



# A Troubled Century

## TERMS & NAMES

mandate

Palestine

Arab-Israeli Wars

Kurd

Persian Gulf War

### MAIN IDEA

Today's conflicts in North Africa and Southwest Asia have roots in the history of the region.

### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Regional conflicts affect the security and well-being of people around the world.



## European Nations Take Over

When World War I ended, the history of modern Southwest Asia and North Africa began. During the war, the Turkish Ottoman Empire had sided with Germany against Great Britain, France, and Russia. After the Ottoman Empire's defeat, most of its former territory was divided between Great Britain and France. The stage was set for major conflicts that still trouble the region today. (See the map on page 248.)



## Independence Days in Southwest Asia and North Africa

Country	Controlling Power	Taken Over	Achieved Independence
Algeria	France	1847	July 5, 1962
Bahrain	Great Britain	1880	August 15, 1971
Egypt	Great Britain	1882	February 28, 1922
Iraq	Great Britain	1920	October 3, 1932
Jordan	Great Britain	1921	May 25, 1946
Kuwait	Great Britain	1899	June 19, 1961
Lebanon	France	1920	November 22, 1943
Libya	Italy	1932	December 24, 1951
Morocco	France (1/3 under Spain)	1912	March 2, 1956 (April 1956 from Spain)
Oman	Portugal	late 1500s	1650
Qatar	Great Britain	1916	September 3, 1971
Sudan	Egypt/Great Britain	1898	January 1, 1956
Syria	France	1920	April 17, 1946
Tunisia	France	1881	March 20, 1956
United Arab Emirates	Great Britain	1952	December 2, 1971
Yemen	Great Britain	1882	1967 (South Yemen) May 22, 1990 (union of North and South Yemen)

### SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting a Chart

1. Which European nation controlled the most countries in the region?
2. In which century did most countries in the chart achieve independence?

**A History of Foreign Control** Europeans had been taking control of the region since before the 19th century. After World War I, this control often took the form of mandates. A **mandate** is a country placed under the control of another power by international agreement. The European powers promised to give their mandates independence by a certain date. Countries that were not mandates often had to fight for independence.

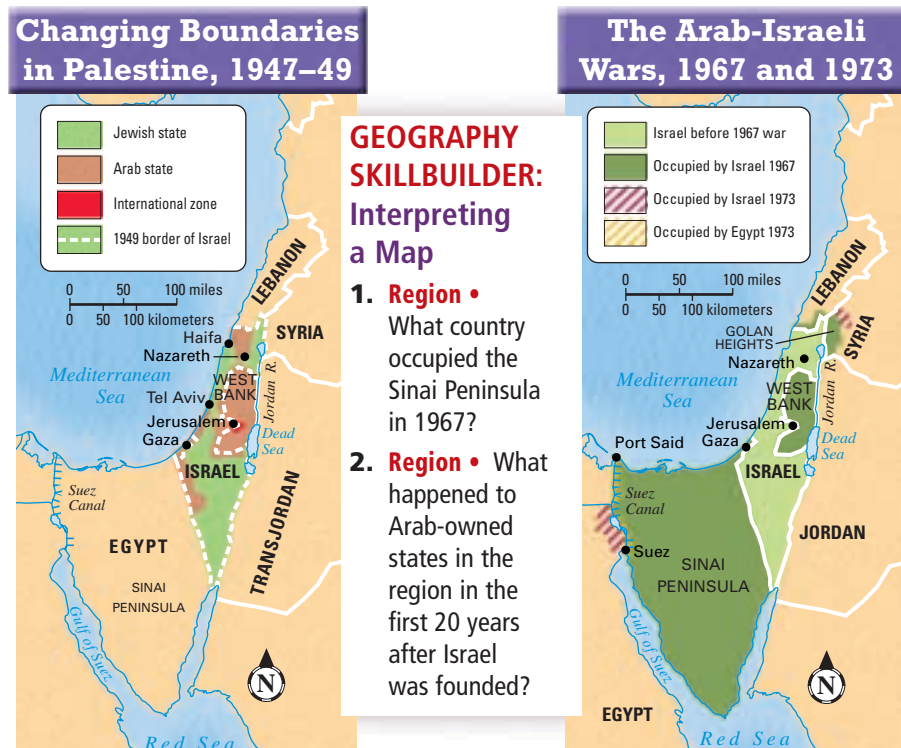
## Conflict Over Palestine

After World War I, Great Britain controlled **Palestine**, an Arab region that was also the land the Jews had lived in 2,000 years earlier. Starting in the late 1800s, Jews fleeing persecution in Eastern Europe had begun migrating there again. After World War II and the Holocaust, many Jews were left homeless and the number who wanted to migrate to Palestine increased.

Palestine, however, was already home to Arabs who had no desire to see their homeland become a Jewish state. Arabs in other countries backed them up. In 1947, Great Britain asked the United Nations to solve the problem. The United Nations divided Palestine—one part for Jews and another for Arabs. The Jews accepted the plan, but the Arabs did not. In May 1948, Jewish leaders declared Israel an independent state. Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon immediately declared war on Israel. The Israelis won the first of the **Arab-Israeli Wars**. (See the map on page 245.)

### Reading Social Studies

**A. Summarizing**  
What was the main source of conflict between the Jews and Arabs in Palestine?



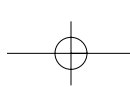
**Palestine Refugees** About 700,000 Palestinian Arabs had to leave their homes. They became refugees living in other Arab countries. In 1964, some Palestinian people formed the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The PLO's goal is the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

**Continuing Conflict** In 1967 and 1973, Israel won the third and fourth of the Arab-Israeli Wars. Conflict continued even in peacetime. Over the years, territory passed back and forth between Israel and Arab countries. (See the map above.)

**Attempts at Peace** In 1979, Egypt became the first Arab country in the region to make peace with Israel. Leaders of Egypt and Israel discussed the Palestinians' wish for their own state. Ten years later, Palestinian Arabs rebelled in the territories controlled by Israel. Most countries around the world sided with the Palestinians. Finally, in 1993, Israel and the PLO signed an agreement. The PLO recognized Israel's right to exist. Israel returned land to the Palestinians. The next year, Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty. In 2000, however, another Palestinian uprising broke out.

## Sources of Conflict

The conflict between Israel and the Arab countries is partly due to religious differences between Jews and Muslims. Religious conflicts between Christians and Muslims have erupted in Egypt, Lebanon, and Sudan. Conflicts also occur within religions.



**Region •**  
Hebrew (top)  
is the official  
language of  
Israel. Arabic  
(bottom) is  
the language  
of many other  
countries in  
the region. ▼



**Place •** These  
Kurdish children  
live in Antalya,  
Turkey. ▼



**Sunnis and Shi'ites** Islam, for example, has two main sects, or groups—Sunnis (SUN•eez) and Shi'ites (SHEE•eyets). Most Muslims in the region are Sunni. In Iran, however, most people belong to the Shiah branch of Islam. Shi'ites are more willing than the Sunni to accept religious leaders as political leaders. This difference has contributed to conflict between the neighboring countries of Iran and Iraq. The most powerful Iraqis belong to the Sunni branch of Islam.

**Conflict Between Ethnic Groups** Trouble also occurs within and between countries when ethnic groups come into conflict. For example, like most people in the region, Iraqis are descendants of Arabs who spread out from the Arabian Peninsula in the 600s. Most Iranians, however, are Persian, people originally from Central Asia who have lived on the Iranian plateau for 3,000 years. Arabs and Persians have different histories and speak different languages. These differences contribute to conflicts between Iran and Iraq.

**Nationalism** Some ethnic groups want to have a country of their own instead of being part of a multi-ethnic nation. The **Kurds**, for example, are a mountain people who live in Armenia, Georgia, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey. Their independence movements have been defeated in Turkey, Iran, and Iraq. Many Kurds have died in these struggles.

**Fundamentalism** Muslim fundamentalists believe Islam should be strictly observed. In 1979, Shi'ite leader Ayatollah Khomeini (ah•yah•TOH•luh koh•MAY•nee) took over the government of Iran. Khomeini and his followers objected to the way the former shah, or ruler, had been westernizing the country. Khomeini's government passed laws forbidding the sale of alcohol and limiting the freedom of women. Such fundamentalist movements have also arisen in other countries in the region, often leading to battles between people who hold opposing points of view.

## Recent Wars

The neighboring countries of Iran and Iraq had long disputed who owned the oil-rich territory between them. In 1980, Iraq, led by its absolute ruler Saddam Hussein, invaded Iran.

### Reading Social Studies

**B. Contrasting**  
What are two  
important  
differences  
between Sunnis  
and Shi'ites?

### Vocabulary

**ethnic group:**  
people who share  
a common and  
distinctive culture,  
heritage, and  
language

### Vocabulary

**ayatollah:**  
respected  
religious  
leader





**The Iran-Iraq War** The war lasted eight years. As many as one million people died, including soldiers as young as 11 and 12. Neither side could gain a clear victory. In 1988, both countries finally signed a cease-fire agreement developed by the United Nations.

### Vocabulary

**embargo:**  
a government  
order forbidding  
trade with other  
countries

**The Persian Gulf War** In 1990, Iraq invaded the small oil-rich country of Kuwait. The United Nations imposed a trade embargo to prevent Iraq from importing goods or exporting oil. The embargo took away most of Iraq's income, but Hussein continued to fight. On January 16, 1991, the **Persian Gulf War** began when a multi-national armed force began missile attacks on Iraq, followed by a ground attack on February 24. One hundred hours later, Iraq surrendered. Iraq was out of Kuwait, but Saddam Hussein stayed in power. Both Kuwait and Iraq suffered widespread destruction in the war.

**Human-Environment Interaction •**  
Iraq devastated Kuwait when Iraq released oil into the Persian Gulf and torched Kuwait's oil fields. ▼



## SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

### Terms & Names

1. Identify: (a) mandate (b) Palestine (c) Arab-Israeli Wars (d) Kurd  
(e) Persian Gulf War

### Taking Notes

2. Use a time line like this one to write the dates of major wars in Southwest Asia and North Africa.



### Main Ideas

3. (a) How have European nations contributed to turmoil in Southwest Asia and North Africa?  
(b) In what ways has religion been a source of conflict in this region?  
(c) What are some of the different ethnic groups in this region and how have they come into conflict?

### Critical Thinking

#### 4. Forming and Supporting Opinions

Do you think the United Nations should be more involved in settling conflicts in Southwest Asia and North Africa?

#### Think About

- ♦ the system of mandates
- ♦ conflict in the region
- ♦ the UN in the Persian Gulf War

### ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Trace a **map** of the countries of Southwest Asia and North Africa. Write each country's name and the year it achieved independence on the map.