



SOUTHWEST ASIA (Middle East)

Historical Understandings

SS7H2 – a. Explain how European partitioning in the Middle East after the breakup of the Ottoman Empire led to regional conflict.

- Ottoman Empire (1914)
 - Controlled much of present day Middle East from 1300's until end of World War I
 - Istanbul was capital
 - Weakened because of ruling vast land
 - Took German side in World War I
 - Their side lost the war and they were overthrown and their land was broken into smaller countries
 - People who divided the country differed in religion and culture from the people who already lived there
 - What happened?

SS7H2 – b. Explain the historical reasons for the establishment of the modern State of Israel in 1948; include the Jewish religious connections to the land, the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, and Zionism in Europe.

- Palestine

- Created after World War I with Ottoman land

- Important to Jews, Christians, and Muslims

- Much of Old Testament, New Testament, and Quran took place here

- Jerusalem is most important

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- In the years before World War II
 - Palestine divided again into Transjordan
 - British would rule until permanent government established
 - Most people were Palestinian Arabs
 - Jewish immigrants begin settling

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- Why did Jews begin to settle Palestine?
 - Zionists: believed God promised this land to them thousands of years ago
 - Where Jews lived in biblical times

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- What happened to Jews and Palestinian Arabs?
 - Constant conflicts
 - Anti-semitism: hatred of Jews simply because they practiced Jewish faith
 - Holocaust led to over 6 million Jews being killed by Germany in World War II

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- After World War II
 - Guilt over the Holocaust led the United Nations to create a homeland for Jews in part of Palestine in 1948
 - Jews accepted the offer and declared the creation of the State of Israel
 - Palestinian Arabs felt the United Nations unfairly gave away their land
 - War broke out in May 1948
 - » Israelis won the war against the Palestinians and gained more land than originally planned

SS7H2 – c. Describe how land and religion are reasons for continuing conflicts in the Middle East.

- May 1948 war broke out between Palestinian Arabs and Jews
 - Israel won the war
 - Many Palestinians were refugees
 - Many battles since then
 - Israelis are surrounded by Palestinian supporting Arabs
 - Arab-Israeli conflict plays a major role in the difficulties that the United States and the rest of the world face when trying to find peaceful settlements to Southwest Asian, or Middle Eastern, conflicts

SS7H2 – d. Explain U.S. presence and interest in Southwest Asia; include the Persian Gulf conflict, invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

- U.S. found vast supply of oil in Middle East
- Played diplomatic role following break-up of Ottoman Empire
- Supported creation of State of Israel in 1948

SS7H2 – d. Explain U.S. presence and interest in Southwest Asia; include the Persian Gulf conflict, invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

- August 1990
 - Iraq invades Kuwait for their oil
 - Saddam Hussein claimed Kuwait should have been part of Iraq
 - Creation of Kuwait in 1920 eliminated coastline from Iraq
 - United Nations and United States got involved because large portions of oil come from Kuwait
 - This effort was known as Persian Gulf War or Operation Desert Storm

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- 2001

- After 9/11/2001 tragedies the U.S. began military action in Afghanistan

- Al-Qaeda: terrorist organization responsible for the attacks
 - Osama bin-Laden was born in Saudi Arabia but lived in Afghanistan and carried out the attacks of 9/11
 - Taliban was name of government in Afghanistan and they allowed Al-Qaeda to hide
 - Al-Qaeda was trying to end western influence in the Middle East

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- 2003

- United States invades Iraq claiming Saddam Hussein had chemical weapons
- Operation Iraqi Freedom
- Saddam Hussein government collapsed quickly
- Problems followed due lack of plan to reorganize the country
- Different religious and ethnic groups are competing with each other for power as they try to reorganize