

# The Middle East: Question for US Policy

First edition. November 2017.

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Begins with a very brief look at Sasanian and Byzantine Empires and Ottoman rule.
- Includes World War I, Mandate System, foreign control of oil, independence movements, coup against Mossadegh, Zionism, June 1967 War, October War 1973, Oil Embargo.
- Concludes with an overview of political, economic and social challenges faced in 2017.

## STUDENT TEXT

- Dispels the myth of a region of similar countries and people who share common politics, histories, and cultures.
- Shows how U.S. intervention must be understood as part of a longer history of western imperialism and colonialism.
- Provides case studies of U.S. policy towards Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Iran, Syria, Israel, and the Palestinian Territories.
- Presents the political and social dilemmas the United States faces in the Middle East.

## CENTRAL ROLE PLAY ACTIVITY

**Question:** Which interests and values should provide the basis of U.S. policy for the Middle East?

**Setting:** U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

## SKILL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LESSONS

A short description of each lesson can be found on the unit webpage [here](#).

Students will:

- **Read** maps; identify physical and political characteristics of the region.
- **Analyze** photographs and challenge assumptions about societies in the Middle East.
- **Close read** examples of Arab Spring protesters' use of social media and graffiti.
- **Evaluate** continuity and change over time in international opinion through close reading of primary sources about the creation of a Jewish homeland written prior to 1947.
- **Compare and contrast** the histories of U.S. policy towards six Middle East countries or territories.
- **Analyze** comics to consider how the experiences of individuals can inform understanding of a larger political context (Syrian refugees).
- **Collaborate** with classmates to synthesize readings, lessons, and position profiles into class presentations.
- **Listen** actively and deliberate with peers on complex viewpoints expressed.
- **Reflect** and write their own position on U.S. policy towards a specific country.

## LINKS FOR FURTHER CURRICULUM EVALUATION

**Videos** - A free online [video collection](#) accompanies this unit, and the videos are incorporated throughout the Digital Editions.

**Print Format** - This unit [preview](#) includes the table of contents, a reading excerpt, and a sample lesson plan.

**Digital Editions Format** - Interested in what the Digital Editions format looks like? Check out our web-based curriculum [here](#).