



GEOGRAPHY OF THE MENA

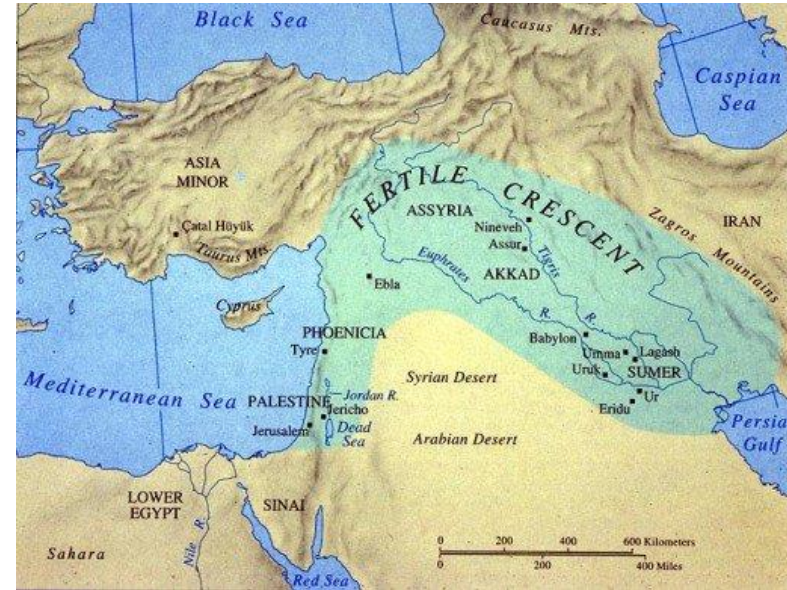
Stereotype: "MENA is unique and fundamentally different from the rest of the world"

Counternarrative: MENA is diverse and integrated with the rest of the world through its history, culture, economy, and politics



MENA Empires

- *What civilizations, states, and empires have inhabited the Middle East and North Africa?*
- *When did they exist? How long did they last?*
- *What is their legacy in contemporary politics, culture, and environment?*

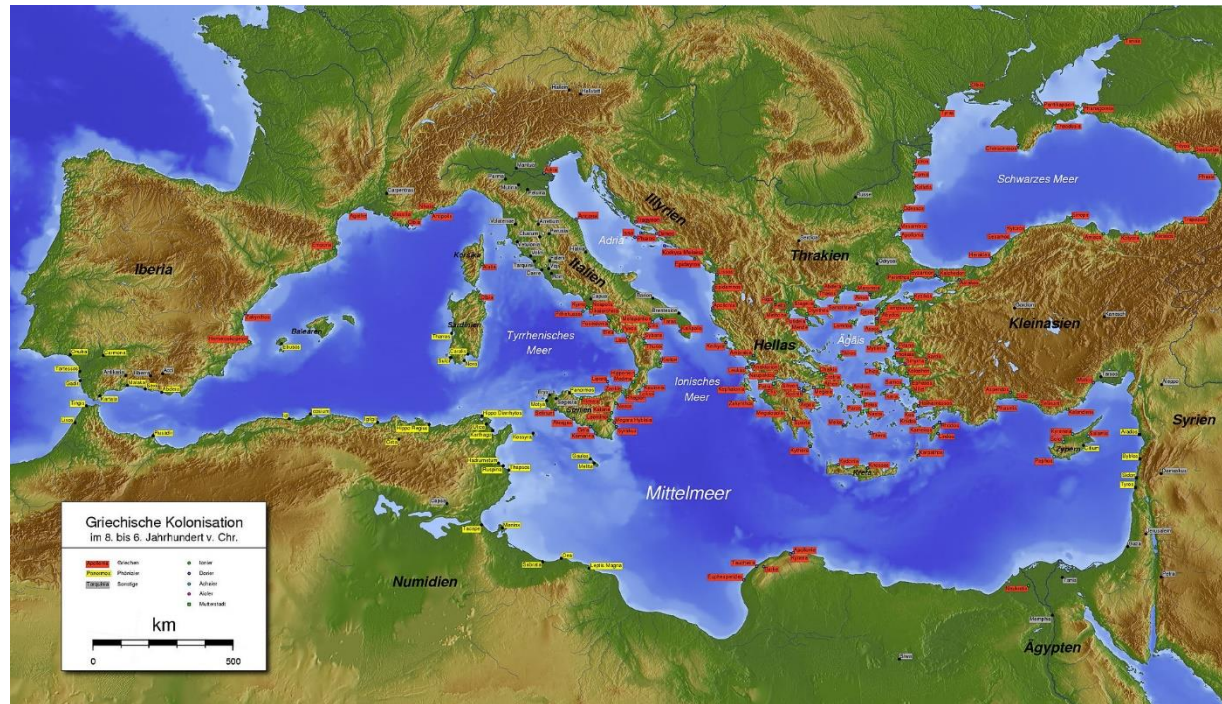


ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA (C. 10,000-500 BCE)

Ancient Egypt (c. 3000-30 BCE)



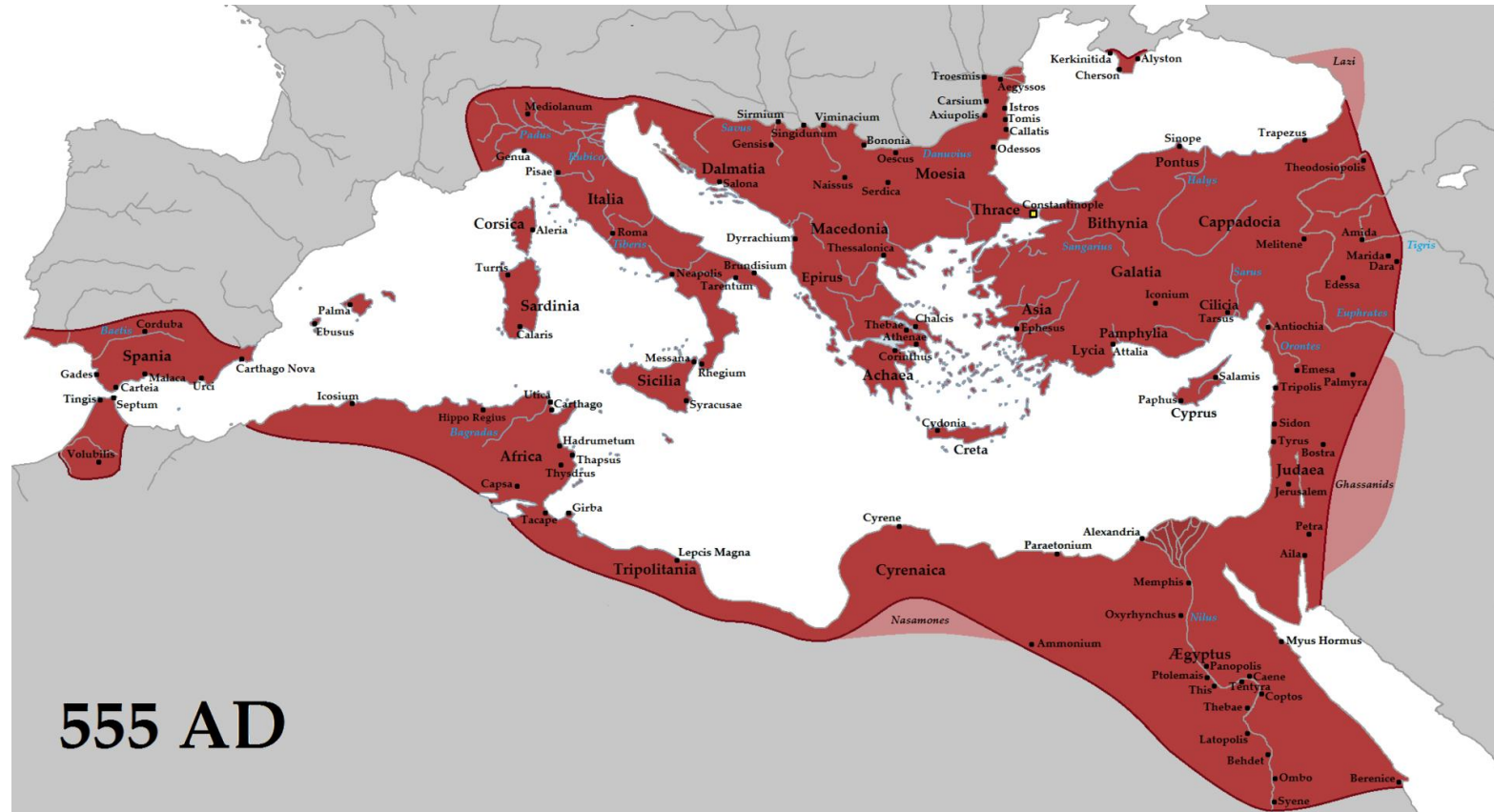
The Ancient Greek Empire (8th-6th c. BCE)



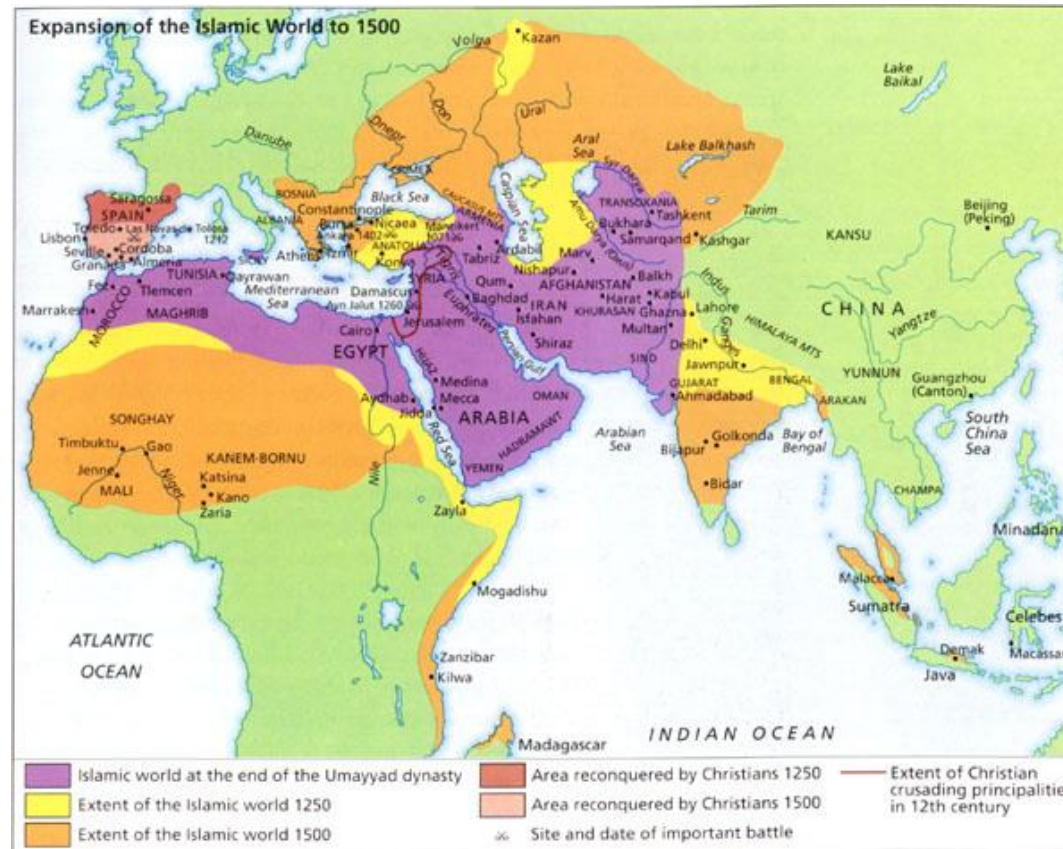
The Roman Empire (c. 1st century BCE-4th century CE)



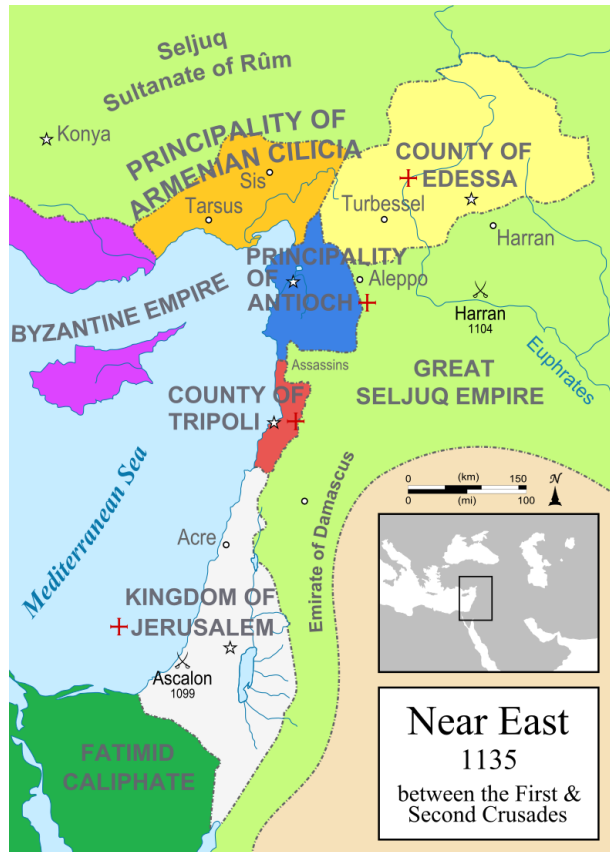
The Byzantine Empire (c. 330-1453)



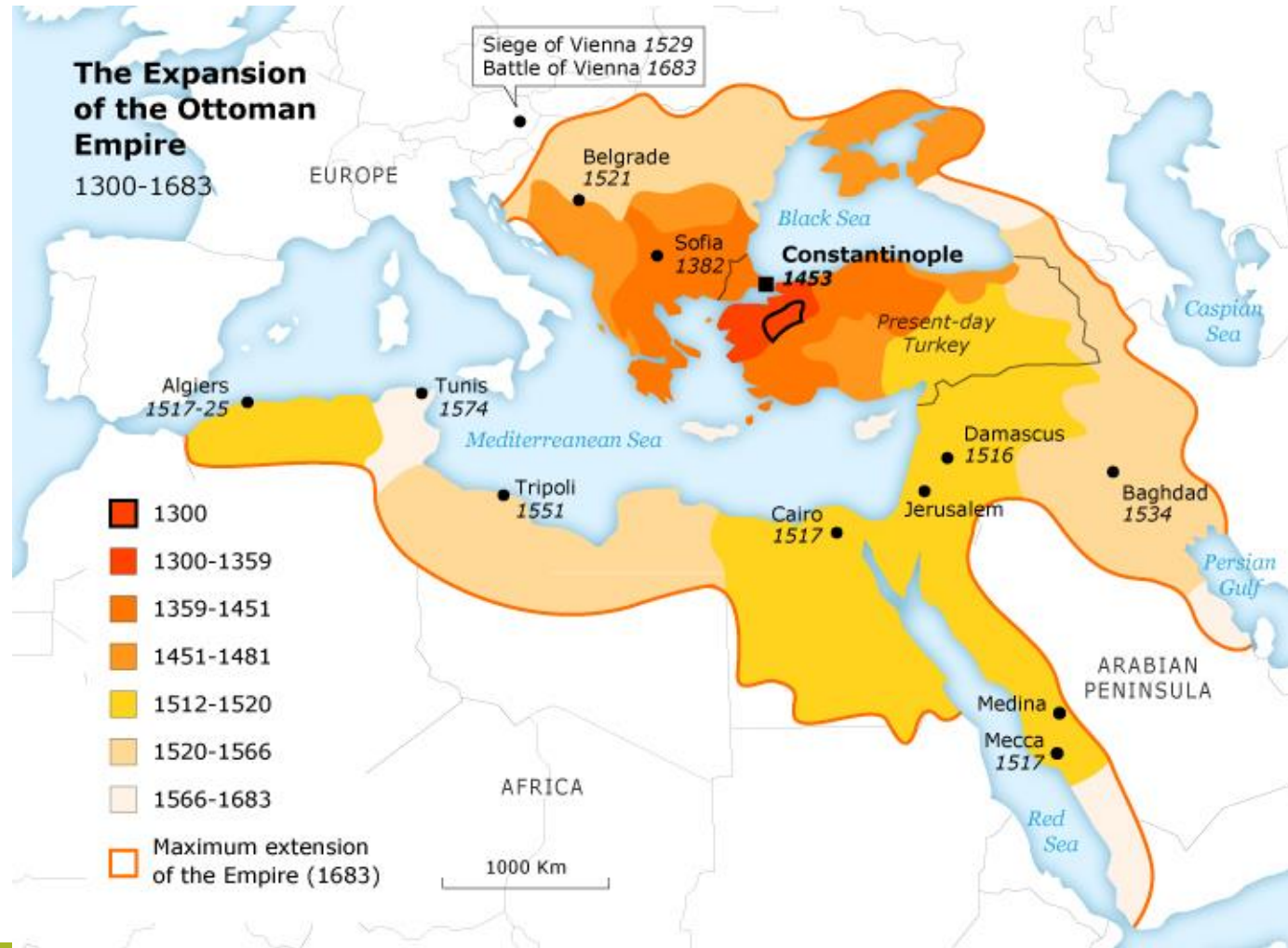
The Islamic World c. 700-1500



The Crusader States (c. 11th-13th centuries)



The Ottoman Empire (1300-1921)



Ottoman Geography

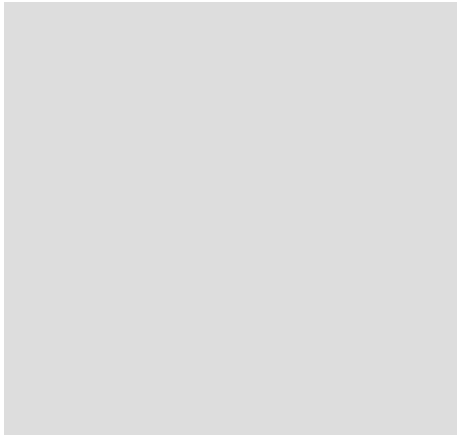
- Largest, longest lasting Mediterranean empire since ancient Rome
- Strategic, Economic Position:
 - Straddled Europe, Asia, and Africa
 - Bosphorus Strait, Istanbul
 - Connected Black Sea & Caspian Sea to Mediterranean
- Parts of former empires:
 - Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Umayyad, Abbasid, Mamluk, Byzantine, Seljuk
- Islamic Holy Sites:
 - Mecca, Medina, Jerusalem
- Contemporary States: Hungary, Greece, Balkan States, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Arabia, Egypt, North Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria



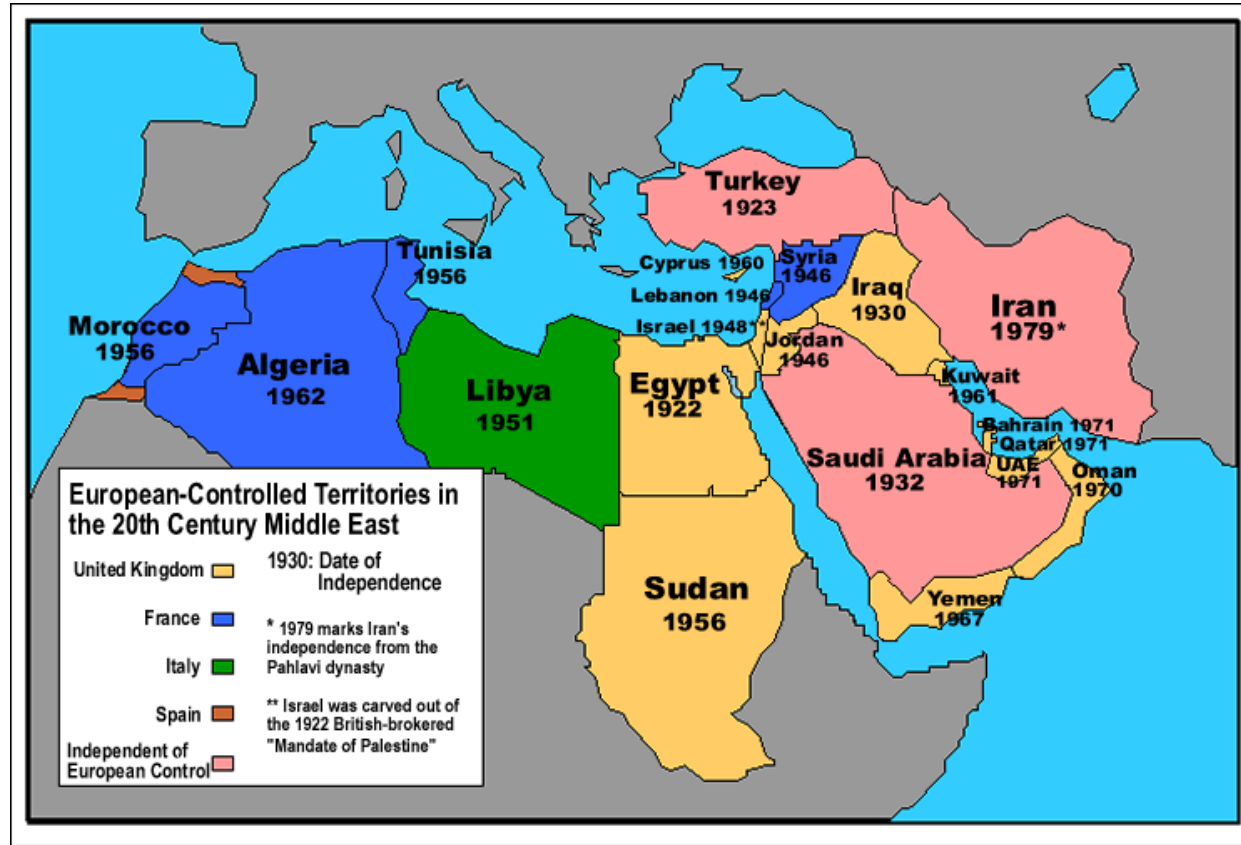


Ottoman Empire: Geography

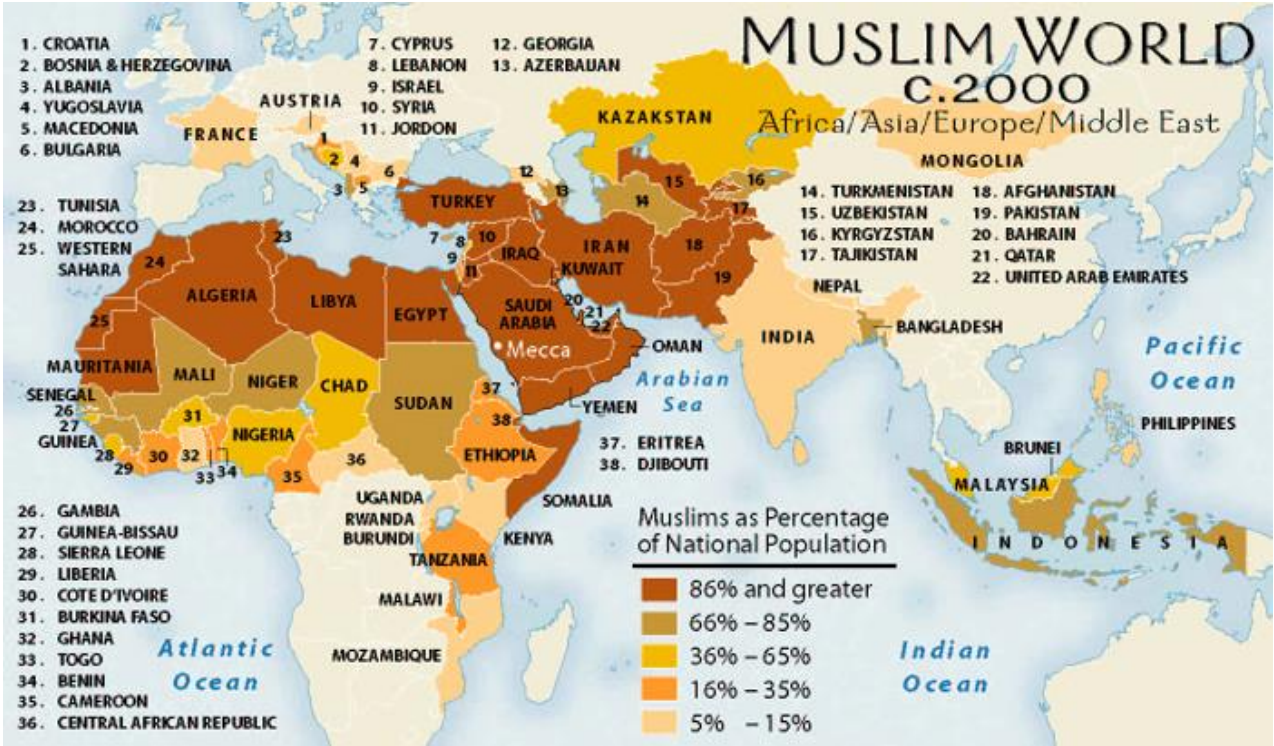
- Water Borders:
 - Adriatic Sea, Aegean Sea
 - Mediterranean Sea
 - Black Sea, Caspian Sea (at peak)
 - Red Sea
- Land Borders:
 - Europe: Poland, Austria / Holy Roman Empire, Russia
 - Asia: Iran
 - Africa: Morocco, Sahara

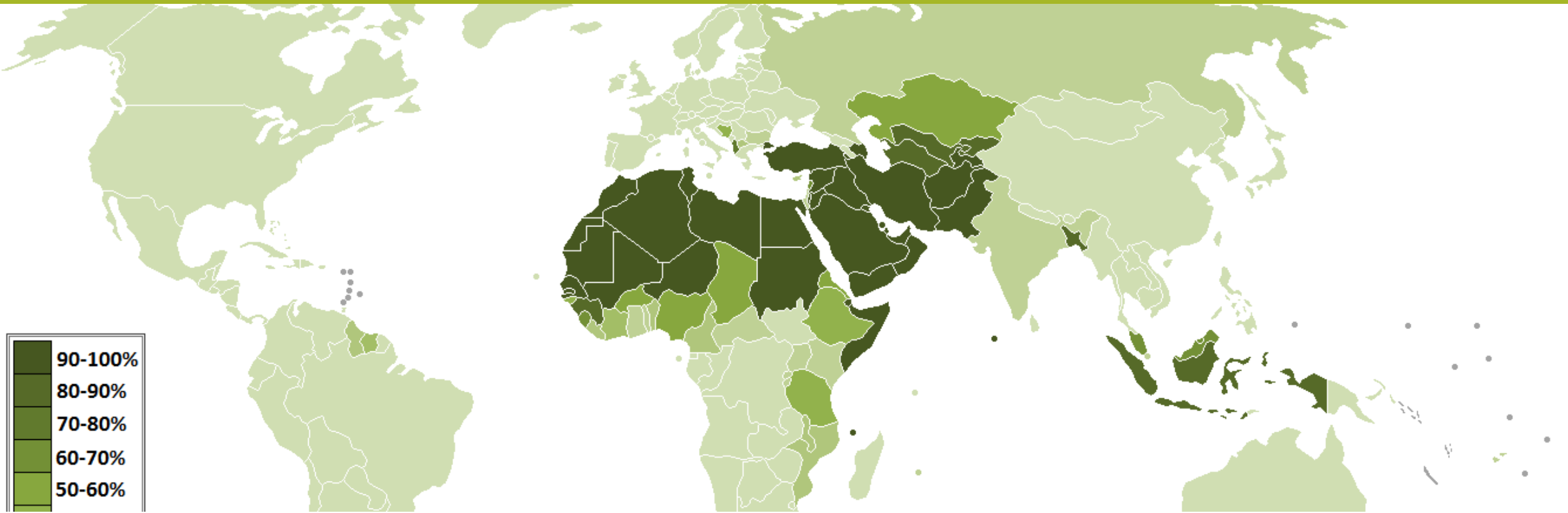


Imperialism in the Middle East



Islam in the Contemporary MENA



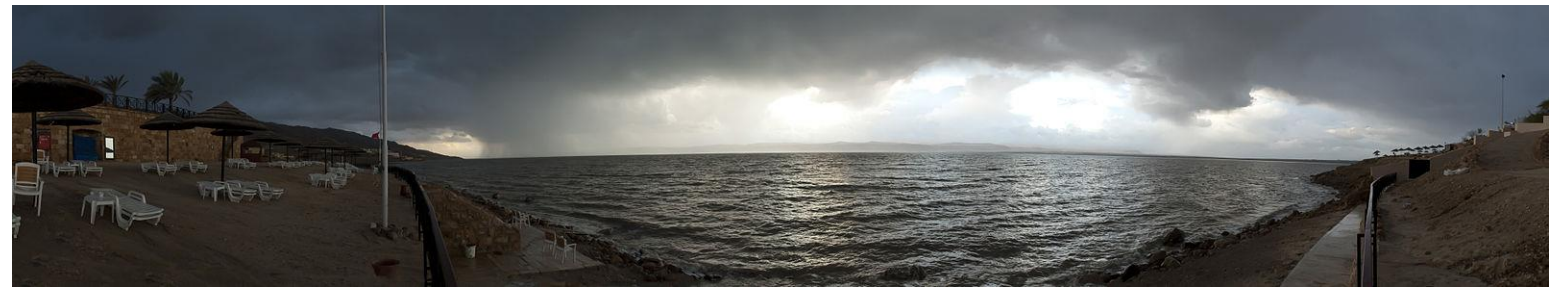
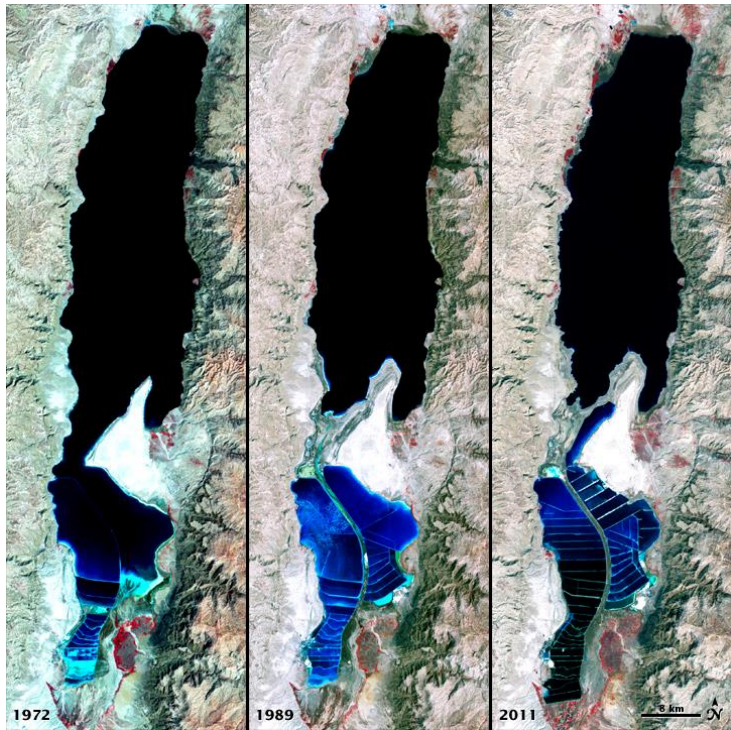


THE CONTEMPORARY MUSLIM WORLD

MENA ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

*What are some of the region's prominent environmental features
(natural and built)?*

The Dead Sea



The Nile River



The Bosphorus and the Black Sea



Mount Toubkal (13,671)



The Suez Canal



MENA Geography

- What are some common features, challenges, or “eccentricities” within MENA geography?
 - Environmental?
 - Water, grass, energy, etc.
 - Human / Societies?
 - Immunities, lactose tolerance, less/late mechanization than Europe
- What local or regional variations exist within the MENA?