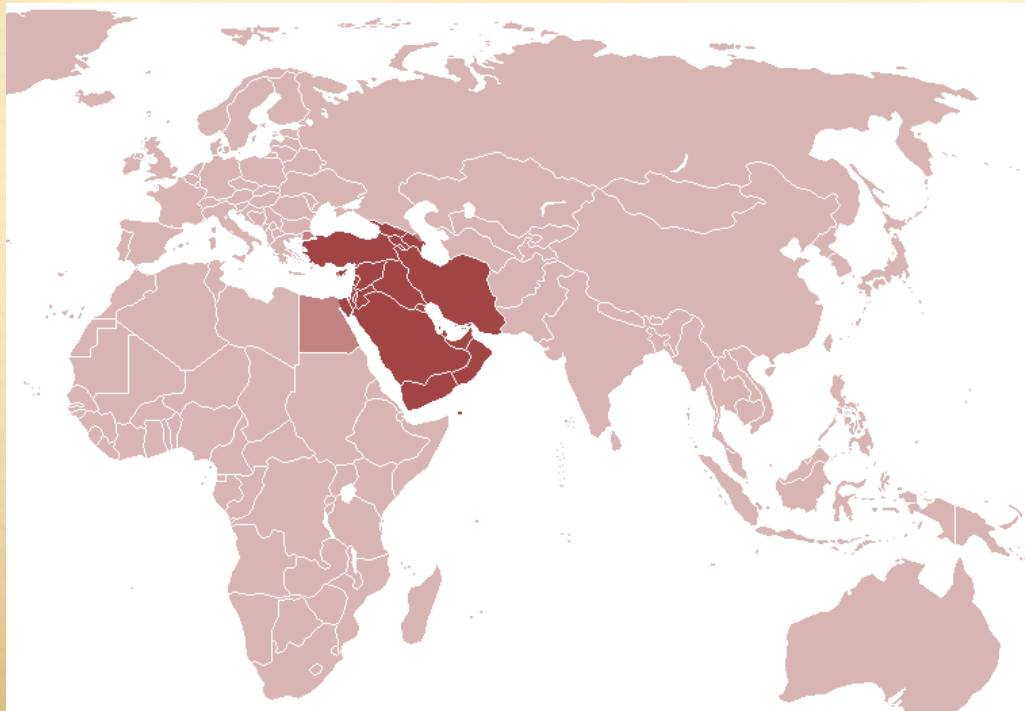


Geography of Southwest Asia



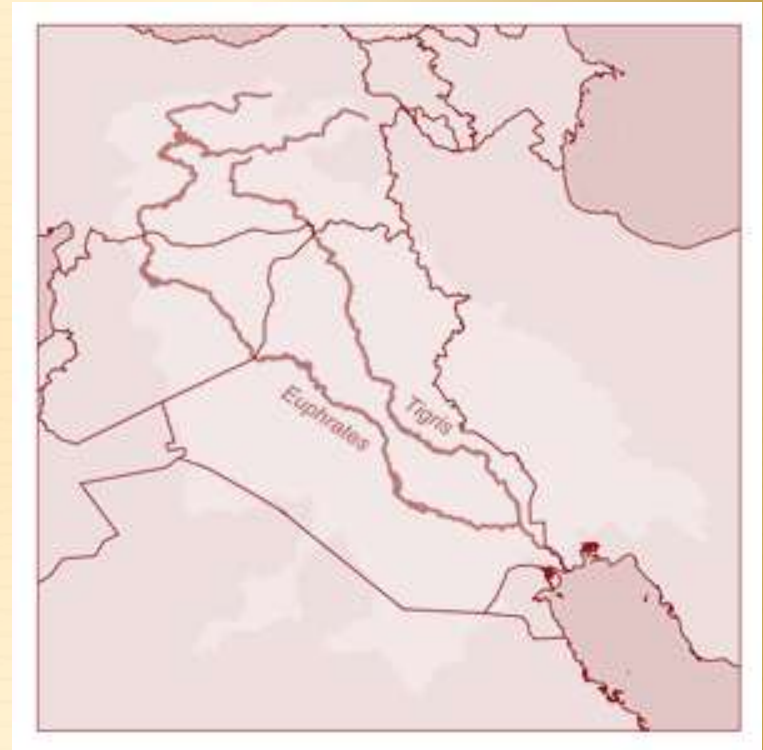
Southwest Asia

- ✦ Other names:
 - ✦ Middle East
 - ✦ Near East
- ✦ These other names are an indicator of location relative to Europe.
- ✦ Many international groups have chosen to name the region based on the relative location within the continent of Asia.



Rivers in Southwest Asia

- ✦ The Euphrates River begins in Turkey and flows through Syria and Iraq.
- ✦ The Tigris River begins in the mountains of Turkey and flows south through Iraq.
- ✦ The Tigris and Euphrates join together in southern Iraq to create the Shatt al-Arab which empties into the Persian Gulf.
- ✦ Rivers in Southwest Asia provide water for both drinking and farming in a very dry region.



Persian Gulf

One of the main ways oil is shipped from oil-rich Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and other countries

Ships that come in and out of the Persian Gulf must pass through the narrow Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Arabian Sea to the Persian Gulf.



Suez Canal

- ✦ The Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea, which saves ships from having to travel around the entire continent of Africa.
- ✦ The Red Sea separates Egypt and Saudi Arabia.



Bridge open to allow U.S. Navy ships to pass on the Suez Canal.

[Click for map](#)

Jordan River

- ✦ Begins in the mountains of Lebanon and Syria and flows down into northern Israel, through the Sea of Galilee, and ends at the Dead Sea
- ✦ Provides water for Israel, Jordan, parts of Syria, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip
- ✦ Forms the political boundary between Israel and the West Bank, a small part of Syria, and the country of Jordan

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Afghanistan



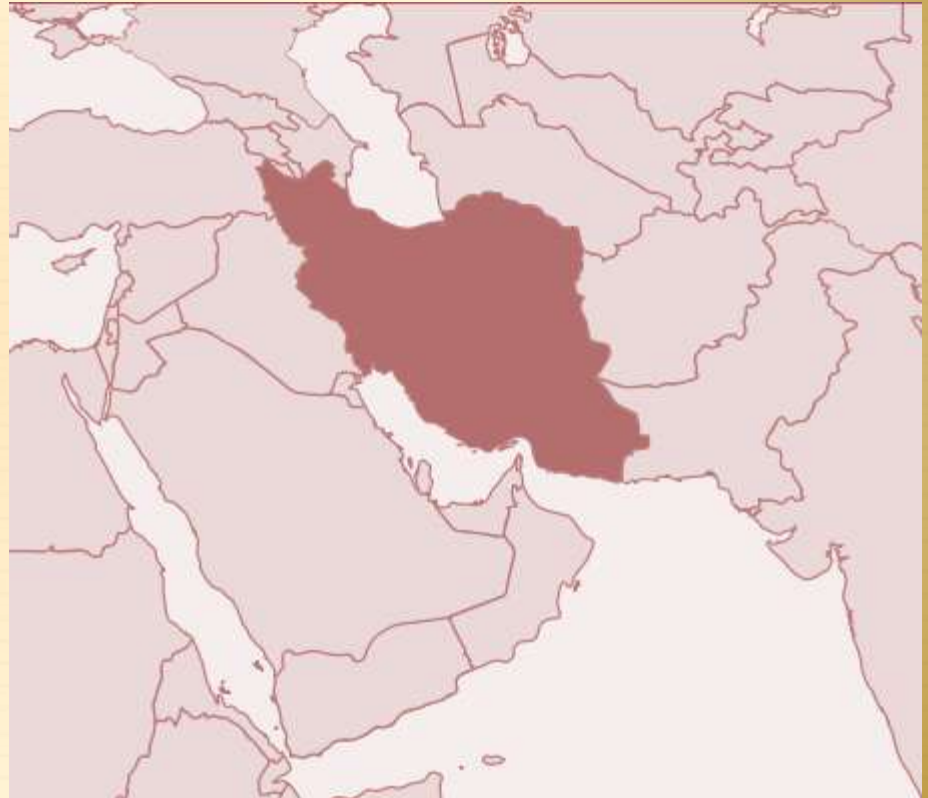
- ✦ Located at the far eastern edge of Southwest Asia
- ✦ Landlocked, which means it has no seacoast
- ✦ Very mountainous
- ✦ People who live there are divided into a number of different ethnic groups or tribes.



Iran



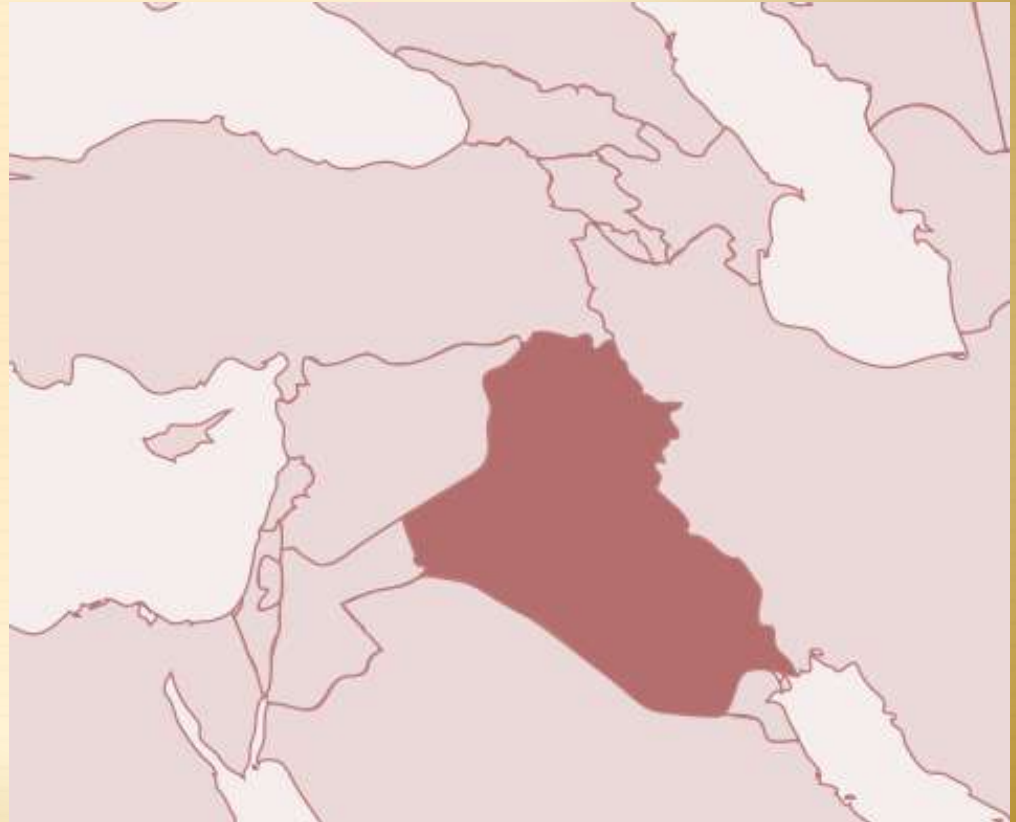
- ✦ West of Afghanistan
- ✦ One of the largest countries in Southwest Asia
- ✦ Mountainous, but also has a long coast along both the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea



Iraq

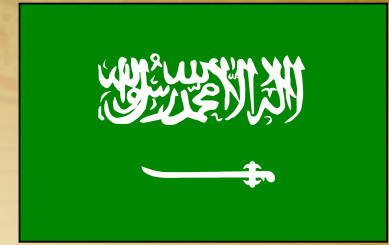


- ✦ West of Iran
- ✦ The Tigris and Euphrates Rivers flow through it.
- ✦ The Shatt al-Arab, formed by the Tigris and Euphrates joining together, forms the boundary between Iraq and Iran.



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Saudi Arabia



- ✦ Largest country on the Arabian Peninsula
- ✦ Persian Gulf is to the northeast
- ✦ Red Sea is to the west



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Turkey



- ✦ Located to the north and west of Iraq
- ✦ Shares a border with Iraq, Syria, and Iran
- ✦ Euphrates and Tigris both begin in Turkey.
- ✦ Turkey has built several dams along the rivers recently to try and save water for the Turkish farms, villages, and towns.

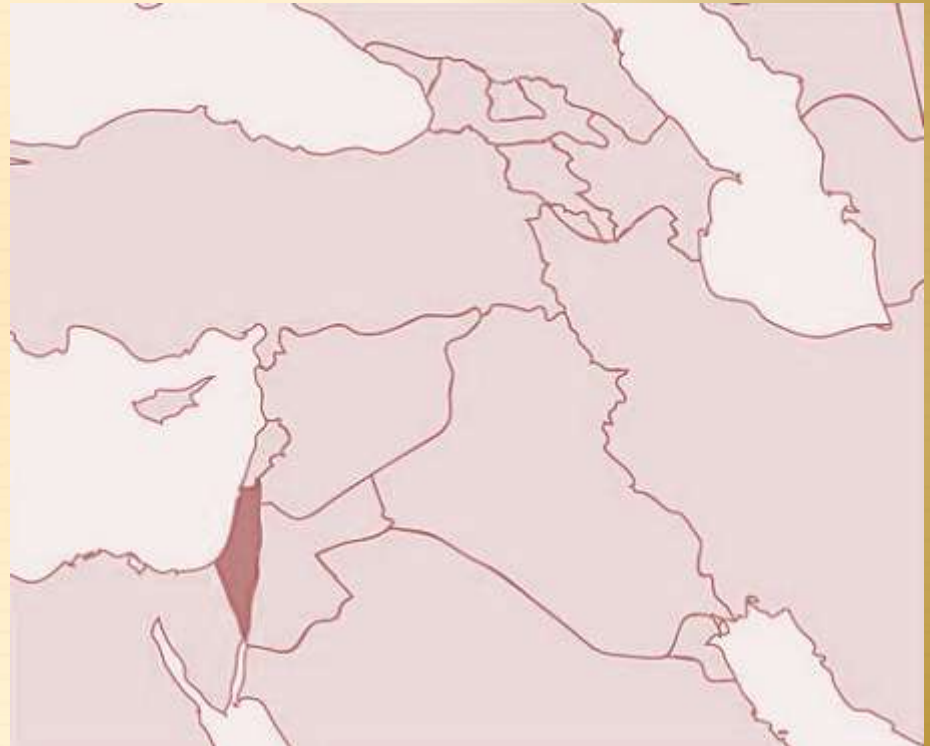


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Israel and the West Bank



- ✦ Israel was created by the United Nations in 1948 as a homeland for the Jews after World War II and the Holocaust.
- ✦ Israel is bordered by the Gaza Strip to the south and the West Bank to the east.
- ✦ The Jordan River forms the boundary between the West Bank and the country of Jordan.



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