

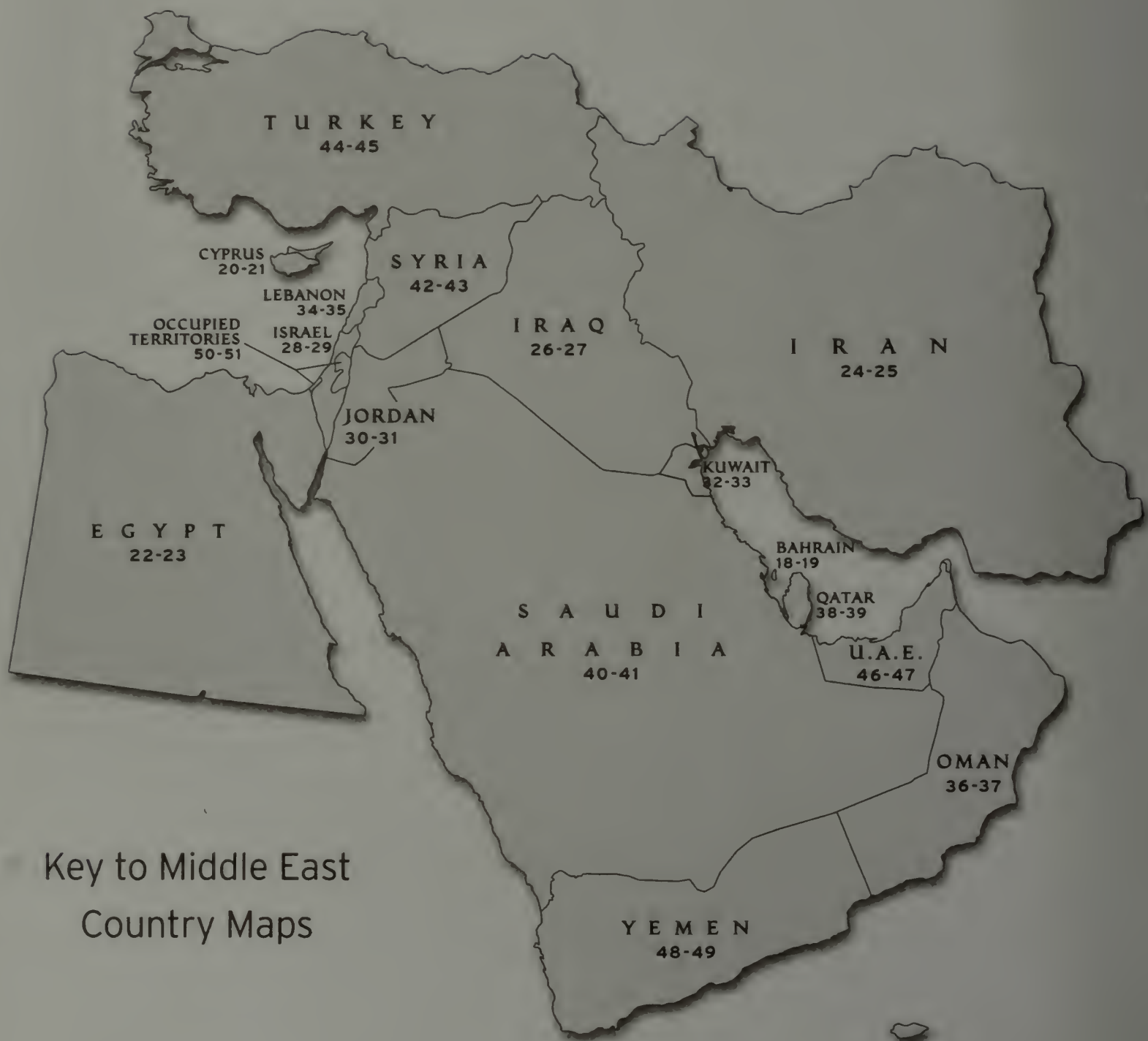


NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

ATLAS OF THE MIDDLE EAST



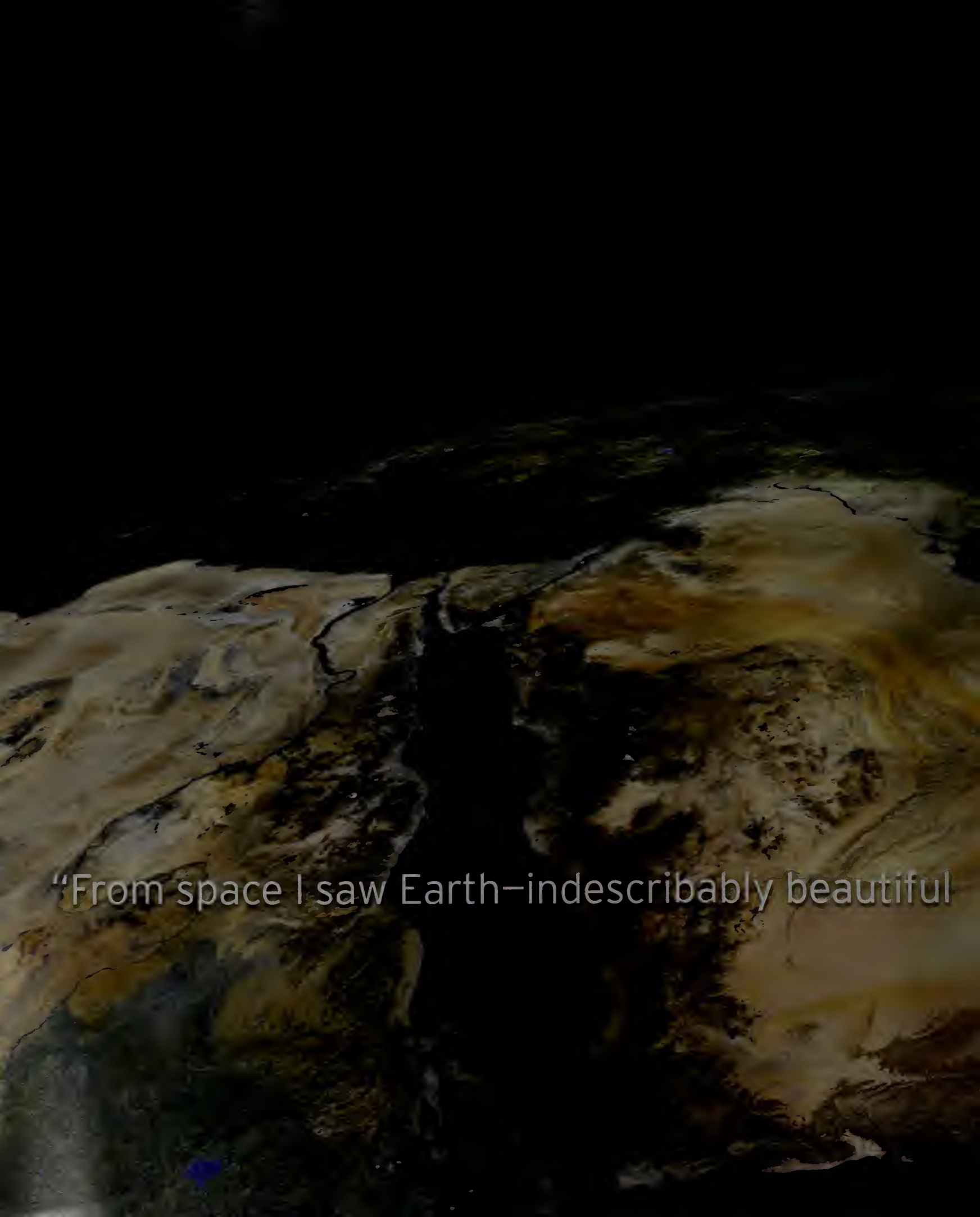
An Essential Reference for a Better Understanding of the World's Most Complex Region



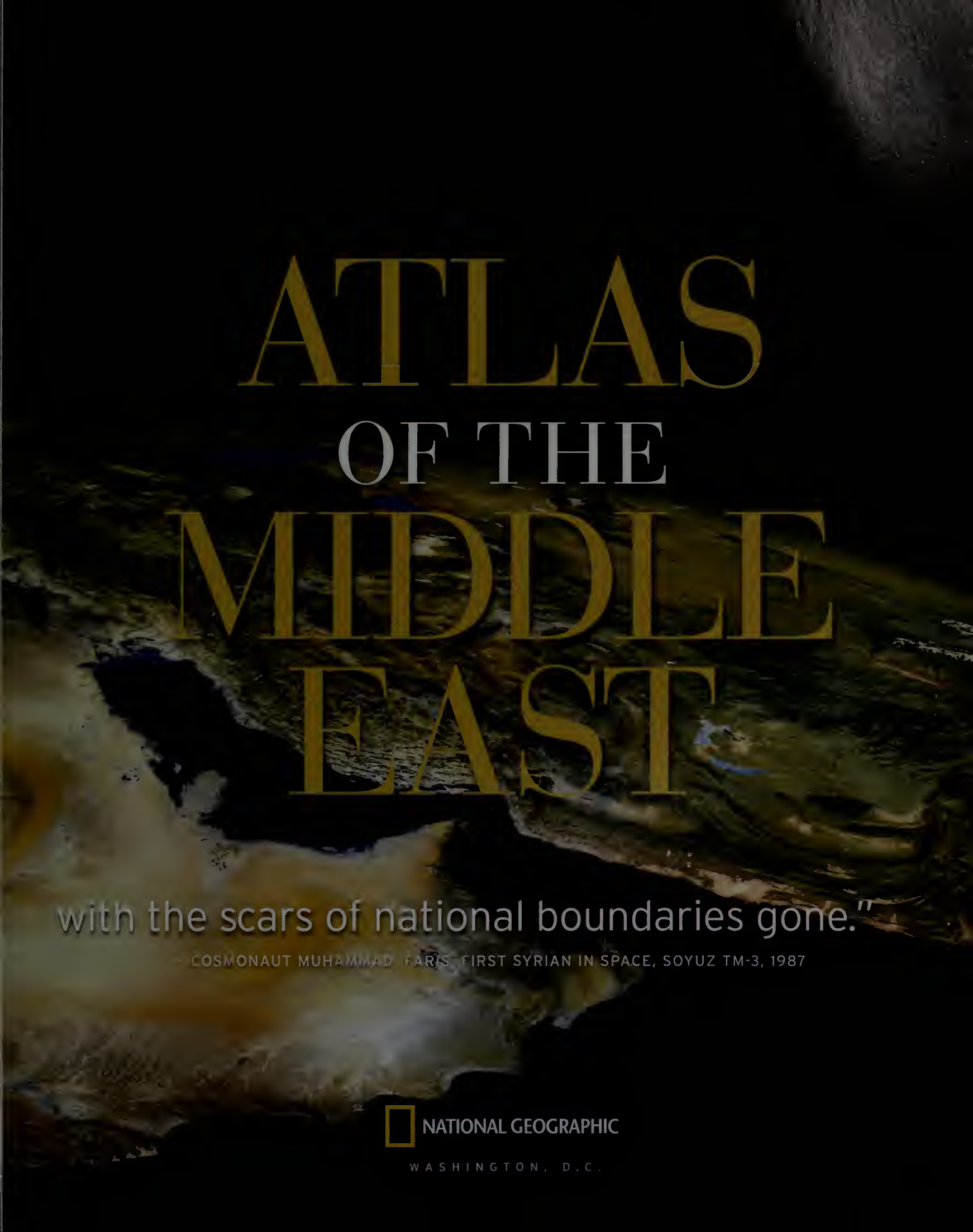
Key to Middle East Country Maps

ATLAS
OF THE
MIDDLE
EAST





"From space I saw Earth—indescribably beautiful

A satellite image of the Middle East, showing the Arabian Peninsula, the Red Sea, and surrounding landmasses. The image is dark and grainy, with a yellowish-green tint. The title "ATLAS OF THE MIDDLE EAST" is overlaid in large, bold, serif font. "ATLAS" and "MIDDLE EAST" are in a golden-yellow color, while "OF THE" is in white.

ATLAS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

with the scars of national boundaries gone."

— COSMONAUT MUHAMMAD FARIS, FIRST SYRIAN IN SPACE, SOYUZ TM-3, 1987



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

WASHINGTON, D.C.

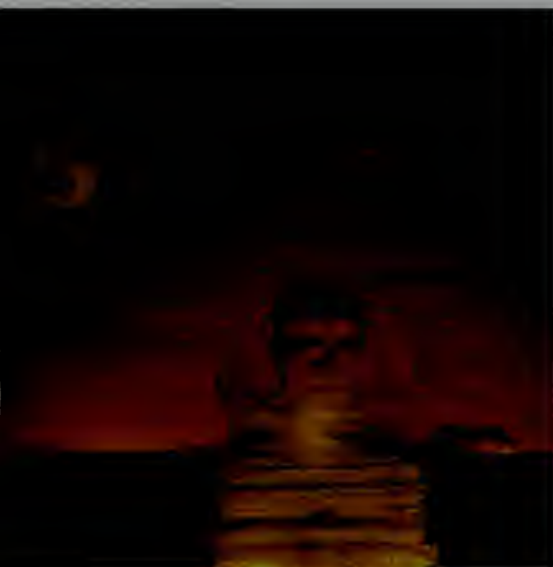


6 Preface	8 Introduction	12 World Map
NATIONS 14		
16 Regional Political Map	30 Jordan	46 United Arab Emirates
16 Map Key	32 Kuwait	48 Yemen
18 Bahrain	34 Lebanon	50 Occupied Territories
20 Cyprus	36 Oman	52 Selected Cities
22 Egypt	38 Qatar	52 BAGHDAD 53 DAMASQUS
24 Iran	40 Saudi Arabia	53 BEIRUT 56 JERUSALEM
26 Iraq	42 Syria	54 CAIRO 57 TEHRAN
28 Israel	44 Turkey	
REGIONAL THEMES 58		
60 Physical Map	■ TOP 10 NATIONAL JEWISH/ MUSLIM POPULATIONS	72 Water
62 Climate	■ RELIGIOUS ADHERENTS	■ FRESHWATER RESOURCES
■ CLIMATIC ZONES	■ BRANCHES OF ISLAM	■ RENEWABLE FRESHWATER
■ CLIMATE TYPES	■ ADHERENTS BY POLITICAL AREA	■ FRESHWATER WITHDRAWALS
■ MAX JANUARY TEMPERATURE	68 Ethnic and Linguistic Groups	■ RENEWABLE WATER SUPPLY AND PER CAPITA USE BY SECTOR
■ MAX JANUARY PRECIPITATION	■ MAJOR ETHNIC GROUPS	■ LACK OF ACCESS TO IMPROVED DRINKING WATER
■ TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL CORRELATED ZONES	■ ETHNIC COMPOSITION	■ SEVERE WATER STRESS
64 Population	■ FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION	■ FRESHWATER WITHDRAWALS WORLDWIDE
■ POPULATION DENSITY	■ LANGUAGE GROUPS	■ DESALINATION CAPACITY WORLDWIDE
■ POPULATION GROWTH/ RESERVE	70 Oil	74 Development Indicators
■ FERTILITY	■ ENERGY RESOURCES	■ GDP PER CAPITA
■ LIFE EXPECTANCY	■ OIL RESERVES	■ IMPORTS AND EXPORTS
■ URBAN POPULATION	■ REGIONAL SHARE OF WORLD OIL RESERVES/CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION	■ FOREIGN AID
■ RURAL POPULATION	■ LEADING CRUDE OIL PRODUCERS, 1970-2000	■ LITERACY RATES
■ POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER	■ MIDDLE EAST EXPORTS AND GLOBAL OIL CONSUMPTION	■ SCHOOL ENROLLMENT RATIOS
■ POPULATIONS OF MAJOR CITIES	■ TOP OIL PRODUCERS/ CONSUMERS WORLDWIDE	■ INFANT MORTALITY
66 Religion		■ ACCESS TO SANITATION SERVICES
■ RELIGIOUS DISTRIBUTION		
■ SACRED PLACES		
HISTORY 76		
78 World Heritage Sites; Ancient Egypt	80 Modern Historical Maps; Defense Spending	82 Time Line
86 Appendix	87 Place-name Index	94 Acknowledgments, Bibliography
■ OTHER FLAGS		
■ GEOGRAPHIC EQUIVALENTS		
■ ABBREVIATIONS		
■ CONVERSIONS		

OPPOSITE: Morning breaks in Istanbul, Turkey, lifting the veil of night from the dome and slender minarets of the Blue Mosque. Built by Sultan Ahmed I (1590-1617), the 17th-century mosque gets its name from the richly colored tiles that adorn its interior.

Shifting Sands

BY JOHN M. FAHEY, JR.



SILENT WITNESS to 5,000 years of history, the Sphinx keeps watch near Chephren's Pyramid at Giza, Egypt.

FIXING THE MIDDLE EAST WITH INK ON PAPER is like reviewing a play in the middle of the second act. So volatile is the region, so unpredictable its continuing drama, that we can only set the stage and name the players. The ending—what will ultimately happen to political borders, resources, governments, and peoples—is yet to be written. The only current certainty is that events here will profoundly affect the rest of the world. In these pivotal times, we have designed this atlas of the Middle East to help you fit the pieces into place as the drama unfolds.

A dramatic role is not new for the Middle East, which sits at the crossroads of three continents—Africa, Europe, and Asia. Civilization itself is rooted in its river valleys—the Jordan, Euphrates, and Nile. The three great monotheistic faiths—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—call it the Holy Land. And 65 percent of the world's oil reserves come from the Middle East, giving it political clout far beyond that of its individual states.

No other area on Earth provokes such fury and fervor, or cradles so many human aspirations, as the Middle East. No other has riveted our attention to its affairs almost daily for more than half a century, ever since the United Nations adopted a plan calling for the partition of Palestine into two states. The hostility engendered between Israelis and Palestinians continues to this day, periodically erupting to turn the Jewish state into a virtual fortress and calcifying intolerance in both camps. The fate of Iraq, once an oil-prosperous and progressive nation, is as lethal an issue and may reverberate as powerfully in the coming decade.

For struggling Middle Eastern governments as well as the West, radical Islamic movements have brought increasing apprehension, even dread, to an already uncertain future. These

Islamists are split into two factions—nationalists, whose goal has been the overthrow of what they consider corrupt and “heretical” regimes, and globalists such as the shadowy leaders of al-Qaeda, whose goal is to hijack both Islam and the Arab world into a jihad against modernity and its most formidable practitioner, the United States. The globalists have been routed from Afghanistan and many are in hiding, but they keep the world awake at night.

Another continuing challenge for the nations of the Middle East is to become full partners in the global economic community without sacrificing cultural values. Iran, for example, wavers between its reformist politicians and conservative mullahs. Saudi Arabia’s royal family simultaneously attempts to satisfy Western obligations and keep the loyalty of its masses. Turkey metaphorically straddles its own geography, embracing both European ideals and its Islamic heritage.

Beyond the political turmoil, the Middle East faces a deep, long-term demographic crisis. Its population quadrupled from 112 million in 1950 to an estimated 415 million at the beginning of the 21st century. Nearly half of its people are 18 or younger. But in the Middle East, feeding these burgeoning numbers is a struggle: most of the largely desert region’s meager freshwater resources are rivers and aquifers that cross international boundaries and provoke quarrels. For decades agriculture has endured drought, soil degradation, erosion, and pollution. Millions of people have fled the land into cities—Cairo, Beirut, Damascus, Tehran—whose infrastructures, schools, and social institutions are overwhelmed, and whose economies cannot begin to provide meaningful jobs. Even in the region’s oil-producing states, the population explosion has severely diluted per capita oil revenues, which are less than a quarter of what they were in 1980.

Many Middle Easterners feel under siege, yet today’s flood of global communications, difficult to censor, has given them new perspectives on the larger world as well as their own place within it. The Torah, the Bible, and the Koran may still speak to their hearts, but the Internet, satellite television, and videos now link them to a torrent of facts and opinions that cut across religious, cultural, and national lines. Even the gap between opportunities for men and women is diminishing as the region takes stock of its needs.

An 11th-century Shiite poet, lamenting the savagery of the Crusades, concluded that the world was not divided between Christians, Jews, and Muslims, but between people who believe and people who think. The task of the Middle East today is to determine how to do both well. The task of this atlas is to help you make sense of this tumultuous region’s past, the challenges of its present, and the possibilities of its future.



STRETCHING to the horizon, the main oil pipeline of Saudi Arabia carries the lifeblood of the kingdom’s economy.

A Land Caught in a Vortex

BY PRIIT J. VESILIND

GILBERT HOVEY GROSVENOR, the venerable Editor of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC magazine from 1914 to 1966, grew up in the vibrant, culturally unsettling city of Constantinople, today's Istanbul, capital of Turkey. They were the declining years of the Ottoman Empire, and young Grosvenor was bombarded with the Babel of tongues and cultures. "His nurse was an Armenian," wrote Maynard Owen Williams, chief of the magazine's Foreign Editorial Staff. "Kurdish porters toiled up the cobbled paths carrying provisions to his home. Albanians, Bulgarians and Greeks were his classmates."

Williams might well have added Arabs, Lebanese, Jews, Persians, Azeri, and Englishmen to the mix. "East is East and West is West," wrote Rudyard Kipling, "and never the twain shall meet." He was wrong. The twain met in the Middle East, a region that has served as a cultural stew and commercial suq for some three thousand years.

The Middle East is a land of nuance and subtlety: The obvious will always have a caveat: the clear-cut often takes on softer edges. The nomenclature itself is problematic. Before the New World was known or considered part of recognized civilization, geographers used terminology that was logical to people living in the huge world-island of Eurasia. "East" was the eastern shores of that world-island, "West" was its western parts. In between were the Urals to the north, and the lands of the eastern Mediterranean to the south, today's Middle East.

The region is known as the Middle East in the English language because to Europeans the "Far East" was India, China, and Japan; the nations of the eastern Mediterranean, beyond Greece, were considered midway there. The term Orient simply means East in Latin. "Levant," meaning the coastal shelf of the eastern Mediterranean, was from the Italian word, *levanti*, the "rising" of the sun. "Near East" was used to speak of the Ottoman Empire of the 14th to 20th centuries, which extended as far north as the European Balkans.

The people of the Middle East have never seen themselves as halfway to anything, but

DURING A pilgrimage to Mecca, or hajj, Muslims visit the Sacred Mosque and circle the Kaaba, Islam's holiest shrine.



rather in the center of it all. Muslim, Jewish, and Christian believers alike place the Garden of Eden and the fields of Cain on the Harran Plain near the Turkish-Syrian border. Nearly 5,000 years ago, in the fertile valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, in today's Iraq, people called Sumerians first harvested a surplus of grain, enabling others among them to develop skills other than food production. Thus the first civilization begat its artisans, craftsmen, and merchants, and learned to build cities, conduct commerce, and record history on clay tablets.

From here, the tools and techniques of civilization spread in a Fertile Crescent from Anatolia, today's Turkey, through Syria and into Egypt. While Europeans still lived in rough huts in the forest, the Middle East threw up elaborate empires such as Mesopotamia, Babylonia, Assyria, and Persia. It raised gilded cities with temples and terraces, irrigation systems and highways. It produced legal codes, calendars, coinage, and postal systems, allowed the rise of bureaucrats, scribes, and scholars. It was already ancient 300 years before the birth of Christ.

The definition of "Middle East" is surely not unanimous among scholars,



THE BROADER definition of the Middle East is used in a cultural sense to describe lands in southwest Asia and northeast Africa that are predominantly Islamic. The remaining states in north Africa and Afghanistan and Pakistan are among these.

and remains a matter of emphasis. In the 7th century the Bedouin cavalry of the Prophet Mohammed thundered east and west from the Arabian Peninsula to conquer both Persian and Byzantine empires, creating an Arab Empire from southern France to India. Today the single unifying factor of the Middle East remains Islam, with its Arab roots. Half of the population speaks Arabic, and more than 90 percent of Middle Easterners are followers of the Prophet. Thus, while the geographic "middle east" only extends from Egypt to Iran, and Turkey to Yemen (opposite), the cultural Middle East (above) stretches across Moorish North Africa to Morocco.

This atlas concentrates on the geographic Middle East, the nations and political entities that occupy the crucible of cultures between three continents. It is divided into three main sections: Nations, Regional Themes, and History. The Nations section devotes a full two-page spread to every nation-state and political unit. The format allows us to focus in unprecedented

large scale on small political entities such as Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates. Israel, for example, a thin north-south sliver of land no larger than the northern peninsula of Michigan, is printed sideways across both pages to reveal critical details such as the farmland surrounding the Sea of Galilee. An entirely separate spread telescopes in on the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories, showing the stricken villages of the Gaza Strip.

City maps of Baghdad, Jerusalem, Cairo, Damascus, Beirut, and Tehran take us into the streets, place us on intimate terms with the urban landscape as current events unfold. Because the region has been so dynamic, we have carefully re-researched changes in place names, using diacritical marks to show how they are pronounced in their native languages. We have added roads and settlements, the locations of oil fields and pipelines.

The Regional Themes section begins with a remarkable satellite mosaic photograph of the entire physical area, revealing the twisted mountain chains and desert expanses whose desolation has pushed populations into urban centers. The Black and Caspian Seas, the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, and the Red Sea are the highways that marine commerce, from Phoenician galleys to Arab dhows, followed to the marketplaces of the near world. Conversely, they provide easy access to visitors and invaders alike, and they also serve as natural insulation between ethnic and cultural groups.

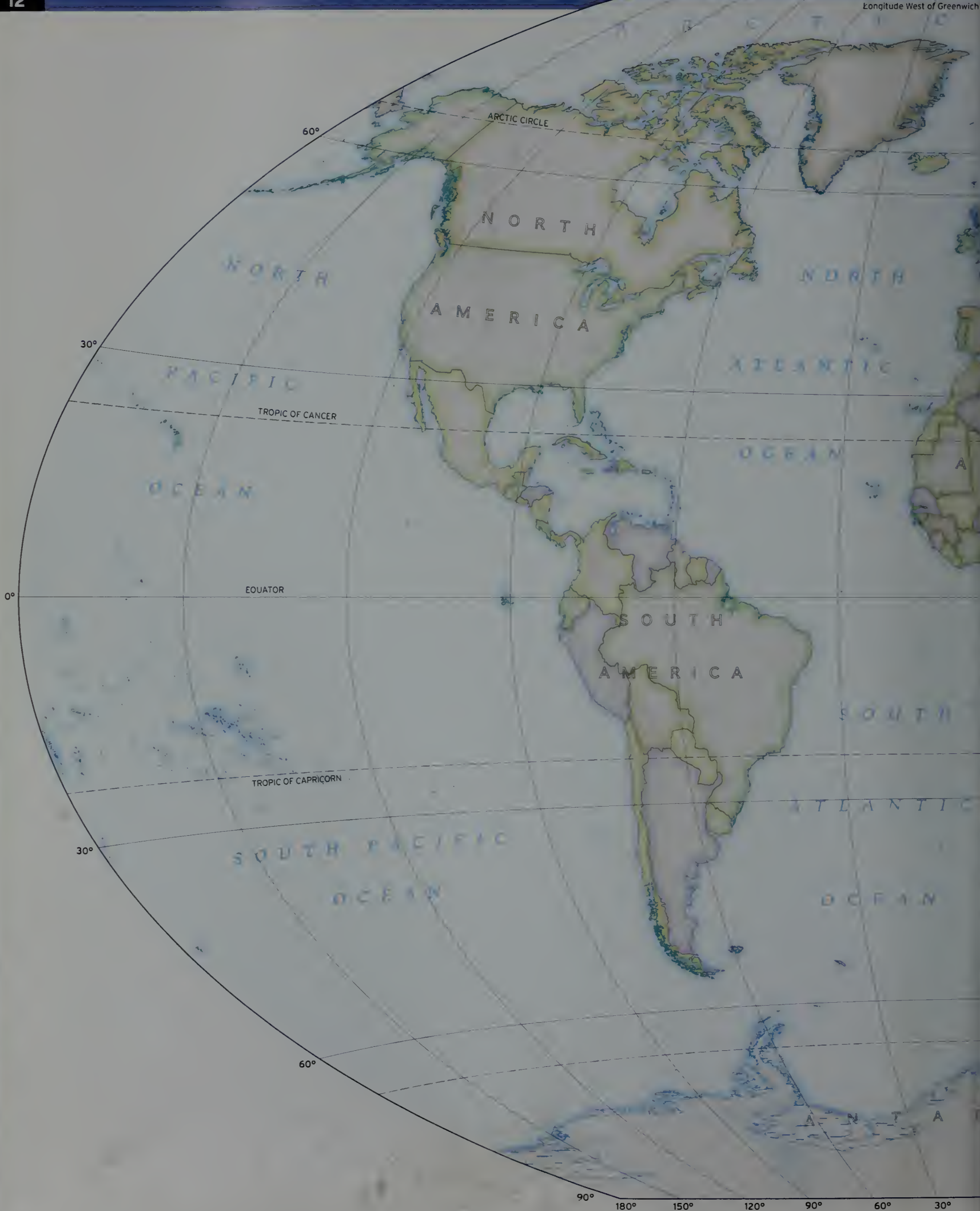
Following the mosaic are maps that begin to layer the political and physical maps with deeper insight. Using a variety of graphs, pie charts, and brilliant photographs, each page-spread tackles a different issue. Two show the region's most critical resources: oil and freshwater reserves. Others demonstrate the blessings and limiting effects of climate. Another reveals the population explosion that's made the Middle East the world's fastest-growing area. Some outline ethnic distribution, the spread of religion, the paths and extent of the *aliyah*, the ingathering, the Jewish migration to Israel. Finally, they come to grips with the uncertain economic future by outlining such indicators as fertility, life expectancy, and poverty rates. Other maps and spreads explore economic factors such as imports, exports, and gross per capita domestic products.

The History section highlights the remains of ancient empires and grand civilizations, including World Heritage Sites. Time-lapse maps show the regional conflicts and origin of today's nation-states. Finally, a four-page time line illustrates the dynamic, often terrifying modern history of the Middle East, from 1900 through the current crises in Israel and Iraq.

We kept these sections on hold until the last possible print deadline, in order to include fresh information. In the months and years ahead we hope this volume will serve as your companion to understanding.



THE FOCUS
of the territory depicted on the map above is what is more commonly termed the "Middle East." The pages of maps and graphs that follow, reflect this treatment.



Longitude East of Greenwich

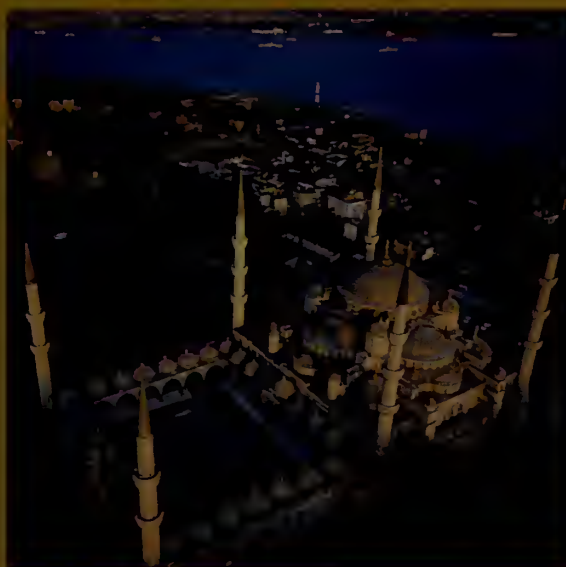


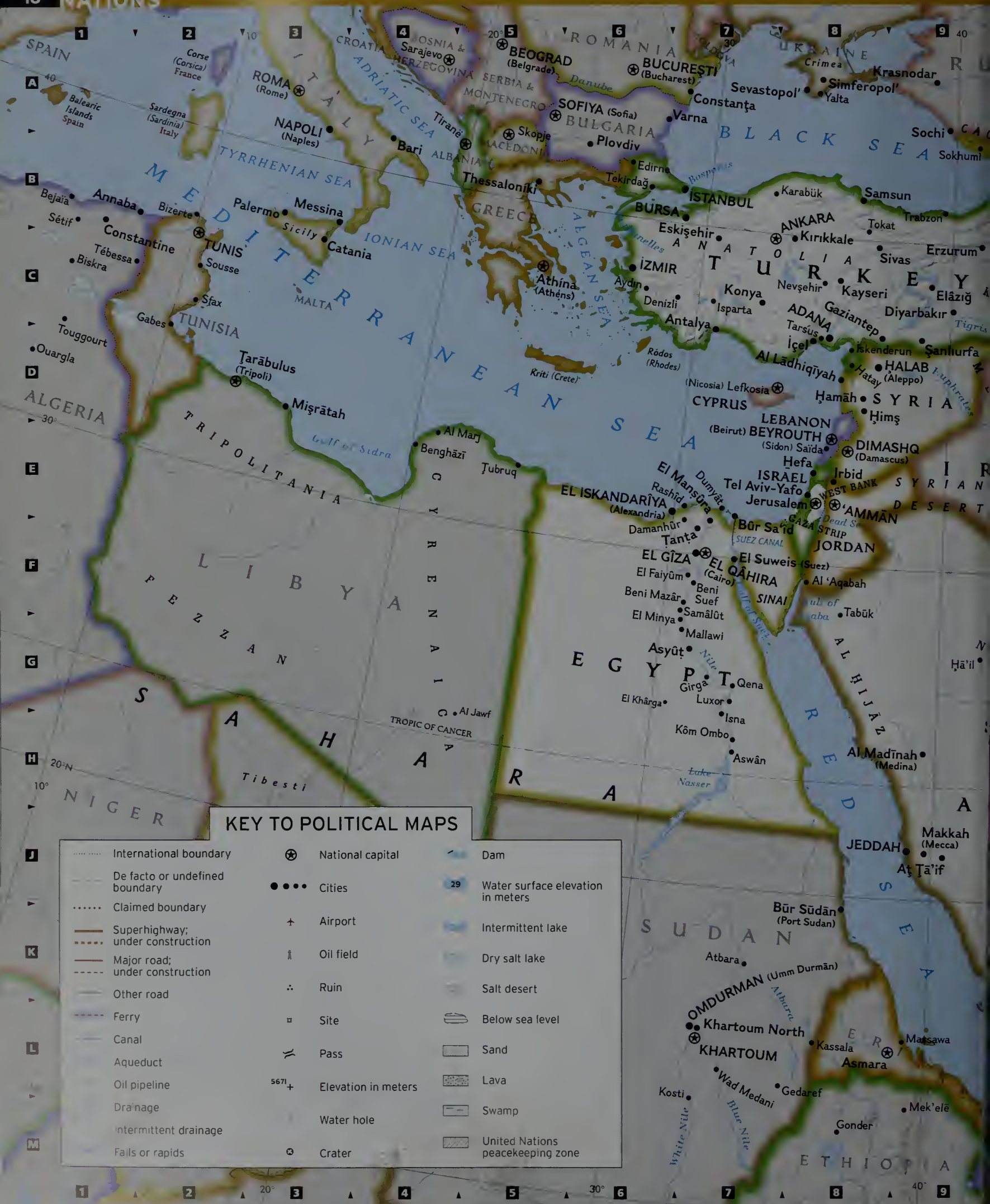
NATIONS



LEFT TO RIGHT: Iraqi soldiers training in Baghdad following the 1990 invasion of Kuwait; The flags of Turkey (white on red), and the self-declared Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (red on white), hanging outside the headquarters of the National Unity Party in northern Cyprus; PLO leader Yasser Arafat, Jordan's King Hussein, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a peace summit at the White House in October, 1996; An off-duty Israeli soldier and two Orthodox Jews using public telephones in Jerusalem; The Blue Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey; Palestinian youths take cover behind a sheet of corrugated iron during a clash with police in the Gaza Strip.

16 Regional Map	34 Lebanon	52 Selected Cities
16 Map Key	36 Oman	52 Baghdad
18 Bahrain	38 Qatar	53 Beirut
20 Cyprus	40 Saudi Arabia	54 Cairo
22 Egypt	42 Syria	55 Damascus
24 Iran	44 Turkey	56 Jerusalem
26 Iraq	46 United Arab Emirates	57 Tehran
28 Israel	48 Yemen	
30 Jordan	50 Occupied Territories	
32 Kuwait		









Bahrain



KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

AREA	665 sq km (257 sq mi)
POPULATION	700,000
CAPITAL	Al Manāmah (Manama) 150,000
RELIGION	(percent of population): Muslim 82% (mostly Shiite), Christian 9%, other 9%
LANGUAGE	Arabic (official), English, Persian, Urdu
LITERACY	88.5%
LIFE EXPECTANCY	74 years
TROOPS	Active: 11,000
GDP PER CAPITA	\$13,000
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	100,000,000 barrels
ECONOMY	IND: petroleum processing and refining, aluminum smelting, offshore banking, ship repairing; tourism. AGR: fruit, vegetables; poultry, dairy products; shrimp, fish. EXP: petroleum and petroleum products, aluminum, textiles.
AREA COMPARISON	Bahrain encompasses 0.0083% of the 48 contiguous United States.





A

B

C

D

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DIVIDED CYPRUS
Cyprus was partitioned in 1974 following a coup backed by Greece and an invasion by Turkey. The island of 900,000 people is composed of a Greek Cypriot south with an internationally recognized government and a Turkish Cypriot north (light gray) with a government recognized only by Turkey. The UN patrols the dividing line and works toward reunification of the island.



M E D I T E R R A N E A N

S E A



Cyprus



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

AREA	9,251 sq km (3,572 sq mi) includes Turkish-occupied region
POPULATION	900,000
CAPITAL	Lefkosa (Nicosia, Lefkoşa) 199,000
RELIGION	(percent of population): Greek Orthodox 78%, Muslim 18%, Maronite, Armenian Apostolic, and other 4%
LANGUAGE	Greek (official), Turkish (official), English
LITERACY	97%
LIFE EXPECTANCY	77 years
TROOPS	Active: 10,000; Reserves: 10,000
GDP PER CAPITA	Greek Cypriot Area: \$15,000; Turkish Cypriot area: \$7,000
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	None or negligible
ECONOMY	IND: food, beverages, textiles, chemicals, metal products, tourism, wood products. AGR: potatoes, citrus, vegetables, barley, grapes, olives, vegetables. EXP: citrus, potatoes, grapes, wine, cement, clothing and shoes, textiles.
AREA COMPARISON	Cyprus encompasses 0.11% of the 48 contiguous United States.



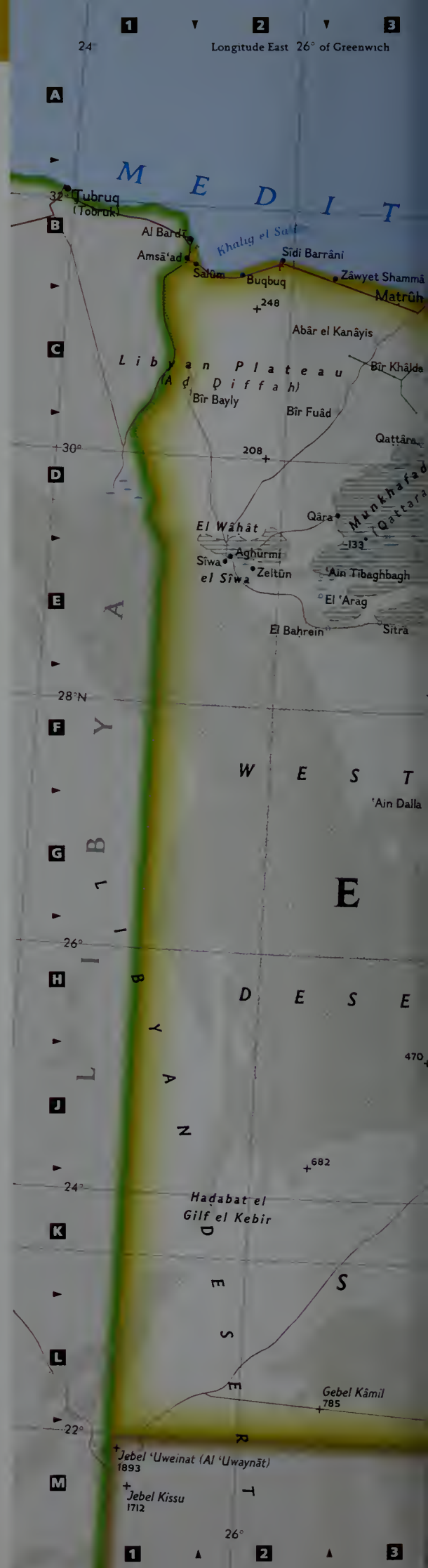


Egypt



ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

AREA	1,001,449 sq km (386,662 sq mi)
POPULATION	71,200,000
CAPITAL	El Qâhira (Cairo) 9,586,000
RELIGION	(percent of population): Muslim 89% (mostly Sunni), Christian 11% (mostly Coptic)
LANGUAGE	Arabic (official), English and French widely understood by educated classes
LITERACY	51.4%
LIFE EXPECTANCY	66 years
TROOPS	Active: 443,000; Reserves: 254,000
GDP PER CAPITA	\$3,700
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	2,900,000,000 barrels
ECONOMY	IND: textiles, food processing, tourism, chemicals, hydrocarbons, construction, cement, metals. AGR: cotton, rice, corn, wheat, beans, fruit, vegetables; cattle, water buffalo, sheep, goats. EXP: crude oil and petroleum products, cotton, textiles, metal products, chemicals.
AREA COMPARISON	Egypt encompasses 12.5% of the 48 contiguous United States.







Iran



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

AREA	1,648,000 sq km (636,296 sq mi)
POPULATION	65,600,000
CAPITAL	Tehrān 7,038,000
RELIGION	(percent of population): Muslim 99% (mostly Shiite, Sunni 10%), other 1% (Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian, Baha'i)
LANGUAGE	Persian and Persian dialects 58%, Turkic and Turkic dialects 26%, Kurdish 9%, Luri 2%, Baluchi, Arabic, Turkish, other 2%
LITERACY	72.1%
LIFE EXPECTANCY	69 years
TROOPS	Active: 513,000; Reserves: 350,000
GDP PER CAPITA	\$6,400
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	89,700,000,000 barrels
ECONOMY	IND: petroleum, petrochemicals, textiles, cement and other construction materials, food processing, metal fabricating, armaments. AGR: wheat, rice, other grains, sugar beets, fruits, nuts, cotton; dairy products, wool; caviar. EXP: petroleum 85%, carpets, fruits and nuts, iron and steel, chemicals.
AREA COMPARISON	Iran encompasses 20.6% of the 48 contiguous United States.

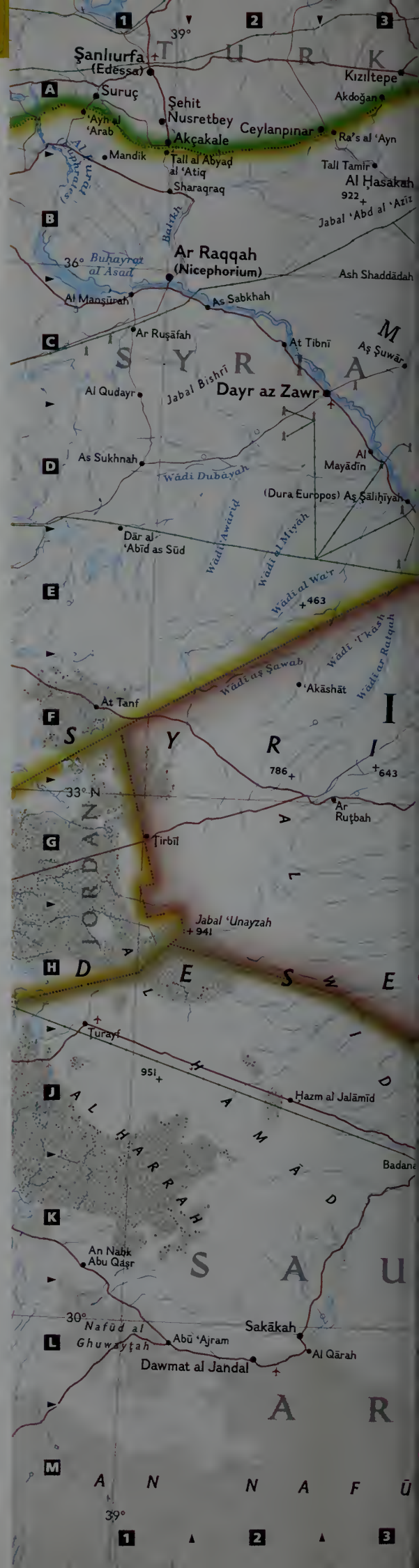


Iraq



REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

AREA	437,072 sq km (168,754 sq mi)
POPULATION	23,600,000
CAPITAL	Baghdād 4,958,000
RELIGION	(percent of population): Muslim 95% (mostly Shiite, Sunni 35%), Christian 5%
LANGUAGE	Arabic, Kurdish (official in Kurdish area), Assyrian, Armenian
LITERACY	58%
LIFE EXPECTANCY	58 years
TROOPS	Active: 424,000; Reserves: 650,000
GDP PER CAPITA	\$2,500
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	112,500,000,000 barrels
ECONOMY	IND: petroleum, chemicals, textiles, construction materials, food processing. AGR: wheat, barley, rice, vegetables, dates, cotton; cattle, sheep. EXP: crude oil.
AREA COMPARISON	Iraq encompasses 5.4% of the 48 contiguous United States.





The Kurdish homeland lies in the mountains spanning Turkey, Syria, Iraq, and Iran. Some 25 million strong, Kurds are an ethnic minority not related to Arabs, Persians, or Turks. Iraqi Kurds, numbering about 4 million, established autonomous governments in northern Iraq after the no-fly zone protected them from Iraqi reprisals.

Conic Projection
SCALE 1:3,620,000
1 CENTIMETER = 36.2 KILOMETERS, 1 INCH = 57.1 MILES
0 25 50 75 100
KILOMETERS
0 25 50 75 100
STATUTE MILES

NO-FLY ZONES
Iraqi military aircraft cannot fly in these zones that are patrolled by U.S. and British warplanes. The zones were established after the 1991 Persian Gulf war to stop Iraqi attacks on Kurds in the north and Shiites in the south.



Israel



STATE OF ISRAEL

AREA 20,770 sq km (8,019 sq mi)

POPULATION 6,600,000

CAPITAL Jerusalem 661,000

RELIGION (percent of population): Jewish 81%, Muslim 15% (mostly Sunni), Christian 2%, other 2%

LANGUAGE	Hebrew (official), Arabic used officially for Arab minority, English most commonly used foreign language
-----------------	--

LITERACY 95%

LIFE EXPECTANCY 78 years

TROOPS Active: 163,500; Reserves 425,000



GDP \$20,000
PER CAPITA

CRUDE OIL RESERVES None or negligible

ECONOMY IND: high-technology projects (including aviation, communications, computer-aided design and manufactures, medical electronics), wood and paper products, potash and phosphates, food, beverages, and tobacco, caustic soda, cement, diamond cutting. AGR: citrus, vegetables, cotton; beef, poultry, dairy products. EXP: machinery and equipment, software, cut diamonds, agricultural products, chemicals, textiles and apparel.

AREA COMPARISON Israel encompasses 0.26% of the 48 contiguous United States.





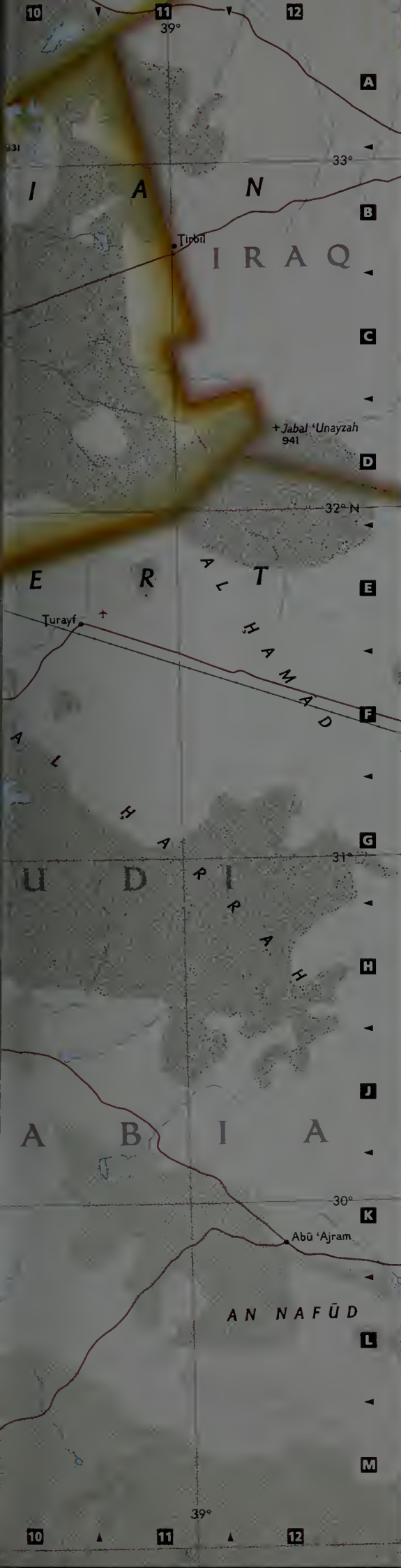
Conic Projection

SCALE 1:1,838,000

1 CENTIMETER = 18.4 KILOMETERS; 1 INCH = 29.0 MILES

0 25 50 75 100 KILOMETERS

0 25 50 75 100 STATUTE MILES



Jordan



HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

AREA	92,300 sq km (35,637 sq mi)
POPULATION	5,300,000
CAPITAL	Ammān (Philadelphia) 1,181,000
RELIGION	(percent of population): Muslim 96% (mostly Sunni), Christian 4%
LANGUAGE	Arabic (official), English widely understood among upper and middle classes
LITERACY	86.6%
LIFE EXPECTANCY	70 years
TROOPS	Active: 100,200; Reserves: 35,000
GDP PER CAPITA	\$4,200
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	None or negligible
ECONOMY	IND: phosphate mining, petroleum refining, cement, potash, light manufacturing, tourism. AGR: wheat, barley, citrus, tomatoes, melons, olives; sheep, goats, poultry. EXP: phosphates, fertilizers, potash, agricultural products, manufactures, pharmaceuticals.
AREA COMPARISON	Jordan encompasses 1.15% of the 48 contiguous United States.



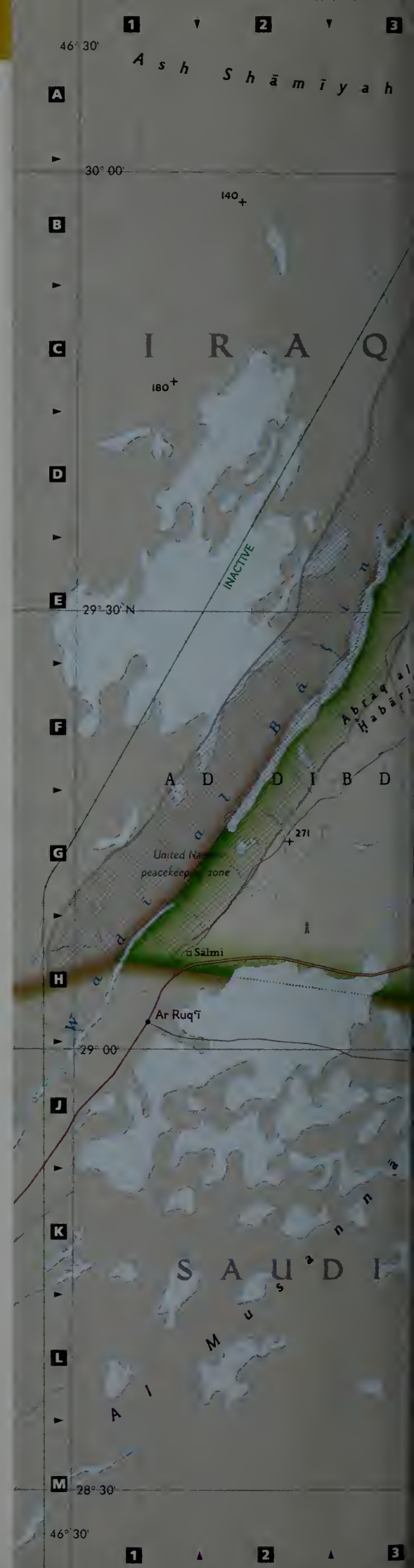


Kuwait



STATE OF KUWAIT

AREA	17,820 sq km (6,880 sq mi)
POPULATION	2,300,000
CAPITAL	Al Kuwayt (Kuwait) 888,000
RELIGION	(percent of population): Muslim 85% (mostly Sunni, Shiite 25%), other 15% (Christian, Hindu)
LANGUAGE	Arabic (official), English widely spoken
LITERACY	78.6%
LIFE EXPECTANCY	76 years
TROOPS	Active: 15,500; Reserves: 23,700
GDP PER CAPITA	\$15,100
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	96,500,000,000 barrels
ECONOMY	IND: petroleum, petrochemicals, desalination, food processing, construction materials. AGR: practically no crops; fish. EXP: oil and refined products, fertilizers.
AREA COMPARISON	Kuwait encompasses 0.22% of the 48 contiguous United States.





Longitude East 35° 30' of Greenwich

Albers' Conic Equal-Area Projection

SCALE 1 707,000

1 CENTIMETER = 7 KILOMETERS 1 INCH = 11.2 MILES

0 10 20 30 40

KILOMETERS

0 10 20 30 40

STATUTE MILES

34° 30'

C

D

E

F

G

H

J

33° 30'

K

L

M

MEDITERRANEAN

LEBANON

SEA

BEYROUTH
(BEIRUT)

El Mina
(Tripoli) Trâblous

Qurnat as Sawdâ
3087 +
Cedars of Lebanon

Jabal Şannin
2628 +

Baalbeck
2361 +

Jabal al-Lebnan
(Lebanon Mountain)

Lac de Qarâaoun

Jabal ash-Shaykh
(Mount Hermon)

GOLAN
HEIGHTS

Boundary
claimed by Syria

34° 00'N

1942 +

1713 +

2814 +

2814 +

2814 +

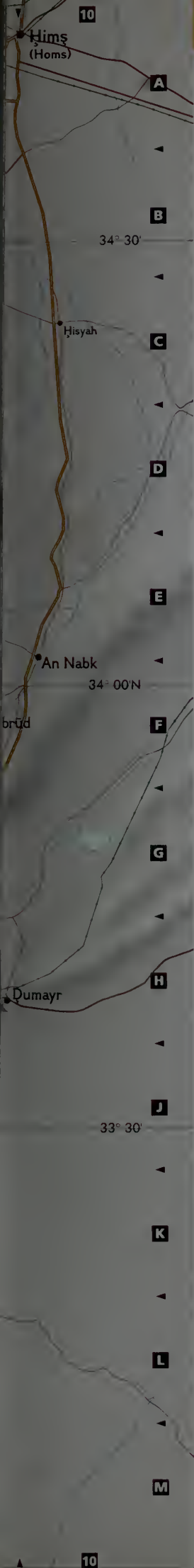
2814 +

2814 +

2814 +

36° 30'

36° 30'



Lebanon



LEBANESE REPUBLIC

AREA	10,400 sq km (4,015 sq mi)
POPULATION	4,300,000
CAPITAL	Beyrouth (Beirut) 2,115,000
RELIGION	(percent of population): Muslim 70% (Shiite, Sunni, Druze), Christian 30% (Maronite, Orthodox)
LANGUAGE	Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian
LITERACY	86.4%
LIFE EXPECTANCY	73 years
TROOPS	Active: 71,800
GDP PER CAPITA	\$5,200
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	None or negligible
ECONOMY	IND: banking; food processing; jewelry; cement; textiles; mineral and chemical products; wood and furniture products; oil refining; metal fabricating. AGR: citrus, grapes, tomatoes, apples, vegetables, potatoes, olives, tobacco; sheep, goats. EXP: foodstuffs and tobacco, textiles, chemicals, precious stones, metal, electrical equipment and products, jewelry, and paper.
AREA COMPARISON	Lebanon encompasses 0.13% of the 48 contiguous United States.



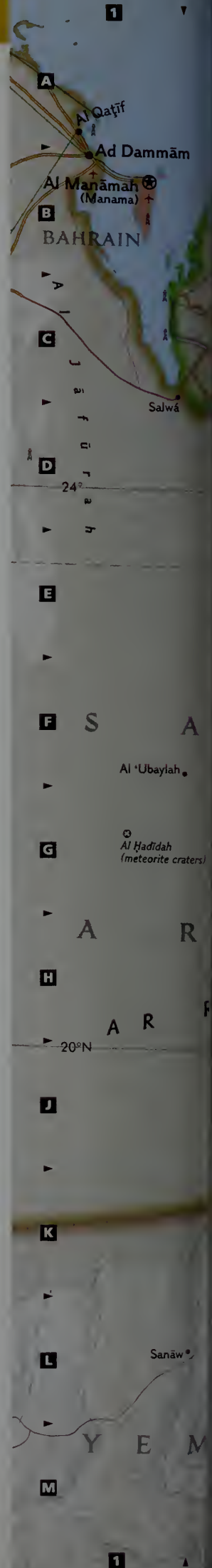


Oman

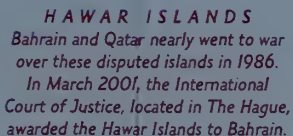


SULTANATE OF OMAN

AREA	212,460 sq km (82,031 sq mi)
POPULATION	2,600,000
CAPITAL	Maşqat (Muscat) 540,000
RELIGION	(percent of population): Muslim 88% (mostly Ibadhi, Sunni 25%), Hindu 8%, Christian 4%
LANGUAGE	Arabic (official), English, Baluchi, Urdu, Indian dialects
LITERACY	approaching 80%
LIFE EXPECTANCY	73 years
TROOPS	Active: 43,400
GDP PER CAPITA	\$8,200
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	5,500,000,000 barrels
ECONOMY	IND: crude oil production and refining, natural gas production, construction, cement, copper. AGR: dates, limes, bananas, alfalfa, vegetables; camels, cattle; fish. EXP: petroleum, reexports, fish, metals, textiles.
AREA COMPARISON	Oman encompasses 2.6% of the 48 contiguous United States.





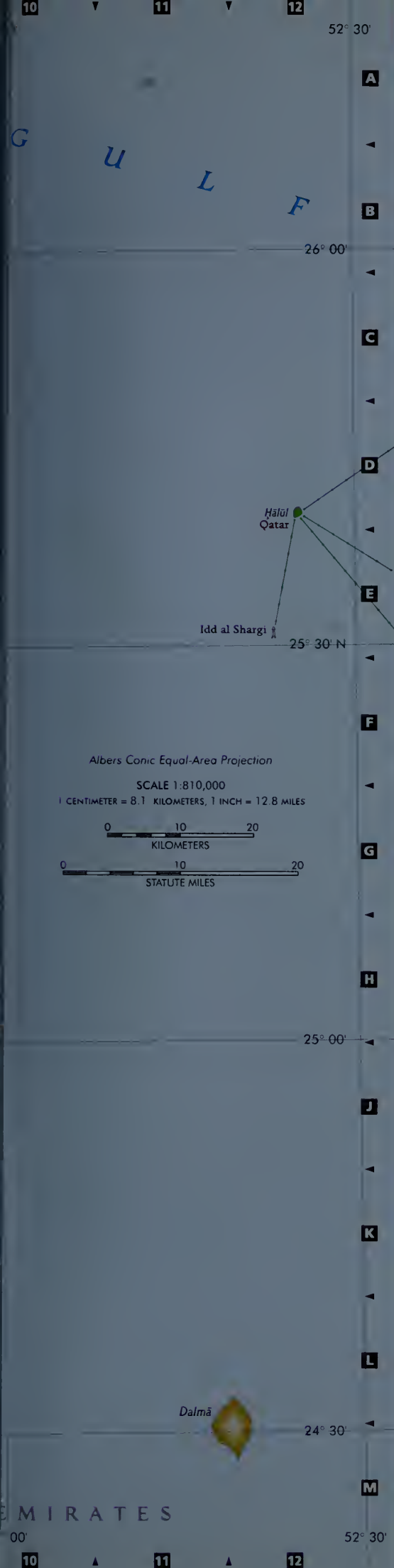


Qatar



STATE OF QATAR

AREA	11,437 sq km (4,416 sq mi)
POPULATION	600,000
CAPITAL	Ad Dawḥah (Doha) 285,000
RELIGION	(percent of population): Muslim 83% (mostly Sunni), Christian 10%, Hindu 3%, other 4%
LANGUAGE	Arabic (official), English commonly used as a second language
LITERACY	79%
LIFE EXPECTANCY	72 years
TROOPS	Active: 12,300
GDP PER CAPITA	\$21,200
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	15,200,000,000 barrels
ECONOMY	IND: crude oil production and refining, fertilizers, petrochemicals, steel reinforcing bars, cement. AGR: fruits, vegetables; poultry, dairy products, beef; fish. EXP: petroleum products 80%, fertilizers, steel.
AREA COMPARISON	Qatar encompasses 0.14% of the 48 contiguous United States.







Saudi Arabia



KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

AREA	1,960,582 sq km (756,985 sq mi)
POPULATION	24,000,000
CAPITAL	Ar Riyāḍ (Riyadh) 4,761,000
RELIGION	(percent of population): Muslim 94% (mostly Sunni), Christian 4%, other 2% (Hindu, Buddhist)
LANGUAGE	Arabic (official)
LITERACY	78%
LIFE EXPECTANCY	72 years
TROOPS	Active: 201,200; Reserves: 20,000
GDP PER CAPITA	\$10,600
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	261,800,000,000 barrels
ECONOMY	IND: crude oil production, petroleum refining, basic petrochemicals, cement, construction, fertilizer, plastics. AGR: wheat, barley, tomatoes, melons, dates, citrus; mutton, chickens, eggs, milk. EXP: petroleum and petroleum products 90%.
AREA COMPARISON	Saudi Arabia encompasses 24.4% of the 48 contiguous United States.







Syria



SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

AREA	185,180 sq km (71,498 sq mi)
POPULATION	17,200,000
CAPITAL	Dimashq (Damascus) 2,195,000
RELIGION	(percent of population): Muslim 89% (mostly Sunni, Alawite 12%, Druze 3%), Christian 10%, other 1%
LANGUAGE	Arabic (official); Kurdish, Armenian, Aramaic, Circassian widely understood; French, English somewhat understood
LITERACY	70.8%
LIFE EXPECTANCY	70 years
TROOPS	Active: 321,000; Reserves: 354,000
GDP PER CAPITA	\$3,200
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	2,500,000,000 barrels
ECONOMY	IND: petroleum, textiles, food processing, beverages, tobacco, phosphate rock mining. AGR: wheat, barley, cotton, lentils, chickpeas, olives, sugar beets; beef, mutton, eggs, poultry, milk. EXP: crude oil 68%, textiles 7%, fruits and vegetables 6%, raw cotton 4% (1998 est.).
AREA COMPARISON	Syria encompasses 2.3% of the 48 contiguous United States.





REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

AREA 780,580 sq km (301,383 sq mi)

POPULATION 67,300,000

CAPITAL Ankara (Angora) 3,208,000

RELIGION (percent of population): Muslim 97%, (mostly Sunni, Alevi 15 to 30%), Christian 1%, other 2%

LANGUAGE Turkish (official), Kurdish, Arabic, Armenian, Greek

LITERACY 85%

Turkey



LIFE EXPECTANCY	69 years
TROOPS	Active: 515,000; Reserves: 378,700
GDP PER CAPITA	\$6,700
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	300,000,000 barrels
ECONOMY	IND: textiles, food processing, autos, mining (coal, chromite, copper, boron), steel, petroleum, construction, lumber, paper. AGR: tobacco, cotton, grain, olives, sugar beets, pulse, citrus; livestock. EXP: apparel 24.8%, foodstuffs 12.8%, textiles 12.7%, metal manufactures 8.8%, transport equipment 8.5% (2000).

AREA COMPARISON Turkey encompasses 9.7% of the 48 contiguous United States.





United Arab Emirates



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

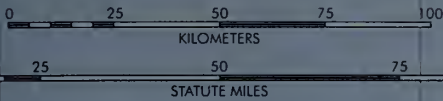
AREA	82,880 sq km (32,000 sq mi)
POPULATION	3,500,000
CAPITAL	Abū Ẓaby (Abu Dhabi) 471,000
RELIGION	(percent of population): Muslim 70% (mostly Sunni), Hindu 18%, Christian 7%, other 5%
LANGUAGE	Arabic (official), Persian, English, Hindi, Urdu
LITERACY	79.2%
LIFE EXPECTANCY	74 years
TROOPS	Active: 65,000
GDP PER CAPITA	\$21,100
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	97,800,000,000 barrels
ECONOMY	IND: petroleum, fishing, petrochemicals, construction materials, some boatbuilding, handicrafts, pearling. AGR: dates, vegetables, watermelons; poultry, eggs, dairy products; fish. EXP: crude oil 45%, natural gas, reexports, dried fish, dates.
AREA COMPARISON	U.A.E. encompasses 1.03% of the 48 contiguous United States.



Conic Projection

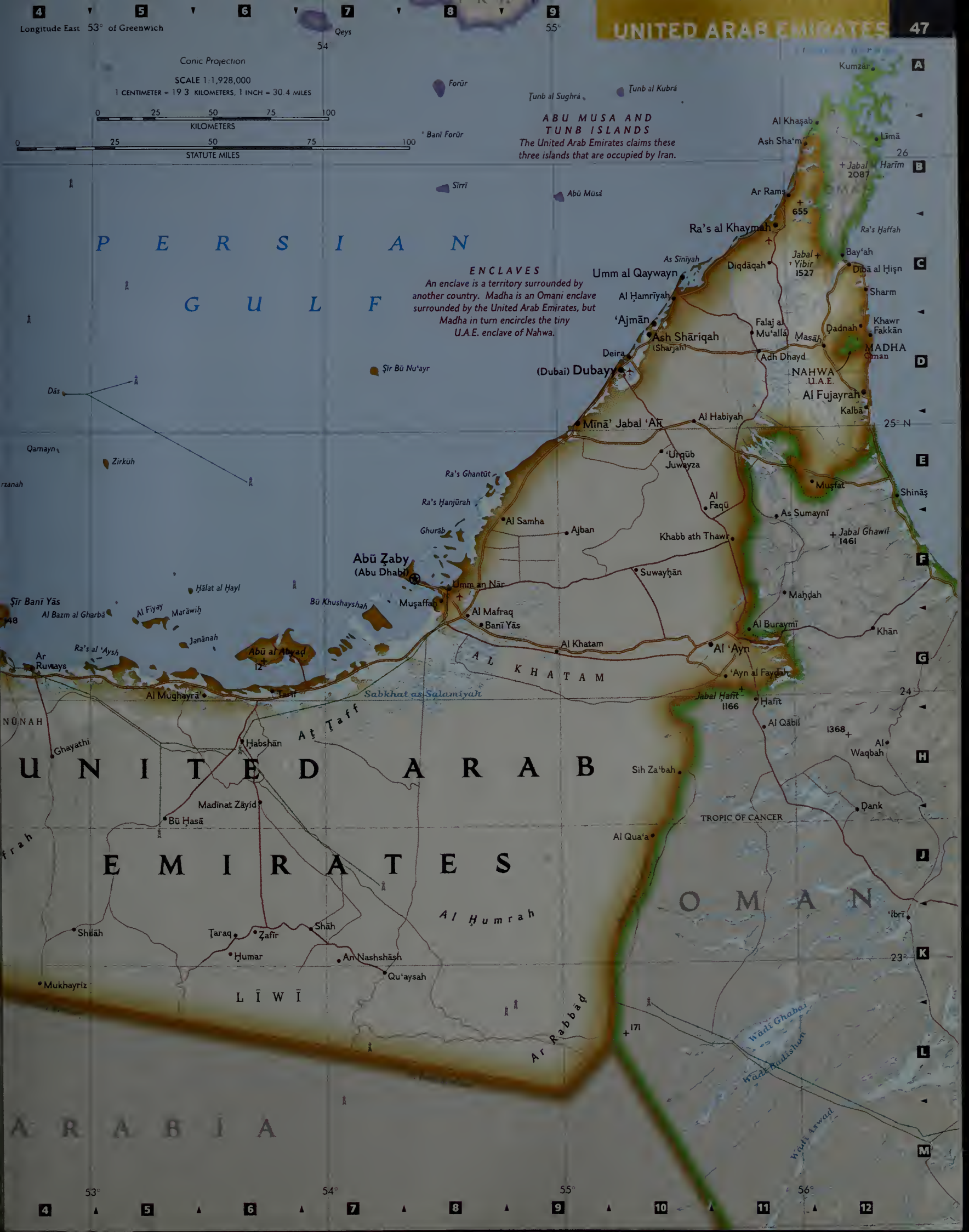
SCALE 1:1,928,000

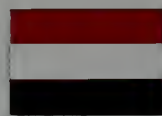
1 CENTIMETER = 19.3 KILOMETERS, 1 INCH = 30.4 MILES



ABU MUSA AND TUNB ISLANDS
The United Arab Emirates claims these three islands that are occupied by Iran.

ENCLAVES
An enclave is a territory surrounded by another country. Madha is an Omani enclave surrounded by the United Arab Emirates, but Madha in turn encircles the tiny U.A.E. enclave of Nahwa.





REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

AREA 527,970 sq km (203,850 sq mi)

POPULATION 18,600,000

CAPITAL Ṣan'ā' (Sanaa) 1,410,000

RELIGION (percent of population): Muslim 99% (mostly Sunni, Shiite 40%), other 1%

LANGUAGE Arabic (official)

LITERACY 38%

Yemen



LIFE EXPECTANCY 59 years

TROOPS Active: 54,000; Reserves: 40,000

GDP \$820
PER CAPITA

CRUDE OIL RESERVES 4,000,000,000 barrels

ECONOMY IND: crude oil production and petroleum refining; small-scale production of cotton textiles and leather goods; food processing; handicrafts; small aluminum products factory; cement. AGR: grain, fruits, vegetables, pulses, qat (mildly narcotic shrub), coffee, cotton; dairy products, livestock

(sheep, goats, cattle, camels), poultry; fish.
EXP: crude oil, coffee, dried and salted fish.

AREA COMPARISON Yemen encompasses 6.6% of the 48 contiguous United States.

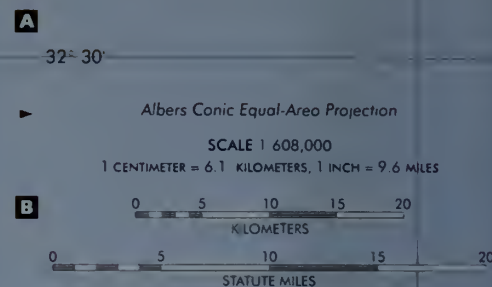




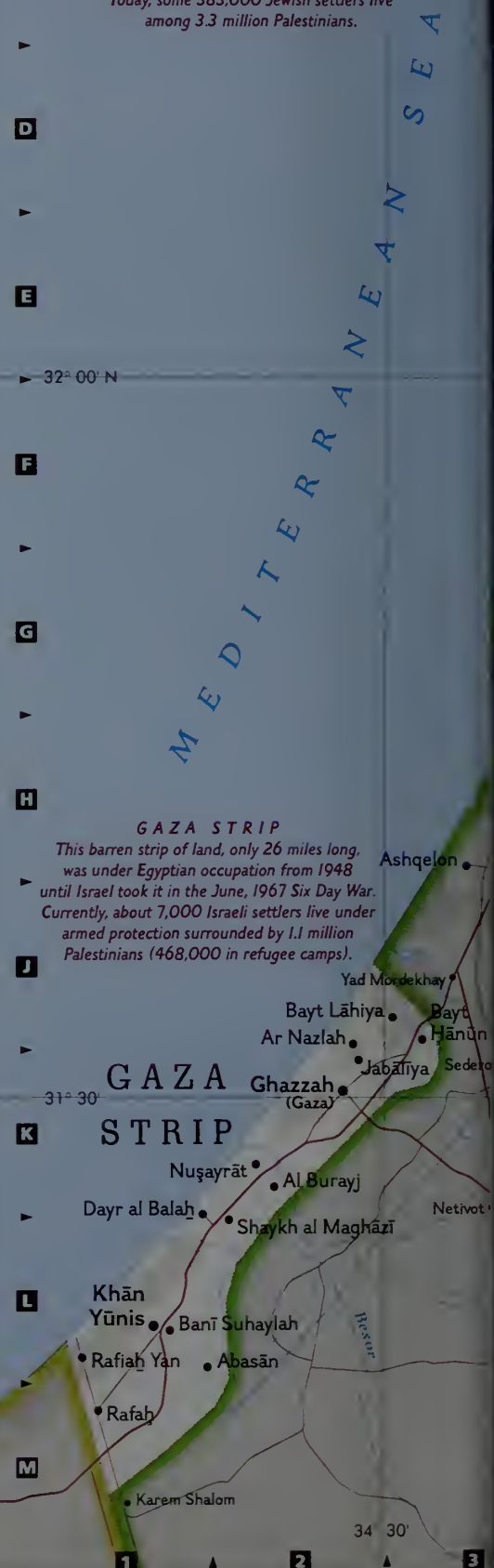
Occupied Territories

OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP

AREA	West Bank: 5,860 sq km (2,263 sq mi); Gaza Strip: 360 sq km (139 sq mi)
POPULATION	West Bank: 2,576,000; Gaza Strip: 1,107,000
RELIGION	West Bank: Muslim 89%, (mostly Sunni), Jewish 9%, Christian 2%; Gaza Strip: Muslim 99% (mostly Sunni), other 1%
LANGUAGE	Arabic, Hebrew (spoken by Israeli settlers and many Palestinians, English (widely understood)
LITERACY	Data not available
LIFE EXPECTANCY	72 years
TROOPS	No active military
GDP PER CAPITA	\$1,000 West Bank; \$625 Gaza Strip
CRUDE OIL RESERVES	None or negligible
ECONOMY	IND: generally small family businesses that produce cement, textiles, soap, olive-wood carvings, and mother-of-pearl souvenirs; the Israelis have established some small-scale, modern industries. AGR: olives, citrus, vegetables; beef, dairy products. EXP: olives, fruit, vegetables, limestone, citrus, flowers.
AREA COMPARISON	Occupied Territories encompass 0.08% of the 48 contiguous United States.



C **OCCUPIED TERRITORIES**
The Occupied Palestinian Territories—East Jerusalem, West Bank, and Gaza Strip—were occupied by Israel in the June, 1967 Six Day War. Today, some 383,000 Jewish settlers live among 3.3 million Palestinians.





Longitude East 35° of Greenwich

WEST BANK
Jordan annexed this part of Palestine on the Jordan River's west bank after the 1948-49 war with Israel—but lost it to Israel in the 1967 Six Day War. It is known as Judaea and Samaria to Israelis. Israeli-Palestinian agreements from 1993 to 1999 provided for Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian self-rule; but by 2002, rising violence brought Israeli troops back.

JERUSALEM
A city holy to Jews, Christians, and Muslims, its access and control is at the center of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel proclaimed Jerusalem its capital in 1949 and annexed East Jerusalem after the 1967 war. Palestinians insist that it be their capital, too.

PLAIN OF SHARON
National Water Carrier

Dead Sea
-416 (-1365 ft)

Arugot

Hever

Al Khalil (Hebron)

Jerusalem

AMMÂN (Philadelphia)

Jarash (Gerasa)

Bet She'an (Beth Shan)

Yāmūn

Qabāṭīyah

Dothan

Zabābida

Meithalūn

Tūbās

Jaba'

Burqā

Sabastīyah (Samaria)

'Anabtā

Tūlkarm

'Aṣīrah ash Shamāliyah

Bayt Ibā

(Nablus) Nābulus

Qarne Shomeron

Qalqīliyah

'Azzūn

Kefar Sava

S A M A R I A

Netanya

Hadera

el Aviv-Yafo

Holon

Petah Tiqwa

Biddya

Elqana

Dayr Ballūt

Ari'el

Salfit

Qabalan

Shiloh

Alexandrium

Argaman

Damiya

As Salt

Shuwayliḥ

32° 00' N

Gilgal

Niran

No'omi

Tal as Sulṭān

(Jericho) Ariḥa

Hajalah Ford

Ma'ale Adummim

Al 'Azzariyah (Bethany)

Bayt Lahm (Bethlehem)

Bayt Sāhūr

Bayt Liqyā

Al Jib

Ar Rām

Bayt Jāla

Betar Illit

Kefar 'Ezyon

Efrata

Si'ir

Halḥūl

Tarqūmiyah

Idnah

Qiryat Arba'

Banī Na'im

Dūrā

Yatṭah

Karmel

Carmel

As Samū'

Mezadot Yehuda

Az Zāhiriyyah

Mizpe Shalem

'En Gedi

Arugot

Hever

Si'ir

Halḥūl

Tarqūmiyah

Idnah

Qiryat Arba'

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Qiryat Arba'

Banī Na'im

Dūrā

Yatṭah

Karmel

Carmel

As Samū'

Mezadot Yehuda

Az Zāhiriyyah

Mizpe Shalem

'En Gedi

Arugot

Hever

Si'ir

Baghdad



■ Religious structure ■ Other building

0 km 1
0 mi 1

POPULATION	4,958,000
CITY ELEVATION	112 feet 34 meters
LATITUDE	33° 21' N
LONGITUDE	44° 25' E
TEMPERATURE	
Average Daily	Jan. 61°/39° F (16°/4° C)
High/Low ° F (° C)	July 109°/75° F (43°/24° C)
RAINFALL	
Average Monthly	January 1.1 (27)
inches (mm)	July 0 (0)
TIME ZONE	
Greenwich mean time	+3 hours GMT

Young, as Middle Eastern cities go, Baghdad was founded in 762 by Mansur, caliph of the Abbasid dynasty. It soon rose to become one of the most important cities of Islam and a center of Arabic scholarship and arts—notably under caliph Harun ar-Rashid—celebrated in tales of the *Arabian Nights*. Rapidly modernized during the early 1980s, Iraq's capital was heavily bombed during the 1991 Gulf War. Damaged bridges and buildings have been repaired or rebuilt. Saddam Hussein's regime has put up plenty of grandiose monuments, but life is bleak for ordinary citizens.



Beirut



■ Religious structure ■ Other building

0 km 1/2
0 mi 1/2

POPULATION	2,115,000
CITY ELEVATION	79 feet 24 meters
LATITUDE	33° 53' N
LONGITUDE	35° 30' E
TEMPERATURE	
Average Daily	Jan. 63°/52°F (17°/11°C)
High/Low °F (°C)	July 88°/73°F (31°/23°C)
RAINFALL	
Average Monthly	January 7.4 (187)
inches (mm)	July 0 (0)
TIME ZONE	
Greenwich mean time	+2 hours GMT

Massively ravaged during the 1975-1990 civil war, which split the city along the infamous Green Line dividing its Muslim west from its Christian east, Lebanon's capital has been massively rebuilt. Billions of dollars in ongoing renovation have transformed the ruined "Paris of the Middle East" into a fair reflection of what it was before the war: a capital of fashion, banking, trade, international conferences, nightlife, and tourism served by three dozen airlines.



Cairo



■ Religious structure ■ Other building

0 km 1/4
0 mi 1/4

POPULATION	9,586,000
CITY ELEVATION	79 feet 24 meters
LATITUDE	30° 03' N
LONGITUDE	31° 15' E
TEMPERATURE	
Average Daily	Jan. 66°/48°F (19°/9°C)
High/Low °F (°C)	July 94°/71°F (34°/22°C)
RAINFALL	
Average Monthly	January .2 (5)
inches (mm)	July 0 (0)
TIME ZONE	
Greenwich mean time	+2 hours GMT

Egypt's capital of Cairo, Africa and the Middle East's largest city with more than nine million people, straddles the Nile just south of the river's great delta. Ancient Egyptian, Roman, Arabic, and Turkish monuments proclaim vital links with history; today Cairo's rich contrasts, ancient pyramids, modern skyscrapers, fragrant bazaars, towering palm trees, industry and commerce, suburbs and shantytowns, mosques and minarets, make it the center of Arab culture. Thousand-year-old Al-Azhar University, oldest in the world, still draws students and intellectuals from throughout the Middle East.



0 km 200
0 mi 200

Damascus



■ Religious structure ■ Other building

0 km 1/4
0 mi 1/4

POPULATION	2,195,000
CITY ELEVATION	2,320 feet 707 meters
LATITUDE	33° 30' N
LONGITUDE	36° 18' E
TEMPERATURE	
Average Daily	Jan. 54°/36°F (12°/2°C)
High/Low °F (°C)	July 97°/64°F (36°/18°C)
RAINFALL	
Average Monthly	January 1.5 (39)
inches (mm)	July 0 (0)
TIME ZONE	
Greenwich mean time	+3 hours GMT

Built on a desert oasis nourished by the Barada River, Syria's capital is among the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. Conquering armies, kingdoms, dynasties, and empires have swept through for thousands of years, but Damascus has been spared from extensive damage in modern conflicts. The city remains famous for its ancient markets, museums, remnants of Roman walls, and the eighth-century Umayyad Mosque, considered one of the world's finest examples of Islamic architecture.



0 km 200
0 mi 200

Jerusalem



■ Religious structure ■ Other building

0 km 1/4
0 mi 1/4

POPULATION 661,000

CITY ELEVATION 2,658 feet 810 meters

LATITUDE 31° 47' N

LONGITUDE 35° 14' E

TEMPERATURE

Average Daily Jan. 53°/39°F (12°/4°C)
High/Low °F (°C) July 84°/63°F (29°/17°C)

RAINFALL

Average Monthly January 5.5 (140)
inches (mm) July 0 (0)

TIME ZONE

Greenwich mean time +2 hours GMT

Medieval cartographers located Jerusalem at the center of the world, and in the eyes of many the Old City remains so. For Jews, the Western Wall of the Second Temple is the holiest of sites. Above it is the Dome of the Rock, third holiest site in Islam, commemorating the place where Muhammad ascended to heaven. A few blocks away the Church of the Holy Sepulchre marks the traditional site where Jesus was crucified, entombed, and resurrected. Israel claims the city as its eternal capital; Palestinians assert that East Jerusalem should be theirs.



0 km 100
0 mi 100

Tehran



■ Religious structure ■ Other building

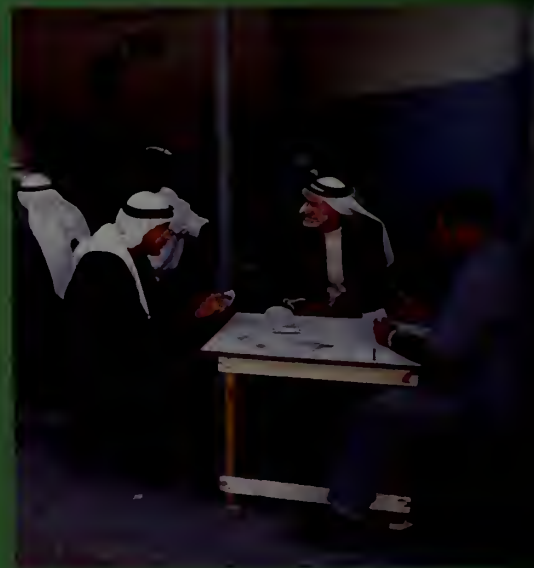
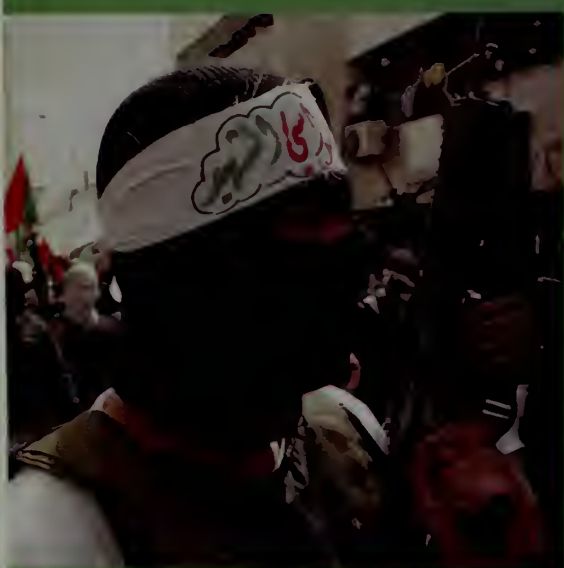
0 km 1/2
0 mi 1/2

POPULATION	7,038,000
CITY ELEVATION	3,800 feet 1,158 meters
LATITUDE	35° 40' N
LONGITUDE	51° 26' E
TEMPERATURE	
Average Daily	Jan. 45°/30°F (7°/-1°C)
High/Low °F (°C)	July 98°/75°F (37°/24°C)
RAINFALL	
Average Monthly	January 1.6 (42)
inches (mm)	July .1 (2)
TIME ZONE	
Greenwich mean time	+3.5 hours GMT

Iran's Elburz Mountains overlook the high, expansive capital of Tehran (3,800 feet). The city's Muslim population, a multi-ethnic mix of majority Persians, Azeris, Kurds, Arabs, and tribal groups, grew rapidly in the 1980s; rising birthrates, rural to urban migration, and refugees from Afghanistan and war with Iraq swelled the city. Religious minorities—Armenian and Assyrian Christians, Zoroastrians, and Jews—have lived here for centuries. Iran's Pahlavi dynasty, founded in 1925, ended in 1979 with the establishment of an Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Khomeini.



REGIONAL THEMES



LEFT TO RIGHT: Demonstration by Palestinian militiamen in the West Bank city of Ramallah on the occasion of the funeral of a Palestinian; Oil production facilities at the port of Dubayy, United Arab Emirates; Palestinian men playing cards in the West Bank city of Hebron; Sand dunes in Saudi Arabia; In Jerusalem, Jewish families light candles to celebrate Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights; Flowing water pumped from the Golan Heights in Syria.

60 Physical Map

62 Climate

64 Population

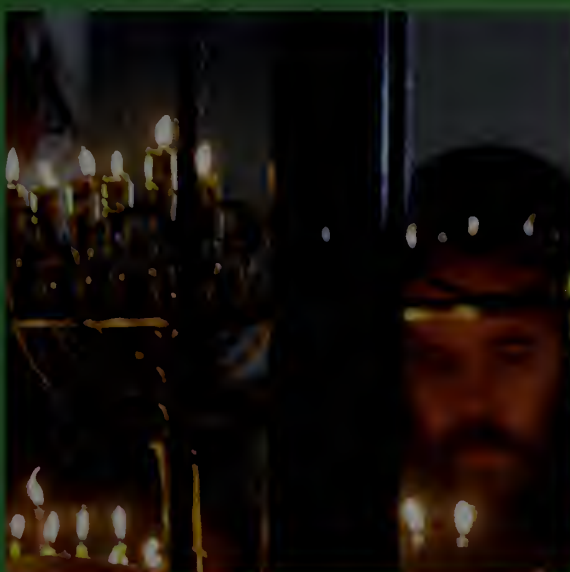
66 Religion

68 Ethnic/
Linguistic
Groups

70 Oil

72 Water

74 Development
Indicators







Climate



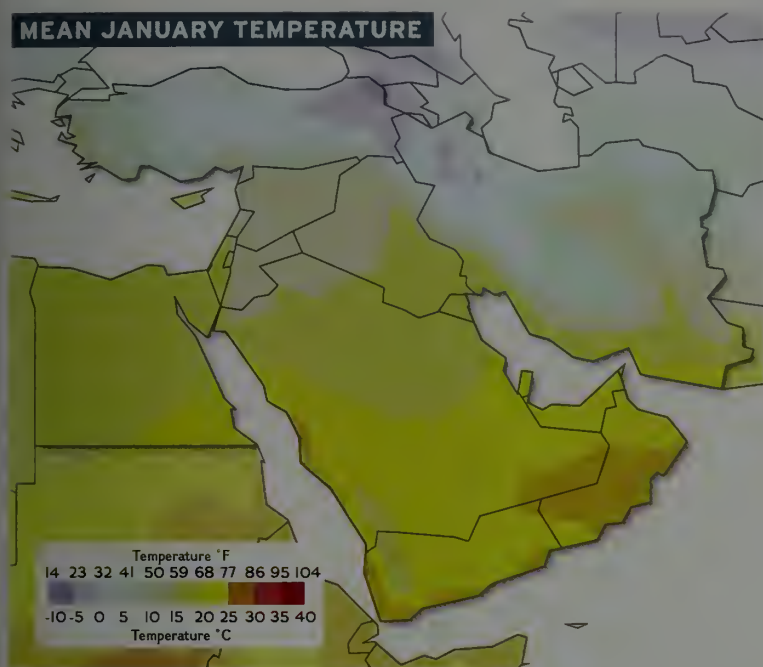
CLIMATE TYPES OF THE MIDDLE EAST

ARID / DESERT
Centered between 20 and 30 degrees north and south latitude, this climate type is typically the result of a persistent high-pressure area. Rainfall amounts in arid/desert areas are negligible, and there is some seasonal variation in temperature. Vegetation is typically sparse. Fifty percent of the Middle East can be classified as arid or desert.

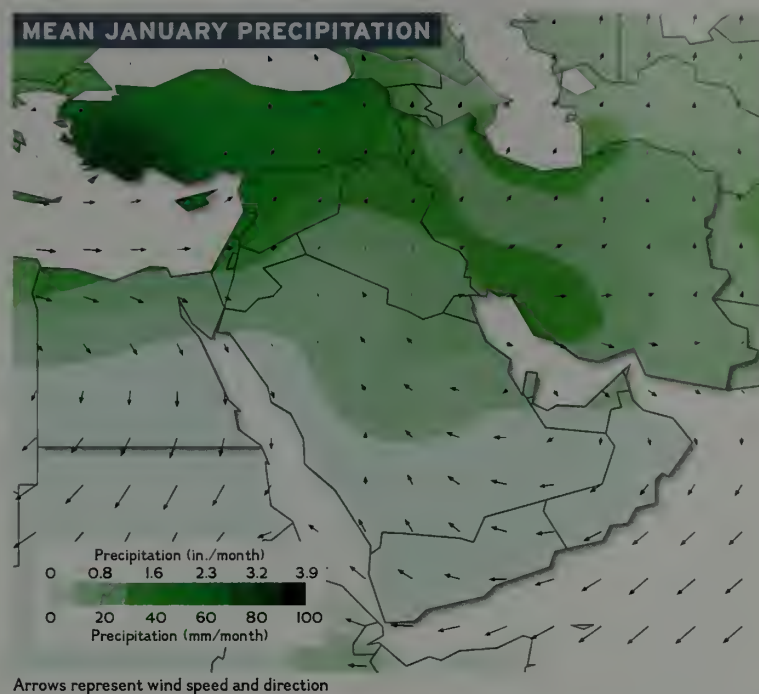
SEMIARID / STEPPE
Regions with a semiarid or steppe climate have a much greater range in monthly temperatures and receive significantly more rain than arid/desert areas. These climates are often found in inland regions, in the rain shadow of mountain ranges. Annual rainfall amounts support mainly grasses and small shrubs. Twenty percent of the Middle East has this climate type.

MEDITERRANEAN
This term describes the climate of much of the Mediterranean region. In the Middle East, it is also found in areas east of the Tigris River and along the Caspian and Black Seas. Summer months are typically warm to hot with dry conditions, while winter months are cool (but not cold) and provide modest precipitation. Thirty percent of the Middle East falls into this category.

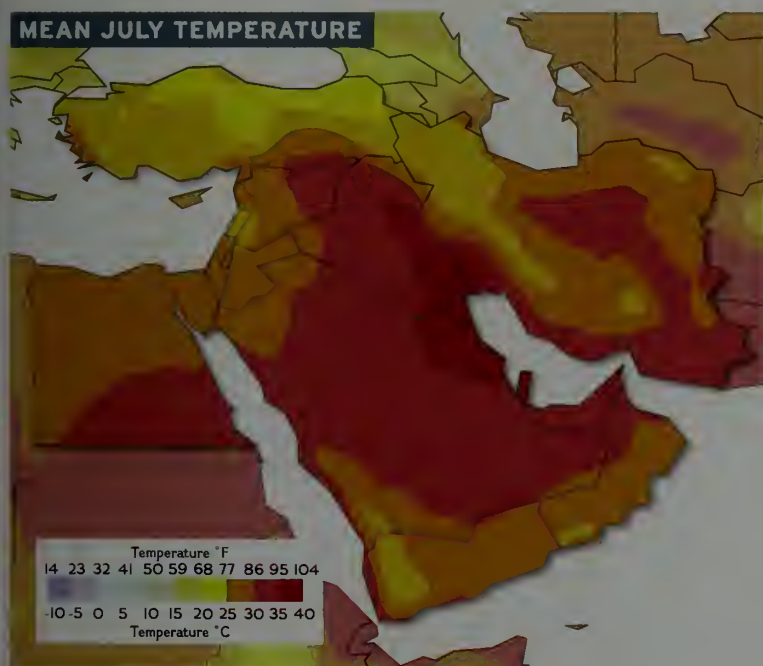
MEAN JANUARY TEMPERATURE



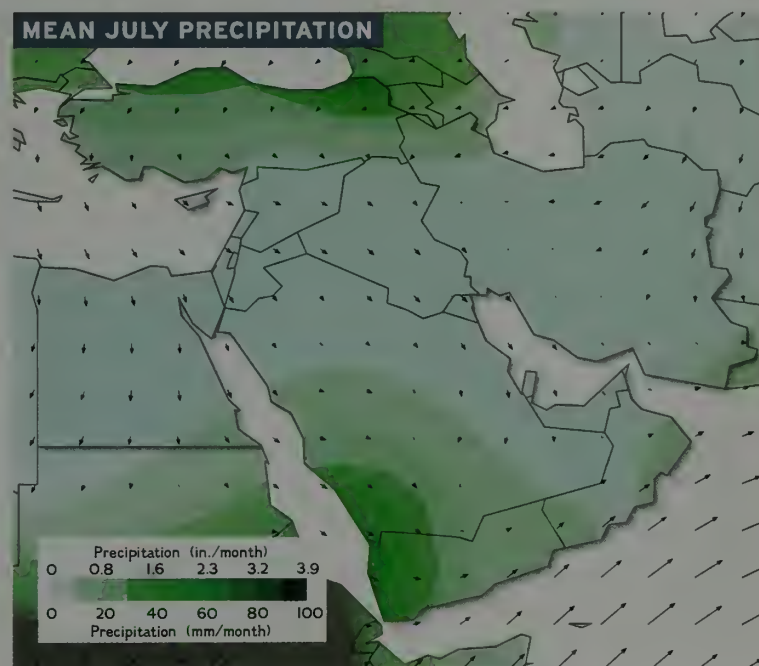
MEAN JANUARY PRECIPITATION



MEAN JULY TEMPERATURE



MEAN JULY PRECIPITATION

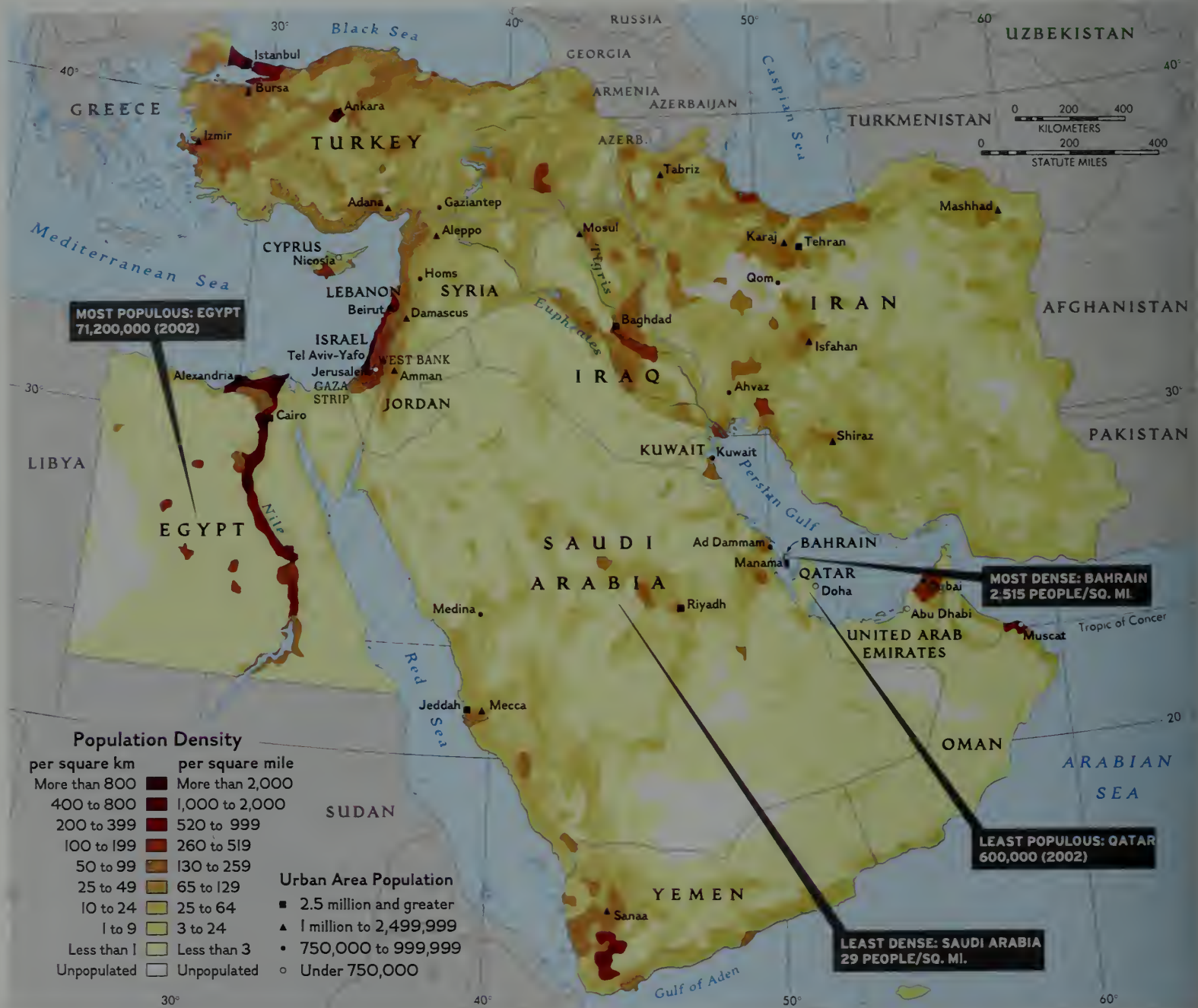


MEAN DAILY TEMPERATURES AND ANNUAL RAINFALL FOR SELECTED CITIES

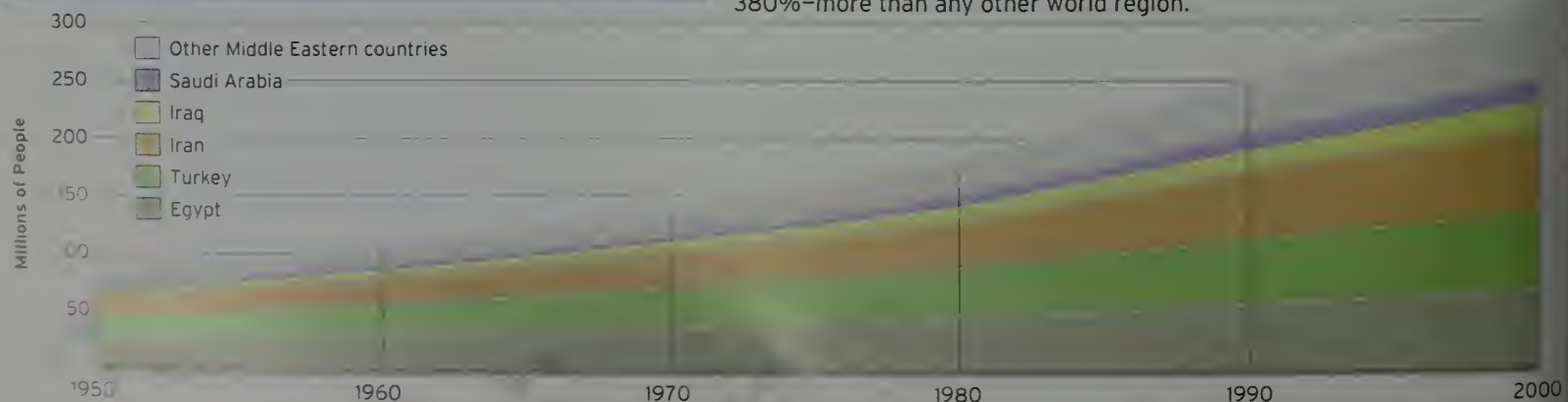
Highs / lows (°F)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Rainfall
Aleppo, Syria	50 / 35	55 / 37	62 / 42	72 / 49	84 / 56	92 / 64	97 / 70	97 / 69	92 / 64	80 / 55	65 / 44	54 / 38	13.2 in.
Amman, Jordan	54 / 38	57 / 39	63 / 43	73 / 49	81 / 55	87 / 62	89 / 65	90 / 65	87 / 61	80 / 56	68 / 47	57 / 40	10.7 in.
Baghdad, Iraq	61 / 39	64 / 43	72 / 48	84 / 57	97 / 66	106 / 73	109 / 75	109 / 75	104 / 70	91 / 61	77 / 52	64 / 43	6.1 in.
Beirut, Lebanon	63 / 52	63 / 52	66 / 54	72 / 57	79 / 64	82 / 70	88 / 73	90 / 73	86 / 73	81 / 70	73 / 61	64 / 55	34.4 in.
Cairo, Egypt	66 / 48	69 / 50	74 / 53	83 / 58	90 / 64	94 / 69	94 / 71	93 / 71	91 / 69	85 / 64	76 / 57	68 / 51	1.0 in.
Dubai, UAE	75 / 57	76 / 58	82 / 63	90 / 68	98 / 74	102 / 79	105 / 84	105 / 85	102 / 79	95 / 73	87 / 65	79 / 60	3.7 in.
Istanbul, Turkey	48 / 37	49 / 38	53 / 40	62 / 46	71 / 54	79 / 61	83 / 65	83 / 65	77 / 60	68 / 53	60 / 47	52 / 42	27.4 in.
Jerusalem, Israel	53 / 39	56 / 40	61 / 43	70 / 49	77 / 54	82 / 59	84 / 63	84 / 63	82 / 61	77 / 57	66 / 49	57 / 42	23.2 in.
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	68 / 47	73 / 51	82 / 58	90 / 66	102 / 76	107 / 79	109 / 81	109 / 81	104 / 75	94 / 67	81 / 58	71 / 49	4.0 in.
Tehran, Iran	45 / 30	50 / 33	60 / 41	71 / 52	82 / 61	93 / 70	98 / 75	96 / 73	89 / 67	75 / 55	62 / 44	50 / 34	9.0 in.

Fahrenheit to Celsius conversion: subtract 32, then multiply by 5/9 (.55)

Population



POPULATION GROWTH IN THE MIDDLE EAST, 1950-2000



FERTILITY

Average number of children born to women in a given population

Yemen	7.2	Egypt	3.5
Occupied Terr.	5.9	UAE	3.5
Saudi Arabia	5.7	Israel	2.9
Iraq	5.4	Bahrain	2.8
Oman	4.7	Iran	2.5
Kuwait	4.3	Turkey	2.5
Syria	4.1	Lebanon	2.4
Qatar	3.9	Cyprus	1.7
Jordan	3.6	World average	2.8

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Life expectancy at birth, in years

Israel	78	Saudi Arabia	72
Cyprus	77	Jordan	70
Kuwait	76	Syria	70
Bahrain	74	Iran	69
UAE	74	Turkey	69
Lebanon	73	Egypt	66
Oman	73	Yemen	59
Occupied Terr.	72	Iraq	58
Qatar	72	World average	67

URBAN POPULATION

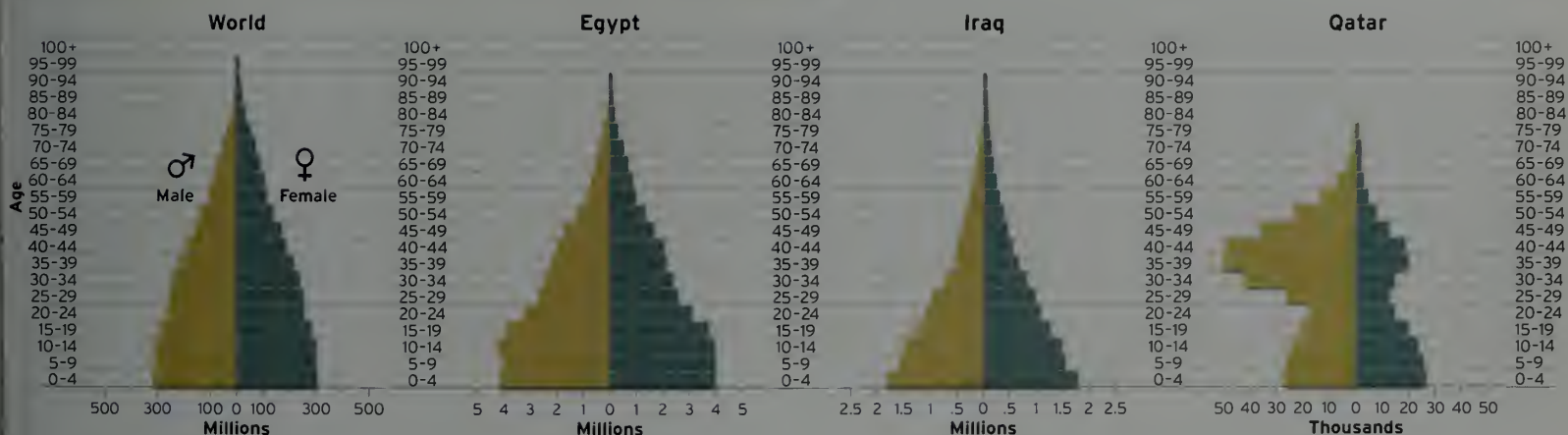
Percentage of population living in urban areas

Kuwait	100	Iraq	68
Israel	91	Cyprus	66
Qatar	91	Iran	66
Lebanon	88	Turkey	66
Bahrain	87	Occupied Terr.	57
Saudi Arabia	83	Syria	50
Jordan	79	Egypt	43
UAE	78	Yemen	26
Oman	72	World average	47

MIGRANT POPULATION

Migrants (persons residing in a country other than where born) as % of total population

UAE	73.8	Lebanon	18.1
Qatar	72.4	Cyprus	6.3
Kuwait	57.9	Syria	5.6
Occupied Terr.	52.2	Iran	3.3
Bahrain	39.8	Turkey	2.3
Jordan	39.6	Yemen	1.4
Israel	37.4	Iraq	0.6
Oman	26.9	Egypt	0.2
Saudi Arabia	25.8	World average	2.9

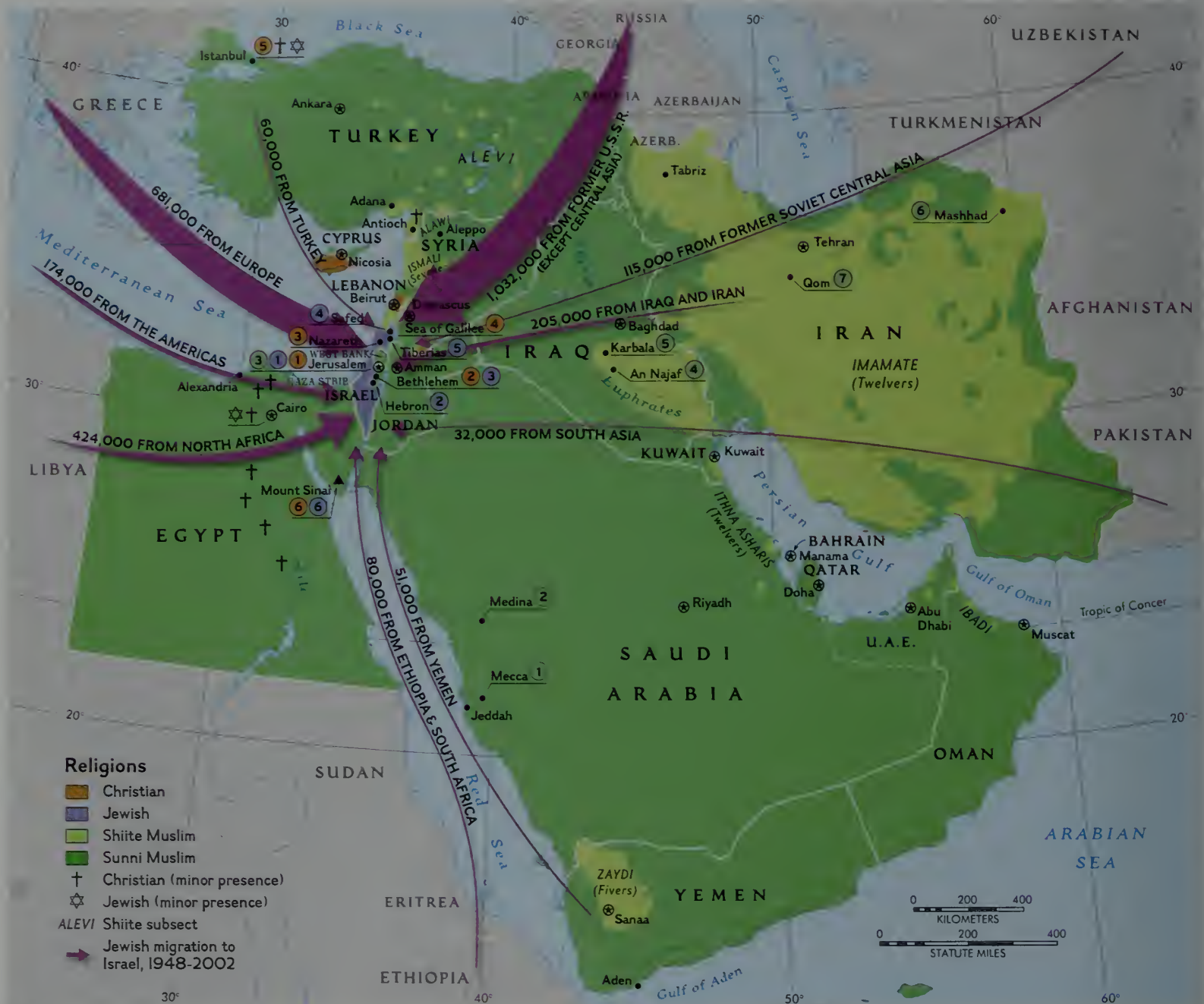
POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER (world and selected countries)

(All figures reflect 2000 data)

POPULATIONS OF MAJOR CITIES

City	1950	2000	City	1950	2000
Cairo, Egypt	2,410,000	9,462,000	Izmir, Turkey	480,000	2,214,000
Istanbul, Turkey	1,077,000	8,953,000	Damascus, Syria	367,000	2,144,000
Tehran, Iran	1,042,000	6,979,000	Beirut, Lebanon	327,000	2,070,000
Baghdad, Iraq	579,000	4,865,000	Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel	418,000	2,001,000
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	111,000	4,549,000	Sanaa, Yemen	46,000	1,327,000
Alexandria, Egypt	1,038,000	3,506,000	Amman, Jordan	90,000	1,148,000
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia	119,000	3,192,000	Mecca, Saudi Arabia	148,000	1,335,000
Ankara, Turkey	542,000	3,155,000	Tabriz, Iran	235,000	1,274,000
Aleppo, Syria	320,000	2,229,000	Bursa, Turkey	148,000	1,166,000

Religion



Sacred Places

Christian

- 1 Jerusalem: Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jesus's crucifixion
- 2 Bethlehem: Jesus's birthplace
- 3 Nazareth: Where Jesus grew up
- 4 Sea of Galilee: Where Jesus gave the Sermon on the Mount
- 5 Istanbul (Constantinople): Dedicated as the capital of the newly-Christian Roman Empire (A.D. 300) by Constantine the Great
- 6 Mount Sinai: Site of God's revelation, where God appeared to Moses and gave him the Ten Commandments

Jewish

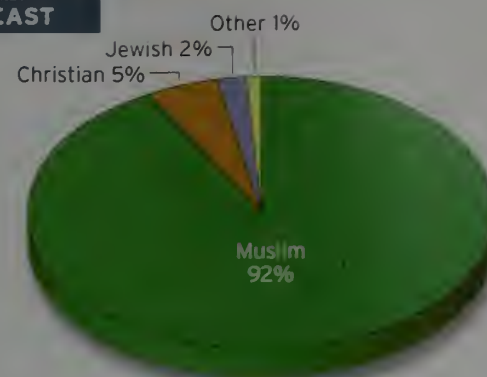
- 1 Jerusalem: Location of the Western Wall and first and second temples; City of David; the ancient and modern capital of Israel
- 2 Hebron: Burial spot of patriarchs and matriarchs
- 3 Bethlehem: Site of Rachel's tomb
- 4 Safed: Where Kabbalah (Jewish mysticism) flourished
- 5 Tiberias: Where Talmud (source of Jewish law) was first composed
- 6 Mount Sinai: Site of God's revelation, where God appeared to Moses and gave him the Ten Commandments

Muslim

- 1 Mecca: Muhammad's birthplace; destination of the pilgrimage, or *hajj*; houses the Kaaba (shrine that Muslims face when praying)
- 2 Medina: City of Muhammad's flight, or *hegira*
- 3 Jerusalem: Dome of the Rock, Muhammad's stepping-stone to heaven
- 4 An Najaf (Shiite): Tomb of Imam Ali
- 5 Karbala (Shiite): Tomb of Imam Hoseyn
- 6 Mashhad (Shiite): Location of the shrine to Imam Reza
- 7 Qom (Shiite): Houses the shrine of Fatima (Imam Reza's sister); location of the Islamic University, a major religious center

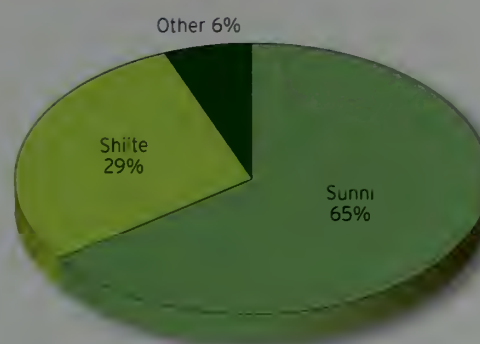
TOP 10 NATIONAL JEWISH POPULATIONS

	Jewish population	% of total pop.
1. United States	5,621,000	2.0%
2. Israel	5,346,000	81.0%
3. Russia	951,000	0.7%
4. France	591,000	1.0%
5. Argentina	490,000	1.3%
6. Canada	403,000	1.3%
7. Brazil	357,000	0.2%
8. United Kingdom	302,000	0.5%
9. West Bank & Gaza Strip	239,000	6.5%
10. Ukraine	220,000	0.5%

**RELIGIOUS ADHERENTS
IN THE MIDDLE EAST****TOP 10 NATIONAL MUSLIM POPULATIONS**

	Muslim population	% of total pop.
1. Indonesia	181,368,000	83.6%
2. Pakistan	141,650,000	98.7%
3. India	123,960,000	11.8%
4. Bangladesh	110,805,000	82.9%
5. Turkey	65,281,000	97.0%
6. Iran	64,944,000	99.0%
7. Egypt	63,368,000	89.0%
8. Nigeria	63,300,000	48.7%
9. China	38,208,000	3.0%
10. Algeria	30,690,000	97.7%

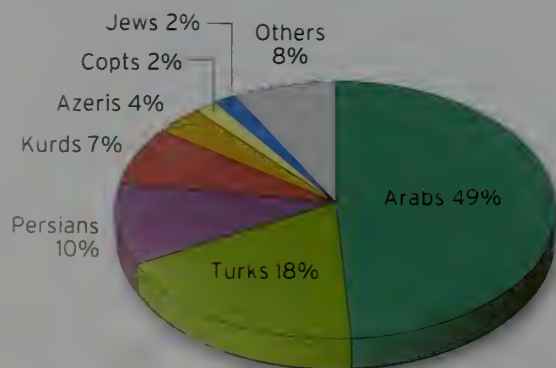
Note: No Middle Eastern countries fall within the top ten populations for any other religions.

**BRANCHES OF ISLAM
IN THE MIDDLE EAST****ADHERENTS BY POLITICAL AREA**

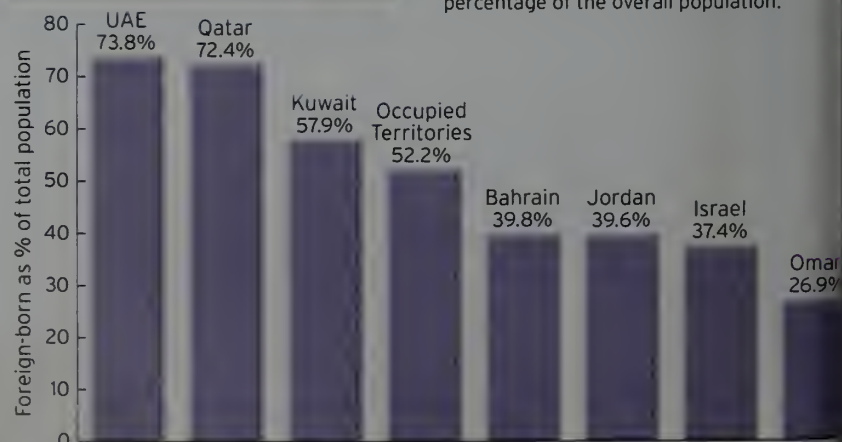
Ethnic and Linguistic Groups



ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF THE MIDDLE EAST



FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION



Figures shown reflect the total number of non-native residents as a percentage of the overall population.



MAIN LANGUAGES OF THE MIDDLE EAST (in order of number of speakers):

- 1 Arabic
- 2 Turkish
- 3 Persian
- 4 Kurdish
- 5 Azeri (Azerbaijani)
- 6 Hebrew

LANGUAGE GROUPS AND SUBGROUPS ON MAP ABOVE:

AFRO-ASIATIC/CUSHITIC
Bedawi

AFRO-ASIATIC/SEMITIC
Arabic, Hebrew

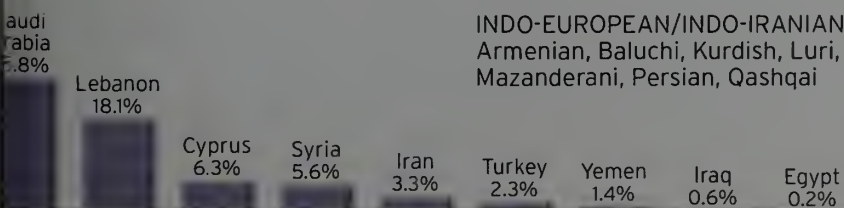
ALTAIC/TURKIC
Azeri (Azerbaijani), Turkish

INDO-EUROPEAN/GREEK
Greek

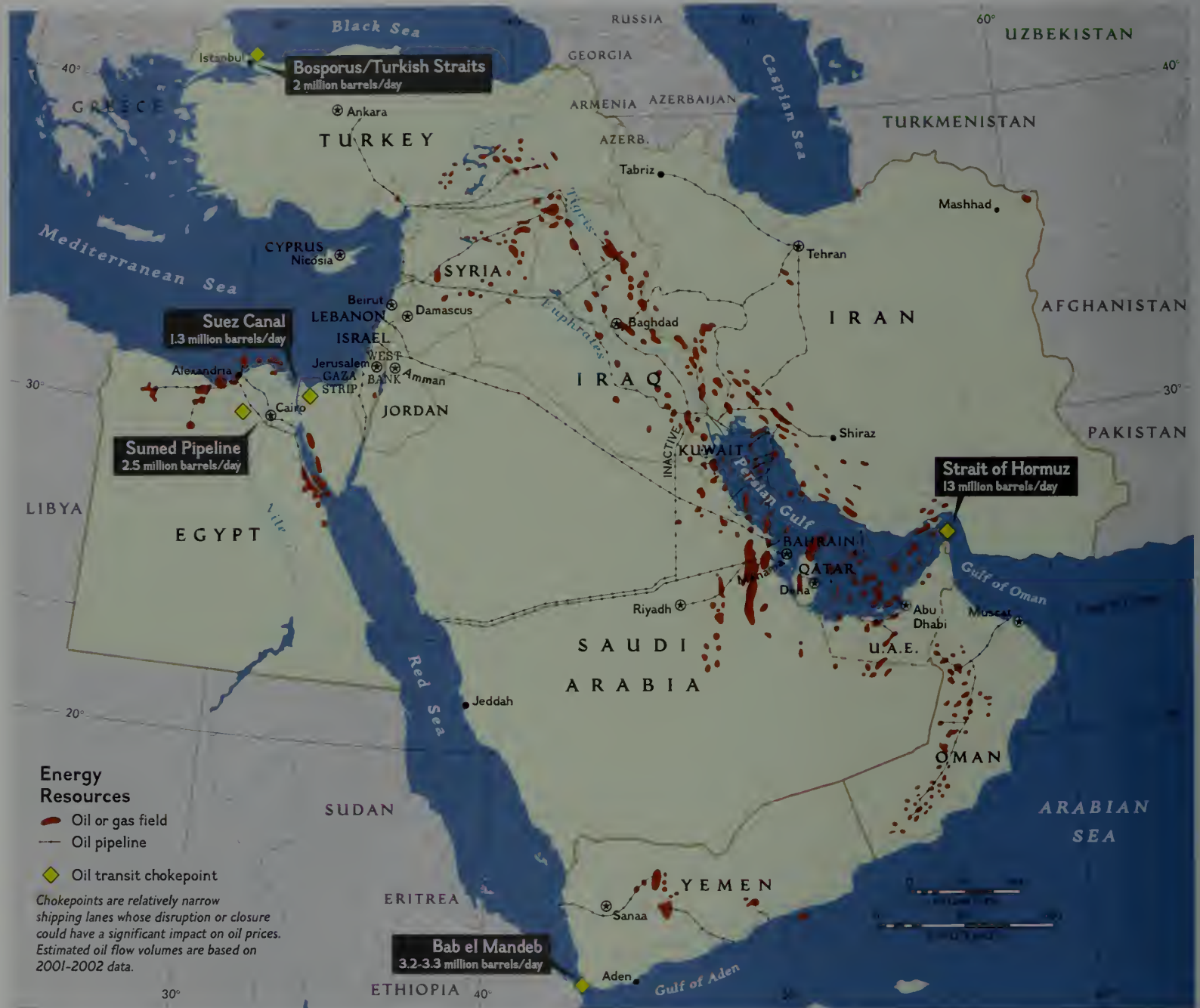
INDO-EUROPEAN/INDO-IRANIAN
Armenian, Baluchi, Kurdish, Luri, Mazanderani, Persian, Qashqai

LANGUAGES

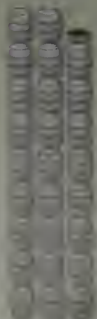
	Official language	Total number of languages
Bahrain	Arabic	3
Cyprus	Greek, Turkish	4
Egypt	Arabic	11 (1 extinct)
Iran	Persian	71 (2 extinct)
Iraq	Arabic	23
Israel	Hebrew	36 (3 extinct)
Jordan	Arabic	9
Kuwait	Arabic	3
Lebanon	Arabic	5
Oman	Arabic	11
Qatar	Arabic	3
Saudi Arabia	Arabic	5
Syria	Arabic	17 (2 extinct)
Turkey	Turkish	36 (2 extinct)
UAE	Arabic	6
Yemen	Arabic	7



Oil



Saudi Arabia
261.8 billion
barrels



Iraq
112.5
billion
barrels



United
Arab
Emirates
97.8
billion
barrels



Kuwait
96.5
billion
barrels



Iran
89.7
billion
barrels



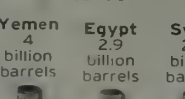
Qatar
15.2
billion
barrels



Oman
5.5
billion
barrels



Neutral Zone*
(Kuwait-Saudi Arabia)
5 billion barrels



Yemen
4
billion
barrels



Egypt
2.9
billion
barrels



Syria
2.5
billion
barrels



Turkey
0.3
billion
barrels



Bahrain
0.1
billion
barrels



Cyprus
None or
negligible



Israel
None or
negligible



Jordan
None or
negligible



Lebanon
None or
negligible



Occupied
Terr.
None or
negligible

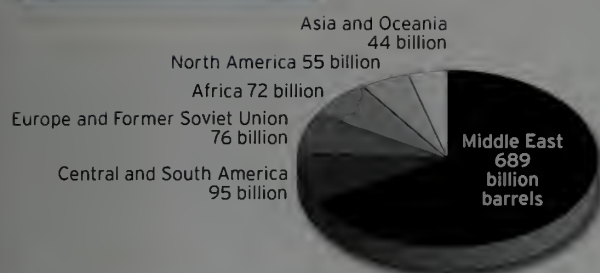


OIL RESERVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

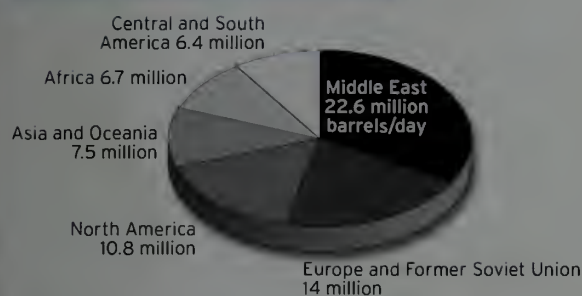
10 billion
barrels

*Neutral Zone: A 1922 treaty between Kuwait and Saudi Arabia established a neutral zone of 2,200 square miles (5,700 square km) near the Persian Gulf, which was shared until a political boundary was set in 1969. Today, each of the countries administers its own portion of the area, but oil production revenues from the entire zone are shared equally between the two.

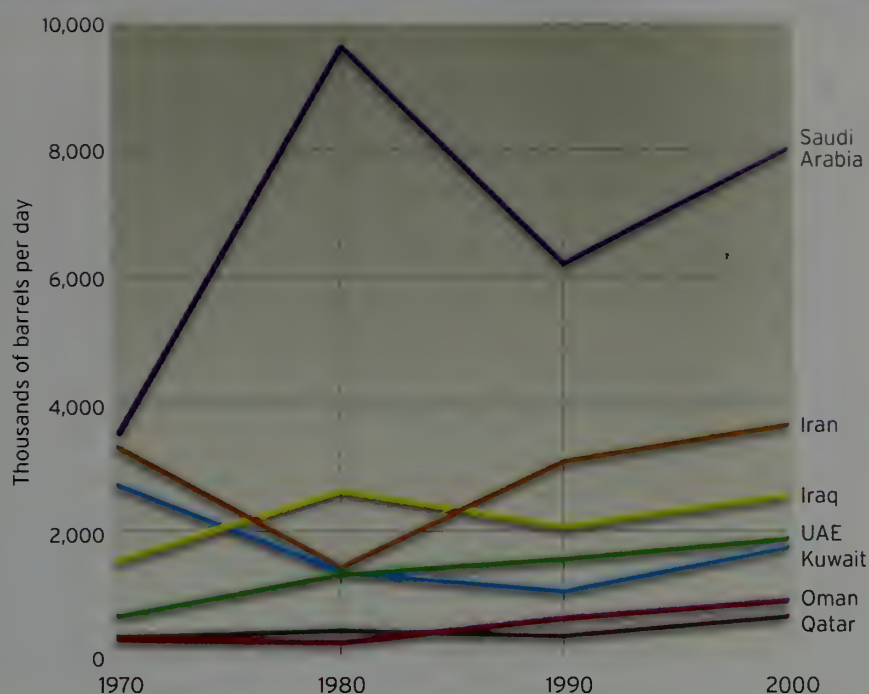
REGIONAL SHARE OF WORLD OIL RESERVES



REGIONAL SHARE OF WORLD CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION



LEADING CRUDE OIL PRODUCERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, 1970-2000



MIDDLE EAST EXPORTS AND GLOBAL OIL CONSUMPTION



TOP CRUDE OIL PRODUCERS, WORLDWIDE

2000 data. Figures listed in thousands of barrels per day.

Saudi Arabia	8,404	United Kingdom	2,275
Russia	6,479	Nigeria	2,144
United States	5,822	Kuwait	2,126
Iran	3,696	Canada	1,977
China	3,249	Indonesia	1,423
Norway	3,197	Libya	1,410
Mexico	3,012	Brazil	1,269
Venezuela	2,949	Algeria	1,244
Iraq	2,571	Oman	940
UAE	2,368	Argentina	761

TOP OIL CONSUMERS, WORLDWIDE

2000 data. Figures listed in thousands of barrels per day.

United States	19,701	Mexico	1,992
Japan	5,528	India	1,990
China	4,780	Italy	1,867
Germany	2,770	United Kingdom	1,721
Russia	2,500	Spain	1,461
Africa	2,440	Saudi Arabia	1,300
Brazil	2,155	Iran	1,080
Korea, South	2,146	Indonesia	1,035
Canada	2,073	Australia	859
France	2,021	Netherlands	852

Water



RENEWABLE FRESHWATER IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Renewable water supply figures shown in km³ per year.

Turkey	227	Oman	0.98
Iran	129	Cyprus	0.78
Iraq	35	Israel	0.75
Syria	7.0	Jordan	0.68
Lebanon	4.8	UAE	0.15
Yemen	4.1	Qatar	0.05
Saudi Arabia	2.4	Bahrain	0
Egypt	1.8	Kuwait	0

FRESHWATER WITHDRAWALS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Year of data in parentheses. Freshwater withdrawal figures shown in km³ per year.

Iran	(1993)	70	Israel	(1997)	1.6
Egypt	(1996)	66	Lebanon	(1996)	1.3
Iraq	(1990)	43	Oman	(1991)	1.2
Turkey	(1997)	36	Jordan	(1993)	0.98
Saudi Arabia	(1992)	17	Kuwait	(1994)	0.54
Syria	(1995)	12	Cyprus	(1998)	0.30
Yemen	(1990)	2.9	Qatar	(1994)	0.28
UAE	(1995)	2.1	Bahrain	(1991)	0.24

Annual Renewable Water Resources, per Capita

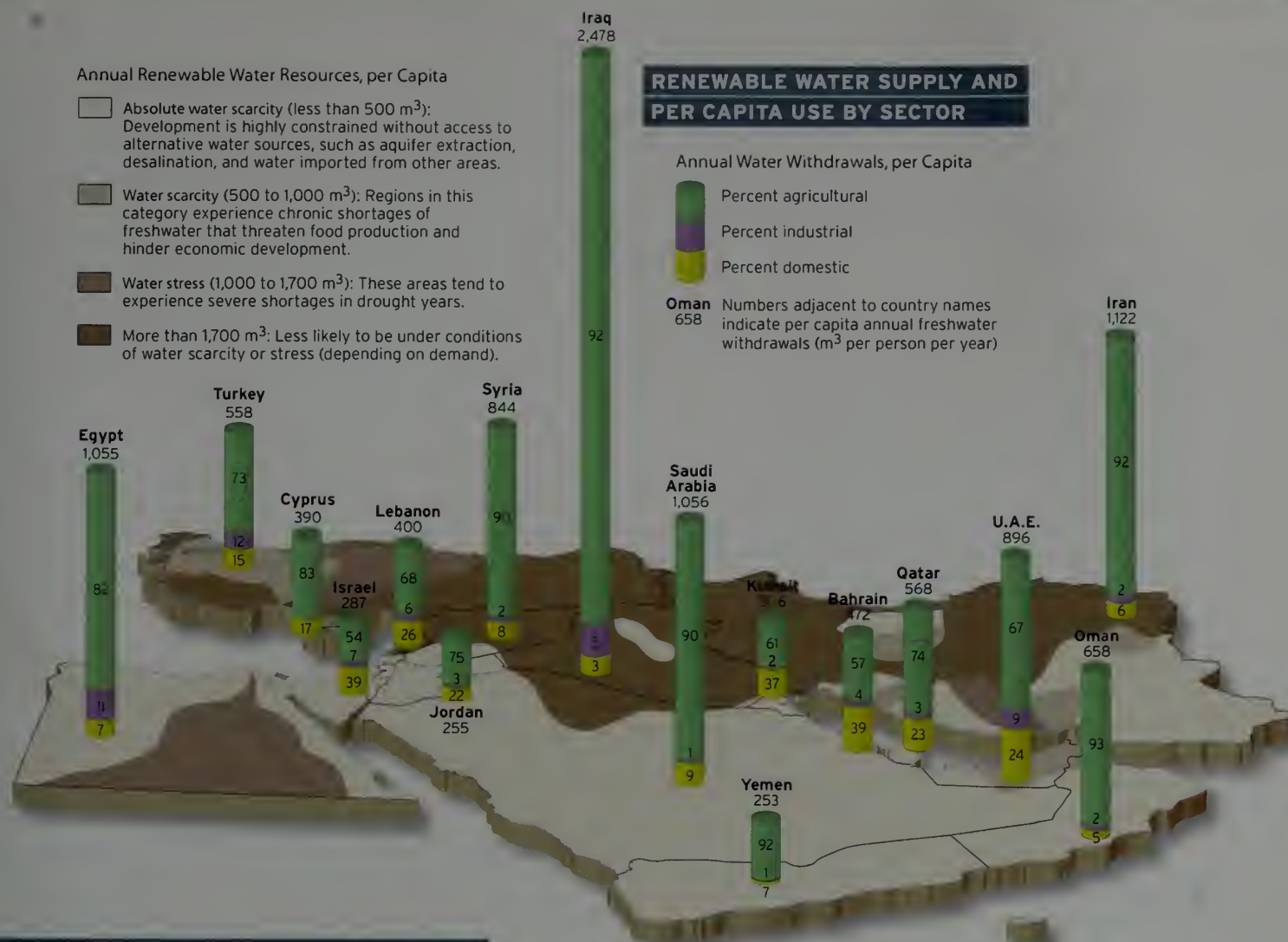
- Absolute water scarcity (less than 500 m³): Development is highly constrained without access to alternative water sources, such as aquifer extraction, desalination, and water imported from other areas.
 Water scarcity (500 to 1,000 m³): Regions in this category experience chronic shortages of freshwater that threaten food production and hinder economic development.
 Water stress (1,000 to 1,700 m³): These areas tend to experience severe shortages in drought years.
 More than 1,700 m³: Less likely to be under conditions of water scarcity or stress (depending on demand).

RENEWABLE WATER SUPPLY AND PER CAPITA USE BY SECTOR

Annual Water Withdrawals, per Capita

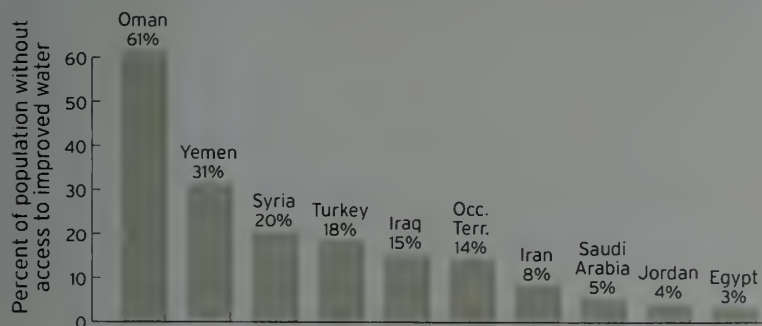
- Percent agricultural
 Percent industrial
 Percent domestic

Numbers adjacent to country names indicate per capita annual freshwater withdrawals (m³ per person per year)



LACK OF ACCESS TO IMPROVED DRINKING WATER

Water supply technologies considered to be "improved" include household connections, public standpipes, boreholes, protected dug wells and springs, and rainwater collection. Middle Eastern countries in which a portion of the population is known to lack access to improved water are shown below.



SEVERE WATER STRESS: WATER USE AS % OF SUPPLY

When a country's total water use exceeds 40% of available renewable resources, it is likely to be under severe water stress, and often must turn to other water sources such as aquifer extraction, desalination, or external supplies (such as bottled water). Middle Eastern countries whose water use exceeds 40% of supply are listed below.

Bahrain	5,981%	Egypt	127%
Kuwait	3,097%	Yemen	123%
UAE	1,614%	Israel	108%
Saudi Arabia	955%	Iraq	80%
Qatar	570%	Iran	59%
Oman	181%	Syria	55%
Jordan	151%		

FRESHWATER WITHDRAWALS, WORLDWIDE (TOP 16)

Year of data in parentheses. Freshwater withdrawal figures shown in km³ per year.

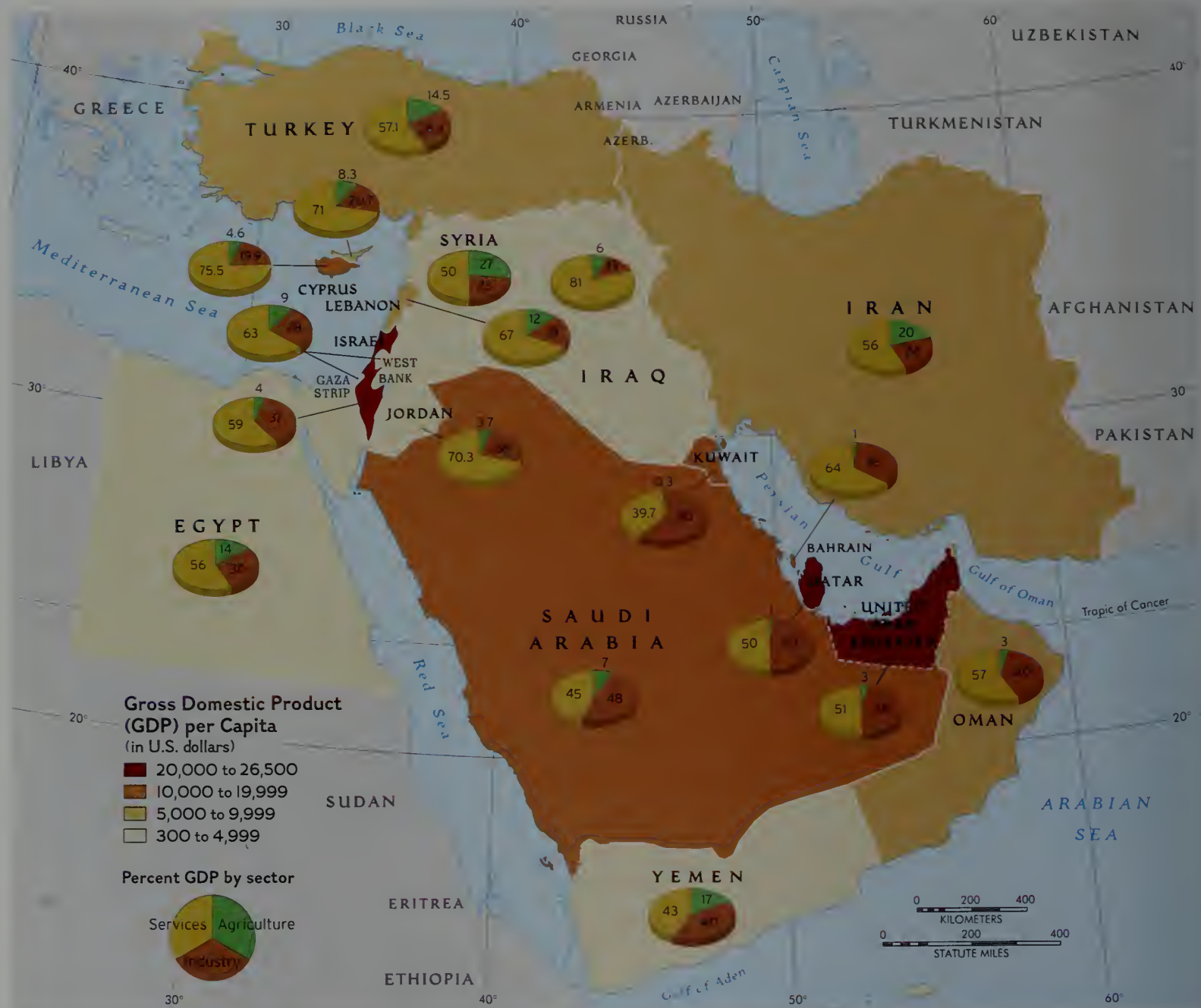
China	(1993)	525	Iran	(1993)	70
India	(1990)	500	Egypt	(1996)	66
US	(1990)	467	Uzbekistan	(1994)	58
Pakistan	(1991)	156	Philippines	(1995)	55
Japan	(1992)	91	Brazil	(1992)	55
Mexico	(1998)	78	Vietnam	(1990)	54
Russia	(1994)	77	Germany	(1990)	46
Indonesia	(1990)	74	Canada	(1991)	45

DESALINATION CAPACITY, WORLDWIDE (TOP 16)

Capacity figures shown in m³ per day.

Saudi Arabia	5,006,194	Italy	483,668
United States	2,799,000	Iran	423,427
UAE	2,134,233	Iraq	324,476
Kuwait	1,284,327	Bahrain	282,955
Libya	638,377	Korea	265,957
Japan	637,900	Netherlands Antilles	210,905
Qatar	560,764	Algeria	190,837
Spain	492,824	Hong Kong	183,079

Development Indicators



IMPORTS

Ranked by total value (billions of U.S. dollars), latest available year

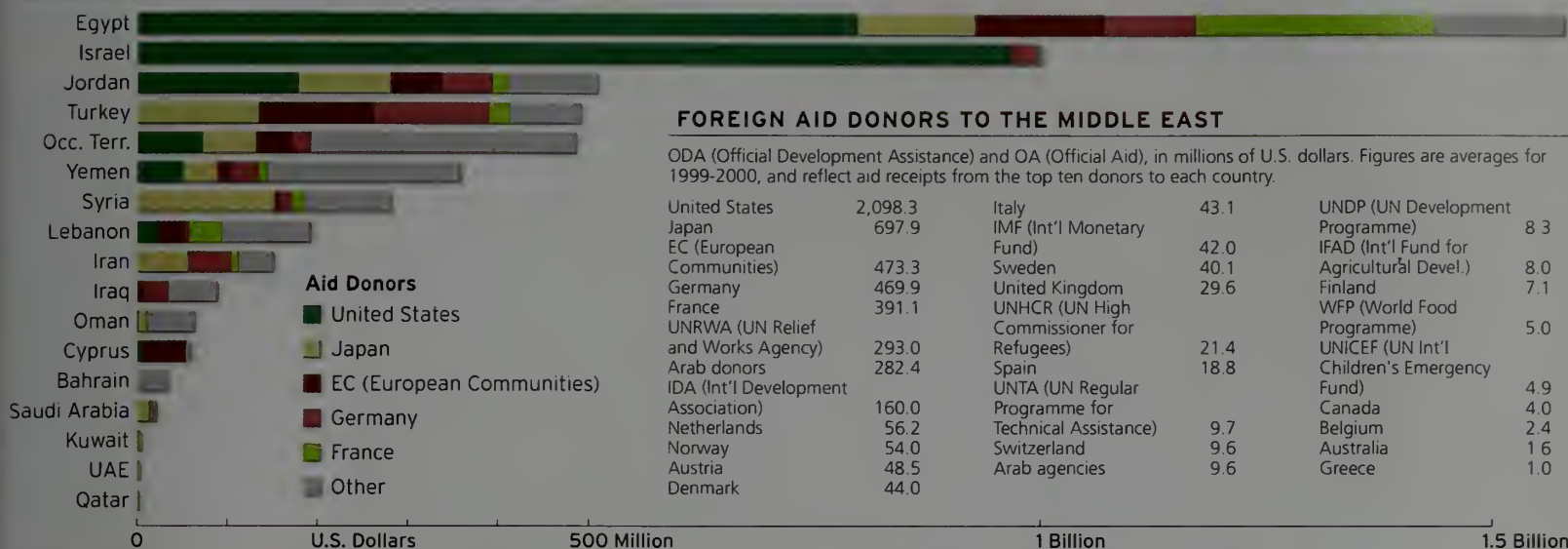
Turkey	55.7	Oman	4.5
Israel	35.1	Bahrain	4.2
UAE	34.0	Jordan	4.0
Saudi Arabia	30.1	Qatar	3.8
Yemen	17.0	Cyprus, Greek	3.6
Libya	15.0	Syria	3.5
Iran	13.8	Yemen	2.7
Cyprus	7.6	Cyprus, Turkish	0.4
Lebanon	5.2		

EXPORTS

Ranked by total value (billions of U.S. dollars), latest available year

Saudi Arabia	66.9	Egypt	7.1
UAE	47.6	Bahrain	5.5
Turkey	33.8	Syria	5.0
Iran	27.4	Yemen	3.9
Israel	26.5	Jordan	2.2
Kuwait	16.2	Cyprus, Greek	0.85
Iraq	15.8	Lebanon	0.7
Qatar	11.0	Cyprus, Turkish	0.05
Oman	10.9		

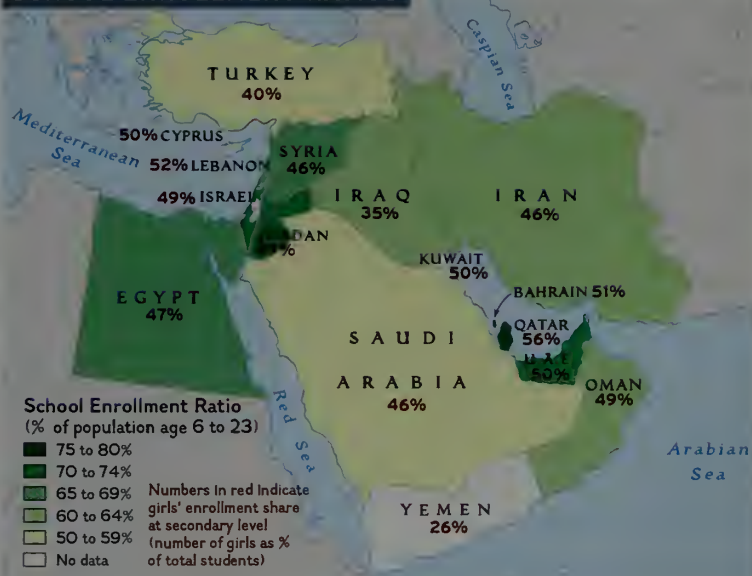
FOREIGN AID TO THE MIDDLE EAST



LITERACY RATES



SCHOOL ENROLLMENT RATIOS



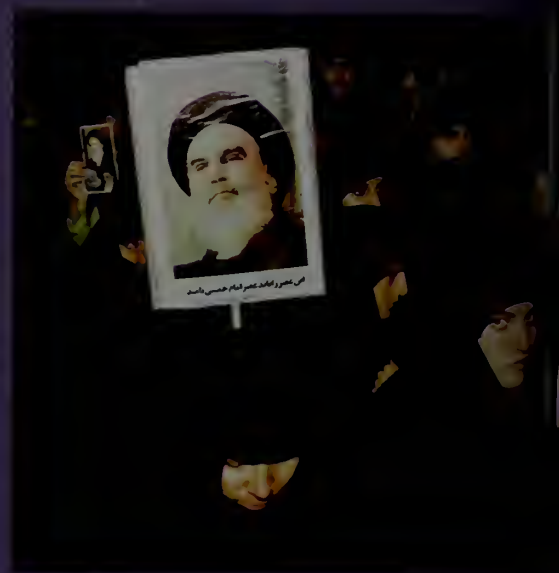
INFANT MORTALITY



ACCESS TO SANITATION SERVICES



HISTORY



NOT TO MENTION, ISRAELI SOLDIERS WAVE FLAGS AT A RALLY FOLLOWING THE PROCLAMATION OF THE OSLO ACCORDS IN 1993. ISRAELI TROOPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST TO THE 1950s. GAZA CROSSING, 1950s. A PHOTOGRAPH OF ISRAELI LEADER AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI DURING THE 21st ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT, 1980. PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT OF EGYPT VISITING IN A MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRY, 1980. A PHOTOGRAPH OF A BOY IN THE GAZA STRIP THROWING ROCKS DURING A PROTEST, 1980. A PHOTOGRAPH OF A BOY IN THE GAZA STRIP THROWING ROCKS DURING A PROTEST, 1980.

78 World
Heritage Sites

79 Ancient Egypt

80 1914: On the
Eve of War:
Post-WWI:
The Rise of
Nazism/
On/Off
Spending

81 Regional
Conflicts
1945-2002

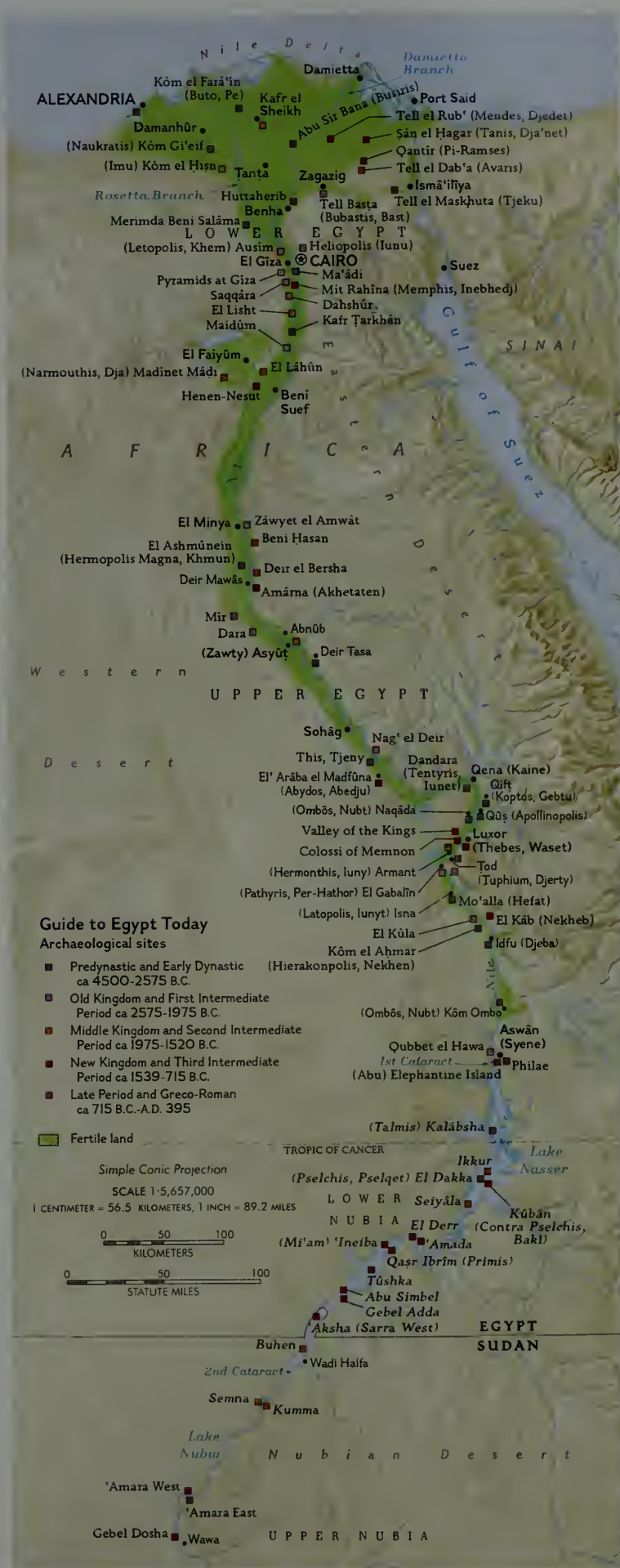
82 Time Line
1990-2002



WORLD HERITAGE SITES



ANCIENT EGYPT



1914: ON THE EVE OF WAR



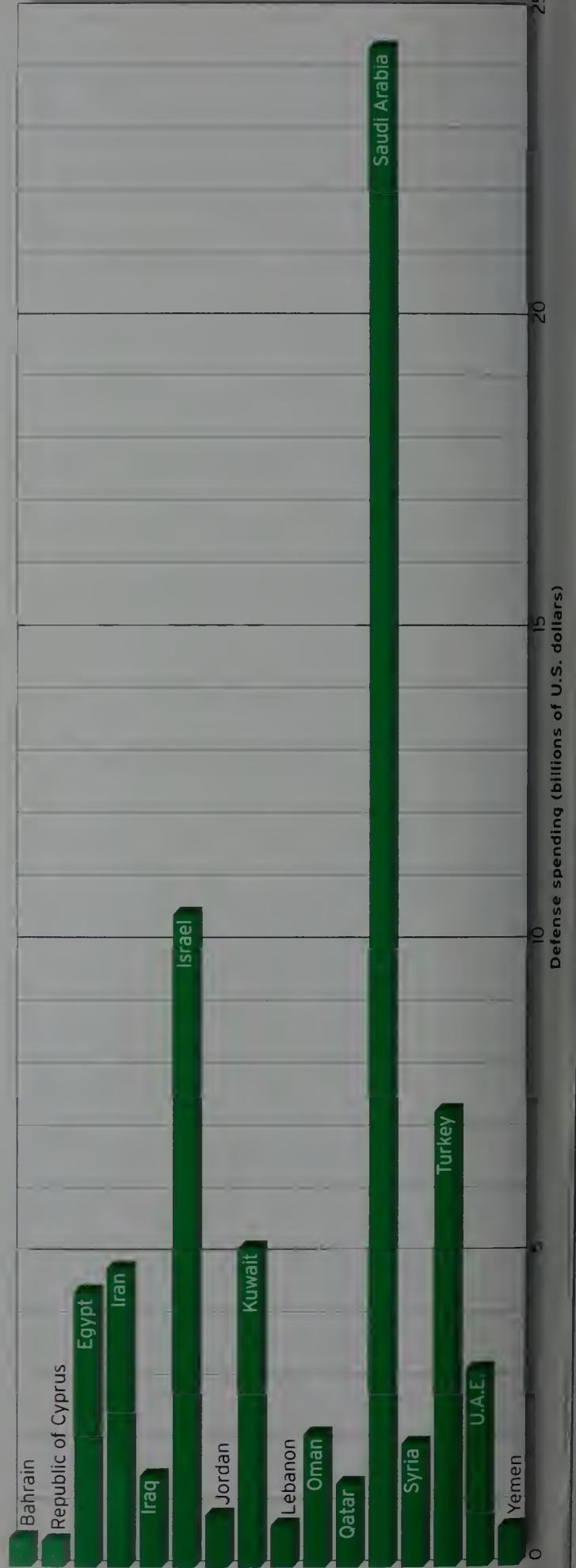
POST WORLD WAR I



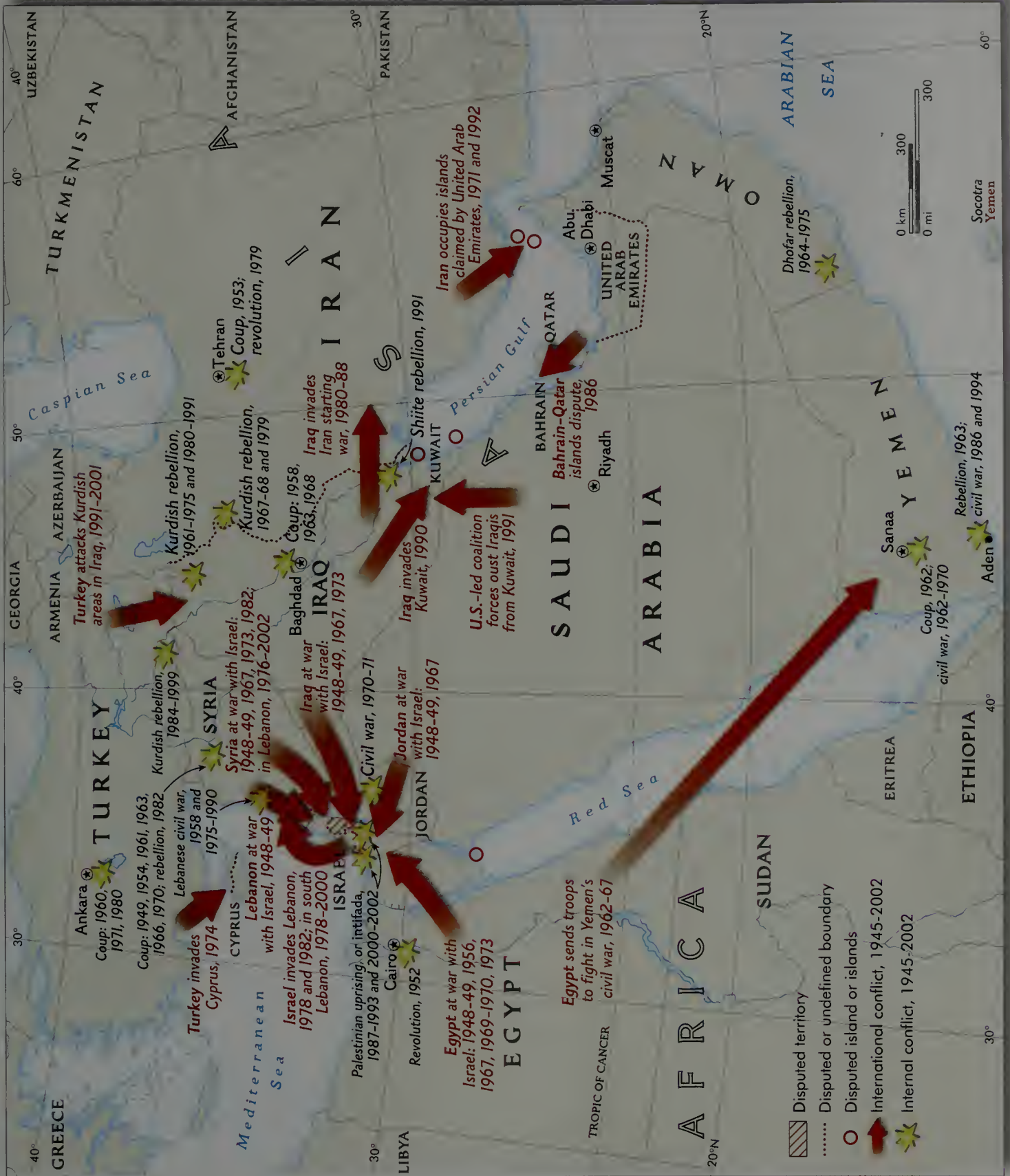
THE RISE OF NATIONALISM



DEFENSE SPENDING, 2001



REGIONAL CONFLICTS, 1945-2002



Construction of the original oil pipeline in Persia, 1909



Enver Pasha



1914

Aug. – World War I (1914–1918) begins.

Oct. 29 – Ottoman Empire enters war on the side of Germany by an alliance engineered by Enver Pasha, Ottoman War Minister.

Dec. 16 – Egypt, under British military occupation since 1882, becomes a British protectorate. Cyprus is annexed by Great Britain.

1912–13

Balkan Wars result in the loss of most of the Ottoman Empire's remaining European territories.

1909

Tel Aviv founded by Zionist settlers as a suburb of the ancient city of Jaffa.

1906

Aug. 5 – Constitutional Revolution (1905–1911) in Persia forces the shah to allow a constitution and a *Majlis*, or representative assembly.

1907

Aug. 31 – Great Britain and Russia sign an agreement that creates their respective spheres of influence in Persia.

1903–05

An Anglo-Turkish Commission partially demarcates the boundary between Yemen (then part of the Ottoman Empire) and the British protectorate of Aden.

1900

Germany and the Ottoman Empire begin construction of Pan-Islamic Hejaz Railway.

1908

May 26 – First major oil strike occurs in the Middle East in southwest Persia at D'Arcy's drilling site at Masjid-i Suleiman.

Hejaz Railway is completed between Damascus and Medina.

July 24 – The Young Turk Revolution in the Ottoman Empire forces Sultan Abdul Hamid II to restore the Constitution of 1876.

1904

Apr. 8 – Entente Cordiale: Agreement between Great Britain and France includes acknowledgment of British preeminence in Egypt.

Theodor Herzl dies; he founded the Zionist Organization at the First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland, in 1897.



T.E. Lawrence

1913

June 21 – First Arab National Congress, held in Paris, demands recognition of the Arabs as a nation within the Ottoman Empire.

Boundary between Iraq and Kuwait defined by Anglo-Turkish Convention.

1915

Apr. 24 – Ottoman Empire launches genocide against the Armenians.

Apr. 25 – British Gallipoli Campaign begins, ending disastrously by Jan. 8, 1916.

1916

May 16 – Sykes-Picot Agreement: Secret treaty is made by France, Great Britain, and Russia to partition the Ottoman Empire.

June – Grand Sharif Hussein of Mecca launches Arab Revolt against Ottomans in the Hejaz. Military campaign is led by his son Feisal (later first king of Iraq) with British Army advisor T.E. Lawrence, known as Lawrence of Arabia.

Nov. – Ruler of Qatar signs treaty of protection with Great Britain.

Mustafa Kemal Atatürk



1917

Nov. 2 – Balfour Declaration asserts British government's support for the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine.

1918

Oct. 3 – Feisal sets up an Arab government in Damascus.

Oct. 30

– Ottoman Empire signs armistice at Mudros.

Nov. – Imamate of Yemen gains independence.

Nov. 11

– Germany signs armistice.

1919

Jan. 18 – Opening of Paris Peace Conference. The Treaty of Versailles is signed on June 28.

1922

Feb. 28 – Great Britain declares Egypt an independent monarchy.

The Kingdom of Najd (Saudi Arabia) reaches boundary agreements with both Iraq and Kuwait.

1920

Jan. 16 – League of Nations holds first meeting.

Apr. 26 – At San Remo Conference, Allied Powers endorse British mandates in Palestine and Iraq, and French mandate in Syria, a portion from which the French created Lebanon.

July 24 – French oust Feisal from Damascus.

Aug. 10 – Treaty of Sèvres reduces the Ottoman Empire to a small area of northern Anatolia.

1921

Feb. 21 – Reza Khan, an officer in the Persian Cossack Brigade, leads a successful coup in Persia.

Apr. 1 – Great Britain splits Palestine mandate to create Emirate of Transjordan and names Abdullah, son of Sharif Hussein, its ruler.

Aug. 23 – Hashemite monarchy is established in Iraq under King Feisal I, whose Arab government was forced out of Damascus in July 1920.

1930

The collapse of the world pearl market following the Japanese introduction of cultured pearls leaves Qatar's economy in ruins.

1923

July 24 – Treaty of Lausanne establishes modern Turkey's borders.

Oct. 29 – Republic of Turkey is established. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is named President; the capital is moved from Constantinople to Ankara.

1925

May 1 – Cyprus becomes a British Crown Colony.

Dec. 12 – Pahlavi Dynasty in Persia is established when Reza Khan is crowned Reza Shah Pahlavi.

1927

Large oil deposits are discovered north of Kirkuk in Iraq.

1933

May 29 – King Abdalaziz ibn Saud allows Standard Oil to prospect in Saudi Arabia.

1934

Dec. 23 – Oil exploitation concession in Kuwait is granted to British-American owned Kuwait Oil Company.

1932

Sept. 18 – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is proclaimed.

Oct. 3 – Iraq is recognized as an independent monarchy following end of British mandate.



Abdulaziz ibn Saud, 1945

1935
Reza Shah Pahlavi changes Persia's name to Iran.

1937
July 7 – British Peel Commission recommends that Palestine be partitioned. The Woodhead Commission, the following year, rejects partition as impracticable.

1939
Sept. 1 – World War II (1939–1945) begins when Nazi Germany invades Poland.

1941
May – British troops invade Iraq to prevent coup by pro-Axis nationalist movement.

June – Invasion of Syria and Lebanon by British and Free French troops to remove pro-Vichy France governments.

Aug. 25 – British and Soviet troops occupy Iran to counter threat of expanding German influence. Reza Shah Pahlavi abdicates in favor of his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

1943
Nov. 22 – Lebanon declares independence from France.

1945
Mar. 22 – Arab League forms.

World War II ends: Germany surrenders May 7; Japan surrenders Aug. 14.

June 26 – United Nations is founded.

1947
UN Partition Plan proposes that, upon termination of the British mandate on May 15, 1948, Palestine be partitioned into separate Jewish and Arab states, with the city of Jerusalem under UN control. Jews accept the plan. Arabs throughout the Middle East reject it.

Truman Doctrine results in large-scale U.S. military and economic aid to Turkey.

1949
Qatar begins to produce and export oil ten years after discovering it.

Feb. 24 – Armistice agreement is signed between Israel and Egypt, followed by armistices with other Arab countries later in the year.

1950
Apr. 24 – The West Bank is annexed by Transjordan, and the country's name is changed to Jordan.

1952
Feb. 18 – Turkey is admitted as a member of NATO.

July 23 – Gamal Abdel Nasser leads a coup by the Free Officers' Movement in Egypt. King Farouk is forced to abdicate.

1955
Feb. 24 – Baghdad Pact: Iraq allies itself with Turkey and Britain to contain Soviet expansionism.

Nasser in Damascus, 1960



1960
Aug. 15 – Cyprus becomes an independent republic.

Sept. 10–14 – OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) is founded in Baghdad by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.

1958
Feb. 22 – Syria and Egypt form the United Arab Republic (U.A.R.)

July 14 – King Feisal II of Iraq is assassinated in coup by the army. General Qasim takes power.

July 15 – U.S. Marines land in Lebanon to quiet Muslim-Christian civil strife.

1962
Sept. 28 – North Yemen becomes the Yemen Arab Republic. Civil war begins.

1964
June 1 – Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) is established.

Aug. 9 – A cease-fire ends eight months of warfare between Greek and Turkish factions on Cyprus.

Nov. 2 – King Saud is deposed. Faisal, his brother, succeeds him as King of Saudi Arabia.

Israeli tank in action during the Six Day War



1967
June 5–10 – Six Day War: Following buildup of Arab troops on its borders and the closure of the Strait of Tiran, Israel launches a preemptive attack on the surrounding Arab states. Israel occupies the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, and the Sinai Peninsula.

Nov. 30 – Independent People's Democratic Republic of South Yemen forms.

1969
Feb. 3 – Yasser Arafat is elected head of the PLO.

Mar. 17 – Golda Meir becomes Prime Minister of Israel.

Sept. 1 – Monarchy in Libya is overthrown by military coup led by Muammar Qaddafi.

1940

1950

1960

1970

1936
Feb. 26 – Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of Alliance is signed. End of British occupation in the Sinai and Suez Canal zone for 20 years. King Fuad becomes king following death of his father King Tawfiq.

1942
Oct. 23–Nov. 4 – British check German advance into Egypt at the Battle of El Alamein.

1953
June – Egypt is declared a republic.
Aug. 16–19 – Prime Minister Mossadegh of Iran is overthrown by British-U.S. sponsored coup.

1961
June 19 – Kuwait, under Al Sabah family and British protectorate since 1899, gains independence. British troops sent in July to thwart an Iraqi attempt to annex Kuwait are later replaced by Arab League troops who remain there for two years.

1968
July 30 – Baath Party returns to power in Iraq when a military coup led by President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr ousts non-Baathist allies.

1938
Oil is discovered in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Nov. 10 – Mustafa Kemal Atatürk dies.

1946
Apr. 17 – Syria achieves complete independence.

May 15 – Britain formally recognizes Transjordan as an independent state. Emir Abdullah becomes king.

1951
Apr. 30 – Mohammad Mossadegh becomes Prime Minister of Iran. He nationalizes British-owned oil industry.

July 20 – King Abdullah of Jordan is assassinated.

1956
Oct. 31–Nov. 7 – Suez Crisis: In secret pact with Britain and France, Israel invades Sinai, reaching the Suez Canal. France and Britain land troops to "retake" canal. Pressure from U.S. and Soviet Union force withdrawal of invading forces.

Sept. 28 – Syria withdraws from the United Arab Republic. Egypt retains name until 1971.

1970
Sept. – King Hussein of Jordan sends army against PLO-controlled areas in Jordan. Defeated PLO retreats to Lebanon.

Sept. 28 – Egyptian President Nasser dies of a heart attack. He is succeeded by Vice President Anwar Sadat.

Nov. 13 – Hafez al-Assad seizes power in Syria as leader of a Baath Party military coup. Baath Party in Syria is a rival faction of Iraqi Baath Party.

Nov. 30 – South Yemen is renamed People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Dec. – Eight-year civil war in the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) ends.

1948
May 14 – State of Israel is proclaimed following end of British mandate in Palestine.

May 15 – Israel's War of Independence: Arab forces from Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon, and Iraq attack Israel, which defeats the invading armies. Many uprooted by war, including 750,000 Palestinian refugees.



British recover hidden weapons in Suez Canal, 1956.



David Ben-Gurion proclaims the birth of the State of Israel to the National Jewish Congress on May 14, 1948.

Israeli artillery engaged during Yom Kippur War

1971

Aug. 15 – Bahrain declares independence.

Sept. 3 – Qatar declares its independence from Great Britain.

Dec. 2 – Six of the Trucial States form the United Arab Emirates. The seventh joins the following year.



1973

Oct. 6 – Yom Kippur War: Egypt and Syria launch surprise attack against Israel. After initial Arab victories Israel recaptures Golan Heights, pushes six miles into Syria, and crosses the Suez Canal. Diplomatic interventions by the United States and Soviet Union lead to a cease-fire.

Oct. 20 – Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) imposes an oil embargo on the United States.

1977

May 17 – Menachem Begin becomes prime minister of Israel.

Nov. 19-21 – Egyptian President Anwar Sadat becomes the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

1975

Mar. 25 – Saudi King Faisal is assassinated; his half brother, Crown Prince Khalid, succeeds him.

Apr. – Political and religious conflict between Christian and Muslim factions in Lebanon escalates into civil war.

Khomeini's supporters on the streets of Tehran



1979

Jan. 16 – Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlavi leaves Iran due to mounting protests.

Feb. 1 – Religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini returns from 15-year exile to establish an Islamic Republic in Iran.

Mar. 26 – Egypt and Israel sign peace accords.

July 16 – Saddam Hussein assumes Iraqi presidency.

Nov. 4 – Militant Iranian students overrun U.S. Embassy in Tehran, taking 52 hostages.

Dec. 27 – Soviet Union invades Afghanistan.

1981

Jan. 20 – Iran releases all the American hostages.

June 7 – Israel bombs non-operational Iraqi nuclear reactor on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Oct. 6 – Sadat is assassinated by Islamic fundamentalists in Egypt. Hosni Mubarak succeeds him as President.

Dec. 14 – Israel annexes the Golan Heights.

1984

Feb. 26 – U.S. Marines withdraw from Lebanon.

May 20 – Arab League condemns Iranian attacks on Persian Gulf shipping.

June 5 – Saudi jets down two Iranian planes over Persian Gulf.

Aug. 6 – U.S. and British ships are sent to Gulf to clear mines. Russian, French, and Italian ships arrive within two weeks to keep shipping lanes open.

1985

May-June – Israel withdraws from most of southern Lebanon to narrow security zone along the Israeli-Lebanese border.

Oct. 1 – Israeli jets attack PLO headquarters in Tunis, Tunisia.

1980

1972

Nov. 21 – Israel and Syria clash in heaviest fighting since 1967 war.

July 18 – Sadat expels Egypt's 15,000 Soviet military advisers and experts.

1974

Mar. 4 – Israel returns Suez Canal to Egypt.

Mar. 18 – OAPEC ends oil embargo.

July 15 – Greece engineers coup in Cyprus.

July 20 – Turkey invades Cyprus, occupying the northern one-third of the island.

Nov. 13 – UN General Assembly affirms Palestinians' right to sovereignty and grants PLO observer status.

1976

Apr.-May – Syrian troops intervene in Lebanon to restore peace but also to curb the Palestinians.

Oct. – Following Arab summit meetings in Riyadh and Cairo, a cease-fire in Lebanon is arranged and a predominantly Syrian Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) is established to maintain it.

1978

Mar. 14 – In reprisal for PLO attacks on its territory, Israel invades southern Lebanon.

Apr. 6 – United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) moves into southern Lebanon to enforce Security Council resolution calling on Israel to withdraw from Lebanon.

Sept. 17 – Camp David Accords are signed in Washington by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin with U.S. President Jimmy Carter as intermediary.



Sadat, Carter, and Begin at White House 9/17/78

1980

Apr. 24 – U.S. commandos' attempt to rescue hostages in Iran ends in failure.

June – Israel completes withdrawal to security zone in southern Lebanon.

Sept. 22 – Iraq invades Iran, beginning a war that lasts eight years.



Iraqi soldiers at the front during the Iran-Iraq War

1982

Apr. 25 – Israel completes withdrawal from Sinai.

June 6 – Israel invades Lebanon on "Operation Peace for Galilee."

Aug. 21-Sept. 4 – PLO evacuates Beirut during Israeli siege of the city.

Sept. 18 – Phalangist militia kill Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

Sept. 24 – The first contingent of a mainly U.S., French, and Italian peacekeeping force, requested by Lebanon, arrives in Beirut.

1986

Mar. 24 – U.S. Navy exercises in the Gulf of Sidra draw attacks from Libyan jets and patrol boats.

Apr. 14 – U.S. bombers attack military installation near Tripoli, Libya.

1987

Feb. 26 – Palestinian uprising or *intifada*, protesting Israeli occupation, breaks out in Gaza Strip and spreads to the West Bank.

1983

Apr. 18 – Bomb blast destroys U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

Oct. 23 – Shiite suicide bombers attack U.S. Marine barracks at Beirut Airport.

Nov. 15 – Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is declared. UN Security Council condemns the move.

American soldier stands on destroyed Iraqi tank while Kuwaiti oil wells, ignited by Saddam's retreating forces, burn in the distance.



1991

Jan. 17 – Operation Desert Storm begins with a massive allied air attack against strategic targets in Baghdad and throughout Iraq.

Feb. 24 – Allied coalition forces launch ground offensive into Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

Feb. 27 – Kuwait is liberated. A cease-fire takes effect the next day. Retreating Iraqi troops set hundreds of oil wells on fire, causing an environmental disaster.

Apr. 3 – UN Security Council resolution requires Iraq to give up all chemical and biological weapons and materials for developing nuclear weapons. Iraq is required to provide arms inspection body UNSCOM complete access to all sites to monitor Iraqi disarmament.

1995

Sept. 21 – PLO and Israel sign Oslo II agreement.

Nov. 16 – Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated by a Jewish religious extremist. His successor, Shimon Peres, vows to continue peace efforts.

1998

Oct. 23 – Wye River Memorandum: Israel agrees to further troop withdrawals; the PLO to eliminate clauses from the PLO Covenant calling for Israel's destruction.

Dec. 17-20 – U.S. and British warplanes bomb Iraq to force compliance with UNSCOM agreements. Following the attack Iraq refuses to readmit the UN weapons inspectors.

1996

Jan. 20 – Yasser Arafat is elected president of the Palestinian Authority.

May 22 – Saddam Hussein accepts UN "oil for food" program.

Nov. 29 – Benjamin Netanyahu is elected Prime Minister of Israel.

Palestinians flee after throwing stones at Israeli army jeep during clashes in the West Bank city of Ramallah.



2000

May – Israel completes withdrawal from security zone in southern Lebanon.

June – President Assad of Syria dies. He is succeeded by his son Bashar.

July 11-25 – At Camp David II summit, Palestinian Authority leader Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Barak fail to reach final peace settlement.

Sept. 28 – Second Palestinian uprising, the al Aqsa Intifada, begins in the Occupied Territories.

Oct. 12 – USS Cole is bombed in Yemen by Islamic fundamentalists controlled by Osama bin Laden.

2002

Jan. 29 – U.S. President George W. Bush declares Iran, Iraq, and North Korea "constitute an axis of evil."

Mar. – Trying to stop a wave of suicide bombings, Israel has reoccupied land it previously relinquished in the Occupied Territories.

Nov. 8 – UN Security Council Resolution 1441 calls on Iraq to disarm.

Nov. 21 – UN weapons inspection team UNMOVIC resumes inspections in Iraq.

1989

Feb. 15 – Last Soviet troops leave Afghanistan.

July 3 – Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini dies.

1992

Aug. 27 – Allied forces begin enforcing "no-fly zone" in southern Iraq, preventing Iraqi air attacks against the Shiite population.

1990

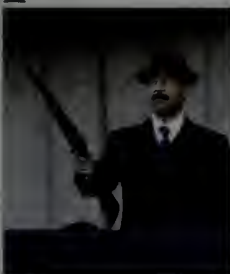
1990

May 22 – The Republic of Yemen is created.

Aug. 2 – Iraq invades Kuwait. UN Security Council condemns attack.

Aug. 7 – Start of Operation Desert Shield; U.S.-led multinational coalition sends troops and supplies to Saudi Arabia to deter Iraqi attack.

Nov. 29 – UN Security Council authorizes use of force against Iraq unless it withdraws from Kuwait by Jan. 15, 1991.



Saddam Hussein

1993

Aug. – During secret talks in Oslo, Norway, between Israel and the PLO, the Declaration of Principles (Oslo Accords) is announced. This agreement provides for Palestinian self-rule to be phased in over several years in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Sept. 13 – Historic handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and PLO Chairman Arafat occurs at Oslo Accords signing ceremony hosted by U.S. President Bill Clinton on the White House Lawn.

1994

May 4 – PLO assumes authority in the Gaza Strip and town of Jericho. Israeli withdrawal begins two weeks later.

Oct. 13 – Iraq deploys two divisions near border with Kuwait. Rapid deployment of U.S. forces in the area causes Iraq to withdraw troops.

Oct. 26 – Jordanian King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin sign formal peace treaty.



Yasser Arafat returns to Gaza Strip on July 1, 1994.

1997

Jan. 16 – Israeli troops withdraw from West Bank town of Hebron the day after Israel signs Hebron Protocol with the Palestinian Authority.

1999

Feb. 7 – King Hussein of Jordan dies. He is succeeded by his son Abdullah II.

July 6 – Ehud Barak of the Labor Party replaces Netanyahu as Israeli Prime Minister.

2000

2001

Feb. 6 – Ariel Sharon becomes Israeli Prime Minister.

Sept. 11 – Islamic terrorists hijack U.S. commercial jets and crash them into the World Trade Center in New York, and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Oct. 7 – U.S.-led military action starts in Afghanistan to remove the Taliban regime from power.



Terrorists attack the World Trade Center on 9/11/01.

2003

Jan. 27 – UNMOVIC and the IAEA report to the UN Security Council.

OTHER FLAGS OF THE MIDDLE EAST



ARAB LEAGUE The color green and the crescent are often symbols in member countries of the League of Arab States, founded in 1945.



GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL The Arabian peninsula appears within the inscription "In the Name of Allah the All-Merciful." The Council, created in 1981, works for regional development.



ISLAM "There Is No God But Allah and Muhammad Is the Prophet of Allah" is written on this widely used but unofficial flag.



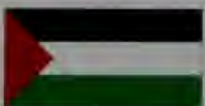
KURDISTAN After the '91 Gulf War, Kurds in northern Iraq established de facto self-rule. Their traditional ethnic flag was recognized in '99 by the Kurdish Regional Government.



MULTINATIONAL FORCE AND OBSERVERS The MFO has monitored the border between Egypt and Israel since 1982. The dove and olive branch stand for peace; orange was chosen as a neutral color.



ORGANIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE The traditional green flag of Islam with a red crescent, "God Is Almighty" motto, and stylized globe symbolizes this worldwide Muslim organization.



PALESTINIANS Since 1922 Palestinians have used this flag, with traditional Arab dynastic colors, as a symbol of the statehood they desire.



RED CRESCENT In Muslim nations, Geneva Convention organizations rejected the red cross in favor of a red crescent, officially recognized in 1906.



RED CROSS The Geneva Convention chose its symbol and flag in 1864 to identify people, vehicles, and buildings protected during wartime.



RED SHIELD OF DAVID SOCIETY Although not officially recognized by the Geneva Conventions, the "Magen David Adom" has provided medical services in Israel since 1948.



TURKISH REP. OF NORTHERN CYPRUS In 1983 part of Cyprus unilaterally proclaimed independence as the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Its flag is based on the one used by Turkey.



SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS Since 1960 the United Kingdom, by treaty exercising sovereignty over certain parts of the Republic of Cyprus, has flown the Union Jack.



UNITED NATIONS Olive branches of peace and a world map form the symbol adopted by the United Nations in 1946. The flag dates from 1947.

GEOGRAPHIC EQUIVALENTS

'Ain...	spring, well	Jibal...	hill-s, mountain-s
Arđ...	area	Jün...	bay
Aylagy...	bay, gulf	Juzur...	islands
Bāb...	gate, strait	Kavīr...	salt desert
Bahr...	river	Kawr...	mountain
Baḥr, Baḥra...	lake	Khabrat...	depression
Bandar...	anchorage, bay, bight, port	Khalīg, Khalīj...	bay, gulf
Barajī...	dam, reservoir	Khawr...	channel
Baṭn...	depression, wadi	Khirbat...	ancient site, ruins
Be'er...	well	Köl, Kul...	lake
Bi'r...	spring	Körfezi...	bay, gulf
Birket...	lake, pool, swamp	Küh...	mountains
Boğazi...	strait	Lac...	lake
Buḥayrat...	lake, reservoir	Masabb...	mouth of river
Burnu, Burun...	cape, point	Mīnā'	harbor
Dağ, Dağı...	hill, mountain	Nafūd...	area of dunes, desert
Dağları...	mountains	Qā'	depression, mud flat
Darya...	river	Qal'at...	fort
Daryācheh...	lake	Qarn...	hill
Dasht...	desert	Qaşr...	castle, fort
Dawḥat...	bay, cove, inlet, channel	Qiryat...	settlement, suburb
Denizi...	sea	Qulbān...	well-s
'Emeq...	valley	Qurayyāt...	hills
Garagum...	desert	Ra's, Rās, Ras...	cape, point
Gardaneh...	pass	Ramlat...	dune, area
Gebel...	mountain-s, range	Rhiy...	point
Geçidi...	mountain pass	Sabkhat...	salt lake
Gezīret, Gezāir...	island-s	Shaggat, Shiqqat...	elongated depression
Ghubbat...	bay, gulf	Sha'īb...	ravine, watercourse
Gölü...	lake	Shatt...	large river
Gowd...	depression	Tall...	hill, mound
Haḍabat...	plateau	Tepe...	mountain
Ḥadd...	spit	Tur'at...	channel
Ḥālat...	island	Ṭuwayyir...	hill
Har...	hill, mountain	'Urqūb...	hill, plateau
Hawr...	lake, marsh	'Urūq...	dune area
Ḥolot...	dunes	Wādī, Wādi...	valley, watercourse
Jabal...	hill-s, mountain-s	Wāḥāt...	oasis
Jazīrat, Jazā'ir...	island, islands		

ABBREVIATIONS

A.D...	In the year of the Lord	Mt.-s...	Mount-ain-s
Af...	Africa	Occ. Terr...	Occupied Territories
AGR...	Agriculture	Org...	Organization
Arm...	Armenia	PLO...	Palestine Liberation Organization
Ave...	Avenue	Ra...	Range
Avg...	Average	Rep...	Republic
Azerb...	Azerbaijan	St...	Street
B.C...	Before Christ	Str...	Strait
Blvd...	Boulevard	Syr...	Syria
°C...	degrees Celsius (centigrade)	Terr...	Territories
ca...	circa	Turk...	Turkey
Dr...	Drive	U.A.E...	United Arab Emirates
EXP...	Exports	U.N...	United Nations
°F...	degrees Fahrenheit	UNMOVIC...	United Nations Monitoring, Verification, and Inspection Commission
GDP...	Gross Domestic Product	UNSCOM...	United Nations Special Commission
Gez...	Gezīret	U.S...	United States
Gezr...	Gezāir	W...	Wādī, Wādi
GMT...	Greenwich Mean Time		
IAEA...	International Atomic Energy Agency		
IND...	Industry		
Leb...	Lebanon		

CONVERSIONS

CONVERSION TO METRIC			CONVERSION FROM METRIC		
	multiply by			multiply by	
in...	2.54	cm	cm...	.39	in
ft...	.30	m	m...	3.28	ft
mi...	1.61	km	km...	.62	mi
in ² ...	6.45	cm ²	cm ² ...	.16	in ²
ft ² ...	.09	m ²	m ² ...	10.76	ft ²
mi ² ...	2.54	km ²	km ² ...	.39	mi ²
°F	5/9 after subtracting 32	°C	°C	9/5 then add 32	°F

PLACE-NAME INDEX

The following system is used to locate a place on a map in the National Geographic Atlas of the Middle East. The boldface type after an entry refers to the plate on which the map is found. The letter-number combination refers to the grid on which the particular place-name is located. The edge of each map is marked horizontally with numbers and vertically with letters. In between, at equally spaced intervals, are index ticks (▲). If these ticks were connected with lines, each page would be divided into a grid. Take Alanya, Turkey, for example. The index entry reads "Alanya, Turk. 44 H6." On page 44, Alanya is located within the grid square where row H and column 6 intersect.

A place-name may appear on several maps, but the index lists only the best presentation. Usually, this means that a feature is indexed to the largest-scale map on which it

appears in its entirety. (Note: Rivers are often labeled multiple times even on a single map. In such cases, the rivers are indexed to labels that are closest to their mouths.) The name of the country or continent in which a feature lies is shown in italic type and is sometimes abbreviated.

The index lists more than proper names. Some entries include a description, as in "Forūr, island, Iran 24 L7." In languages other than English, the description of a physical feature may be part of the name; e.g., the "Tuwayyir" in "Tuwayyir al Hamir, Qatar 38 K5," means "hill." The Geographic Equivalents list on page 86 translates such terms into English. When a feature or place can be referred to by more than one name, both names appear in the index with cross-references.

Alma ech Chaab, Leb. 34 M1

Abā as Sa'ūd, Saudi Arabia 40 L6

Ābādān, Iran 24 H3

Ābādeh, Iran 24 H5

Abār el Kanāyis, well, Egypt 22 C3

Abarkūh, Iran 24 H6

Abasān, Gaza Strip 50 L2

'Abda (Eboda), ruin, Israel 29 M3

'Abd al 'Aziz, Jabal, Syr. 42 C9

'Abdālī, customs post, Kuwait 33 A7

'Abd al Kūrī, island, Yemen 49 H15

'Abd Khān-e Pā'in, Iran 27 H12

Abhā, Saudi Arabia 40 L5

Abnūb, Egypt 23 G7

Abṛād, Wādī, Yemen 48 E7

Abraq al Ḥabārī, escarpment, Kuwait 32 F3

Abraq Khaytān, Kuwait 33 G9

Abṛūq, Ra's, Qatar 38 E4

Abū aḍ Duḥūr, Syr. 42 D3

Abū 'Ajram, Saudi Arabia 40 C3

Abū al 'Abyaḍ, island, U.A.E. 47 G6

Abū al 'Awsaj, area, Bahrain 19 F7

Abū 'Alī, island, Saudi Arabia 40 E9

Abū al Khaṣīb, Iraq 27 K11

Abū al Lasan, Jordan 30 K3

Abū 'Arish, Saudi Arabia 48 C3

Abū 'Aweid, Rās, Egypt 23 H10

Abū 'Aweigīla, Egypt 29 M1

Abū aḍ Zūlūf, Qatar 38 B5

Abū Baḥr, plain, Saudi Arabia 40 H8

Abu Ballās, peak, Egypt 22 J3

Abū Daghmah, Syr. 42 C5

Abū Dālī, Syr. 42 G3

Abū Dhabi see Abū Ḍaby, U.A.E. 47 F8

Abu Dukhān, Gebel, Egypt 23 G9

Abu Durba, Egypt 23 E9

Abu el Ḥusein, Bīr, Egypt 23 L6

Abu Gharādiq, Bīr, Egypt 23 D4

Abū Hāmūr, Qatar 38 G7

Abu Harba, Gebel, Egypt 23 F9

Abu Hashfaḥ, Khalig, Egypt 23 C4

Abū Jarjūr, Ra's, Bahrain 19 D8

Abū Kamāl, Syr. 43 G10

Abū Madd, Ra's, Saudi Arabia 40 F2

Abu Mareiwāt, Bīr, Egypt 23 G9

Abu Minqār, Bīr, Egypt 22 G3

Abū Mūsā, island, Iran 47 B9

Abū Qumayyīs, Raḥs, Saudi Arabia 38 L7

Ābūr, Jordan 30 H4

Abu Rudeis, Egypt 23 E8

Abū Samrah, Qatar 38 K4

Abū Sidrah, Qatar 38 D4

Abu Simbel, site, Egypt 23 L7

Abu Sōma, Rās, Egypt 23 G9

Abū Šukhayr, Iraq 27 H7

Abu Tīg, Egypt 23 G7

Abū Urayqīt, Ra's, Saudi Arabia 18 E2

Abū Ḍaby (Abu Dhabi), U.A.E. 47 F8

Abu Zenīma, Egypt 23 E8

Abyek, Iran 24 D4

Achna, Cyprus 20 G6

Acıgöl, lake, Turk. 44 F4

Acıpayam, Turk. 44 F4

Acree see 'Akko, Israel 28 C4

Adam, Oman 37 F8

'Adan (Aden), Yemen 48 H6

Adana, Turk. 44 G9

Adapazari see Sakarya, Turk. 44 B5

Aḍ Ḍāfrah, region, U.A.E. 46 J3

Ad Daghhārah, Iraq 27 H8

Ad Dahnā, desert, Saudi Arabia 40 E7

Aḍ Ḍālī, Yemen 48 G6

Ad Dammām, Saudi Arabia 40 E9

Ad Dār al Ḥamrā, Saudi Arabia 40 D2

Ad Darb, Saudi Arabia 40 L5

Ad Dawādīmī, Saudi Arabia 40 F6

Ad Dawḥah (Doha), Kuwait 33 F8

Ad Dawḥah (Doha), Qatar 38 G7

Ad Dawr, Iraq 27 E7

Ad Dayr, Bahrain 19 A8

Ad Dībībah, region, Iraq-Kuwait-Saudi Arabia 32 F3

Aḍ Ḍiffah see Libyan Plateau, Egypt 22 C2

Ad Dilam, Saudi Arabia 40 G7

Ad Dirāz, Bahrain 19 B6

Ad Dīwānīyah, Iraq 27 H8

Aḍ Ḍubā'īyah, Kuwait 33 J10

Ad Duḡajl, Iraq 27 F7

Ad Dūr, Bahrain 19 F8

Ad Durra, Jordan 30 M2

Ad Duwayd, Saudi Arabia 40 C5

Aden see 'Adan, Yemen 48 H6

Aden, Gulf of, Af-Asia 17 M11

Adhanah, Wādī, Yemen 48 F5

Adh Dhakhīrah, Qatar 38 D7

Adh Dhayd, U.A.E. 47 D11

'Aḍiyah, Jabal, Yemen 48 E5

Adiyaman, Turk. 45 F12

Adrianople see Edirne, Turk. 44 A2

Aegean Sea, Europe 16 C6

'Afak, Iraq 27 H8

'Afīf, Saudi Arabia 40 G5

Afiq, Israel 28 D6

Afūq, Leb. 34 E5

'Afrin, Syr. 42 C3

Afşin, Turk. 45 E11

'Afula, Israel 28 D4

Afyon, Turk. 44 E5

Aghbar, Jabal al, Yemen 48 H4

Agh Bolāgh, Iran 27 A8

Aghūrmī, Egypt 22 E2

Agia Napa, Cyprus 20 H6

Agios Amvrosios, Cyprus 20 F5

Agios Sergios, Cyprus 20 G6

Agios Theodoros, Cyprus 20 F6

Agri see Karaköse, Turk. 45 C16

Agri Dağı (Mount Ararat), Turk. 45 C17

Ahar, Iran 24 B2

Ahlat, Turk. 45 E16

Ahlātīlbel, ruin, Turk. 44 D7

Ahrām, Iran 24 J5

Āhū, Iran 24 H3

Ahvāz, Iran 24 G3

Aḥwar, Yemen 48 G8

Aigialousa, Cyprus 20 E7

'Ajalātūn, Leb. 34 F4

Ajban, U.A.E. 47 F9

'Ajīrah, Jazīrat, Bahrain 19 J11

'Ajlūn, Jordan 30 D4

'Ajman, U.A.E. 47 D10

'Ajūzah, Ra's, Kuwait 33 F9

Akaki, Cyprus 20 G4

Akanthou, Cyprus 20 F6

Akarsu, Turk. 43 A10

'Akāshāt, Iraq 26 F2

Akcaabat, Turk. 45 B13

Akcaḍāğ, Turk. 45 E12

Akçakale, Turk. 45 G13

Akçaqışla, Turk. 45 D10

Akçakoca, Turk. 44 B6

Akçay, Turk. 44 D2

Akçay, Turk. 44 G4

Akdağ, peak, Turk. 44 E1

Ak Dağlar, Turk. 44 G4

Akdağmadeni, Turk. 45 D10

Akdoğan, Turk. 42 A9

Akhḍar, Al Jabal al, Oman 37 E8

Akhisar, Turk. 44 D3

Akhmīm, Egypt 23 G7

Akhtārīn, Syr. 42 C4

Akinci Burnu, Turk. 21 B12

'Akko (Acre), Israel 28 C4

Akkuş, Turk. 45 B11

Akra, peak, Turk. 21 C12

Akrotiri, Cyprus 20 J3

Akrotiri Bay, Cyprus 20 J3

Akrūm, ruin, Leb. 34 B8

Aksaray, Turk. 44 E8

Akşehir, Turk. 44 E6

Akşehir Gölü, Turk. 44 E6

Akseki, Turk. 44 G6

'Aksha, ruin, Egypt 23 M7

Aksu, river, Turk. 44 G5

Aktepe (Güvenç), Turk. 42 B2

Akyaka, Turk. 45 B17

Akyazı, Turk. 44 C5

Al 'Abdālīyah, Kuwait 33 H7

Alaca, Turk. 44 C9

Alaca Dağ, Turk. 44 F7

Alacahöyük, ruin, Turk. 44 C9

Alaçam, Turk. 45 A10

Aladağ, peak, Turk. 44 F6

Aladağ, peak, Turk. 44 F9

Al 'Adā'im, ruin, Bahrain 19 F6

Al 'Adhbah, Qatar 38 B6

Al 'Aflāj, region, Saudi Arabia 40 H7

Al 'Aḥmadī, Kuwait 33 H9

Al 'Ajāzī, Oman 37 J7

Al Akhḍar, Saudi Arabia 40 D2

Alalakh, ruin, Turk. 45 H10

Al 'Amādiyah, Iraq 27 A6

Al 'Amar, Bahrain 19 F7

Al 'Amārah, Iraq 27 H10

'Alam el Rūm, Rās, Egypt 22 C3

Al 'Amīriyah, Qatar 38 K5

Al 'Ānat, Syr. 42 M3

Alanya, Turk. 44 H6

Al 'Aqabah (Aqaba), Jordan 30 L2

Al 'Aqīq, Saudi Arabia 40 J4

Al 'Aqūrah, Leb. 34 E5

Al 'Arīḍah, Leb. 34 A6

Al 'Arīsh, Qatar 38 B5

Al 'Armah, plateau, Saudi Arabia 40 F7

Al Arṭāwīyah, Saudi Arabia 40 E7

Al 'Ās (Orontes), river, Syr. 42 E2

Al As'ad, Saudi Arabia 40 D2

Alaşehir, Turk. 44 E3

Al 'Ashārah, Egypt 22 F9

Al Ashkharah, Oman 37 F9

Al Atārīb, Syr. 42 D3

'Alawīyīn, Jabal al, Syr. 42 E2

Alāyat Samā'il, Oman 37 E8

Al 'Ayn, U.A.E. 47 G11

Al 'Ayyariyah (Bethany), W. Bank 51 H8

Al 'Azīziyah, Saudi Arabia 19 B3

Al Bāb, Syr. 42 C4

Al Bad', Saudi Arabia 40 D1

Al Badī, Saudi Arabia 40 H7

Al Badī, Iraq 27 C4

Al Bāḥah, Saudi Arabia 40 J4

Al Baḥrah (Basra), Iraq 27 K11

Al Baḥrā, Iraq 27 J9

Al Bayāḍ, plain, Saudi Arabia 40 H8

Al Bayḍā, Yemen 48 G7

Al Bazm al Gharbā, island, U.A.E. 47 G5

Al Bīāj, Iraq 27 B4

'Al Bīqā' (Bekaa Valley), Leb. 34 G5

Al Bīr, Saudi Arabia 40 C2

Al Bīrah, W. Bank 51 F7

Al Q-Bey

- Al Qurayyah, Bahrain 19 B6
 Al Qurayyah, Syr. 42 M2
 Al Qurayyāt, Saudi Arabia 40 B2
 Al Qurnah, Iraq 27 J11
 Al Quşayr, Syr. 42 G2
 Al Quşūriyah, Saudi Arabia 40 G6
 Al Quţayfah, Syr. 42 J2
 Al Quwayf'iyah, Saudi Arabia 40 G6
 Al Quwayrah, Jordan 30 K3
 Al Samha, U.A.E. 47 F9
 Al Suwayhiliyah, Qatar 38 D5
 Altinekin, Turk. 44 E7
 Altunhisar, Turk. 44 F8
 Altinkaya Barajı, Turk. 44 B9
 Altinözü, Turk. 42 D2
 Altıntaş, Turk. 44 D5
 Altınyayla, Turk. 44 G4
 Al 'Ubaylah, Saudi Arabia 41 H10
 Alucra, Turk. 45 C12
 Al Udeid, site, Qatar 38 H6
 Al 'Uhaym, Iraq 27 E7
 Al 'Ulā, Saudi Arabia 40 E2
 Al 'Unnāb, site, Jordan 30 K6
 Al 'Uqayr, Saudi Arabia 40 F9
 Al 'Uşuriyah, Qatar 38 E6
 Al 'Uwaynid, Saudi Arabia 40 F7
 Al 'Uwayqilah, Saudi Arabia 40 C5
 Al 'Uyūn, Saudi Arabia 40 F3
 Al 'Uzayr, Iraq 27 J11
 Al Wa'b, Qatar 38 C7
 Al Wafrah, Kuwait 33 L9
 Al Wahibah, Ramlat, Oman 37 F9
 Al Wajh, Saudi Arabia 40 E2
 Al Wakrah, Qatar 38 G8
 Al Wannān, Saudi Arabia 40 E8
 Al Waqabah, Oman 37 D6
 Al Warī'ah, Saudi Arabia 24 K2
 Al Wasmiyah, Bahrain 19 E6
 Al Widyān, valley, Iraq-Saudi Arabia 26 G2
 Al Wuday'ah, Saudi Arabia 40 L8
 Al Wukayr, Qatar 38 H7
 Al Ya'rūbiyah, Syr. 43 B12
 Al Zubarah, Qatar 38 C5
 'Amada, ruin, Egypt 23 L8
 'Amārna, Tell el, Egypt 23 F6
 Amasra, Turk. 44 A7
 Amasya, Turk. 45 C10
 Amathous, ruin, Cyprus 20 J4
 'Amij, Wādī, Iraq 27 F4
 Amioūn, Leb. 34 D5
 'Ammān, Jordan 30 E4
 Ammochostos (Famagusta, Gazimağusa), Cyprus 20 G6
 Ammochostos Bay, Cyprus 20 G6
 'Amol, Iran 24 D5
 'Amrah, Qaşr, Jordan 30 E6
 'Amrān, Yemen 48 E5
 'Amrit (Marghab), ruin, Syr. 42 F1
 'Amshūt, Leb. 34 E4
 'Āmūdāh, Syr. 43 A10
 'Anabā, W. Bank 51 C7
 'Anah, Iraq 27 E5
 Anamur, Turk. 44 H7
 Anamur Burnu, Turk. 20 C3
 Anār, Iran 24 H7
 Anārak, Iran 24 F6
 Anatolia (Asia Minor), region, Turk. 44 E4
 Andarīn, Khirbat al, Syr. 42 E4
 Andimeshk, Iran 27 G12
 Andirin, Turk. 45 F10
 Anfah, Leb. 34 C4
 Angohrān, Iran 24 L9
 Angora see Ankara, Turk. 44 C7
 'Anjar, Leb. 34 H5
 Ankara, river, Turk. 44 D7
 Ankara (Angora), Turk. 44 C7
 An Nabī Rashādah, Leb. 34 F6
 An Nabī Shīt, Leb. 34 G6
 An Nabk, Syr. 42 H3
 An Nabk Abu Qaşr, Saudi Arabia 26 K1
 An Nafūd, desert, Saudi Arabia 40 D4
 An Nāhiyah, Iraq 27 E4
 An Najaf, Iraq 27 H7
 An Namatah, Jordan 30 H3
 'Annān, Wādī al, Syr. 42 H5
 An Nashshāsh, U.A.E. 47 K7
 An Nāşiriyyah, Iraq 27 J9
 An Nāşiriyyah, Syr. 42 J3
 An Nimāş, Saudi Arabia 40 K5
 An Nu'ayriyah, Saudi Arabia 40 D8
 An Nukhayb, Iraq 27 H5
 An Nu'māniyyah, Iraq 27 G8
 An Nuqdhah, Oman 37 H9
 An Nuwaydirāt, Bahrain 19 C8
 Antalya, Turk. 44 G5
 Antalya Körfezi, Turk. 44 G6
 Anti-Lebanon see Sharq, Al
 Jabal ash, mountain range, Leb.-Syr. 34 G7
 Antioch see Hatay, Turk. 45 H10
 Antipatris, ruin, Israel 28 F3
 Antufash, Jazīrat, Yemen 48 D3
 Aouali, river, Leb. 34 J3
 Apamea, ruin, Syr. 42 E2
 Apostolos Andreas, Cape, Cyprus 20 E8
 Apostolos Andreas Monastery, Cyprus 20 E8
 Aqaba see Al 'Aqabah, Jordan 30 L2
 Aqaba, Gulf of, Asia 23 E10
 'Aqabah, Iraq 27 F6
 'Aqrabah, Syr. 42 D4
 'Aqrabah, W. Bank 51 D8
 'Aqrah, Iraq 27 A7
 Arab, Shatt al, Iraq 27 K11
 'Arab, Khalīq el, Egypt 23 C5
 'Araba, Wādī, Egypt 23 E7
 'Arabah, Wādī, Yemen 49 C14
 'Arabah, Wādī al, river, Israel 29 N4
 'Arabah, Wādī al, Israel-Jordan 29 S4
 'Arab al Mulk, Syr. 42 E1
 Arabian Sea, Asia 17 J15
 Arabit, Iraq 27 C9
 Araç, river, Turk. 44 B8
 Araç, Turk. 44 B8
 'Arad, Israel 29 K4
 Aradippou, Cyprus 20 H5
 Arāk, Iran 24 E4
 Ārān, Iran 24 E5
 Arapkir, Turk. 45 E12
 'Ar'ar, Saudi Arabia 40 B4
 Ararat, Mount see Ağrı Dağı, Turk. 45 C17
 Aras (Araxes), river, Turk. 45 C17
 Araxes see Aras, river, Turk. 45 C16
 Arayit Dağı, Turk. 44 D6
 Arbelā see Irbid, Jordan 30 C4
 Arbil, Iraq 27 B7
 Arđ, Ra's al, Kuwait 33 F10
 Ardabil, Iran 24 B3
 Ardahan, Turk. 45 B16
 Ardakān, Iran 24 G6
 Ardakān, Iran 24 H5
 Ardanuq, Turk. 45 B15
 Ardestān, Iran 24 F5
 Arđiyah, Kuwait 33 G8
 Arethusa see Ar Rastan, Syr. 42 F3
 Argaman, W. Bank 51 D9
 'Arid, Bahrain 19 A8
 Ari'el, W. Bank 51 E7
 Arihā, Syr. 42 D2
 Arihā (Jericho), W. Bank 51 G9
 Armageddon see Megiddo, Tel, ruin, Israel 28 D4
 Armah, Wādī, Yemen 49 B13
 Armant, Egypt 23 H8
 Armenia, region, Turk. 45 D14
 Arnaoutis, Cape, Cyprus 20 G1
 Ar Nazlah, Gaza Strip 50 J2
 Arpa, river, Turk. 45 C17
 Arpaçay, Turk. 45 B16
 'Arrābah, W. Bank 51 B7
 Ar Rabbād, area, U.A.E. 47 L9
 Ar Rabbah, Jordan 30 F4
 Ar Rāfiđiyah, Iraq 27 L11
 Ar Rafid, Syr. 42 L1
 Ar Rahjāliyyah, Iraq 27 G6
 Ar Rāhidah, Yemen 48 G5
 Ar Rām, W. Bank 51 G8
 Ar Ramādī, Iraq 27 F6
 Ar Rams, U.A.E. 47 B11
 Ar Ramthā, Jordan 30 C4
 Ar Raqqah (Nicephorium), Syr. 42 D7
 Ar Rashādiyyah, Jordan 30 H4
 Ar Rashidiyyah, Leb. 34 L1
 Ar Rastan (Arethusa), Syr. 42 F3
 Ar Rawdah, Saudi Arabia 40 J5
 Ar Rawdah, Yemen 48 E5
 Ar Rawdah, Yemen 48 F9
 Ar Rayyān, Qatar 38 G7
 Ar Rifā' al Gharbī, Bahrain 19 C7
 Ar Rifā' ash Shamālī, Bahrain 19 C7
 Ar Rifā' ash Sharqī, Bahrain 19 C7
 Ar Rifā'ī, Iraq 27 J9
 Ar Rihāb, wetland, Iraq 27 K9
 Ar Riyād (Riyadh), Saudi Arabia 40 F7
 Ar Riyān, Yemen 49 F11
 Ar Ru'ays, Qatar 38 B6
 Ar Rub' al Khālī (Empty Quarter), desert, Saudi Arabia 40 J9
 Ar Rufayq, Qatar 38 E4
 Ar Rumaylah, Iraq 27 K11
 Ar Rumaythah, Bahrain 19 G7
 Ar Rumaythah, Iraq 27 J8
 Ar Rummān, Jordan 30 D4
 Ar Ruq'ī, Saudi Arabia 40 C7
 Ar Ruşāfah, Syr. 42 E6
 Ar Ruşayfah, Jordan 30 D4
 Ar Rustāq, Oman 37 E7
 Ar Ruţbah, Iraq 26 G3
 Ar Ruways, U.A.E. 47 G4
 Ar Ruwayshid, Jordan 31 C10
 Arsalān Tāsh, ruin, Syr. 42 B6
 Artova, Turk. 45 C10
 Artvin, Turk. 45 B15
 'Arugot, river, W. Bank 51 K8
 Arwād, Jazīrat, Syr. 21 H12
 Arzanah, island, U.A.E. 47 E4
 Asad, Buḥayrat al, Syr. 42 D5
 Asadābād, Gardaneh-ye, Iran 24 E3
 Aşāğıpınarbaşı, Turk. 44 F7
 Asfūn el Matā'na, Egypt 23 J8
 Asha, Cyprus 20 G5
 Ashāqīq, Jabal al, Jordan 30 D8
 Ashdod, Israel 28 H2
 Ashhur see Ash Sharqāt, Iraq 27 C6
 Ashinhab, Oman 37 M4
 Ashkelon, ruin, Israel 28 H2
 Ashmūn, Egypt 23 D6
 Ashqelon, Israel 28 H2
 Ash Shabak, dry salt lake, Bahrain 19 F7
 Ash Shabakah, Iraq 27 K6
 Ash Shaddādah, Syr. 43 D10
 Ash Sham'm, U.A.E. 47 B11
 Ash Shāmiyyah, area, Iraq 27 L10
 Ash Shāmiyyah, Iraq 27 H8
 Ash Sharawrah, Saudi Arabia 40 L8
 Ash Shāriqah (Sharjah), U.A.E. 47 D10
 Ash Sharqāt (Ashhur), Iraq 27 C6
 Ash Shaţrah, Iraq 27 J9
 Ash Shubak, Jordan 30 H3
 Ash Shaykh Badr, Syr. 42 F1
 Ash Shidiyyah, Jordan 30 F1
 Ash Shihr, Yemen 49 F12
 Ash Shīnāfiyyah, Iraq 27 J8
 Ash Shişar, Oman 37 L4
 Ash Shu'abiyah, Kuwait 33 H10
 Ash Shumūlū, Saudi Arabia 40 E8
 Ash Shūnah, Jordan 30 C4
 Ash Shuqayq, area, Kuwait 33 K7
 Ash Shuqayq, Saudi Arabia 40 L5
 Ash Shūrah, Iraq 27 C6
 Ash Shurayf, Saudi Arabia 40 F3
 Ash Shuwayfāt, Leb. 34 G3
 Āşī (Orontes), river, Leb. 34 D8
 Asia Minor see Anatolia, region, Turk. 44 E6
 'Asir, region, Saudi Arabia 40 K5
 'Asirah ash Shamālīyyah, W. Bank 51 C8
 Aşkale, Turk. 45 C14
 'Askar, Bahrain 19 D8
 Askī Mawşil, Iraq 27 B5
 Asl, Egypt 23 D8
 Asmar, Tall, Iraq 27 F8
 As Sa'an, Syr. 42 F4
 Aş Şabāhiyyah, Kuwait 33 H10
 As Sabkha, Syr. 42 D7
 Aş Şadārah, Yemen 49 F10
 As Sāddah, hill, Kuwait 33 G6
 Aş Şafā, lava field, Syr. 42 K3
 Aş Şafī, Jordan 30 G3
 As Safirah, Syr. 42 D4
 Aş Şa'īd, Yemen 48 F8
 Aş Şālhiyyah (Dura Europos), Syr. 43 G10
 As Sālmiyyah, Kuwait 33 F9
 As Salmān, Iraq 27 K7
 As Salt, Jordan 30 D4
 As Samāwah, Iraq 27 J8
 As Samū', W. Bank 51 L6
 As Sanām, desert, Saudi Arabia 41 H10
 Aş Şanamayn, Syr. 42 K2
 Aş Şarafand, Leb. 34 J2
 Aş Şawrah, Saudi Arabia 40 D1
 Aş Şay'ar, valley, Yemen 49 D10
 As Sayliyyah, site, Qatar 38 G6
 As Sib, Oman 37 E8
 As Sidr, Saudi Arabia 40 G3
 As Sihak, dry salt lake, Saudi Arabia 38 L3
 As Silā, U.A.E. 46 G2
 As Sinīyah, island, U.A.E. 47 C10
 Assos, ruin, Turk. 44 D1
 As Su'ayyirah, Saudi Arabia 40 D8
 As Suknah, Syr. 42 F6
 Aş Şulaybikhāt, Kuwait 33 F8
 As Sulaymāniyyah, Iraq 27 C8
 As Sulayyil, Saudi Arabia 40 J7
 Aş Şulb, area, Saudi Arabia 40 E8
 As Sumaynī, Oman 37 D6
 Aş Şummān, plateau, Saudi Arabia 40 E7
 Aş Şuwār, Syr. 43 E10
 As Suwaydah, Syr. 42 L2
 As Suwayh, Oman 37 F10
 Aş Şuwayrah, Iraq 27 G8
 Āstārā, Iran 24 B3
 Aswad, Wādī, Oman 37 F6
 Aswān (Syene), Egypt 23 K8
 Aswan High Dam, Egypt 23 K8
 Asyūt, Egypt 23 G7
 'Asyūti, Wādī el, Egypt 23 G7
 Atantūr, Rās, Saudi Arabia 40 D1
 'Atāq, Yemen 48 B8
 Atatürk Barajı, Turk. 45 F13
 Atbai, region, Egypt 23 L10
 'Atfayn, Wādī, Yemen 48 C5
 Atfih, Egypt 23 E7
 Athienou, Cyprus 20 G5
 'Atlit, Israel 28 D3
 Atrak (Etrek), river, Iran 24 C7
 At Taff, area, U.A.E. 47 H7
 At Tāfilah, Jordan 30 H3
 At Tā'if, Saudi Arabia 40 J4
 At Tall, Syr. 42 J2
 At Tanf, Syr. 42 K6
 'Atţārāh, W. Bank 51 E7
 At Tawīlah, Yemen 48 E4
 At Taysiyyah, plateau, Saudi Arabia 40 D5
 At Tibnī, Syr. 42 E8
 'Attūl, W. Bank 51 B6
 At Tubyay, area, Saudi Arabia 40 C2
 At Turbah, Yemen 48 G5
 Avanos, Turk. 44 E9
 Āwāz, Iran 25 F10
 Āwey, Iran 24 D3
 A'waj, Syr. 34 K8
 'Awālī, Bahrain 19 D7
 'Awārīd, Wādī, Syr. 42 G8
 'Awdah, Hawr al, Iraq 27 J10
 'Awahh, Jazīrat, Kuwait 33 F11
 Ayancık, Turk. 44 A9
 Ayaş, Turk. 44 C7
 Aydin, Turk. 44 F3
 Aydıncık, Turk. 44 H8
 'Ayn al 'Arab, Syr. 42 B6
 'Ayn al Faydah, U.A.E. 47 G11
 'Ayn an Nabk al Gharbī, Saudi Arabia 40 B2
 'Ayn Diwār, Syr. 43 A12
 'Ayn Khālīd, Qatar 38 G7
 'Ayn Sifnī, Iraq 27 B6
 'Ayn Sinān, Qatar 38 B6
 'Aynūnah, Saudi Arabia 40 D1
 Ayranç, Turk. 44 G8
 'Aysh, Ra's al, U.A.E. 47 G5
 Ayvacık, Turk. 44 D1
 Ayvalık, Turk. 44 D2
 Āzād Shahr, Iran 24 C7
 'A'zāz, Turk. 42 C3
 Azdavay, Turk. 44 A8
 Azerbajjan, region, Iran 24 C2
 Aqlam, Qal'at al, Saudi Arabia 40 E1
 Azraq, Qaşr al, Jordan 30 E6
 Azraq ash Shishān, Jordan 30 E6
 Az Zabadānī, Syr. 42 J1
 Aş Zāhiriyyah, W. Bank 51 L6
 Aş Zāhr, peninsula, Oman 37 K8
 Aş Zāhrān (Dahhran), Saudi Arabia 40 E9
 Az Zallāq, Bahrain 19 E6
 Az Zarqā, Jordan 30 D5
 Az Zawr, Kuwait 33 F10
 Az Zawr, Kuwait 33 K11
 Az Zaydiyyah, Yemen 48 E3
 Az Zībār, Iraq 27 A7
 Az Zilfi, Saudi Arabia 40 E6
 Az Zubarah, ruin, Qatar 38 B5
 Az Zubaydiyyah, Iraq 27 G8
 Az Zubayr, Iraq 27 K11
 Az Zūbayyah, Qatar 38 C4
 Az Zuhrah, Yemen 48 E3
 'Azzūn, W. Bank 51 D6
 Baabda, Leb. 34 G3
 Baalbeck, Leb. 34 F7
 Baba Burnu, Turk. 44 D1
 Baba Dağ, Turk. 44 G4
 Babaeaki, Turk. 44 A2
 Bab al Mandab, Ra's, Yemen 48 H4
 B'abbāt, Leb. 34 F4
 Babylon, ruin, Iraq 27 G7
 Badanah, Saudi Arabia 40 B4
 Badishan, Wādī, Oman 47 L11
 Badrah, Iraq 27 G9
 Badr Hunayn, Saudi Arabia 40 G3
 Bafa Gölü, Turk. 44 F2
 Bafra, Turk. 45 B10
 Bāft, Iran 24 J8
 Baghdād, Iraq 27 F7
 Bāghīn, Iran 24 H8
 Bağırpaşa Dağı, Turk. 45 D14
 Bağışlı, Turk. 45 F17
 Bahariyya, El Wāhāt el, Egypt 23 F5
 Baḥat aş Şubayhiyyah, river, Kuwait 33 K8
 Baḥçe, Turk. 45 G11
 Baḥçesaray, Turk. 45 E16
 Bahlah, Oman 37 E7
 Bahrain, Asia 17 G12
 Bahrain, Hadd al, Bahrain 19 J7
 Bahrain, Gulf of see Baḥrayn, Khalīj al, Bahrain 19 F4
 Baḥrayn, Gulf of (Gulf of Bahrain), Bahrain 19 F4
 Bāhū Kalāt, Iran 25 M11
 Bā'ir, Jordan 30 H6
 Bā'ir, Wādī, Jordan 30 G7
 Bājirān, Iran 24 C9
 Bājil, Yemen 48 E4
 Bakhtegān, Daryācheh-ye, Iran 24 J6
 Bakirdağı, Turk. 45 F10
 Balā, Turk. 44 D7
 Balad, Iraq 27 E7
 Balad Rūz, Iraq 27 F8
 Balāt, Egypt 23 H5
 Balāţah, Khirbat (Shechem), W. Bank 51 D8
 Balḥāf, Yemen 49 G10
 Balikesir, Turk. 44 D3
 Balık Gölü, Turk. 45 A10
 Balıkh, river, Syr. 42 C7
 Balīkh, Egypt 23 B7
 Baluchistan, region, Iran 25 L11
 Balya, Turk. 44 C3
 Bam, Iran 24 J9
 Bampūr, river, Iran 25 L10
 Bampūr, Iran 25 K10
 Banā, Wādī, Yemen 48 G6
 Banās, Rās, Egypt 23 K11
 Banāyā 'Urayfijān, dunes, Kuwait 33 K10
 Banaz, Turk. 44 E4
 Bandar-e 'Abbās, Iran 24 L8
 Bandar-e Anzālī, Iran 24 C4
 Bandar-e Būshehr, Iran 24 J4
 Bandar-e Chārah, Iran 24 L6
 Bandar-e Deylam, Iran 24 H4
 Bandar-e Khoemir, Iran 24 L7
 Bandar-e Lengeh, Iran 24 L7
 Bandar-e Māh Shahr, Iran 24 H3
 Bandar-e Maqām, Iran 24 L6
 Bandar-e Rīg, Iran 24 J4
 Bandar-e Torkaman, Iran 24 C6
 Bandırma, Turk. 44 C3
 Bāneh, Iran 24 D1
 Banī Forūr, island, Iran 47 B8
 Banī Jamrah, Bahrain 19 B6
 Banī Na'im, W. Bank 51 K7
 Banī Sa'd, Iraq 27 F7
 Banī Sharfā, Saudi Arabia 40 K4
 Banī Suhaylah, Gaza Strip 50 L1
 Banī 'Umar al 'Ulyā, Jabal, Yemen 48 F5
 Banī Yās, U.A.E. 47 G8
 Bāniyās, Syr. 42 F1
 Baniyāt al Khīrān, hill, Kuwait 33 L10
 Banyas, Israel 28 A6
 B'aqīn, Leb. 34 H3
 Ba'qūbah, Iraq 27 F7
 Baradā, Syr. 34 H7
 Barak, Turk. 45 G12
 Baraqah, Jabal, Yemen 49 F11
 Bārbār, Bahrain 19 B6
 Bardarash, Iraq 27 B6
 Bardawīl, Sabkhet el, Egypt 23 C8
 Barīm, island, Yemen 48 H4
 Bārīs, Egypt 23 J6
 Barkā, Oman 37 E8
 Barr, Rās el, Egypt 23 B7
 Barr, Ra's al, Bahrain 19 J7
 Barr al Hikmān, peninsula, Oman 37 H8
 Barr Ilyās, Leb. 34 G5
 Barshah, Ra's al, Kuwait 33 E10
 Bartalāh, Iraq 27 B6
 Bartin, Turk. 44 A7
 Basīr, Ra's al, Syr. 42 D1
 Başkale, Turk. 45 E17
 Başkil, Turk. 45 E13
 Basra see Al Başrah, Iraq 27 K11
 Bastak, Iran 24 L7
 Bāţīn, Wādī al, Iraq-Kuwait-Saudi Arabia 32 H1
 Batman, Turk. 45 F15
 Batroūn, Leb. 34 D4
 Bat Yam, Israel 28 G2
 Bāwāh Nūr, Iraq 27 D8
 Bawīṭī, Egypt 23 F5
 Bay'ah, Oman 37 B6
 Bayat, Turk. 44 E5
 Bayāz, Iran 24 H7
 Bayburt, Turk. 45 C14
 Bayḥān, Wādī, Yemen 48 F7
 Bayḥān al Qīşāb, Yemen 48 F7
 Bayındır, Turk. 44 E2
 Baylī, Iraq 27 D6
 Baykan, Turk. 45 E15
 Bayli, Bir, Egypt 22 C1
 Baynū, Leb. 34 B7
 Baynūnah, region, U.A.E. 47 H4
 Bayramic, Turk. 44 C2
 Baysh, Wādī, Saudi Arabia 48 B3
 Bayt al Faqīh, Yemen 48 F4
 Bayt Fūrik, W. Bank 51 D8
 Bayt Hānūn, Gaza Strip 50 J3
 Bayt Ibā, W. Bank 51 C7
 Baytūn, W. Bank 51 F7
 Bayt Jālā, W. Bank 51 H7
 Bayt Lāhiya, Gaza Strip 50 J2
 Bayt Lahm (Bethlehem), W. Bank 51 H7
 Bayt Liqyā, W. Bank 51 G6
 Bayt Sāḥūr, W. Bank 51 H8
 Bazmān, Kūh-e, Iran 25 K10
 Bcharrē, Leb. 34 D6
 Be'er Menuha, Israel 29 P4
 Be'er Ora, Israel 29 S3
 Beersheba see Be'er Sheva', Israel 29 K3
 Be'er Sheva', river, Israel 29 K3
 Be'er Sheva' (Beersheba), Israel 29 K3
 Behbehān, Iran 24 H4
 Behshahr, Iran 24 C6
 Beisrut, Leb. 34 F3
 Beit ed Dīne, Leb. 34 H4
 Bejestān, Iran 24 E9
 Bekaa Valley see 'Al Biqā', Leb. 34 G5
 Belcik, Turk. 45 D10
 Bené Beraq, Israel 28 F3
 Benha, Egypt 23 D7
 Beni Hasan el Shurūq, Egypt 23 F6
 Beni Mazār, Egypt 23 F6
 Beni Suef, Egypt 23 E7
 Bent, Iran 25 L10
 Bent Jbālī, Leb. 34 M3
 Berenice, Egypt 23 K11
 Bergama, Turk. 44 D2
 Berisū, Iran 27 B8
 Besni, Turk. 45 F12
 Besor, river, Israel 29 K2
 Beşparmak Dağı, Turk. 44 F2
 Betar 'Illit, W. Bank 51 H7
 Bét Guvrin, Israel 28 J3
 Bethany see Al 'Azyariyyah, W. Bank 51 H8
 Bet ha Shitta, Israel 28 D5
 Bethlehem see Bayt Lahm, W. Bank 51 H7
 Beth Shan see Bet She'an, Israel 28 E5
 Bet She'an (Beth Shan), Israel 28 E5
 Bet Shemesh, Israel 28 H3
 Beycesultan, ruin, Turk. 44 E4

Bey-Gal

- Bey Dağı, Turk. 45 D12
 Beykoz, Turk. 44 B4
 Beypazarı, Turk. 44 C6
 Beyrouth (Beirut), Leb. 34 F3
 Beyşehir, Turk. 44 F6
 Beyşehir Gölü, Turk. 44 F6
 Beytüşşebap, Turk. 45 F16
 Bhamdün, Leb. 34 G4
 Bīārjomand, Iran 24 D7
 Biba, Egypt 23 E6
 Biddya, W. Bank 51 E6
 Biga, Turk. 44 C2
 Bigadiç, Turk. 44 D3
 Bījār, Iran 24 D2
 Bikfaiya, Leb. 34 F4
 Bilād 'Ammār, area, Yemen 48 F7
 Bilād Banī Bū 'Alī, Oman 37 F9
 Bilecik, Turk. 44 C5
 Bilqās, Egypt 23 C7
 Bingöl, Turk. 45 E14
 Bingöl Dağları, Turk. 45 D15
 Binyamina, Israel 28 E3
 Bi'r-'Alī, Yemen 49 G10
 Bi'r an Na'ām, Jordan 30 J8
 Birecik, Turk. 45 G12
 Bīr Hasana, Egypt 23 C9
 Bīrīn, Syr. 42 F2
 Bīrjand, Iran 24 F9
 Bir Zikrīt, Qatar 38 F4
 Bishri, Jabal, Syr. 42 E7
 Biskintā, Leb. 34 F5
 Bismil, Turk. 45 F14
 Bitlis, Turk. 45 E15
 Biyāda, Rās el, Leb. 34 L1
 Black Sea, Europe-Asia 16 B7
 Bodrum, Turk. 44 G2
 Bogazi, Cyprus 20 F6
 Boğazkale, Turk. 44 C9
 Boğazlıyan, Turk. 44 D9
 Bojnūrd, Iran 24 C8
 Bolkar Dağları, Turk. 44 G8
 Bolu, Turk. 44 C6
 Bolvadin, Turk. 44 E6
 Bonāb, Iran 24 C2
 Bor, Turk. 44 F9
 Borāzjān, Iran 24 J5
 Borçka, Turk. 45 B15
 Borsippa, ruin, Iraq 27 H7
 Borūjerd, Iran 24 E3
 Boshrūyeh, Iran 24 F8
 Bosphorus see İstanbul Boğazi, strait, Turk. 44 B4
 Bostān, Iran 24 G2
 Bostānābād, Iran 24 C2
 Boyabat, Turk. 44 B9
 Boz Burun, Turk. 44 C4
 Bozburun, Turk. 44 G3
 Bozburun Dağı, Turk. 44 G5
 Bozcaada, island, Turk. 44 C1
 Boz Dağı, Turk. 44 G4
 Bozdoğan, Turk. 44 F3
 Bozkır, Turk. 44 G7
 Bozkurt, Turk. 44 A8
 Bozova, Turk. 45 F12
 Bozüyük, Turk. 44 C5
 Brummānā, Leb. 34 G4
 Bübiyān, Jazīrat, Kuwait 33 C10
 Bübiyān, Khawr, Kuwait 33 B9
 Bucak, Turk. 44 F5
 Bucakışla, Turk. 44 G7
 Budū', Sabkhat al, Saudi Arabia 40 G9
 Bū Ḥasā, U.A.E. 47 J5
 Bükān, Iran 27 B9
 Bū Khushayshah, island, U.A.E. 47 F7
 Bulancak, Turk. 45 B12
 Bulanık, Turk. 45 D16
 Buldan, Turk. 44 F3
 Bünyan, Turk. 45 E10
 Buq'ata, Israel 28 B6
 Buqbūq, Egypt 22 B2
 Buqūm, Harrat al, Saudi Arabia 40 J5
 Burāq, Syr. 42 K2
 Buraydah, Saudi Arabia 40 E6
 Burdur, Turk. 44 F5
 Burdur Gölü, Turk. 44 F5
 Burg el 'Arab, Egypt 23 C5
 Burghūth, Sabkhat al, Iraq-Syr. 43 F11
 Burhaniye, Turk. 44 D2
 Burqa', Rās el, Egypt 30 M1
 Burqa', W. Bank 51 C7
 Burqu', Qaşr, Jordan 30 C9
 Bursa, Turk. 44 C4
 Būr Safāga, Egypt 23 G9
 Būr Sa'id (Port Said), Egypt 23 C8
 Burullus, Bahra el, Egypt 23 B6
 Burūm, Yemen 49 F11
 Burūm, Ra's, Yemen 49 F11
 Burūn, Rās, Egypt 23 C8
 Buşayrā, Jordan 30 H3
 Büsh, Egypt 23 E7
 Buşrā ash Shām, Syr. 42 M2
 Büyükcendere, river, Turk. 44 F3
 Büyüktaş, Turk. 42 B8
 Buzul Dağı, Turk. 45 F17
 Byblos see Jbail, Leb. 34 E4
 Caesarea, ruin, Israel 28 E3
 Cairo see El Qāhira, Egypt 23 D7
 Cakit, river, Turk. 44 G9
 Çakmak, Turk. 44 D6
 Çakmak Dağı, Turk. 45 D16
 Çal, Turk. 44 F4
 Çaldıran, Turk. 45 D17
 Çamardı, Turk. 44 F9
 Çam Burnu, Turk. 45 B12
 Çameli, Turk. 44 G4
 Camel Race (Sabaq al Hajan), site, Qatar 38 F5
 Camlidere, Turk. 42 A7
 Çan, Turk. 44 C2
 Çanakakale, Turk. 44 C2
 Çanakakale Boğazi (Dardanelles), Turk. 44 C1
 Çandarlı, Turk. 44 D2
 Çandarlı Körfezi, Turk. 44 D2
 Çankırı, Turk. 44 C8
 Capernaum, ruin, Israel 28 C5
 Cappadocia, region, Turk. 44 E9
 Carchemish see Kargamis, Turk. 42 B5
 Carmel, ruin, W. Bank 51 K7
 Carmel, Mount see Karmel, Har, Israel 28 D4
 Çarşamba, river, Turk. 44 G7
 Çarşamba, Turk. 45 B11
 Caspian Sea, Asia 17 B11
 Çat, Turk. 45 D14
 Çatak, Turk. 45 F16
 Çatalca, Turk. 44 B3
 Çavuşçu Gölü, Turk. 44 E6
 Çay, Turk. 44 E6
 Çaycuma, Turk. 44 B7
 Çayeli, Turk. 45 B14
 Çayıralan, Turk. 45 D10
 Cedars of Lebanon, Leb. 34 D6
 Çekerek, Turk. 45 C10
 Çemişgezek, Turk. 45 D13
 Çerkeş, Turk. 44 B7
 Çermik, Turk. 45 F13
 Çeşme, Turk. 44 E1
 Ceyhan, river, Turk. 45 G10
 Ceyhan, Turk. 45 G10
 Ceylanpınar, Turk. 45 G14
 Çabābahār, Iran 25 M11
 Çālmeh, Iran 24 A3
 Çālus, Iran 24 C5
 Çaman Bid, Iran 24 C8
 Çamçamal, Iraq 27 C8
 Çanāneh, Iran 27 H11
 Çanārān, Iran 24 C9
 Çekka, Leb. 34 C4
 Çenāneh, Iran 27 C9
 Choarta, Iraq 27 C8
 Chirokoitia, Cyprus 20 H4
 Çhtaura, Leb. 34 G5
 Çiçekdağı, Turk. 44 D9
 Cide, Turk. 44 A7
 Çiftlik, Turk. 44 F9
 Çiğli, Turk. 27 A6
 Çihanbeyli, Turk. 44 E7
 Çildir, Turk. 45 B16
 Çildir Gölü, Turk. 45 B16
 Cilician Gates, pass, Turk. 44 G9
 Çınar, Turk. 45 F14
 Çine, Turk. 44 F3
 Çirçir, Turk. 45 C11
 Çivril, Turk. 44 E4
 Cizre, Turk. 45 F16
 Cnidus, ruin, Turk. 44 G2
 Colophon, ruin, Turk. 44 E2
 Constantinople see İstanbul, Turk. 44 B4
 Çorlu, Turk. 44 B3
 Çoruh, river, Turk. 45 C14
 Çorum, Turk. 44 C9
 Crysochou Bay, Cyprus 20 G1
 Ctesiphon, ruin, Iraq 27 G8
 Çubuk, Turk. 44 C7
 Çukurca, Turk. 45 F17
 Çumra, Turk. 44 F7
 Curium, ruin, Cyprus 20 J3
 Cyprus, Asia 16 D7
 Dab'ah, Jordan 30 F4
 Daday, Turk. 44 B8
 Dādnah, U.A.E. 47 D12
 Dagmar, Oman 37 E9
 Dağlica, Turk. 27 A7
 Dahab, Egypt 23 E10
 Dahshūr, Egypt 23 D7
 Dahūk, Buḥayrat, Iraq 27 B5
 Daḥy, Naḥūd ad, Saudi Arabia 40 H7
 Dairūt, Egypt 23 F6
 Dakhla, El Wāḥāt el, Egypt 23 H4
 Dalaman, river, Turk. 44 G4
 Dali, Cyprus 20 H5
 Dalla, 'Ain, Egypt 22 G3
 Dalmā, island, U.A.E. 46 F3
 Dalmaj, Hawr, Iraq 27 H9
 Damanhūr, Egypt 23 C6
 Damascus see Dimashq, Syr. 42 J2
 Dāmghān, Iran 24 D6
 Damiyāta see Dumyāt, Egypt 23 C7
 Damiyāta Mouth see Dumyāt, Maşabb, Egypt 23 B7
 Dāmiyā, Jordan 51 E10
 Damour, Leb. 34 H3
 Damaḡwat, Yemen 49 D16
 Dāmūr, river, Leb. 34 H3
 Dan, Israel 28 A5
 Dānā, Jordan 30 H3
 Dandara, Egypt 23 H8
 Dānk, Oman 37 E6
 Dāqūq, Iraq 27 D7
 Dar'a, Syr. 42 L1
 Dārāb, Iran 24 J7
 Dār al-'Abid as Sūd, Syr. 42 G6
 Dārāyā, Syr. 42 K2
 Darbandikhan, Iraq 27 D9
 Darbandikhan, Buḥayrat, Iraq 27 D9
 Dār Beachtār, Leb. 34 D5
 Dardanelles see Çanakakale
 Dārāz, strait, Turk. 44 C1
 Darendē, Turk. 45 E11
 Darğecit, Turk. 45 F15
 Dārkhoveyn, Iran 27 K12
 Darreh Gaz, Iran 24 C9
 Dar Tū, Iraq 27 C8
 Dās, island, U.A.E. 47 D4
 Daṭça, Turk. 44 G2
 Davlos, Cyprus 20 F6
 Dawāsir, Wādī ad, Saudi Arabia 40 J6
 Dawkah, Oman 37 K4
 Dawmat al Jandal, Saudi Arabia 40 C4
 Dawqah, Saudi Arabia 40 K4
 Dawwah, Oman 37 H9
 Dayr Abū Da'f, W. Bank 51 B8
 Dayr al Aḥmar, Leb. 34 E6
 Dayr al Balah, Gaza Strip 50 K1
 Dayr al Qamar, Leb. 34 H3
 Dayr 'Aṭīyah, Syr. 42 H3
 Dayr az Zawr, Syr. 42 E9
 Dayr Ballūt, W. Bank 51 E6
 Dayr Ḥāfir, Syr. 42 D4
 Dayr Shumayyil at Taḥtānī, Syr. 42 F2
 Dayr Sim'ān, Syr. 42 C3
 Dazkiri, Turk. 44 F4
 Dead Sea, Jordan-W. Bank 30 F3
 Dedegöl Dağı, Turk. 44 F6
 Deganya, Israel 28 D5
 Deh Bid, Iran 24 H6
 Dehlorān, Iran 27 G10
 Deira, U.A.E. 47 D10
 Deir Mawās, Egypt 23 F6
 Dekeleia, Cyprus 20 H6
 Delice, river, Turk. 44 C8
 Deliktas, Turk. 45 D11
 Demirci, Turk. 44 D3
 Demirköprü Barajı, Turk. 44 E3
 Demirköy, Turk. 44 A3
 Demirtaş, Turk. 44 H7
 Denizli, Turk. 44 F4
 Derik, Turk. 45 F14
 Deryneia, Cyprus 20 G6
 Develi, Turk. 45 E10
 Devrek, Turk. 44 B6
 Devrekānı, Turk. 44 A8
 Deyali, Iran 24 F2
 Deyhük, Iran 24 F8
 Deyyer, Iran 24 K5
 Dez, river, Iran 27 F12
 Dezfūl, Iran 24 G3
 Dhahāwn, Wādī, Yemen 49 D13
 Dhahran see Az Zahrān, Saudi Arabia 40 E9
 Dhamr, Yemen 48 F5
 Dhāt Ra's, Jordan 30 G4
 Dhibān, Jordan 30 F4
 Dīb, Hadd ad, Bahrain 19 M10
 Dībā al Ḥiṣn, U.A.E. 47 C12
 Dībāb, Oman 37 E9
 Dībāgh, Iraq 27 C6
 Dibis, Bir, Egypt 23 M5
 Dibs, Iraq 27 C7
 Dibsi Faraj, Syr. 42 D5
 Dicle, Turk. 45 E14
 Dicle (Tigris), river, Turk. 45 F15
 Digor, Turk. 45 C16
 Dihök, Iraq 27 A6
 Dijlah (Tigris), river, Iraq 27 J11
 Dikili, Turk. 44 D2
 Dikinnis, Egypt 23 C7
 Dimashq (Damascus), Syr. 42 J2
 Dimḡ, Jabal, Oman 37 E8
 Dimona, Israel 29 L3
 Dinar, Turk. 44 F5
 Dīnār, Kūh-e, Iran 24 H5
 Diqdāqah, U.A.E. 47 C11
 Dishna, Egypt 23 H8
 Disūq, Egypt 23 C6
 Divāndarreh, Iran 24 D2
 Divriği, Turk. 45 D12
 Diyālā, river, Iraq 27 E8
 Dīyarbakır, Turk. 45 F14
 Doğanpınar, Turk. 42 B4
 Doğanşehir, Turk. 45 F12
 Doğruyol, Turk. 45 B16
 Doğubayazıt, Turk. 45 D17
 Doha see Ad Dawḥah, Kuwait 33 F8
 Doha see Ad Dawḥah, Qatar 33 G7
 Dokan, Iraq 27 C8
 Dokan, Buḥayrat, Iraq 27 C8
 Domanic, Turk. 44 D4
 Dörtöyl, Turk. 45 G10
 Döşemealtı, Turk. 44 G5
 Dothan, ruin, W. Bank 51 B8
 Douma, Leb. 34 D5
 Dow Gonbadān, Iran 24 H4
 Dowlatābād, Iran 24 K8
 Drouseia, Cyprus 20 H1
 Dūbā, Saudi Arabia 40 D1
 Dubai see Dubayy, U.A.E. 47 D10
 Dubāyah, Wādī, Syr. 42 F7
 Dubayy (Dubai), U.A.E. 47 D10
 Dukhān, Qatar 38 F3
 Dukhān, Jabal ad, Bahrain 19 E7
 Dukhān, Ra's, Qatar 38 E3
 Dukhān Oil Field, Qatar 38 G3
 Dūmā, Syr. 42 J2
 Dūmayr, Syr. 42 J2
 Dumistān, Bahrain 19 C6
 Dumyāt (Damiyāta), Egypt 23 C7
 Dumyāt, Maşabb (Damiyāta Mouth), Egypt 23 B7
 Duqm, Oman 37 J8
 Dūrā, W. Bank 51 K6
 Dura Europos see Aş Şālīḥiyah, Syr. 43 G10
 Duraykīsh, Syr. 42 F2
 Qurmā, Saudi Arabia 40 F7
 Dursunbey, Turk. 44 D3
 Durusu Gölü, Turk. 44 B4
 Durūz, Jabal ad, Syr. 42 L2
 Dūsh, Egypt 23 J6
 Duwayḥin, Dawḥat, Saudi Arabia 41 F10
 Düzce, Turk. 44 B6
 Eastern Desert, Egypt 23 E7
 Eber Gölü, Turk. 44 E6
 Ebla, ruin, Syr. 42 D3
 Eboda see 'Abda, ruin, Israel 29 M3
 Ecbatana see Hamadān, Iran 24 E3
 Eceabat, Turk. 44 C1
 Ed Douair, Leb. 34 K3
 Edessa see Şanlıurfa, Turk. 45 G13
 Edirne (Adrianople), Turk. 44 A2
 Edremit, Turk. 44 D2
 Edremit Körfezi, Turk. 44 D2
 Eflānı, Turk. 44 B7
 Efrata, W. Bank 51 H7
 Eğil, Turk. 45 E14
 Eglon, ruin, Israel 28 J3
 Eğridir, Turk. 44 F5
 Eğridir Gölü, Turk. 44 F5
 Eğrigöz Dağı, Turk. 44 D4
 Egypt, Af. 16 G6
 Ehdan, Leb. 34 D5
 Elaia, Cape, Cyprus 20 F7
 El 'Aiyat, Egypt 23 D7
 El 'Alamein, Egypt 23 C5
 El 'Arag, well, Egypt 22 E2
 El 'Arish, Egypt 23 C9
 El Ashmūnein, Egypt 23 F6
 Elat, Israel 29 T3
 Elath see Ezion-geber, ruin, Jordan 30 L2
 El 'Auja, peak, Jordan 30 L5
 El 'Auja see Nizzana, Israel 29 M2
 El Ausat Samhūd, Egypt 23 H8
 Elāzığ, Turk. 45 E13
 Elba, Cape see Hadarba, Rās, Egypt 23 L12
 El Badāri, Egypt 23 G7
 El Bahrein, well, Egypt 22 E2
 El Balyana, Egypt 23 H7
 Elbeyli, Turk. 42 B4
 El Bisālīya Qibli, Egypt 23 J8
 Elbistan, Turk. 45 F11
 Elburz Mountains see Reshteh-ye Alborz, Iran 24 D5
 Elchi see Wādī Mūsā, Jordan 30 J3
 El Dab'a, Egypt 23 C4
 El Dakka, ruin, Egypt 23 L8
 El Deir, Egypt 23 J8
 Eleşkirt, Turk. 45 C16
 El Faiyūm, Egypt 23 E6
 El Fashn, Egypt 23 E6
 El Gāga, Egypt 23 J6
 El Giza, Egypt 23 D7
 El Hammām, Egypt 23 C5
 El Heita, well, Egypt 23 G8
 El Heiz, Egypt 23 F4
 El Iskandariya (Alexandria), Egypt 23 C6
 El Kanāyis, well, Egypt 23 J9
 El Karnak (Thebes), ruin, Egypt 23 H8
 El Khārga, Egypt 23 H6
 El Kilḡ Sharq, Egypt 23 J8
 El Kūbri, Egypt 23 D8
 El Kuntilla, Egypt 23 D10
 Elmadāq, Turk. 44 C8
 Elma Dağı, Turk. 44 D7
 El Maḥalla el Kubra, Egypt 23 C7
 El Maḥāriq, Egypt 23 H6
 Elmali, Turk. 44 G4
 El Manshāh, Egypt 23 H7
 El Maşūra, Egypt 23 C7
 El Manzala, Egypt 23 C7
 El Marāgha, Egypt 23 G7
 El Mina, Leb. 34 C5
 El Minya, Egypt 23 F6
 El Qāhira (Cairo), Egypt 23 D7
 Elqana, W. Bank 51 E6
 El Qanātir el Khairiya, Egypt 23 D7
 El Qaşr, Egypt 23 H5
 El Quneitra see Al Qunaytirah, Syr. 42 K1
 El Quseima, Egypt 23 C9
 El Qūsiya, Egypt 23 G6
 El Rāshda, Egypt 23 H5
 El Ruāfa, well, Egypt 23 C9
 El Saff, Egypt 23 D7
 El Shab, well, Egypt 23 M5
 El Shatt, Egypt 23 D8
 El Sibā'iyā, Egypt 23 J8
 El Sibū, ruin, Egypt 23 L8
 El Simbillāwein, Egypt 23 C7
 El Suweis (Suez), Egypt 23 D8
 El Thamad, Egypt 23 D9
 El Tūr, Egypt 23 F9
 El Waqf, Egypt 23 H8
 Emām Abbās, Iran 27 D9
 Emet, Turk. 44 D4
 Emirdağ, Turk. 44 E6
 Emir Dağları, Turk. 44 E6
 Empty Quarter see Ar Rub' al Khālī, desert, Saudi Arabia 40 K9
 'En Boqeq, Israel 29 K4
 Enez, Turk. 44 B1
 'En Gedi, Israel 28 J5
 'En-gedi, ruin, Israel 28 J5
 'En Gev, Israel 28 C6
 'En Hazeva, Israel 29 M4
 'En Netafim, Israel 29 S3
 'En Yahav, Israel 29 N4
 Ephesus, ruin, Turk. 44 F2
 Episkopi, Cyprus 20 J3
 Episkopi Bay, Cyprus 20 J3
 Erbaa, Turk. 45 C11
 Erçek, Turk. 45 E17
 Erçek Gölü, Turk. 45 E17
 Erçis, Turk. 45 D17
 Erdek, Turk. 44 C3
 Erdemli, Turk. 44 G8
 Erech, ruin, Iraq 27 J9
 Ereğli, Turk. 44 B6
 Ereğli, Turk. 44 F8
 Ergani, Turk. 45 E13
 Ergene, river, Turk. 44 B3
 Ermi, Cyprus 20 J3
 Elath see Ezion-geber, ruin, Jordan 30 L2
 Erkilet, Turk. 45 E10
 Ermenek, river, Turk. 20 A4
 Ermenek, Turk. 44 G7
 Erüh, Turk. 45 F16
 Erzincan, Turk. 45 D13
 Erzurum, Turk. 45 C15
 Eşfahān (Isfahan), Iran 24 F5
 Esfandak, Iran 25 K12
 Eskipazarı, Turk. 44 B7
 Eskişehir, Turk. 44 D5
 Eslāmābād, Iran 24 E2
 Eşler Dağı, Turk. 44 F4
 Eşme, Turk. 44 E4
 Espakeh, Iran 25 L10
 Eştāhānāt, Iran 24 J6
 Etrek see Atrak, river, Iran 24 C7
 Euphrates see Al Furāt, river, Iraq 27 J9
 Euphrates see Firat, river, Turk. 45 D14
 Even Yehuda, Israel 28 F3
 Evros, river, Turk. 44 A2
 Eyyrchou, Cyprus 20 G3
 'Eyn Khvosh, Iran 27 G11
 Ezine, Turk. 44 C1
 Ezion-geber (Elath), ruin, Jordan 30 L2
 Fadghamī, Syr. 43 D10
 Fahrāj, Iran 24 J9
 Fajr, Wādī, Saudi Arabia 40 C3
 Fakkeh, Iran 27 H11
 Falaj al Mu'allā, U.A.E. 47 D11
 Famagusta see Ammochostos, Cyprus 20 G6
 Fāmenin, Iran 24 E3
 Fanūdah, Saudi Arabia 40 F4
 Fāqūs, Egypt 23 C7
 Farāfra, El Wāḥāt el, Egypt 23 G4
 Farasān, Jazīr, Saudi Arabia 40 L4
 Farīmān, Iran 25 D10
 Farīq al Ghānim al Jadīd, Qatar 38 G7
 Fārisiyah, Dawḥat al, Bahrain 19 D8
 Fārisikūr, Egypt 23 C7
 Fārs, region, Iran 24 J6
 Fartak, Ra's, Yemen 49 E15
 Fasā, Iran 24 J6
 Fasad, Oman 37 K4
 Faṭra, Wādī, Egypt 23 G8
 Fatsa, Turk. 45 B11
 Fayd, Saudi Arabia 40 E5
 Fāyid, Egypt 23 D8
 Faylakah, Jazīrat, Kuwait 33 F11
 Faynān, ruin, Jordan 30 H3
 Faysh Khābūr, Iraq 27 A5
 Feke, Turk. 45 F10
 Ferdows, Iran 24 E9
 Fethiye, Turk. 44 G4
 Fethiye Körfezi, Turk. 44 G4
 Fezvişpaş, Turk. 45 G11
 Filios, river, Turk. 44 B7
 Fındıklı, Turk. 45 B14
 Finike, Turk. 44 H5
 Fins, Oman 37 E9
 Finṭās, Ra's, Yemen 49 E15
 Firat (Euphrates), river, Turk. 45 G12
 First Cataract, Egypt 23 K8
 Firūzābād, Iran 24 J5
 Firūzkūh, Iran 24 D6
 Foça, Turk. 44 E2
 Forūr, island, Iran 24 L7
 Foul Bay, Egypt 23 K11
 Fuād, Bir, Egypt 22 C3
 Fuḡaymī, Iraq 27 E5
 Fūka, Egypt 23 C4
 Fukūk, Wādī al, Jordan 30 H8
 Funaydiq, Leb. 34 B7
 Furquluss, Syr. 42 G3
 Fuwa, Egypt 23 C6
 Fuwayrit, Qatar 38 B6
 Fuwah, Yemen 49 F11
 Gafatīn, Geziret, Egypt 23 G9
 Galāla el Qibliya, Gebel el, Egypt 23 E8
 Galateia, Cyprus 20 F7
 Galilee, region, Israel 28 C4
 Galilee, Sea of (Sea of Kinnereth), Israel 28 C5

Gal-Kem

- Galınoporni, Cyprus 20 E7
 Ganāveh, Iran 24 J4
 Gata, Cape, Cyprus 20 J3
 Gavāter, Iran 25 MII
 Gävbandi, Iran 24 L6
 Gaza see Ghazzah, Gaza Strip 50 K2
 Gazak, Iran 25 KIO
 Gaziantep, Turk. 45 GII
 Gazimağusa see Ammochostos, Cyprus 20 G6
 Gazipaşa, Turk. 44 H7
 Gebel Adda, ruin, Egypt 23 M7
 Gebiz, Turk. 44 G5
 Gebze, Turk. 44 B4
 Gederā, Israel 28 H3
 Gediz, river, Turk. 44 E2
 Gediz, Turk. 44 D4
 Gelibolu, Turk. 44 C2
 Gemerek, Turk. 45 DIO
 Gemlik, Turk. 44 C4
 Gemlik Körfezi, Turk. 44 C4
 Gema, Egypt 23 F9
 Genç, Turk. 45 E14
 Gerar, ruin, Israel 29 K2
 Gerasa see Jarash, Jordan 30 D4
 Gercüş, Turk. 45 F15
 Gerece, Turk. 44 B7
 Gerizim, Mount see Tūr, Jabal at, W. Bank 51 D8
 Germi, Iran 24 B3
 Gerolakkos, Cyprus 20 G4
 Gerze, Turk. 44 A9
 Gevaş, Turk. 45 E16
 Geyve, Turk. 44 C5
 Gezer, ruin, Israel 28 G3
 Ghāb, Tall, Syr. 42 K4
 Ghabāghib, Syr. 34 L7
 Ghabai, Wādī, Oman 47 LII
 Ghaḍāwīd, Wādī al, Iraq 27 G5
 Ghanūt, Ra's al, U.A.E. 47 E8
 Gharandal, ruin, Jordan 30 K3
 Ghard Abu Muḥarik, region, Egypt-Sudan 23 F5
 Ghārib, Gebel, Egypt 23 F8
 Ghāriyah, Ra's al, Qatar 38 E3
 Gharrah, Wādī al, Jordan 30 G7
 Ghawīl, Jabal, Oman 37 D6
 Ghayathi, U.A.E. 47 H4
 Ghazāl, 'Ain el, Egypt 23 H6
 Ghazzah (Gaza), Gaza Strip 50 K2
 Ghunthur, Syr. 42 G3
 Ghurāb, island, U.A.E. 47 F8
 Ghuwayṭah, Naḥd al, Saudi Arabia 26 LI
 Gibeah, ruin, Israel 28 H4
 Gidi Pass, Egypt 23 D8
 Gilān-e Gharb, Iran 27 E9
 Gilf el Kebir, Hadabāt el, Egypt 22 K2
 Gilgal, W. Bank 51 E9
 Gināh, Egypt 23 J6
 Giresun, Turk. 45 B12
 Gırğa, Egypt 23 H7
 Girne see Keryneia, Cyprus 20 F4
 Giv'atayim, Israel 28 G3
 Gkreko, Cape, Cyprus 20 H7
 Gök, river, Turk. 44 B9
 Gökçeada (Imroz), island, Turk. 44 CI
 Gökova Körfezi, Turk. 44 G3
 Gökusu, river, Turk. 44 H8
 Gökusu, river, Turk. 45 FIO
 Gökşun, Turk. 45 FIO
 Golan Heights, region, Israel 28 B6
 Gölbaşı, Turk. 44 D7
 Gölbaşı, Turk. 45 F12
 Gölcük, Turk. 44 B5
 Gold Mines, site, Egypt 23 L9
 Göle, Turk. 45 B16
 Gölköy, Turk. 45 CII
 Gölören, Turk. 44 F8
 Gölpayegan, Iran 24 F4
 Gölpaşarı, Turk. 44 C5
 Gol Tappeh, Iran 27 DII
 Gonānād, Iran 24 E9
 Gombad-e Kāvūs, Iran 24 C7
 Gönem, Turk. 44 C3
 Gornes, Turk. 44 E3
 Gornes, Turk. 44 D6
 Gornes, Turk. 45 B3
 Gornes, Turk. 44 C1
 Gornes, Turk. 44 C6
 Great Bazar, Iran 23 D8
 Great Crater, Iran 29 L3
 Great Zab see Zab al-Kabir, river, Iraq-Turk 27 B7
 Gubal, Strait of, Egypt 23 F9
 Güllük, Turk. 44 F2
 Gülnar, Turk. 44 H8
 Güleşhir, Turk. 44 E9
 Gümüşhacıköy, Turk. 44 B9
 Gümüşhane, Turk. 45 C13
 Gümüşören, Turk. 45 FIO
 Gündoğmuş, Turk. 44 G6
 Güney, Turk. 44 E4
 Güre, Turk. 44 E4
 Gürün, Turk. 45 EII
 Güvem, Turk. 44 C7
 Güvenç see Aktepe, Turk. 42 B2
 Güzeloluk, Turk. 44 G8
 Güzeyurt, Turk. 44 E9
 Gwatar Bay, Iran 25 MII
 Habarūt, Oman 37 M3
 Habarūt, Yemen 49 C16
 Habashiyah, Jabal, Yemen 49 D12
 Habbān, Yemen 48 F9
 Habbāniyah, Buḥayrat al, Iraq 27 F6
 Habbūsh, Leb. 34 K3
 Habshān, U.A.E. 47 H6
 Hacibektas, Turk. 44 E9
 Hadarba, Rās (Cape Elba), Egypt 23 L12
 Hadd, Ra's al, Oman 37 FIO
 Hadera, river, W. Bank 51 B7
 Hadera, Israel 28 E3
 Hadiboh, Yemen 49 H18
 Hadim, Turk. 44 G7
 Hadithah, Iraq 27 E5
 Hadramawt, region, Yemen 48 F9
 Hadranīyah, Iraq 27 C6
 Hafar al Baṭīn, Saudi Arabia 40 D7
 Haffah, Ra's, Oman 47 C12
 Hafif, Turk. 45 DII
 Hafirah, Qā' al, Jordan 30 G5
 Hafit, Oman 47 GII
 Hafit, Jabal, Oman-U.A.E. 47 GII
 Haifa see Hefa, Israel 28 C3
 Hā'il, Saudi Arabia 40 D5
 Hajalah Ford, ruin, W. Bank 51 G9
 Hajjah, Yemen 48 E4
 Hajjābād, Iran 24 K7
 Hajjī Hāzer, Iran 27 E9
 Hajr, Wādī, Yemen 49 FIO
 Hakkari, Turk. 45 F17
 Halab (Aleppo), Syr. 42 C3
 Halabān, Saudi Arabia 40 G6
 Halabjah, site, Iraq 27 D9
 Halaf, Tall, Syr. 42 B9
 Hālat 'Amnār, Saudi Arabia 40 C2
 Hālat Umm al Bayḍ, Bahrain 19 D8
 Halayeb, Egypt 23 L12
 Halba, Leb. 34 B6
 Halfeti, Turk. 45 G12
 Haljūl, W. Bank 51 J7
 Halū, river, Iran 24 K9
 Hallābāt, Qaşr al, Jordan 30 D5
 Hālūl, island, Qatar 39 D12
 Haluza, Holot, Israel 29 L2
 Halys see Kızılırmak, river, Turk. 44 C9
 Hamadān (Ecbatana), Iran 24 E3
 Hamāh (Hamath), Syr. 42 F3
 Hamam, Turk. 42 C2
 Hamath see Hamāh, Syr. 42 F3
 Hāmūd, Wādī al, Saudi Arabia 40 F3
 Hamdah, Saudi Arabia 40 K6
 Hamdānah, Saudi Arabia 40 J4
 Hāmī, Yemen 49 F12
 Hāmīdiyah, Iran 27 J12
 Hāmīr, Wādī, Iraq 27 J4
 Hammām, Qaşr al, Jordan 30 F5
 Hammām al 'Alīl, Iraq 27 B6
 Hammāmāt, Bīr el, Egypt 23 H9
 Hammāmāt, Wādī el, Egypt 23 H9
 Hammānā, Leb. 34 G4
 Hāmīn, Jabal, Iraq 27 D7
 Hani, Turk. 45 E14
 Hanish al Kabir, Jazīrat al, Yemen 48 G3
 Hanjūrah, Ra's, U.A.E. 47 E8
 Ha On, Israel 28 D5
 Haql, Saudi Arabia 40 CI
 Harād, Saudi Arabia 40 G9
 Harād, Yemen 48 D4
 Harad, Jabal al, Jordan 30 L4
 Harasta al Başal, Syr. 34 J8
 Harīb, Yemen 48 F6
 Hārīm, Syr. 42 C2
 Harīm, Jabal al, Oman 37 B6
 Harirud, river, Iran 25 DII
 Harmancık, Turk. 44 D4
 Harput, Turk. 45 E13
 Harrah, Syr. 42 G3
 Harrah, Turk. 45 G13
 Harşit, river, Turk. 45 B13
 Harūz-e Bālā, Iran 24 H8
 Hasā, Qal'at al, Jordan 30 H4
 Haşāh, Wādī al, Jordan 30 H7
 Hasan Dağı, Turk. 44 F8
 Hasan Langi, Iran 24 K8
 Hasb, Sha'tib, Iraq 27 J6
 Hāsbiyah, Leb. 34 K4
 Hāsbiyah, river, Leb. 34 K4
 Hāsik, Oman 37 L5
 Haşrūn, Leb. 34 D6
 Hassa, Turk. 42 B2
 Haşwayn, Yemen 49 E15
 Hatay (Antioch), Turk. 45 HIO
 Hātībāh, Ra's, Saudi Arabia 40 H3
 Hatra, ruin, Iraq 27 C5
 Haṭṭiyah, Jordan 30 L4
 Hawza, Turk. 45 B10
 Hawalli, Kuwait 33 F9
 Hawār, Jazīrat, Bahrain 19 KIO
 Hawar Islands, Bahrain 19 KIO
 Hawrī, Yemen 49 D16
 Hawrā, Yemen 49 EIO
 Hawrān, Wādī, Iraq 27 F4
 Hayl, Hālat al, U.A.E. 47 F6
 Haymā, Oman 37 J7
 Haymana, Turk. 44 D7
 Haynin, Yemen 49 EIO
 Hayrabolu, Turk. 44 B2
 Hayr al Gharbī, Qaşr al, Syr. 42 F7
 Hayr ash Sharqī, Qaşr al, Syr. 42 F7
 Hays, Yemen 48 G4
 Hayyan, Ra's, Bahrain 19 E8
 Hazārān, Kūh-e, Iran 24 J8
 Hazer Göllü, Turk. 45 E13
 Hazawzā', Sabkhat, Saudi Arabia 40 B3
 Hazerim, Israel 29 K2
 Hazm al Jalāmīd, Saudi Arabia 26 J2
 Hazor, ruin, Israel 28 B5
 Hazro, Turk. 45 E14
 Hebron see Al Khalīl, W. Bank 51 K7
 Hefa (Haifa), Israel 28 C3
 Hejaz see Al Hījaz, region, Saudi Arabia 40 E2
 Hekimhan, Turk. 45 E12
 Helwān, Egypt 23 D7
 Hendek, Turk. 44 B5
 Hengām, island, Iran 37 A6
 Hermel, Leb. 34 C8
 Hermon, Mount see Shaykh, Jabal ash, Leb. 34 K5
 Herzliyya, Israel 28 F3
 Hever, river, W. Bank 51 K8
 Hevron, river, W. Bank 51 L6
 Heydarābād, Iran 27 A8
 Hibbārah, Iraq 27 C6
 Hīgāza, Egypt 23 H8
 Hihya, Egypt 23 C7
 Hījānah, Buḥayrat al, Syr. 42 J2
 Hījāz, Jabal al, Saudi Arabia 40 K5
 Hilvan, Turk. 45 F13
 Hīmar, Wādī al, Syr. 42 C8
 Hīmş (Homs), Syr. 42 G3
 Hīmş, Baḥrat, Syr. 34 A9
 Hīnis, Turk. 45 D15
 Hīrīfanlı Barajı, Turk. 44 D8
 Hīsarōnū, Turk. 44 A7
 Hīsmā, plain, Jordan-Saudi Arabia 40 CI
 Hīşn al 'Abr, Yemen 48 D9
 Hīşn Murād, Yemen 48 H4
 Hīsyah, Syr. 42 G3
 Hīt, Iraq 27 F5
 Hiyyon, river, Israel 29 Q3
 Hizan, Turk. 45 E16
 Hofuf see Al Hufūf, Saudi Arabia 40 F9
 Holon, Israel 28 G3
 Homs see Hīmş, Syr. 42 G3
 Honaz, Turk. 44 F4
 Hopa, Turk. 45 B15
 Horasan, Turk. 45 C15
 Hormak, Iran 25 HII
 Hormoz, island, Iran 24 L8
 Hormuz, Strait of, Iran-Oman 37 A7
 Hozat, Turk. 45 D13
 Hula, 'Emeq (Hula Valley), Israel 28 B5
 Hula Valley see 'Emeq Hula, Israel 28 B5
 Hulayfā', Saudi Arabia 40 E4
 Hūmar, U.A.E. 47 K6
 Hūmedān, Iran 25 MIO
 Hurghada, Egypt 23 G9
 Huşayn, Dawḥat al, Qatar 38 E4
 Hūth, Yemen 48 D5
 Hüyük, Turk. 44 F6
 İbb, Yemen 48 G5
 İbn Hāmūdāh, 'Urūq, Saudi Arabia-Oman-Yemen 49 A15
 İbn Hānī', Ra's, Syr. 21 E12
 İbn Suqayh, Shaqqat, Kuwait 33 D4
 İbrā', Oman 37 F8
 İbrahim, river, Leb. 34 E4
 'İbrī, Oman 37 E7
 İbrīm, Qaşr, Egypt 23 L8
 İshawāī, Egypt 23 E6
 İçel (Mersin), Turk. 44 G9
 İdd al Shargī, oil well, Qatar 39 E12
 İdfu, Egypt 23 J8
 İdil, Turk. 45 F15
 İdku, Bahra el, Egypt 23 C6
 İdlīb, Syr. 42 D2
 İdnah, W. Bank 51 J6
 İğdır, Turk. 45 C17
 'İgma, Gebel el, Egypt 23 E9
 İğneada, Turk. 44 A3
 İhnaşya el Madīna, Egypt 23 E6
 İlkizdere, Turk. 45 B14
 İlām, Iran 27 F9
 İlğaz, Turk. 44 B8
 İlğaz Dağları, Turk. 44 B8
 İlgin, Turk. 44 E6
 İlica, Turk. 45 D12
 İllīq, Turk. 45 C15
 İmrālī, island, Turk. 44 C3
 'İmrān, Bandar, Yemen 48 H5
 İmrānı, Turk. 45 D12
 İmroz see Gökçeada, island, Turk. 44 CI
 İmtān, Syr. 42 M3
 İnce Burun, Turk. 44 A9
 İncekum Burnu, Turk. 20 B6
 İncesu, Turk. 44 E9
 İncirlik Air Base, Turk. 44 G9
 İnebolu, Turk. 44 A8
 İnegöl, Turk. 44 C4
 İnönü, Turk. 44 C5
 İpsala, Turk. 44 B2
 İrafshān, Iran 25 LII
 İran, Asia 17 E12
 İrānshahr, Iran 25 KII
 İraq, Asia 16 E9
 İrbid (Arbel), Jordan 30 C4
 'İrsāī, Leb. 34 E8
 İsbīl, Jabal, Yemen 48 F5
 İsfahan see Eşfahān, Iran 24 F5
 İşık Dağı, Turk. 44 C7
 İskenderun, Turk. 45 GIO
 İskenderun Körfezi, Turk. 45 HIO
 İskilip, Turk. 44 C9
 İslāhiye, Turk. 45 GII
 İsmā'īliya, Egypt 23 C8
 İsna, Egypt 23 J8
 İsparta, Turk. 44 F5
 İspir, Turk. 45 C14
 İsrail, Asia 16 E8
 İsrīyah, Khirbat, Syr. 42 E4
 İstanbul (Constantinople), Turk. 44 B4
 İstanbul Boğazı (Bosporus), Turk. 44 B4
 İzad Khvāst, Iran 24 G5
 İzmir (Smyrna), Turk. 44 E2
 İzmit see Kocaeli, Turk. 44 B5
 İznik, Turk. 44 C4
 İznik Göllü, Turk. 44 C4
 İzra', Syr. 42 L2
 Ja'alān, Jabal, Oman 37 F9
 Ja'ar, Yemen 48 G6
 Jaba', W. Bank 51 C7
 Jabāl Bārez, Kūh-e, Iran 24 J9
 Jabāliya, Gaza Strip 50 K2
 Jabal Zuqar, Jazīrat, Yemen 48 F3
 Jabbūl, Syr. 42 D4
 Jabbūl, Sabkhat al, Syr. 42 D4
 Jablah, Syr. 42 E1
 Jadīdah, Iraq 27 E5
 Jafr, Qā' al, Jordan 30 J5
 Jāghir Bāzār, Syr. 43 B10
 Jaghjagh, river, Syr. 43 BII
 Jahrom, Iran 24 K6
 Jājarm, Iran 24 C8
 Jāl al Baṭn, escarpment, Iraq 27 K6
 Jāl al Liyāh, escarpment, Kuwait 33 D5
 Jālībāh, Iraq 27 KIO
 Jālīb ash Shuyūkh, Kuwait 33 G9
 Jālq, Iran 25 K12
 Jalūlā', Iraq 27 E8
 Jamal, Hadd al, Bahrain 19 H8
 Jammā'īn, W. Bank 51 D7
 Janān, Jazīrat, Qatar 19 MIO
 Janānah, island, U.A.E. 47 G5
 Jandaq, Iran 24 E7
 Janīn (Jenin), W. Bank 51 B8
 Jarābulus, Syr. 42 B5
 Jarash (Gerasa), Jordan 30 D4
 Jarīr, Wādī ar, Saudi Arabia 40 F5
 Jarmo, ruin, Iraq 27 C8
 Jāsīb al Muftan, Iraq 27 GIO
 Jāsk, Iran 24 M9
 Jaşşān, Iraq 27 G9
 Jāwbān Bayk, Syr. 42 C4
 Jawf, Wādī al, Yemen 48 D6
 Jaww, Bahrain 19 E8
 Jayrūd, Syr. 42 J3
 Jazā'ir, Ra's al, Bahrain 19 F6
 Jaz Mūrīn, Hāmūn-e, Iran 24 K9
 Jbāa, Leb. 34 J3
 Jbail (Byblos), Leb. 34 E4
 Jeddah, Saudi Arabia 40 H3
 Jemmeh, Tel, Israel 29 K2
 Jēnīn see Janīn, W. Bank 51 B8
 Jericho see Arīṭāh, W. Bank 51 G9
 Jerusalem, Israel 28 H4
 Jezreel, Valley of, Israel 28 D4
 Jizzīne, Leb. 34 J3
 Jiblah, Yemen 48 G5
 Jibsh, Ra's, Oman 37 G9
 Jiddah, island, Bahrain 19 B5
 Jidd Hāfş, Bahrain 19 B7
 Jinz, Qā' al, Jordan 30 H5
 Jiroft, Iran 24 J9
 Jisr ash Shughūr, Syr. 42 D2
 Jizān, Saudi Arabia 40 M5
 Jordan, Asia 16 F8
 Jordan, river, Israel-Jordan-W. Bank 51 DIO
 Joub Jannīne, Leb. 34 H5
 Jōūnié, Leb. 34 F4
 Jubbah, Saudi Arabia 40 D4
 Jubb al Jarrah, Syr. 42 G4
 Jubb Ḥasan Aghā, Syr. 42 C5
 Judaea, region, W. Bank 51 J6
 Judaiat al Hamir, Iraq 27 J4
 Judaydat Ghazir, Leb. 34 E4
 Judaydayat 'Ar'ar, Saudi Arabia 40 B4
 Julayḥah, Qatar 38 H4
 Jurf ad Darāwīsh, Jordan 30 H4
 Jusayrah, Ra's al, Bahrain 19 G8
 Juzar ad Dar, islands, Bahrain 19 C9
 Jwayyā, Leb. 34 L2
 Kāb, Khawr al, Bahrain 19 B7
 Kabīr, river, Leb. 34 A6
 Kabīr Kūh, Iran 24 F2
 Kaçkar Dağı, Turk. 45 B14
 Kadhmah, area, Kuwait 33 E7
 Kadiköy, Turk. 44 B2
 Kadinhanı, Turk. 44 E7
 Kadirli, Turk. 45 GIO
 Kāf, Saudi Arabia 40 B2
 Kafr Buhum, Syr. 42 F3
 Kafr el Sheikh, Egypt 23 C6
 Kafr Kannā, Israel 28 D5
 Kafrūn Bashūr, Syr. 42 F2
 Kağızman, Turk. 45 C16
 Kāhīmāh, Ra's, Kuwait 33 F8
 Kahnūj, Iran 24 K9
 Kahramanmaraş, Turk. 45 FII
 Kāhta, Turk. 45 F12
 Kākhk, Iran 24 E9
 Kalak, Iran 27 F9
 Kalbā, U.A.E. 47 D12
 Kalbān, Oman 37 H9
 Kale, Turk. 44 H4
 Kalecik, Turk. 44 C8
 Kaleybar, Iran 24 B2
 Kalkan, Turk. 44 H4
 Kallār, Iraq 27 E8
 Kalo Chorio, Cyprus 20 H3
 Kaman, Turk. 44 D8
 Kamarān, island, Yemen 48 E3
 Kāmīl, Gebel, Egypt 22 L2
 Kamkhāt Muḥaywir, peak, Jordan 30 G5
 Kampos, Cyprus 20 G2
 Kanāyis, Rās el, Egypt 23 C4
 Kandira, Turk. 44 B5
 Kangal, Turk. 45 DII
 Kangan, Iran 24 K5
 Kangān, Iran 24 M9
 Kanish, ruin, Turk. 45 EIO
 Kantara Castle, ruin, Cyprus 20 F6
 Kapıdağı, peak, Turk. 44 C3
 Karabiga, Turk. 44 C2
 Karabük, Turk. 44 B7
 Karaburun, Turk. 44 E1
 Karacabey, Turk. 44 C3
 Karaca Dağı, Turk. 45 F14
 Karacadağ, Turk. 45 F13
 Karacaköy, Turk. 44 B3
 Kara Dağı, Turk. 44 F7
 Kara Dağı, Turk. 45 F17
 Karahallı, Turk. 44 E4
 Karahiyük, Turk. 44 F7
 Jāsk, Iran 24 D4
 Karakaya Barajı, Turk. 45 E12
 Karakeçi, Turk. 45 F13
 Karakoçan, Turk. 45 E14
 Karaköse (Ağrı), Turk. 45 C16
 Karaman, Turk. 44 G7
 Karamürsel, Turk. 44 B4
 Karapınar, Turk. 44 F8
 Karasu, river, Turk. 45 C14
 Karasu, river, Turk. 45 E17
 Karasu, Turk. 44 B5
 Karataş, Turk. 44 H9
 Karataş Burnu, Turk. 21 AIO
 Karatepe, Turk. 45 GIO
 Karavass, Cyprus 20 F4
 Karavostasi, Cyprus 20 G3
 Karayazi, Turk. 45 D15
 Karayūn, Turk. 45 DII
 Karbābād, Bahrain 19 B7
 Karbalā', Iraq 27 G7
 Karem Shalom, Israel 29 KI
 Kargamis (Carchemish), Turk. 42 B5
 Kargānrūd, Iran 24 B3
 Kargı, Turk. 44 B9
 Karkas, Kūh-e, Iran 24 F5
 Karkheh, river, Iran 27 H12
 Karkūk (Kirkūk), Iraq 27 C7
 Kariova, Turk. 45 D14
 Karmel, W. Bank 51 K7
 Karmel, Har (Mount Carmel), Israel 28 D4
 Karmi'el, Israel 28 C4
 Karpasia Peninsula, Cyprus 20 E8
 Karranah, Bahrain 19 B7
 Kars, Turk. 45 B16
 Kartal, Turk. 44 B4
 Kārūn, river, Iran 24 H3
 Kaş, Turk. 44 H4
 Kāshān, Iran 24 E5
 Kaşmar, Iran 24 E9
 Kassab, Syr. 42 D1
 Kastamonu, Turk. 44 B8
 Katherīna, Gebel, Egypt 23 E9
 Kathrabbā, Jordan 30 G3
 Kato Lakatameia, Cyprus 20 G4
 Katrançık Dağı, Turk. 44 F5
 Kāvīr, Dasht-e (Salt Desert), Iran 24 E7
 Kāvlān, Iran 27 B9
 Kayapınar, Turk. 45 F15
 Kaymaz, Turk. 44 D6
 Kaynar, Turk. 45 EIO
 Kayseri, Turk. 45 EIO
 Kazancı, Turk. 20 A3
 Kaz Dağı, Turk. 44 C2
 Kāzerūn, Iran 24 J5
 Keban, Turk. 45 E12
 Keban Barajı, Turk. 45 E13
 Keçiborlu, Turk. 44 F5
 Kefaluka, Turk. 44 G2
 Kefar 'Ezyon, W. Bank 51 H7
 Kefar Rosh ha Nigra, Israel 28 B4
 Kefar Sava, Israel 28 F3
 Kefar Yona, Israel 28 E3
 Kelkit, river, Turk. 45 CII
 Kelkit, Turk. 45 C13
 Kemah, Turk. 45 D13
 Kemaliye, Turk. 45 D12
 Kemer, Turk. 44 C2
 Kemer, Turk. 44 F3
 Kemer, Turk. 44 G4

Kem-Nil

- Kemer, Turk. 44 G5
Kepsut, Turk. 44 D3
Kerend-e Gharb, Iran 27 E9
Kermān, Iran 24 H8
Kermānshāh, Iran 24 E2
Kermānshāhān, Iran 24 H7
Keryneia (Girne), Cyprus 20 F4
Keryneia Range, Cyprus 20 F5
Keşan, Turk. 44 B2
Keşap, Turk. 45 B12
Keshit, Iran 24 J9
Keşiş Dağı, Turk. 45 C13
Keskin, Turk. 44 D8
Keziv, river, Israel 28 B4
Khabb, Wādi, Yemen 48 C6
Khabb ath Thawr, U.A.E. 47 F11
Khābūr, river, Syr. 43 C10
Khabil, Oman 37 K7
Khalasa, ruin, Israel 29 L2
Khālda, Bīr, Egypt 22 C3
Khaleifa, 'Ain, Egypt 23 G4
Khālid, Iraq 27 H10
Khālidī, Khirbat al, Jordan 30 L3
Khalūf, Oman 37 H8
Khamis Mushayt, Saudi Arabia 40 L5
Khamr, Yemen 48 D5
Khān, Oman 37 D6
Khān Abū Shāmāt, Syr. 42 J3
Khān al Baghdādī, Iraq 27 F5
Khān al Hammād, Iraq 27 H7
Khān al Mashāhidah, Iraq 27 F7
Khānaqīn, Iraq 27 E8
Khān ar Rahbāh, Iraq 27 J7
Khanāşir, Syr. 42 D4
Khān Shaykhūn, Syr. 42 E2
Khān Yūnis, Gaza Strip 50 L1
Khar, river, Iran 24 D4
Kharānah, Qaşr al, Jordan 30 E6
Kharānaq, Iran 24 G7
Khārga, El Wāhāt el, Egypt 23 J6
Kharīṭah, Shiqqat al, depression, Saudi Arabia-Yemen 48 C7
Khārk, island, Iran 24 J4
Kharsān, Syr. 42 E3
Khāsh, Iran 25 K11
Khātūniyah, Syr. 43 C11
Khawr Fakkan, U.A.E. 47 D12
Khawzān, Iraq 38 F4
Khaybar, Ḥarrat, Saudi Arabia 40 E3
Khirbat al Ghazālāh, Syr. 42 L2
Khirbat 'Uqlah, Syr. 42 D5
Khomeynishahr, Iran 24 F5
Khorāsān, region, Iran 24 E8
Khorramābād, Iran 24 F3
Khorramshahr, Iran 24 H3
Khosravi, Iran 27 E8
Khosrowābād, Iran 24 H3
Khovy, Iran 24 B1
Khumays, Ra's, U.A.E. 46 F1
Khunsar, Iran 24 F4
Khuriyā Muriyā, Jazā'ir (Kuria Muria Islands), Oman 37 L6
Khurr, Wādi al, Iraq 27 J6
Khvor, Iran 24 F7
Khvormūj, Iran 24 K5
Kifri, Iraq 27 D8
Kiği, Turk. 45 D14
Kiliçkaya, Turk. 45 B15
Kiliç Tepesi, Turk. 45 C12
Kilis, Turk. 45 G11
King Fahd Causeway, Bahrain 19 B4
Kingirbān, Iraq 27 D8
King Khalid Military City, Saudi Arabia 40 D7
Kinnereth, Sea of see Galilee, Sea of, Israel 28 C5
Kiraz, Turk. 44 E3
Kirikhan, Turk. 45 H10
Kirikkale, Turk. 44 D8
Kirka, Turk. 44 D5
Kirkāğaç, Turk. 44 D3
Kirkgeçit, Turk. 45 E17
Kirklar Dağı, Turk. 45 C14
Kirklareli, Turk. 44 A2
Kirkük see Karūk, Iraq 27 C7
Kırşehir, Turk. 44 D8
Kiseiba, Bīr, Egypt 23 L6
Kish, river, Iraq 27 G8
Kishb, Ḥarrat al, Saudi Arabia 40 G4
Kısır Dağı, Turk. 45 B16
Kiti, Cape, Cyprus 20 H5
Kiyā, Saudi Arabia 40 K4
Kiyiköy, Turk. 44 A3
Kızılcahamam, Turk. 44 C7
Kızıl Dağ, Turk. 21 B12
Kızılırmak, Turk. 44 C8
Kızılırmak (Halys), river, Turk. 44 C8
Kızılliman Burnu, Turk. 20 C3
Kızıltepe, Turk. 45 G14
Klirou, Cyprus 20 G4
Kocaali (Girne), Turk. 44 B5
Koçarlı, Turk. 44 F2
Koçbaşı Tepe, Turk. 45 D16
Koilanı, Cyprus 20 H3
Kojā, river, Iran 25 M11
Kokkina, Cyprus 20 G2
Kom Ombo, Egypt 23 J8
Konakpınar, Turk. 45 E11
Konya, Turk. 44 F7
Köpetdag Dagersi, Iran 24 B8
Köprü, river, Turk. 44 G6
Korkuteli, Turk. 44 G5
Kormakitis, Cyprus 20 F3
Kormakitis, Cape, Cyprus 20 F3
Köselerli, Turk. 20 A5
Kouklia, Cyprus 20 J2
Koşba, Leb. 34 D5
Kou Senjaq, Iraq 27 B7
Köyceğiz, Turk. 44 G3
Koyulhisar, Turk. 45 C12
Kozan, Turk. 45 F10
Kozlu, Turk. 44 B6
Kozluk, Turk. 45 E15
Krak des Chevaliers, site, Syr. 42 F2
Ktima, Cyprus 20 H1
Kubaysah, Iraq 27 F5
Kubbar, Jazīrat, Kuwait 33 H12
Kühak, Iran 25 K12
Kühā-ye Zāgros (Zagros Mountains), Iran 24 E2
Kula, Turk. 44 E3
Kulp, Turk. 45 E15
Kulu, Turk. 44 D7
Kumzār, Oman 37 B6
Kura, river, Turk. 45 B16
Kürān Dap, Iran 25 L10
Kurbāğa Gölü, Turk. 44 E9
Kurdistan, region, Iran-Iraq-Turk. 27 A7
Küre, Turk. 44 A8
Kuria Muria Islands see Khuriyā Muriyā, Jazā'ir, Oman 37 L6
Kursunlu, Turk. 44 B8
Kurtözü Burnu, Turk. 44 G3
Kuruçay, Turk. 45 D12
Kuşadası, Turk. 44 F2
Kuşadasi Körfezi, Turk. 44 F2
Kus Gölü, Turk. 44 C3
Kütahya, Turk. 44 D5
Kuwait, Asia 17 F11
Kuwait see Al Kuwayt, Kuwait 33 F9
Kuwayt, Jūn al, Kuwait 33 E9
Kuzey Anadolu Dağları, Turk. 44 A8
Kythrea, Cyprus 20 G5
Lachish, ruin, Israel 28 J3
Ladik, Turk. 45 B10
Ladiz, Iran 25 J11
Lahij, Yemen 48 H6
Lāhijān, Iran 24 C4
Lakash (Telloh), ruin, Iraq 27 J9
Lakkia, Cyprus 20 G4
Lamas, Turk. 44 H8
Lapithos, Cyprus 20 F4
Lāpseki, Turk. 44 C2
Lār, Iran 24 K6
Lārak, island, Iran 24 L8
Larnaka, Cyprus 20 H5
Larnaka Bay, Cyprus 20 H5
Larnakas, Cyprus 20 F4
Latakia see Al Lādhiqiyah, Syr. 42 E1
Lāvan (Sheikh Sho'eyb), island, Iran 24 L6
Lawdar, Yemen 48 G7
Lawqah, Saudi Arabia 40 C5
Lawz, Jabal al, Saudi Arabia 40 C1
Lawzi Lake, Bahrain 19 C6
Laylā, Saudi Arabia 40 H7
Lebanon, Asia 16 E8
Lebanon Mountains see Lubnān, Jabal, Leb. 34 H4
Lefka, Cyprus 20 G3
Lefkonoiko, Cyprus 20 F5
Lefkoşa see Lefkosia, Cyprus 20 G4
Lefkosia (Nicosia, Lefkoşa), Cyprus 20 G4
Lemessos, Cyprus 20 J3
Leonariso, Cyprus 20 F7
Libyan Desert, Egypt 22 H1
Libyan Plateau (Aḍ Ḍiffah), Egypt 22 C2
Lice, Turk. 45 E14
Liftāyā, Syr. 42 G2
Līmā, Oman 47 B12
Limr Sawān, Hawr, Iraq 27 J11
Līnah, Saudi Arabia 40 D6
Liqa, Oman 37 L7
Lishā, Qatar 38 C5
Lītāni, river, Leb. 34 K2
Little Aden, Yemen 48 H6
Little Zab see Zāb aş Şaghīr, river, Iraq 27 C7
Līwī, region, U.A.E. 47 K6
Lod (Lydda), Israel 28 G3
Lubnān, Jabal (Lebanon Mountains), Leb. 34 H4
Lüleburgaz, Turk. 44 A2
Lūt, Dasht-e, Iran 24 G9
Lūṭak, Iran 25 H11
Luxor, Egypt 23 H8
Lydda see Lod, Israel 28 G3
Lysi, Cyprus 20 G5
Ma'ale Adummim, W. Bank 51 G8
Ma'āmīr, Iraq 33 A11
Ma'an, Jordan 30 J4
Ma'arrat an Nu'mān, Syr. 42 E3
Ma'arrat Mişrin, Syr. 42 D3
Ma'bar, Yemen 48 F5
Machaerus, ruin, Jordan 30 F4
Machghara, Leb. 34 J4
Maçka, Turk. 45 B13
Mādābā, Jordan 30 E4
Madā'in Şāliḥ, Saudi Arabia 40 E3
Maḍḍah, Oman 37 D6
Maden, Turk. 45 E13
Madha, region, Oman 47 D12
Madinat al Ka'bān, Qatar 38 C6
Madinat ash Sha'b, Yemen 48 H6
Madinat ash Shamāl, Qatar 38 B6
Madinat ath Thawrah, Syr. 42 D6
Madinat Ḥamad, Bahrain 19 D7
Madinat 'Isā, Bahrain 19 C7
Madinat Khālifah, Qatar 38 F7
Madinat Zayid, U.A.E. 47 H6
Ma'din Jadid, Syr. 42 D8
Madrakah, Oman 37 K8
Madrakah, Ra's al, Oman 37 K8
Magal Umm Rūs, well, Egypt 23 H10
Maghāgha, Egypt 23 E6
Mahābād, Iran 24 C1
Maḥallāt, Iran 24 E4
Māhan, Iran 24 H8
Mahd adh Dhahab, Saudi Arabia 40 G4
Mahmudiye, Turk. 44 D6
Majdal Shams, Israel 28 A6
Makhfal al Nuwaisib, customs post, Kuwait 33 M11
Makhfar al Buşayyah, Iraq 27 L9
Makhfar aş Şabīyah, customs post, Kuwait 33 E10
Makhrūq, Wādi al, Jordan 30 G6
Makkah (Mecca), Saudi Arabia 40 H3
Mākū, Iran 24 A1
Malatya, Turk. 45 E12
Malāyer, Iran 24 E3
Malazgirt, Turk. 45 D16
Malḥā, Iraq 27 D5
Malkara, Turk. 44 B2
Mallāḥ, Syr. 42 M3
Mallawī, Egypt 23 F6
Ma'lūlā, Syr. 42 J2
Mamlaḥat al Mamṭālah, dry salt lake, Bahrain 19 F6
Mamshit, ruin, Israel 29 L4
Mamṭālah, Ra's al, Bahrain 19 G7
Manahil, area, Yemen 49 C12
Manākhah, Yemen 48 E4
Manama see Al Manāmah, Bahrain 19 B8
Manavgat, Turk. 44 G6
Manāzil al Ḥajānah, Iraq 27 K9
Manbij, Syr. 42 C5
Mand, river, Iran 24 K5
Mandalī, Iraq 27 F8
Mandeb, Bab el, Yemen 48 H4
Mandik, Syr. 42 B6
Manfalūt, Egypt 23 G6
Manīfah, Saudi Arabia 40 D8
Manisa, Turk. 44 E2
Manjā, Jordan 30 E4
Manwar, Jabal, Yemen 48 G6
Manzala, Bahra el, Egypt 23 C7
Maqnah, Saudi Arabia 40 D1
Maqshūsh, Saudi Arabia 40 G3
Marābīdīyah, Iraq 27 E5
Marāgheh, Iran 24 C2
Marand, Iran 24 B2
Marāweh Tappeh, Iran 24 B7
Marāwīh, island, U.A.E. 47 G5
Mar'ayt, Yemen 49 D14
Mardikh, Tall (Ebla), Syr. 42 D3
Mardin, Turk. 45 F14
Mareshah, ruin, Israel 28 J3
Marghab see Marqab, Qal'at al, ruin, Syr. 21 G12
Marghab see 'Amrīt, ruin, Syr. 42 F1
Mari, ruin, Syr. 43 G10
Ma'rib, Yemen 48 E6
Marir, Gezirat (Mirear), Egypt 23 K11
Marīwān, Iran 24 D2
Marjayoun, Leb. 34 K3
Marmara, island, Turk. 44 B3
Marmara Denizi, Turk. 44 B3
Marmara Gölü, Turk. 44 B3
Marmaraağzı, Turk. 44 E3
Marmaris, Turk. 44 G3
Marqab, Qal'at al (Marghab), Syr. 21 G12
Marqadah, Syr. 43 D10
Marqūbān, Bahrain 19 C8
Marsa 'Alam, well, Egypt 23 J10
Marsa Sha'ab, Egypt 23 L11
Marshāq, Ra's, Yemen 48 H6
Marv Dasht, Iran 24 J6
Masada, ruin, Israel 29 K5
Masāh, U.A.E. 47 D11
Mash'abbe Sade, Israel 29 L3
Mashad Rūzeh, Iran 25 E10
Mashākīl, Sabkhat al, Saudi Arabia 38 M4
Māshanīg, peak, Yemen 49 H18
Mashhad, Iran 25 D10
Mashīz, Iran 24 J8
Mashūn, Jazīrat, Bahrain 19 H9
Masīlah, Wādi al, Yemen 49 E13
Masira see Maşīrah, Jazīrat, island, Oman 37 H9
Maşīrah, Tur'at, Oman 37 H9
Maşīrah, Jazīrat (Masira), Oman 37 H9
Maşīrah, Khalīj, Oman 37 J8
Masjed Soleymān, Iran 24 G3
Maskanah (Meskené), Syr. 42 D5
Maskin, Oman 37 E7
Masqat (Muscat), Oman 37 E9
Massah Kānī, Syr. 42 B3
Mastābah, Saudi Arabia 40 J3
Mastūrah, Saudi Arabia 40 G3
Maşāyā, Syr. 42 F2
Ma'tan Shārib, well, Egypt 23 D4
Matrah, Oman 37 E8
Matrūh, Egypt 22 C3
Matṭī, Sabkhat, Saudi Arabia-U.A.E. 46 J2
Mavrol, Cyprus 20 G1
Mavrovouni Mine, Cyprus 20 G3
Mawārid, 'Urūq al, Yemen 49 A12
Mawqāq, Saudi Arabia 40 D4
Mawr, Yamen 48 E4
Mayāmei, Iran 24 D7
Maydān Ikbi, Syr. 42 B3
Maydān Sarāy, Iraq 27 D9
Maydī, Yemen 48 D3
Mayfa'ah, Yemen 48 F9
Māyir, Syr. 42 C3
Mazgirt, Turk. 45 D13
Mazdağı, Turk. 45 F14
Mazotos, Cyprus 20 H5
Mazra'at al Ghashshām, Qatar 38 K6
Mazra'at Turaynā, Qatar 38 K6
Mecca see Makkah, Saudi Arabia 40 H3
Meçitözü, Turk. 44 C9
Medina see Al Madīnah, Saudi Arabia 40 F3
Mediterranean Sea, Europe 16 B2
Megiddo, Israel 28 D4
Megiddo, Tel (Armageddon), Israel 28 D4
Mehola, W. Bank 51 B9
Mehrabād, Iran 24 C3
Mehran, Iran 24 F2
Mehriz, Iran 24 G7
Meithalūn, W. Bank 51 C8
Memphis, ruin, Egypt 23 D7
Mengen, Turk. 44 B7
Mengene Dağı, Turk. 45 E17
Me'ona, Israel 28 B4
Meriç, river, Turk. 44 B1
Meriç, Turk. 44 B2
Meron, Israel 28 C5
Mersin see İçel, Turk. 44 G9
Mescit Tepe, Turk. 45 C15
Meskené see Maskanah, Syr. 42 D5
Mesopotamia, region, Iraq-Syr. 27 E5
Mesudiye, Turk. 45 C12
Metulla, Israel 28 A5
Mezadot Yehuda, W. Bank 51 L7
Miāndoāb, Iran 24 C2
Miāneh, Iran 24 C3
Midyat, Turk. 45 F15
Migdal, Israel 28 C5
Mihaliççik, Turk. 44 D6
Mijdahāh, Yemen 49 G10
Mijdahāh, Ra's, Yemen 49 G10
Milas, Turk. 44 F2
Miletus, ruin, Turk. 44 F2
Milh, Qurayyat al, Saudi Arabia 30 F8
Minā' 'Abd Allāh, Kuwait 33 J10
Minā' al Aḥmadi, Kuwait 33 H10
Minā' Jabal 'Alī, U.A.E. 47 E9
Minish, Iraq 27 A7
Minūh, Egypt 23 D6
Minwakh, Yemen 49 C10
Mirābād, Iran 27 B8
Mirbāt, Oman 37 M5
Mirbāt, Ra's, Oman 37 M5
Mirear see Marir, Gezirat, island, Egypt 23 K11
Mirjāveh, Iran 25 J11
Misāha, Bīr, Egypt 23 L4
Mish'ab, Ra's al, Saudi Arabia 40 D8
Miskān, Jazīrat, Kuwait 33 E10
Mitla Pass, Egypt 23 D8
Mitsero, Cyprus 20 G4
Miyah, Wādi al, Syr. 42 G8
Mizpe Ramon, Israel 29 N3
Mizpe Shalem, W. Bank 51 J9
Mocha see Al Mukhā, Yemen 48 G4
Momi, Rhiy di-, Yemen 49 H18
Moni, Cyprus 20 J4
Montfort, ruin, Israel 28 B4
Mor Dağı, Turk. 45 F18
Morfu, Cyprus 20 G3
Morfu Bay, Cyprus 20 G3
Mosul see Al Mawşil, Iraq 27 B6
Mozdūrān, Iran 25 D10
Muather, Qatar 38 G7
Mu'ānī, Wādi al, Iraq 43 H10
Mucur, Turk. 44 E9
Mudanya, Turk. 44 C4
Muḡayrib, Oman 37 F9
Müdiyah, Yemen 48 G7
Mudurnu, Turk. 44 C6
Mughayyir, Jordan 30 F4
Mughshin, Oman 37 J5
Muğla, Turk. 44 G3
Müñ, Sabkhat al, Syr. 42 G6
Muḥammad, Rās, Egypt 23 F9
Muḥarraḡ, Jazīrat al, Bahrain 19 A9
Muḡaywir, ruin, Iraq 27 F4
Muḡayyir, Jordan 30 G4
Muḡayyimā, island, U.A.E. 46 F2
Muḡradah, Syr. 42 F2
Mukayris, Yemen 48 G7
Mukhayriz, U.A.E. 47 K4
Mukhayzināt, Jibāl al, Jordan 30 E6
Munkhafad el Qattāra (Qattara Depression), Egypt 22 D3
Munzur Dağları, Turk. 45 D13
Muqāq, Iraq 27 C8
Muqaybirah, Yemen 48 G7
Muradiye, Turk. 45 D17
Murat, river, Turk. 45 D15
Murat Dağı, Turk. 44 E4
Muratlı, Turk. 44 B3
Murr, Bīr, Egypt 23 K6
Mürşitpınar, Turk. 42 B6
Muş, Turk. 45 E15
Mūsa, Gebel (Mount Sinai), Egypt 23 E9
Musabeyli, Turk. 42 B3
Musaḡola, Turk. 21 C12
Muşaffāh, U.A.E. 47 F8
Muşallā, Oman 37 F8
Musandam, Ra's, Oman 37 B6
Musaymir, Yemen 48 G5
Muscat see Masqat, Oman 37 E9
Muşfat, U.A.E. 47 E12
Mushayrib, Ra's, U.A.E. 46 G2
Mushayyish, Qaşr al, Jordan 30 G5
Muslimiyah, Syr. 42 C4
Mustafa-kemalpaşa, Turk. 44 C3
Musyan, Tepe, Iran 24 F2
Mūt, Egypt 23 H5
Mut, Turk. 44 G8
Mu'tah, Jordan 30 G4
Mutki, Turk. 45 E15
Muzaybilah, Iraq 27 J11
Myrtou, Cyprus 20 F3
Nabā, Jabal (Mount Nebo), Jordan 30 E4
Nabatiyē et Tahta, Leb. 34 K3
Nabī Şāliḥ, Jazīrat an, Bahrain 19 C8
Nabī Shu'ayb, Jabal an, Yemen 48 E5
Nablus see Nābulus, W. Bank 51 D8
Nabq, Egypt 23 F10
Nābulus (Nablus), W. Bank 51 D8
Naft Khāneh, Iraq 27 E8
Nag 'Hammādi, Egypt 23 H8
Nahal Haver, ruin, Israel 28 J4
Nahal 'Oz, Israel 28 J2
Nahariyya, Israel 28 B4
Nahāvand, Iran 24 E3
Nāhid, Bīr, Egypt 23 D5
Nāhiyat as Salām, Iraq 27 J10
Nahwa, region, U.A.E. 47 D12
Nā'in, Iran 24 F6
Najafābād, Iran 24 G5
Najd, region, Saudi Arabia 40 E5
Najrān, oasis, Saudi Arabia 40 L6
Najrān, Saudi Arabia 40 L6
Nakheila, Bīr, Egypt 23 K6
Nakhil, Egypt 23 D9
Nallihan, Turk. 44 C6
Namak, Daryācheh-ye, Iran 24 E5
Namak, Kavir-e, Iran 24 E8
Namakzar, Lake, Iran 25 E10
Namakzār-e Shahdād, dry salt lake, Iran 24 H9
Namashir, Iran 27 B9
Naqāda, Egypt 23 H8
Naqadeh, Iran 27 A8
Naqoura, Leb. 34 M1
Narlı, Turk. 45 G11
Nasser, Lake, Egypt 23 K8
Naţanz, Iran 24 F5
National Water Carrier, Israel 28 H3
Natitai, Gebel, Egypt 23 L10
Na'tū, Iran 25 D10
Nā'ūr, Jordan 30 E4
Nawā, Syr. 42 L1
Nawāşif, Ḥarrat, Saudi Arabia 40 H5
Nāy Band, Iran 24 G9
Nāy Band, Iran 24 K5
Nazareth see Nazerat, Israel 28 D4
Nazerat (Nazareth), Israel 28 D4
Nazerat 'Illit, Israel 28 D4
Nāzi, Iran 24 A1
Nazik Gölü, Turk. 45 E16
Nazilli, Turk. 44 F3
Nazimiye, Turk. 45 D13
Nebo, Mount, Jordan 30 E4
Negev, region, Israel 29 N3
Nehbandān, Iran 25 G10
Nemrud Dagħ, ruin, Turk. 45 F12
Nemrut Gölü, Turk. 45 E16
Ne'ot al Hakkikar, Israel 29 L5
Neş Ziyona, Israel 28 G3
Netanya, Israel 28 E3
Netivot, Israel 28 J2
Neveşhir, Turk. 44 E9
Neyriz, Iran 24 J6
Neysābūr, Iran 24 D9
Nicephorium see Ar Raqqaq, Syr. 42 D7
Nicosia see Lefkosia, Cyprus 20 G4
Niğde, Turk. 44 F9
Nik Pey, Iran 24 C3
Niksar, Turk. 45 C11
Nikshahr, Iran 25 L10
Nīl, Bahr el (Nile), Egypt 23 E7
Nile see Nīl, Bahr el, river, Egypt 23 E7

Nin-Shi

Obeid, Tell el, *Iraq* 27 K9
Obruk, *Türk.* 44 F7
Ödemiş, *Türk.* 44 E3
Odis, Wādi, *Egypt* 23 LII
Of, *Türk.* 45 B14
Ofaqim, *Israel* 29 K2
Öğuzeli, *Türk.* 42 B4
Oltu, river, *Türk.* 45 B15
Oltu, *Türk.* 45 C15
Olympus, peak, *Cyprus* 20 H3
Olympus, Mount see Ulu Dağ,
Türk. 44 C4
Oman, *Asia* 17 K13
Oman, Gulf of, *Asia* 17 H14
Ömerli, *Türk.* 43 A10
Ordu, *Türk.* 45 B12
Ören, *Türk.* 44 G3
Örşenşehir, *Türk.* 45 E11
Orhangazi, *Türk.* 44 C4
Orontes see 'Aṣṣī, river, *Leb.* 34
D8
Orontes see Al 'Aṣ, river, *Syr.*
42 E2
Orta, *Türk.* 44 C7
Ortabağ, *Türk.* 27 A6
Ortaça, *Türk.* 44 G3
Orūmīyeh (Urmia), *Iran* 24 C1
Orūmīyeh, Daryācheh-ye (Lake
Urmia), *Iran* 24 B1
Oshnavīyeh, *Iran* 27 A8
Osmançik, *Türk.* 44 B9
Osmaneli, *Türk.* 44 C5
Osmaniye, *Türk.* 45 G10
Ovacık, *Türk.* 44 H8
Ovacık Körfezi, *Türk.* 20 C5
Ovgos, river, *Cyprus* 20 G3
Özalp, *Türk.* 45 E17

Phippopo 1. 3. 2
42 L2
Phistia, rego, Israel 28 J2

Qaa, *Leb.* 34 C8
Qabālān, *W. Bank* 51 E8
Qabāṭīyah, *W. Bank* 51 B8
Qabr Hūd, *Yemen* 49 D12
Qādir Karam, *Iraq* 27 D8
Qādīsiyah, *Buḥayrat al, Iraq* 27 E5
Qāḍūb, *Yemen* 49 H17
Qā'emābād, *Iran* 25 G10
Qā'emshahr, *Iran* 24 D6
Qafā, *Oman* 37 L3
Qafāt, *Oman* 37 M4
Qal'ah, *Ra's al, Bahrain* 19 B7
Qalāṭī, *Bahrain* 19 A8
Qalansīyah, *Yemen* 49 H17
Qal'at al Maḍḡī, *Syr.* 42 E2
Qal'at Bīshah, *Saudi Arabia* 40 J5
Qal'at Dīzah, *Iraq* 27 B8
Qal'at Ḥusayn, *Iraq* 27 H10
Qal'at Sukkar, *Iraq* 27 H9
Qalḥāt, *Oman* 37 F9
Qalqīlyah, *W. Bank* 51 D6
Qamar, *Ghubbat al, Yemen* 49 D15
Qāmqhān, *Iran* 24 D2
Qānā, *Leb.* 34 L2
Qanawāt, *Syr.* 42 L2
Qanāyah, *Syr.* 42 D2
Qāra, *Egypt* 22 D3
Qaraaoun, *Lac de, Leb.* 34 J4
Qārah, *Syr.* 42 H3
Qarah Būlāq, *Iraq* 27 E8
Qarash Chawq, *Jabal, Iraq* 27 C6
Qarnayn, *island, U.A.E.* 47 E4
Qarne Shomeron, *W. Bank* 51 D7
Qarn Ibrāhīm, *hill, Bahrain* 19 G7
Qarṭabā, *Leb.* 34 E5
Qārūn, *Birket, Egypt* 23 D6
Qaryah al 'Ulyā, *Saudi Arabia* 40 D8
Qaryat al Gharab, *Iraq* 27 J8
Qaryat al Muhana, *Qatar* 38 G3
Qaryat ash Shāfi, *Iraq* 27 K11
Qasr-e Qand, *Iran* 25 L11
Qasr-e Shīrīn, *Iran* 24 E1
Qasr Farāfa, *Egypt* 23 G4
Qasr Jamām, *Saudi Arabia* 40 J7
Qasṣār al Qulay'ah, *island, Bahrain* 19 B8
Qa'tabah, *Yemen* 48 G5
Qatānā, *Syr.* 42 K1
Qatar, *Asia* 17 H12
Qatīa, *Bir, Egypt* 23 C8
Qattāra, *well, Egypt* 22 D3
Qattara Depression see Munkhafad el Qattāra, *Egypt* 22 D3
Qayd, *Ra's al, Kuwait* 33 C11
Qāyēn, *Iran* 24 F9
Qaysosh, *Yemen* 49 H17
Qazrīn, *Israel* 28 C6
Qazvīn, *Iran* 24 D4
Qena, *Egypt* 23 H8
Qena, Wādī, *Egypt* 23 G8
Qeren Naftali, *peak, Israel* 28 B5
Qeshm, *Iran* 24 L8
Qeshm, *Iran* 37 A6
Qeturra, *Israel* 29 R4
Qeys, *island, Iran* 24 L6
Qift, *Egypt* 23 H8
Qīnab, Wādī, *Yemen* 49 C12
Qīr'ās, *Ra's, Qatar* 38 C7
Qīr'at Arba', *W. Bank* 51 J7

Ra'ananna, *Israel* 28 F3
 Rabaḏ al Ghariḃiyah, *island, Bahrain* 19 J10
 Rabaḏ ash Sharḡīyah, *island, Bahrain* 19 J10
 Rabi'ah, *Iraq* 27 A5
 Rābiḡh, *Saudi Arabia* 40 G3
 Rachaiyah, *Leb.* 34 J5
 Raḡwā, *Jabal, Saudi Arabia* 40 F3
 Rāf, *Jabal, Saudi Arabia* 40 C4
 Rafah, *Gaza Strip* 50 M1
 Rafḡā, *Saudi Arabia* 40 C6
 Rafiah Yan, *Gaza Strip* 50 L1
 Rafsanjan, *Iran* 24 H8
 Raḡat, *Harrat, Saudi Arabia* 40 G3
 Ra'īs, *Saudi Arabia* 40 G3
 Rakan, *Jazirat, Qatar* 38 A6
 Rakan, *Ra's, Qatar* 38 A6
 Rakhawt, *Wādī, Yemen* 49 B14
 Rakhūt, *Oman* 37 M4
 Rama, *Israel* 28 C5
 Ramallah see Rām Allāh, *W. Bank* 51 F7
 Rām Allāh (Ramallah), *W. Bank* 51 F7
 Ramat Gan, *Israel* 28 G3
 Ramat Maḡshimim, *Israel* 28 C6
 Ramla, *Israel* 28 G3
 Ramm, *Jordan* 30 L3
 Ramon, *Har, Israel* 29 N2
 Rāmsar, *Iran* 24 C4
 Rāmyah, *Leb.* 34 M2
 Rāniyah, *Iraq* 27 B8
 Ranyah, *Wādī, Saudi Arabia* 40 J5
 Raqiq, *ruin, Israel* 29 K2
 Ra's al 'Ayn, *Leb.* 34 L1
 Ra's al 'Ayn, *Syr.* 42 B9
 Ra's al Khaffī, *Saudi Arabia* 33 M2
 Ra's al Khaymah, *U.A.E.* 47 C11
 Ra's an Naḡh, *Jordan* 30 K3
 Ra's Ba'labakk, *Leb.* 34 D8
 Rās Ghārib, *Egypt* 23 F8
 Rashid, *Egypt* 23 C6
 Rashid, *Maṣabb (Rosetta Mouth), Egypt* 23 C6
 RashKīn, *Iraq* 27 B7
 Rasht, *Iran* 24 C4
 Ra's Laffān, *Qatar* 38 CB
 Ra's Shamrah (Ugarit), *site, Syr.* 42 E1
 Ratqah, *Wādī ar, Iraq* 26 F3
 Ravānsar, *Iran* 27 D10
 Rāwar, *Iran* 24 H8
 Rāwah, *Iraq* 27 E5
 Rawanduz, *Iraq* 27 B7

Ša'adātābād, *Iran* 24 K7
 Šab 'Abār, *Syr.* 42 J4
 Šabanōzū, *Turk.* 44 C8
 Šabaq al Hajan *see* Camel Race,
site, *Qatar* 38 F5
 Šabastīyah (Samaria), *W. Bank*
 51 C7
 Šab'atayn, *Ramlat as, Yemen*
 48 E7
 Šāberī, *Hāmūn-e, Iran* 25 G11
 Šabḥā, *Jordan* 30 D6
 Šabir, *Jabal, Yemen* 48 G5
 Šabīyah, *Khawr aš, Kuwait*
 33 D10
 Šabīyah, *Ra's aš, Kuwait* 33 E10
 Šabyā, *Saudi Arabia* 40 L5
 Šabzevār, *Iran* 24 D8
 Šadad, *Bahrain* 19 D6
 Šadad, *Syr.* 42 H3
 Ša'dah, *Iran* 48 C4
 Šadd-e Dez, *Daryācheh-ye, Iran*
 27 G12
 Šadh, *Oman* 37 M5
 Ša'dīyah, *Hawr as, Iraq* 27 H10
 Ša'dīyāt, *Ra's as, Leb.* 34 H3
 Šafāga, *Geziret, Egypt* 23 G9
 Šafājah, *region, Saudi Arabia*
 40 E3
 Šāfilīyah, *Al Jazīrah as, Qatar*
 38 F8
 Šāfir, *Yemen* 48 E7
 Šāfītā, *Syr.* 42 F2
 Šafranbolu, *Turk.* 44 B7
 Šāfwān, *Iraq* 27 L11
 Šagān, *Iran* 25 E10
 Šahāb, *Jordan* 30 E4
 Šahām, *Oman* 37 D7
 Šahara, *Bir, Egypt* 23 L4
 Šahīlīyah, *Iraq* 27 F5
 Šāhim, *Jabal, Yemen* 49 D14
 Šahl Rakkab, *plain, Saudi Arabia*
 40 H4
 Šahyūn, *Qal'at, Syr.* 42 E1
 Šaida (Sidon), *Leb.* 34 J2
 Šadīdābād (Širjān), *Iran* 24 J7
 Šaimbēvīl *Turk.* 45 E10

Sang Bast, *Iran* 25 D10
Sanîmah, Wâdi, *Syr.* 42 F5
Şanlıurfa (Edessa), *Türk.* 45 G13
Şannîn, Jabal, *Leb.* 34 F5
Saoute, Wâdi, *Syr.* 42 L4
Sapanca, *Türk.* 44 B5
Şaphane Dağı, *Türk.* 44 D4
Sâqiyah, *Iraq* 27 D7
Saqqez, *Iran* 24 D2
Sār, *Bahrain* 19 B6
Sarāb, *Iran* 24 B3
Sarakhş, *Iran* 25 C10
Sarāqib, *Syr.* 42 D3
Sarāvān, *Iran* 25 K12
Saray, *Türk.* 44 A3
Saray, *Türk.* 45 E17
Şarāyā, *Syr.* 42 D1
Sarayköy, *Türk.* 44 F4
Sarbāz, *Iran* 25 L11
Sarbisheh, *Iran* 25 G10
Sardis, ruin, *Türk.* 44 E3
Sārī, *Iran* 24 D6
Şarīf, *Yemen* 49 C14
Sarıgöl, *Türk.* 44 E3
Sarıkamış, *Türk.* 45 C16
Sarıyar Barajı, *Türk.* 44 C6
Sarıyer, *Türk.* 44 B4
Sarız, *Türk.* 45 E11
Şarkıkaraağaç, *Türk.* 44 F6
Şarkışla, *Türk.* 45 D10
Şarköy, *Türk.* 44 B2
Sarmansuyu, *Türk.* 45 E17
Saros Körfezi, *Türk.* 44 B2
Sarsing, *Iraq* 27 A6
Sa'sa', *Syr.* 42 K1
Sason, *Türk.* 45 E15
Satala, ruin, *Türk.* 45 C13
Saudi Arabia, *Asia* 17 H10
Şavştepe, *Türk.* 44 D3
Sāveh, *Iran* 24 E4
Savur, *Türk.* 45 F4
Şawāb, Wâdi aş, *Iraq* 26 F2
Sawārah Tüka, *Iraq* 27 A6
Şawqirah, *Oman* 37 L7
Şawqirah, Ghubbāt, *Oman* 37 K7
Şawqirah, Andas, *Jordan* 30 H7

Shaqāq, *Wādī* *al-*, *Kuwait* *Saudi*
Arabia 33 M7
 Shaqqa, *Syr.* 42 L2
 Shaqrā', *Saudi Arabia* 40 F6
 Shaqrā', *Yemen* 48 G7
 Shār, *Jabal*, *Saudi Arabia* 40 D1
 Sharaqraq, *Syr.* 42 C7
 Sharbatāt, *Oman* 37 L6
 Sharbatāt, *Ra's ash*, *Oman* 37 L7
 Shārī, *Buḥayrat*, *Iraq* 27 E7
 Sharjah see *Ash Shāriqah*, *U.A.E.*
 47 D10
 Sharikh, *Oman* 37 G9
 Sharm, *U.A.E.* 47 C12
 Sharmah, *Ra's*, *Yemen* 49 F12
 Sharm el Sheikh, *Egypt* 23 F9
 Sharon, *Plain of*, *Israel* 28 E3
 Sharq, *Al* *Jabal ash* (*Anti-*
Lebanon), *Leb.-Syr.* 34 G7
 Sharuhen, *ruin*, *Israel* 29 K2
 Sharwayn, *Ra's*, *Yemen* 49 E14
 Shatnat as Salmās, *Wādī*, *Syr.*
 42 E5
 Shaybārā, *island*, *Saudi Arabia*
 40 F2
 Shāyib el Banāt, *Gebel*, *Egypt*
 23 G9
 Shaykh, *Iraq* 27 D6
 Shaykh, *Jabal ash* (*Mount*
Hermion), *Leb.* 34 K5
 Shaykh Aḥmad, *Iraq* 27 G10
 Shaykh al Maghāzī, *Gaza Strip*
 50 L2
 Shaykh Fāris, *Iraq* 27 H11
 Shaykh Miskin, *Syr.* 42 L1
 Shaykh Sa'd, *Iraq* 27 G9
 Shaykh 'Uṭmān, *Yemen* 48 H6
 Shayrāt, *Syr.* 42 G3
 Shechem see *Balāṭah*, *Khirbat*,
ruin, *W. Bank* 51 D8
 Shefar'am, *Israel* 28 C4
 Sheykh Sho'eyb see *Lāwān*, *island*,
Iran 24 L6
 Shīṭim, *Leb.* 34 H3
 Shībām, *Yemen* 49 E10
 Shībīn el Kōm, *Egypt* 23 C6
 Shībīn el Qanāṭir, *Egypt* 23 D7

Shi-Zyg

- Shihān, Yemen 49 B15
Shihān, Wādī, Oman 37 L3
Shilāh, U.A.E. 47 K4
Shiloh, ruin, W. Bank 51 E8
Shin, Syr. 42 G2
Shinak, Gardaneh-ye, Iraq 27 B8
Shinās, Oman 37 C7
Shinshār, Syr. 42 G3
Shiqāq al Ma'āṭif, sand area, Yemen 49 B10
Shirāz, Iran 24 J5
Shirin Su, Iran 24 D3
Shir Kūh, Iran 24 G6
Shirwān Māzin, Iraq 27 A7
Shithāthah, Iraq 27 G6
Shivta, ruin, Israel 29 M2
Shmistār, Leb. 34 F6
Shoval, Israel 28 J3
Shū'ab, Ra's, Yemen 49 H17
Shūrāb, Iran 24 F8
Shūr Gaz, Iran 25 J10
Shuruppak, ruin, Iraq 27 H9
Shūsf, Iran 25 G10
Shūsh (Susa), Iran 27 H12
Shūshār, Iran 24 G3
Shuwayjah, Hawr ash, Iraq 27 G9
Shuyūkh Fawqānī, Syr. 42 B5
Sibā'i, Gebel el, Egypt 23 H9
Sibrūt, Bīr, Egypt 23 J9
Side, ruin, Turk. 44 G6
Sidi Abdel Rahman, Egypt 23 C5
Sidi Barrāni, Egypt 22 B2
Sidon see Saida, Leb. 34 J2
Siif, Yemen 49 E10
Siḥām, Wādī, Yemen 48 F4
Siḥ Za'bah, U.A.E. 47 H10
Si'ir, W. Bank 51 J7
Siirt, Turk. 45 F15
Sile, Turk. 44 B4
Siliḥke, Turk. 44 H8
Silivri, Turk. 44 B3
Silopi, Turk. 45 F16
Silvan, Turk. 45 E15
Silwa Bahari, Egypt 23 J8
Silwād, W. Bank 51 F8
Sim'an, Jabal, Syr. 42 C3
Simareh, river, Iran 24 F2
Simav, river, Turk. 44 C3
Simav, Turk. 44 D4
Siṣīneh, river, Iran 27 B9
Simsimah, Qatar 38 D7
Sinai, peninsula, Egypt 23 E9
Sinai, Mount see Mūsa, Gebel, Egypt 23 E9
Sincan, Turk. 44 C7
Sindirgi, Jordan 44 D3
Şinifhah, Jordan 30 H3
Sinjār, Iraq 27 B4
Sinjār, Jabal, Iraq 27 B4
Sinnūris, Egypt 23 E6
Sinop, Turk. 44 A9
Sirāb, Oman 37 H8
Sir aḍ Ḍinniyah, Leb. 34 C6
Siran, Turk. 45 C13
Sirat, Jabal, Yemen 48 C4
Şir Banī Yās, island, U.A.E. 47 F4
Şir Bū Nu'ayr, island, U.A.E. 47 D7
Sirghāyā, Syr. 42 J2
Sirḥān, Wādī as, valley, Saudi Arabia 30 G8
Siri, Gebel, Egypt 23 M7
Sirik, Iran 24 L8
Sirjan see Sa'idābād, Iran 24 J7
Şirnak, Turk. 45 F16
Sirri, island, Iran 24 M7
Şirvan, Turk. 45 F15
Sistān, region, Iran 25 H10
Sistān, Daryācheh-ye, Iran 25 H11
Sitra, well, Egypt 22 E3
Sitraḥ, island, Bahrain 19 C8
Sivas, Turk. 45 D11
Siverek, Turk. 45 F13
Sivrihisar, Turk. 44 D6
Siwa, Egypt 22 E2
Siwa, El Wāḥāt el, Egypt 22 D2
Siyal Islands, Egypt 23 L12
Skouriotissa, Cyprus 20 G3
Smyrna see İzmir, Turk. 44 E2
Socotra see Suqutrah, island, Yemen 49 H18
Soğanlı, river, Turk. 44 B7
Söğüt, Turk. 44 C5
Söğüt Gölü, Turk. 44 G4
Sohāg, Egypt 23 G7
Söke, Turk. 44 F2
Solhan, Turk. 45 E15
Solḥānābād, Iran 24 D9
- Soma, Turk. 44 D2
Sonqor, Iran 24 E2
Sorgun, Turk. 44 D9
Soûr (Tyre), Leb. 34 L1
South Valley Canal, Egypt 23 K6
Steroh, Yemen 49 H17
Strovolos, Cyprus 20 G4
Subay', 'Urūq, Saudi Arabia 40 H5
Şubayḥiyah, Kuwait 33 J8
Subbah-as-Salim, Kuwait 33 G9
Sudr, Egypt 23 D8
Suez see El Suweis, Egypt 23 D8
Suez, Gulf of, Egypt 23 E8
Suez Canal, Egypt 23 C8
Suḡla Gölü, Turk. 44 G6
Şuḡār, Oman 37 D7
Şuhut, Turk. 44 E5
Sukhna, 'Ain, Egypt 23 D8
Sulaymān, Jabal, Yemen 48 F8
Sulaymān Beg, Iraq 27 D8
Sulaymanlı, Turk. 45 F11
Sultan Dağları, Turk. 44 E6
Sultanhanı, Turk. 44 E8
Sülüklü, Turk. 44 E7
Suluova, Turk. 45 B10
Sūmār, Iran 27 F9
Sumaysimah, Qatar 38 E7
Sunaysilah, dry lake, Iraq 27 C4
Sündiklū, Turk. 44 C6
Sungurlu, Turk. 44 C9
Süphan Dağı, Turk. 45 E16
Sūq 'Abs, Yemen 48 D4
Sūq ash Shuyūkh, Iraq 27 K10
Şuqaylabiyah, Syr. 42 E2
Suqutrah (Socotra), island, Yemen 49 H18
Şūr, Oman 37 F9
Sūrak, Iran 24 M9
Şūrañ, Syr. 42 E3
Surayr, Oman 37 J8
Sürmene, Turk. 45 B14
Suruç, Turk. 45 G12
Susa see Shūsh, Iran 27 H12
Sūsangerd, Iran 27 J12
Suşehri, Turk. 45 C12
Susurluk, Turk. 44 C3
Sütçüler, Turk. 44 F5
Suwād al Janūbiyah, island, Bahrain 19 L11
Suwād ash Shamālīyah, island, Bahrain 19 K11
Suwayḥān, U.A.E. 47 F10
Şuwaylīh, Jordan 30 D4
Syene see Aswān, Egypt 23 K8
Syria, Asia 16 D9
Syrian Desert, Asia 16 E9
Syrian Gates, pass, Turk. 45 H10
- Tāba, Egypt 23 D10
Tābah, Saudi Arabia 40 E5
Tābas, Iran 24 F8
Tābas, Iran 25 F10
Tābriz, Iran 24 B2
Tabūḡ, Saudi Arabia 40 D2
Tadmur (Palmyra), Syr. 42 G5
Tāfas, Syr. 42 L1
Taftān, Kūh-e, Iran 25 J11
Taftanāz, Syr. 42 D3
Tāherī, Iran 24 K5
Tahta, Egypt 23 G7
Tahtaldāğı, peak, Turk. 44 G5
Ta'izz, Yemen 48 G5
Tajrish, Iran 24 D5
Takāb, Iran 24 C2
Tākestān, Iran 24 D4
Takhīs, Bīr, Egypt 23 L6
Tala, Egypt 23 C6
Tal as Sulṭān, ruin, W. Bank 51 G9
Talbisah, Syr. 42 F3
Tall 'Afar, Iraq 27 B5
Tall al Aḥḡād al 'Atiq, Syr. 42 B7
Tall al Ahmar (Til Barsip), Syr. 42 B5
Tall al Hūdān, Syr. 42 C5
Tall al Qatā, Syr. 42 F3
Tall Bīrāk, Syr. 43 B10
Tall Kalakh, Syr. 42 G2
Tall Kayf, Iraq 27 B6
Tall Ri'at, Syr. 42 C3
Tall Tamir, Syr. 42 B9
Tall 'Uwaynāt, Iraq 27 B5
Tammūn, W. Bank 51 C9
Tanf, Jabal at, Syr. 42 K6
Tankābon, Iran 24 C4
Tannur, ruin, Jordan 30 G4
Tannūrin al Fawqā, Leb. 34 D5
Tanṭa, Egypt 23 C7
Tāqah, Oman 37 M5
- Tāqtaq, Iraq 27 C7
Tāraq, U.A.E. 47 K6
Tārfa, Ra's at, Saudi Arabia 40 L5
Tārfa', Baṭn at, Saudi Arabia 46 H1
Tarfa, Wādī el, Egypt 23 F7
Tārḡawī, Wādī, Syr. 42 G4
Tārḡawī, Bīr, Egypt 23 L5
Tariff, U.A.E. 47 G6
Tarim, Yemen 49 D11
Tārom, Iran 24 K7
Tarqūmiyah, W. Bank 51 J6
Tarsus, Turk. 44 G9
Tartūs (Tortosa), Syr. 42 F1
Tashk, Daryācheh-ye, Iran 24 J6
Taşköprü, Turk. 44 B8
Taşlıca, Turk. 45 D17
Taşova, Turk. 45 B10
Taşucu, Turk. 20 B6
Taşucu Körfesi, Turk. 20 B6
Tathlith, Saudi Arabia 40 K5
Tatvan, Turk. 45 E16
Taurus see Toros Dağları, Turk. 44 G7
Tavas, Turk. 44 F4
Tavşanlı, Turk. 44 D4
Tayinat, Tell, Turk. 45 H10
Taymā', Saudi Arabia 40 D3
Tayyebāt, Iran 25 E10
Tāzah Khurmātū, Iraq 27 D7
Tefenni, Turk. 44 G4
Tehrān, Iran 24 D5
Tekirdāg, Turk. 44 B3
Tekirova, Turk. 44 H5
Tekman, Turk. 45 D15
Tel Aviv-Yafo, Israel 28 G3
Telloh see Lakash, ruin, Iraq 27 J9
Tendürek Dağı, Turk. 45 D17
Tercan, Turk. 45 D14
Terme, Turk. 45 B11
Teverya (Tiberias), Israel 28 C5
Thamarit, Oman 37 L4
Thamūdī, Yemen 49 C12
Tharthār, Buḡayrat ath, Iraq 27 E6
Tharthār, Wādī ath, Iraq 27 D6
Thebes see El Karnak, ruin, Egypt 23 H8
The Brothers, islands, Egypt 23 H10
The Brothers see Al Ikhwān, islands, Yemen 49 H16
Tib, river, Iraq 27 H10
Tibaghabagh, 'Ain, Egypt 22 E2
Tiberias see Teverya, Israel 28 C5
Tibnīne, Leb. 34 L3
Tigris see Dijlah, river, Iraq 27 J11
Tigris see Dicle, river, Turk. 45 F15
Tih, Gebel el, Egypt 23 D9
Tihāmāh, region, Yemen 48 E3
Tihāmāsh ash Shām, region, Saudi Arabia 40 J3
Tikrit, Iraq 27 E6
Til Barsip see Tall al Ahmar, Syr. 42 B5
Tima, Egypt 23 G7
Timna, ruin, Israel 29 S3
Tina, Khalig el, Egypt 23 C8
Tinbak, Qatar 38 E7
Tiran, Strait of, Egypt 23 F10
Tirān, island, Saudi Arabia 40 D1
Tirat Karmel, Israel 28 D3
Tirbil, Iraq 26 G1
Tire, Turk. 44 E3
Tirebolu, Turk. 45 B12
Tirza, river, W. Bank 51 D9
Tiyās, Syr. 42 G4
Tizh Tizh, Iran 27 C10
Tohma, river, Turk. 45 E12
Tokat, Turk. 45 C11
Tonya, Turk. 45 B13
Top Boğazi see Syrian Gates, pass, Turk. 42 C2
Torbalı, Turk. 44 E2
Torbat-e Heydariyeh, Iran 24 D9
Torbat-e Jām, Iran 25 D10
Toros Dağı, Turk. 44 G8
Toros Dağları (Taurus), Turk. 44 G6
Tortosa see Tartūs, Syr. 42 F1
Tortum, Turk. 45 C15
Törüd, Iran 24 D7
Torul, Turk. 45 C13
Toshka, Egypt 23 L7
- Toshka Lakes, Egypt 23 L6
Tosya, Turk. 44 B8
Tozkhumato, Iraq 27 D7
Trāblous (Tripoli), Leb. 34 C5
Trabzon, Turk. 45 B13
Trachonas, Cyprus 20 G4
Trans-Israel Highway, Israel 28 E4
Tripoli see Trāblous, Leb. 34 C5
Troidos Mountains, Cyprus 20 H3
Troy, ruin, Turk. 44 C1
Tsada, Cyprus 20 H2
Tübah, Qaşr at, Jordan 30 F6
Tubarjal, Saudi Arabia 40 B3
Tübas, W. Bank 51 C8
Tülkarm, W. Bank 51 C6
Tunb al Kubrā, island, Iran 47 A10
Tunb al Sughrā, island, Iran 47 A9
Tunb Islands, Iran 24 L7
Tunceli, Turk. 45 D13
Tūr, Jabal at (Mount Gerizim), W. Bank 51 D8
Turabah, Saudi Arabia 40 J4
Turabah, Iraq 27 J11
Turyaf, Saudi Arabia 40 B3
Turgut, Turk. 44 E6
Turgutlu, Turk. 44 E3
Turhal, Turk. 45 C10
Türkeli, island, Turk. 44 C2
Turkey, Asia 16 C8
Türkmen Dağı, Turk. 44 D5
Türkoglu, Turk. 42 A3
Türkiyā, Iraq 27 F9
Tutak, Turk. 45 D16
Tuwayq, Jabal, Saudi Arabia 40 F7
Tuwayyir al Ḥamir, Qatar 38 K5
Tüysarkān, Iran 24 E3
Tuz Gölü, Turk. 44 E8
Tuzluca, Turk. 45 C17
Tyab, Iran 24 L8
Tymvou, Cyprus 20 G5
Tyre see Soûr, Leb. 34 L1
- 'Ubaydat, Sha'tib al, Iraq 27 H4
Ubayyid, Wādī al, Iraq 27 H6
'Udayd, Khawr al, Qatar 38 L6
'Udaysah, Leb. 34 L3
Udhruh, Jordan 30 J3
Ugarit see Ra's Shamrah, site, Syr. 42 E1
'Ukāsh, Wādī, Iraq 26 E3
Ukhayṭir, Wādī, Jordan 30 H6
Ula, Turk. 44 G3
Ulaş, Turk. 45 D11
Ulubad Gölü, Turk. 44 C3
Uluborlu, Turk. 44 F5
Uluçinar, Turk. 21 B12
Ulu Dağ (Mount Olympus), Turk. 44 C4
Uludere, Turk. 45 F16
Ulukışla, Turk. 44 F9
Ulus, Turk. 44 A7
Umm al 'Amad, Qatar 38 F7
Umm al 'Aysh, area, Kuwait 33 B7
Umm al Jathāthil, depression, Kuwait 33 H6
Umm al Jimāl, Khirbat, Jordan 30 D5
Umm al Madāfi', valley, Kuwait 33 B5
Umm al Marādīm, Jazirat, Kuwait 33 L12
Umm al Mawāqif, Qatar 38 G5
Umm al Qaywayn, U.A.E. 47 C10
Umm al Quḡāb al 'Atiq, Qatar 38 F4
Umm an Naml, Jazirat, Kuwait 33 F8
Umm an Nār, U.A.E. 47 F8
Umm an Na'sān, island, Bahrain 19 C5
Umm as Samīm, dry lake, Saudi Arabia 41 H12
Umm as Samīm, dry salt lake, Oman 37 G6
Umm az Zubār, Qatar 38 H6
Umm Bāb, Qatar 38 G3
Umm Bugma, Egypt 23 E9
Umm el Fahm, Israel 28 E4
Umm Ghithah, Iraq 27 J7
Umm Ḥaşāh, Ra's, Qatar 38 B6
Umm Ḥish, Ra's, Qatar 38 D4
Umm Ḥujūl, depression, Kuwait 33 L7
Umm Jidr aş Şummān, area, Bahrain 19 G7
- Umm Kharūrah, island, Bahrain 19 L10
Umm Lajjī, Saudi Arabia 40 F2
Umm 'Omeyyid, Bīr, Egypt 23 F8
Umm Qarn, Qatar 38 E7
Umm Qaşr, Iraq 27 L11
Umm Sa'īd, Qatar 38 J7
Umm Şalāl 'Alī, Qatar 38 F7
Umm Şalāl Muḡammad, Qatar 38 F7
Umm Sālim, Gebel, Egypt 23 J9
Umm Suwayjah, Qatar 38 E7
Umm Tays, Jazirat, Qatar 38 A6
Umm Urūmah, island, Saudi Arabia 40 E2
Umm Wishāh, Qatar 38 H5
'Unayzah, Saudi Arabia 40 E6
'Unayzah, Jabal, Iraq-Saudi Arabia 26 H2
Ungāt, Bīr, Egypt 23 M9
United Arab Emirates, Asia 17 H13
Ūnye, Turk. 45 B11
'Uqayribāt, Syr. 42 F4
Ūr, ruin, Iraq 27 K9
Ūrāmān Takht, Iran 27 D9
Ūrla, Turk. 44 E2
Ūrmā aş Şuḡhrā, Syr. 42 D3
Urmia see Ūrūmiyeh, Iran 24 C1
Urmia, Lake see Ūrūmiyeh, Daryācheh-ye, Iran 24 B1
'Urqūb Juwayza, U.A.E. 47 E10
Uşak, Turk. 44 E4
'Ushayriq, Ra's, Qatar 38 C4
Ustaybah, Buḡayrat al, Syr. 42 K2
'Uwayrid, Ḥarrat al, Saudi Arabia 40 D2
Ūzümlü, Turk. 44 G4
Uzuncaburç, Turk. 20 A6
Uzunköprü, Turk. 44 B2
- Vakfikebir, Turk. 45 B13
Van, Turk. 45 E17
Van Gölü, Turk. 45 E16
Varosha, Cyprus 20 G6
Varto, Turk. 45 D15
Vasiliko, Cyprus 20 J4
Vatili, Cyprus 20 G5
Vavla, Cyprus 20 H4
Veys, Iran 27 J12
Vezirköprü, Turk. 45 B10
Virañşehir, Turk. 45 G13
Vize, Turk. 44 A3
- Wādī, 'Ain el, Egypt 23 G4
Wādī as Sir, Jordan 30 E4
Wādī Gimāl, Geziret, Egypt 23 J11
Wādī Jallāl, Qatar 38 H6
Wādī Mūsā (Elchi), Jordan 30 J3
Wādīyān, Bahrain 19 C8
Wa'r, Wādī al, Syr. 42 H8
Warbah, Jazirat, Kuwait 33 B9
Waṭā al Khān, Syr. 42 E1
Western Desert, Egypt 22 F2
Western Thebes, ruin, Egypt 23 H8
- Xanthus, ruin, Turk. 44 H4
Xylofagou, Cyprus 20 H6
- Y'a'bad, W. Bank 51 B7
Yabrūd, Syr. 42 H2
Yad Mordekhai, Israel 28 J2
Yāgmuralan, Turk. 42 B6
Yahyalı, Turk. 44 F9
Yakacık, Turk. 45 G10
Yakapinar, Turk. 45 G10
Yalova, Turk. 44 B4
Yalvaç, Turk. 44 E6
Yamāz, Ra's, Qatar 38 D8
Yāmūn, W. Bank 51 A7
Yanbu' al Baḡr, Saudi Arabia 40 G2
Yaraligöz, peak, Turk. 44 A8
Yardımcı Burnu, Turk. 44 H5
Yarim, Yemen 48 F5
Yārīn, Leb. 34 M2
Yarma, Turk. 44 F7
Yarmūk, river, Israel-Jordan-Syr. 30 B4
Yāsāt 'Alī, island, U.A.E. 46 G2
Yāsāt Saffī, island, U.A.E. 46 G2
Ya'sūf, Jazirat, Bahrain 19 D6
Yatağan, Turk. 44 F3
Yaṭṭah, W. Bank 51 K6
Yavne, Israel 28 G2
Yavuzeli, Turk. 42 A4
Yayladağı, Turk. 45 H10
- Yazd, Iran 24 G7
Yazdān, Iran 25 F10
Yazılıkaya, Turk. 44 D5
Yek Shabā, Iran 27 B10
Yemen, Asia 17 L11
Yeniçağa, Turk. 44 B6
Yenice, river, Turk. 45 E10
Yenice, Turk. 44 D7
Yeniceoba, Turk. 44 E7
Yenişehir, Turk. 44 C4
Yerköy, Turk. 44 D9
Yeroḡam, Israel 29 L3
Yeşilhisar, Turk. 44 E9
Yeşilirmak, river, Turk. 45 B10
Yeşilova, Turk. 44 F4
Yialias, river, Cyprus 20 G4
Yibir, Jabal, U.A.E. 47 C12
Yıldız Dağları, Turk. 44 A3
Yıldızeli, Turk. 45 D11
Yomra, Turk. 45 B13
Yoṡne'am, Israel 28 D4
Yortan Tepe, ruin, Turk. 44 D2
Yotvata, Israel 29 R3
Yozgat, Turk. 44 D9
Yüksekova, Turk. 45 F18
Yumurtalık, Turk. 45 G10
Yūnūn, Leb. 34 E7
Yusufeli, Turk. 45 B15
- Zabābida, W. Bank 51 B8
Zab al Kabir (Great Zab), river, Iraq 27 B7
Zāb aş Şaghīr (Little Zab), river, Iraq 27 C7
Zabid, Yemen 48 F4
Zabīd, Wādī, Yemen 48 F4
Zābol, Iran 25 H11
Zāboli, Iran 25 K11
Zabu, Egypt 23 F5
Za'farānah, Egypt 23 E8
Zafīr, U.A.E. 47 K6
Zagazig, Egypt 23 C7
Zagros Mountains see Kūhhā-ye Zāgros, Iran 24 G4
Zāhedān, Iran 25 J11
Zahlē, Leb. 34 G5
Zahrān, Saudi Arabia 40 L5
Zakḥnūniyah, Jazirat, Saudi Arabia 19 M4
Zakho, Iraq 27 A5
Zālīm, Saudi Arabia 40 H5
Zamakh, Yemen 48 D9
Zanjān, Iran 24 C3
Zara, Turk. 45 C12
Zarand, Iran 24 H8
Zard Kūh, Iran 24 G4
Zawghar, Syr. 42 B5
Zāwita, Iraq 27 A6
Zawr, Dawḡat az, Kuwait 33 K11
Zawr, Ra's az, Saudi Arabia 40 D9
Zāwiyet Shammās, Egypt 22 B3
Ze'elim, Israel 29 K2
Ze'elim, river, Israel 29 K4
Zefat, Israel 28 C5
Zeidūn, Bīr, Egypt 23 H9
Zeitūn, Egypt 22 E2
Zenobia, ruin, Syr. 42 E8
Zgharta, Leb. 34 C5
Zigana Geçidi, pass, Turk. 45 C13
Zikhron Ya'aqov, Israel 28 D3
Zile, Turk. 45 C10
Zin, river, Israel 29 M4
Zinjibār, Yemen 48 H6
Zirkūh, island, U.A.E. 47 E5
Zofar, Israel 29 N4
Zonguldak, Turk. 44 B6
Zubayr, Jazā'ir az, Yemen 48 E2
Zubayr, Khawr az, bay, Iraq 27 L12
Zubayr, Khawr az, Kuwait 33 B11
Zufār, region, Oman 37 L4
Zulūm, Dawḡat aş, Saudi Arabia 18 D1
Zuq Mikhā'il, Leb. 34 F4
Zuq Muşbiḡ, Leb. 34 F4
Zygi, Cyprus 20 J4

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FRONT MATTER

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NATIONS

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REGIONAL THEMES

PAGES 58-59 (left to right): Antoine Gyori/CORBIS Sygma; Nevada Wier/Getty Images; Peter Turnley/CORBIS; Hans Christian Heap/Getty Images; AFP Photo/Menaham Kahana; Ed Kashi.

KEY TO COUNTRY FACTS

The National Geographic Society, whose cartographic policy is to recognize de facto countries, counted 192 independent nations in early 2003. Within the "Nations" section of *The Atlas of the Middle East*, the 16 independent nations in this region plus the Occupied Territories are featured on political maps. Accompanying each map is a table that includes some important statistical data, providing highlights of geography, demography, and economy. These details offer a brief overview of each political entity; they present general characteristics and are not intended to be comprehensive studies. The structured nature of the text results in some generic collective or umbrella terms. The industry category, for instance, includes services in addition to traditional manufacturing sectors. Space limitations dictate the amount of information included. For example, only the most widely spoken languages in each country are listed. The flag of each independent nation is shown. The conventional or official long form of the country's names appears besides the flag; if no long form exists, the short form is repeated.

AREA accounts for the total area of a country, which includes all land and inland water delimited by international boundaries, intranational boundaries, or coastlines. The figures are from *The World Factbook 2002*, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, D.C. Its website is www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html.

POPULATION figures for countries are mid-2002 estimates from the 2002 World Population Data Sheet of the Population Reference Bureau, Washington, D.C. Their website is www.prb.org. The numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred thousand. Two issues of note: the population of Cyprus shows the number of persons living on the entire island—within both the Republic of Cyprus, and the Turkish Cypriot area in the north. Separate population figures for the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are shown; these are from the October 2001 issue of the National Geographic Magazine.

CAPITAL gives the name of the seat of government, followed by the city's population, which is from the United Nations Population Division's *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2001 Revision*: Table A.13, Population of capital cities in 2001. The UN Population Division's web site is: www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm. These capital city population figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

RELIGION gives the percent of the population who are adherents of the faiths practiced there. Muslims, who are adherents of Islam, make up the greatest percentage for all political entities except for Israel, where a large majority of the population is Jewish followers of Judaism, and Cyprus which has a Greek Orthodox majority. The predominant Muslim sects are shown in rank order in parentheses following the Muslim listing.

Under LANGUAGE, the official language is listed first. It is labeled (official) if space allows, and when there are more than one official languages in a country or a language is official in a particular area of a country, this is noted also.

HISTORY

PAGES 76-77 (left to right): Bettmann/CORBIS; Hulton-Deutsch Collection/CORBIS; AFP/Behrouz Mehri/CORBIS; Keving Fleming/CORBIS; Steve McCurry; Chris Anderson/AURORA.

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END PAGE

PAGE 96: Globe: Gene C. Feldman, Norman Kuring NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, SeaWiFS.

LITERACY generally indicates the percentage of the population above the age of 15 who can read and write. There are no universal standards of literacy, so these estimates (from the CIA's *World Factbook*) are based on the most common definition available for a nation.

LIFE EXPECTANCY represents the average number of years a newborn infant can expect to live under *current* mortality levels as defined in the 2002 World Population Data Sheet of the Population Reference Bureau (PRB).

TROOPS list both active and reserves. Most recent figures are from *The Military Balance: 2002-2003*, International Institute for Strategic Studies.

GDP PER CAPITA is Gross Domestic Product divided by midyear population estimates. GDP estimates are from the CIA World Factbook 2002. They use the purchasing power parity (PPP) conversion factor designed to equalize the purchasing powers of different currencies. GDP methodology can be found on their website. Individual income estimates such as GDP PER CAPITA are some of the many indicators used to assess a nation's well-being. But as statistical averages, they hide extremes of poverty and wealth. Furthermore, they take no account of factors that affect quality of life, such as environmental degradation, educational opportunities, and health care.

CRUDE OIL RESERVES show in billions of barrels the quantity of crude oil indicated by geological and engineering studies that can be recovered in the future from known underground oil deposits under existing economic and operating conditions. Primary data comes from the U.S. Department of Energy's *International Energy Annual*: Table 8.1, World Crude Oil and Natural Gas Reserves, January 1, 2001, at www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/iea/table81.html.

ECONOMY is divided into three general categories: Industry, Agriculture, and Exports. Because of structural limitations, only the primary industries (IND), agricultural commodities (AGR), and exports (EXP) are reported. Agriculture serves as an umbrella term for not only crops but also livestock, products, and fish. In the interest of conciseness, agriculture for the independent nations presents, when applicable but not limited to, two major crops, followed respectively by leading entries for livestock, products, and fish.

AREA COMPARISON: The area of each country is divided by the area of the 48 contiguous United States, which is 8,018,000 square kilometers (3,095,765 square miles). The country shape superimposed over the map of the 48 contiguous U.S. presents a visual comparison of the respective areas of the two countries.

NA indicates that data are not available.

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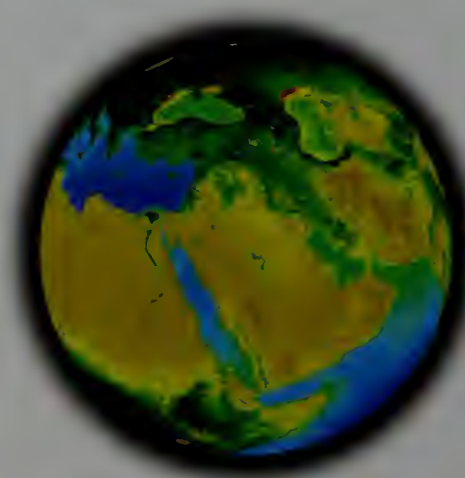
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Below: SeaWiFS satellite composite image collected during
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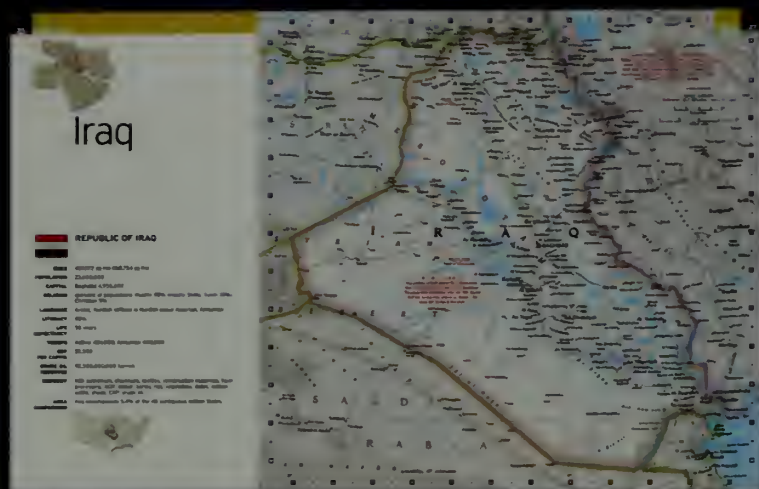




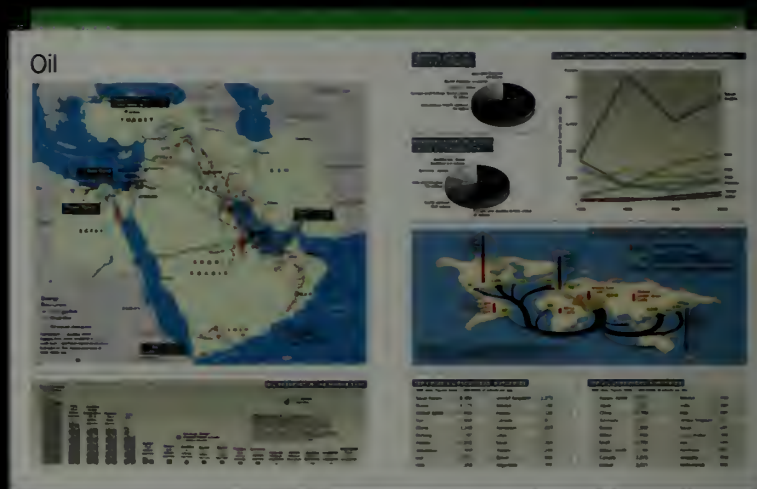
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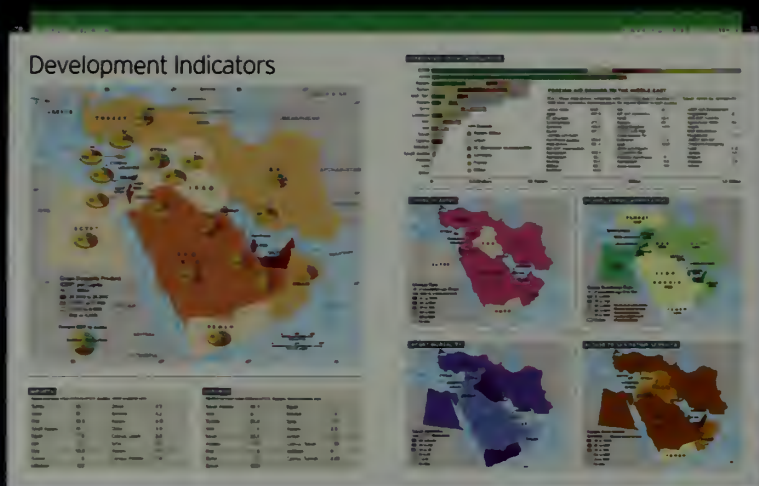
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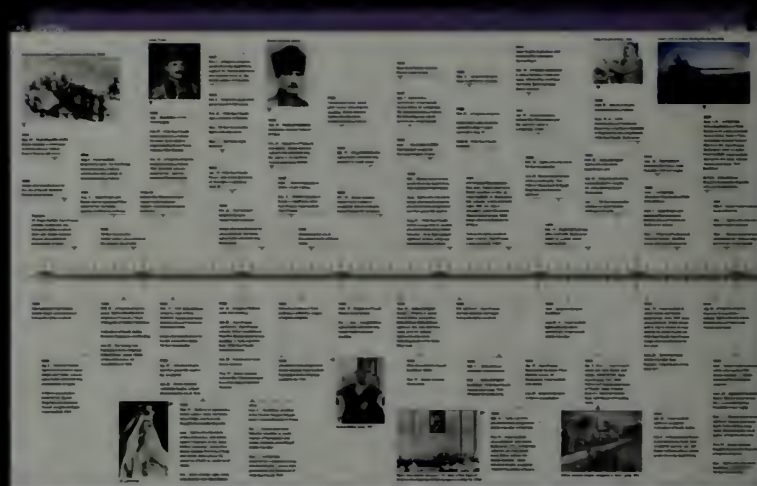
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