

Diversity in the Arab World

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5 minutes - discuss with a partner:

1. Can a person be Arab but not Muslim?
2. Can a person be Muslim but not Arab?
3. Can a person be from an Arab country but not be Arab?
4. Can a person be Arab but live in a non-Arab country?
5. Can a person speak Arabic and not be Arab?
6. Can Arabs from different countries understand each other when speaking Arabic?

The term “Arab”...

- Does NOT refer to a religion
- Does NOT refer to a “race”
- “Ethno-linguistic category”
An Arab is one who “speaks Arabic as a home language”
- Refers to a culture, though there is not one monolithic Arab culture



THE ARAB WORLD

COMOROS
(off map)
↓

The Arab World

- Est. 450 million people?
- 22 member states of the Arab League:
Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros Islands,
Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait,
Lebanon, Libya*, Morocco, Mauritania,
Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Somalia,
Sudan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia,
United Arab Emirates, Yemen
- Chad, Eritrea, Israel, W. Sahara

Arab Diaspora

- Brazil 12M
- France 6M
- Indonesia 5M
- Turkey 5M
- USA 3.5M
- Argentina 1.3-3.5M
- Israel 1.7M
- Venezuela 1.6M

Source <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabs>

Significant Arab diaspora (including partial ancestry)

Brazil	12,000,000 ^{[4][a]}
France	6,000,000 ^[6]
Indonesia	5,000,000 ^[7]
Turkey	5,000,000 ^{[b][8][9][10][11]}
United States	3,500,000 ^[12]
Argentina	1,300,000–3,500,000 ^[13]
Israel (native)	1,700,000 ^[14]
Venezuela	1,600,000 ^[15]
Colombia	1,500,000 ^[16]
Iran (native)	1,500,000 ^[17]
Chad (native)	1,493,410 ^[18]
Mexico	1,100,000 ^[19]
Germany	1,000,000+ ^{[20][21]}
Chile	700,000 ^[22]
Italy	680,000 ^[23]
United Kingdom	366,769 ^[24]
Canada	380,620 (2011 Census) ^[25]
Netherlands	180,000 ^[26]
Australia	350,000 ^[27]
Ecuador	100,000–250,000 ^[28]
Honduras	150,000–200,000 ^[29]

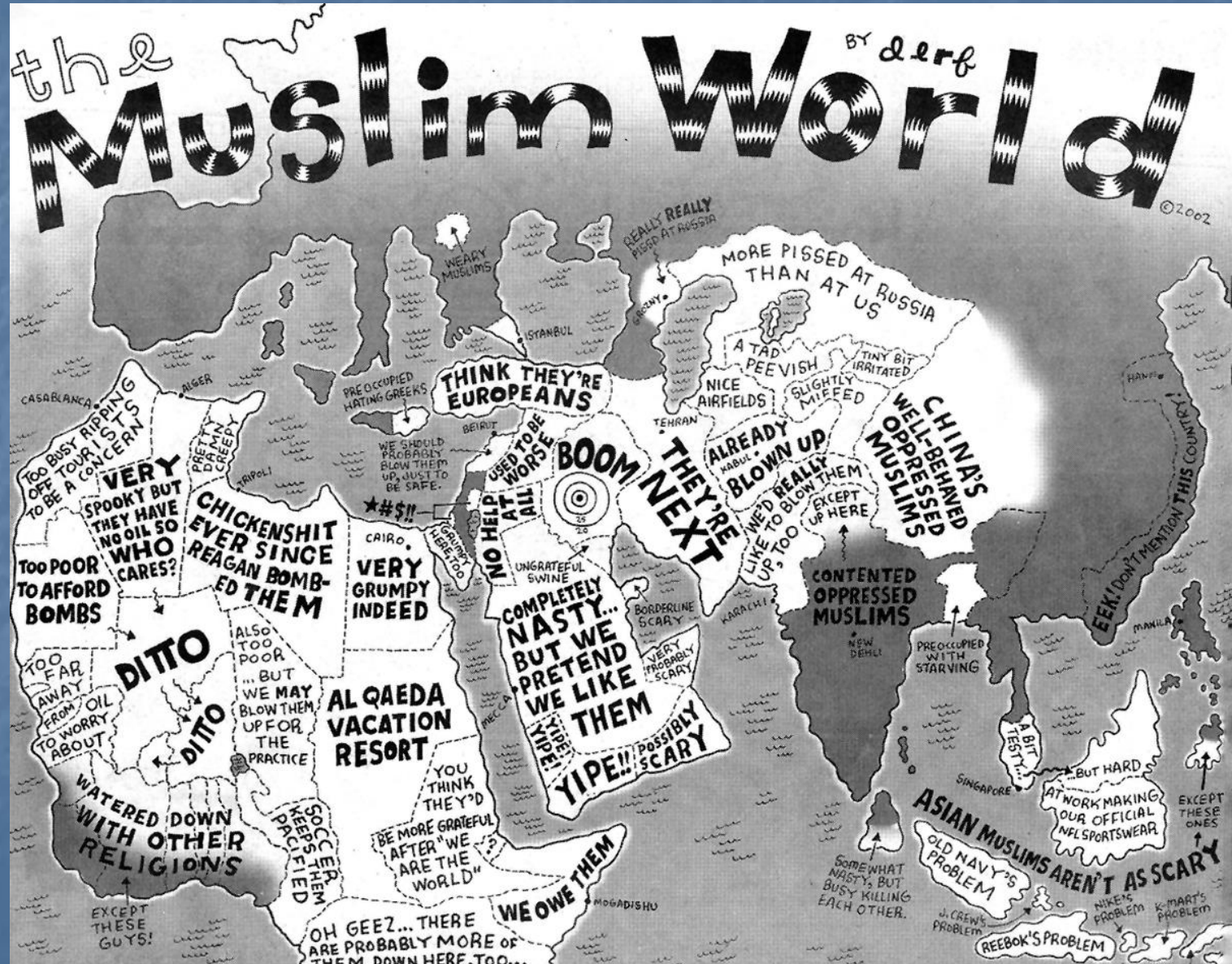
The Middle East



The Islamic World



American stereotypes about Muslims



Muslims / Arabs

- 1.5 billion Muslims worldwide
- Only ~ 20% of Muslims are Arabs
- 5 countries with the most Muslims:

Indonesia	228 million
Pakistan	198 M
India	189 M
Bangladesh	149 M
Nigeria	76-95 M

Percentage of population that is Muslim in Arab countries

- Lebanon 54%
- Bahrain 70%
- Kuwait 74%
- UAE 76%
- Syria 83%
- Egypt 90%
- Jordan 94%
- Djibouti 97%
- Saudia Arabia 97%
- Sudan 97%
- Algeria 99%
- Morocco 99%
- Somalia 99%
- Iraq 99%
- Tunisia 99%
- Yemen 99%
- Mauritania 100%

Christians who are Arabs

Total population

(15 - 25 million)

Regions with significant populations

	Syria	520,000 ^[1] -700,000 (also 52,000 Maronites)
	Lebanon	350,000 ^[1] (also 1.062 million Maronites)
	Israel	127,300 ^[2] (also 1,000 Copts and 7,000 Maronites)
	Jordan	100,000 ^[3] - 140,000 ^[1] (also 1,000 Maronites)
	Palestine	38,000 ^[4] -50,000 ^[5]
	Iraq	10,000 ^[1]
	Egypt	10,000 ^[6] -350,000 ^[1] (also 6-11 million Copts and 5,000 Maronites)
	Turkey	10,000 ^[7]

- Prominent Arab Christians:
Gibran Khalil Gibran
Edward Said
Hannan Ashrawi
Boutros Boutros-Ghali
Tarek Aziz

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Christians

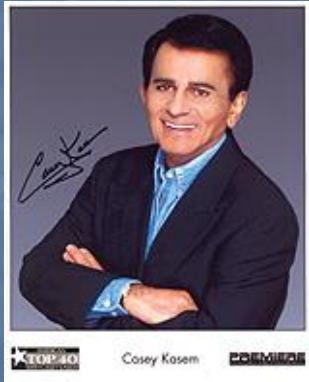
Islam: one religion, two sects

- **Sunni Muslims** (85-90% of the world's Muslims)
- **Shi'a Muslims** (majority of the Muslim pop. in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Bahrain)
- Origin of split was political: choice of leader after the Prophet's death. Elected (sunni) or Ali (shi'a).
Disagree on the proper historical development of Islamic leadership.



- Hassan Mohammed, a Shiite, and his wife Nawal Hassan, a Sunni perform prayers together in their home in Baghdad, Iraq.

Arab is not a "race"



Yalla Count!



Check it right ... you ain't white!

US census
Arab = white



A+
CHECK IT RIGHT
YOU AIN'T WHITE

ARE ARABS WHITE?

East and West in the Arab World

■ Maghreb مغرب

west, sunset

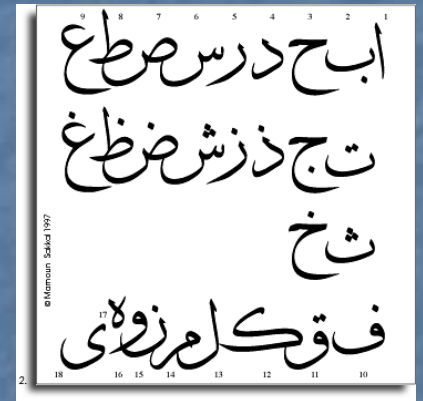
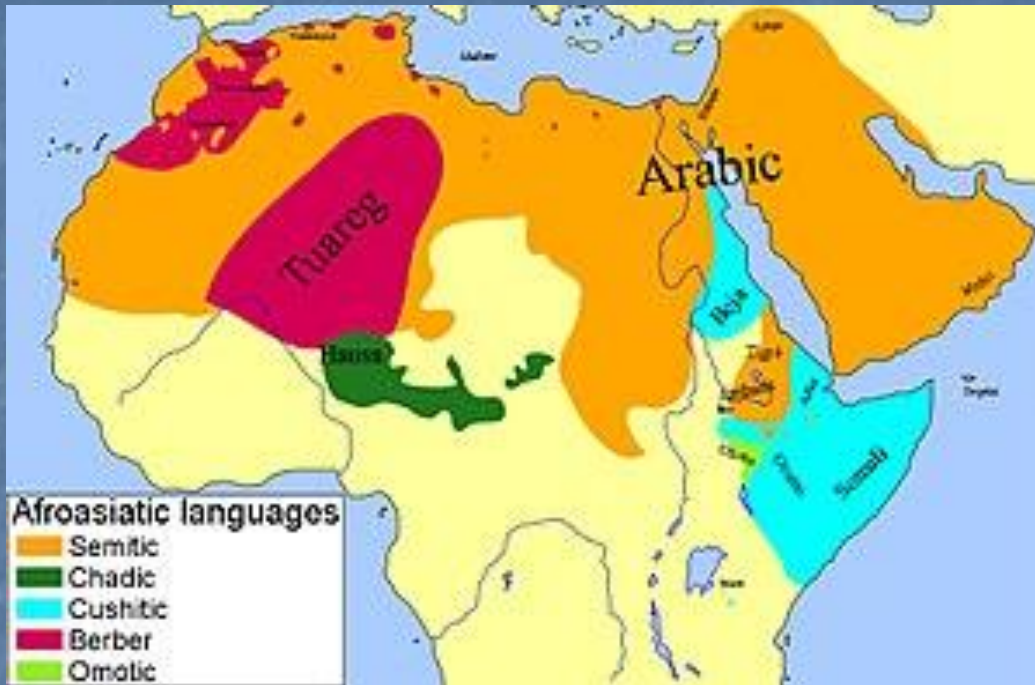
region of Africa north of the Sahara Desert and west of the Nile

■ Mashreq مشرق

east, sunrise

region of Arabic-speaking countries to the east of Egypt.
large area in the Middle East, bounded between the Mediterranean Sea and Iran

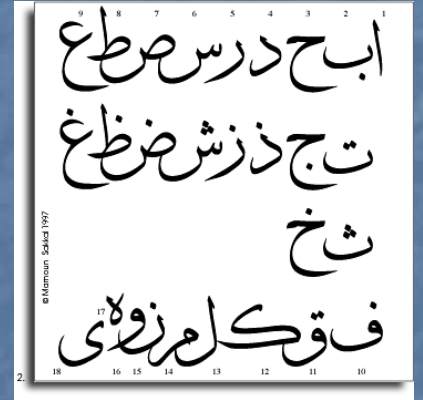
The Arabic language



~ 300 million speakers

- Afro-Asiatic family
- Semitic language
(like Hebrew, Amharic, Tigrinya, Tigre, Aramaic, Assyrian and Maltese)

The Arabic language



- **Modern Standard Arabic**

One written language for all Arabs

Used in public speeches, religious sermons, in the media and in most publications

- **Quranic Arabic**

Since 622 A.D., the primary vehicle for prayer for Muslims around the world

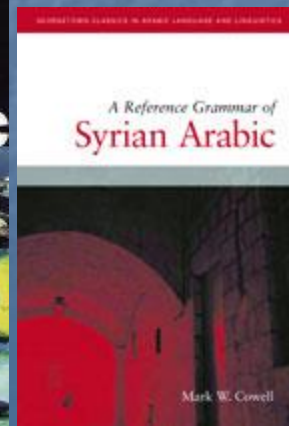
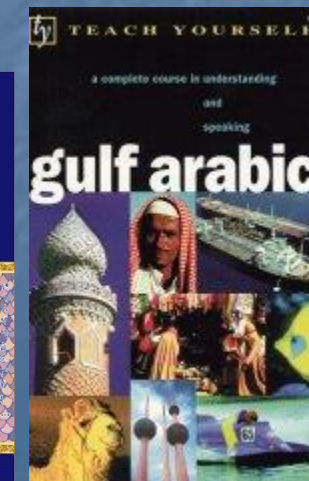
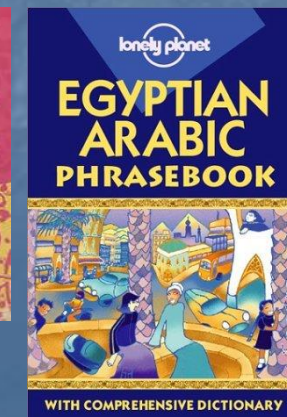
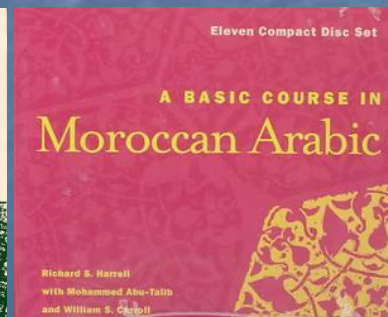
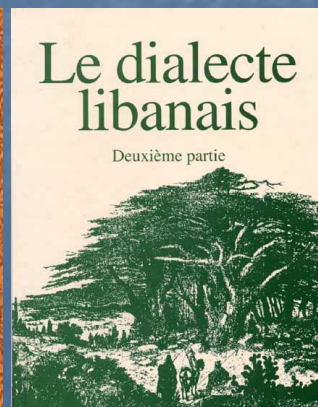
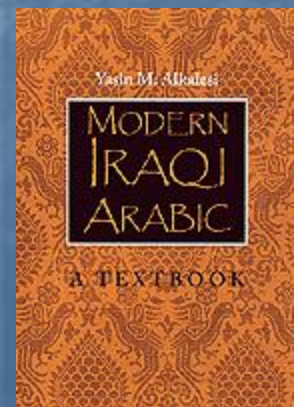
- **National and regional dialects (~30)**

Used in everyday life

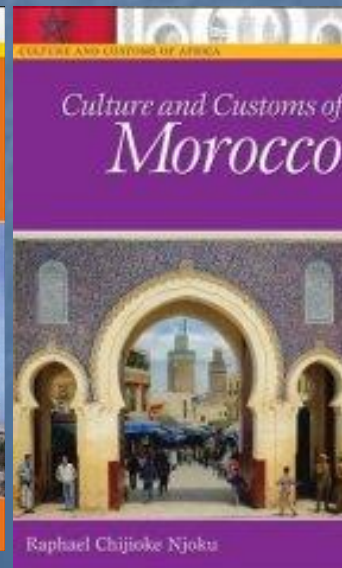
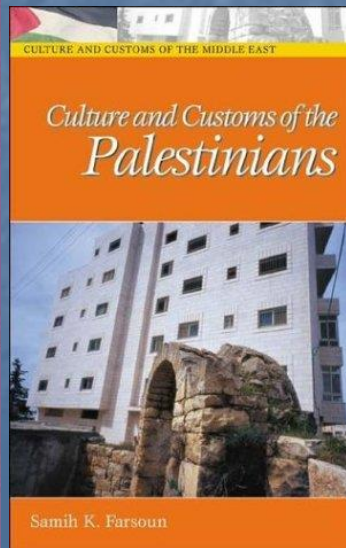
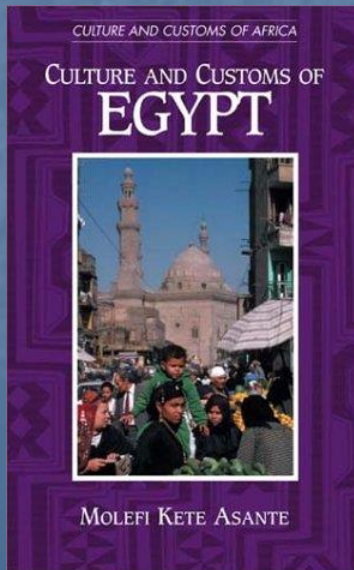
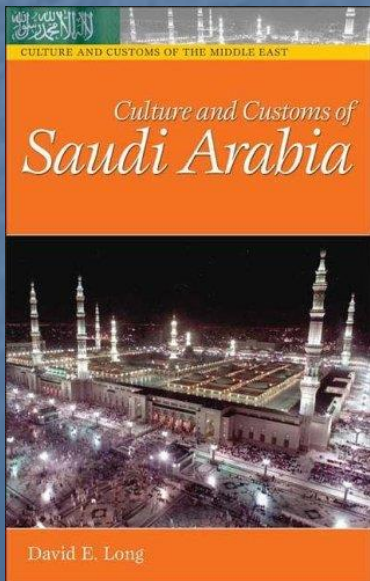
The Arabic language: Diversity of Dialects

Examples

- greetings: "Salaam Alaykum" "Lebas" "Ahlan"
- fine: "bikhayr" "kaman" "barsha" "mezien"
- book: kitaab (MSA), ktabb (Baghdad), ktaab (Damascus), kitaab (Cairo)



Diversity of Customs



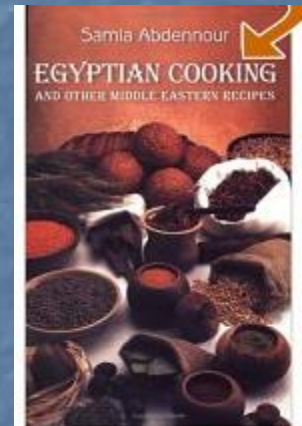
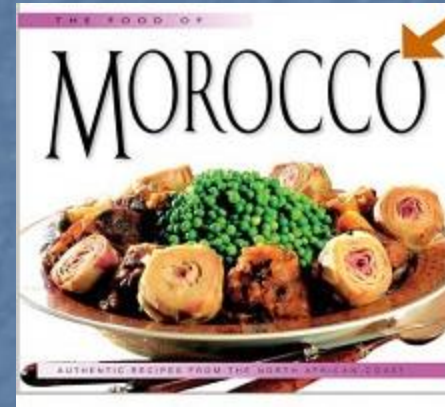
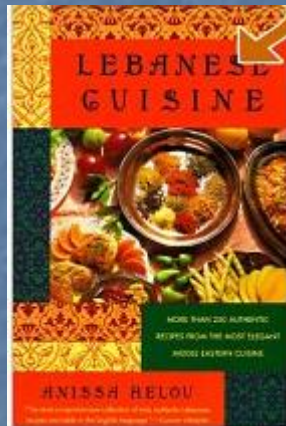
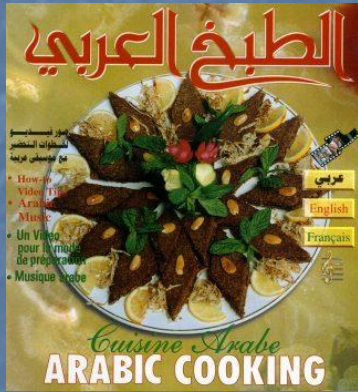
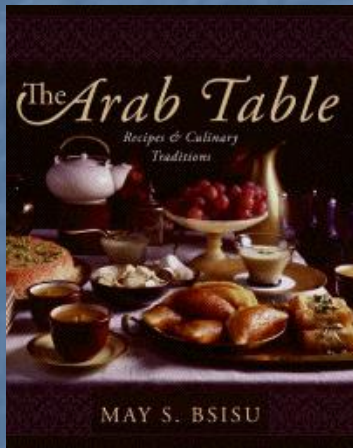
Diversity of dress



Diversity of dress



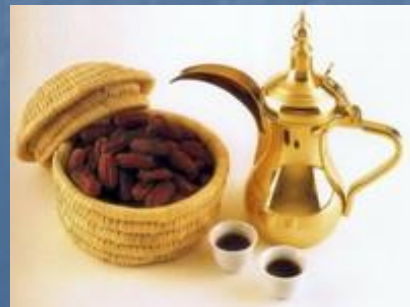
Diversity of Cuisines



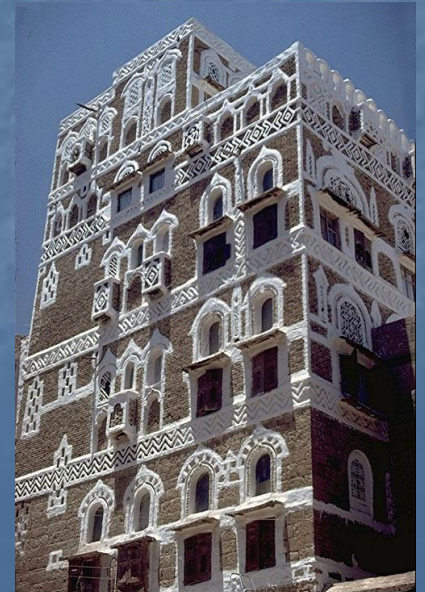
Diversity of Cuisines



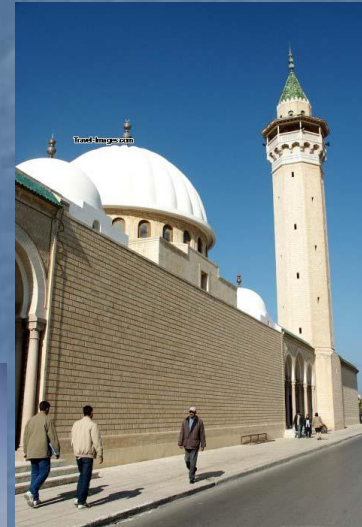
Diversity of Drinks



Diversity of dwellings

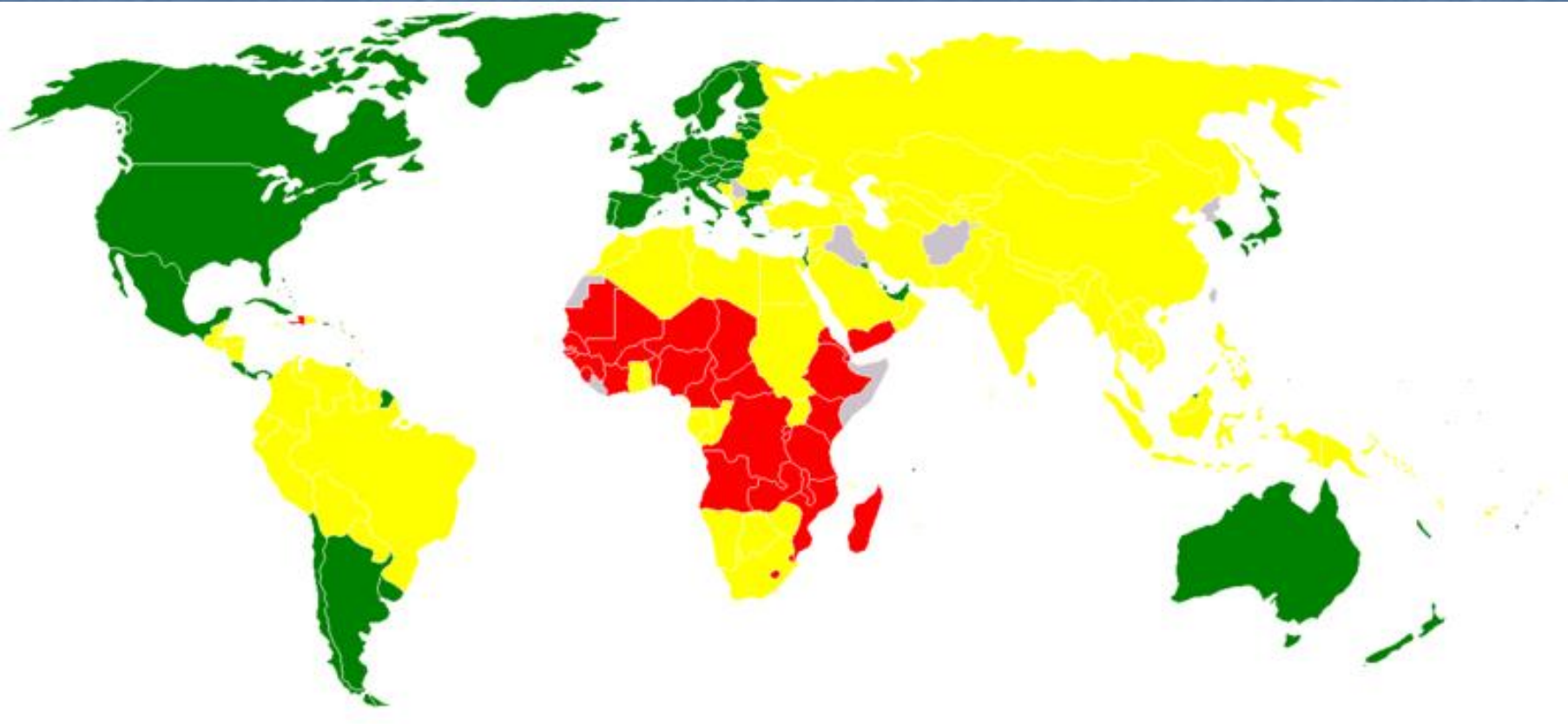


Diversity of architecture



Socio-economic Diversity

- The UN **Human Development Index (HDI)** is a comparative measure of poverty, literacy, education, life expectancy, childbirth, and other factors for countries worldwide.



Human Development Index in 18 MENA countries (2015)

Country	2015
Algeria	83 (High)
Bahrain	45 (Very High)
Egypt	108 (Medium)
Iran	69 (High)
Iraq	121 (Medium)
Israel	18 (Very High)
Jordan	80 (High)
Kuwait	48 (Very High)
Lebanon	67 (High)
Libya	94 (High)
Morocco	126 (Medium)
Oman	52 (High)
Qatar	32 (Very High)
Saudi Arabia	39 (Very High)
Syria	134 (Medium)
Tunisia	96 (High)
United Arab Emirates	41 (Very High)
Yemen	160 (Low)

Very High - 6

High - 7

Medium - 4

Low - 1

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/human-development-in-the-middle-east>

Arabs in America

- ~ 3 million in U.S.
- 500,000 in California
- Detroit area (incl. Dearborn) largest Arab-American community
 - 300,000+ with ethnic origins in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Palestine, Iraq & Yemen.
- San Francisco – 30,000+ largely Palestinian
- Arab Americans tend to be highly educated: those w/ Master's degrees or higher is twice the U.S. average
 - 60% work as executives, professionals, salespeople, administrative support & career jobs.