

## LESSON 5

# The Middle East and Africa

## ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What motivates political change?
- How can economic and social changes affect a country?

## READING HELPDESK

## Academic Vocabulary

- evolve

## Content Vocabulary

- jurisdiction

## TAKING NOTES

## Key Ideas and Details

**Summarizing** As you read, use a chart to list the major events in these regions since the end of the Cold War.

Middle East	North Africa	Africa South of the Sahara

## IT MATTERS BECAUSE

*At the end of the Cold War, there was hope for a movement toward democracy and increasing political participation. While some of these hopes have become reality, conflict and violence have become common in the Middle East and Africa.*

## The

## GUIDE

*What major events have occurred in the Middle East since the 1990s?*

The Middle East continued to be volatile amid signs of hope for more democratic societies in the region.

## Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Efforts to reach a peace agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians, represented by the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization), have failed due to continued terrorist attacks and disputes over territory, especially Jerusalem. Since the signing of the Oslo Peace Accords in 1993, the peace process has seen more setbacks than not.

In 2000 U.S. President Bill Clinton arranged a meeting at Camp David. The Palestinians rejected a proposal offered by Israel at this meeting and a second intifada soon erupted. Suicide bombings in the heart of Israel led to Israeli reoccupation of significant areas of the West Bank that had been largely controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Nonetheless, a sign of progress emerged in 2003—the Israeli cabinet formally accepted the principle of a Palestinian state.

PLO leader Yasir Arafat died in 2004, and Mahmoud Abbas, a moderate member of the moderate political party which replaced the PLO named Fatah, replaced him. In 2005 Israel withdrew from Gaza and many hoped for real progress toward peace.

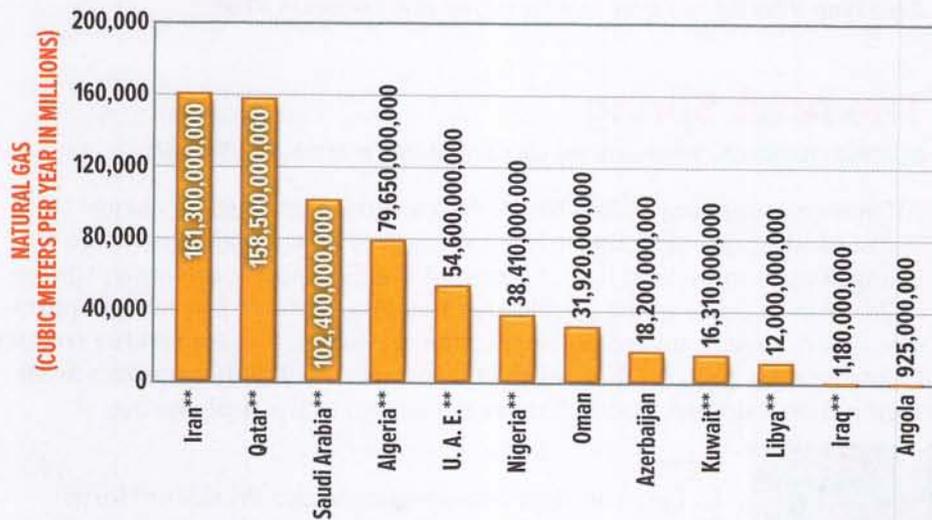
In January 2006, however, members of Hamas, a Palestinian resistance movement that rejects Israel's right to exist, won a majority of the seats in parliament. Abbas remained president, but Hamas controlled parliament. In June 2007, Hamas took control of Gaza, and Abbas dissolved the government. With Hamas out of power, Israel

resumed peace talks with Abbas. These talks have not borne fruit, and three brief wars ensued between Israel and Hamas in Gaza following rocket attacks on Israeli civilian areas. There have been several attempts for Hamas and Fatah to form a unity government. Israel opposed these efforts because Hamas denies its right to exist, and internal Palestinian differences added additional difficulties.

In 2015 Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas declared before the UN General Assembly that he was no longer bound by past agreements with Israel. He thus cautioned the international community that he was prepared to end the Oslo agreement if steps were not taken toward the establishment of a Palestinian state.

## CRUDE OIL AND NATURAL GAS RESERVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

### GRAPHS



\*\* OPEC Members

Source: U.S. Dept. Of Energy Energy Information Administration (Oil & Gas Journal Data)

The first bar graph shows the countries in the Middle East and Africa with the highest crude oil reserves. The second bar graph shows the countries in the Middle East and Africa with the highest natural gas reserves. The countries with two asterisks are members of OPEC.

#### ► CRITICAL THINKING

- Analyzing Graphs** Which country in the Middle East has the highest crude oil reserves? Which country in the Middle East has the highest natural gas reserves?
- Transferring Information** Which countries shown in the graphs are members of OPEC? Use the information in the bar graphs to create a table of OPEC members in Africa and the Middle East.

## Iran

Iran, an oil-rich country, remains under the control of Muslim clerics, who enforce strict adherence to Islamic law. They limit the rights of women and the right to free assembly and a free press. In 2009, following the re-election of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, hundreds of thousands of Iranians protested the outcome and declared the election a fraud. The violent oppression of the protesters by the Iranian military was captured on cell phones and posted on the Internet.

In 2015 a nuclear deal was signed between Iran, the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, France, China, and Germany. The agreement is complex: to simplify, Iran agreed to limit its nuclear development and accept increased oversight by the international community. The other parties agreed to reduce and eventually remove financial sanctions against Iran.

## Afghanistan and Iraq

After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, the United States invaded Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003. Under the control of the Taliban, Afghanistan was harboring Osama bin Laden, the head of al-Qaeda, who was responsible for the attacks. In 2011 U.S. forces killed bin Laden in Pakistan. A deal was signed between Afghanistan and the United States for thousands of U.S. and NATO troops to remain in the country past 2014. While the 2014 election results were disputed, there was a high voter turnout, even among women who were banned from voting under the Taliban.

After the invasion of Iraq by the United States and its allies, the country fell into civil war between the Shia Muslims, who controlled southern Iraq, and the Sunni Muslims, who controlled central Iraq. Elections held in 2010 led to the election of Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki eight months later. U.S. troops withdrew in 2011. Violence intensified in the country in 2013, and in 2014 the military forces of ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) began to seize and occupy parts of Iraq. Thousands were killed.

### READING PROGRESS CHECK

*Describing* What did Iran agree to in the nuclear deal it signed in 2015?

## The Arab Spring

**GUIDING QUESTION** *What were the causes and effects of the Arab Spring?*

An immense uprising rocked North Africa and led to a regime change in Tunisia and Egypt. Most countries in the region have a high percentage of young people; more than half of Egypt's 80 million people are under the age of 25. Most of these young people are unemployed. After 23 years of oppressive government, Tunisian president Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali fled the country following mass protests that began in December 2010. Other protests in the region soon followed. These changes are known as the Arab Spring.

## Egypt

In Egypt an oppressive regime under President Hosni Mubarak maintained power through a large security force, which used torture and brutality to suppress any political opposition. By January 28, 2011, hundreds of thousands of Egyptians, including women, from all walks of life flooded Tahrir (Liberation) Square in downtown Cairo. Protesters used social networking to organize protests. After 18 days of sometimes violent retaliation by Mubarak's secret police forces, the Egyptian army sided with the protesters, forcing Mubarak to leave the country.

▼ Antigovernment demonstrators in Tahrir Square in Cairo demand the resignation of Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak.

### ► CRITICAL THINKING

**Analyzing Visuals** What words would you use to describe the demonstrators?



Since the uprising, Egypt has sentenced its former president to life in prison. Elections were held in June 2012, and Egyptians elected Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohammed Morsi. As president, Morsi suspended much of the Egyptian constitution, resulting in many new unlimited powers for the office of president. Protesters again took to the streets, calling for Morsi's resignation. The Egyptian army settled the question, by taking over the government in a 2013 coup. As of 2015 an elected government has yet to be re-established, though a new constitution was overwhelmingly approved by a vote of the Egyptian people in 2014.

## Libya

In Libya, protesters rebelled against the authoritarian regime of Colonel Muammar al-Qaddafi. After Colonel Qaddafi's troops began to use force against the protesters, the UN Security Council voted to authorize military action. In March 2011, American and European forces began airstrikes against the Qaddafi regime. Libyan rebel forces took control of Tripoli in August, ousting Qaddafi from power. It was not until Qaddafi was killed in October, however, that the creation of a new Libya could begin in earnest. On July 7, 2012, Libya held its first free election since 1952. Libya's new Prime Minister Mustafa Abushagur faces ongoing violence as parties struggle for control of the country.

Protests spread throughout the entire region to Algeria, Yemen, Jordan, Bahrain, Oman, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. The use of force quickly ended the protests in most of these nations. After decades of conflict, political oppression, and exploitation, the revolutionary upheaval led by young people initially brought hope for a new beginning in the region. Unfortunately, the process of democratization in the region has been halted or even reversed in many countries.

## Syria

Many Arab states experienced short-lived violence during the Arab Spring. In Syria this violence erupted into a civil war that continues years after the Arab Spring ended in most of the Arab world. In early 2011, nationwide protests were held against the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The government responded with brutal crackdowns. As a consequence the protests shifted into a full rebellion. Different rebel groups have formed, many of which are hostile towards the others. Major rebel groups include the Free Syrian army, who control pockets of territory in the north and west, and the militant group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), who control most of eastern Syria. Fighting between these groups and the government of Bashar al-Assad continues today, with estimates of the death toll (by April 2015) having risen as high as 310,000 people.

### READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Comparing and Contrasting** How were the uprisings in Egypt and Libya similar? How were they different?



▲ Syrian migrants being assisted by members of the Red Cross as they arrive on the shores of Greece.

### CRITICAL THINKING

**Making Connections** Why have Syrian refugees fled their country?

# Africa South of the Sahara

**GUIDING QUESTION** *What challenges have confronted countries in Africa south of the Sahara since the end of the Cold War?*

African societies have not yet begun to overcome the challenges they have faced since independence. Most African states are still poor, and African concerns continue to carry little weight in the international community. There are signs of progress toward political stability in some countries. Other nations, however, are still racked by civil war or ruled by brutal dictatorships.

## Regional Organizations

Africans have found ways to address their political problems, to cooperate with one another, and to protect and promote their own interests. In 1991 the Organization of African Unity (OAU) agreed to establish the African Economic Community (AEC). This group is meant to provide greater political and economic integration throughout Africa on the pattern of the EU. In 2001 the African Union (AU) replaced the OAU. The new organization has sought to mediate several of the conflicts in the region. The AU also promotes democracy and economic growth in Africa.

As Africa **evolves**, it is important to remember that economic and political change is often a slow and painful process. Introduced to industrialization and ideas of Western democracy only a century ago, African societies are still looking for ways to graft Western political institutions and economic practices onto indigenous structures still influenced by traditional values and attitudes.

**evolve** develop; work out

## Social and Economic Issues

African countries face many social and economic problems. Rapid population growth has slowed economic growth. In the first decade of the 2000s, Africa's population growth rate was 2.3 percent compared to 1.24 percent in the rest of the world. As a result, poverty remains widespread. Cities have grown tremendously. By 2007, approximately 39 percent of Africans lived in urban areas where there are massive slums and high levels of pollution.

Infrastructure continues to be a problem and requires large amounts of foreign and public investment. Recently, Chinese companies have increased their investment in the region. In 2015 the first light rail system in Africa south of the Sahara started operations in Ethiopia. Known as the Addis Metro, it opened with 20 miles (32 kilometers) of track and 39 service stations.

Moreover, AIDS remains a serious concern in Africa. More than two-thirds (22.9 million) of all persons infected with HIV are living in Africa south of the Sahara. In this area during 2010, 1.9 million people became infected with HIV and more than 1.2 million died of AIDS.

Some African nations have mounted an impressive effort to fight AIDS. In Uganda President Yoweri Museveni involved a wide range of national leaders in Ugandan society as well as international health and social service agencies. Uganda has made significant progress in its fight against AIDS. The number of cases of HIV in Uganda stabilized in the early 2000s.

## Political Trends

Politically, Africa has witnessed a number of women as leaders of their countries. For example, Luisa Diogo became prime minister of Mozambique in 2004. There has also been a trend toward multi-party elections. In Senegal, for example, national elections held in the summer of 2000 brought an end to four decades of rule by the once-dominant Socialist Party.



▲ A health counselor teaches South African students about HIV/AIDS prevention.

## Religious Conflict

Religion has played a role in dividing parts of Africa. An Islamic resurgence was evident in a number of African countries. It surfaced in Ethiopia where Muslim tribespeople rebelled against a Marxist regime and eventually established an independent Eritrea.

More recently, in Nigeria and other nations of West Africa, divisions between Muslims and Christians have erupted into violence. In the early 2000s, riots between Christians and Muslims broke out in several northern cities as a result of the decision by Muslim local officials to apply Islamic law throughout their **jurisdictions**. The violence has lessened as local officials managed to craft compromise policies that limit some of the harsher aspects of Muslim law. Nevertheless, the dispute continues to threaten the fragile unity of Nigeria, Africa's most populous country.

The religious tensions that erupted in Nigeria have spilled over into neighboring states. Under its first president, Felix Houphouët-Boigny, Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) was often seen as a model of religious and ethnic harmony. But his death in 1993 led to an outbreak of long-simmering resentment between Christians in the south and Muslim immigrants in the north. Elections held in 2000 resulted in the election of a Christian president. Violence and widespread charges of voting irregularities marked the elections.

In 2002, an armed uprising split the nation into a Muslim, rebel-dominated north and a Christian, government-controlled south. A power sharing deal brought temporary peace in 2007. It was also believed that a presidential election in November 2010 might bring a new unity. Laurent Gbagbo, who had been president since 2000, lost to Alassane Ouattara, who was declared the winner by the United Nations. Gbagbo used the army in an attempt to stay in power, while UN peacekeeping forces guarded Ouattara. Gbagbo's forces terrorized civilians in order to remain in power. A peaceful march of unarmed women, for example, was stopped by machine gun fire from Gbagbo's armed followers. In November 2011, Gbagbo was arrested and sentenced to prison for crimes against humanity.

As in other African countries, civil war has devastated the economy of Côte d'Ivoire. The city of Abidjan once had a shining downtown. Now it is a jungle of darkened high-rise windows. Jobs have disappeared; 4 million men are out of work in a country of 21 million. Banks and businesses have closed, and food shortages are widespread.

### READING PROGRESS CHECK

**Analyzing** What role has religion played in recent African conflicts?



▲ A suburb of Abidjan shows the aftermath of the fighting that followed the 2010 election in Côte d'Ivoire.

### CRITICAL THINKING

**Describing** Write a sentence or two that describes the scene in this photograph.

**jurisdiction** the limits or territory within which authority may be exercised

## LESSON 5 REVIEW

### Reviewing Vocabulary

1. **Defining** What does it mean that some Nigerian officials applied Islamic law in their jurisdictions?

### Using Your Notes

2. **Contrasting** Use your notes to find differences among major events in the regions in this lesson since the end of the Cold War.

### Answering the Guiding Questions

3. **Identifying Central Issues** What changes have occurred in the Middle East since the 1990s?

4. **Identifying Causes and Effects** What were the causes and effects of the Arab Spring?

5. **Analyzing** What challenges have confronted countries in Africa south of the Sahara since the end of the Cold War?

### Writing Activity

6. **Argument** Do you think the uprisings in North Africa in 2009 and 2010 would have been as effective without the use of social networking sites? Why or why not?