World Regional Geography

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Lesson 7

NORTH AFRICA & SOUTHWEST ASIA

REGIONS OF THE REALM

EARLY CULTURE HEARTHS

GEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REALM

- Physical
  - Aridity
  - Oil
- Cultural
  - Culture Hearths
  - World Religions
  - Conflict

NORTH AFRICA & SOUTHWEST ASIA

- Population
  - Discontinuous clusters around infrequent water sources
- Regional Imbalances
  - Oil and Non-oil states (“haves” versus “have-nots”)
- Political Geography
  - Fragmented due to colonial experience
NAMING THE REALM

POPULAR LABELS
- DRY WORLD
- ARAB WORLD
- WORLD OF ISLAM (MUSLIM WORLD)
- MIDDLE EAST

THE DRY WORLD?

- Dry/arid climate prevails throughout the realm

Exceptions:
- Peripheral regions of Turkey
- Northwestern section of Iran
- Northern Morocco & Algeria
- Numerous oases
- Several great river valleys

ANNUAL PRECIPITATION

Desertification, decline in the biological or economic productivity of the soil in arid and semiarid areas resulting from various factors, including human activities and variations in climate. Desertification refers to the formation and expansion of degraded soil, not to the advancing movement of the current deserts.

THREE TYPES OF DESERT

- hamada = Arabic for rock
- reg = Arabic for stone
- erg = Arabic for sand
  - five types of dunes
    - barchan
    - parabolic
    - transverse
    - longitudinal
    - star

HAMADA DESERT
Water is critical for life, food production, and industrial processes.

9 out of 14 Southwest Asian states face water-short conditions (the most concentrated region of scarcity in the world).

The North African states all have rates of natural increase above 2.0%, increasing the stress on water sources.

Hydraulic Civilization

- Small-scale agriculturalists submit to a leader in order to build and maintain large-scale irrigation works and/or large projects to protect them from flooding, like levee systems.
- Because they find these works beneficial.
- These projects require strong leaders, organized management, legitimate enforcement power to engineer the projects, form and coordinate work groups, supply them with materials and food, ensure that everyone contributes their share of the labor.
- The projects thus create a legitimate, accepted structure of leaders and followers, including legitimate means of forcing people to comply for the common good, of course.
Hydraulic Civilization cont.

• The same, or similar, organization and control continues to be needed to maintain the works and adjudicate disputes over water rights.
• Farmers become dependent upon the artificial water supply or security from flooding.
• so the leaders who control the works (and control the legitimate force needed to build and maintain them) come to have real coercive power over the farmers.
• The leaders use their labor-mobilizing power to construct non-hydraulic works such as temples, palaces, roads, etc., and eventually to conduct other activities such as manufacturing trade goods, etc.
• This process leads to very powerful leaders.

AN ARAB REALM?

• Relates to language as a cultural feature of this realm.
• Arabic is the dominant language in 16 States of the realm.
• In Non-Arab States, indigenous languages dominate.
  - Turkey - Turkish
  - Iran - Farsi
  - Israel - Hebrew
  - Niger - French

MUSLIM WORLD?

• MUHAMMED (571-632 AD)
• FIVE PILLARS OF FAITH
  - REPEATED EXPRESSIONS OF CREED
  - FREQUENT PRAYER
  - MONTH OF DAYTIME FASTING
  - ALMS-GIVING
  - PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA
• SUNNIS VS SHI'TTES

WHERE ARE THE MUSLIMS?

![Map of Muslim Populations]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>188.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>128.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>61.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>57.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>61.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>61.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>57.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>41.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MIDDLE EAST?
(Sounds like some place in Ohio or Kentucky)

- Is there a Near East and a Far East?
- Is this title accurate?
- Who is responsible for this name?

SPATIAL DIFFUSION

- The process by which a concept, practice, or substance spreads from its point of origin to new territories

  Two types
  - Relocation diffusion
  - Expansion diffusion

RELOCATION DIFFUSION

- Sequential diffusion is a process in which items being diffused are transmitted by their carrier agents as they evacuate the old areas & relocate to new areas.

- The most common form of relocation diffusion involves the spreading of innovations by a migrating population.
**EXPANSION DIFFUSION**

- The spreading of an innovation or idea through a fixed population in such a way that the number of those adopting grows continuously larger, resulting in an expanded area of dissemination
- Two types
  - Contagious Expansion
  - Hierarchical Expansion

**CONTAGIOUS EXPANSION**

- The distance-controlled spreading of an idea, innovation, or some other item through a local population by contact from person to person
- Analogous to the communication of a contagious disease

**CONTAGIOUS EXPANSION**

**Hierarchical Expansion**

- A form of diffusion in which an idea or innovation spreads by “trickling down” from larger to smaller adopting units
- An urban hierarchy is usually involved, encouraging the leapfrogging of innovations over wider areas, with geographic distance a less important factor.
HIERARCHICAL EXPANSION

Hierarchy
- Highest
- Intermediate
- Lowest

DIFFUSION OF RELIGION

North America
Middle America
South America

CHRISTIANITY  ISLAM  HINDUISM  BUDHISM
**EGYPT AND THE LOWER NILE BASIN**
- Continuous Civilization > 5,000 years
- 95% of Egypt’s 71 million people live within 12 miles of the Nile
- Basin irrigation
- Aswan High Dam - 1968
  - Increased agricultural land by 50%
  - Provides 40% of electricity

**THE MAGHREB AND LIBYA**
- The Maghreb - dominated by the Atlas Mountains
  - Morocco - last of the North African kingdoms
  - Algeria - a secular republic with religious-political problems
  - Tunisia - smallest and most Westernized of the Maghreb
- Libya - oil rich desert state with a coastal orientation

**AFRICAN TRANSITION ZONE**
- Sahel - Arabic word for border or margin
- A zone where people are ethnically African but culturally Arab
- Desertification - principal environmental problem
- Cultural and political instability
- North versus South - Muslim versus non-Muslim patterns
THE MIDDLE EAST

- “MIDDLE” OF THE ISLAMIC REALM
- IRAQ, SYRIA, JORDAN, ISRAEL, LEBANON
- CENTER OF CONFLICT BETWEEN CHRISTIANS, JEWS, AND MUSLIMS
- SUNNI - SHI’ITE CONFLICT (WITHIN IRAQ AND THROUGHOUT THE REGION)

ARABIAN PENINSULA

- SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, BAHRAIN, QATAR, UAE, OMAN, YEMEN
- OIL, DESERT, AND STRATEGIC LOCATION
- SAUDI ARABIA - 22.9 MILLION PEOPLE WITH THE WORLD’S GREATEST OIL RESERVES

THE IMPACT OF OIL

- INDUSTRIALIZATION
- REGIONAL DISPARITIES
- FOREIGN INVESTMENT
- HIGH INCOMES
- MODERNIZATION

OPEC consists of eleven oil-producing and exporting countries, from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.

THE EMPIRE STATES

- TURKEY, IRAN IMPERIAL HERITAGE
- ARAB ETHNICITY GIVES WAY BUT ISLAMIC CULTURE CONTINUES
- HIGH MOUNTAINS AND PLATEAUS VS ROCKY AND SANDY DESERT
THE EMPIRE STATES

TURKEY

- TURKISH OTTOMAN EMPIRE
  - Nomadic peoples from the steppes and forests of Siberia
  - 6th century: Established an empire stretching from Mongolia to the Black Sea
  - Spread the Turkic language far and wide
  - Declined in early 1900s

- MUSTAFA KEMAL (ATATURK)
  - Father of modern Turkey
  - Moved capital from Constantinople to Ankara
  - Westernized Turkey and broke free from the Arab world

- Westernization
  - Islam lost official status
  - Roman alphabet replaced Arabic
  - Islamic law replaced by Western code
  - Monogamy became law
  - Women gained rights
  - Turkey separated from Arab world

- Kurdish population
  - 14 million: 1/5 of Turkey's 67 million
  - Southeast Turkey (Iraq) - 3,000 BP; recently Istanbul

TURKESTAN

- Mountains
- Deserts
- Oil, Cotton
- Pastoralism
- Diplomatic realignment
- Environmental problems

TURKESTAN

- Kazakhstan
- Uzbekistan
- Turkmenistan
- Kyrgyzstan
- Tajikistan
- Afghanistan

ISRAEL

- Zionism
  - Political movement
  - Founded by Theodor Herzl (1897)
  - Objective: Secure a homeland for the Jewish people

- Balfour Declaration (1917)
  - Supports the concept of a Jewish homeland

- Jewish immigration to Palestine
  - 1922 - British mandate to govern Palestine

- Rising conflict between Arabs and Jews

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**ISRAEL**
- UN PARTITION PLAN FOR PALESTINE
  - DIVISION INTO JEWISH AND ARAB AREAS
  - BRITISH EVACUATE PALESTINE IN 1948
  - PROCLAMATION OF ISRAEL AS A STATE (14 May 1948)
- 1948: ARAB INVASION (WAR OF INDEPENDENCE)
  - EGYPTIAN, IRAQI, JORDANIAN, & SYRIAN FORCES
  - ISRAEL SEIZES MORE LAND THAN PRESCRIBED UNDER UN MANDATE
- ARMS STICHE (1949)
  - 900,000 PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

**ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICTS**
- 1956: SUEZ WAR
- 1967: SIX-DAY WAR - ISRAEL GAINS CONTROL OF:
  - GAZA STRIP
  - SINAI PENINSULA
  - WEST BANK OF THE RIVER JORDAN
  - EAST SECTOR OF JERUSALEM
  - GOLAN HEIGHTS IN SYRIA
- 1973: YOM KIPPUR WAR

**OCCUPIED TERRITORIES**
- Golan Heights
- West Bank
- Gaza Strip

**ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT**
- THE GOLAN HEIGHTS: RETURN TO SYRIA?
- THE SECURITY ZONE: RETURN TO LEBANON?
- JERUSALEM: HOLY CITY FOR WHO?
- THE WEST BANK: PALESTINIAN HOMELAND?
- THE PALESTINIANS: REFUGEE PROBLEM
- ARAB/ISLAMIC DISRUPTION: IMPACT OF EXTREMIST GROUPS
STRUGGLE FOR JERUSALEM

- Holy to Jews, Christians, and Muslims
- Judaism: capital of Jewish Kingdom 3000 years BP; faith took form in the First Temple destroyed by Babylonians in 586 BC; rebuilt as Second Temple destroyed by Romans in AD 70
- Islam: Prophet Muhammad ascended into heaven 7th century AD
- Christianity: based on the teachings of Jesus Christ; crucifixion & ascent

1947 - United Nations did not include Jerusalem as part of Israel
1947 - Palestine Partition Resolution designated Jerusalem as an “Open City”
1948-49 - War and transfer of Israeli government from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem
1967 - War and aftermath changed boundaries again
1980 - Jerusalem reaffirmed as the capital of Israel

INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST INCIDENTS - 1986

INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST INCIDENTS - 1993

INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST INCIDENTS - 2000

RELIGIONS OF THE REALM

Judaism, religious culture of the Jews (also known as the people of Israel); one of the world’s oldest continuing religious traditions. The terms Judaism and religion do not exist in pre-modern Hebrew. The Jews spoke of Torah, God’s revealed instruction to Israel, which mandated both a worldview and a way of life. Pre-modern Judaism, in all its historical forms, thus constituted (and traditional Judaism today constitutes) an integrated cultural system encompassing the totality of individual and communal existence. It is a system of sanctification in which all is to be subsumed under God’s rule—that is, under divinely revealed models of cosmic order and lawfulness. Christianity originated as one among several competing Jewish ideologies in 1st-century Palestine, and Islam drew in part on Jewish sources at the outset.
Christianity is the most widely distributed of the world religions, having substantial representation in all the populated continents of the globe. Its total membership may exceed 1.7 billion people. Like any system of belief and values—be it Platonism, Marxism, Freudianism, or democracy—Christianity is in many ways comprehensible only from the inside, to those who share the beliefs and strive to live by the values. The centrality of the person of Jesus Christ, in one way or another, a feature of all the historical varieties of Christian belief and practice. The ultimate mystery of the universe, called by many different names in various religions, was called “Father” in the sayings of Jesus, and Christians therefore call Jesus himself “Son of God.” At the very least, there was the promise that, through all that Christ was and did, his followers might share in the life of the Father in heaven and might themselves become children of God.

Islam means, in the Arabic language, “surrender” or “submission”—submission to the will of God. A follower of Islam is called a Muslim, which in Arabic means “one who surrenders to God.” The Arabic name for God, Allah, refers to the same God worshiped by Jews and Christians. Islam’s central teaching is that there is only one all-powerful, all-knowing God, and this God created the universe. This rigorous monotheism, as well as the Islamic teaching that all Muslims are equal before God, provides the basis for a collective sense of loyalty to God that transcends class, race, nationality, and even differences in religious practice. Thus, all Muslims belong to one community, the umma, irrespective of their ethnic or national background. Around the year AD 570, Muhammad, the founding prophet of Islam, was born in Mecca. Some 40 years later Muhammad started preaching a new religion, Islam, which constituted a marked break from existing moral and social codes in Arabia. The new religion of Islam taught that there was one God, and that Muhammad was the last and most important of the prophets and messengers. Through his messengers God had sent various codes, or systems of laws for living, culminating in the Qur’an (Koran).

Five Pillars of Islam

Called arkan in Arabic, ritual duties that mainstream Muslims view as central to their faith. These are:

1. Pronouncing the confession of faith (shahada or kalima);
2. Performing the five daily prayers (salát);
3. Fasting during the month of Ramadan (saum);
4. Paying the alms tax (zakát);
5. And performing, at least once in life, the major pilgrimage to Mecca (Hajj). In some places where Islam is the official religion, public denial by a Muslim of the validity, importance, or centrality of the five pillars is generally considered an act of heresy and is punishable by death.

Cultural Assessment

Afghanistan – Infant and maternal mortality rates are high. Breastfeeding continues until the next pregnancy. Children are an economic asset.

Iraq – Female circumcision is viewed as the ultimate proof of virginity and takes place at the age of seven or eight. A declining is to remove the female clitoris at puberty, and the vagina may be sewn together to prevent premarital sex. Boys – a woman’s making direct eye contact with a man implies promiscuity and an interest in dating. Boys and girls no longer play together after age five.

Iran – Infant and maternal mortality rates are high. Breastfeeding continues until the next pregnancy. Children are an economic asset.

Saudi Arabia – A government-sponsored fertility campaign encourages families to have at least five children.