

## Modern History of the Middle East Day 2

### Rise of Terrorism in the Middle East

- ∞ Since the 1990s the world has seen dramatic growth in Terrorism.
- ∞ Terrorism- the use of violence against civilians to achieve a **political goal**.
- ∞ A terrorist group called the al-Qaeda was formed by Saudi Arabian named Osama bin Laden.
- ∞ Its goal was to remove American & European influences from the Muslim world.

### War on Terrorism Questions:

- 1) What sites were targeted in the attacks on September 11, 2001?  
Twin Towers and Pentagon
- 2) Why did Bin Laden and other Islamic Extremist have hatred toward the U.S? They objected to troops being in Saudi Arabia, America's support of Israel, & the westernization of their culture

### Afghanistan

- ∞ Al-Qaeda trained its fighters in Afghanistan & the helped the militant government called the Taliban.
- ∞ On September 11, 2001 members of the al-Qaeda attacked sites in the U.S.
- ∞ Over 3,000 people were killed in the attacks.
- ∞ The U.S. responded by declaring war on Terrorism.

### War in Afghanistan

- ∞ In 2001 troops from the U.S. and other countries attacked Afghanistan.
- ∞ They defeated the Taliban government and helped set up a democratic government.
- ∞ The new government could not control the entire country and Taliban fighters maintain control of some areas.
- ∞ The U.S. continued their search for al-Qaeda leaders.
- ∞ On May 2, 2011 leader Osama bin Laden was killed by U.S. Special Forces.

## **Video Question: Describe the collateral damage of Wars on Civilians such as in Afghanistan.**

- Innocent people die
- Roads, dams, telephone lines, hospitals and schools are destroyed.
- Droughts and destroyed crops lead to famines
- Children die very young and often don't go to school.
- It's easier for terrorism to take root because of the hardships of daily life.

## **Syria**

- Since, 2000 Syria has been ruled by President Bashar al-Assad.
- His rule has been dictatorial with no democracy.
- Since 2011, the Syrian people have protested him demanding their Human rights.
- Their revolt has been part of a movement for freedom known as the Arab Spring.

## **Civil War in Syria**

- ∞ Assad's forces struck back against protests, attempting to crush the rebellion with brutal force.
- ∞ The U.S. and other countries have tried to work within the United Nations to find a peaceful solution in Syria.
- ∞ But China, Russia, and Iran have stood by the Assad regime. They've blocked the U.N. from taking strong action.

## **Results of Conflicts in the Middle East**

- ∞ Thousands of casualties.
- ∞ Wars in the Middle East have also forced people to become refugees.
- ∞ Refugee- person who flees their home or country because of safety (danger).
- ∞ During times of conflict Oil prices rise or the flow of oil to Western countries is stopped.
- ∞ As a result of acts of terrorism by extremist or radical Muslim groups discrimination of Muslims around the World has increased.
- ∞ It's important to remember terrorist attacks occur by separatist groups that have political agendas that have nothing to do with religion
- ∞ Islam does not promote terrorism or violence.