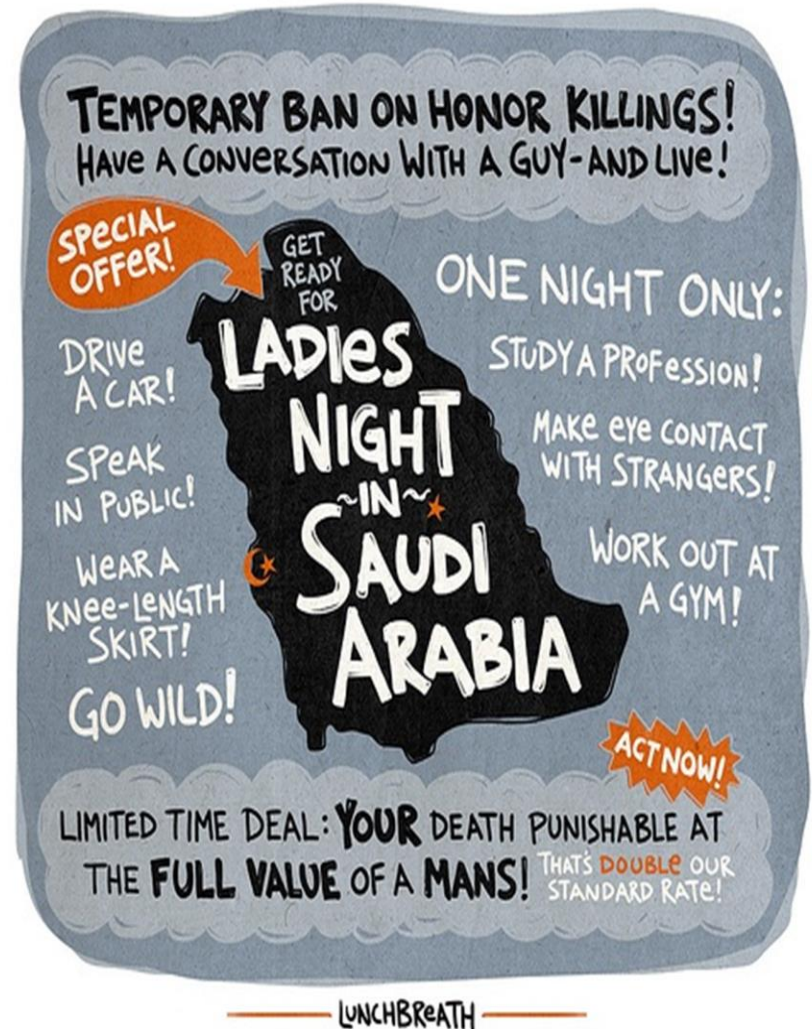


- Culture
  - Modernization
  - Urbanization
  - Demand for skilled workers
    - Foreign workers
  - Influence of Islam
    - Women and family
    - Prayer



# Muslim Women

- The family is the:
- Women have an honored position in Saudi society, but have limited freedoms.
- They stay within the home and depend on permission from their husbands to :



# ISLAMIC DRESS CODES



**Hijab (Head Scarf)**  
Worn in the West and Iran



**Chador**  
Iran



**Abaya**  
Saudi Arabia



**Burqa**  
Afghanistan



**Jilbab**  
Indonesia