

Modern History of the Middle East

Governments

- ∞ For decades Monarchs (Monarchy-country ruled by monarch usually a King or Queen)- held all the power in the Persian Gulf.
- ∞ This continues in countries like Saudi Arabia but others like Kuwait, Bahrain & Qatar are moving toward democracy.
- ∞ Ottoman Empire takes control of the Arab World in the 1200s.

After WWI

- ∞ The Ottoman Empire is defeated and broke apart.
- ∞ European powers controlled much of the region.
- ∞ Middle Eastern people resented European rule and cultural influence.
- ∞ Many sought to establish their own nations.

Iraq

- Britain creates the nation of Iraq (1920).
- Iraq declares independence from Britain (1932).
- Was a republic but eventually became a dictatorship (1979).
- Saddam Hussein was the dictator & brutal leader from 1979-2003.

Iraq's Wars

1980-1988 Iran/Iraq war:

- Iraq invades Iran because of religious & territorial disputes.
- War ends in a stalemate after 1 million are killed.

1990 Persian Gulf War:

- Iraq invades Kuwait because they wanted to control ports of the Persian Gulf & oil.
- A U.S. led coalition of forces push Iraq out of Kuwait. Although Hussein remains in Power.
- The coalition wanted to protect the World's oil supply.

Persian Gulf War Video Questions:

- 1) What atrocities was Iraq committing during the conflict? Mass execution, rape & torture.
- 2) Who stepped in to defeat Iraq? America

Operation Iraqi Freedom

2003- U.S. goes to War with Iraq again.

- United Nations fears Saddam has WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction).
- Saddam refuses to allow UN inspectors into Iraq.
- There were also fears Saddam had connections to 9/11 attacks- though these were proved false (2004).
- Saddam is captured, tried, and executed for war crimes.
- American forces remained to try to rebuild Iraq and establish a democratic government.
- After the war Hussein's supporters, foreign terrorists, and militants have battled American forces.

Current Situation in Iraq

- December 15, 2011 the U.S. military formally ended its mission in Iraq.
- The U.S. still has 2 military bases in Iraq with 4,000 troops.
- After withdraw, violence & political instability increased.
- There is a struggle for power among Shiite & Sunni Muslims in government.
- American troops still in Iraq are attempting to oversee the training and equipping of Iraqi security forces.
- Iraqi Security forces attempt to win back control from terrorist and militant groups.

Palestinian/Israeli Conflict

- ∞ Palestinian Arabs also want to create an independent nation of Palestine.
- ∞ They were angered when Israel was formed as a country for Jews in the same area.
- ∞ This conflict began in the late 1800s and both Arabs and Jews continue to fight for land both believe belongs to them.