

Problems in the Middle East

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Background

- The Middle east is an area with high diversity
- Arab nationalists opposed the European control over the Middle East and won freedom in 1932
- The Middle East have one of the largest oil reserves
- Most Middle Eastern governments made authoritarian governments
- Arab Nations were very dependent on the west economically

Turkey – Mustafa Kemal

- After WWI the Ottoman Empire gave up all of its territories except Turkey
- Greek soldiers invaded Turkey in 1919
- In 1922 he led Turkish nationalists to fight against the Greeks
- In 1923 he was made the president of the new Republic of Turkey



Turkey – New Reforms

- The main goal was to modernize Turkey
- The United States and other European countries were his models
- Main reforms:
 - Separating the laws of Islam and the laws of the nation
 - Abolishing religious courts and making a new legal system
 - Giving women the right to vote and hold public office
 - Creating government-funded programs to help economic growth

Turkey – Kemal's Influence

- To modernize Turkey he also changed the clothing of the Turks
 - He banned the fez (a brimless red felt hat)
 - He required government workers to wear western style business suits
- Mustafa Kemal died in 1938
- He gave Turkey had a new national identity
- He was given the name Ataturk – “father of the Turks”

Iraq – Saddam Hussein

- In 1957 - joined the Ba'ath Arab Socialist Party
- A new government was put into place that the Ba'ath party opposed
- After a failed attempt to assassinate Iraq's military dictator he was exiled and spent many years in Egypt
- He returned after the Ba'ath party had taken control of Iraq in 1963
- He slowly gained power and eventually became president in 1979



Iraq – Iraq / Iran War

- Hussein's forces got control of a border between Iraq and Iran
- This resulted in a counter attack from Iran
- The US Navy stepped in to protect shipping lanes in the region once both sides had attacked oil fields
- The UN had secured a cease-fire in 1988
- One million Iranians and Iraqis died



Iraq – Persian Gulf War

- Hussein had invaded Kuwait in 1990
- He owed them a big war debt for support against Iran
- Controlling them would expand access to the Persian Gulf
- He claimed Kuwait was a creation of Britain and it belonged to Iraq
- The US saw this as a threat to the flow of oil
- A coalition of 39 European and Arab powers drove forces out of Kuwait
- The Iraqis left Kuwait after a few weeks of fighting and accepted a cease-fire

Iraq – 2003 Invasion of Iraq

- Iraq agreed to destroy its weapons of mass destruction because of the cease fire agreements in the Persian Gulf War
- In 2002 they were under suspicion of creating more
- They didn't fully cooperate with the UN inspectors
- In 2003 troops were sent in to disarm Iraq by force
- Hussein's government fell in 2003 and in 2006 Hussein was sentenced to death for crimes against humanity

Iran – Islamic Fundamentalism

- In the 1970s many Muslims had opposed westernization
- Islamic fundamentalism led to the overthrow of an unpopular shah
- It helped lead to the creation of a new government that was based on Islamic law



Iran - Revolution

- In the 1970s the shah's enemies rallied around Shiite leaders
- Ayatollah Ruholla Khomeini accused the shah of violating Islamic law
- Millions of people protested the shah
- In 1979 the shah fled Iran
- Khomeini helped create a nation that was strictly Islamic law

Iran – Foreign Policy

- The US was denounced by new leaders
- After the shah was allowed in the US the American embassy in Tehran was seized
- They had 53 hostages over a year
- They tried to spread their revolution
- It helped strengthen the Islamic revival but wasn't reproduced