

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Imperialism, Geo-Politics and Orientalism

IMPERIALISM, GEO-POLITICS & ORIENTALISM

Appearance and reality

What any study needs :

- concepts (abstractions)
- facts (empirical)
- history (change over time)
- theories (explanations to be questioned)

Some initial concepts

- imperialism - the active elaboration and imposition of powers beyond the *polis* or *civis*
- geo-politics - the organisation and application of power over space (and time); the study thereof.
- orientalism - the imaginative and systematic rendering of the unfamiliar in familiar terms; especially referring to the 'east' and invariably negative

Geo-politics

Where is the Middle East ? The middle of what ? East of what ? How long is a piece of string ? And which way does it point ?

“Middle East” – first used in 1902 by US naval strategist and military historian Alfred Mahan

Maps, maps and more maps

Orientalism I

“I shall be calling *Orientalism* a way of coming to terms with the Orient that is based on the Orient's special place in European Western experience. The Orient is not only adjacent to Europe; it is also the place of Europe's greatest and richest and oldest colonies, the source of its civilizations and languages, its cultural contestant, and one of its deepest and most recurring images of the Other. In addition, the Orient has helped to define Europe (or the West) as its contrasting image, idea, personality, experience. Yet none of this Orient is merely imaginative. The Orient is an integral part of European material civilization and culture. Orientalism expresses and represents that part culturally and even ideologically as a mode of discourse with supporting institutions, vocabulary, scholarship, imagery, doctrines, even colonial bureaucracies and colonial styles.”

Orientalism II

“Orientalism is a style of thought based upon an ontological and epistemological distinction made between "the Orient" and (most of the time) "the Occident." Thus a very large mass of writers, among whom are poets, novelists, philosophers, political theorists, economists, and imperial administrators, have accepted the basic distinction between East and West as the starting point for elaborate theories, epics, novels, social descriptions, and political accounts concerning the Orient, its people, customs, "mind," destiny, and so on.”

Edward Said *Orientalism*. 1979 pp.2-3

Orientalism III

“Orientalism can be discussed and analyzed as the corporate institution for dealing with the Orient—dealing with it by making statements about it, authorizing views of it, describing it, by teaching it, settling it, ruling over it: in short, Orientalism as a Western style for dominating, restructuring, and having authority over the Orient.”

Edward Said *Orientalism*. 1979. p.3

Orientalism IV

“The European is a close reasoner; his statements of facts are devoid of ambiguity; he is a natural logician, albeit he may not have studied logic; he loves symmetry in all things; he is by nature sceptical and requires proof before he can accept the truth of any proposition; his trained intelligence works like a piece of mechanism. The mind of the Oriental, on the other hand, like his picturesque streets, is eminently wanting in symmetry. His reasoning is of the most slipshod description. Although the ancient Arabs acquired in somewhat high degree the science of dialectics, their descendants are singularly deficient in the logical faculty . . . The Egyptian is also eminently unsceptical.”

Evelyn Baring, (Lord Cromer) in *Modern Egypt* 1908
quoted in Lockman p.98

Ottoman Debt

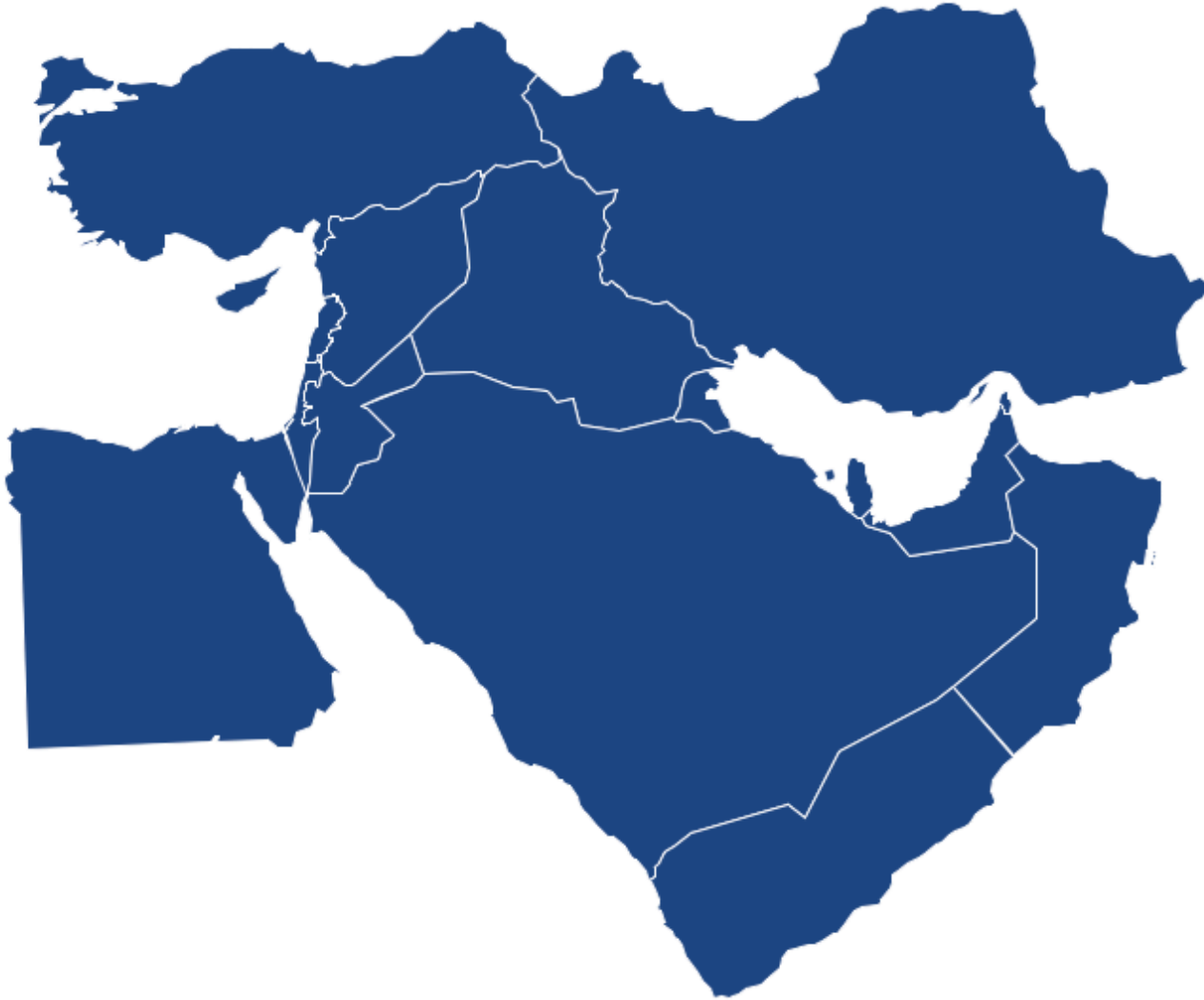
Capitulations

Minorities

Millet

Vilayet

IMPERIALISM, GEO-POLITICS & ORIENTALISM





IMPERIALISM, GEO-POLITICS & ORIENTALISM

French atlas map c.1700

NATOLIAE, olim ASIAE MINORIS TABULA PER CAROLUM ALLARD.

*ÆQUOR JASONIO pulsatum remige primum.
EUXINI falso cognomine PONTUS, Dictus ab Antiquis AXENUS ille fuit.
hodie MARE NIGRUM, (Italici MARE MAGGIORE Turcis Caradenis)
semper extra in Propontidem confluit*



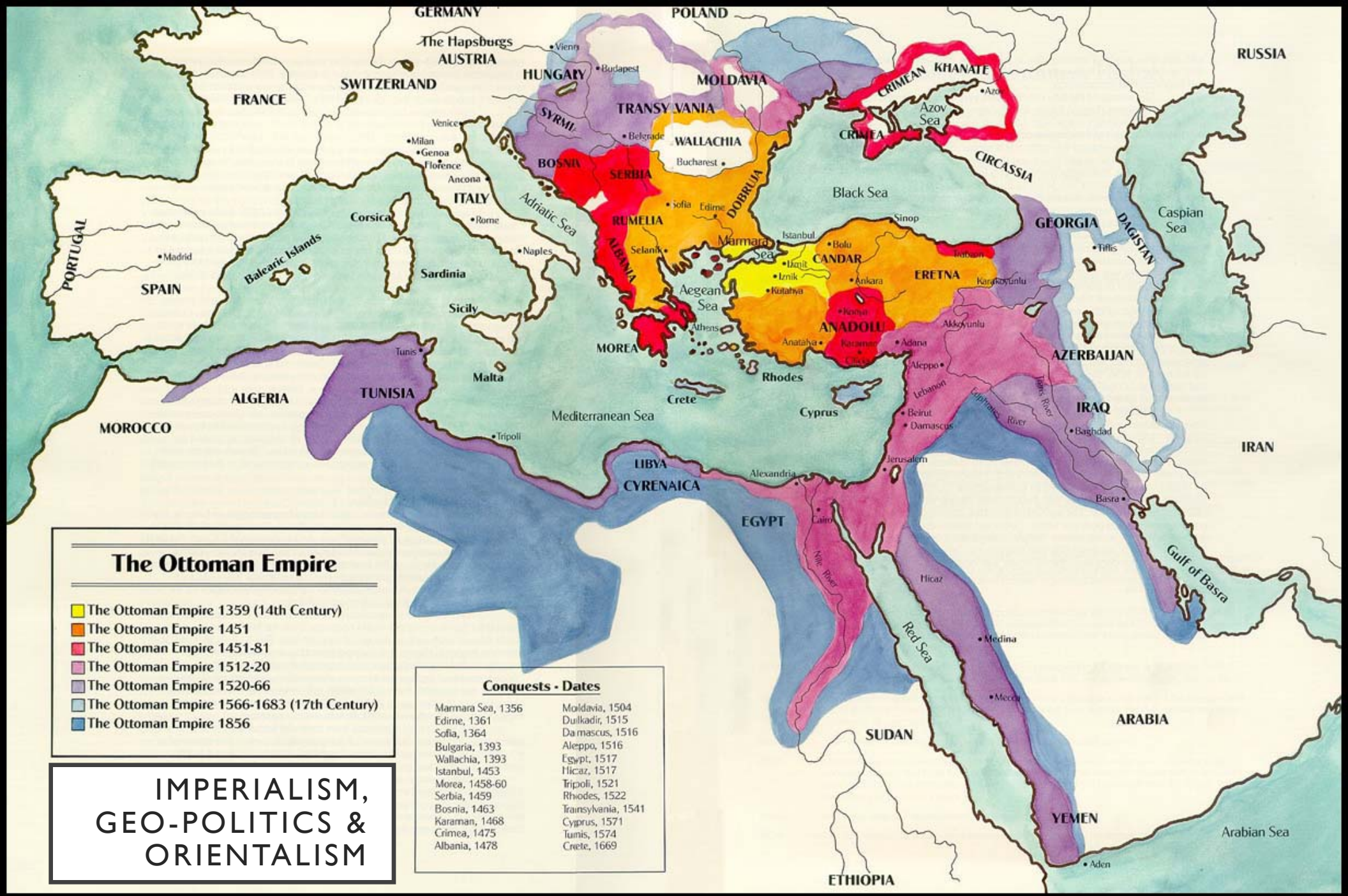
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Carthago et
CAROLUS ALLARD
Geographus etc. 1782 in Vindob.

IMPERIALISM, GEO-POLITICS & ORIENTALISM

c. 1100 CE





The Ottoman Empire

- The Ottoman Empire 1359 (14th Century)
- The Ottoman Empire 1451
- The Ottoman Empire 1451-81
- The Ottoman Empire 1512-20
- The Ottoman Empire 1520-66
- The Ottoman Empire 1566-1683 (17th Century)
- The Ottoman Empire 1856

Conquests - Dates

Marmara Sea, 1356	Moldavia, 1504
Edirne, 1361	Dulkadir, 1515
Sofia, 1364	Damascus, 1516
Bulgaria, 1393	Aleppo, 1516
Wallachia, 1393	Egypt, 1517
Istanbul, 1453	Hicaz, 1517
Morea, 1458-60	Tripoli, 1521
Serbia, 1459	Rhodes, 1522
Bosnia, 1463	Transylvania, 1541
Karaman, 1468	Cyprus, 1571
Crimea, 1475	Tunis, 1574
Albania, 1478	Crete, 1669

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Territorial expansion of the Ottoman empire from 1359-1856.

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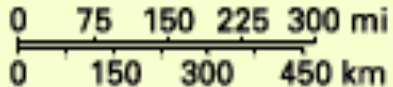
Core of the
Ottoman empire
in 1801

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE IN 1801.

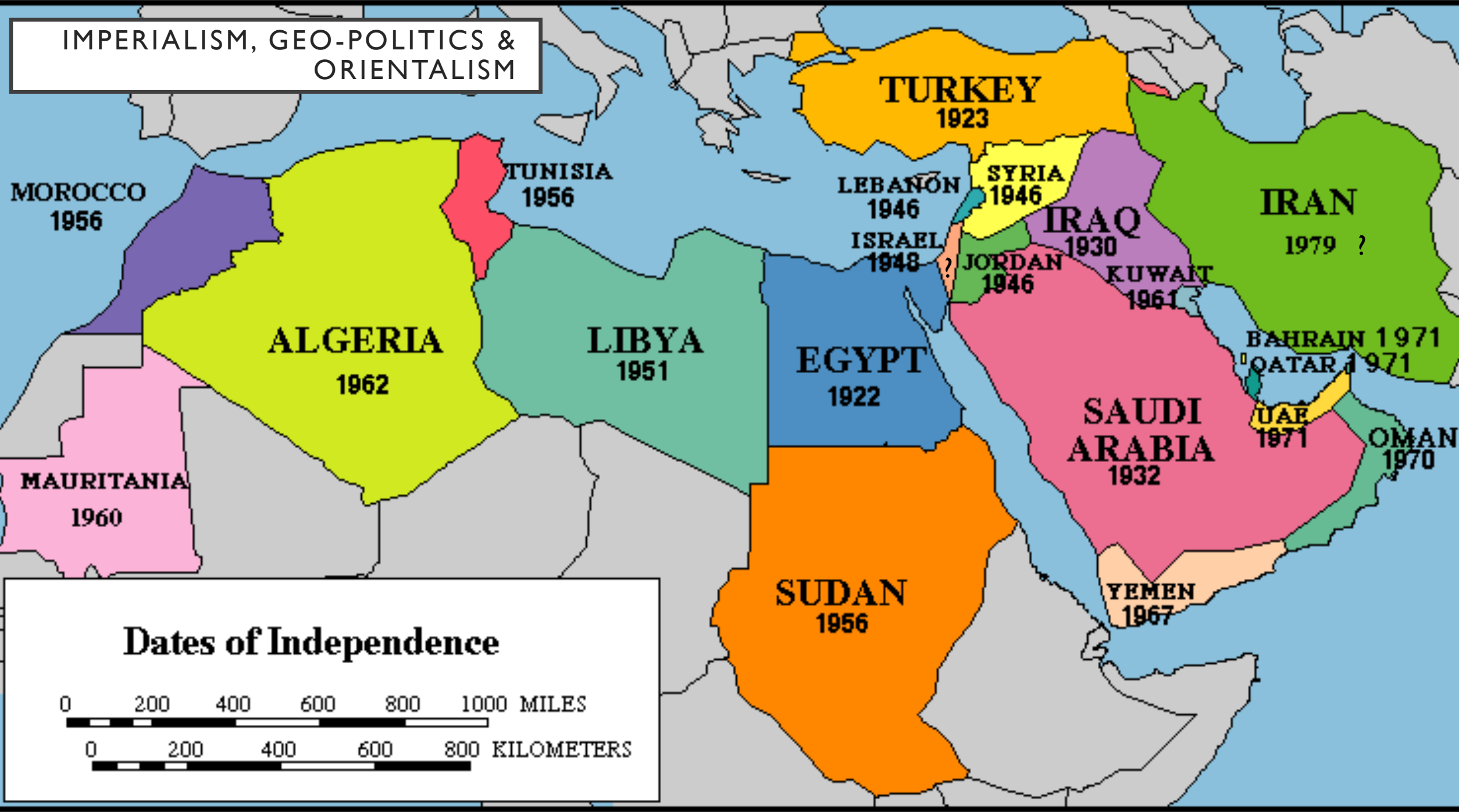




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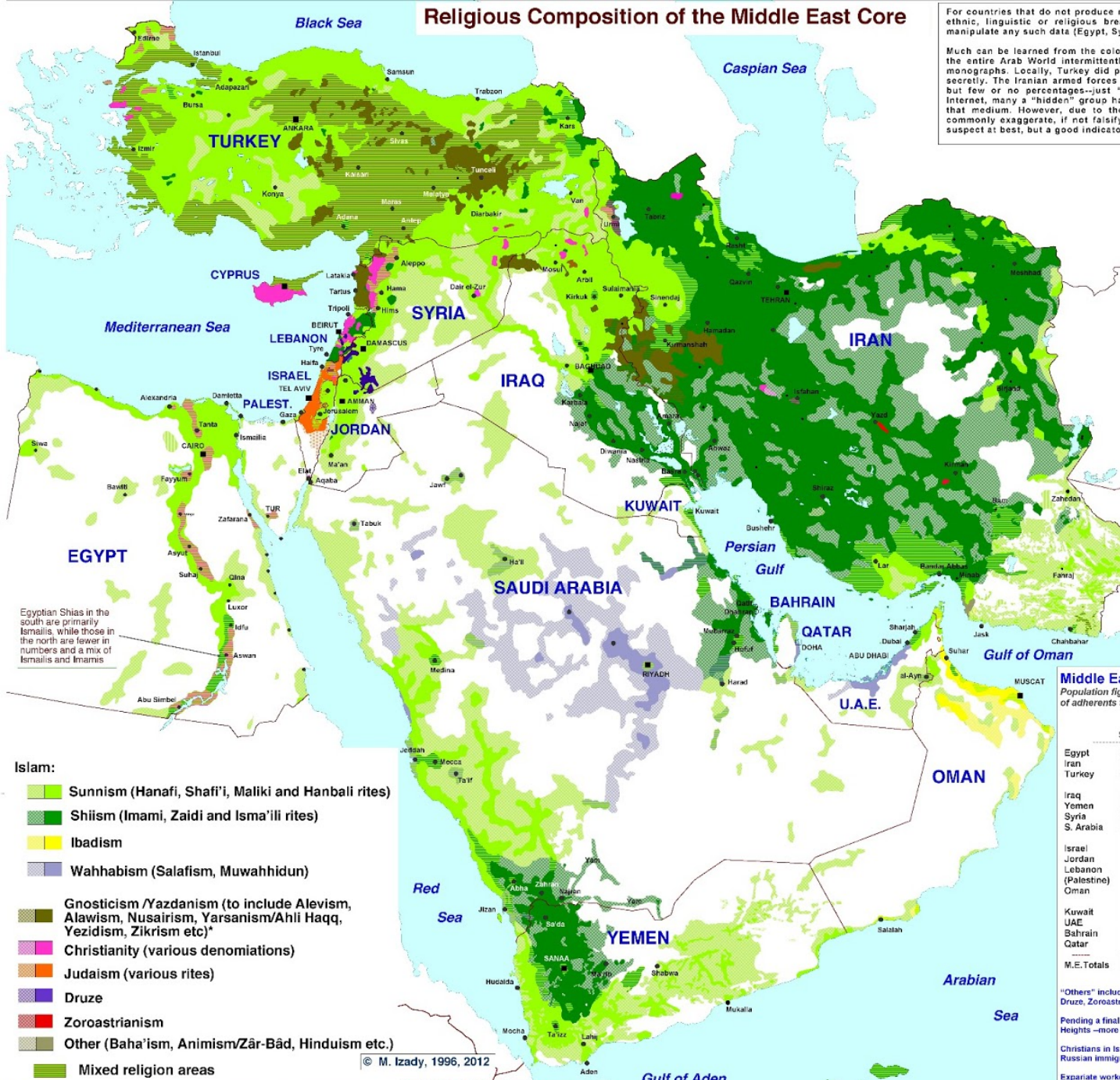
Dates of Independence





IMPERIALISM, GEO-POLITICS &
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Religious Composition of the Middle East Core



For countries that do not produce reliable statistics (like Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia), or any ethnic, linguistic or religious breakdown (Turkey), or for those that intentionally obscure or manipulate any such data (Egypt, Syria, Yemen), indirect methods of counting become necessary. Much can be learned from the colonial statistics by the French and the British that administered the entire Arab World intermittently until WWII. These can be supplemented by anthropological monographs. Locally, Turkey did produce some such data until 1960 openly, and into the 1970s, secretly. The Iranian armed forces put out much anthropological information at the village level, but few or no percentages—just “majorities/minorities” proclamations. With the advent of the Internet, many a “hidden” group has found an outlet to make themselves known to the world via that medium. However, due to their pent-up zeal and desire to make their case urgent, they commonly exaggerate, if not falsify their numbers to magnify their importance. Their figures are suspect at best, but a good indicator of the complexity of the human terrain of the Middle East.

Gnosticism in the Middle East has a long history. Indeed it may well predate all the better-known local religions to include Judaism. A delve into the Bible provides ample evidence to the existence of the Gnostics for as long as the Bible can recall, from Hiram of Tyre to the three Magi searching and locating a new born messiah who is to temporarily embody the deity on the Earth.

Gnosticism has evolved by accreting elements from other surrounding religions, while often pretending through religious dissimulation, to actually be a part of those religions when security and survival of the followers have so required. As of late, the Gnostics have largely associated themselves with the Shia branch of Islam, that is, for except the Druze and the Yezidis who maintain their independence despite the consequences. As such, any count of the Gnostics is but an educated estimate, and never an actual census. Therefore, most of the Gnostics, particularly the Alevis and Alawites are often counted along with the Shia Muslims and without any objection from the latter: a harmless practice although scientifically inaccurate.

One of the primary tenets of Gnosticism is the “oath of secrecy”, to keep the impure outsiders from gaining knowledge. Only those “in the know” (whence ‘Gnosis’) insiders may know the truth and then by gradation.

Presently, Gnosticism, or Yazdanism—if we use the local, time-honored designation, is practiced far and wide in the Middle East and beyond, from Bosnia and Albania to Pakistan, with its epicenter being the mountainous Fertile Crescent (the Zagros-Taurus systems, above Syrian borders).

Today, the most pervasive of the branches of this religion is Alevism, found primarily in Turkey and claiming about 20% of the total population of that state, or about 14 million from among Turks, Turkomans and Kurds (the Dimil/Zaza). This is followed by the Yarsani/Ahli Haqq in Iran and Iraq (about 4 million followers), the Alawis in Syria and Lebanon (about 3.5 million adherents). The Druze (in Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan) might be just shy of half the number of the Alawis.

The Nusairs of Syria (in Jabal Nusair), the Yezidis of Syria, Turkey and Iraq), the Zikris of Iran and Pakistan (coastal Baluchistan) boast to less than one million each.

POLITICS & ORIENTALISM

Middle East Religions' Statistics:

Population figures are in millions and are based on 2008-09 estimates. The number of adherents to a given religion are counted by cultural and not confessional criteria

	State	Total	Sunnī		Shīa		Christians		Jews		Other*	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Egypt	77.4 mil	67.2	86.8	2.24	2.9	7.89	10.2	neg	0.07	0.1		
Iran	74.5	8.08	10.8	64.94	86.7	0.77	1.03	34k	0.03	1.08	1.44	
Turkey	71.5	57.35	80.1	14.1	19.6	0.08	0.01	18k	0.02	0.05	0.07	
Iraq	30.7	9.92	32.3	19.4	63.2	0.71	2.3	neg	0.97	2.16		
Yemen	23.5	13.3	56.36	10.27	43.51	neg	neg	neg	0.03	0.07		
Syria	21.9	15.98	73.0	3.29	14.7	2.04	9.3	neg	0.59	2.7		
S. Arabia	28.7/17.3	9.0	52.0	4.33	25.0	-	-	-	-	3.97	23.0	
Israel	7.3	1.17	16.1	-	-	0.39	5.3	5.49	75.21	0.11	1.5	
Jordan	6.3	5.76	91.5	0.03	0.5	0.40	6.3	-	0.11	1.8		
Lebanon	4.2	1.22	29.0	1.93	46.0	0.78	18.7	neg	0.26	6.3		
(Palestine)	3.7	3.14	84.8	neg	-	0.29	7.84	neg	neg	neg		
Oman	2.8/1.95	0.27	14.0	0.1	5.0	neg	neg	neg	1.58	81.0		
Kuwait	2.9/0.92	0.69	75.0	0.20	21.0	neg	-	-	0.04	4.0		
UAE	4.6/0.76	0.29	39.0	0.08	10.5	neg	-	-	0.39	51.5		
Bahrain	1.05/0.53	0.12	21.0	0.39	73.0	neg	neg	neg	0.03	6.0		
Qatar	0.97/0.32	0.11	36.0	0.06	18.0	-	-	-	0.15	46.0		
M.E. Totals	343.28	193.61	56.4	121.36	35.4	13.32	3.91	5.76	1.7	9.47	2.76	

Others include Muslim Wahhabis, Ibadis and Ahmadis, as well as the non-Muslim Baha'is, Druze, Zoroastrians, Animists/Zar-Bad and Hindus.

Pending a final peace settlement, all Jews who have settled in the West Bank and the Golan Heights—more than 650,000—are here counted under the figures for Israel per se.

Christians in Israel comprise the native Arab Christians (approx 90k) and the recent non-Jewish Russian immigrants (approx 300k)

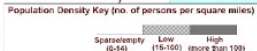
Expatriate workers—often outnumbering the native populations of the most of the GCC states, are not included in these figures. Here, two population figures are provided for each state to reflect this.

Totals may not be equal to the sum of their increments due to the rounding of the figures.

- Islam:
- Sunnism (Hanafi, Shafi'i, Maliki and Hanbali rites)
 - Shiism (Imami, Zaidi and Isma'ili rites)
 - Ibadism
 - Wahhabism (Salafism, Muwahhidun)
 - Gnosticism /Yazdanism (to include Alevism, Alawism, Nusairism, Yarsanism/Ahli Haqq, Yazidism, Zikrism etc)*
 - Christianity (various denominations)
 - Judaism (various rites)
 - Druze
 - Zoroastrianism
 - Other (Baha'ism, Animism/Zar-Bad, Hinduism etc.)
 - Mixed religion areas

Remarks: The adherents to the Wahhabi/Salafi branch of Islam often present themselves to be a reformed branch of the Hanbali Sunnism. Pending a consensus on this identity among other Sunni scholars, here Wahhabism is presented as an independent branch of Islam.

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Linguistic Composition of Iran

Indo-European Family, Iranian Branch

- Persian (Farsi, Luri, Bakhtiari, Bandari, Sistani, Qohistani, Khuzi, etc.)
- Kurdish (Sorani, Kurmanji, Gurani, Laki, Awrami, etc.)
- Gilaki (Bia Pasi, Bia Pishi, etc.)
- Mazandarani (Saravi, Baboli, Amoli, Lafori, Salousi, Kelari, Shahsavari, Delandi, Kholardi, Shahmirzadi, Firuzkuhi, Astarabadi, Katouli, Ghazikilai, Palani, etc.)

- Baluchi (Sarhadi, Lashari, Makrani, Sarawani, etc.)
- Raji (various dialects)
- Southern Tati (various dialects)
- Talishi (Gushtaspi, Rezvanshahri)
- Pashto
- Minabi, Bashagirdi, Qishmi, Kumzari (Shihu), etc.

Other Indo-European groups

- Armenian

Linguistic Data

Spoken as first language:

	% in 1964	% in 2004
Persian	51.4	63.3
Azeri	19.3	13
Kurdish	8.2	7
Gilaki	5.8	3.6
Mazandarani	4.6	3
Baluchi	2.2	2.5
Arabic	1.9	1.8
Turkmeni	1.7	1.4
Qashqa'i	1.6	1.4
Raji	1.2	1
Others	2.1	2

Remarks: Figures for 1964 are derived from *Atlas Narodov Mira* (Moscow, 1964), p. 20. Figures for Persian and Azeri include the speakers of all these dialects listed separately in the Atlas. Figures for 2004 are extrapolated from similar cases where the society shows comparable rates of fast urbanization, education and wealth generation with more reliable and available data than Iran.

Many more people speak Persian as their first language today than did two generations ago. Heavy migration into the cities, mass education and electronic media have all helped in linguistic assimilation of many an Iranian minority member. While, e.g., around 19% of the Iranians are ethnic Azeris, only around 13% speak Azeri as their first language. Meanwhile, the percentage of those speaking Persian as their first language, may now be not much less than the 68% claimed by the Iranian census of 2001.

Consult the "Ethnic Map of Iran" for a comparison between ethnic and linguistic data.

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- ### Turkic Family
- Azeri (Tabrizi, Shahsevan, Qarapapagh, Afshari, Nafari, Bahariu, Inanlu, Qajari, Garagozlu, etc.)
 - Turkmeni (Godari, Timurtash, Qara'i, etc.)
 - Qashqa'i
- ### Semitic Family
- Arabic
 - Aramaic, Assyrian & Syriac
- ### Hamitic Family: Kushitic Group
- Somali, etc.
- ### Caucasic Family
- Georgian
- ### Dravidian Family
- Barahui

© M. R. Izady, 2006

Source: Largely, S. Bruk and V. Apenchenko, *Atlas Narodov Mira* (Moscow, 1964)

Courtesy of columbia.edu @ farsiNet.com

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Osmanisches Reich
um 1900

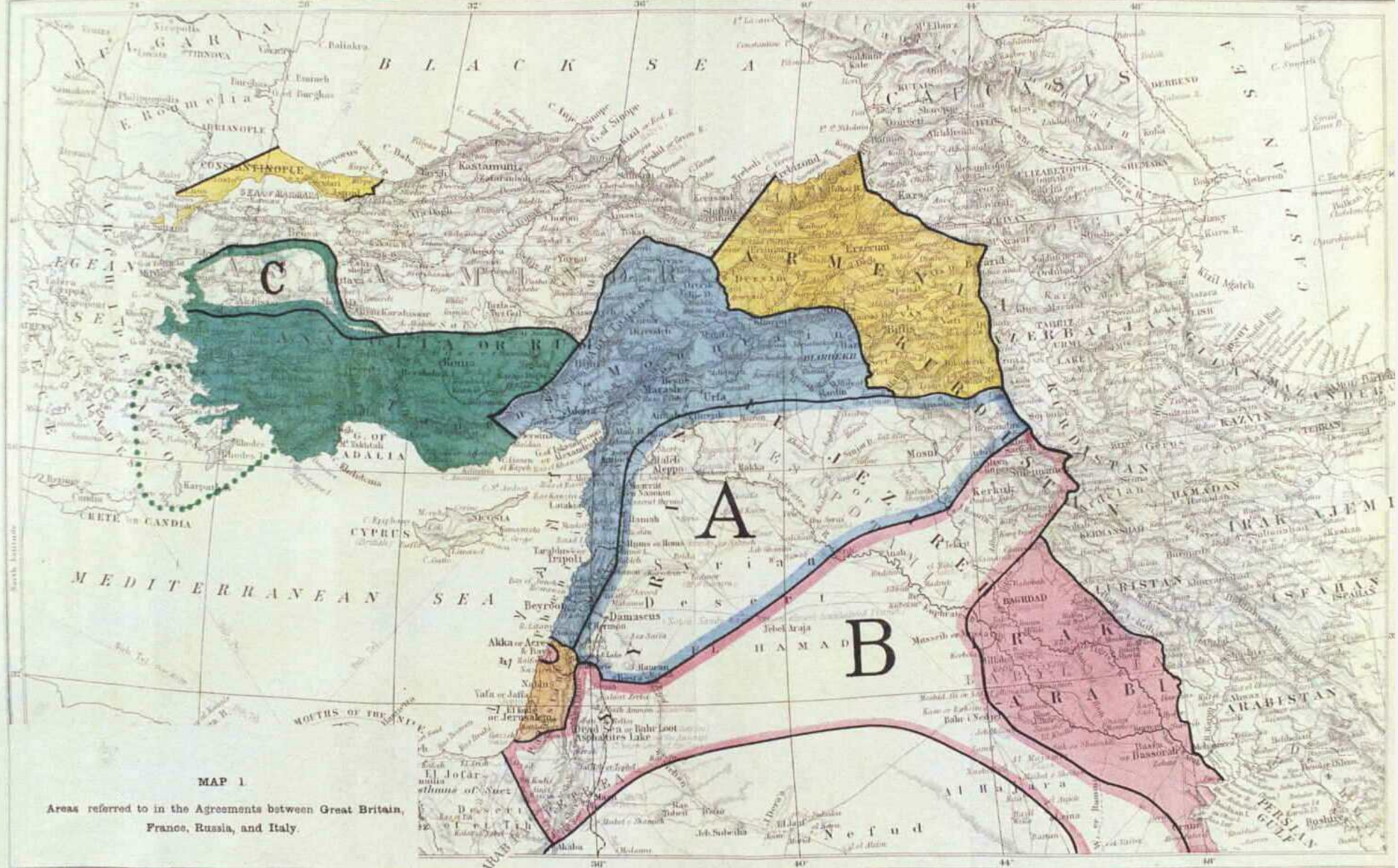
ORIENTALISM



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Map of Sykes-Picot
proposed division
(1916)

MAP 1

Areas referred to in the Agreements between Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy.

- FRENCH SPHERE.
- BRITISH SPHERE.
- ITALIAN SPHERE.
- INTERNATIONAL SPHERE.
- RUSSIAN SPHERE.

A & B = INDEPENDENT ARAB STATE,
A being in the French, and B in the British, sphere of influence.

(155.11/10.6425) F. 6. 258.

London: Edward Stanford, 12, 33 & 44, Long Acre, W.C.

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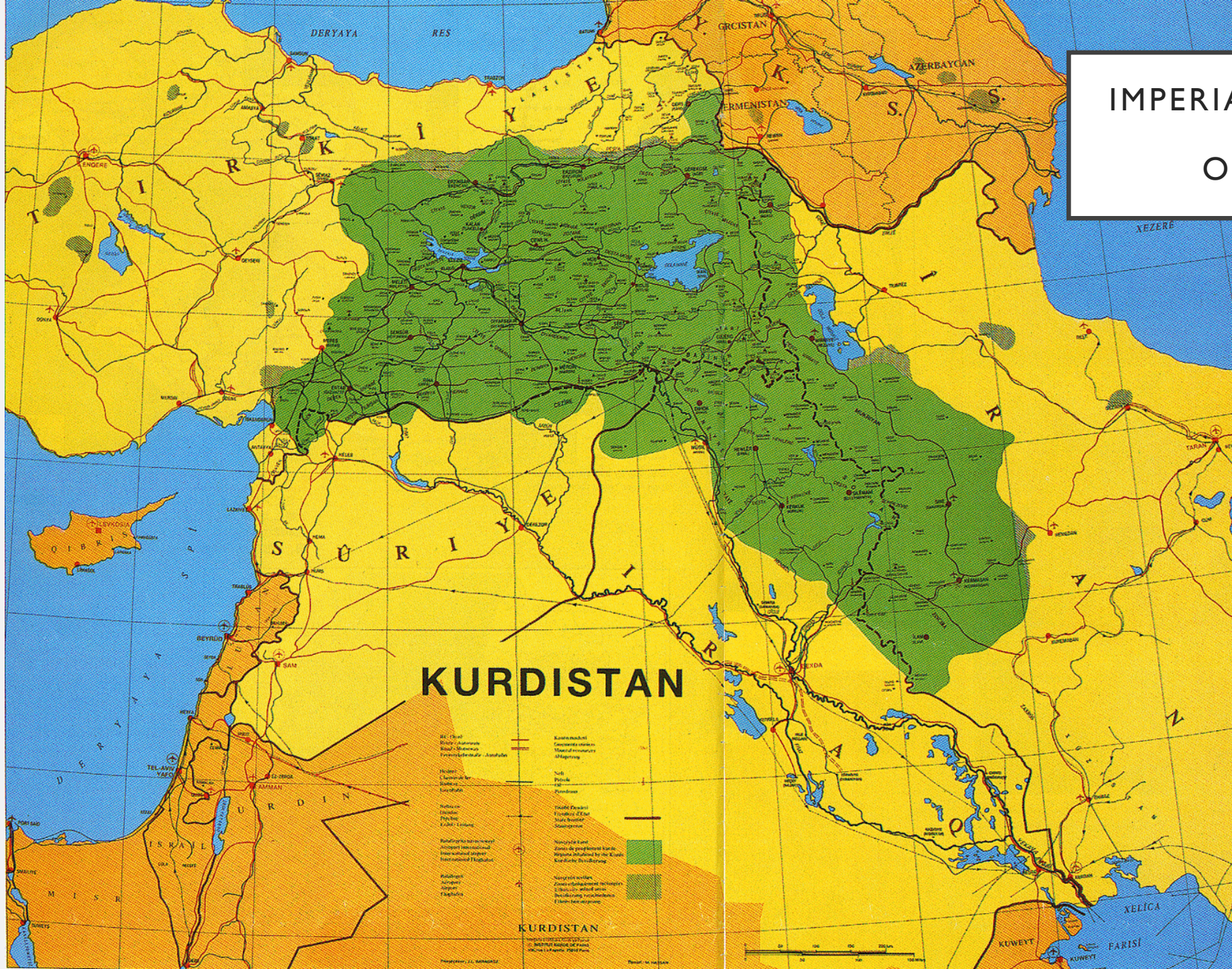
Republic of Turkey

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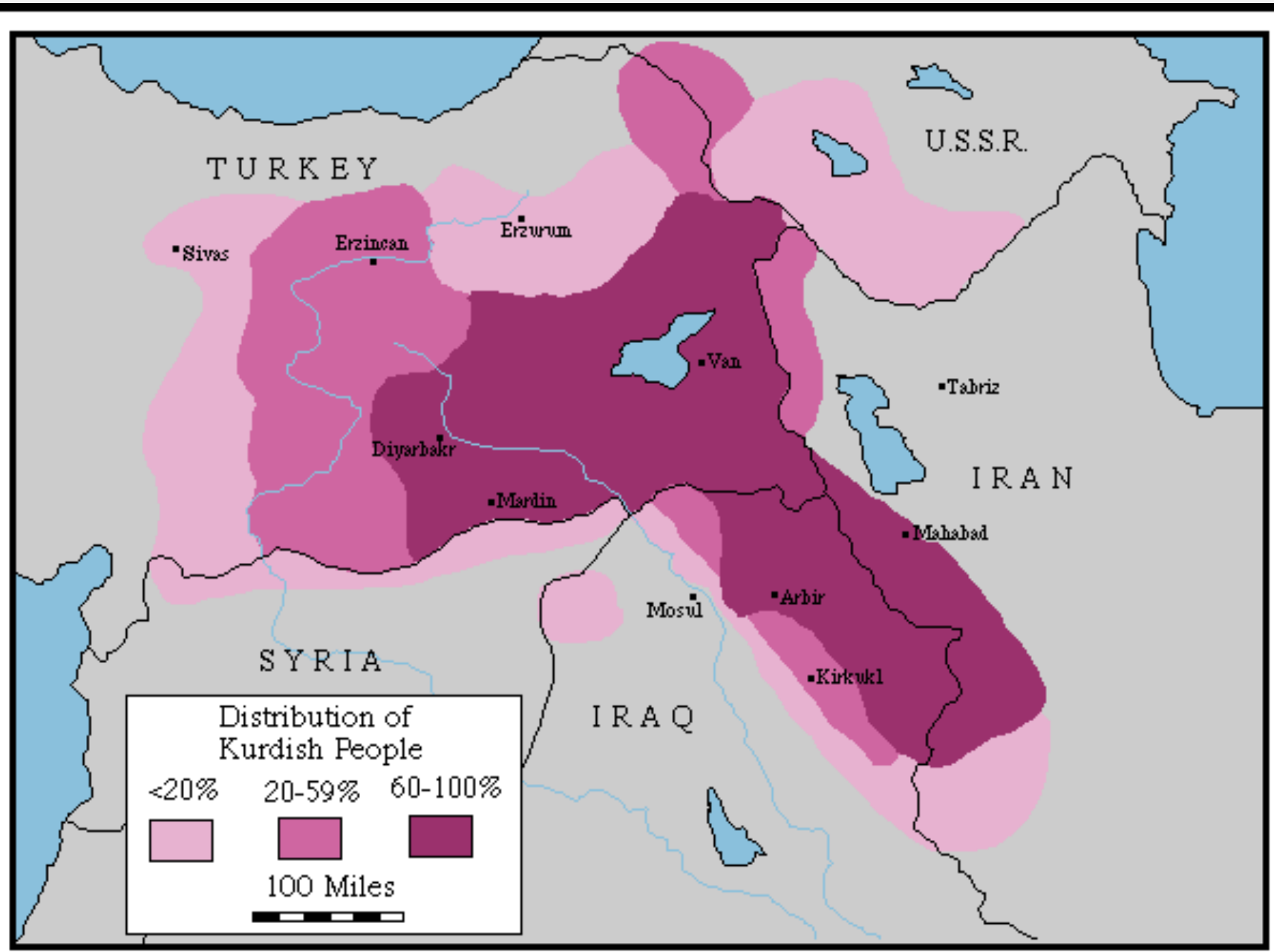


1923

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Quiz

1. Yasser Arafat : Jew, Christian or Muslim ?
2. Name two Islamic states ?
3. Name the oldest established state in which the head of state is also the head of the religion ?
4. Which state has the largest Muslim population ?
5. Which was the world's largest Muslim empire ?
6. What percentage of the world's Jewish population live in Israel ?
7. Name the Gospels.
8. What are the pillars of Islam ?