

Part 5. Middle East & North Africa

Area, Population & Natural Environments

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON LAND AND LIFE

GEOG1100.1: SUMMER 2020

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AUGUST 4, 2020

Today

- Lecture on Part 4. Area, Population & Natural Environments
- Reading: Chapters 6.1 & 6.2

Learning Objectives: MENA Region

In Part 5. we will learn to:

- Understand and explain the mostly beneficial **relationships between villagers, pastoral nomads, and city dwellers** in an environmentally challenging region (the Ecological Trilogy)
- Know the **basic beliefs and sacred places** of Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and **the political orientations of Sunni and Shi'a societies and nations**
- Recognize **the importance of petroleum and natural gas** to this region and the world economy, and the geographic challenges of transporting these fossil fuels
- Understand the problematic issues of **the Arab-Israeli conflict** and the obstacles to their resolution
- Learn about the promises of **the Arab Spring**, and **the disappointments** that followed
- Consider the **hydropolitical issues of the Nile and Mesopotamian river basins**, and shortages of freshwater in this region's arid lands
- Know what **al-Qa'ida, ISIS, and other Islamist terrorist groups** are and what they want to achieve

Middle East

What comes in your mind?

Area and Population

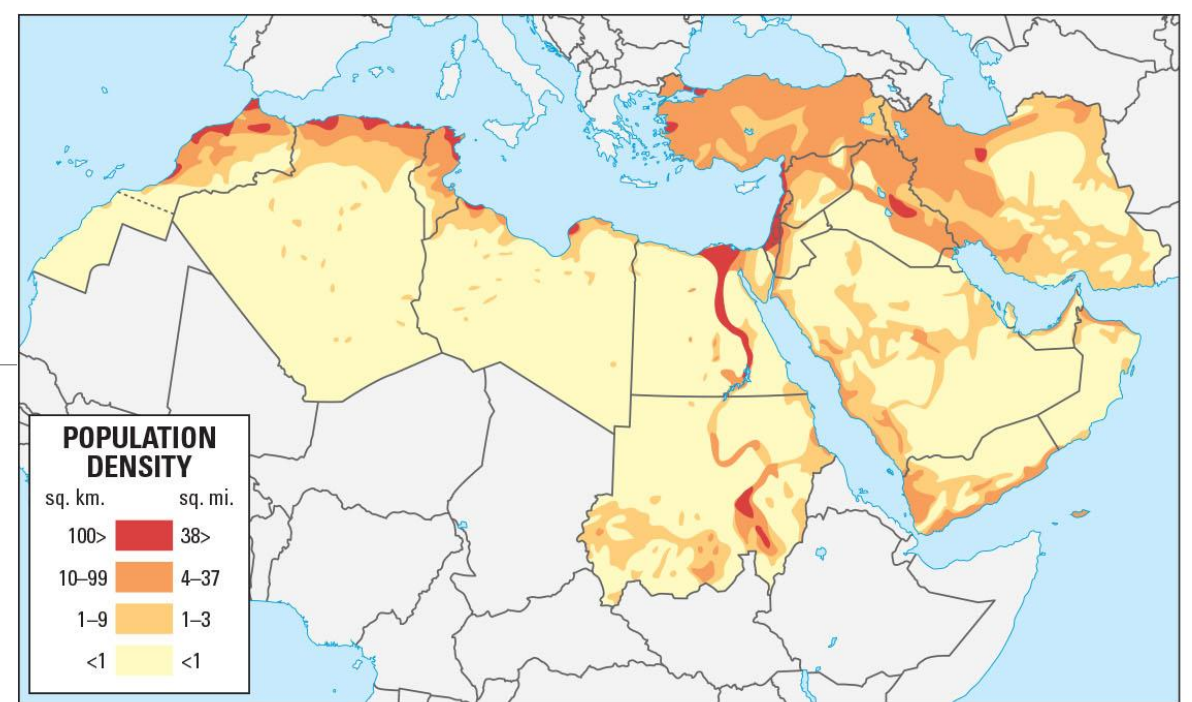
“Middle East” is Eurocentric term

- MENA region:
 - 21 countries, Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the disputed Western Sahara
 - Area of 5.6 million square miles
 - 530 million people
 - Most people are concentrated in the cities along the coasts



Area and Population

- Population of 530 million people
- People locate where water is abundant in this arid region
- Region on the whole is 63% urban
- High rate of population growth across region (esp. Yemen & the Palestinian territories)
- Youth bulge & high youth unemployment rate (30%) → leads to regional unrest (Arab Spring)
- Many oil-rich countries of the Gulf region have more foreigners than citizens living in them (e.g. UAE's 80% of the working age population are foreigners, mainly from South Asia)



(a)

Fig. 6.4 Population Distribution of MENA

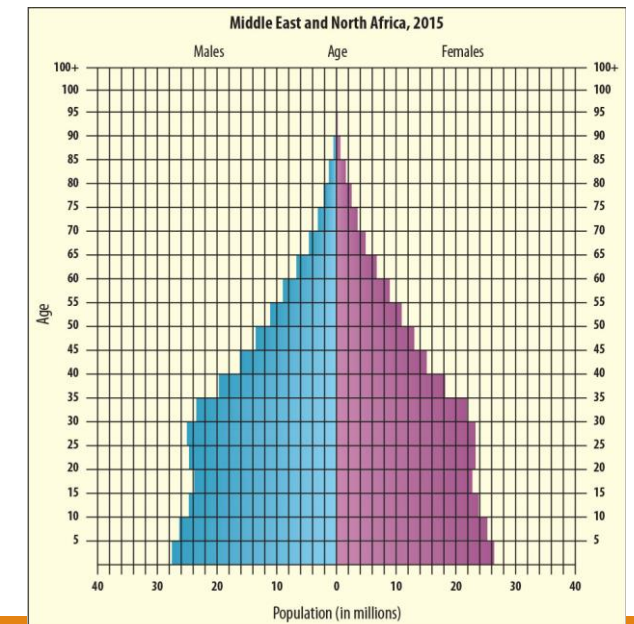
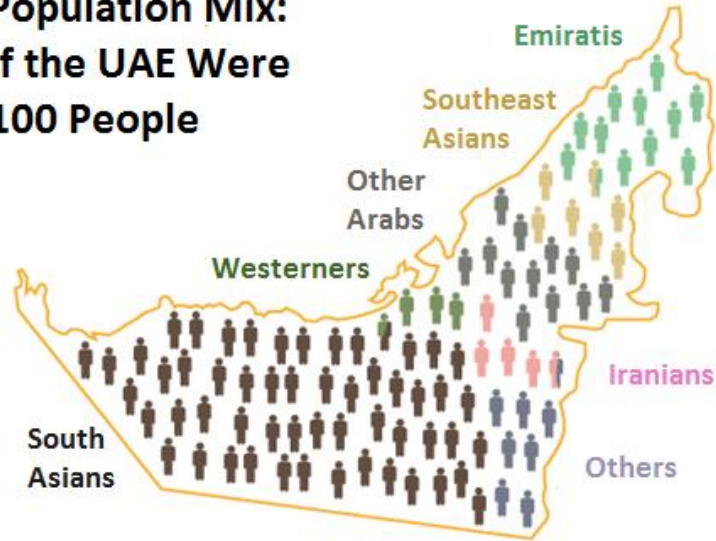


Fig. 6.5 Age structure diagram of MENA

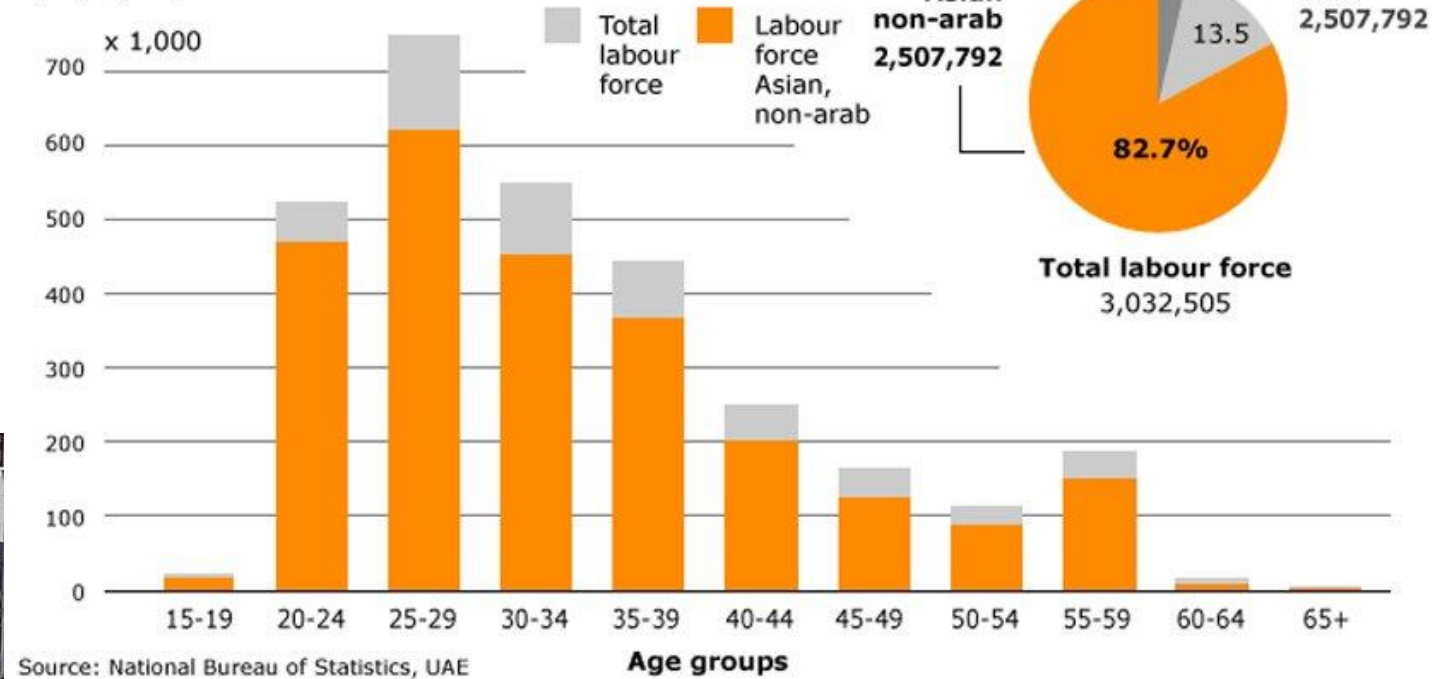
Any problem in depending on foreign workers?

**Population Mix:
If the UAE Were
100 People**



Asian, non-arabs as percentage of labour force

By age groups





• **Figure 6.2** Political geography of the Middle East and North Africa.

Political Unit	Area (sq mi, thousands)	Area (sq km, thousands)	Population (millions)	Rate of Natural Increase (%)	Urban Population (%)	Population Under Age 15 (%)	Agriculture Workers (%)	Per Capita GDP (PPP) (\$US)	GDP (\$US, billions)	Trade Balance (\$US, billions)	Oil Production (\$US, billions)	Literacy Female (%)	Literacy Male (%)	HDI
Middle East and North Africa	5416.1	14027.8	531.2	1.9	63	30	10	11,600	9,150	—	29.5	77	87	0.694
Middle East														
Bahrain	0.3	0.8	1.3	1.3	100	21	—	29,800	61	8	*	92	96	0.815
Iran	630.6	1633.3	77.4	1.4	71	24	9	12,800	1,284	34	3.1	81	89	0.749
Iraq	169.2	438.2	35.1	2.6	71	40	3	7,000	505	32	3.1	73	89	0.642
Israel	8.1	21.0	8.2	1.6	91	28	2	36,200	268	-6	—	96	99	0.888
Jordan	34.4	89.1	7.6	2.4	83	34	3	6,000	79	-14	—	90	96	0.745
Kuwait	6.9	17.871	3.7	1.7	98	23	—	42,000	283	84	2.8	97	94	0.814
Lebanon	4.0	10.36	5	0.9	87	20	6	15,800	80	-16	—	86	93	0.765
Oman	82.0	212.4	4.1	1.8	75	22	1	29,800	163	24	0.9	73	87	0.783
Palestinian Territories	2.4	6.216	4.4	2.7	83	40	3	2,900	20	-6	—	93	98	0.686
Qatar	4.2	10.9	2.3	1	100	14	—	102,000	323	82	2.0	95	96	0.851
Saudi Arabia	830	2149.7	30.8	1.8	81	30	2	31,300	1,616	197	11.5	81	90	0.836
Syria	71.5	185.2	22	2.1	54	35	16	5,000	107	-6	*	74	86	0.658
Turkey	299.2	774.928	77.2	1.1	77	25	8	15,300	1,512	-64	*	98	99	0.759
United Arab Emirates	32.3	83.7	9.4	1.4	83	16	1	29,900	605	133	2.8	82	76	0.827
Yemen	203.8	527.8	26	2.8	29	42	9	2,500	106	-3	0.1	47	81	0.500
North Africa														
Algeria	919.6	2381.8	39.1	1.9	73	28	9	7,500	552	7	1.7	92	92	0.717
Egypt	386.7	1001.6	87.9	2.6	43	32	15	6,600	945	-28	0.7	66	81	0.682
Libya	679.4	1759.6	6.3	1.7	78	29	2	11,300	103	1	0.3	91	98	0.784
Morocco	172.4	446.5	33.3	1.5	59	28	14	5,500	254	-20	—	57	76	0.617
Sudan	718.7	1861.5	38.8	2.5	33	41	27	2,600	159	-2	*	63	81	0.473
Tunisia	63.2	163.7	11	1.3	66	24	9	9,900	125	-7	*	80	95	0.721
Western Sahara	97.2	251.7	0.6	1.5	82	27	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Less than 0.1. — Data not available or not applicable.

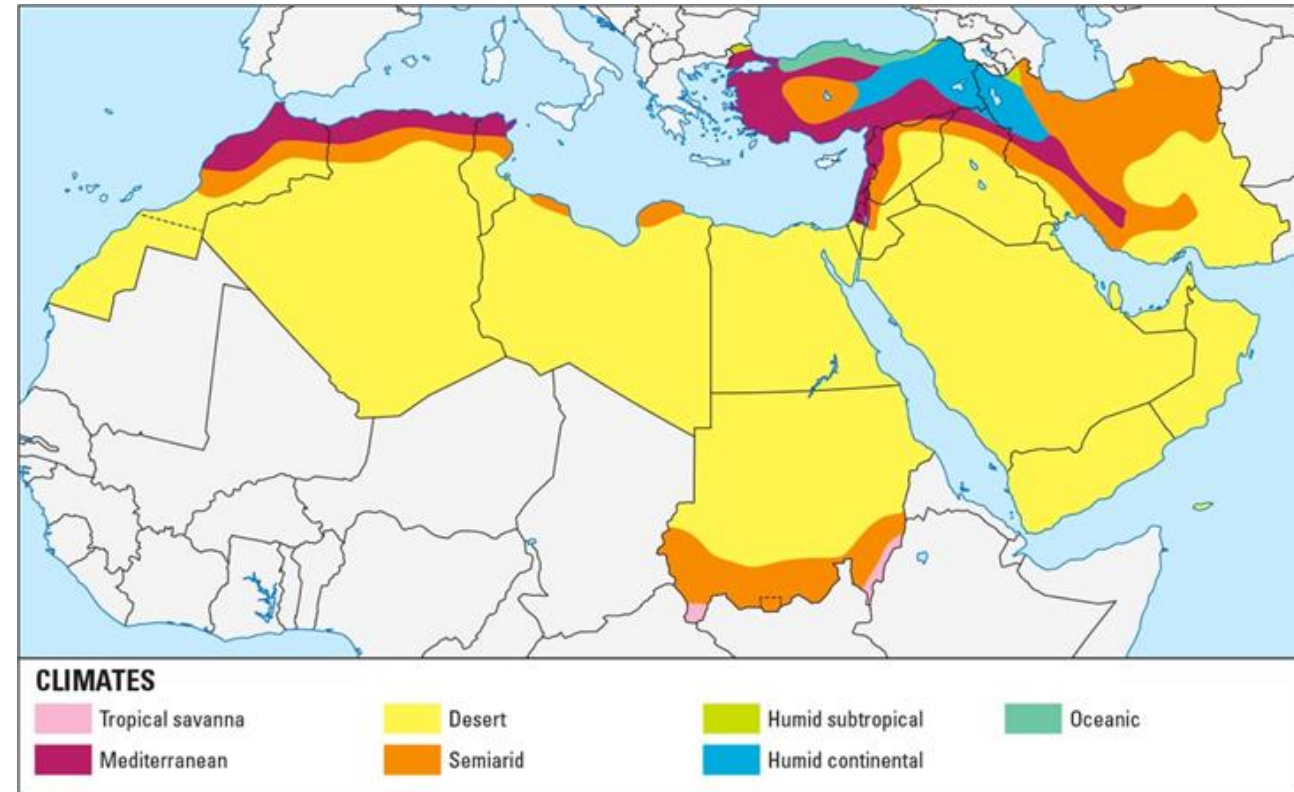
Sources: World Population Data Sheet, Population Reference Bureau, 2014; Human Development Report, United Nations, 2014; World Factbook, CIA, 2014.

A Region of Stark Geographic Contrasts

Climate

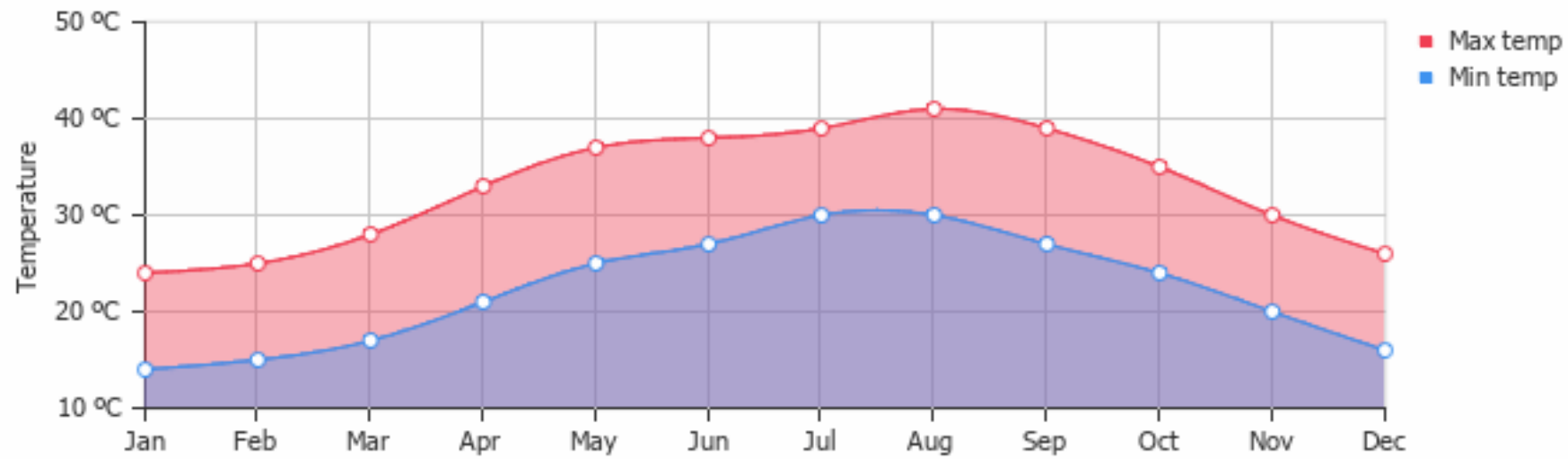
Aridity (a deficiency of moisture)

- 75 percent of region receives < 10" of annual precipitation
- Higher precipitation around Mediterranean or at higher elevations
- Temperature
 - Large daily and seasonal ranges
 - Very hot days and surprisingly cool nights
 - Summer relocation of government in Saudi Arabia to unofficial capital of Taif (higher elevation & close to sea)
 - Egypt: population move from Cairo to Alexandria (close to sea)

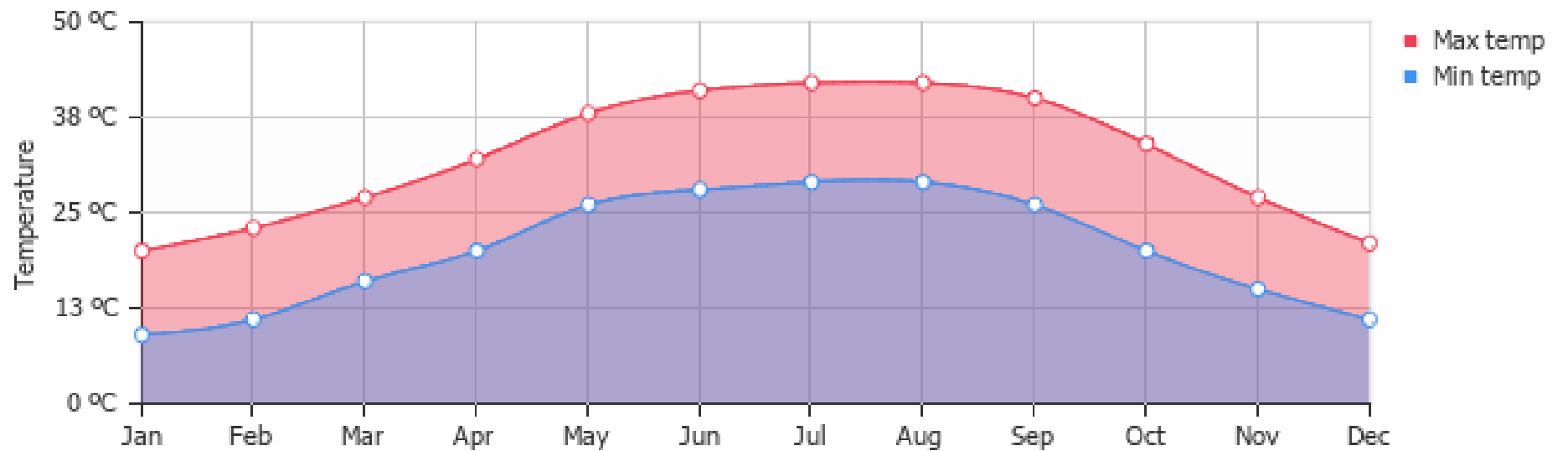


(a)

Fig. 6.6 Climates of the MENA



Average min and max temperatures in Dubai, United Arab Emirates Copyright © 2019 www.weather-and-climate.com



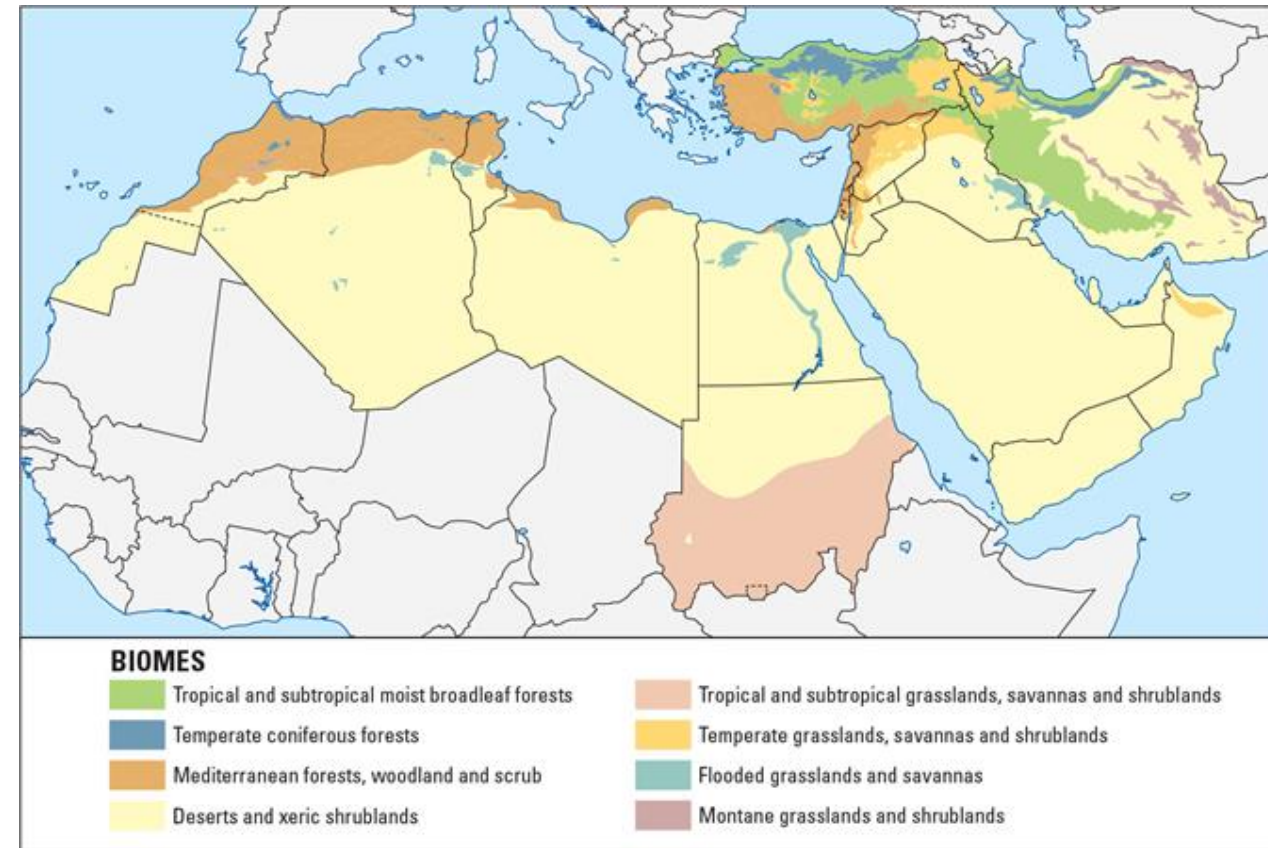
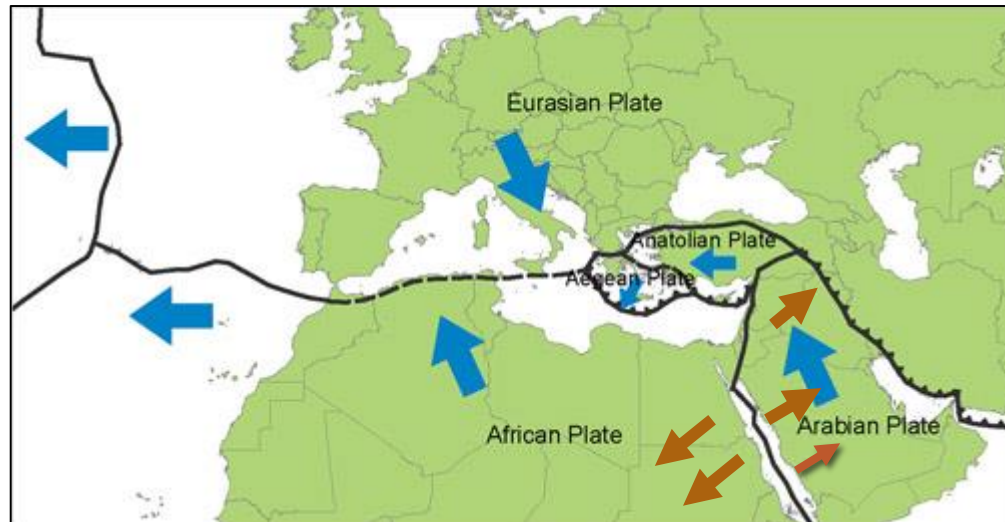
Average min and max temperatures in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia Copyright © 2019 www.weather-and-climate.com

A Region of Stark Geographic Contrasts...

Tectonic processes

- Collision zones have resulted in mountain building
- Frequent earthquakes in places like Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan

Forests have been overcut and overgrazed

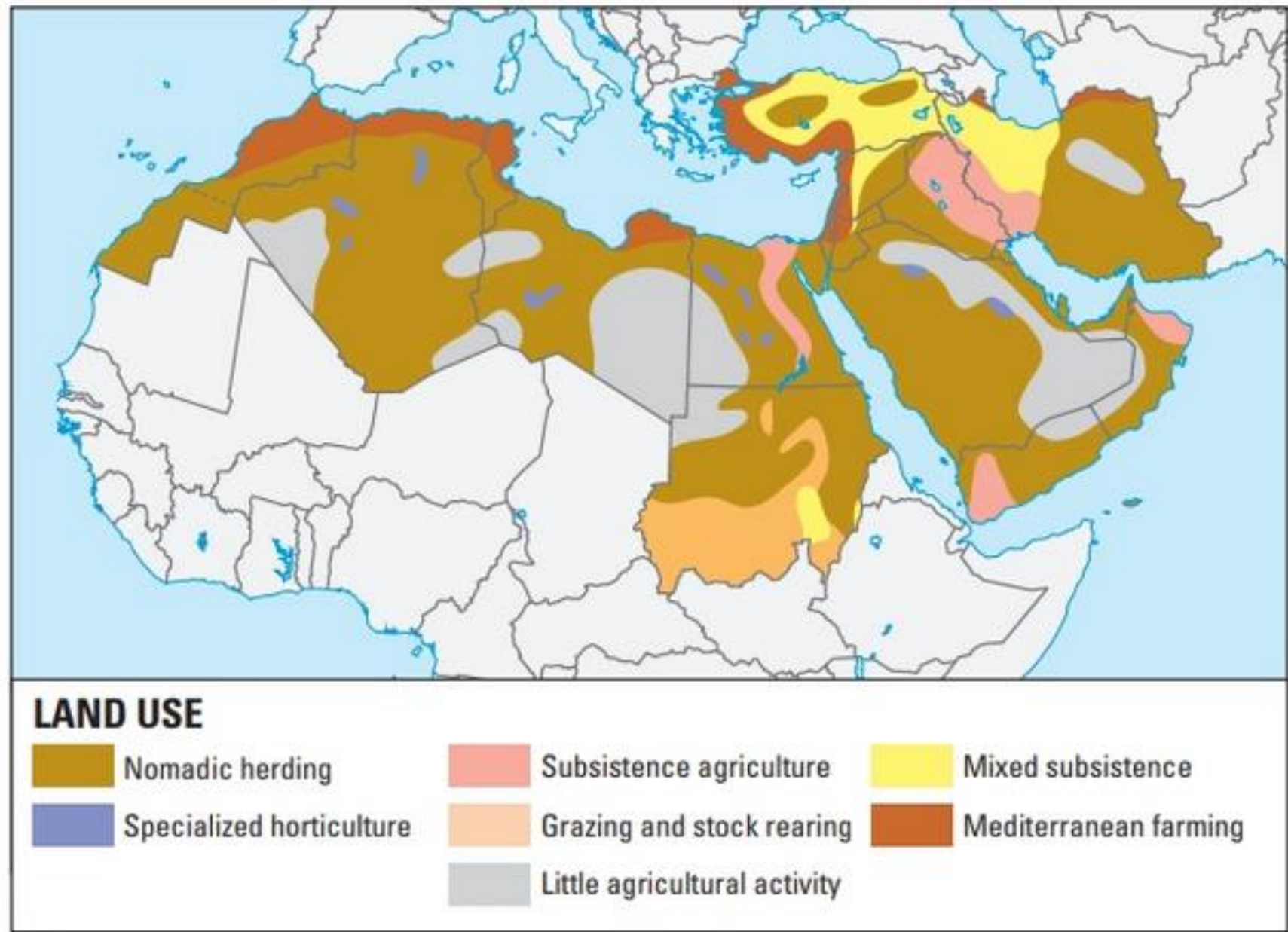


(b)

Land use



• **Figure 6.8** A *haboob* is a wind-driven wall of sand that envelops everything in its path. Fine grains of sand penetrate even closed windows, leaving a gritty layer indoors. Cleaning up after a *haboob* like this one that swallowed the Al-Asad military base in Iraq in 2005 is a huge chore.



• **Figure 6.9** Land use in the Middle East and North Africa.

Agriculture practices



Luxor, Egypt



Morocco

Villager, Pastoral Nomad, Urbanite: The Ecological Trilogy

Villagers

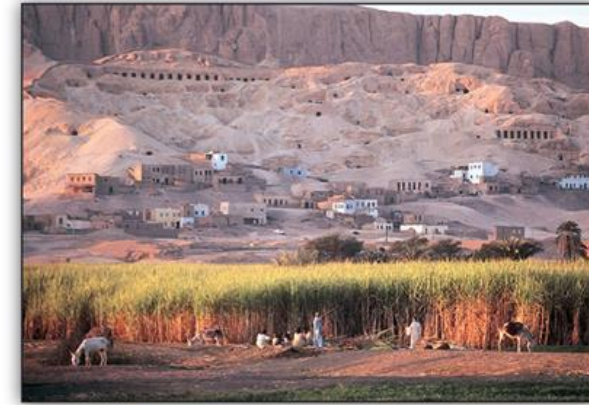
- Subsistence farmers of rural areas where dry farming or irrigation is possible

Pastoral Nomads

- Desert peoples who migrate through arid lands with livestock, following rainfall and vegetation patterns
- **Sedentarization (settling down) is a recent trend**
 - Expanding drought
 - modern national boundaries
 - Government led settlement
 - Many work in the tourism industry recently

Urbanites

- Inhabitants of large towns and cities, generally located near bountiful water sources



Villagers

Live animals, meat, milk, cheese, hides, wool

Food crops, clothing, some manufactured goods

Technical innovations, manufactured goods, education, cultural amenities

Food crops, tax revenue, soldiers, workers



Pastoral nomads



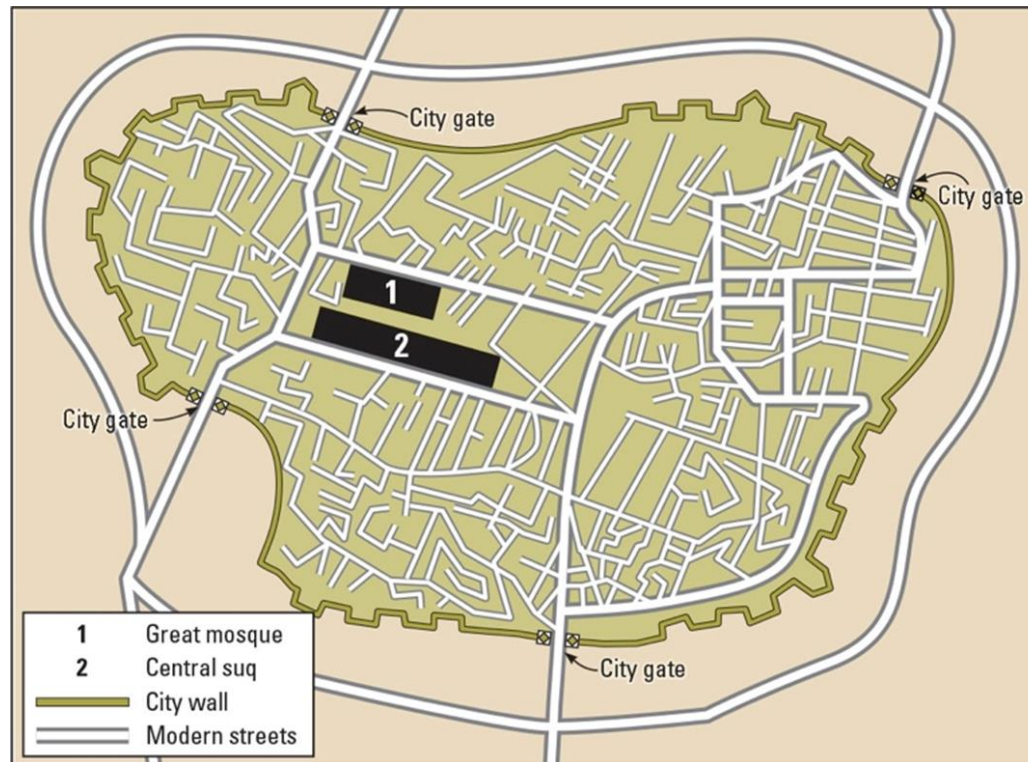
Urbanites

The Urban Way of Life

Cities emerged in Mesopotamia,
4000 B.C.E.
& in Egypt, 3000 B.C.E.

Medina (classic Islamic city model)

- High defensive wall
- Congregational **mosque**
- Administrative and educational complex
- **Bazaar or Suq** (commercial zone)
- Residential areas are differentiated as **quarters by ethnicity** (not by income)



• **Figure 6.17** The lanes of the Middle Eastern suq or bazaar (market) are busy, lively places. This one is in Cairo, Egypt.

Table 6.2 Largest Cities in the Middle East and North Africa

Cairo, Egypt	15.6
Tehran, Iran	13.5
Istanbul, Turkey	13.3
Baghdad, Iraq	6.6
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia	5.6
Khartoum, Sudan	5.1
Alexandria, Egypt	4.7
Ankara, Turkey	4.5
Kuwait City, Kuwait	4.3
Dubai, U.A.E.	3.9
Jiddah, Saudi Arabia	3.6
Aleppo, Syria	3.5

Population in millions. Source: Demographia World Urban Areas, 2015.

The Rise and Fall of Dubai's Artificial Islands

Dubai (UAE's city state)

- A prominent global city in MENA
- World's largest mall
- Since 2001, Dubai's land reclamation projects for wealthy investors
 - Environmental issues (fragile coral reefs & large ecological footprint)
 - Labour exploitation of foreign migrant workers
 - the impact of 2008 global financial crisis



Fig. 6.C Dubai's 'Palm Jumeirah' and 'The World'

Fig. Dubai's indoor ski slope

William L. Stefanov/NASA

Cairo City



Dubai

BBC



Cultural & Historical Geographies

The world's great culture hearths

Language families

- Afro-Asiatic (e.g. Arabic, Hebrew, Berber, Tuareg)
- Altaic (e.g. Turkish)
- Indo-European (e.g. Persian/Farsi, Kurdish)

Religious Hearth

- Monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

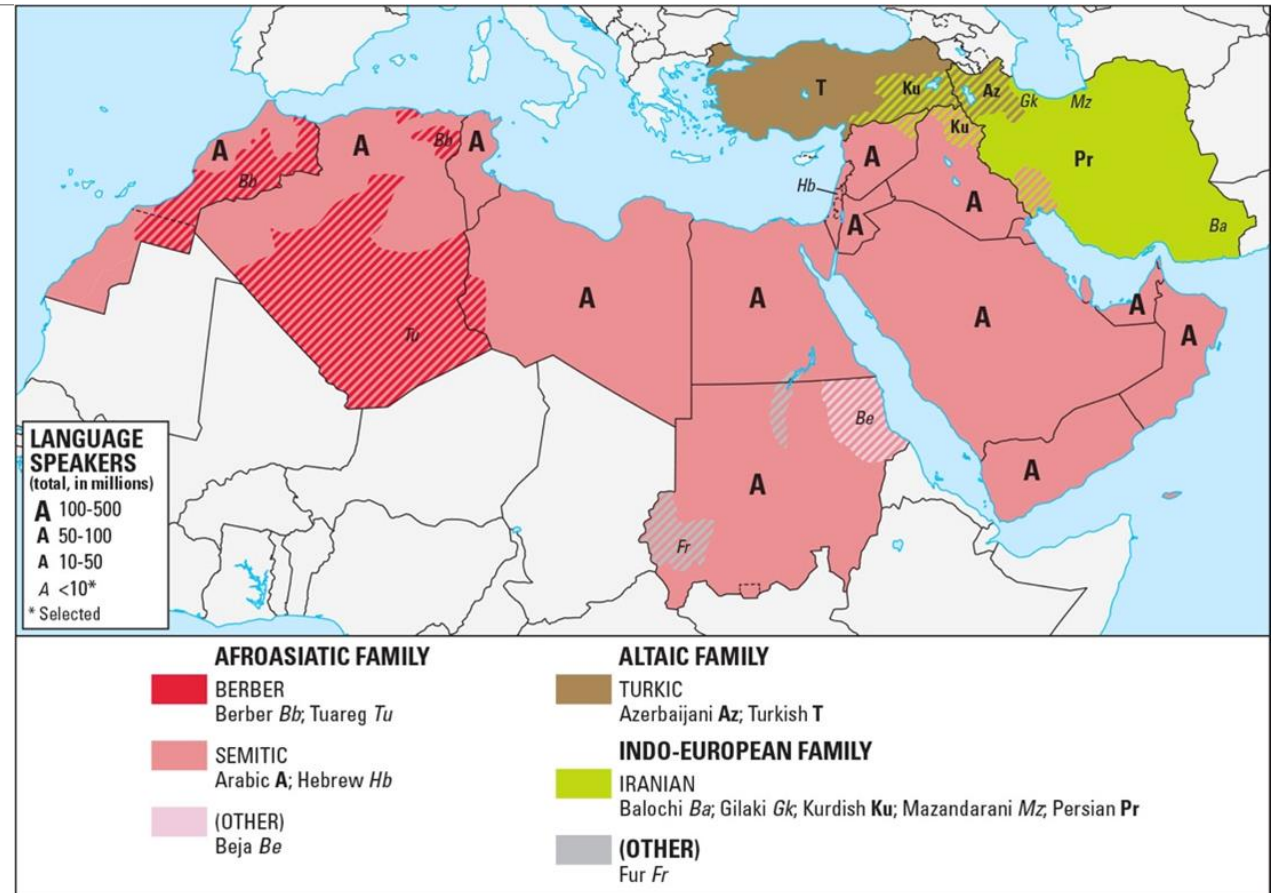


Fig. 6.18 Languages of the MENA

The Promised Land of the Jews

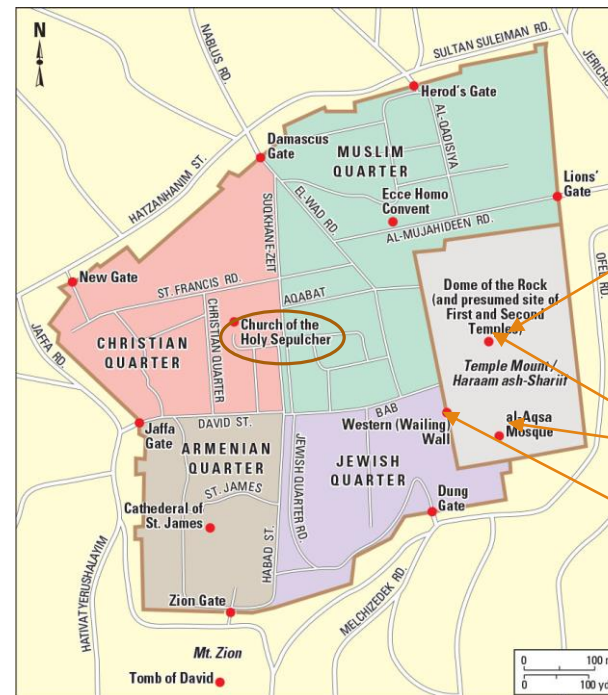
Judaism

- First significant monotheistic faith
- Practiced today by 15 million worldwide
- Torah is the Jewish holy scripture
- Unlike Christianity, Jesus not seen as a savior
- Ethnic, not proselytizing religion
- Western Wall (“Wailing Wall” to Jews) in Jerusalem
 - The most sacred site in the world accessible to Jews
 - But also, the city includes the sacred sites to Muslims

More recent development: The controversy of US declaring Jerusalem as the capital city of Israel

(Dec. 2017)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hi91aDmYI2E>



Marvin E. Newman/Getty Images



Joe Hootman

Fig. 6.D Sacred sites and the ethnic quarters of the old city of Jerusalem

Religions of the MENA: Origin of the Conflicts?

Background of the Israel-Palestine conflict:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRYZjOuUnIU>

The Middle East's Cold War: Sunni vs. Shi'itea?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veMFCFyOwFI>

→ In many aspects, most conflicts in the MENA region are not about competition between different religious groups but more to do with complex geopolitical interests over territories, power and resources (oil and water).

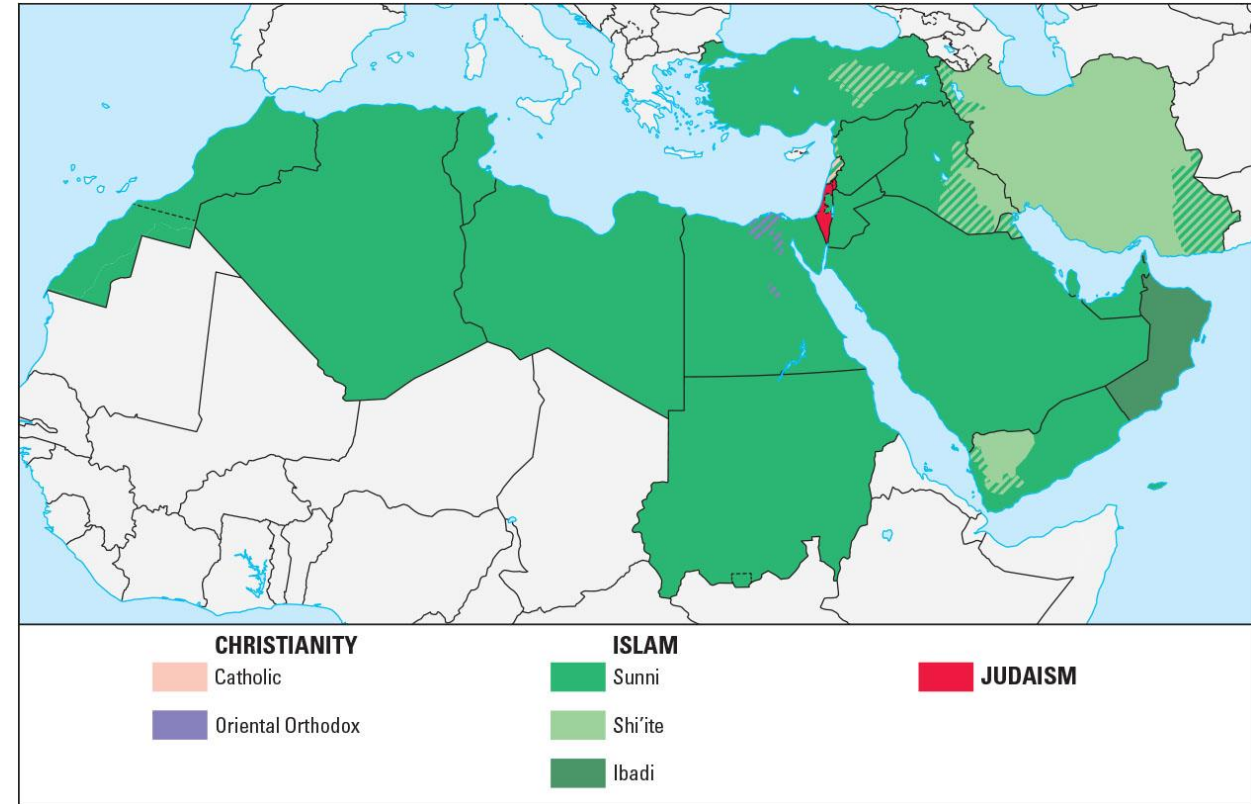


Fig. 6.19 Religions of the MENA

Next Class

- Part 5. MENA: Cultural, Historical & Economic Geographies
 - Readings: Chapters 6.3 - 6.4
- Part 5. MENA: Geopolitical Issues
 - Readings: Chapters 6.5-6.6