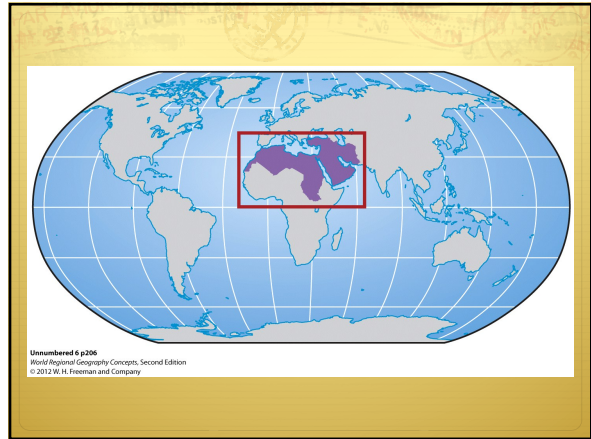


05 | North Africa & The Middle East

World Regional Geography
M. Pesses, Antelope Valley College

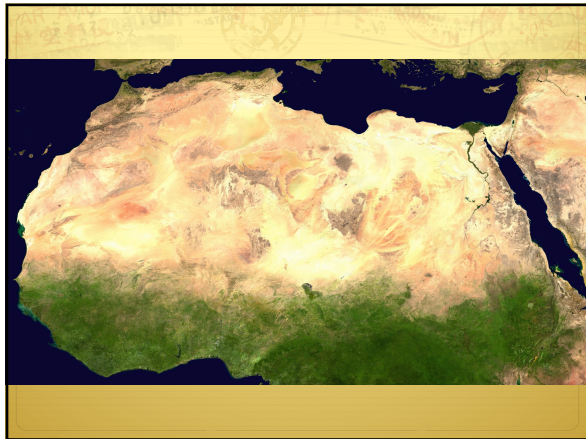
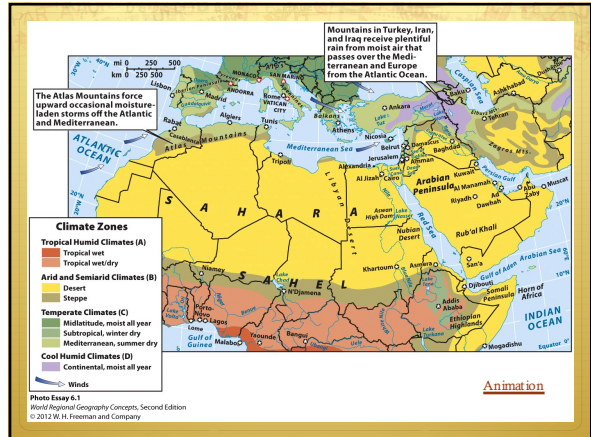
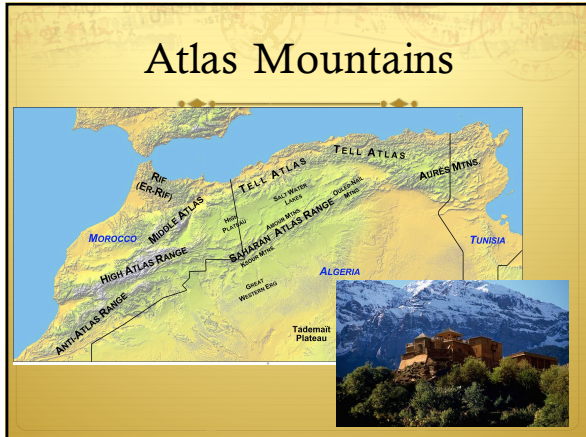


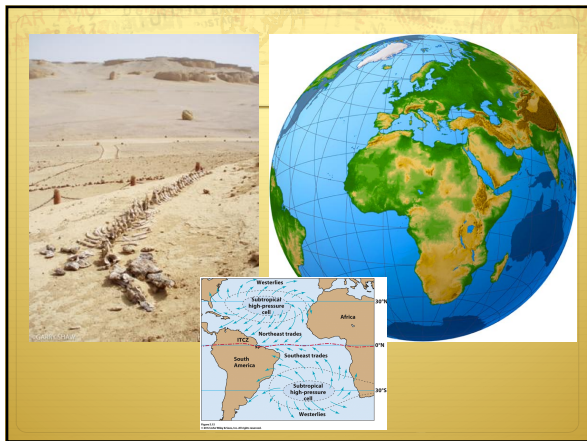
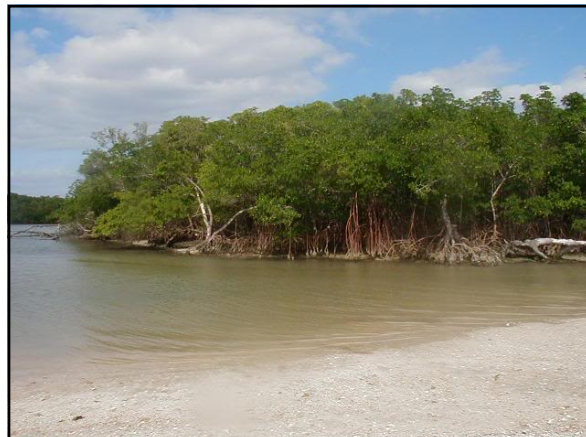
Region?

- ✦ Middle East
- ✦ Near East
- ✦ Southwest Asia

“Occupied Palestinian Territories”



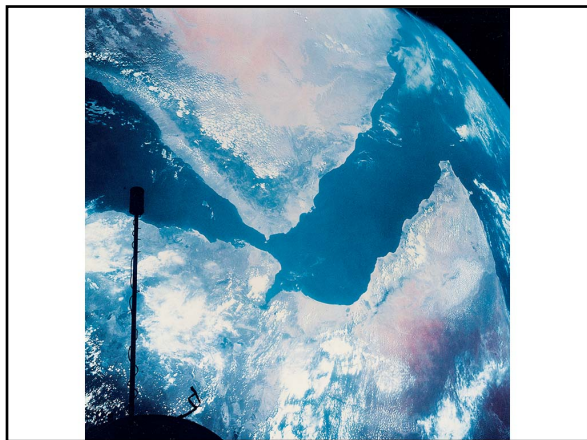




The Red Sea

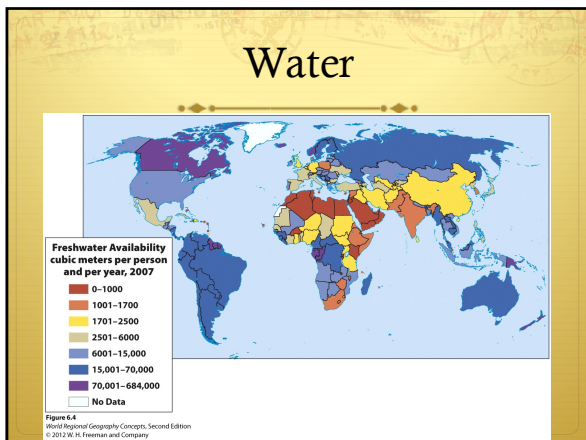
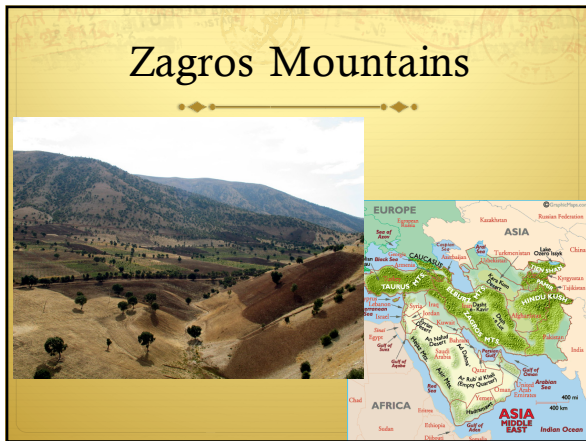
Arabian Peninsula pulling off of Africa

[animation](#)

A detailed map of the Red Sea region, showing the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and surrounding countries: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Ethiopia, Yemen, Djibouti, and Somalia. The map includes a legend for elevation and a scale bar.

Rub'al Khali

An aerial photograph of the Rub'al Khali desert, showing vast, rolling sand dunes under a clear sky.A small map of the Arabian Peninsula highlighting the location of the Rub'al Khali desert in Saudi Arabia.




Water


- ✦ The Qur'an calls for preservation of land and water
- ✦ "We [Allah] send forth the winds which fill the clouds with water and We make the rain descend from the sky. Then we grant it to you for drinking and you do not have control of its treasures." (15:22)

Irrigation


- ✦ Civilization started here 10,000 years ago because of irrigation
- ✦ With growing populations, irrigation is stressing water supplies and causing salinization



Salinization



Drip irrigation seen as a way to limit this, not available in poorer countries



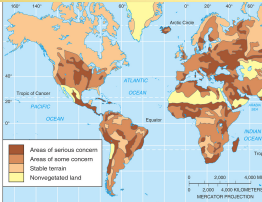
In arid regions, salt drainage is often poor, evaporation rates are high and the water table is low.

Poor drainage and evaporation concentrate salts on irrigated land. Even good quality irrigation water contains some dissolved salt and can leave behind tonnes of salt per hectare each year.

Unless salts are washed down below root level, soil salinity will kill plants and eventually ruin the soil.

Irrigation can cause groundwater levels to within a metre of the surface, bringing up more dissolved salts from the aquifer, natural and man-made.

Soil Degradation

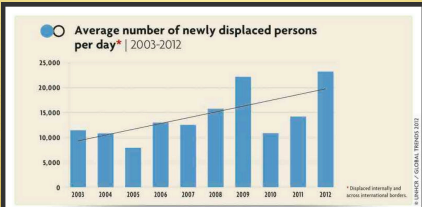


- ✦ Overuse of water, climate change, ruining arable land



Refugees

Individuals who cross national boundaries to seek safety and asylum

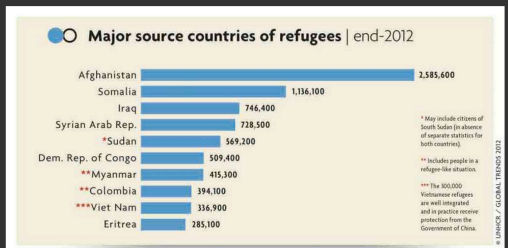


Average number of newly displaced persons per day* | 2003-2012

*Displaced internally and across international borders.

Average number of newly displaced persons per day 2003-2012 © UNHCR Image 1 of 3

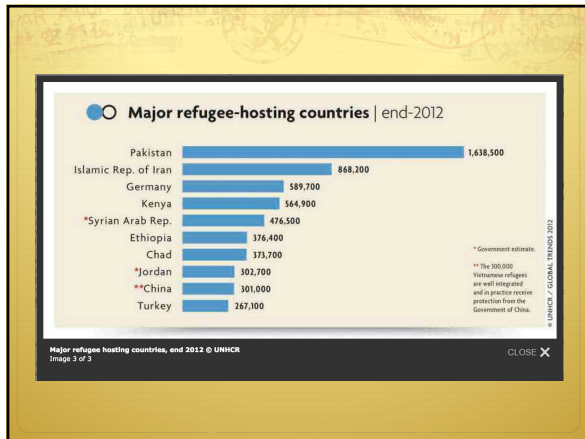
Major source countries of refugees | end-2012



Country	Number of Refugees
Afghanistan	2,585,600
Somalia	1,136,100
Iraq	746,400
Syrian Arab Rep.	728,500
*Sudan	569,200
Dem. Rep. of Congo	509,400
**Myanmar	415,300
**Colombia	394,300
***Viet Nam	316,900
Eritrea	285,100

Major source countries of refugees, end 2012 © UNHCR Image 2 of 3

*May include citizens of South Sudan (in absence of separate statistics for both countries)
 ** includes people in a refugee-like situation
 *** The 500,000 Vietnamese refugees are well integrated and in practice receive protection from the Government of China.



Darfur

Sudan

- Western state of Darfur
- 2003, more than 500,000 people fled in response to attacks by government troops and raids by militias
- Current count appears to be 6 million





South Sudan

- ✦ Gained independence in 2011
- ✦ Been in civil war since 2013

Desalinization Plants

Saudi Arabia gets 70% of its drinking water from this technology

MAJOR DESALINATION PLANTS WORLDWIDE

The United States has the largest installed capacity of desalination plants in the world. Other countries with significant capacity include Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Israel.

Capacity by region

Region	Capacity (%)
Middle East	48%
North Africa	19%
Europe	16%
Asia	10%
South & Central America	7%

Cradle of Civilization

Fertile Crescent first example of humans using agriculture

- ✦ 10,000 years ago
- ✦ Wheat, barley, grapes, olives

The Fertile Crescent

- Forest
- Subtropical woodland
- Steppe grassland
- Desert grassland
- Site of ancient settlement
- Modern cities
- Modern city on ancient site
- Sumerian Empire, 2050 a.c.
- Babylonian Empire, 1750 a.c.
- Assyrian Empire, 650 a.c.
- Modern national boundaries

Figure 6.7
World Regional Geography Concepts, Second Edition
© 2012 W. H. Freeman and Company

Mesopotamia

- ✦ Thought to have the first cities
- ✦ Between the Tigris & Euphrates River (Iraq)
- ✦ Babylon




Religion

—◆—◆—◆—

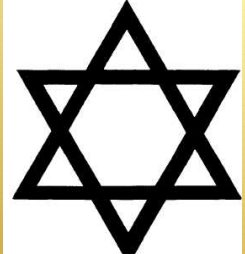
Also site of the three great monotheistic faiths

- ✦ Islam
- ✦ Judaism
- ✦ Christianity



Judaism

—◆—◆—◆—



First great monotheistic faith


- ✦ 4,000 years old

Ethnic, not proselytic

Kicked out of Palestine back in Roman times

Christianity

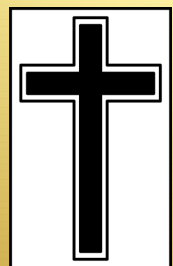
—◆—◆—◆—



- ✦ Proselytic
- ✦ Basis in Judaism (Old Testament)

Christianity

—◆—◆—◆—

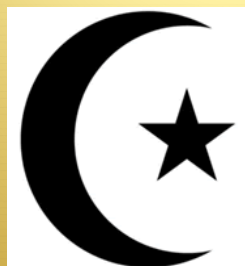


Major divisions as Christians left the region

- ✦ Catholics
- ✦ Protestants
- ✦ Eastern Orthodox

Islam

—◆—◆—◆—




Proselytic

Qur'an (Koran)

- ✦ Holy book given to Mohammed by archangel Gabriel
- ✦ Basis of Islamic Law (*Sharia*)

Islam




Some basic beliefs shared with Christians & Jews

- + Adam & Eve
- + Moses, Abraham, Mary, & Jesus
- + Prophets of Islam

Islam

Holy City of Mecca

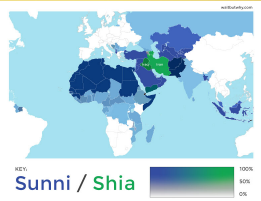
- + Pilgrimages (Hajj)




Islam

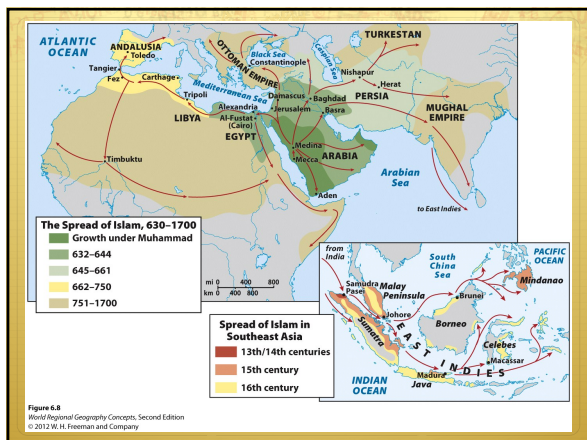
Major sects

- Shi'ite (Shi'a)
 - + Majority in Iran and Iraq
- Sunni
 - + Orthodoxy



Zainab bint Ali

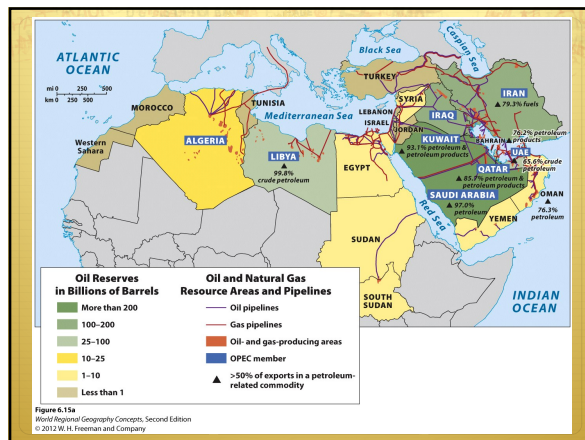
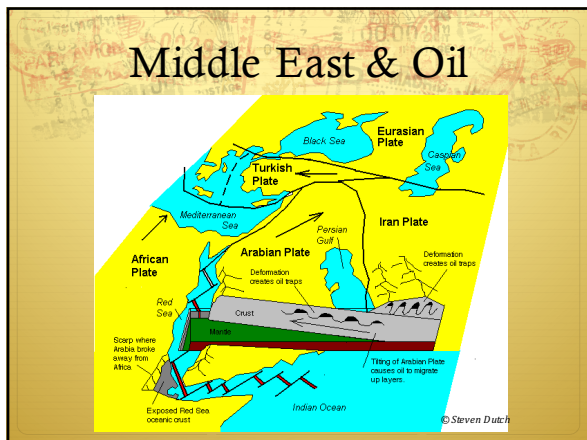
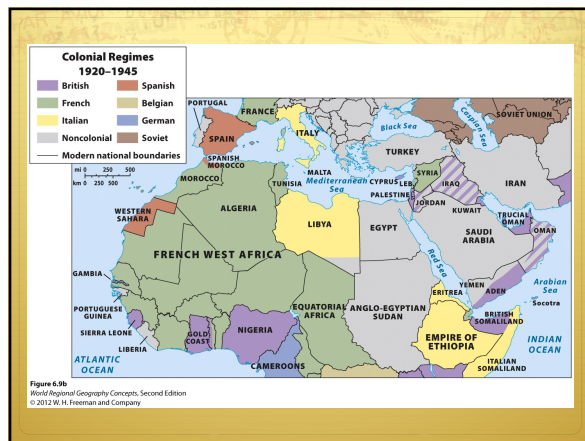
- + Granddaughter of Prophet Muhammed
- + After Muhammed's death, was fought to be rightful successor
 - + In AD 680, Zainab marched across Iraq & Syria and humiliated by the Caliph Yazid
 - + Famous speech of defiance
- + Split → Shia, those who followed Zainab, Sunni, those who followed Yazid



Sacred Spaces

Dome of the Rock

- ✦ Site of Mohammed's ascension to Heaven
- ✦ Also site of destroyed Jewish Temple

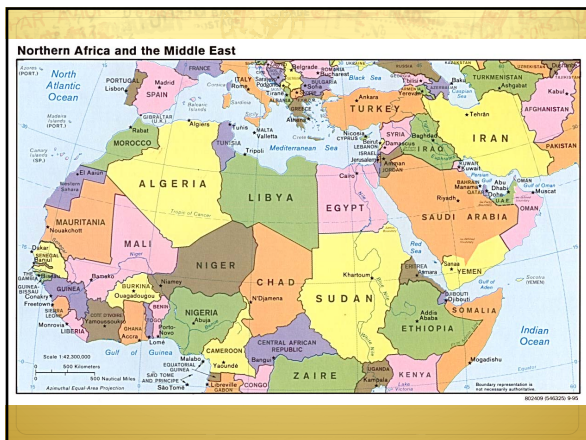
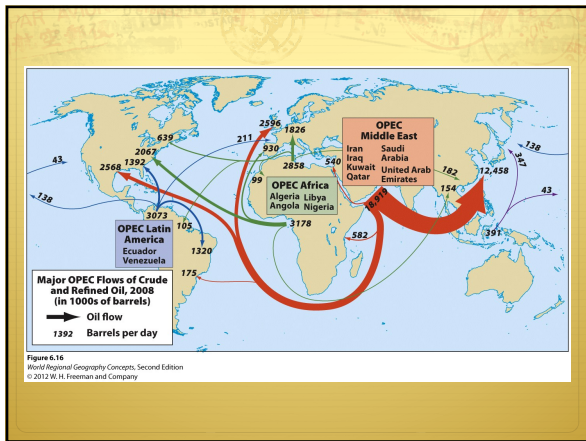
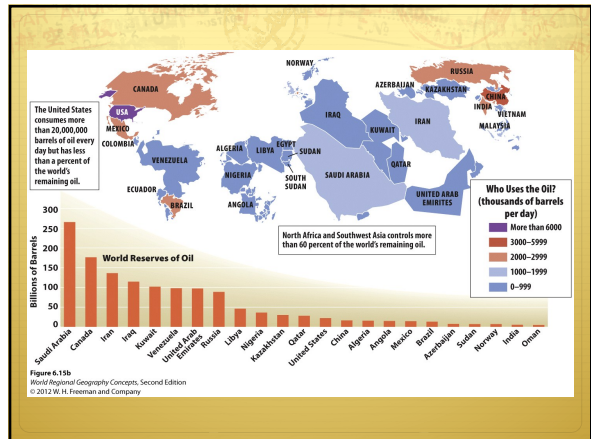


OPEC

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

- ✦ Founded in 1960 by Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela
- ✦ Headquartered in Austria

“In accordance with its Statute, the mission of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is to coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its Member Countries and ensure the **stabilization of oil markets** in order to secure an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consumers, a **steady income** to producers and a **fair return on capital** for those investing in the petroleum industry.”



Arab Spring

December 17, 2010 – Mohamed Bouazizi, Tunisia

- ✦ Over educated fruit vendor, harassed for not having permit, goods confiscated
- ✦ Self-immolation

Arab Spring

December 28, 2010 – President Ben Ali visits Bouazizi in hospital

January 4, 2011 – Bouazizi dies

January 14, 2011 – President Ben Ali resigns

- + Flees to Saudi Arabia, ends 23 years of power



Arab Spring

January 25, 2011 – Egyptian Protests begin

- + Demanding Hosni Mubarak's resignation

January 27, 2011 – Yemeni protests begin

- + Demanding Ali Abdullah Saleh's resignation





Arab Spring

January 30, 2011 - Sudanese students protest, demanding government change

- + Police beat & arrest them



Arab Spring

January 28, 2011 – Mubarak refuses to step down

- + protesters take over Tahrir Square

February 1, 2011 – Over 1 million protesters gather in Cairo

- + Mubarak states he will not seek reelection

February 2, 2011 – Protesters attacked by pro-government thugs riding camels and horses



Arab Spring

February 3, 2011 – 20,000 Yemeni protesters again demand the president's resignation

February 14, 2011 – Thousands protest in Bahrain at the Pearl Roundabout

February 17, 2011 – Bahraini Protesters are attacked by police, 3 dead, hundreds injured



Arab Spring

February 15, 2011 – Protests begin in Libya

February 17, 2011 – Dozens of Libyan protesters killed across the country

February 20, 2011 – Anti-Gaddafi forces seize Benghazi, hundreds killed



Arab Spring

February 11, 2011 – Mubarak resigns, the army council will run Egypt

February 20, 2011 – Moroccans begin protests demanding government reform



Arab Spring

Feb 27, 2011 – Tunisian Prime Minister resigns for being too connected to Ben Ali

March 14, 2011 – Saudi and UAE troops enter Bahrain to assist the government

March 15, 2011 – Syrian protests begin



Arab Spring

March 18, 2011 – Pearl Roundabout in Bahrain, the center of protests, is demolished



Arab Spring

March 19, 2011 – NATO bombs Libya, French led coalition, backed by UN

March 27, 2011 – Tunisia gets new government, completely separate from Ben Ali's administration

May 15, 2011 – Gaddafi forces suffer a loss in Misrata, many civilian deaths



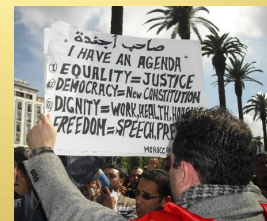
Arab Spring

March 20, 2011 – Tens of thousands of Moroccans protest

May 22, 2011 – Moroccan protesters beaten for defying "ban on demonstrations"

June 6, 2011 – Massive Moroccan protest in defiance of government

July 1, 2011 – Morocco has vote to approve constitutional change, protesters claim it does not go far enough



Arab Spring

June 3, 2011 – Attempt to assassinate Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, he escapes to Saudi Arabia to receive treatment for 2nd degree burns

September 23, 2011 – Yemen's Saleh returns, causes massive protests



Arab Spring

October 9, 2011 – Egyptian protest of destruction of a Coptic Christian church by military government, dozens die

October 20, 2011 – Gaddafi captured, killed

✦ Libyan Civil War declared over a few days later



Arab Spring

October 21, 2011 – UN condemns Yemen's Saleh for using violence against protesters

October 23, 2011 – Tunisian vote in the first election of the Arab Spring

November 19, 2011 – Egyptian protesters and police fight, at least 50 die

November 23, 2011 – Yemen's Saleh steps down



Arab Spring

November 28, 2011 – Egypt has first free elections, Muslim Brotherhood is expected to dominate the polls

December 12, 2011 – Tunisia elects dissident Moncef Marzouki as President

December 16, 2011 – More Egyptian protests, more killed



Arab Spring

January 10, 2012 – Syrian President Bashar al-Assad defies protesters by saying reform will happen, but that his regime will be victorious

May 25, 2012 – Syrian forces attack villages and kill more than 100 civilians including children



Arab Spring

May 23, 2012 – Egypt holds elections, Mohamed Morsi of Muslim Brotherhood wins (USC educated!)

June 2, 2012 – Former president Mubarak sentenced to life in prison



Arab Spring

June 22, 2012 – Anti-austerity protests in Sudan, calls for end of regime

July 15, 2012 – Civil War officially declared in Syria

July 19, 2012 – Tunisia's Ben Ali sentenced to life in prison for complicity in the murders of 43 protesters



Zine El Abidine Ben Ali

Arab Spring

Sept. 11, 2012 – US Consulate in Benghazi, Libya attacked

November 22, 2012 – Egypt's new president starts grabbing power, more protests occur

January 25, 2013 – Second anniversary of Egyptian Revolution leads to protests against Morsi



Arab Spring

February 6, 2013 – Tunisian opposition politician Chokri Belaïd killed, sparking more protests

February 12, 2013 – Syria's civil war exceeds 70,000 deaths

Feb 19, 2013 – Tunisia's prime minister resigns as public demands a non-partisan government

Feb 23, 2013 – Tunisia gets new Prime Minister Ali Laarayedh



Chokri Belaïd

Arab Spring

July 3, 2013 – General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi seizes control of Egyptian gov't from Morsi and Muslim Brotherhood as protests grow

July 16, 2013 – Egypt's new interim cabinet sworn in, none Islamist



Arab Spring

July 25, 2013 – Tunisian Politician Mohamed Brahma assassinated

August 6, 2013 – Tunisia's Government suspended in light of all the assassinations

September 28, 2013 – Tunisia's ruling Islamists step down



Arab Spring

August 14, 2013 – Pro-Morsi protests are broken up in Cairo, Hundreds killed. State of emergency declared

August 21, 2013 – Syrian rebels claim government uses poison gas on civilians, 100s dead

September 23, 2013 – Court bans Muslim Brotherhood activities, seizes assets



Arab Spring

December 18, 2013 – Morsi charged with terrorism, Muslim Brotherhood called terrorist organization

January 18, 2014 – New Egyptian constitution

May 28, 2014 – General el-Sisi, who had resigned from the military wins landslide election, many boycotted the election



Arab Spring

October 26, 2014 – Tunisia holds parliamentary elections, seen as the one country moving forward in a stable, democratic way

November 23, 2014 – Tunisia holds presidential election, elects Beji Caïd Essebsi

✦ *Some protest because he worked under Ben Ali regime*



"For the greatest benefit to mankind"
الفائدة العظمى للبشرية

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the

2015 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

to:

National Dialogue Quartet

"for its decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine Revolution of 2011"

Nobelprize.org
The Official Web Site of the Nobel Prize

Iranian Nuclear Deal

Iran's nuclear program launched in 1950s (with US support)

- ✦ **Enriched uranium**
 - ✦ Used in both power generation and weapons
- ✦ **P5+1**
 - ✦ UN Security Council plus Germany
 - ✦ Demanding halt of enrichment



Iranian Nuclear Deal

April 2, 2015 – Deal brokered to reduce enrichment while economic sanctions are reduced

✦ *Israel, members of US Congress oppose dealing with Iran*

