

# Warm Up

- Discuss the 4 types of economy
  - Traditional
  - Free-market
  - Command
  - Mixed

# Standards

**SSWG3** – The students will describe the interaction of physical and human systems that have shaped contemporary North Africa/Southwest Asia.

- **Describe the location of major physical features and their impact on N. Africa/SW Asia**
- **Describe the major climates of N. Africa/SW Asia and how they have affected the development of N. Africa/ SW Asia.**
- Analyze the impact natural resources, especially oil, have on N. Africa/SW Asia
- **Analyze the impact of water supplies on the growth of population centers**
- Explain the impact of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam on the development of the region's culture.
- Explain why this region contains areas on two different continents.
- Describe the major ethnic and cultural groups in N. Africa/SW Asia; include major customs and traditions.

# Essential Questions

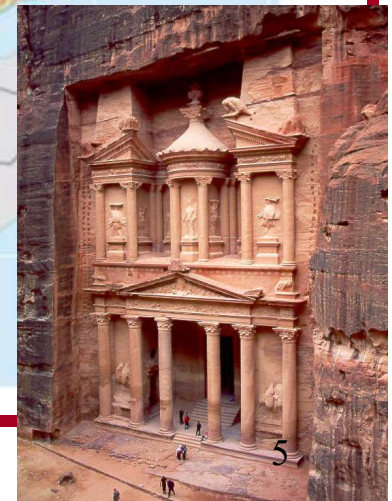
- How does meeting the needs of the people impact the environment? (3a,b)
- How does physical geography impact human geography?(3a)
- To what extent does the location of major physical features impact this region?(3a)
- In what ways do North African and Southwest Asian countries adapt to climate change in daily life. (3b)
- How did the location of water impact the past and present growth of population centers in this region? (3d)

# Objective

- Describe the major physical features of North Africa and Southwest Asia.



Chapter 7:  
Southwest  
Asia &  
North  
Africa  
(Fig. 7.1)



# Essential Points

- This region is one of the original **culture hearths** – a source region for cultural innovations, including agriculture, that subsequently diffuse to other parts of world
  - Agriculture
  - Written language
  - Judaism, Christianity, Islam
- Deserts, Arabs, Oil, Muslims, and geopolitical turmoil are common.
- Development of petroleum industry has had large impact on the region
  - OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) – member countries profoundly influence global prices and production targets for petroleum
- The region is at an intersection of three continents and home to the historically important cities of Jerusalem and Istanbul.
- Islamic fundamentalism – this aspect of Islam that advocates return to more traditional practices, calls for merger of civil and religious authority, and challenges encroachment of global popular culture



*Sub-Regions:*

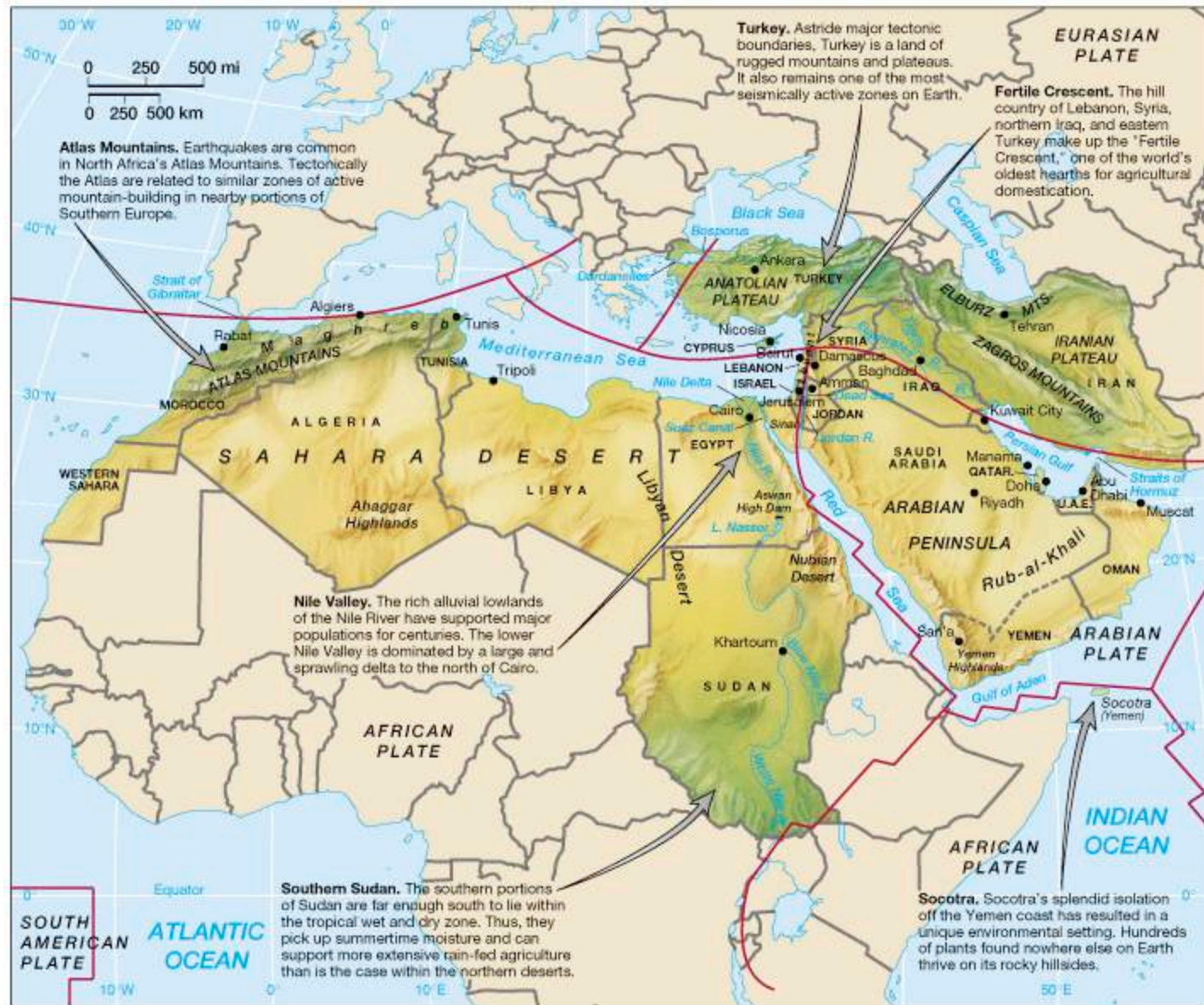
The Maghreb

The Levant

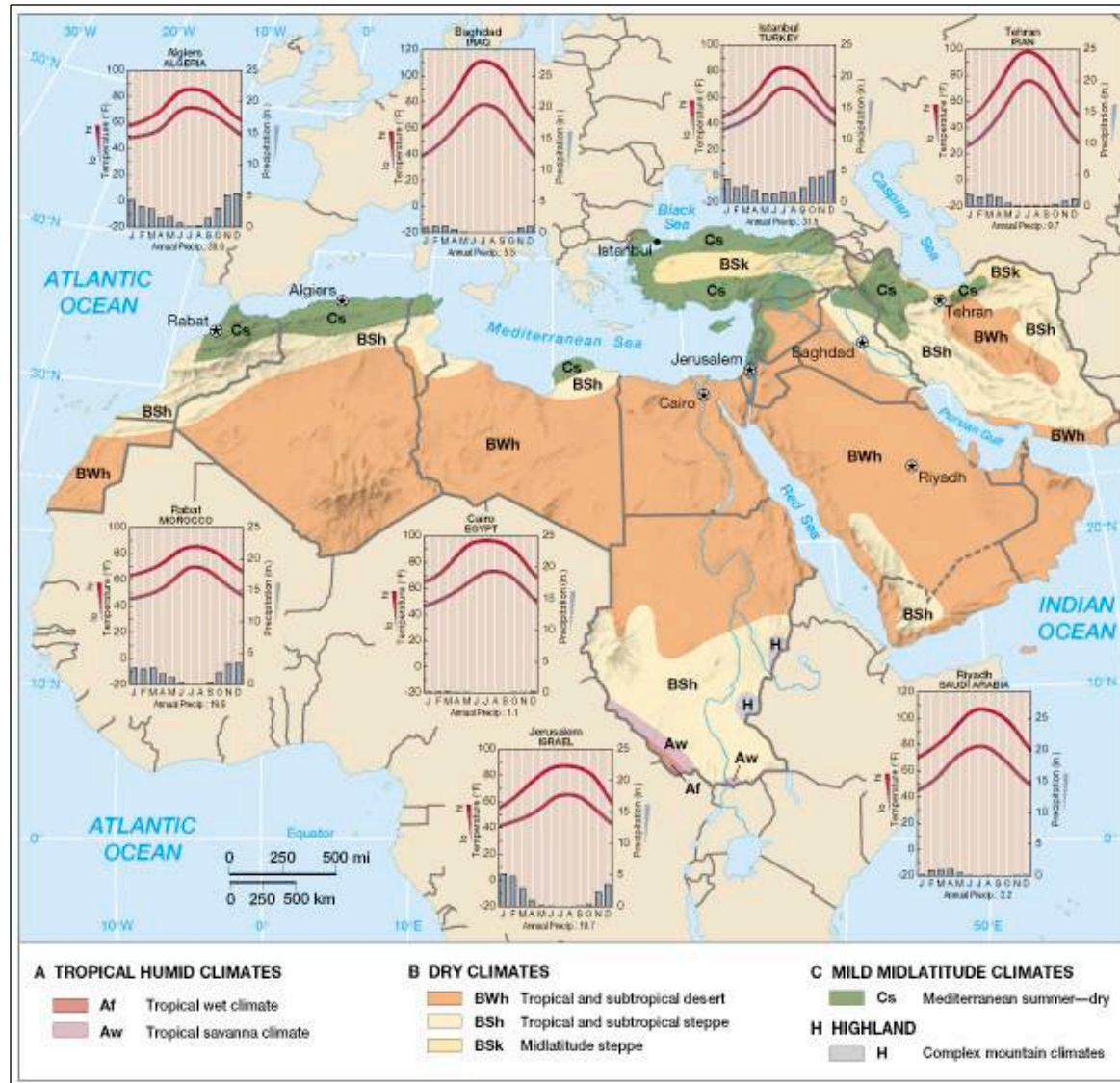
Anatolia  
(Asia Minor)

Mesopotamia

Arabian  
Peninsula



# Climate Map of Southwest Asia & N Africa (Fig. 7.7)





# Environmental Geography: Life in a Fragile World

- Patterns of Climate

- Large portions of the region are arid
  - Deserts stretch from the Atlantic coast across Africa, through the Arabian Peninsula, and into central and eastern Iran
- Mediterranean climates in Atlas Mountains and the Levant coastline support agriculture
- Dry areas are scarcely settled, while moist lands may be overpopulated

- Legacies of a Vulnerable Landscape

- Lengthy human settlement has led to environmental problems
  - Deforestation and Overgrazing
  - Human activities and natural conditions have reduced most of the forests to grass and scrub
  - Caused by overgrazing, fires; vulnerable to fire

# Environmental Geography: Life in a Fragile World (cont.)

- Legacies of a Vulnerable Landscape (cont.)

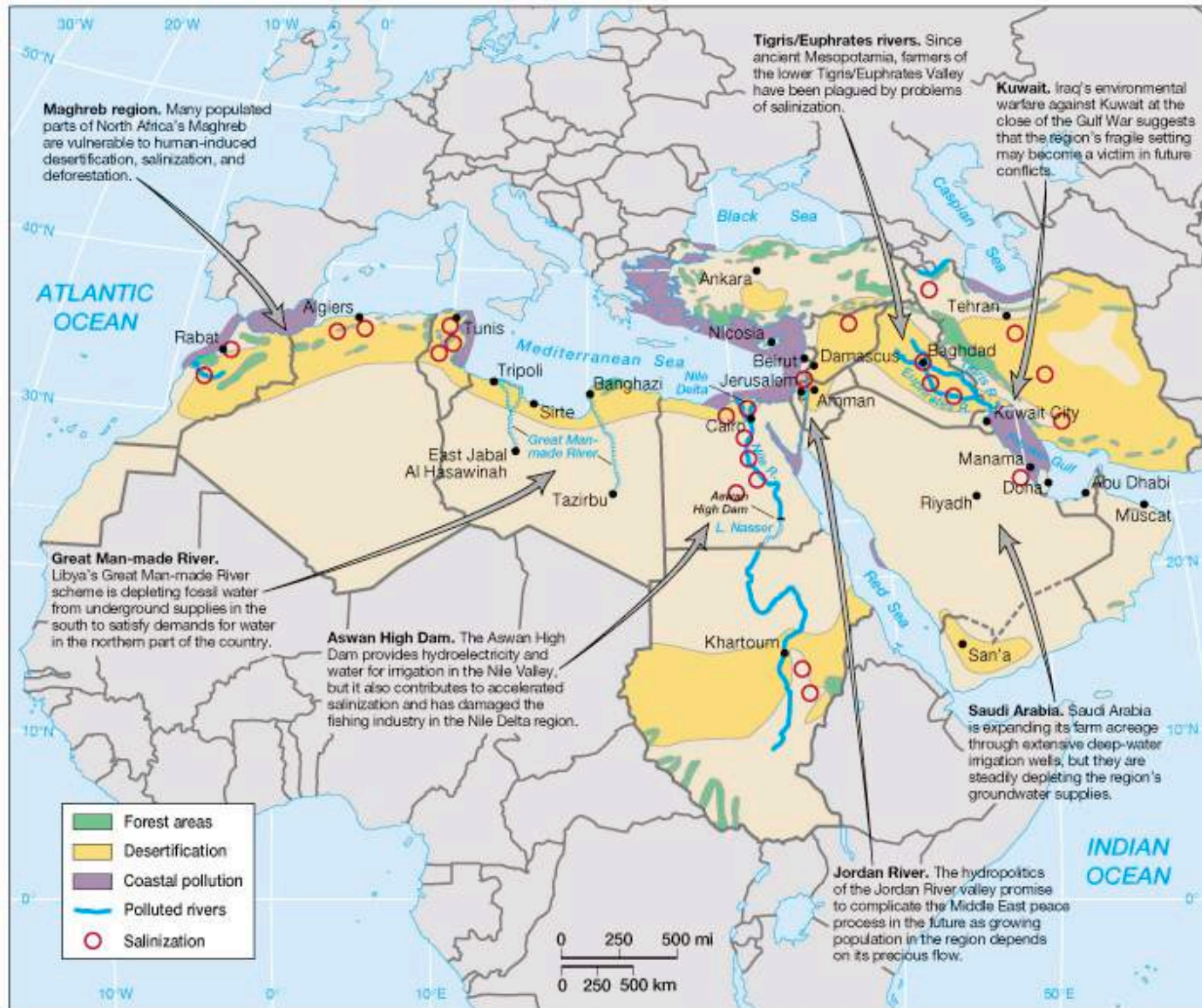
- Salinization

- Buildup of toxic salts in the soil from centuries of irrigation
    - Hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland degraded

- Managing Water

- Availability of water a problem throughout the region
    - Egypt built Aswan High Dam to store water, generate energy, but it has created environmental problems
    - Libya's "Great Man-made River" draws underground **fossil water** 600 miles to irrigate crops in the north of the country
    - **Hydropolitics** – interplay of water resource issues and politics

# Environmental Issues in SW Asia & N Africa (Fig. 7.10)

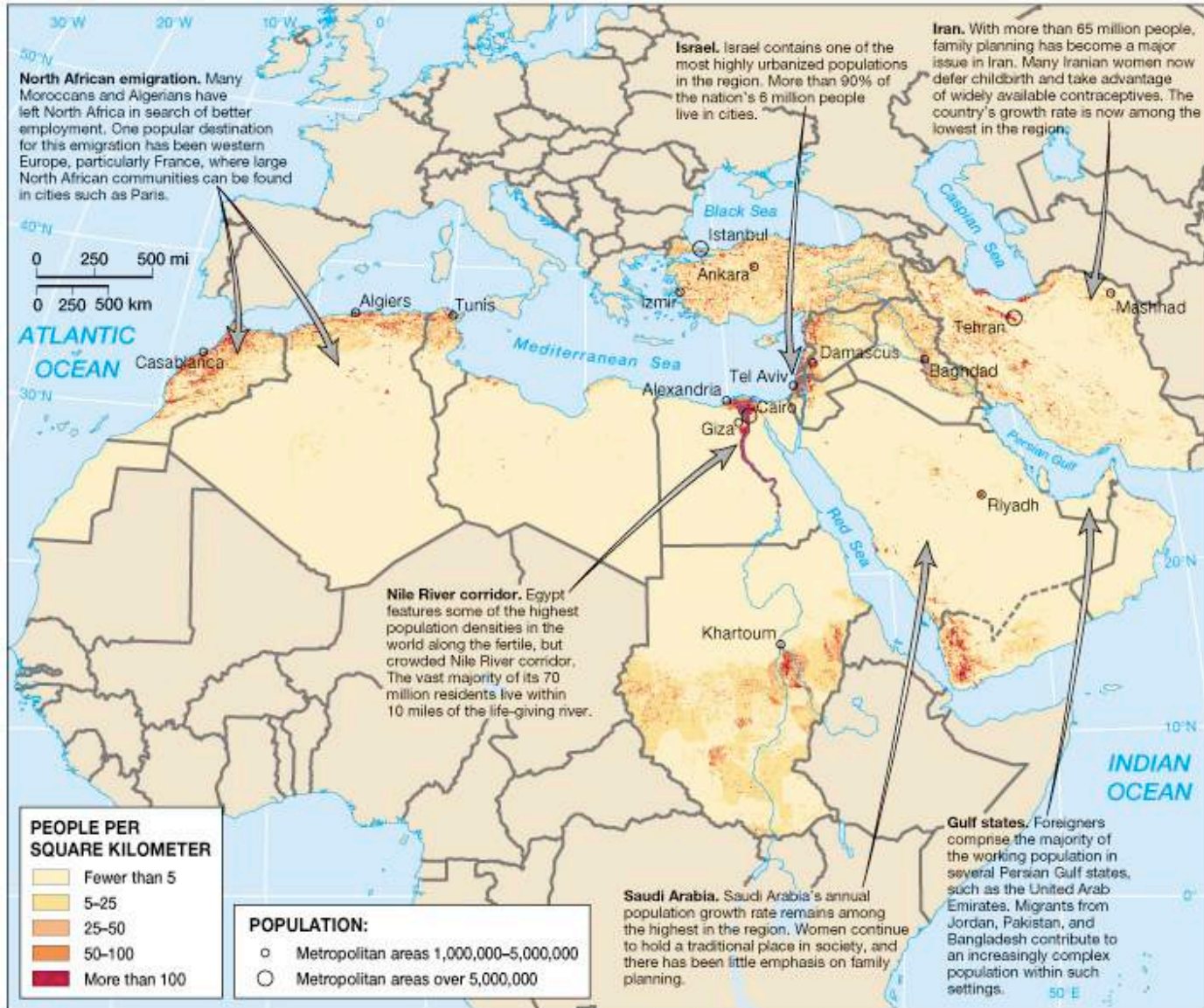


# Population and Settlement: Patterns in an Arid Land

- The Geography of Population
  - More than 400 million people in the region
  - Physiological densities are among the highest on Earth
    - **Physiological densities** – a statistic that relates the number of people to the amount of arable land
  - Two dominant population clusters:
    - Maghreb: moister areas of Atlas Mountains and coastal regions
    - Egypt's Nile River valley: 70 million live within 10 miles of the river



# Population Map of SW Asia & N Africa (Fig. 7.13)

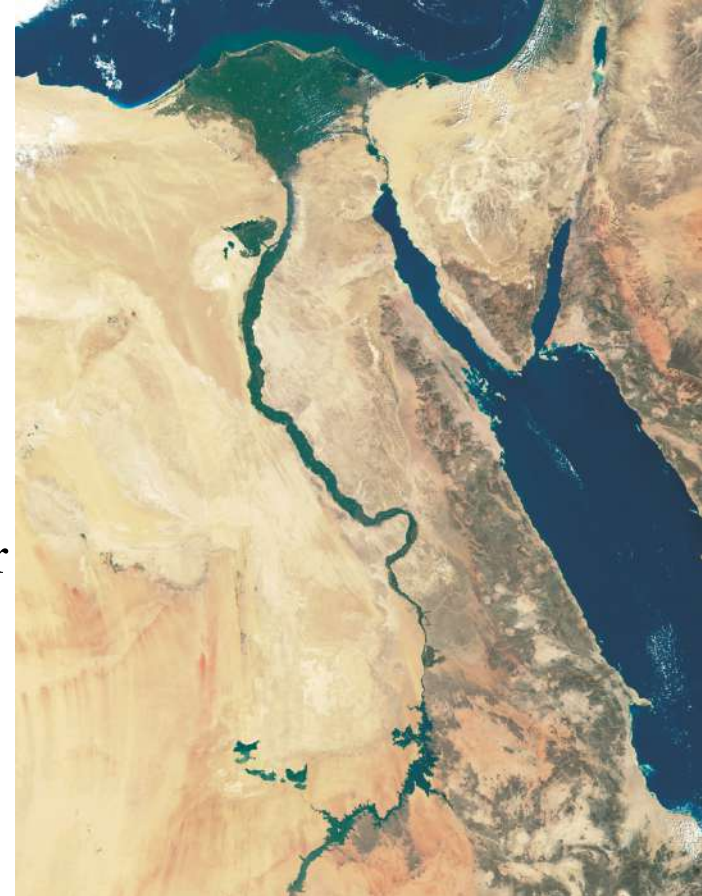


# Population and Settlement: Patterns in an Arid Land (cont.)

- Water and Life: Rural Settlement Patterns
  - This region is an early hearth of agricultural domestication
    - **Domestication** – process in which plants and animals were purposefully selected and bred for their desirable characteristics; it began in this region 10,000 years ago
    - **Fertile Crescent** – ecologically diverse zone that stretches from Levant inland through the fertile hill country of northern Syria into Iraq
  - **Pastoral Nomadism**
    - Traditional form of subsistence agriculture in which practitioners depend on seasonal movement of livestock
      - **Transhumance** – seasonal movement of livestock from winter to summer pastures

# Population and Settlement: Patterns in an Arid Land

- Water and Life: Rural Settlement Patterns
  - Oasis Life
    - Areas where high groundwater or deep-water wells provide reliable moisture
      - Small agricultural settlements
      - Serve as trading centers as well
    - **Exotic rivers** – a river that comes from a humid area and flows into a dry area that otherwise lacks streams, can support irrigation
      - **Nile River Valley**
  - The Challenge of Dryland Agriculture
    - Depends on seasonal moisture (associated with Mediterranean regions)
    - Includes tree crops, livestock, grains, and illegal hashish



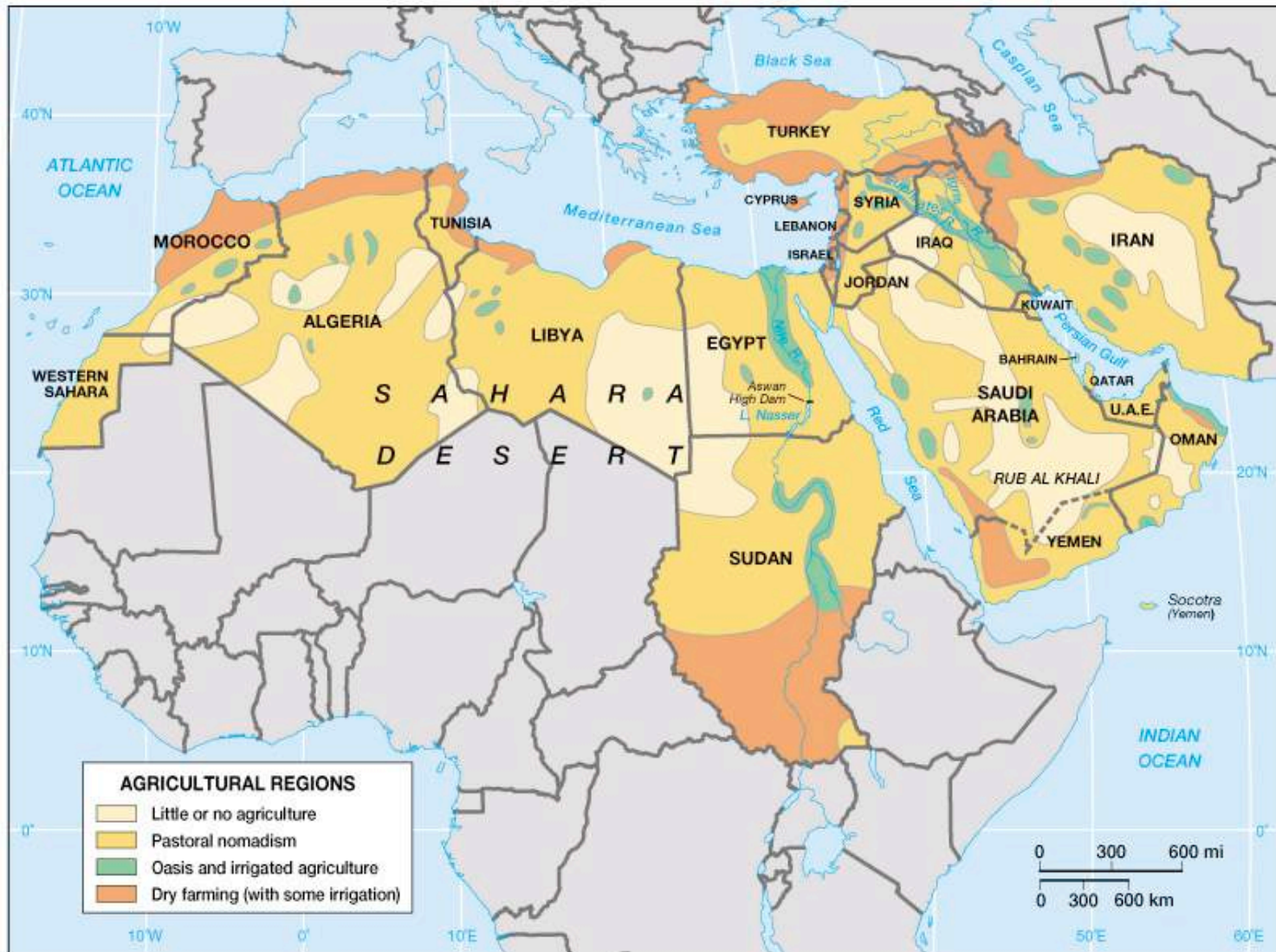


# Warm Up

- What natural resource has the greatest impact on population settlement patterns in North Africa and Southwest Asia?
- What peninsula and continent does the Suez Canal separate?
- What is the largest climate region in North Africa and Southwest Asia?



# Agricultural Regions of SW Asia & N Africa (Fig. 7.14)



# Population and Settlement: Patterns in an Arid Land

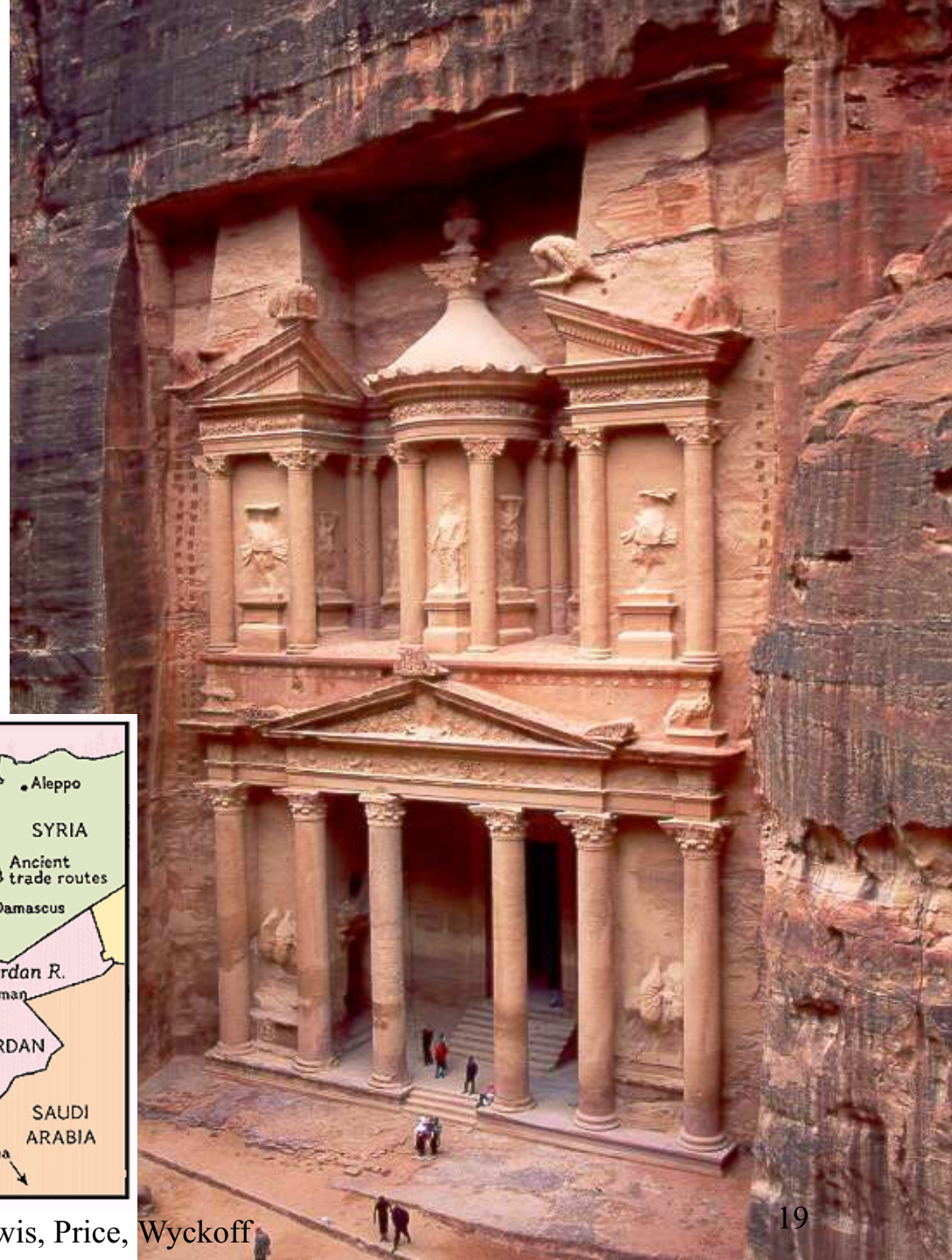
## (cont.)

- Water and Life: Rural Settlement Patterns
  - Many-Layered Landscapes: The Urban Imprint
    - Some of the world's oldest urban areas are in this region
  - A Long Urban Legacy
    - City life began in Mesopotamia (Eridu & Ur 3500 B.C.), and Egypt (Memphis & Thebes 3000 B.C.)
    - Rise of trade centers around 2000 B.C.
    - Centers of Islamic religious administration and education
      - Examples: Baghdad, Cairo
      - The original urban core of a traditional Islamic city is called a **medina**, has central mosque, bazaar
    - Colonialism left European influence



# Petra, Jordan

- First inhabited in 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.
- Important trade crossroads in desert area.
- Complex canals and cisterns concentrated water.



# Population and Settlement: Patterns in an Arid Land

(cont.)

- Water and Life: Rural Settlement Patterns

- Signatures of Globalization

- Urban centers have become focal points of economic growth (Ex: Cairo, Algiers, Istanbul)
- Oil wealth has added modern elements to traditional cities



- A Region on the Move

- Migration streams
  - Rural-to-urban migration
  - Migration of low-wage workers from other regions to SW Asia and N Africa
  - Migration of workers from the regions to other places (ex.: Turkish guestworkers to Germany)





# Population and Settlement: Patterns in an Arid Land

- **Shifting Demographic Patterns**
  - High population growth was an issue throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Today population growth rates vary within the region
  - Women in Tunisia, Iran, and Turkey are having fewer children
    - Causes include delayed marriage, family planning initiatives, greater urbanization
  - Very high rates of natural increase continue in West Bank, Gaza (4.2 TFR), and Libya (3.3 TFR)
  - Increasing population will strain cities, water supplies, public services
  - Jobs will be needed for the people added to the population

# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Signatures of Complexity

- Patterns of Religion

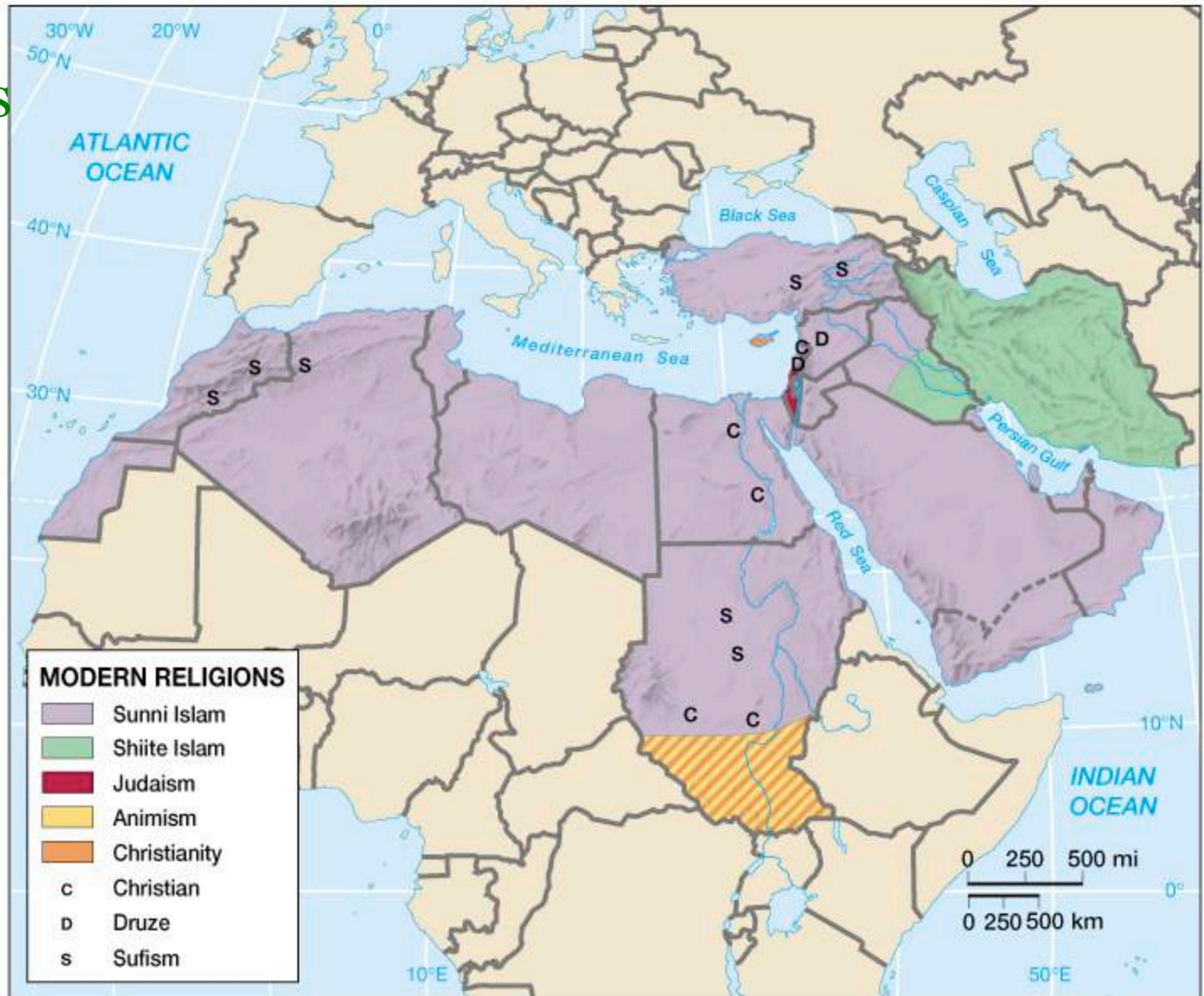
- Hearth of the Judeo-Christian Tradition

- Jews and Christians trace their roots to the eastern Mediterranean
    - **Monotheism** – belief in one God

- The Emergence of Islam

- Originated in Southwest Asia in A.D. 622
    - In the Judeo-Christian Tradition, sharing many of the same prophets, including Abraham, Moses, and Jesus
    - Quran – Koran; believed by Muslims to be a book of revelations received by Muhammad from Allah (God), representing God's highest religious and moral revelations
    - Islam means “submission to the will of God”

# Modern Religions (Fig. 7.21)



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Signatures of Complexity (cont.)

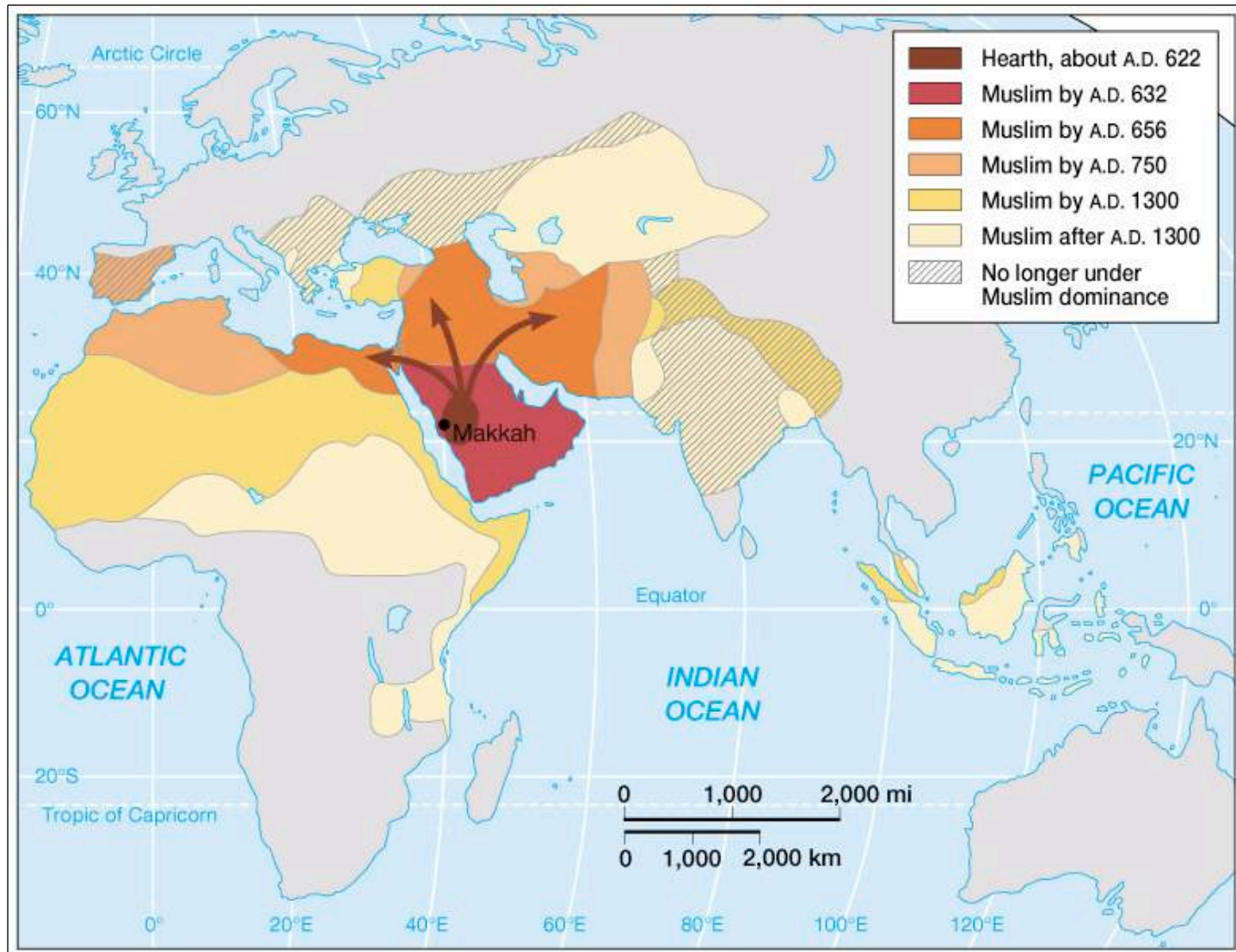
- Patterns of Religion (cont.)
  - The Emergence of Islam (cont.)
    - Five pillars
      - » Repeat the basic creed to accept Islam (“There is no God but God, and Muhammad is his prophet”)
      - » Pray five times daily facing Makkah (Mecca)
      - » Give charitable contributions
      - » Fast during month of Ramadan
      - » Make at least one religious pilgrimage (Hajj) to Makkah
    - **Theocratic state** – one in which religious leaders (ayatollahs) guide policy; Iran is an example



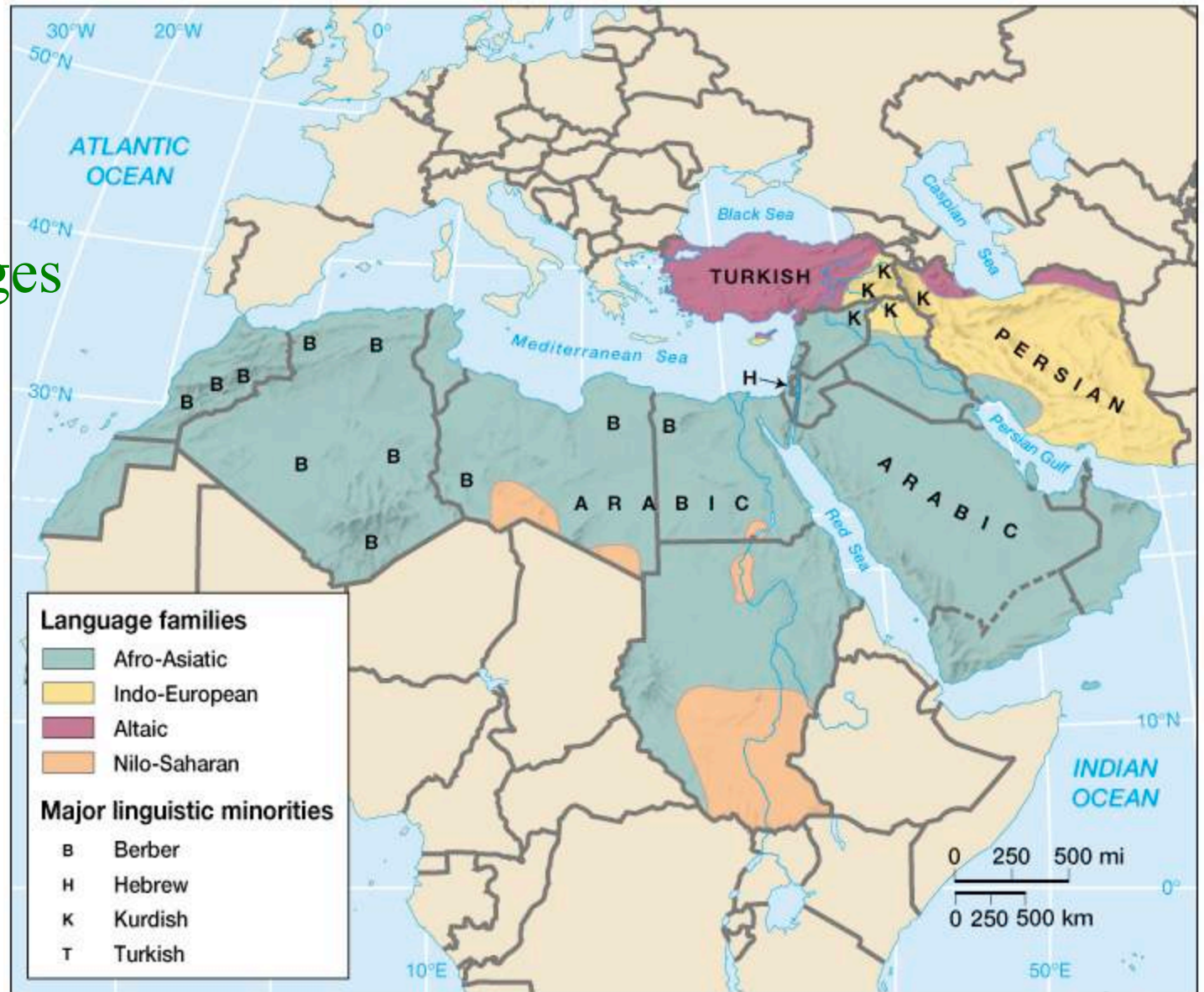
# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Signatures of Complexity

- Patterns of Religion (cont.)
  - The Emergence of Islam (cont.)
    - Major religious schism divided Islam early on, and still exists
      - **Shiites** – current name of group that favored passing power on to Ali, Muhammad's son-in-law (mostly in Iran today)
      - **Sunnis** – current name of group that favored passing power through established clergy; emerged victorious
    - Ottoman Empire – vast Islamic empire (Turks; included southeastern Europe and most of Southwest Asia and North Africa, circa 1453)
  - Modern Islamic Diversity
    - Muslims majority in region, except for in Israel and Cyprus
      - Sunni (73%); Shiites (23%) dominant in Iran, southern Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, and Bahrain

# Diffusion of Islam (Fig. 7.19)



# Modern Languages (Fig. 7.23)





# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Signatures of Complexity (cont.)

- Geographies of Language
  - Semites and Berbers
    - Semite languages: Arabic and Hebrew
    - Berber – older Afro-Asiatic language
      - Found in Atlas Mountains and Sahara region
  - Persians and Kurds
    - Both groups speak Indo-European languages
    - Persian dominates the Iranian Plateau
    - Kurdish in northern Iraq, northwest Iran, and eastern Turkey
  - The Turkish Imprint
    - Part of Altaic family



# Cultural Coherence and Diversity: Signatures of Complexity (cont.)

- Regional Cultures in Global Context
  - Islamic Internationalism
    - Islamic communities well-established in central China, European Russia, central Africa, southern Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, elsewhere
    - Muslim congregations expanding in urban areas of western Europe and North America
  - Globalization and Cultural Change
    - Global economy is having impact on traditional cultural values
      - Fundamentalism a reaction
    - Access to satellite TV, cell phones, the internet brings global culture to the region



Camel Market, Turkey



Hotel in U.A.E.

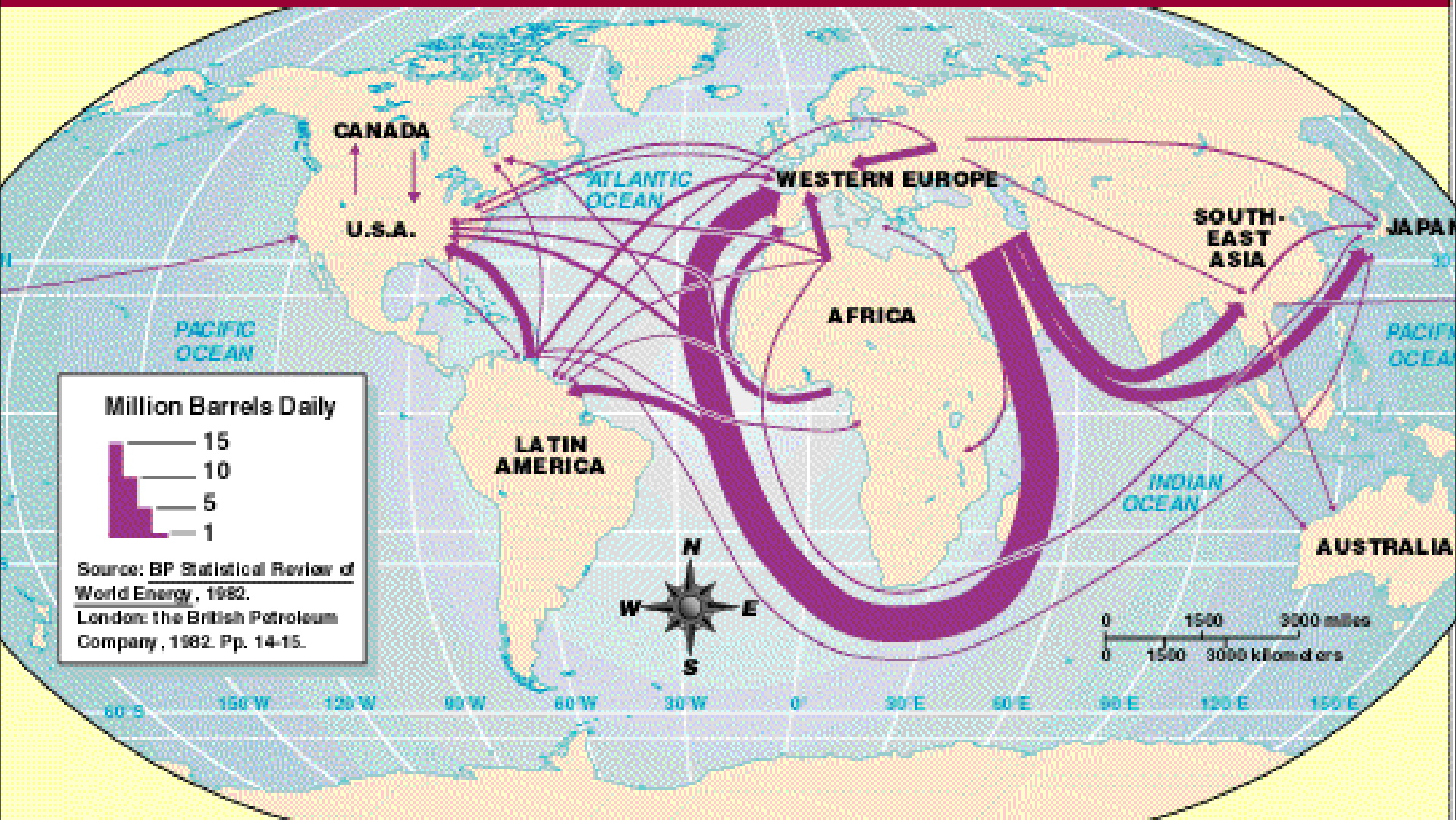


Cairo

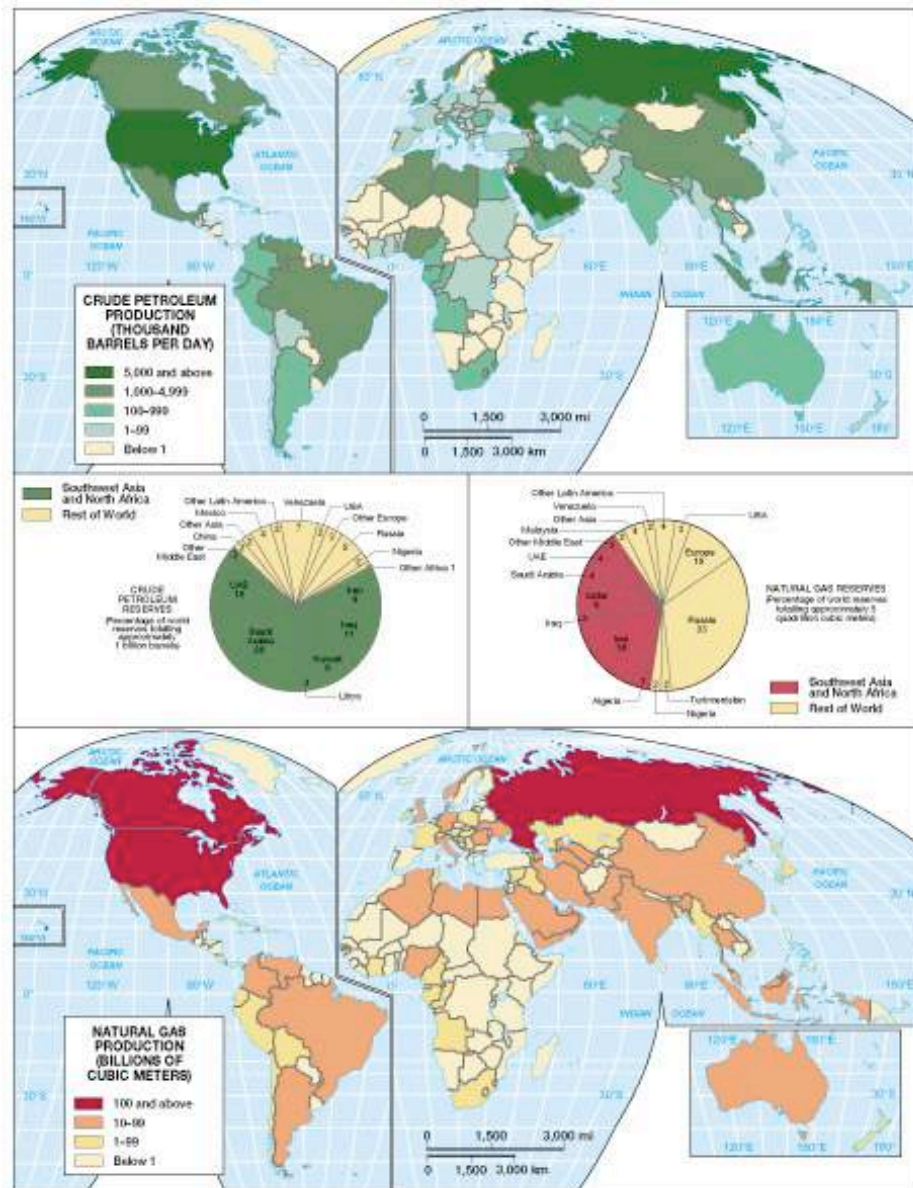
# Economic and Social Development: Lands of Wealth and Poverty

- The Geography of Fossil Fuels
  - Oil unevenly distributed in the area
    - Saudi Arabia, Iran, U.A.E., Libya, Algeria contribute significantly to oil production, while Morocco and Sudan have few developed petroleum reserves
    - This region has 7% of the world's population; holds 68% of the world's proven petroleum reserves
- Regional Economic Patterns
  - Higher-Income Oil Exporters
    - Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, U.A.E.
    - Cultural landscape reshaped because of oil wealth
    - Not all benefit – rural Shiite Muslims and foreign workers

# The Movement of Oil • A Global View



# Crude Petroleum & Natural Gas Production and Reserves (Fig. 7.31)





# Economic and Social Development: Lands of Wealth and Poverty (cont.)

- Regional Economic Patterns (cont.)
  - Lower-Income Oil Exporters
    - Algeria: oil and natural gas are its top exports; but political instability remains a problem
    - Iran: has huge oil reserves, but long war with Iraq (1980-90), and withdrawal from world trade under fundamentalist government have lowered living standards
  - Prospering Without Oil
    - Israel has highest living standard in the region
    - Turkey has a diversified economy; has seen growth

# Economic and Social Development: Lands of Wealth and Poverty (cont.)

- Regional Economic Patterns (cont.)
  - Regional Patterns of Poverty
    - Sudan's economy ruined by 20 years of civil war
    - Morocco is poorer than Algeria or Tunisia and suffers from brain drain
      - **Brain drain** – phenomenon in which some of brightest young people leave for better jobs in Western Europe
    - Egypt's prospects unclear, with growth in 1990s, but large gaps between rich and poor
    - Yemen is poorest country in the Arabian Peninsula

# Economic and Social Development: Lands of Wealth and Poverty (cont.)

- Issues of Social Development

- Varied Regional Patterns

- Israel has high living standard; but Jewish majority doing much better than Muslim minority
    - Saudi Arabia has lower figures of social well-being than might be expected

- A Woman's Changing World

- World's lowest female workforce participation
      - In some countries of the region, women not allowed to work outside of the home or drive
    - In Iran, women's roles changing
    - Libya sees modernizing women's role as a high priority



# Economic and Social Development: Lands of Wealth and Poverty (cont.)

- Global Economic Relationships

- Changing Global Linkages

- Oil is the major export of the region
      - Oil makes up 70% of region's exports
    - OPEC still influences cost and availability of petroleum
    - Turkey exports textiles, food products, and manufactured goods
    - Israeli exports include cut diamonds, electronics, machinery parts
    - Tourism includes religious and historical sites, other activities

- Regional Connections

- Relationships with the EU are critical; Turkey asks to join EU (not admitted, but is a member of NATO)
    - Arab League formed in 1945
    - Arab Free-Trade Area (1998)

# Economic and Social Development: Lands of Wealth and Poverty (cont.)

- Global Economic Relationships
  - The Geography of Tourism
    - Ancient historical sites and globally significant religious localities are a large draw
    - Tourist hotels and condos on the Mediterranean
    - Tourism is a large part of the regional economy in Turkey, Israel, and Egypt



# Conclusions

- Southwest Asia and North Africa played critical role in world history and globalization
- Important culture hearth and religious center at the intersection of three continents
- Oil plays world role
- Political conflicts disrupt economic development
- Tension between modern ways and fundamentalist traditions

