

THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE WORLD TODAY



Oil Refinery People in desert lands in the Middle East wear clothing well suited to the climate. White reflects the sun's heat so it is cooler than darker cloth. Loose robes also are cooler. The head covering, called a *keffiyah*, provides protection from the sun. Here, two oil company executives inspect a refinery. **Geography** Why is oil so vital to some Middle Eastern economies?

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- 1 Regional and Global Issues
- 2 The Arab-Israeli Conflict
- 3 Literature and the Arts

“**J**erusalem is a golden basin filled with scorpions,” an Arab philosopher observed centuries ago. Today, Jerusalem is still a place of religious treasures and dangerous conflicts. This ancient city is a holy place to Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

In the past, all three groups have fought for control of Jerusalem. During the Crusades, Christians conquered the city for a time until the Muslims recaptured it. In modern times, Israel gained control of the city after several wars with Arab neighbors. In *Songs of Jerusalem and Myself*, the Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai tells of the constant conflict over the city:

“All the Nations (united) will stream into Jerusalem to see if the Law went forth from Zion, and meanwhile seeing it's now spring they'll pick flowers, and beat sword into plowshare and plowshare into sword then back again, and again

CHAPTER 27 REVIEW

Understanding Vocabulary

Match each term at left with the correct definition at right.

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. pan-Arabism | a. method of pumping water and fertilizer to the roots of plants |
| 2. Shariah | b. nation ruled by religious leaders |
| 3. fertigation | c. movement to unite all Arabs based on their common language and culture |
| 4. desalination | d. Islamic law |
| 5. theocracy | e. process of converting sea water into fresh water |

Reviewing the Main Idea

1. How has Islamic law influenced Middle Eastern governments?
2. Describe three causes of instability in the Middle East.
3. What steps have Middle Eastern governments taken to promote economic growth?
4. How has rapid population growth in the Middle East affected agriculture?
5. Why did the shah's efforts to modernize Iran face opposition?
6. Why has Egypt had difficulties in its efforts to modernize?
7. (a) How is Turkey similar to other Middle Eastern nations? (b) How is it different?
4. Middle Eastern governments have taken a leading role in overseeing economic development. (a) Describe the steps taken by the governments of Egypt and Turkey to encourage modernization. (b) How have their economic policies affected Islamic clerics?

Thinking Critically

1. **Analyzing Ideas** How does the Islamist movement offer an alternative to westernization in some nations of the Middle East?
2. **Making Global Connections** If the population of the United States were distributed like that of Egypt, most Americans would live in an area the size of Montana. (a) How has geography created hardships for Egypt? (b) How has it favored the United States?

Reviewing Chapter Themes

1. Middle Eastern nations have tried to reduce western domination in various ways. (a) How did Arab socialists seek to reduce dependence on the West? (b) What alternative does the Islamist movement offer to western cultural influences?
2. Oil has divided the Middle East into "have" and "have-not" nations. (a) How have oil-rich nations used their wealth to modernize? (b) How have poorer Middle East nations benefited from the wealth of other nations?
3. Rapid population growth poses a challenge to modernization. Describe what problems the population boom creates in (a) food production, (b) cities, (c) education.

Applying Your Skills

1. **Comparing Points of View** Review the section titled "Women's Lives" and the Up Close, "A Bitter Choice," on pages 600–601. (a) What different points of view about women are presented? (b) What arguments does each side use to support its point of view? (c) With which side do you agree? Explain. (See Skill Lesson, page 629.)
2. **Making a Generalization** Make a generalization about the challenges Middle Eastern societies face as they try to modernize. Then, give at least two facts to support your generalization.

and again, without
stopping.
Maybe, from so much
beating and grinding,
the iron of war will die
out. ”

CHAPTER PERSPECTIVE

Since World War II, the conflict between Arab nations and Israel has erupted into four wars. These wars and other events in the Middle East have had global significance because of the region's oil resources and its command of vital shipping lanes. During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union competed for allies in the Middle East. After the Soviet Union collapsed, new peace efforts raised hopes for reducing tensions in the region.

As you read, look for these chapter themes:

- ▶ After World War II, the Middle East became a focus of Cold War rivalries.
- ▶ Tensions among neighboring Muslim nations have sometimes erupted into war.
- ▶ Conflicting historical claims and nationalism led to wars between Arab nations and Israel.
- ▶ Since ancient times, the peoples of the Middle East have produced outstanding works of literature and art.

Literature Connections

In this chapter, you will encounter passages from the following works.

Songs of Jerusalem and Myself, Yehuda Amichai

Shab-nama, Firdawsi

For other suggestions, see Connections With Literature, pages 804–808.

1

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL ISSUES

FIND OUT

- Why does the Middle East have global importance?
- How did the Cold War affect the Middle East?
- How did the actions of OPEC affect nations around the world?
- What were the results of the Iran-Iraq and Persian Gulf wars?

Black, greasy rain fell on Tehran, Iran, in February 1991. Hundreds of miles away across the Persian Gulf, fires raged in the oil fields of Kuwait. Winds carried sooty air from Kuwait as far east as Iran. Scientists predicted that the burning oil would damage the environment far beyond the Middle East.

Most of the fires had been set deliberately by Iraqi troops, who had invaded the small nation of Kuwait. When an international force defeated the Iraqis, retreating Iraqi soldiers set fire to Kuwait's oil wells.

Damage to the environment was only one aspect of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The conflict began as a local dispute. But because it threatened the flow of oil from the Middle East, it exploded into a world crisis.

The Middle East and the Cold War

Since World War II, nations in both the developed world and the developing world have become increasingly dependent on oil from the Middle East. As a result, events in the region have taken on global importance.

Superpower rivalry. The United States and the Soviet Union recognized the strategic importance of the Middle East. The region not only controlled the oil needed for industry, but also commanded vital waterways such

as the Suez Canal and the Persian Gulf. During the Cold War, the superpowers competed for power and influence in the Middle East.

Many Middle Eastern nations chose to remain nonaligned and accepted aid from both sides. Both superpowers supplied vast quantities of arms and economic aid to nations in the region. Although the weapons strengthened the military, they also added to Middle Eastern tensions.

Turkey. Early in the Cold War, the Soviet Union backed communist rebels in Turkey, its neighbor to the south. Determined to stop Soviet expansion, the United States helped Turkey resist Soviet pressure. Later, Turkey joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Ever since, NATO air bases in Turkey have given the United States an important strategic base in the Middle East.

After the Cold War. With the end of the Cold War, the United States, Russia, and other

nations became concerned with the increase in weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Iran, Iraq, and Israel each worked to develop nuclear weapons. Several Middle Eastern nations also developed chemical and biological weapons. Iraq's activities particularly worried many world leaders. Its extensive weapons program, combined with its support of terrorist groups, seemed to pose a threat to nations in the region.

Concern over the spread of nuclear weapons was tied to the rise of extremism. Extremism differed from country to country and within each country. Wherever extremists were, however, they were willing to use terrorism against civilians to promote their goals.

Extremism had many causes. One was lack of democracy. Many dissenters turned to violence as a way of expressing opposition to oppressive governments. Another cause was poverty and social inequality.

Finally, extremism was tied to anger over the westernization of Islamic societies. Extremists hated the spread of western ideas of justice and law in Islamic countries. They opposed granting new rights to women. They were outraged by the influence of western fashions and western media—CDs, television, and movies—especially among young people.

The Power of OPEC

In 1960, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia joined with Venezuela to form the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Later, OPEC expanded to 11 members.

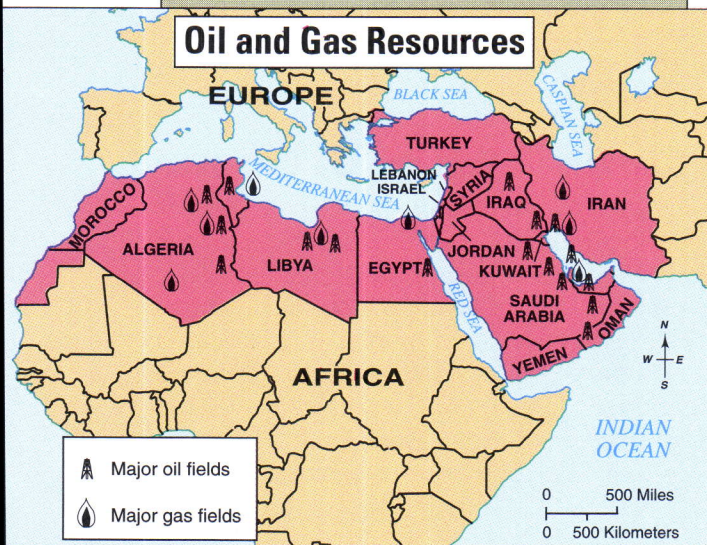
The goal of OPEC was to end the power of western oil companies over oil prices. Since OPEC's founding, officials from member states have met regularly to decide how much oil to produce and at what price to sell it.

OPEC actions. As world demand for oil rose in the 1970s, OPEC's power increased. Sensing their power, Middle Eastern oil producing nations used oil as a weapon. During the Arab-Israeli war in 1973, OPEC stopped Middle Eastern oil shipments to countries that supported Israel, including the United States. That action set off a global oil crisis as prices rose and supplies dwindled.

MAP STUDY

Oil and gas are the most valuable resources of many Middle Eastern nations.

- 1. Region** Which nations are major producers of oil and gas?
- 2. Movement** Which transportation routes are used to send oil and gas around the world?
- 3. Solving Problems** What are some problems Middle Eastern nations have in developing oil and gas resources?





Fresh Water From Salty Seas

“Not oil again!” exclaimed the hydrologist, or water expert. He looked with disgust as the oily drill surfaced from underground. All too often, scientists have found “black gold”—oil—when they were desperately searching for water, the “white gold” of the Middle East.

Constant water shortages plague the nations of the Arabian Peninsula as well as most of the Middle East. Yet, these oil-rich nations can afford to pay for new ways to obtain water. Some have considered importing water in tankers or even towing icebergs from the Arctic. The most practical solution so far, however, has been desalination. The peninsula has a ready supply of salt water in the nearby Red Sea and Persian Gulf.

Pipelines carry the salt water to huge desalination plants. There, the water is boiled in

giant vats. The water turns into steam, leaving the salt behind. The steam is then trapped, cooled, and condensed to create fresh water. This process is known as distilling.

The technology of distilling has been in use for 2,000 years. Greek sailors distilled sea water into drinking water during voyages around the Mediterranean. The main obstacle to large-scale desalination is the cost of fuel. Most nations on the Arabian Peninsula, however, have abundant supplies of oil and gas.

Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf nations have invested huge sums of money in desalination plants. Saudi Arabia alone has about 800 plants. One plant in Jubail, Saudi Arabia, produces 250 million gallons (950 million liters) of fresh water a day. The tiny country of Qatar produces as much as 30 million gallons (114 million liters) daily through the process of desalination.

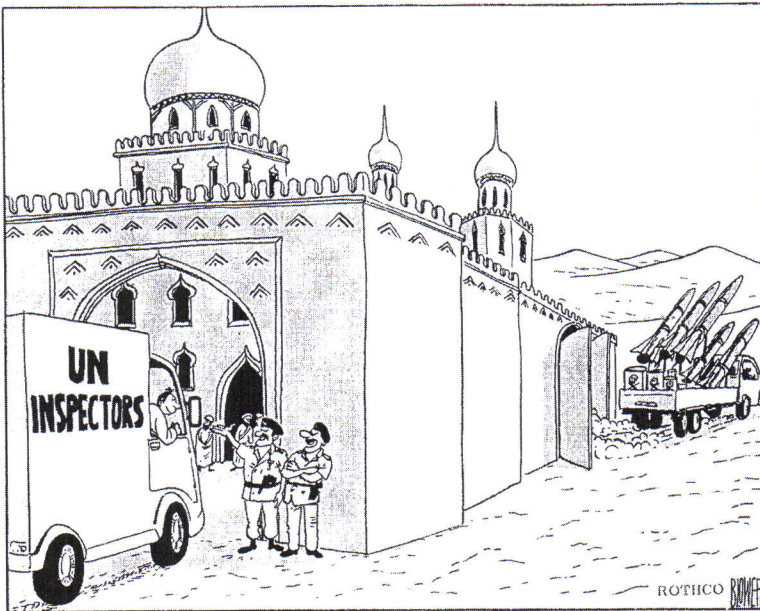
Using both technology and natural resources, nations of the Arabian Peninsula have moved toward solving a pressing problem. Through desalination, they have been able to provide their people with water that is suitable for drinking, washing, and farming.

1. Why is desalination important to nations of the Arabian Peninsula?
2. **Applying Information** Why might an oil spill in the Persian Gulf pose a threat to desalination efforts?

Global effects. Rising oil prices affected the world economy in dramatic ways. Developing nations were especially hard hit. Many had to cut spending on social programs in order to pay for costly imported oil. In industrial countries, high oil prices caused inflation. In the Middle East, itself, nations that had to import oil, such as Egypt and Turkey, suffered hardships, while their oil-rich neighbors earned huge profits.

After the 1970s, many nations reduced their dependence on OPEC oil. Some turned to conservation and alternative energy sources. Others hunted for new sources of oil within their borders or in offshore waters. They also bought oil from non-OPEC nations.

Recent trends. Over the past 20 years, oil prices have fallen from their highest point. Divisions within OPEC partly account for the fall in prices. The way to raise prices is to cut



"Walk in! Look around."

Weapons Inspectors in Iraq

After the Persian Gulf War, UN inspectors were sent to make sure Iraq was not producing chemical or other weapons. Yet Saddam Hussein often defied the inspectors. This British cartoon expresses the distrust many westerners felt toward the Iraqi leader.

Interdependence Summarize the main point of this cartoon.

supply. However, many oil-producing nations do not want to cut production. Reduced production will cut into their income, for the less they produce, the less they have to sell.

While OPEC remains a key force in the global economy, it is less powerful today than it was in the 1970s. Some oil-producing nations have never joined OPEC. For example, Russia, which has large oil resources, does not belong to OPEC. Nor does Mexico, which also has large oil reserves. These nations make their own decisions about how much oil to produce.

Two Wars in the Persian Gulf

Oil has been a major factor in two regional conflicts: the Iran-Iraq War and the Persian Gulf War. These conflicts had other causes, such as border disputes. However, because they involved oil-producing nations, these conflicts took on global importance.

Iran-Iraq War. After Iran's Islamic revolution, tensions rose between it and its neighbor, Iraq. In 1980, after a number of border clashes, Iraq launched a massive invasion of Iran.

During the eight-year Iran-Iraq War, each side destroyed the other's cities, ports, and oil fields. More than a million Iranians and Iraqis died in the fighting.

The war raised international fears when both Iran and Iraq attacked oil tankers and set mines in the Persian Gulf. The United States sent warships to the Gulf to protect tankers in the region.

Exhausted by their huge losses, the two nations finally accepted a UN cease-fire in 1988. In recent years, the two nations have had little success in improving relations. The former enemies still have not signed a peace agreement.

Persian Gulf War. Faced with massive debt and general unrest, Saddam Hussein sought a way to win popular support among Iraqis. He used his military power to invade Kuwait in 1990. He claimed that Kuwait belonged to Iraq. Iraqi armies occupied Kuwait and threatened Saudi Arabia.

The Iraqi invasion set off a global crisis. The United Nations condemned Saddam's aggression and imposed a trade embargo on Iraq. With UN support, the United States formed a coalition of American, Arab, and other forces. In 1991, coalition forces moved against Iraq by land and by air. Within days, Iraqi forces surrendered. Nicknamed "Desert Storm" in the United States, the Persian Gulf War freed Kuwait and inflicted a crushing defeat. However, Saddam remained in power in Iraq. Despite the defeat, Saddam's propaganda machine celebrated the war as an inspiring victory.

After the war, the United States encouraged Kurds and other groups in Iraq to rebel against Saddam. However, he quickly crushed the uprisings.

Ongoing issues. The UN maintained the trade sanctions against Iraq after the war. Sanctions would be lifted only when UN arms inspectors saw that Iraq's weapons program had been dismantled. UN inspectors hunted

for biological, chemical, and other weapons. It was widely believed that Iraq had developed these weapons of war. However, Saddam denied possessing the weapons.

The sanctions hurt the Iraqi economy and the Iraqi people. To ease their suffering, the UN set up an oil-for-food program. It allowed Iraq to sell a limited amount of oil and use the proceeds to buy humanitarian supplies and equipment.

When Saddam violated the cease-fire agreement Iraq had signed in 1991, United States and British planes bombed Iraqi military targets. Saddam used the air raids as an excuse to oust the UN arms inspectors.

Saddam's long support of terrorism led the United States to make plans to topple his government. President George W. Bush included Iraq in what he called an "axis of evil"—nations that threaten world peace.

The United States still hoped that Iraqis, themselves, would topple Saddam. But if Saddam could not be ousted by Iraqis, the United States stood ready to use military force to remove him.

SECTION 1 REVIEW

- 1. Locate:** (a) Persian Gulf, (b) Turkey, (c) Iran, (d) Iraq, (e) Kuwait.
- 2. Identify:** (a) OPEC, (b) Saddam Hussein.
- 3.** Why did the United States and the Soviet Union compete for allies in the Middle East?
- 4.** (a) How did OPEC increase the power of Middle Eastern nations? (b) Why has the power of OPEC declined in recent years?
- 5.** Describe one cause and one result of the Iran-Iraq War.
- 6. Applying Information** Why did the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait become an issue of global concern?
- 7. Writing Across Cultures** Although the United States has reduced its dependence on oil from the Middle East, it still imports much oil from the region. Make a list of suggestions on how Americans might reduce their dependence on imported oil.

2

THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

FIND OUT

- Why was Israel founded?
- Why have Arab nations attacked Israel?
- What issues have made the Arab-Israeli conflict hard to resolve?

Vocabulary *refugee, occupied territory, reprisal, intifada*

For more than 50 years, the conflict between Arab nations and the state of Israel has focused world attention on the Middle East. In that time, Arabs and Israelis have waged four wars and launched numerous guerrilla attacks.

All efforts to achieve a lasting peace have failed. At times, both sides worked toward peace. Then, the peace process would unravel as new fighting erupted. Lasting peace was hard to achieve in part because of decades of mistrust dividing Arabs and Israelis.

The Founding of Israel

After World War II, violence between Arabs and Jews in the British mandate of Palestine increased. Thousands of Jewish refugees had left Europe for Palestine. **Refugees** are people who flee their homeland to seek safety elsewhere. Most of the Jewish settlers were survivors of Hitler's death camps. Together with earlier settlers, they were determined to set up a Jewish state. To both Jews and many non-Jews, Hitler's murder of 6 million European Jews showed a need for a homeland where Jews could live in safety. (See Chapter 26.)

Palestinian Arabs bitterly opposed the arrival of Jewish immigrants. They had no desire to lose any of their homeland to make up

for wrongs done to Jews in Europe. Fighting intensified as both sides battled for control of towns and villages. Unable to end the violence, and exhausted by World War II, Britain withdrew from Palestine and turned the area over to the UN.

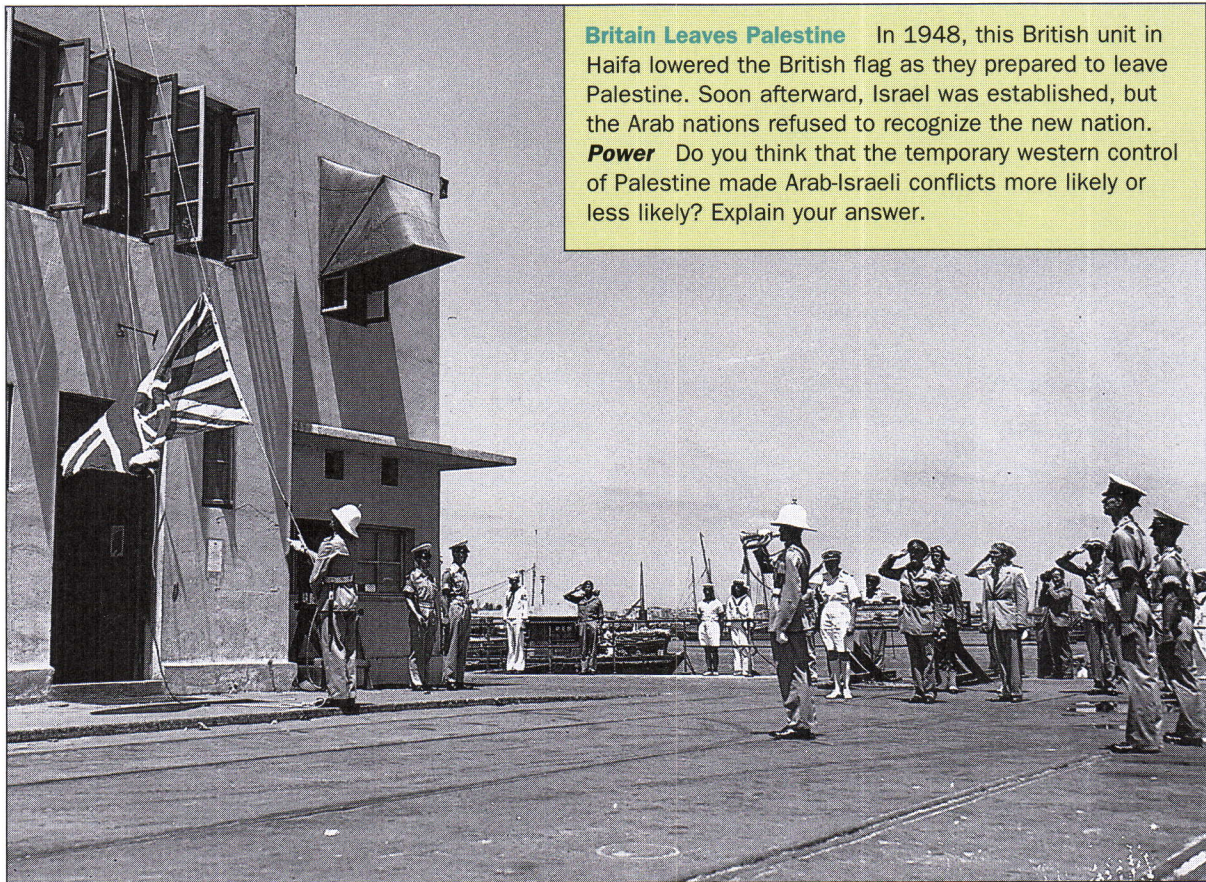
Partition and war. In 1947, the UN recommended that Palestine be partitioned, or divided, into a Jewish state and an Arab state. Zionists accepted the plan. Arabs, however, objected to giving up any territory to Jews. They regarded the plan as a violation of their right to self-determination.

When the last British troops left Palestine in May 1948, Jews announced the creation of the state of Israel. It occupied the area set aside for a Jewish state under the UN partition plan. Israel won recognition from the major world powers. Some nations, however, refused to recognize Israel. To neighboring Arabs, Israel was a creation of the western

powers who wanted to continue their domination of the Middle East. Vowing to destroy Israel, Arab nations declared war at once.

Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon sent separate military forces against Israel. Despite suffering heavy losses, Israel defended itself and defeated the divided Arab forces. It then annexed almost half the area set aside for an Arab state under the UN partition plan, as well as half of Jerusalem. Jordan took the rest of Arab Palestine, and Egypt occupied the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian refugees. More than 500,000 Arabs fled or were driven out of Palestine during and after the 1948 war. Many Palestinian refugees settled in UN refugee camps in nearby Arab nations. The camps were supposed to be temporary. Despite their makeshift housing and poor sanitation, they soon became the permanent home for several generations of Palestinians.



Britain Leaves Palestine In 1948, this British unit in Haifa lowered the British flag as they prepared to leave Palestine. Soon afterward, Israel was established, but the Arab nations refused to recognize the new nation.

Power Do you think that the temporary western control of Palestine made Arab-Israeli conflicts more likely or less likely? Explain your answer.

Arab and Palestinian leaders resisted abandoning the camps. They felt that doing so would be interpreted as a willingness to give up the goal of regaining a Palestinian homeland. Bitterness and frustration festered in the camps for decades.

Continued Conflict

Since the 1948 war, the conflict between Israel and its Arab neighbors has erupted into three more wars. In 1956, Israel, Britain, and France attacked Egypt after Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal. Israeli troops occupied but later withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula.

In 1967, a third Arab-Israeli war occurred. The fighting lasted six days. In the Six Day War, Israel made major territorial gains. Its forces took the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip from Egypt. Israel also captured the Golan Heights from Syria and the West Bank from Jordan. In addition, Israel seized East Jerusalem from the Arabs.

In 1973, Syria and Egypt attacked Israel in a partially successful attempt to regain the lands they had lost during the Six Day War. Israel pushed back the invaders, and the UN soon negotiated a cease-fire.

Superpower involvement. The Cold War fueled the Arab-Israeli conflict. For years, the United States has firmly backed Israel, giving it military and economic aid. Many Arab nations, especially Syria, Iraq, and Egypt, turned to the Soviet Union for arms and other assistance. After each war, the two superpowers rearmed their allies in the Middle East.

Both the United States and the Soviet Union realized that the tensions in the Middle East could trigger a major war. Peace efforts, however, met with fierce resistance. Arab nations refused to recognize Israel, and they knew they could rely on Soviet support. At the same time, the United States was unwilling to press its ally, Israel, to make concessions to the Arabs on the issues of Palestinian refugees.

The PLO. The fate of Palestinian Arabs was key to any lasting peace. Their numbers grew in the crowded refugee camps outside Israel. Many other Palestinians lived in the **occupied**



MAP STUDY

Between 1948 and 1973, Israel and its Arab neighbors fought four wars. Tensions remained high in the area until peace talks finally brought some progress in the 1990s.

- 1. Location** (a) What territories did Israel gain in the 1967 war? (b) From which Arab nations did Israel take these lands?
- 2. Region** What was the largest territory won by Israel?
- 3. Making Decisions** Why do you think Israel agreed to sign a peace treaty with Egypt to return most of the Sinai?

territories, the lands seized by Israel during the 1967 war. Palestinians were determined to win self-rule.

In 1964, Palestinian leaders formed the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Its

goal was to reclaim Palestine and destroy Israel. PLO activists waged guerrilla war against Israel.

By the 1970s, the PLO and other radical groups had spread the Arab-Israeli conflict beyond the Middle East. These groups lashed out at the United States and other nations that supported Israel. They committed terrorist acts such as bombings and hijackings. The terrorists received training and funds from Iran, Syria, and other Middle Eastern nations.

PLO attacks brought **reprisals**, or forceful acts in response to an injury. Israel struck PLO bases in Jordan and Lebanon. In 1982, Israel invaded Lebanon. It struck at the bases used by the PLO and other groups to attack Israel. The war lasted several months and resulted in many casualties.

Building a Nation

Israel is one of the two democracies in the Middle East. Since 1948, it has made great progress in developing its economy.

The people. Israel is a small nation about the size of New Jersey. About 90 percent of Israelis live in urban areas, mainly along the Mediterranean coast. To strengthen Israel and further the Zionist ideal, many Jews immigrated to Israel from Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas.

Although Jewish settlers who went to Israel shared a common religion, they came from diverse cultures. The two main groups are the Ashkenazim, or Jews from Eastern and Central Europe, and the Sephardim, or Jews from around the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

At first, the more numerous and better-educated Ashkenazim dominated the government and economy. Today, Sephardim are in the majority and have increased their influence in the government.

About 15 percent of Israelis are non-Jews. Most are Arab Muslims and Christians. Arab citizens of Israel have full political rights, but many feel discriminated against in education, employment, and other areas.

Israel's Arab population is growing rapidly. This trend worries some Jewish Israelis. They fear that Arabs may someday outnumber Jews in Israel. However, more recent Jewish immigration has partly offset Arab population

growth. Beginning in the 1980s, Israel received many Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union.

Economic development. Like most of its neighbors, Israel has a mixed economy. The government owns some businesses, but many companies are privately owned.

The lack of natural resources and water in Israel has been offset by hard work, technology, and inventiveness. Money contributed by Jews living outside Israel and aid from the United States have also greatly assisted economic development.

Israelis have introduced new technology to irrigate desert areas. For example, they have transformed much of the Negev Desert, which covers more than half of Israel. The Israelis have built pipelines, canals, and tunnels across the Negev.

Israel also has bolstered its economy by developing high-technology industries. For example, Israel is a leader in developing medical lasers and aerospace equipment.

It has also developed service industries to support its growing population. Today, about three quarters of all adult Israelis work in such service areas as education and tourism.

Despite its diversified economy, Israel remains dependent on imports for many basic goods, including oil and coal. Also, because of constant threats to its security, it spends much of its budget on defense.

The Struggle To Achieve Peace

The Arab-Israeli conflict has defied all efforts at solution. For years after 1948, Arab nations refused to recognize or negotiate with Israel. They supported terrorist activities against Israel and called for its destruction. Israeli leaders, in turn, rejected the idea of a Palestinian state that they felt would threaten Israel's security. Nor would they discuss the future of the occupied territories until their Arab neighbors agreed to direct peace talks.

A first step. A first step toward peace took place in 1979 when Egyptian president, Anwar Sadat, signed a peace treaty with Israel. Egypt thus became the first Arab nation to recognize Israel.

Other Arab nations condemned Egypt for making peace with Israel. As a result, the hopes for a general peace remained dim.

A Palestinian uprising. By 1987, Palestinians in the occupied lands had grown frustrated by years of Israeli military rule. They organized strikes against Israeli businesses and began attacking Israeli soldiers and civilians. Their uprising became known as the **intifada**, or the shaking.

Israel responded forcefully. It arrested, jailed, and deported Palestinians suspected of leading the uprising. Troops destroyed the homes of suspected rebels and closed Arab schools on the West Bank. Israel was condemned for violating Palestinian rights. Its leaders replied that the harsh moves were needed to protect national security.

During the intifada, some Palestinians joined underground, armed groups, such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad. These groups called for the destruction of Israel and used terrorism to undermine peace efforts.

Difficult issues. In the early 1990s, a new push for peace finally brought Palestinian and Israeli leaders together. Negotiations

bogged down, though, over the many issues that separated the two sides.

Among the most difficult issues was the status of the occupied territories. More than 2 million Palestinians lived on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Many grew up in poverty-stricken refugee camps. For years, Palestinians in these territories had demanded their own homeland. Many supported PLO leader Yassir Arafat who called for the destruction of Israel. Israel refused to talk to the PLO because of its terrorist activities.

Another tough issue centered on the Jewish settlements in the occupied lands. Over the years, Israel had encouraged Jewish settlers to move into the occupied lands. The settlers believed that they had a historic right to live on land that had been part of ancient Israel. Palestinians were furious that Jewish settlers were occupying lands they had lived on until the Six Day War of 1967.

The Oslo accords. In 1993, hopes for peace revived when Israel and the PLO agreed to the Oslo accords (named after the Norwegian city in which the two sides met). Under these accords, Israel and the PLO agreed to

Surveying the wreckage

During the Persian Gulf War, Iraq launched 39 long-range missile attacks against Israel. This young Israeli looks over the damage caused by one such attack. The boy is carrying a gas mask kit because it was feared that some of the missiles carried poison gas.

Power What might Iraq have hoped to gain by attacking Israel during the Persian Gulf War?





A Devastating Toll Conflicts between Israelis and Palestinians have plagued the Middle East since Israel declared its independence in 1948. Violence on both sides has led to thousands of deaths and widespread destruction, such as this scene in a Palestinian area of the Gaza Strip. **Conflict** How might the United States and other nations benefit from peace in the Middle East?

recognize each other. The PLO promised to stop attacking Israel. In turn, Israel would withdraw its forces from parts of the occupied territories. It would also allow Palestinians limited self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, a town in the West Bank. Other difficult issues were left to be solved in future agreements.

When the accords went into effect, Yassir Arafat became head of the Palestinian Authority, which governed the Palestinian lands. Palestinians hoped they would soon have their own independent state. Israelis looked forward to an end to the years of violence.

The Return of Violence

For a short while, the Oslo accords seemed to improve the outlook for peace in the Middle East. In 1994, Israel and Jordan signed a peace agreement. However, Israel and Syria could not reach an agreement about

the Golan Heights that Israel had occupied since the Six Day War.

Prodded by the United States, Israel and the Palestinian Authority continued talks on the issue of a Palestinian state. The talks stalled and Palestinians launched new protests.

A new uprising. The protests touched off a full-fledged uprising against Israel. Palestinian terrorists attacked both military targets and Israeli civilians. Suicide bombers killed Israelis on buses, in restaurants, and in shops.

The suicide bombings pointed up the wide gulf between Palestinians and Israelis. Many Palestinians felt that these methods were entirely justified. Israelis were horrified at the deaths of civilians, many of them young.

In March 2002, Israeli military forces invaded Palestinian-ruled areas of the West Bank. Israeli troops struck targets they identified as centers of terrorist activities. Many or-

dinary Palestinians, however, were wounded or killed in the fighting.

Faced with outside criticism, Israel claimed that it had the right to defend itself against the terrorists. It accused Yassir Arafat of supporting terrorism. Arafat charged Israel with violating Palestinian human rights. The fighting raised new barriers of bitterness and mistrust on both sides.

Unresolved issues. The peace process unraveled in part because the Oslo accords had not resolved several difficult issues. One stumbling block was Jerusalem. In 1980, Israel made Jerusalem its capital. The city has special significance to Jews as the site of the First Temple of the ancient Hebrews.

Jerusalem is also holy to Muslims and Christians. In East Jerusalem, Palestinians outnumber Jews. The Palestinians want East Jerusalem to be the capital of a Palestinian state.

A second issue is the Palestinian demand for the “right of return.” This would grant Palestinians who fled their homes during the Arab-Israeli wars the right to return. Israel, however, says that the Jewish state would be overwhelmed if all the Palestinians, many of whom were too young to be born in Israel, were allowed to return.

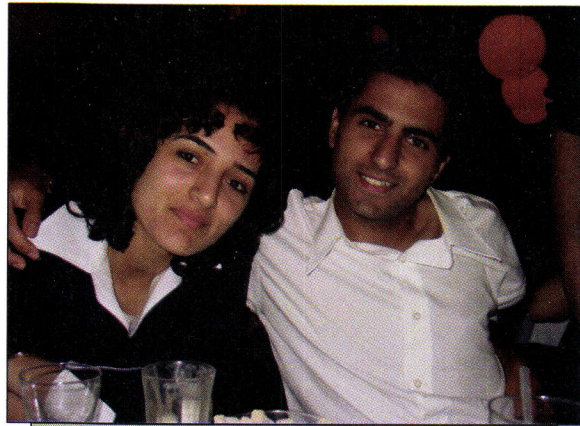
A third issue is the future of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem. Since 1993, the number of Jewish settlers has greatly increased. The expansion of these settlements has infuriated Palestinians.

Compromise is difficult because both sides believe in the justice of their claims. Both sides believe their religious teachings justify their cause. As a result, the bloodshed continues in the Middle East.

Up Close

The Art of Peace

“I tell my friends that they must meet people from the other side and hear their stories,” says Bushra Jawabri, a young Palestinian woman from a refugee camp. Both sides have committed terrible acts, she notes. Still, she wants her friends to see “that there are people from the other side who want to make peace. Both sides need to know that peacemakers exist.”



Friends Despite the Conflict Bushra and Koby at an American restaurant. **Change** Do you think their friends and family share Bushra and Koby’s attitudes?

Seeds of Peace. Bushra belongs to Seeds Of Peace, an organization that brings together young people from war-torn lands in the Middle East, the Balkans, and elsewhere. Its goal is to be “a training ground for peace.” Seeds of Peace sponsors a summer camp in Maine in which young people meet the other side and learn the art of peace.

“We are not idealists,” said Koby Sadan, an Israeli who participates in Seeds Of Peace. “The conflict shapes our lives. We live through it every day.”

Despite years of bloodshed, Bushra and Koby think that Palestinians and Israelis can achieve peace. “It won’t be easy,” says Bushra, “but it is not impossible.”

The other side. Like other “Seeds,” as participants call themselves, Bushra and Koby attended the Seeds of Peace summer camp. They went ready to argue with the other side. Instead, they discovered that “the other side” were real people with whom they could be friends. The experience inspired them to work for peace.

Koby hopes that when they are older, he and other Seeds will have greater influence through political or other leadership positions. “To coexist,” he declares, “we need the right leaders and backing from the people themselves.” To Seeds members, learning to coexist despite differences is the key to peace.

In the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the need to coexist has special meaning to Bushra:

“ People need to think more about the future of the holy land which cannot be holy when so much blood is being shed there. ”

SECTION 2 REVIEW

- 1. Locate:** (a) Israel, (b) Syria, (c) Egypt, (d) West Bank, (e) Sinai Peninsula, (f) Gaza Strip, (g) Golan Heights.
- 2. Identify:** (a) Six Day War, (b) PLO, (c) Ashkenazim, (d) Sephardim.
- 3. Define:** (a) refugee, (b) occupied territory, (c) reprisal, (d) intifada.
- 4.** (a) Why did Jews want the state of Israel? (b) How did Arab nations respond to the founding of Israel?
- 5.** What lands did Israel gain as a result of the war in 1948? In 1967?
- 6.** (a) What were the causes of the two intifadas? (b) Why have Israelis refused to give up the occupied territories?
- 7. Ranking** List the issues that divide Israelis and Palestinians. Rank these issues, putting the most difficult first. Give reasons for your ranking.
- 8. Writing Across Cultures** Write a letter to a friend explaining why you think the United States should continue to play a role in bringing peace to the Middle East.

3

LITERATURE AND THE ARTS

FIND OUT

- What traditions influenced Islamic literature?
- What themes appear in the works of modern writers in the Middle East?
- What art forms did Islamic civilization produce?
- What are some trends in modern Middle Eastern art and music?

The audience hall of the royal palace outside Baghdad boasted a magnificent carpet. Sometime in about A.D. 500, skilled craftworkers wove the huge rug, working emeralds, pearls, and other jewels among the silk threads. The intricate weaving showed a delightful garden with winding pathways, running brooks, flower beds, birds, and fruit trees.

In rugs such as this one, craftworkers in the Middle East raised carpet weaving to a fine art. Magnificent carpets are only one of the many contributions that the Middle East has made to the arts.

Literature of the Islamic World

Islamic literature in the Middle East has been written in three languages—Arabic, Persian, and Turkish. Arabic, the language of the Koran, was used for religious and scientific works as well as for literature. By 900, Persian began to rival Arabic as the language of literature. During the Ottoman Empire, court poets produced fine works in Turkish.

The Koran and religious writings. Since the time of Muhammad, the Koran has been the model for all Arabic literature. Muslim scholars studied the Koran and wrote books explaining Islamic law. In biographies of Muhammad and his followers, they recorded the early history of Islam. By collecting and recounting the sayings of Muhammad, they helped explain the teachings of Islam.


Poetry. Poetry has long had a special place in the Arab world. Even before the rise of Islam, each tribe in Arabia had its poets. In their poems, the Arabs spoke of love, war, and courage. They praised their leaders, abused their enemies, and celebrated desert life. This rich oral literature was passed from generation to generation and later collected in books.

At the Abbassid court in Baghdad, poets writing in Persian built on Arabic forms of poetry. Court poets wrote of romantic love. They spoke of the noble, generous deeds of princes and of their own hopes and fears. Persian poets were especially noted for their mystical poetry, in which they expressed their love of God.

Among the finest Persian works were epic, or narrative, poems. Epics often drew on folklore and events from ancient Persian history. In about 1010, the poet Firdawsi composed his great work, *Shah-nama*, or “Book of Kings.” In one tragic episode, Rostam, the hero of the poem, unknowingly kills his own son. When he discovers what he has done, Rostam is overcome with grief:

“ When Rostam loosed
The armor and saw the gem, he tore
his clothes
And cried: ‘Oh! my brave son,
approved by all
And slain by me!’ ”

The Persian poet who is best known to the western world is Omar Khayyám, who died in about 1123. More than 700 years later, the English poet Edward FitzGerald translated Omar Khayyám’s poem *The Rubáiyát*, which became a major success in the West. In the Muslim world, however, Khayyám is better known for his work as an astronomer and as a mathematician, philosopher, and physician.

Folktales. As a cultural crossroads, the Middle East acquired folktales from many parts of the world. During the 1300s, some of these tales were collected and written down under the title *The Thousand and One Nights*. In that book, the princess Scheherazade (shuh hehr uh ZAH duh) uses the tales night after night to entertain the king and thereby escape execution. The stories are Persian, Indian, Egyptian, Greek, Hebrew, and even Chinese in origin. Like *The Rubáiyát* of Omar Khayyám, *The Thousand and One Nights* has enjoyed great popularity in the West. ( See Connections With Literature, page 807, “The Fisherman and the Jinee.”)

Modern Writers

Today, the literature of the Middle East still reflects the region’s cultural diversity. People writing in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish continue to produce outstanding works. In



The Koran and Islamic Literature Artists skilled in calligraphy copied these pages of the Koran, turning them into a work of art. To Muslims, the text of the Koran contains the words of God. Thus, the holy book of Islam has long inspired Arabic, Persian, and Turkish literature. **Culture** Why would Muslim artists regard their work as an act of religious devotion?

addition, Israeli writers have revived Hebrew literature.

Arabic literature. In an outburst of creativity, modern writers have produced novels, biographies, and histories as well as poetry in Arabic. They have explored a variety of themes, including the conflict between Arab

and western cultures and the disruptions caused by modernization. (📖 See World Literature, “The Storm,” by Khalil al-Fuzay, page 630.)

Among the most original writers was the Egyptian Taha Husayn, who was born in 1889. Husayn left his village to study at al-Azhar, the 1,000-year-old Islamic university in Cairo. In *al-Ayyam (The Days)*, he gives a fascinating account of his school years.

Today, the most popular modern writer in the Arab world is Naguib Mahfouz (NAH heeb MAH fooz). Born in Cairo in 1911, Mahfouz has won fame for his novels, especially *The Cairo Trilogy*. In this series of three books, he captures the turbulence of Egyptian life during much of this century. In 1988, Mahfouz became the first Arab writer to receive the Nobel Prize for literature. He remarked:

“Egypt and the Arab world also get the Nobel Prize with me. I believe that . . . the international doors have opened, and in the future, literate people will look for Arab literature, and Arab literature deserves that recognition.”

Israeli literature. Israel, too, has made important contributions to literature. Israelis have worked to revive Hebrew as a modern spoken language, adapting ancient words to today’s uses. Israeli writers have explored such themes as the Jewish diaspora, the Holocaust, and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

A leading Israeli novelist and short-story writer was Shmuel Yosef Agnon (AGH nahn). In 1966, Agnon received the Nobel Prize for literature. In his novel *The Day Before Yesterday*, he examined the problems westernized Jews faced when they settled in Israel.

Hebrew poetry has also flourished. One well-known poet is Yehuda Amichai (yuh HOO duh AH mih kī), who wrote *Songs of Jerusalem and Myself*. In his poetry, Amichai has pioneered the use of Hebrew as an everyday language to present traditional Jewish themes. A versatile writer, Amichai has produced short stories, radio plays, and novels in addition to poetry.

Architecture and Art

During the golden age of Islam, architects and artists drew on the rich traditions of many cultures to produce some of the world’s finest works. Islamic art flourished throughout the Muslim world, from Spain in the west to India in the east.

Architecture. Muslim architects designed splendid mosques and palaces that glittered with colorful glazed tiles and mosaics. From the Byzantines, Muslims acquired skills in building domes. Large domes often crowned mosques such as the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. The minaret, or tower, is a familiar feature of mosques. From there, the muezzin calls the faithful to prayer. Among the most famous mosques are the Suleymaniya Mosque in Istanbul, which was built during the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, and the Mosque of Selim in Edirne, Turkey.

Muslim princes built luxurious palaces. Among the few that still exist is the Alhambra in Granada, Spain. Its sun-drenched courtyards and intricate carvings reflect Greek and Roman influences as well as Islamic traditions.

Decorative arts. Because the Koran forbids the worship of idols, many Muslims and their religious leaders opposed the portrayal of human or animal images. Despite this ban, miniature painting emerged as one of the leading artistic traditions.

Artists in Persia perfected the art of miniature painting. During the late 1400s, the brilliant court painter Kamal Ad-Din Bihzad illustrated many books with fine miniatures. From then until the 1800s, miniature painting was a respected and popular tradition.

Calligraphy, or the art of beautiful writing, became one of the highest forms of Islamic art. Arabic inscriptions with sayings from the Koran decorate the walls of such Islamic monuments as the Taj Mahal in India. Even today, calligraphy is widely used as decoration on buildings, coins, posters, and fabrics.

From the Islamic world came a variety of crafts, including pottery, textiles, and metalware. Damascus steel and damask, a figured woven cloth, were in great demand.



Weaving a Rug Turkish artisans skillfully produce this handmade carpet. Carpets originated in the Middle East as covering for earthen floors in houses and mosques. They were also used as prayer rugs, curtains, blankets, and coverings for tent openings. **Culture** Why is the design of this carpet appropriate for an Islamic society?

In homes and workshops, men and women perfected the art of weaving carpets. Styles and designs varied from one part of the Islamic world to another. In Persia, for example, rugs featured floral designs and curling scrolls known as arabesques. Turkish weavers used abstract or geometric designs. Today, weavers in many Middle Eastern countries continue to produce richly colored carpets for export throughout the world.

Modern artists. In modern times, western ideas have strongly influenced the arts in the Middle East. In response to western domina-

tion, however, some Arab artists are once again studying their Islamic heritage. They have developed distinctive new styles based on abstract and geometric designs as well as on traditional calligraphy.

Israel. The influence of western art is especially strong in Israel. Many Israeli artists were either born in Europe or studied contemporary western art. The Israeli artist Yakov Agam experimented with a style of modern art known as optical painting. In one painting titled *Double Metamorphosis II*, the viewer sees a huge grid with colorful geometric



Cheb Khalid, the “King of Rai” Rai is a favorite style of popular music in the Arab world. Singers like Khalid weave intricate rhythms against a solid beat produced by a combination of traditional and modern electronic instruments. Rai has been compared with American soul music because of its emotional intensity. **Diversity** How does rai represent a blend of musical elements?

designs. As you walk past the painting, the colors and shapes appear to shift and tilt.

Music

In the past, Muslim religious leaders disapproved of music, saying it was frivolous and turned people’s minds from God. In Baghdad, Istanbul, and other cities, however, wealthy

rulers supported talented musicians, and various local musical traditions developed.

Today, radio and tapes have helped to spread modern music across the Muslim world. In some ways, today’s popular music—especially songs—unites Muslims, as poetry did in the past.

One of the most popular singers was Umm Kalthum, who chanted the Koran and performed songs written by Egypt’s finest contemporary poets. For many years, Arabic-speaking audiences tuned in to Kalthum’s Thursday evening radio show. Her death in 1975 was marked by an outpouring of grief throughout the Muslim world.

Today, singer Cheb Khalid dominates popular Arab music. Khalid is known as the “king of rai” (rī). This musical style blends traditional Arab music with rock and jazz. Khalid’s concerts attract huge audiences, especially among Arab youth.

SECTION 3 REVIEW

- 1. Identify** (a) *Shah-nama*, (b) Omar Khāyyām, (c) *The Thousand and One Nights*, (d) Naguib Mahfouz, (e) Shmuel Yosef Agnon, (f) Cheb Khalid.
- (a) Describe the major themes of Arabic and Persian poetry. (b) What are three themes of modern Muslim literature?
- (a) How did the establishment of Israel affect Hebrew literature? (b) What are three themes of modern Israeli literature?
- (a) What were the two main types of structures in Muslim architecture? (b) Why did calligraphy become an important feature of Muslim art?
- 5. Analyzing Information** How do the arts of the Middle East reflect the cultural diversity of the region?
- 6. Writing Across Cultures** Does popular music help to unite Americans? Write a paragraph explaining your answer. Give examples to support your answer.