Two holy places in Jerusalem, Israel, can be seen in this photograph: a shrine known as the Dome of the Rock, which is sacred to Muslims, and the Western Wall, the most sacred spot to Jews.

Southwest Asia, sometimes called a cradle of civilization, is the home of oil rich lands, vast deserts, and difficult political problems.

Flares of burning natural gas are common sights at oil wells in the Al-Ghawar oil field in Saudi Arabia.
Flares of burning natural gas are common sights at oil wells in the Al-Ghawar oil field in Saudi Arabia.

More than half of the world's oil reserves are found in this region.

Some experts believe that the freshwater supplies of the Arabian peninsula will be exhausted in the next 25 to 30 years.

Southwest Asia connects three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Crossing the desert areas of Southwest Asia by land would be almost impossible without oases to provide water and a resting place. This oasis was on the caravan route from Yemen to Palestine.
Today, Southwest Asia faces the issues previewed here. As you read Chapters 21 and 22, you will learn helpful background information. You will study the issues themselves in Chapter 23.

In a small group, answer the questions below. Then participate in a class discussion of your answers.

**Exploring the Issues**

1. **POPULATION RELOCATION** Think about why a group of people may leave a place they call home. What problems might relocation cause for the group? Then make a list of the reasons people relocate and the problems that are caused by moving.

2. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** Make a list of major rivers found in the region and a list of major rivers found in the United States. How do the lists compare? What does this suggest about scarce resources in the region?

3. **REGIONAL CONFLICT** Study the cartoon on page 477. Who are the figures in the cartoon?

What kind of population movement is taking place in Southwest Asia?

This nomadic Kurdish family rests in the hills of eastern Turkey. The Kurds claim a homeland that crosses the boundaries of five countries: Turkey, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Armenia.
How can oil wealth help develop the region’s economies?

Pollution from burning oil field wastes is one of the costs that oil-rich nations must deal with. Yet wealth from oil fields, like this one in southern Iraq, may be used to develop economic activities that do not depend on oil.

**Case Study**

Who should control Jerusalem?

In this cartoon, the dove symbolizes peace between Arabs and Israelis in Southwest Asia. Jerusalem plays a vital role in the peace process.
Patterns of Physical Geography

Use the Unit Atlas to add to your knowledge of Southwest Asia. As you look at the maps and charts, notice geographic patterns and specific details about the region. For example, the chart gives details about the mountains and deserts of Southwest Asia. After studying the graphics and physical map on these two pages, jot down answers to the following questions in your notebook.

Making Comparisons
1. Which of Southwest Asia’s deserts is slightly larger than the Mojave Desert of the United States?
2. How do the tallest mountains of Southwest Asia compare to the tallest U.S. mountain?
3. Which mountain chains cut off Turkey and Iran from the rest of the region? How might isolation affect the way a country develops economically?

Comparing Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landmass</th>
<th>Southwest Asia</th>
<th>2,673,262 sq mi</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continental United States</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
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<table>
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<th>Deserts</th>
<th>World’s Largest Sahara</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>3,500,000 square miles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. Largest Mojave</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>15,000 square miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rub al-Khali Arabian Peninsula</td>
<td>250,000 square miles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Negev</td>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>4,700 square miles</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mountains</th>
<th>World’s Tallest Mt. Everest Nepal-Tibet</th>
<th>29,035 feet</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>U.S. Tallest Mt. McKinley United States</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Damavand Iran</td>
<td>18,606 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mt. Ararat Turkey</td>
<td>16,945 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mt. Hermon Lebanon-Syria</td>
<td>9,232 feet</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Following World War II (1939–1945) and the Holocaust, the United Nations proposed a plan to partition the Palestine Mandate into two nations, one Jewish and the other Arab. After Arabs rejected the plan, Jews created the State of Israel. Since that time, most Arab countries and groups have refused to recognize Israel’s right to exist.

Study the political map of Southwest Asia and the Israel maps at the right to see how possession of the lands changed. Then write the answers to these questions in your notebook.

Making Comparisons
1. Which areas did Israel gain in 1967?
2. Study both maps of Israel and the political map and write a sentence describing the changes in land possession from 1948 to the present.
3. What nation is in possession of the Sinai Peninsula today?
4. Which four nations surround the Golan Heights? Who controls the area?
Making Comparisons
1. What percentage of the population is Kurdish and where are Kurds found in the region?
2. What area has holy places for three major religions? Why might the location of these places be a problem?
3. What energy sources are found in the region?
4. What is the main economic activity in the region? What does that suggest about the land and the population on it?
Study the information on the countries of Southwest Asia. In your notebook, answer these questions.

**Making Comparisons**

1. Study the information to determine which nations are the poorest. On which categories did you base your judgment?

2. Using the map on page 479, make a list of the nations that border the Persian Gulf. How many of those nations have more exports than imports?

### Regional Data File

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<tr>
<th>Country/Flag</th>
<th>Country/Capital</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Life Expectancy (years)</th>
<th>Birthrate (per 1,000 pop.)</th>
<th>Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)</th>
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<td>6.2</td>
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**Sources:**
- Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook, 2010*
- *The World Almanac and Book of Facts, 2010*
- World Health Organization (WHO), 2007

**Notes:**
- GDP (purchasing power parity) is defined as the sum value of all goods and services produced in the country valued at prices prevailing in the United States.
- Includes land and water, when figures are available.

For updated statistics on Southwest Asia . . .
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Doctors (per 100,000 pop.)</th>
<th>GDPa (billions US$)</th>
<th>Import/Export (billions US$)</th>
<th>Literacy Rate (percentage)</th>
<th>Televisions (per 1,000 pop.)</th>
<th>Passenger Cars (per 1,000 pop.)</th>
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<td>99</td>
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<td>725</td>
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</table>
Wind-shaped sand dunes in Arabia’s An-Nafud Desert sometimes reach a height of 600 feet.

Essential Question
How do the physical features and resources of Southwest Asia affect its people and their influence?

What You Will Learn
In this chapter you will explore the harsh landscapes of Southwest Asia and investigate how the land and its resources affect life in the region.

SECTION 1
Landforms and Resources

SECTION 2
Climate and Vegetation

SECTION 3
Human–Environment Interaction

Use the graphic organizer online it to record information from the chapter about the physical geography of Southwest Asia.
Landforms and Resources

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE Artillery shells and sniper fire rained down on the lands below a small plateau in southwestern Syria. Airplanes bombed the military positions on the plateau itself. Families in nearby villages huddled in their homes, hoping for the shelling to stop. Israeli Army engineers struggled to build a road to enable tanks to reach the top. Thousands died in the 1967 war when Syria and Israel fought for control of the Golan Heights, also called Al Jawlan, a hilly plateau overlooking the Jordan River and the Sea of Galilee. This landform’s strategic location has made it the site of conflict in Southwest Asia for decades. It is one of many landforms that divide the region.

Landforms Divide the Region

People sometimes picture Southwest Asia as a region of rippling sand dunes and parched land occasionally interrupted with an oasis. But the lands of Southwest Asia actually range from green coastal plains to snow-peaked mountains. Southwest Asia forms a land bridge connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe. As you can see on the map on page 37, the region is situated at the edge of a huge tectonic plate. Parts of the Arabian Peninsula are pulling away from Africa, and parts of the Anatolian Peninsula are sliding past parts of Asia. Still other plates are pushing up mountains in other areas of the Asian continent.

PENINSULAS AND WATERWAYS The most distinctive landform in Southwest Asia is the Arabian Peninsula, which is separated from the continent of Africa by the Red Sea on the southwest and from the rest of Asia by the Persian Gulf on the east. The Red Sea covers a rift valley created by the movement of the Arabian plate. The Zagros, Elburz, and Taurus mountains at the north side of the plate cut off part of the region from the south. Another important landform in the region is the Anatolian Peninsula, which is occupied by the country of Turkey. It marks the beginning of the Asian continent. (See the map on page 479.)

Both peninsulas border on strategic waterways. On the southwest side of the Arabian Peninsula are the Red Sea and a strategic opening to the Mediterranean Sea—the Suez Canal. Goods from Asia flow through this canal to ports in Europe and North Africa.

Main Ideas
- The Southwest Asian landforms have had a major impact on movement in the region.
- The most valuable resources in Southwest Asia are oil and water.

Places & Terms
- Golan Heights
- wadi
- Tigris River
- Euphrates River
- Jordan River
- Dead Sea

CONNECT TO THE ISSUES
RESOURCES Enormous oil reserves have brought changes to the economic and political standing of this region.

PLACE The Golan Heights are a strategic location near the source of water in the region. How will control of this area affect those who live on lands below the top of the plateau?
The Anatolian Peninsula is located between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. Two narrow waterways, the Bosphorus Strait and the Dardanelles Strait, are situated at the west end of the peninsula. Both straits have always been highly desirable locations for controlling trade and transportation to Russia and the interior of Asia.

Farther south is a narrow passageway leading from the Arabian Sea to the Persian Gulf called the Straits of Hormuz. These straits are the only waterway to the huge oilfields of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. Because access to oil is essential to the world-wide economy, this waterway is very important.

**PLAINS AND HIGHLANDS** Much of the Arabian Peninsula is covered by plains. Because of the dry, sandy, and windy conditions, few activities using the land take place here. Most of the land is barren with some low hills, ridges, and **wadis**, which are riverbeds that remain dry except during the rainy seasons. On the southwestern corner of the peninsula, a range of mountains—the Hejaz Mountains—pokes out of the land. People living on the Arabian Peninsula have adapted to the harsh conditions by living nomadic lives in search of water.

The heart of Iran is a plateau surrounded by mountains. Isolated and very high, the land is a stony, salty, and sandy desert. The foothills surrounding the plateau are able to produce some crops. Much of the Anatolian Peninsula is also a plateau. Some areas are productive for agriculture, while other areas support flocks of grazing animals such as sheep and goats. The Northern Plain of Afghanistan, a well-watered agricultural area, is surrounded by high mountains that isolate it from other parts of the region.

**MOUNTAINS** Rugged mountains divide the land and countries. As you study the map on page 479, you will see that the Hindu Kush Mountains of Afghanistan are linked with other ranges of mountains that frame southern Asia. Afghanistan is landlocked and mountainous, so contact with the outside world is difficult.

The Zagros Mountains on the western side of Iran help isolate that country from the rest of Southwest Asia. The Elburz Mountains south of the Caspian Sea cut off easy access to that body of water by Iran. Finally, the Taurus Mountains separate Turkey from the rest of Southwest Asia. In spite of these physical barriers, people, goods, and ideas move through the entire region. One of the ways they move is by water.
WATER BODIES  Southwest Asia is almost completely surrounded by bodies of water. They provide vital avenues for trade and access to other parts of the region and to the rest of the world. However, because much of the region is arid, there are few rivers that flow the entire year. As you can see on the map on page 488, two of the most important rivers—the Tigris and the Euphrates—supported several ancient river valley civilizations in an area called the Fertile Crescent. They included Sumerians, Assyrians, Babylonians, and Chaldeans.

Today, the Tigris and Euphrates flow through parts of Turkey, Syria, and Iraq. The valleys are fertile, well watered, and good for agriculture. The two rivers flow almost parallel to each other for hundreds of miles before joining at a place called Shatt al Arab. They spread out into slow moving water and swamps, finally emptying into the Persian Gulf.

Tumbling down from the mountains of Lebanon near Mt. Hermon, the Jordan River provides one of the most precious resources in the entire region—water. Farther south, the river serves as a natural boundary between Israel and Jordan. The Jordan River flows into the salty waters of the Dead Sea, a landlocked salt lake. The Dead Sea is so salty that only bacteria can live in the waters. Thousands of years ago the earth was heaved up on the south end of present-day Israel. The outlet to the sea was blocked, creating the salt lake. The Dead Sea is 1,349 feet below sea level—the lowest place on the exposed crust of the earth. (See The Dead Sea, above.)

Resources for a Modern World

It is almost impossible to think about resources in Southwest Asia without including oil. It is the region’s most abundant resource. Major oil
fields are located in the Arabian Peninsula, Iran, and Iraq, with natural gas fields close by. Since these fossil fuels run cars and trucks, factories, and power plants all over the world, they provide the major portion of income for nations with petroleum reserves.

**AN OIL-RICH REGION** Today, about one-half of the world’s oil reserves are found in Southwest Asia, along the coast of the Persian Gulf, and at offshore drilling sites in the Gulf itself. The presence of these large reserves has made the region important because so many countries, including the United States, depend on its oil.

**OTHER RESOURCES** The most valuable resource in parts of Southwest Asia is water. In mountainous lands such as Turkey, Iran, Lebanon, and Afghanistan, water is plentiful compared to the rest of the region. It can be harnessed for hydroelectric power. However, elsewhere, water is a scarce resource that must constantly be guarded and carefully used. Efforts to conserve water have been a part of the culture of the people living in the region for thousands of years.

Southwest Asia has deposits of other resources such as coal, metallic minerals such as copper, and non-metallic minerals such as potash and phosphates. However, the deposits are scattered and not very large. Iran and Turkey have good-sized deposits of coal. Around the Dead Sea are significant reserves of salts such as calcium chloride. However, these salt deposits, which are used in manufacturing and chemical processes, have not been heavily developed.

The harsh land and the desert climate that you will learn about in the next section make life in this region a challenge.

**HUMAN—ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION** Men work at an oil drilling compound in the Rub al-Khali desert. How will oil drilling change this area?

**Making Comparisons** Which resource do you believe is more important in Southwest Asia—water or oil? Think about:
- the scarcity of water
- the economic value of oil

**GeoActivity** Study the map on page 483, focusing on energy sources in the region. Create a map that shows the location of these energy sources. Label each country that has such sources.
Climate and Vegetation

Main Ideas
- Most of Southwest Asia has a very arid climate.
- Irrigation is critical to growing crops in this very dry region.

Places & Terms
Rub al-Khali
oasis
salt flat

Connect to the Issues
Population Relocation
The climate of Southwest Asia limits interaction between countries in the region.

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE In the spring of 1999, three Canadian explorers retraced the steps of Sir Wilfred Thesiger’s 1946 epic journey across the Rub al-Khali on the Arabian Peninsula. It is one of the most extreme deserts in the world. Like Sir Wilfred, they crossed using camels, not four-wheel drive vehicles. But unlike Sir Wilfred, the Canadians were equipped with late 20th-century explorers’ tools—personal location beacons, a satellite phone for communications, and laptop computers for recording details of the journey. Crossing this great arid expanse was physically challenging and took 40 days to complete. But for many of the region’s inhabitants, survival in the lands of this region is a challenge every day.

Variety in Arid Lands
Southwest Asia is extremely arid. Most areas receive less than 18 inches of precipitation a year. A huge portion of its land area is covered with rough, dry terrain that varies from huge tracts of sand dunes to great salt flats. Study the Map Skills on page 494 to learn more about desert vegetation. Because the region is so dry, its rivers do not flow year round. The vegetation and animals living in the desert can survive on little water and in extreme temperatures. In many areas of Southwest Asia, irrigation has transformed the deserts into productive farmland.

In other parts of the region, a Mediterranean climate prevails, making the land green and lush for at least part of each year. The land in Southwest Asia is broken up by ranges of mountains and plateaus. As a result, highland climates are found in many parts of the region.

Deserts Limit Movement
Spread across the region, the deserts effectively reduce travel and limit almost all human-environment interaction. The surfaces of the desert may be covered with sand, salt, or rocks.

SANDY DESERTS The most famous desert in the region is the Rub al-Khali, also known as the Empty Quarter. A local name for the desert is the “place where no one comes out.” It is a vast desert...
approximately the size of Texas—on the Arabian Peninsula. It is one of the largest sandy deserts in the world, covering about 250,000 square miles with sand ridges and dunes that reach as high as 800 feet. During the summer, the temperature on the surface of the sand often exceeds 150°F. As many as 10 years may pass without rainfall.

Next to the Rub al-Khali is the An-Nafud Desert. An occasional oasis interrupts its reddish dunes. An oasis is an area in the desert where vegetation is found because water is available, usually from underground springs. Severe sandstorms and brutal heat make this desert a barrier to travel across the Arabian Peninsula.

Extending north from the An-Nafud is the Syrian Desert. It separates the coastal regions of Lebanon, Israel, and Syria from the Tigris and Euphrates valleys. (See the map on page 479.) Finally, the desert area in southern Israel is the Negev Desert. Unlike some deserts, this one produces crops through extensive irrigation, developed by Jewish farmers.

**SALT DESERTS** As you learned in Chapter 3, lands in the rain shadow of a mountain range are usually arid or semiarid. Lands in Iran are good examples of this effect. In Iran, the high mountains block rain, and dry winds increase evaporation. So when winds evaporate the moisture in the soil, chemical salts remain, creating a salt flat. In Iran there are two salt flat deserts—the Dasht-e Kavir in central Iran and the Dasht-e Lut in eastern Iran. The lands here are salt-crusted, surrounded by quicksand-like salt marshes, and extremely hot. These rugged lands are almost uninhabited and are barriers to easy movement across Iran.
Semiarid Lands

On the fringes of the deserts are regions with a semiarid climate. These semiarid areas have warm to hot summers with enough rainfall to support grass and some low-growing shrubs. Both cotton and wheat can be grown in this climate. The lands offer good pasture for animals. In Turkey, large herds of mohair goats graze on these lands. Their hair, and fabrics made from it, are among Turkey’s exports.

Well-Watered Coast Lands

Although much of Southwest Asia is arid or semiarid, it does have some areas with adequate rainfall. Along the Mediterranean coast and across most of Turkey, hot summers and rainy winters like those in southern California create a good climate for growing citrus fruits, olives, and vegetables. Because of mild winter temperatures in winter and heavy irrigation in the dry summer, farmers can grow crops year round. The Mediterranean climate is a comfortable one in which to live, so these areas are heavily populated.

For thousands of years, the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates have been the site of intensive farming. Both Turkey and Iraq have constructed dams on the rivers to provide irrigation water all year long. Climate, vegetation, and landforms have had a major impact on human-environment interaction in Southwest Asia. In the next section, you will see how oil and water have shaped life in this region.
Reading a Vegetation Map

Southwest Asia is a region with large areas of vegetation specially adapted for dry conditions. The natural vegetation of a region depends on many factors, including soil type, location, elevation, and climate type.

**THE LANGUAGE OF MAPS** A vegetation map shows the location of major types of plants in a region. It includes the natural vegetation found in the area and usually does not include plants introduced as agricultural crops. The map uses colors to indicate the vegetation types. Unlike the map boundaries, the boundaries on earth for the areas are not rigid but gradually blend into each other.

**Vegetation of Southwest Asia**

1. The key illustrates the types of vegetation found in the region. Each color on the map represents the major vegetation in that area.
2. This area has little or no vegetation, and probably is a desert.
3. Areas along the coasts of large bodies of water often have different vegetation from the kinds found inland.
4. Look for patterns that might give you clues about landforms in the region. Here, the mixed forest may indicate a mountainous area.

**Map and Graph Skills Assessment**

1. **Making Generalizations**
   What type of vegetation is found in the lands bordering the Persian Gulf?

2. **Making Comparisons**
   Along which bodies of water is the vegetation region different from regions farther inland?

3. **Drawing Conclusions**
   In general, how would you describe the vegetation of this region?
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  Icebergs for fresh water? In 1977, a Saudi prince, Muhammad ibn Faisal, formed a company to investigate the possibility of towing icebergs from Antarctica to the port of Jidda on the Red Sea. The icebergs would then be melted to release huge quantities of fresh water. It cost one million dollars to find out that no ship was powerful enough to tow an enormous iceberg, and there was no way to keep the iceberg from breaking up on the way. In 1981, the iceberg project was suspended. This story illustrates just how precious fresh water is in Southwest Asia. For centuries, people living in the region have struggled to find fresh water for themselves and for crops.

Providing Precious Water

Even though oil brings a great deal of money into Southwest Asia, the most critical resource in this dry region is water. Fresh water supplies are available only in small amounts and not consistently. Ancient civilizations constantly faced the problem of finding and storing water in order to survive and prosper. Today, the same challenge exists for modern nations. To find reliable water supplies, nations today use both ancient and modern practices. The pictures on page 496 include examples of both ancient and modern techniques for providing water.

DAMS AND IRRIGATION SYSTEMS  Ancient practices can provide water for small fields but are not efficient for large-scale farming. To meet the needs of large farms and growing populations, countries must construct dams and irrigation systems. Turkey is building 22 dams and 19 power plants on the upper Euphrates and Tigris rivers. The project will provide water and hydroelectricity for parts of the country. As of 2005, 8 power plants were completed. They produced 18.7 kilowatt-hours of electricity that year, nearly half of Turkey’s output. But the project is controversial—Syria and Iraq, which lie downstream from the dams, fear they will receive much less water for irrigation or hydroelectricity.

The National Water Carrier project in Israel carries water from the northern part of the country to sites in the nation’s center and south. The water comes primarily from Lake Kinneret (Sea of Galilee), but also from mountain areas, including the Golan Heights, and the Jordan River. Some of the water is used for agricultural projects in the Negev, and some for...
Drip irrigation places water just at the root zone, reducing evaporation of precious water. This system is located in the Negev Desert in Israel.

A bag of water is collected by using this pump. It is a part of a qanat—a system of underground brick-lined tunnels and wells that collect runoff water from the mountains.

This irrigation canal in Oman has delivered water for over a thousand years. The canals are carefully maintained to provide water for agriculture.

A noria—or waterwheel run by the flow of water or by animal power—is used to lift water from the river to the fields. These two are located in Syria on the Orontes River.

Drinking water. Because the water sources flow through several countries and water resources are limited, the National Water Carrier project has been a source of tension between Israel, Jordan, and Syria.

Modern Water Technology Several countries in the region use drip irrigation. Developed by Israelis, this system uses small pipes that slowly drip water just above ground to conserve water used for crops. Other nations are developing ways to use ocean water. Desalination, the removal of salt from ocean water, is done at technically sophisticated water treatment plants. However, the desalinated water may be too salty to use for irrigation so it is used in sewage systems. Desalination plants are very expensive and cannot provide adequate quantities of water to meet all the needs of people in Southwest Asia. Another alternative source of water, especially for agriculture, is the treatment of wastewater. Wastewater treatment plants constructed in the region fail to generate enough water to meet all the needs.

Water pumped from underground aquifers is called fossil water, because it has been in the aquifer for very long periods of time. Fossil water has very little chance of being replaced because this region has too little rainfall to recharge the aquifers. It is estimated that at the current rate water is being pumped, only about 25 to 30 years of water usage remain. Finding ways to conserve or even reuse water must be a top priority for the nations of this region.
Oil From the Sand

The oil fields discovered in the sands of Southwest Asia have been a bonanza for the region. These fields contain about one-half of all of the petroleum reserves in the world. Petroleum is the source of gasoline for automobiles, heating oil, and the basis of many chemicals used to make everything from fertilizers to plastics. Thus, petroleum products are an important part of the world economy. Having huge oil resources makes Southwest Asia a very important region economically.

FORMING PETROLEUM Oil and natural gas deposits were formed millions of years ago when an ancient sea covered the area of Southwest Asia. Microscopic plants and animals lived and died in the waters. Their remains sank and became mingled with the sand and mud on the bottom of the sea. Over time, pressure and heat transformed the material into hydrocarbons, which form the chemical basis of oil and natural gas.

Oil and natural gas do not exist in large pools beneath the ground, but are trapped inside rocks. You could hold a rock containing oil in your hand and not be able to see the oil because it is trapped in the microscopic pores of the rock. The more porous the rock, the more oil can be stored. A barrier of nonporous rock above the petroleum deposit prevents the gas or oil from moving out of the rock and to the surface.

Engineers use sophisticated equipment to extract, or remove, the oil. It also takes technical skill and special equipment to find deposits of oil. For this reason, oil was not discovered in some parts of the region until the 1920s and 1930s.

EARLY EXPLORATION Industrialization and the increasing popularity of automobiles made petroleum a highly desired resource. Beginning in the late 1800s, oil companies searched all over the world for oil resources. The first Southwest Asia oil discovery was in 1908 in Persia, now known as Iran. In 1938, oil companies found more oil fields in the Arabian Peninsula and Persian Gulf. Then, World War II interrupted further exploring. In 1948, oil companies discovered portions of what would become one of the world’s largest oil fields at al-Ghawar, just on the eastern edge of the Rub al-Khali. This field contains more than one-quarter of all Saudi Arabia’s reserves of oil.

TRANSPORTING OIL Petroleum that has not been processed is called crude oil. Crude oil pumped from the ground must be moved to a refinery. The job of a refinery is to convert the crude oil into useful products. Pipelines transport the crude oil either to refineries or to ports where the oil is picked up by tankers and moved to other places for processing. Study the diagram on page 498 to learn how oil is processed and moved.
Oil Pipelines in Southwest Asia

Drilling rigs cut through nonporous rock above the trapped crude oil and natural gas and pump it to storage tanks.

Natural gas, water, and sediments are removed from the crude oil. Oil is sent to the pumping station.

The crude oil is pumped to tankers or sent to a refinery to be processed. Some pipelines carry as much as a million barrels a day.

At the oil refinery, the crude oil is converted into useful products like gasoline.

The products are transported to markets all over the world. Ocean-going tankers carry more than a million barrels; railroad tank cars carry about 1,500 barrels; tank trucks hold about 300 barrels.

SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

1. **REGION** Where are the largest number of oil and gas fields located?
2. **MOVEMENT** In what direction is much of the oil moved?
Placement of pipelines depends on the location of existing ports or access to worldwide markets. Study the map on page 498. Notice that in this region, the pipelines move the crude oil to ports on the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea. From these locations, oil tankers carry the petroleum to markets in the rest of the world.

In some places, refineries process the crude oil near ports. Tanks to hold the oil products are located at port facilities. Many Southwest Asian nations have updated and outfitted their ports to service the very large ocean-going tankers.

**RISKS OF TRANSPORTING OIL** Moving oil from one location to another always involves the risk of oil spills. The largest oil spill ever recorded occurred in January 1991, during the Persian Gulf War. A series of tankers and oil storage terminals in Kuwait and on islands off its coast were blown up by Iraqi forces. An estimated 240 to 460 million gallons of crude oil were spilled into the water and on land.

Buried pipelines in Southwest Asia help reduce the danger of above-ground accidents. However, oil spills on land do happen. Because oil is such a valuable commodity, the pipelines are carefully monitored for any drop in pressure that might signal a leak in the line. Any leaks are quickly repaired.

On the other hand, ocean-going tankers transporting oil are at a much higher risk for causing pollution. Many tankers operate in shallow and narrow waterways such as the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, the Persian Gulf, and the Straits of Hormuz. Here, there is danger of oil spills due to collisions or running aground. Most modern tankers have double hulls so that minor accidents will not result in oil spills. In addition, oil-producing nations in Southwest Asia have taken legal steps to protect their environments.

In the next chapter, you will learn more about the people and cultures of the subregions of Southwest Asia.
Physical Geography of Southwest Asia

Peninsulas: Anatolian, Arabian
Mountain Ranges: Hindu Kush, Elburz, Zagros, Taurus
Major Waterways: Tigris, Euphrates, Jordan, Red Sea–Suez Canal, Bosporus Strait, Straits of Hormuz

Water is a scarce resource.
Oil is an abundant resource that shapes the region’s economy.

Deserts:
• Rub al-Khali, An-Nafud, Syrian, and Negev are mostly sandy.
• Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut are salt flat deserts.

Water is provided through both old and new technologies.
Oil is pumped from the ground, processed, and transported out of Southwest Asia.

Reviewing Places & Terms

A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.

1. Golan Heights
2. wadi
3. Tigris River
4. Euphrates River
5. oasis
6. salt flat
7. drip irrigation
8. desalinization
9. crude oil
10. refinery

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.

11. Where would you most likely find a wadi?
12. The Golan Heights are an example of which type of landform?
13. Where were several ancient river valley civilizations located?
14. Which terms above deal with water usage?
15. Why are refineries needed?
16. Where might you find a refinery?
17. Why is drip irrigation used?
18. Where would you find a salt flat desert in Southwest Asia?
19. What is the source of water for an oasis?
20. What are drawbacks to using water from a desalinization plant?

Main Ideas

Landforms and Resources (pp. 487–490)

1. How do the landforms of the region restrict movement?
2. What are the most valuable resources in the region and why are they valuable?
3. How large are the oil reserves in the region?

Climate and Vegetation (pp. 491–494)

4. What types of deserts are found in the region?
5. Why is extensive irrigation needed in the region?
6. Where in the region are well-watered lands found?

Human-Environment Interaction (pp. 495–499)

7. What are some examples of the ways in which water is provided in the region?
8. In what ways do major water projects cause political problems?
9. Where are the major oil fields in the region located?
10. What are some dangers in transporting oil?
Critical Thinking

1. Using Your Notes
Use your completed chart to answer these questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Landforms</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

a. How are landforms and desert climate connected?
b. How is oil production related to the economy of the region?

2. Geographic Themes
a. LOCATION Why is the relative location of Southwest Asia important to world trade of oil?
b. PLACE Why is the Persian Gulf considered a strategic location?

3. Identifying Themes
Why are the Tigris and Euphrates rivers so important to Southwest Asia? Which of the five themes applies to this situation?

4. Making Generalizations
In what ways do oil and water shape the lives of the people of Southwest Asia?

5. Making Inferences
How does climate affect the distribution of population in the region?

Geographic Skills: Interpreting a Cartogram

Estimated Worldwide Oil Reserves
Use the cartogram at the right to answer the following questions. (See page 22 or page 733 for more on cartograms.)

1. PLACE Which nations have the greatest oil reserves?
2. PLACE What is the approximate amount of reserves for the United States?
3. REGION How does this cartogram help to explain the importance of the region?

GeoActivity
Create a three-dimensional model to show the information on the cartogram. Be sure to label each of the countries and give an approximate total amount of oil reserves.

Creating Graphs and Charts Create an illustrated chart showing the types of products that are produced from petroleum. List the Web sites that you used in preparing your report.

Creating Graphs and Charts
Create an illustrated chart showing the types of products that are produced from petroleum. List the Web sites that you used in preparing your report.
Chapter 22
HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
OF SOUTHWEST ASIA
Religion, Politics, and Oil

Essential Question
How have religion and oil affected political issues in Southwest Asia?

What You Will Learn
In this chapter you will trace the history of Southwest Asia’s subregions and examine the impact of that history on the present.

SECTION 1
The Arabian Peninsula

SECTION 2
The Eastern Mediterranean

SECTION 3
The Northeast

hmhsocialstudies.com TAKING NOTES
Use the graphic organizer online to take notes about the history, culture, and modern life of each subregion of Southwest Asia.
The Arabian Peninsula

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE Two million people pour into the Saudi Arabian city of Mecca for a few weeks each year. They come from all over the world. In the past, the trip to Mecca involved a difficult journey across oceans and over miles of desert. Today, pilgrims arrive on airplanes. These people are fulfilling the Islamic religious duty of hajj, which is a pilgrimage to the holiest city of Islam—Mecca. For five or more days, all are dressed in simple white garments and all perform special activities, rituals, and ceremonies. It is a powerful example of spiritual devotion by the followers of one of the three major religions that claim a home in Southwest Asia.

Islam Changes Desert Culture

The modern nations in this subregion are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. They are located at the intersection of three continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe. Because of this location, there were many opportunities for trade, and exchange of culture and religion.

TOWN AND DESERT In the past, some towns in the subregion served as trade centers for caravans moving across the deserts. Other cities were ports where goods were exchanged from the Silk Roads in East Asia, Indian Ocean trade from South Asia, and Mediterranean Sea trade from Europe. Still other towns were near oases and fertile lands along major rivers.

Nomadic desert dwellers called Bedouins moved across the peninsula from oasis to oasis. They adapted to the harsh conditions of the desert and built a culture based on strong family ties. They often fought against other families and clans for pasturelands for their livestock. Their fighting skills would eventually help to spread a new religion that developed in the region—Islam.

Islam is a monotheistic religion based on the teachings of its founder, Muhammad. Muhammad lived part of his life in the city of Mecca.

Main Ideas
- The Arabian Peninsula is heavily influenced by the religious principles of Islam.
- Oil production dominates the economy of the region.

Places & Terms
- Mecca
- mosque
- Islam
- theocratic
- Muhammad
- OPEC

Connect to the Issues
RELIGIOUS CONFLICT
Muslim claims to land in the region laid the foundation for future conflict.

PLACE Thousands of Muslim pilgrims gather at the site of the Ka’aba in Mecca. The Ka’aba is the black box at the right in the picture.
ISLAM BRINGS A NEW CULTURE The new religion united the people of the Arabian Peninsula in a way that had not been done previously. Islam requires certain religious duties of all who follow its teachings. The basic duties are called the Five Pillars. By performing these religious duties, all converts to Islam, called Muslims, practiced a similar culture. The Five Pillars are:

- **Faith** All believers must testify to the following statement of faith: “There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah.”
- **Prayer** Five times a day, Muslims face toward the holy city of Mecca to pray. They may do this at a place of worship called a mosque or wherever they find themselves at the prayer times.
- **Charity** Muslims believe they have a responsibility to support the less fortunate by giving money for that purpose.
- **Fasting** During the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, Muslims do not eat or drink anything between sunrise and sunset. This action reminds Muslims that there are things in life more important than eating. It is also a sign of self-control and humility.
- **Pilgrimage** All able Muslims are expected to make a pilgrimage (hajj) to Mecca at least once during their lifetime.

THE SPREAD OF ISLAM As more and more people on the Arabian Peninsula began to convert to Islam, they spread its teachings. Armies of Bedouin fighters moved across the desert, conquered lands, and put Muslim leaders in control. Arabic language and Islamic teachings and culture spread across Southwest Asia. Muslim armies spread across three continents—Asia, Africa, and Europe. By the Middle Ages, a large area of the world was controlled by Muslim empires.

Governments Change Hands

The governments of lands controlled by Muslims were theocratic. This means religious leaders control the government. Rulers relied on religious law and consulted with religious scholars on running the country.
In all the modern nations of this subregion, the legal system is wholly or largely based on Islamic law (Shari‘ah).

**COLONIAL POWERS TAKE CONTROL** Toward the end of the 1600s, the leaders of Muslim nations were weak. At the same time, countries like Britain and France were growing in power and establishing empires throughout the world. Much of Southwest Asia fell under the control of those two nations, especially after World War I and the breakup of the Muslim-held Ottoman Empire. The region was valuable to colonial powers for two reasons: because of the Suez Canal, a vital link between colonial holdings in the rest of Asia and European ports, and because oil was discovered there after 1932.

However, only a part of the region was colonized. On the Arabian Peninsula, a new power was rising. It was Abdul al-Aziz Ibn Saud. A daring leader, Abdul al-Aziz consolidated power over large areas of the Arabian Peninsula in the name of the Saud family. By the end of the 1920s, only small countries on the Persian Gulf and parts of Yemen remained free of his control. The whole area became known as Saudi Arabia in 1932. Descendants of Abdul al-Aziz still rule Saudi Arabia today.

**Oil Dominates the Economy**

The principal resource in the economy of the Arabian Peninsula is oil. The region grew in global importance as oil became more important to the economies of all nations. Arabian Peninsula nations make almost all of their export money and a large share of GDP from oil, so oil prices are very important to them. Large increases in oil prices allow the oil-producing nations to funnel money into development of other parts of their economies, especially water development projects.

In 1960, a group of oil-producing nations, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, established an organization to coordinate policies on selling petroleum products. The group is the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, also known as OPEC. The purpose of OPEC is to help members control worldwide oil prices by adjusting oil prices and production quotas. OPEC is a powerful force in international trade. Other Southwest Asian members include Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Iraq.

**Modern Arabic Life**

Changes in the nations of the Arabian Peninsula during the 20th century were dramatic. The region is developing quickly with an emphasis on modernizing. Use of Western technology and machines undermined traditional ways of life. Camels, which used to be the mainstay of life in
the Arabian Peninsula, are no longer used as extensively as they once were. Pick-up trucks, automobiles, and motorcycles have replaced them.

Gone, too, are some of the traditional marketplaces called bazaars or souks (souks). These open-air markets brought together buyers and sellers with a great variety of merchandise, food, and entertainment. The market was a place to meet neighbors or friends, or to conduct business. Today, Western-style supermarkets or malls may be the shopping location of choice instead of the traditional bazaar.

**THE CHANGE TO URBAN LIFE** Cities were always a part of life in Southwest Asia. However, because of changes in the economy, the entire area is much more urbanized. Millions of people abandoned their lives as villagers, farmers, and nomads and moved into cities. In 1960, the region was about 25 percent urbanized. By the 1990s, this number had risen to about 58 percent. According to estimates, 70 percent of the population will live in cities by 2015. Saudi Arabia has an urban population of 81 percent. Over 4 million people jam the capital, Riyadh.

As the economy switched to providing petroleum and petroleum products, the types of jobs available in cities changed as well. Workers who could read and write and had technical skills were in great demand. Arabic nations on the peninsula scrambled to upgrade educational systems to meet the needs of the technological age. When those needs could not be fully met, foreign workers were brought in to work at jobs the native population could not fill. As a result, a large number of foreign workers now live in peninsula countries. In some cases, such as Qatar, only one in five workers is a native of the land.

**RELIGIOUS DUTIES SHAPE LIVES** Despite its rapid modernization, some aspects of Muslim culture have remained the same for centuries. If you traveled to Southwest Asia, one of the first things you would likely notice is that women cover their heads, hair, and sometimes faces with a scarf or veil. This is in keeping with the belief that covering those parts of the body is pleasing to God. Women’s roles have gradually expanded during the 20th century. More Arabic women are becoming educated and are able to pursue careers in other nations. Because
family is viewed as very important, many women stay at home to manage household affairs.

As you read earlier in this section, all Muslims are expected to perform certain activities. One of the duties, prayer, is performed at prescribed times—dawn, noon, mid-afternoon, sunset, and before bed. Faithful Muslims stop the activities they are engaged in to carry out this responsibility. In some countries, traffic stops during prayer time. If a person is not near a place of worship, he or she may unroll a small prayer rug on which to kneel to pray. On Fridays, the day for congregational prayer, Muslims assemble for prayers at a mosque.

Fasting in the month of Ramadan is another duty that shapes the lives of Muslims. During this month, adult Muslims do not eat or drink from before dawn until sunset. Fasting is a way of reminding Muslims of the spiritual part of their lives. After sunset, Muslims may eat a light meal of lentil or bean soup, a few dates, yogurt, and milky tea. A festival, 'Id al-Fitr, marks the end of Ramadan. New clothes, gifts, and elaborate dinners, along with acts of charity, are part of the celebration.

Since the Muslim culture is found throughout Southwest Asia, many of the same activities of modern life on the Arabian peninsula take place in other areas of Southwest Asia as well. However, as you will learn in the next section, other groups with different religions and lifestyles also live in the region.

PLACE The female doctor above shows a blend of traditional and modern lifestyles. How does this photograph illustrate changes in the roles of women in the region?

MAKING COMPARISONS Use the Internet to find more information on the increase in oil production over the last 25 years for the nations shown in the graph on page 505. Create a line graph showing the increases in oil production for the five nations.
A Buddhist temple, such as this one located in Chufu, China, is called a pagoda if it has multiple tiers. The temple itself is usually a wooden hall with several tiled roofs that curve up on the edges.

The Sultan Ahmed Cami Mosque in Turkey is considered one of the finest examples of Muslim religious architecture. Most mosques feature a minaret, a slender tower from which believers are called to prayer. This mosque is unusual because it has six minarets.
St. Basil’s Cathedral in Moscow, Russia, is really eight smaller churches around a main one. The basic plan of the church forms a cross. The exterior was originally white. The colorful domes are covered with roof tiles that were added in the 17th century.

The Pyramid of the Sun in Mexico predates the region’s Aztec temples. There was once an altar at the pyramid’s top, but archaeologists have not determined to which god or gods this monument was dedicated.

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THE MOSQUE
- Muslims are instructed to face toward Mecca when they pray. Inside the mosque, a special recess in the wall—mihrab—marks the direction of Mecca.
- The Sultan Ahmed Cami Mosque is also called the Blue Mosque because of the bluish haze given to the interior by 21,043 blue-glazed tiles on the walls.

THE PYRAMID
- Standing 216 feet high and 720 by 760 feet at the base, the Pyramid of the Sun is one of the largest structures of its type in the Western Hemisphere.

ST. BASIL’S CATHEDRAL
- St. Basil’s was built by Ivan IV, also called Ivan the Terrible, as an offering to God for military victories over Tatar armies.
- Legend has it that the architect of St. Basil’s was blinded so that he could never create anything similar to St. Basil’s.

CREATING A MODEL
Choose one of the major religions of the world. With a small group, use the Internet to research more about the religious architecture of that religion.
- Create a model of a worship space showing the unique aspects of that religion’s architecture.
- Create a brochure explaining your model.

GeoActivity
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE On September 28, 2000, riots began in Jerusalem after a visit by an Israeli political leader to the Temple Mount, Judaism’s holiest site. Muslims also have holy places located there. Palestinian leaders called for riots. Hundreds of people died in the violence that followed.

To understand why a simple visit to a holy place would cause such problems, it is necessary to understand the history of the region. There is enormous disagreement over control of Jerusalem and of the lands Arabs call the Occupied Territories. (See the map on page 480.) In fact, the relations between Arabs and Israelis affect the entire region of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Religious Holy Places

Three major monotheistic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—were founded in Southwest Asia. All three claim Jerusalem as a holy city. The City of Jerusalem, which covers 42 square miles, has Jewish, Christian, Armenian Christian, and Muslim sections. Followers of all three religions come to the Old City to visit locations with strong spiritual meaning.

JEWISH SACRED SITES For Jews, Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, is the center of their modern and ancient homeland. Located in the old part of the city, the Temple Mount once housed the Temples. There, King Solomon built the First Temple, which was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 B.C. The Second Temple was constructed after the Jews returned to their homeland in 538 B.C. Modern Jews come to pray at the holiest site in Jerusalem, a portion of the Second Temple known as the Western Wall. It is the only remaining piece of the Second Temple, which was destroyed in A.D. 70 by the Romans.

CHRISTIAN SACRED SITES For Christians, Jerusalem is the sacred location of the final suffering and crucifixion of Jesus. Towns and villages important in the life of Jesus are found near Jerusalem. Every year, Christians visit places like the Mount of Olives and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre by the thousands. When Jerusalem was under Muslim control, Christians launched the Crusades to regain the lands and place them under the control of Christians. Eventually, the lands returned to the control of Muslims.

Main Ideas

- The holy places of three religions are found in this subregion.
- There is a great deal of political tension among nations in this subregion.

Places & Terms

Western Wall
Dome of the Rock
Zionism
Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)

Connect to the Issues
Regional Conflict
Arab refusal to accept the creation of the State of Israel led to conflict in the region.
of Muslims and remained that way until World War I.

**ISLAMIC SACRED SITES** After Mecca and Medina, Jerusalem is considered the third most holy city to Muslims. A shrine there, called **Dome of the Rock**, houses the spot where Muslims believe their prophet Muhammad rose into heaven. The Dome of the Rock and a nearby mosque, Al-Aqsa, are located on the Temple Mount, the site of the Jewish Temples. Because these most holy sites are so close together, they have been the site of clashes between Jews and Muslims.

**A History of Unrest**

The nations of the Eastern Mediterranean have been plagued with a history of political tension and unrest. The Ottoman Empire, a Muslim government based in Turkey, ruled the Eastern Mediterranean lands from 1520 to 1922. But the Ottoman Empire grew weaker and less able to solve problems with groups seeking independence. By the beginning of the 20th century, its collapse was not far away. The Ottoman Empire sided with Germany during World War I. At the end of the war, the Ottoman Empire fell apart. Britain and France received Ottoman lands in the Eastern Mediterranean as part of the war settlement.

**THE LEGACY OF COLONIALISM** After World War I, Britain and France divided the Ottoman lands in the Eastern Mediterranean region. France took the northern portion, including the present-day countries of Lebanon and Syria. Britain controlled the southern section, which included the present-day nations of Jordan and Israel. Britain and France were supposed to rule these lands until they were ready for independence. During the time of their control, the French frequently played different religious groups against each other. Those tensions remain in the region today. The Syrians hated the French and in the 1920s and 1930s rebelled against them. Lebanon became independent in 1943, and Syria gained independence in 1946.

**BRITISH PALESTINE MANDATE** The land controlled by Britain was known as the Palestine Mandate. In the 19th century, a movement called **Zionism** began. Its goal was to reestablish a Jewish state in the Jewish homeland. Jewish settlers started buying land and settling there, joining the resident Jewish community. By 1914, about 12 percent of the region’s population was Jewish. After World War I, the British took command of the area and continued to allow Jewish and Arab immigration. Early on, Arabs and Jews in the region cooperated. But as more and more Jews poured into Palestine to escape persecution in Germany, the Arabs resisted the establishment of a Jewish state. In 1939, to reduce tensions the British halted Jewish immigration to Palestine.
As you study the map on this page, you will see that the area controlled by the British was divided into two sections—Transjordan and Palestine. The land was divided to give one of Britain’s Arab allies a kingdom. An Arab government jointly ruled Transjordan with the British. Britain controlled the Palestine Mandate, along with local governments that included both Jews and Arabs.

**CREATING THE STATE OF ISRAEL** At the end of World War II, thousands of Jewish survivors of the Holocaust wanted to settle in the Palestine Mandate, the historic Jewish homeland. World opinion supported the establishment of a Jewish nation-state. Britain eventually referred the question of a Jewish homeland to the United Nations. In 1947, the United Nations developed a plan to divide Palestine into two states—one for Arabs and one for Jews.

Arabs in the region did not agree with the division. However, the nation of Israel was established on May 14, 1948. Immediately, the surrounding Arab nations of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen invaded Israel to destroy the newly established state. Israeli troops fought back and won. By the 1950s, Israel was a firmly established nation. The 1948 war was the beginning of hostilities that continue to this day.
During the 1948 war many Palestinian Arabs fled their homes or were forced out and now live in UN-sponsored refugee camps. A comparable number of Jewish refugees fled from Arab countries, and most became Israeli citizens. In 1964, the **Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)** was formed to regain the land of Israel for Palestinian Arabs. Over the years, the PLO has pursued political and violent means of pursuit of its goals. The Palestinian National Authority has administered the West Bank since 1994. Since 2007, an organization called Hamas, which means “Islamic Resistance Movement,” has controlled Gaza.

### Modernizing Economies

The nations in the Eastern Mediterranean subregion are relatively young. Most became independent shortly after World War II. Cyprus received its independence from Britain in 1960. These nations face many economic problems. Political divisions, refugees, lack of water, and a weak infrastructure make it difficult to develop healthy economies.

**Refugees and Civil Wars** The 1948 Arab-Israeli war produced a large number of refugees, Arab and Jewish. Today, Palestinian refugees are scattered across many of the countries in the region. Some still live in UN-sponsored camps. Jewish refugees and their descendants make up about half of Israel’s population. PLO attacks against Jordanian and Lebanese forces resulted in political instability and led Jordan to expel the PLO in 1970. Cross-border attacks against Israelis by the PLO and Hezbollah have led to Israeli counterattacks.

Civil wars in Lebanon and Cyprus have also caused huge economic problems. Since the 1970s, the northern part of Cyprus has been controlled by Turkish Cypriots, who have declared independence. Lebanon was hard hit by a civil war that lasted from 1975 to 1976. The conflict widened to include other nations. Some Israeli troops remained in Lebanon until 2000, and Syrian troops remained until 2004.

**Modern Infrastructure** Israel has advanced modern infrastructure and irrigation systems. Other nations of the Eastern Mediterranean subregion have great potential for development. They have a good climate for producing citrus crops and many places for tourists to visit. They are well located for connections to international markets in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

What many of them lack, however, is an infrastructure that would support a growing economy. Roads in war-torn areas, for example, must be rebuilt. Especially needed are irrigation systems to make the area bloom. Better communication systems and power sources are needed for developing high tech industries in the region. Israel has been able to build sophisticated industries such as computer software development.
Modern Life

Modern life in the Eastern Mediterranean is a curious blend of old and new. Strong cultural traditions exist but they are combined with changes that were brought about by modern innovations. Cell phones, computers, and Internet access are increasingly common. One aspect of life here that remains quite traditional, however, is the dining experience.

EATING OUT, EATING IN  Eating in restaurants in Eastern Mediterranean countries is not as common as in the United States. Some Arab restaurants have separate sections for men and women. Arab cafes serving coffee and tea are generally for men only. Most meals are eaten in the home. Families and sometimes friends gather to have meals. The last meal of the day is usually served between 8 and 11 P.M.

Typically, a meal begins with small portions of hummus, ground chickpeas mixed with lemon juice and parsley, and baba ganouzh, an eggplant dip served with pita, a flat bread with a pocket. A salad called tabbouleh, made of bulgur (cracked wheat), parsley, onions, mint, tomatoes, and lemon juice, is common. Chicken or lamb is more likely to be served as a main course than beef. Many meals are finished with fresh fruit or sweets such as kolaicha, a sweet cake made of barley flour, sugar, oil, and cardamom seed. Thick coffee or tea is also served. The host of a dinner may not eat with the guests so that he can attend to all their needs during the meal.

A VARIETY OF CULTURES  Muslim Arabs make up the majority of people who live in the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean. However, in several nations, especially Lebanon and Israel, there is a variety of cultures.
Since the seventh century, Lebanon has been a refuge for both Muslims and Christians. Many of the Muslims there are Shi’ites, as compared to the Sunni majorities in many of the other nations in this region. A small group of Druze also live in Lebanon. This tightly knit group is very secretive about its religious practices. The members live in the mountainous areas of Lebanon and also in Israel and Syria. Christians of the Maronite tradition (Roman Catholics following Eastern Orthodox practices) and the Eastern Orthodox tradition make up a large minority in Lebanon. Together, these groups present a wide variety of cultures and religious practices. The variety makes it difficult to build unity in the country.

Israel is a land with a tremendous variety of immigrants. The majority of immigrants are Jewish, and they arrive from all over the globe. They come from the United States, Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean region, Russia, and Ethiopia. The focus of Jewish culture helps to draw most of this diverse group together.

In addition, Israel is home to about 1 million Arabs of several different groups. Bedouins live in the Negev Desert. Druze, Sunni Muslims, and Circassians, who come from the Caucasus Mountains area, also live in Israel with a small number of Christians and people following the Baha’i faith. The combination of all these groups brings a variety of languages and lifestyles to Israel.

In the next section, you will learn about countries in this region with ethnic backgrounds that are Turkish or Persian.
The Northeast

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE On March 16, 1988, Iraqi Air Force planes released poisonous gases over the Kurdish town of Halabja, Iraq. An estimated 5,000 Kurds, an ethnic group in Southwestern Asia, died from the chemical weapons attack. The Kurdish people have occupied the lands they call Kurdistan for thousands of years. In the modern world, most of those lands are located in Turkey, Iraq, and Iran. For most of the 20th century, these three nations disagreed with the Kurds over control of these lands. In fact, clashes over land have been the focus of much unrest in the northeastern part of Southwest Asia.

A Blend of Cultures

The nations in this subregion include Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan. They are mostly Muslim in religion, but only Iraq is Arabic in cultural life. All these nations were influenced by early civilizations and empires in the region.

EARLY CIVILIZATIONS Part of the cultural hearth known as the Fertile Crescent is located here. Some of the earliest civilizations in the world developed in Iraq along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Sumer, Babylonia, Assyria, and Chaldea all built empires in Mesopotamia, the “land between the rivers.”

The Hittites, whose empire stretched across what is Turkey today, brought innovations such as the use of iron weapons. Persia, which developed in the region occupied by Iran today, introduced innovations in government organization.

ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS VARIETY Living in this subregion are members of many ethnic groups, including Turks, Kurds, and Persians. The map on page 482 shows where these groups live. They speak languages such as Turkish and Farsi, which are different from the Arabic that is spoken in the rest of the region.

Though most of the different ethnic groups follow Islam, tensions exist. After the death of Muhammad, Muslims divided into two main branches—the Sunni and the Shi’ite. About four out of five Muslims are Sunni. Most Iranians are Shi’ite.

Main Ideas

• The nations in this subregion are Muslim but most are not part of the Arab culture.
• The nations in the Northeast range from developed to very poorly developed.

Places & Terms

Kurds    Shi’ite
Mesopotamia  Taliban
Sunni

CONNECT TO THE ISSUES POPULATION RELOCATION The Kurds’ movement across this subregion has caused conflict.

SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

1 REGION Which country has the largest area inhabited by Kurds?
2 REGION What is the approximate size of the area inhabited by the Kurds?
Clashes Over Land

Clashes over land in this region increased after World War I. Some were disagreements over homelands claimed by ethnic groups whose demands for land were ignored. Other disputes were over control of valuable oil fields.

**HOMELANDS AND REFUGEES** The Kurds have been called a stateless nation. At the end of World War I, they were promised a homeland but never received it. Clashes between the Kurds and the governments of Turkey, Iran, and Iraq have prevented the Kurds from becoming a nation-state.

Because of its location, Iran has become home to refugees fleeing oppressive governments in both Afghanistan and Iraq. In fact, Iran has the largest refugee population of any nation in the world. Iraqi Shi’ites persecuted by their government have sought refuge with fellow Shi’ites in Iran. Decades of war drove many Afghan refugees to Iran, although some began to return in 2002.

**CONTROL OF OIL FIELDS** Access to the oil-rich regions on the Persian Gulf is strategically important for all nations that import oil. Between 1980 and 1990, Iran and Iraq fought a war over control of oil fields. Then, in 1990–1991, Iraq invaded Kuwait, starting the Persian Gulf War. The United States and 32 other nations fought to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait and keep oil fields open.

Clashes Over Leadership

The war on terrorism declared by President George W. Bush led to clashes over leadership in the Northeast subregion. Within a month of the attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, the United States and the coalition forces fought in Afghanistan, where the terrorists responsible for the attacks were being harbored. In 2003, fear for national security prompted the United States to declare war on Iraq and its leader, Saddam Hussein.

**OVERTHROW OF THE TALIBAN** A fundamentalist Muslim political group called the Taliban was protecting Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda terrorist network in Afghanistan. On October 7, 2001, U.S.-led coalition forces launched Operation Enduring Freedom to seize the terrorists’ financial assets and destroy their infrastructure. By March 2002, the Taliban had been removed from power. A transitional government, headed by Hamid Karzai, replaced the repressive regime. However, some Taliban and al-Qaeda leaders, including Osama bin Laden, managed to escape the coalition forces.
OVERTHROW OF SADDAM HUSSEIN After the Persian Gulf War ended in 1991, the United Nations ordered Saddam Hussein to destroy his biological and chemical weapons. President George W. Bush, however, believed that the Iraqi dictator was continuing to develop weapons of mass destruction (WMD). As a result, American and British forces launched Operation Iraqi Freedom in March 2003. Saddam was removed from power (he was later executed), but no WMD were found. Then the long process of working toward democracy in Iraq began. A new constitution was adopted, and in 2005, Jalal Talabani, a Kurd, was elected president.

Reforming Economies
The nations in this subregion face a variety of economic challenges. All of them have limited agricultural land. Production must become more efficient in order to produce surplus crops to sell elsewhere. Most of these nations have oil or natural gas resources that can generate revenue. This money is needed to update and expand transportation systems, communication systems, power generation plants, and water and sanitation systems.

MAKING PROGRESS Turkey is making progress in modernizing its economy. Turkey is developing its water resources and hydroelectric plants to supply energy and to boost production of cotton and other agricultural products. It is the only nation in this subregion that produces significant amounts of steel. Turkey straddles two continents—Europe and Asia—which makes it ideally located for trade.

In Iran, government attitudes toward fostering economic growth have swung back and forth. Starting in 1997, a reformist government supported growth. Since 2005, anti-reformists have ruled, and Iran’s economy has remained flat.

PROGRESS INTERRUPTED For many years, war and political problems in Iraq and Afghanistan prevented these countries from improving their economies. In Iraq, rebellion against U.S. forces and religious conflicts have caused major violence. For instance, during 2006, more than 34,000 Iraqi civilians were killed. Oil drilling and shipping has often been disrupted. As a result, the Iraqi people have lacked food, medical supplies, electricity, and even gasoline.

Afghanistan is one of the poorest nations in the world. Most of its people are engaged in agriculture and animal herding, but its most profitable crop is opium. Afghanistan has great mineral
resources, but civil war and turmoil during the U.S.-led war against the Taliban in 2001 and 2002 interrupted any attempts at progress in the area. After the Taliban regime was removed from power, the Afghan economy was still threatened by government corruption and the resurgence of the Taliban.

**Modern and Traditional Life**

Internal struggles in this subregion have lasted long after the initial wars have ended. In each country, a division exists between those who want to adopt a modern lifestyle and those who want to preserve more traditional ways.

Nowhere was this division more apparent than in Afghanistan. There, the Taliban imposed strict rules on people’s behavior. After the Taliban regime was toppled in 2002, newly installed president Hamid Karzai began restoring civil liberties and improving education. The Taliban has strengthened since then, however, and has killed hundreds of Afghan civilians. Taliban violence often targets women and girls seeking an education.

In Turkey, Iran, and Iraq, groups similar to the Taliban exist but have not been able to gain control of the governments there. These fundamentalist Muslim groups have very different ideas from each other about the way people should behave. It has led to conflicts within the societies that have sometimes flared into serious political problems.

In the next chapter, you will study more about issues that affect the countries of Southwest Asia.
Earthquake in Turkey

As the Arabian Plate pushes northward, it squeezes the Anatolian Plate into the Eurasian Plate. Caught like a slippery seed squeezed between two fingers, the Anatolian Plate slips westward. This movement causes the earth to quake. At 3 A.M. on August 17, 1999, residents of Gölcük, a city near Izmit, Turkey, were thrown from their beds by 45 seconds of earth-shaking terror. When it was over, the quake—which measured 7.4 on the Richter Scale—had taken the lives of 17,000 people and caused billions of dollars of damage.

Izmit, Turkey, was at the epicenter of the quake. It is located on one of the world’s most active fault lines—the North Anatolian Fault. Since 1939, 11 major quakes have hit along the Anatolian Fault Line.
The quake destroyed 85,000 buildings. Many of the buildings were poorly constructed with inferior building materials. Floors of buildings “pancaked” and crushed the residents.

About 40,000 families were made homeless by the quake. Survivors were housed in 168 tent cities. Unfortunately, few were winterized, and thousands of people shivered through Turkey’s winter.

**GeoActivity**

**MAKING A DEMONSTRATION**

Working with a small group, use the Internet to research the causes and effects of earthquakes. Then create a demonstration about earthquakes.

- Build a model or create a diagram showing how an earthquake occurs.
- Create a chart showing the type of damage caused by earthquakes.
- Add a world map showing the major fault lines.

**THE MERCALLI INTENSITY SCALE**

- The Mercalli Intensity Scale measures an earthquake’s effect on people and buildings.
- Mercalli ranges from I to XII. Here are some examples.
  - I. No damage
  - VI. Pictures fall off the wall
  - VII. Slight damage to structures
  - X. Most masonry structures destroyed; landslides; ground cracked
  - XII. Total damage

**Richter Scale**

- The Richter Scale measures the magnitude of energy released during an earthquake.
- Here are some examples of Richter Scale measurements:
  - 2 Just felt
  - 4.5 Damage newsworthy
  - 7 A major quake
  - 8 Great damage
  - 8.9 Largest quake ever recorded
**Reviewing Places & Terms**

**A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.**

1. Mecca
2. Islam
3. OPEC
4. Western Wall
5. Dome of the Rock
6. Zionism
7. Palestine Liberation Organization
8. Sunni
9. Shi’ite
10. Taliban

**B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.**

11. Why is Mecca an important site to Muslims?
12. How are Islam, Sunni, and Shi’ite related to each other?
13. Which branch of Islam has the largest number of followers?
14. Where are the Western Wall and the Dome of the Rock located?
15. With which religion is the Dome of the Rock associated?
16. Why is the Western Wall important to Jews?
17. Which of the terms above is associated with international oil trade?
18. What is the goal of the Palestine Liberation Organization?
19. How was Zionism connected to the formation of the State of Israel?
20. In which country were members of the Taliban harboring terrorists?

**Main Ideas**

**The Arabian Peninsula (pp. 503–509)**

1. How did the teachings of Islam unite the people of the Arabian Peninsula?
2. Why is oil so important to the economies of the Arabian Peninsula?
3. How has modern Arabic life changed in the past 50 years?

**The Eastern Mediterranean (pp. 510–515)**

4. For which religions is Jerusalem a holy city?
5. Why was the State of Israel created?
6. What factors have made it difficult to build healthy economies in the Eastern Mediterranean countries?
7. How are populations of Lebanon and Israel different from other countries in the region?

**The Northeast (pp. 516–521)**

8. How are language, ethnic groups, and religion in the Northeast region different from other parts of Southwest Asia?
9. What steps need to be taken to improve the economies of the Northeast region?
10. Why are there internal struggles in some of the nations of the Northeast region?


**Critical Thinking**

1. **Using Your Notes**
   
   Use your completed chart to answer these questions.

   - a. How is Israel different from the other nations in the region?
   - b. How must infrastructure be changed in the region?

2. **Geographic Themes**

   - a. **HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION** What impact does the presence of oil in the region have on the economies of the countries in Southwest Asia?
   - b. **LOCATION** How would Israel’s relative location be described?

3. **Identifying Themes**

   Which nations are dealing with large numbers of refugees or immigrants? Which of the five themes applies to this situation?

4. **Making Inferences**

   How has the presence of many different ethnic groups in this region caused political unrest?

5. **Making Generalizations**

   In what ways has oil production changed life in Southwest Asia?

**Geographic Skills: Interpreting Maps**

**Ottoman Empire, 1683**

Use the map at the right to answer the following questions.

1. **LOCATION** What is the relative location of the Ottoman Empire?
2. **PLACE** On which continents was the Ottoman Empire located?
3. **PLACE** Which large bodies of water are within the Ottoman Empire?

**GeoActivity**

On a current map showing the same area as in the map at the right, outline the Ottoman Empire. Make a list of the modern countries that were once a part of the Ottoman Empire.

**For Additional Test Practice**

Use the links at hmhsocialstudies.com to do research about OPEC. Make a list of the current members of the organization. Focus on the impact on the price of oil as a result of actions taken by the group.

**Analyzing Data**

Study the data you collected on oil prices and the actions of OPEC. Create charts or graphs to illustrate the information. Then write a generalization about the information you found.
CURRENT EVENTS

TAKING NOTES

A Kurdish family rests at its camp in eastern Turkey. Many Kurds are nomadic and move across lands in several countries.

Essential Question

What can the people of Southwest Asia do to solve long-standing problems?

What You Will Learn

In this chapter you will trace sources of some conflicts in Southwest Asia and investigate possible solutions to those conflicts.

SECTION 1
Population Relocation

SECTION 2
Oil Wealth Fuels Change

CASE STUDY
Regional Conflict Over Land

For more on these issues in Southwest Asia...

hmhsocialstudies.com
CURRENT EVENTS

hmhsocialstudies.com
TAKING NOTES

Use the graphic organizer online to record information about solving economic and political problems in Southwest Asia.
A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE  In the 1980s, Kurds living in Turkey were attacked by the Turkish military. The parents of 10-year-old Garbi Yildirim feared for their son’s safety. Reluctantly they sent him from Turkey to live with relatives in Germany. When Garbi reached his 18th birthday, he was notified by the German government that he would have to return to Turkey. Upon his return, he knew that he would have to serve in the Turkish military. This meant he would have to use weapons against his own people—the Kurds. He refused to return to Turkey and was placed in a deportation prison to await the recommendation of a German court on the case. Garbi’s case is an example of the problems some ethnic groups face in Southwest Asia.

New Industry Requires More Workers

Life in Southwest Asia in 1900 seemed only slightly different from life there in 1100. Some people lived in villages or cities while others moved livestock from one source of water to another.

Then, in the early years of the 20th century, everything changed. Geologists discovered huge deposits of petroleum and natural gas under the sands and seas of Southwest Asia. Western oil companies quickly leased land in the region and supplied the technology and the workers to pump the fuel from the ground.

Many countries in Southwest Asia grew enormously wealthy from oil profits. The oil boom set off decades of rapid urbanization. Extensive road construction made cities and towns more accessible. Many thousands of people migrated to the cities in search of jobs and a chance to share in the region’s newfound riches. So many jobs were available that some were left unfilled.

FOREIGN WORKERS To fill the job openings, companies recruited people, mostly from South and East Asia. These “guest workers” are largely unskilled laborers. They fill jobs that the region’s native peoples find culturally or economically unacceptable. In parts of the Arabian Peninsula, the immigrant workers actually outnumber the native workers. For example, in 2005, about 90 percent of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) work force was made up of foreigners.
PROBLEMS OF GUEST WORKERS The presence of so many guest workers has led to problems. Cultural differences often exist between the guest workers and their employers. Misunderstandings over certain customs can result in severe penalties. For example, a Filipino man was given six months in jail and expelled from the UAE for brushing past a woman on a bus. Arabs viewed his behavior as insulting to the woman.

Sometimes the workers must live in special districts apart from the Arab population. Some workers have been abandoned. Others receive no wages for months at a time. Many immigrants find themselves unemployed and without money to get back home.

The large number of guest workers is a concern to the governments of Southwest Asia. Some government officials worry that depending on these workers will prevent their nation’s own workers from developing their skills. Others worry about the intolerance and even violence that these workers face. And, finally, some fear the immigrants could weaken their country’s sense of national identity. Solving the cultural and economic issues over guest workers will be a challenge to the governments of the region.

Political Refugees Face Challenges

Rapidly changing economic conditions have caused population shifts in Southwest Asia. Political conflict in the region has also caused relocation.

STATELESS NATION One of the longest conflicts has been over the ethnic group known as the Kurds. After World War I, the Allies recommended creating a national state for the group. Instead, the land intended for the Kurds became part of Turkey, Iraq, and Syria. The Kurds became a stateless nation—a nation of people without a land to legally occupy. Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria tried to absorb the Kurds into their populations but were not successful. The Kurds resisted control in each of the countries. Governments forcibly moved thousands of Kurds in an attempt to control them.

In Iraq, this forced migration ruined Kurdish homes, settlements, and farms. As you read in Chapter 22, the Iraqi government used deadly chemical weapons on settlements of Kurds to kill them or force them to leave the area. In the year 2000, as many as 70,000 Kurds had been displaced from areas they called home. Many of the Kurds have been forced to live in crowded relocation camps.
Palestinian Refugees  Another group, some of whom have been displaced in the region, are the Palestinians. They are the Arabs and their descendants who lived or still live in the area formerly called the Palestine Mandate. Today, much of that land is part of Israel. The Palestinians are a group of people, like the Kurds, who consider themselves a stateless nation.

As you read in Chapter 22, following World War II, the UN promised states in the Palestine Mandate to both Arabs and Jews. (See map on page 480.) Arabs rejected the UN plan because they claimed as their homeland all of the land that was granted to the Jews.

In 1948 when Israel was founded, and during the 1948–1949 war, between 520,000 and 1,000,000 Arabs fled Israel. An equal number of Jews fled their homes in Arab lands. Most moved to Israel and became citizens. Fifty-two refugee camps for Arab Palestinians were established in Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. The West Bank is a strip of land on the west side of the Jordan River. Jordan annexed the land in 1948, but Israel captured it in 1967. The Gaza Strip is a 139-square-mile plot of land along the Mediterranean Sea. It was annexed by Egypt in 1948, then captured by Israel in 1967. Israel withdrew completely in 2005.

Although many refugees live in the areas the UN proposed for an Arab state, they have not been allowed to return to Israel. The number of Palestinians living in the camps or in other parts of Southwest Asia has swelled to over 4.3 million. Thousands have lived and died in refugee camps without ever establishing an Arab state. Their rejection of Israel is at the heart of many conflicts in the region.
Interpreting a Population Density Map

How crowded is the area in which you live? Are there cities near you that have very large populations? Population density maps help geographers learn the distribution as well as the density of the population. Notice how the map below shows that Southwest Asia has areas of very dense population and other areas where almost no one lives.

**THE LANGUAGE OF MAPS** A population density map shows where people live and how crowded the conditions are. Population density is measured by dividing the total population in an area by the total number of square miles or square kilometers. The results are stated as numbers of persons per square mile or square kilometer. The density is indicated by colors. Population maps also use symbols to show cities with large populations.

**Population Density of Southwest Asia**

1. Drawing Conclusions
   In which parts of the region are the largest number of cities found?

2. Making Comparisons
   Which of the two cities, Aleppo or Beirut, is more densely populated?

3. Making Generalizations
   Use the atlas map on page 481. Which country has the largest areas of uninhabited land?
Oil Wealth Fuels Change
How can oil wealth help develop the region’s economies?

Main Ideas

- Oil wealth brings political and economic changes to the region.
- To achieve a diversified economy, countries need to improve infrastructure and resource use.

Places & Terms
strategic commodity
human resources

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE On October 2, 1995, Queen Noor of the Kingdom of Jordan gave a speech on the role of women in Southwest Asian economies. In her speech, she identified an important change in the economies of Southwest Asia:

The changing environment in our region holds the promise of new opportunity for businessmen and women. Middle Eastern women are overcoming discriminatory socio-cultural constraints [limitations] that once denied them equal access to services and hindered [slowed] their participation in the economy.

Queen Noor described one of the ways in which countries in the region are using the skills of their people to change the economy. Today, money earned from the region’s most important export—oil—is helping to build a more diverse economy.

Meeting the Global Demand

At the start of the 21st century, oil fueled the world’s industries and transportation—and its economies. This “black gold” was so vital that oil became a strategic commodity, a resource so important that nations will go to war to ensure its steady supply.

Southwest Asia contains much of the oil supply. As you learned in Chapter 21, about 64 percent of the world’s proven oil deposits and 34 percent of its reserves of natural gas are found in this region. By the year 2020, exports from Southwest Asia will probably provide about 44.5 million barrels of oil per day, or about 50 percent of world demand.

These oil reserves haven’t always been of great benefit. One problem is that the world’s oil prices rise and fall unpredictably. As a result, Southwest Asian countries cannot always plan how much revenue oil will bring in. Unpredictable oil prices have also made it difficult for the region’s nations to have steady economic growth. For instance, when oil prices were low in 1996 and 1997, Southwest Asia’s economies grew slowly. Because of that experience, the nations of that region realized that they could not continue to base their economies only on oil.

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Using Oil Wealth to Diversify

To promote more economic growth, the oil-rich nations of Southwest Asia face three challenges in the way that they use oil profits. First, each has to modernize its infrastructure. Second, each has to develop its agricultural, mineral, and water resources. Finally, the people of each nation have to gain access to higher education and job training.

MODERNIZING THE INFRASTRUCTURE The region has improved its infrastructure. Saudi Arabia, for example, has built new roads in rural areas, irrigation networks, and facilities to store agricultural products. It has also built desalination plants that remove the salt from seawater and provide water for cities and industrial use.

Other nations have constructed airports, shopping malls, and port facilities. These efforts are not always well coordinated, though. Some years ago, the UAE built four international airports to serve an area about the size of the state of Maine. Needless to say, these airports are greatly underused.

Toward the end of the 20th century, nations in the region began putting together information technology systems to serve businesses. Dubai launched a plan in 2000 called Internet City. The plan made it possible for its government to conduct business on-line.

DEVELOPING RESOURCES To create a diversified economy, nations of the area have to develop resources besides oil. One of the greatest needs is to develop agriculture. The region’s arid conditions mean that the area is not able to produce great quantities of food. To trap much-needed water for agricultural production, governments have built dams. They have also dug deep wells to tap the water trapped in huge underground reservoirs.

Saudi Arabia can boast several economic success stories. By 1985, improvements in agriculture allowed the Saudis to completely meet the nation’s demand for dairy products, red meat, poultry, and eggs. The biggest Saudi success story, however, was wheat production. The Saudis were determined to reduce their dependence on imported wheat. They improved water supplies so that grain production could be expanded. By 1992, they were producing more than four million tons of grain per year. This was enough to actually meet their needs and to have wheat to export. This diversification of the Saudi economy would not have happened without significant investment in infrastructure. That investment, in turn, was made possible by oil profits.
Other nations are making efforts to develop other mineral resources. Oman revived its copper industry and chromium mines. Chromium is used in steel production for jet aircraft. Expanding these industries allowed the Omani economy to reduce its dependence on oil profits.

**HUMAN RESOURCES** People are a valuable resource in any nation. Southwest Asian nations are developing their **human resources**—the skills and talents of their people. Many of those nations also realize that they must invest in all their people, including women. Providing education and technology training is critical. Nations are expanding the opportunities for their citizens to gain an education. For example, Kuwait has established free education for all children through the university level. For students who wish to study outside the country, the government pays the fees and provides money to cover living expenses.

Many societies in Southwest Asia have strict rules concerning women’s roles in society. Often it is difficult for women to get an education and find employment. However, the shortage of workers in the region has opened economic opportunities for women. Important economic and political changes are taking place in Southwest Asia. As the nations work to develop their physical and human resources, opportunities for all who live there will expand. A successful economy is built on the efforts of all its people working together toward the goal of diversification.
Conflict between Jews and Arabs over land and statehood in Southwest Asia disrupts life in the region. One aspect of this conflict centers around Jerusalem. The city is sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Control of Jerusalem is a deeply emotional issue that affects the region’s politics and population.

Control of Jerusalem

After World War II, the UN recommended that the city of Jerusalem become an international city. It would be under the control of an international body rather than an Arab or a Jewish government. At the end of the Arab-Israeli war in 1948, Jerusalem was divided between Arabs and Israelis. Jordan took the Old City and East Jerusalem, driving out many Jews. The Israelis took control of West Jerusalem. During the Six-Day War of 1967, the Israelis captured the rest of Jerusalem, uniting the city.

Jordan had not allowed Jews to go to the Western Wall and had discriminated against Christians. When the Israelis captured the city, Jews, Christians, and Muslims were given control of their holy sites.

After Israelis gained control of the entire city of Jerusalem, the city expanded. Palestinian Arabs opposed this growth. Most Palestinians in Jerusalem and elsewhere have maintained they should have the “right of return” to Israel. Most Israelis believe that Palestinians should be able to return to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which include most of the land the UN partition plan intended for an Arab state.

Jerusalem checkpoints deepen Palestinian resentment.

1978
Camp David Accords set up 1979 peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

2005
Israel withdraws from the Gaza Strip.

2003
A “road map” for peace calls for establishing a Palestinian state and security guarantees for Israel.

1948
The State of Israel is created. Arabs attack immediately. Jordan takes West Bank and East Jerusalem. Egypt takes Gaza Strip.

1949
Israel takes control of all of Jerusalem, West Bank, and Gaza Strip at the end of the Six-Day War.

1993
Oslo Accords allow Palestinians self-rule in West Bank and Gaza. PLO renounces terrorism and violence. Israel and PLO recognize each other.

1994
Jordan and Israel sign a peace treaty.

1995
A “road map” for peace calls for establishing a Palestinian state and security guarantees for Israel.
Proposed Solutions to the Conflict

The emotional and political issue of who should control Jerusalem makes it a very difficult diplomatic problem to solve. Israel made Jerusalem its capital in 1950. The Palestinians claim Jerusalem as the capital of their nation, and neither is willing to give it up to the other group. The following solutions have been proposed for control of Jerusalem:

- Palestinians retain control of certain parts of East Jerusalem while Israel annexes several Jewish settlements near Jerusalem in exchange for other land.
- Israel retains control of Jerusalem and continues to give each religious group control over its holy sites in the Old City. This is basically how the city is controlled today under Israeli jurisdiction.
- An international agency has control of all holy sites.

On the following pages, you will find primary sources that present different views on the control of the city of Jerusalem. Use them to help you form an opinion about the best way to solve the problem.
A Peace Conference

Suggested Steps

1. Choose one of the proposed solutions to the control of Jerusalem to investigate.
2. Use online and print resources to research the positions of Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans.
3. Create visuals—maps, charts, graphs—to make the conference discussion clearer.
4. Select two or three representatives from each group to take part in the conference. The rest of the class should act as journalists, take notes on the presentation, and be prepared to ask questions of the representatives.

Materials and Supplies

- Posterboard
- Markers
- Reference books, newspapers, and magazines
- Video monitor with VCR or DVD capability
- Computer with Internet access/printer

Primary sources A, B, C, D, and E on these two pages offer differing views about control of Jerusalem. Use these resources along with your own research to prepare a peace conference that presents both Israeli and Arab solutions for control of Jerusalem.

United Nations Resolution

UN Resolution 181, adopted on November 29, 1947, declared that Jerusalem would become an international city with both Jewish and Muslim inhabitants.

Official Statement

This statement was made December 31, 2000, by the Palestinian cabinet. It reflects opposition to President Clinton’s plan for resolving the issue of “right of return” and control of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

The Palestinian leadership confirms its commitment to the full right of refugees to return to their lands and homes in accordance with Resolution 194, the cabinet said, referring to the United Nations resolution adopted in December 1948.

Our people will never, under any circumstances, concede one inch from our Jerusalem and our Islamic and Christian holy sites.

Part III City of Jerusalem

A. The City of Jerusalem shall be established as a corpus separatum [separate body] under a special international regime and shall be administered by the United Nations. The Trusteeship Council shall be designated to discharge the responsibilities of the Administering Authority on behalf of the United Nations.

C. 1 (a) To protect and to preserve the unique spiritual and religious interests located in the city of the three great monotheistic faiths throughout the world, Christian, Jewish, and Moslem; to this end to ensure that order and peace, and especially religious peace, reign in Jerusalem.

(b) To foster co-operation among all the inhabitants of the city in their own interests as well as in order to encourage and support the peaceful development of the mutual relations between the two Palestinian peoples throughout the Holy Land.
Government Position  Abba Eban, Israeli foreign minister from 1966 to 1974, explained the significance of Israel’s unification of Jerusalem in the Six-Day War in his speech for the General Assembly of the United Nations, June 19, 1967. Eban expressed his joy at the reunification of Jerusalem and the opening of access to all faiths, which had not been the case under Jordanian rule.

Thus, for billions of believers who may never see it, Jerusalem remains a city central to their sacred geography. This is why the future of the city is not just another Middle Eastern conflict between Arabs and Jews... Both Israel and the Palestinians have real roots in the Holy Land, and both want to claim Jerusalem as their capital. The United Nations, supported by the Vatican, would have the city internationalized under its jurisdiction. The issue, however, is not merely one of geopolitics. There will be no enduring solution to the question of Jerusalem that does not respect the attachments to the city formed by each faith. Whoever controls Jerusalem will always be constrained by the meaning the city has acquired over three millenniums of wars, conquest and prophetic utterance.

Editorial Commentary  Kenneth L. Woodward, religion editor for Newsweek magazine, expresses an opinion about why any solution for the Jerusalem question is one that is important not just to Jews and Arabs but to millions of others.

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Political Cartoon  Mark Fiore drew this cartoon about the situation in Jerusalem. What message is the cartoonist sending about prospects for peace between Israelis and Palestinians?

PROJECT CheckList

Have I...

✔ looked at all sides of the issue?
✔ identified the key players and their points of view?
✔ created informative visuals that make my presentation clear and interesting?
✔ practiced the delivery of my presentation?
Reviewing Places & Terms

A. Briefly explain the importance of each of the following.
1. guest workers
2. stateless nation
3. Palestinians
4. West Bank
5. Gaza Strip
6. strategic commodity
7. human resources

B. Answer the questions about vocabulary in complete sentences.
8. Why is it necessary to have guest workers in Southwest Asia?
9. Which terms above refer to land areas?
10. Which of the above borders the location of Jerusalem?
11. Why might the Kurds be considered a stateless nation?
12. Which group claims the right of return to Israel?
13. Why is oil considered a strategic commodity?
14. In what way could water be considered a strategic commodity?
15. What groups make up human resources?

Main Ideas

Population Relocation (pp. 525-528)
1. What concerns have been raised about foreign workers in the region?
2. Why don’t the Kurds have a homeland?
3. Which lands are claimed by Arab Palestinians?
4. Where do a large majority of Palestinians live?

Oil Wealth Fuels Change (pp. 529-531)
5. Why must nations stop depending solely on oil wealth?
6. Which areas of the region’s economy need to be developed and diversified?
7. Why is providing education and technology training an important aspect of developing human resources?

Religious Conflict Over Land (pp. 532-535)
8. How did the Israelis gain control of Jerusalem?
9. What attachments do Jews, Christians, and Muslims have to Jerusalem?
10. What are some proposed solutions to the issue of control of Jerusalem?
Critical Thinking

1. Using Your Notes
Use your completed chart to answer these questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue 1: Population Relocation</th>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Effects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issue 2: Economic Development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. How did the Kurds become a stateless nation?
b. What effect has an expanding economy had on population relocation in the region?

2. Geographic Themes
a. MOVEMENT How are rapid urbanization and guest workers related?
b. REGION Why is this region considered to be a strategic location?

Geographic Skills: Interpreting Graphs

Availability of Water Resources*
Use the graph at the right to answer the following questions.

1. MAKING COMPARISONS Which country is projected to have the greatest available water supplies by 2050? Which country will have the least?
2. MAKING INFERENCES What are some reasons why the availability of water resources will decrease?

Geographic Skills: Interpreting Graphs

Use the Regional Data File to create a chart showing the population of the nations listed in the Water Stress Index. Create a second bar graph showing water stress by placing the countries in order by population.

hmhsocialstudies.com
MULTIMEDIA ACTIVITY

Use the links at hmhsocialstudies.com to do research on water scarcity in the region and proposed solutions to the problem. Focus on finding a solution that would be environmentally friendly.

Identifying and Solving Problems Using the information you gathered, propose a solution to the need for fresh water in Southwest Asia. Support your proposal with charts or graphs illustrating both the need for water and the sources of fresh water.

For Additional Test Practice
hmhsocialstudies.com
TEST PRACTICE

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Issue 2: Economic Development

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Effects

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