

Notes to Slides

Slide 2: The Middle East sits where Africa, Asia and Europe meet. The Greater Middle East includes all countries on the map to the left including Afghanistan and Pakistan, and all the other "stans," but it also includes many North African countries like Egypt, Libya and Sudan.

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Slide 4: The Middle East produces about a third of the world's oil and a tenth of its natural gas. (It has a third of all natural gas reserves, but they're tougher to transport.) Much of that is exported. That makes the entire world economy pretty reliant on the continued flow of that gas and oil, which just happens to go through a region that has seen an awful lot of conflict in the last few decades. This map shows where the reserves are and how they're transported overland; much of it also goes by sea through the Persian Gulf, a body of water that is also home to some of the largest reserves in the region and the world. The energy resources are heavily clustered in three neighboring countries that have historically hated one another: Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. The tension between those three is something that the United States, as a huge energy importer, has been deeply interested in for years: it sided against Iran during the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, against Iraq when it invaded Kuwait and threatened Saudi Arabia in the 1990s, again against Iraq with the 2003 invasion, and now is supporting Saudi Arabia in its rapidly worsening proxy war against Iran. Map source: http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_RJhc4O7y07M/TFAUgR-47UI/AAAAAAAAAGn0/q_x1iawAIMU/s1600/Middle+East+pipeline+map.jpg

Slide 5: There are few grimmer symbols for the devastation of the Iraq War than what it did to Baghdad's once-diverse neighborhoods. The map on the left shows the city's religious make-up in 2005. Mixed neighborhoods, then the norm, are in yellow. The map on right shows what it looked like by 2007, after two awful years of Sunni-Shia killing: bombings (shown with red dots), death squads, and militias. Coerced evictions and thousands of deaths effectively cleansed neighborhoods, to be mostly Shia (blue) or mostly Sunni (red). Since late 2012, the sectarian civil war has ramped back up, in Baghdad and nationwide.

Slide 6: On Sept. 11, 2001, members of al-Qaeda hijacked four planes. They crashed two into the World Trade Center and another into the Pentagon. The terrorists were supported by the Taliban who ruled Afghanistan in the 1990's and allowed al-Qaeda to hide out in there. The terrorists believed that everyone should be Muslim and that non-believers should be a target of violence. They attacked symbols of America's wealth and military power. The United States and Great Britain joined with a group of Afghan warriors called the Northern Alliance to fight the Taliban.

Slide 7: The Afghanistan War is extremely complicated, but this map does a remarkable job of capturing the most important components: 1) the Taliban areas, in orange overlay; 2) the areas controlled by the US and allies, in depressingly tiny spots of green; 3) the major Western military bases, marked with blue dots; 4) the areas of opium production, which are a big source of Taliban funding, in brown circles, with larger circles meaning more opium; 5) the supply lines

through Pakistan, in red, which Pakistan has occasionally shut down and come under frequent Taliban attack; 6) the supply line through Russia, which requires Russian approval. If this map does not depress you about the prospects of the Afghan War, not much will. Map source: <http://www.vox.com/a/maps-explain-crisis-iraq>

Slide 8: In response to the Arab Spring and prior to COVID-19, the Gulf States financed stimulus packages and used their wealth as a bail-out system for struggling neighboring countries. Because of the pandemic, a drastic fall in oil prices and a severe economic shutdown, these financial resources have been depleted and the safety valve no longer exists. Throughout the 2010's, the Gulf monarchies sought to diversify their economies by investing in tourism, health care, logistics, retail, and technological and financial solutions. Their diversification efforts were slow to develop and still reliant on oil. COVID-19 will further hinder these efforts, as well as affect the stability of the countries that previously enjoyed the Gulf's bailouts. These poor countries may fall short in meeting their debt obligations, and face even more social upheaval. The pandemic is expected to cause an additional 8.3 million people to fall into poverty. This will further exacerbate those regional differences and structural imbalances, in addition to promoting continued political instability, weakened health systems and conflict.

Slide 9: People sometimes use their religious authority to encourage activity that would endanger their lives during COVID, such as drinking cow urine in India or drinking from one spoon at Greek Orthodox churches. In the MENA region, these religious appeals often misused the appeal of Islam to promote dangerous remedies, theories, and behaviors for various intentions. The perpetrators were sometimes religious authorities with ties to ruling establishments trying to attract followers or others out for monetary gain.

Slide 10: Reform is necessary to help address the region's structural imbalances and support the new ideas for diversification and growth.

Slide 11: The ISAF is made up of over 130,000 soldiers from around 46 different countries. Troops from the different countries work together in the ISAF to keep the peace, prevent the Taliban from regaining power, and train the Afghan National Army to take on the defense of the country. They are also known as coalition forces. They are led by a group called the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which consists of 28 North American and European countries. These countries protect and defend each other when needed. After 9/11, NATO joined with the U.S. to help combat terrorism.

Slide 12: Read the War in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Slide 13: After reading *The War in Afghanistan and Iraq*, participate in Socratic Circles to discuss the complex text in the book.

Slide 14: Create an Animoto photo story about the War in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Slide 15: Learn about helicopters in the military. Participate in an experiment creating whirlybirds and comparing how they fly to helicopters. Create a new whirlybird design.

Slide 16: Follow directions to design a six and eight pointed star. Students learn to find the circumference and area of circles, then create their own Islamic-geometric design.

Slide 17: Participate in a Reader's Theatre adapted from *Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg & Three Cups of Tea* and present to another class.

Slide 18: Students learn about kite flying in Afghanistan and create a Power Point about the history of kite flying and kite flying in Afghanistan. Students then create a tetrahedron kite from string, tissue paper and straws.

Slide 19: The reliance of oil from the Middle East makes us deeply interested in what is going on over there. Until we find an alternative energy source or cut back on the use of oil and natural gas, we will always have a connection with them.

We cannot ignore what is going on with the people in war stricken territories of the Middle East, nor can we ignore the terrorist groups that are forever threatening our security. We must be proactive in helping out their defenseless citizens who are a target of terrorism, as well as protect our own nation against terrorism.