



MIDDLE EAST: THE BASIC TERMINOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY, DEMOGRAPHY, ANCIENT HISTORY

Mgr. Eva Taterova, M.A., Ph.D.

Faculty of Social Studies

Masaryk University



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Bahrain
 Cyprus
 Egypt
 Iran
 Iraq
 Israel
 Jordan
 Kuwait
 Lebanon
 Oman
 Qatar
 Saudi Arabia
 Syria
 Turkey
 UAE
 Yemen

MENA REGION
(MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA REGION)



BASIC TERMINOLOGY

- No consensus about the terminology.
- Historically, **Near East** referred to the territory of whole Ottoman Empire while **Middle East** was used for the whole region of Arab peninsula, Afghanistan + the countries of southern and central Asia.
- **Orient** – a label for countries of Near, Middle and Far East – today quite negative connotations (book „Orientalism“ by Edward Said from 1978).
- **The Levant** – eastern Mediterranean (Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, northern Iraq).
- Nowadays the prevailing definition says that "it is a region located on the border between southwest Asia, northern Africa, and Europe".
- The terms Near and Middle East are usually used simultaneously.
- The unifying factors: similar historical development, religion, culture, language.

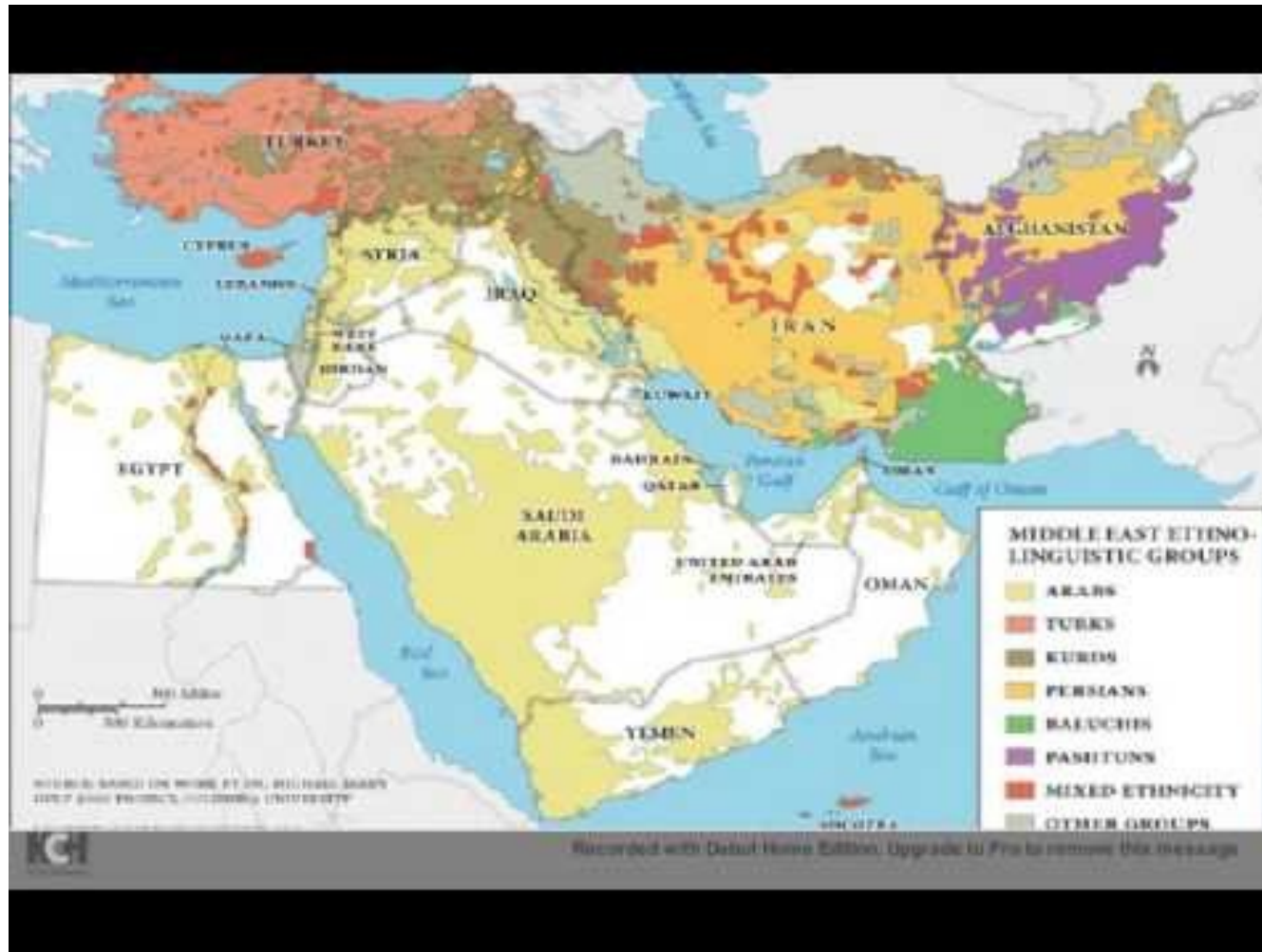


DEMOGRAPHY OF MIDDLE EAST

- Estimated population in 2018: 411 million people.
- Great diversity regarding ethnicity, languages, religion.
- Main ethnic groups: Arab, Turks, Kurds, Jews, Berbers.
- Main languages: Arabic (different slangs), Turkish, Kurdish, Persian, Hebrew.
- Countries with biggest populations: Iran, Turkey, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen
- Main religions: Islam, Christianity, Judaism.



MIDDLE EAST ETHNO-LINGUISTIC GROUPS



MIDDLE EAST: INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS

Countries with biggest population in 2017

Iran	81,824,270
Turkey	79,414,269
Iraq	37,056,169
Saudi Arabia	27,752,316
Yemen	26,737,317

Major religious groups in 2010

Islam	317,070,000
Christianity	12,710,000
Judaism	5,630,000
Unaffiliated	2,100,000
Hinduism	1,720,000

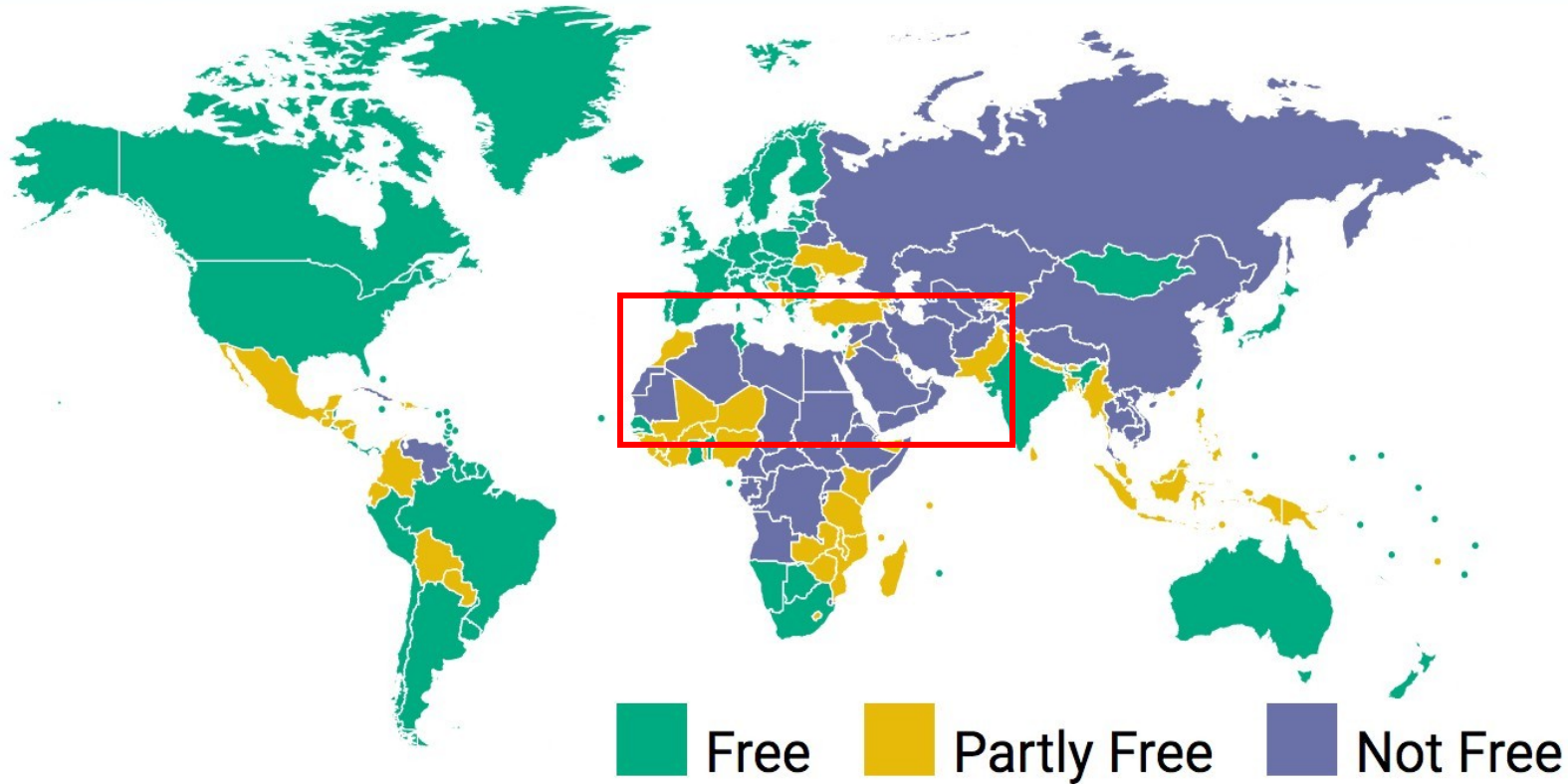
Richest Countries of the Middle East (GDP) in 2017

Qatar	124,900 USD
Kuwait	69,700 USD
United Arab Emirates	68,200 USD
Saudi Arabia	55,300 USD
Bahrain	51,800 USD

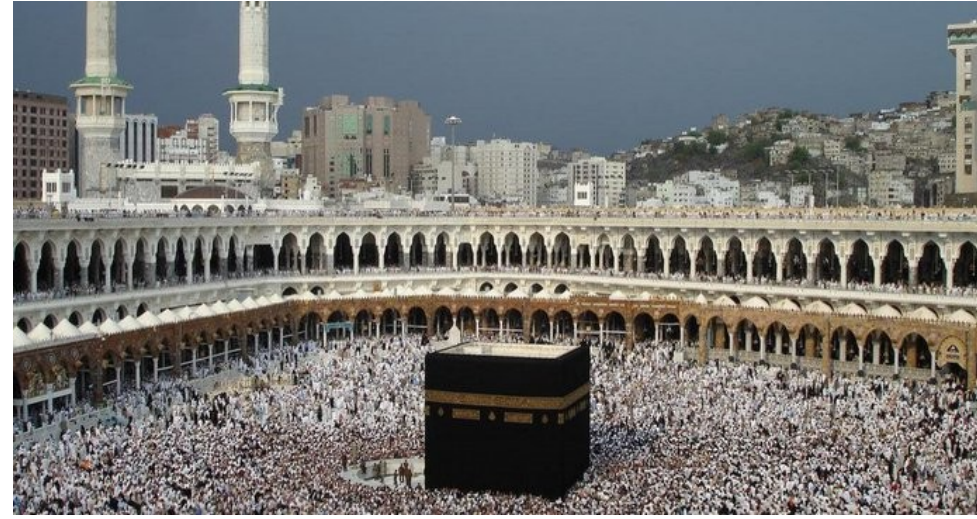
Poorest Countries of the Middle East (GDP) in 2017

Afghanistan	1,900
Yemen	2,300
Syria	2,900
Pakistan	5,400
Jordan	12,500

DEMOCRACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST 2017



RELIGIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST



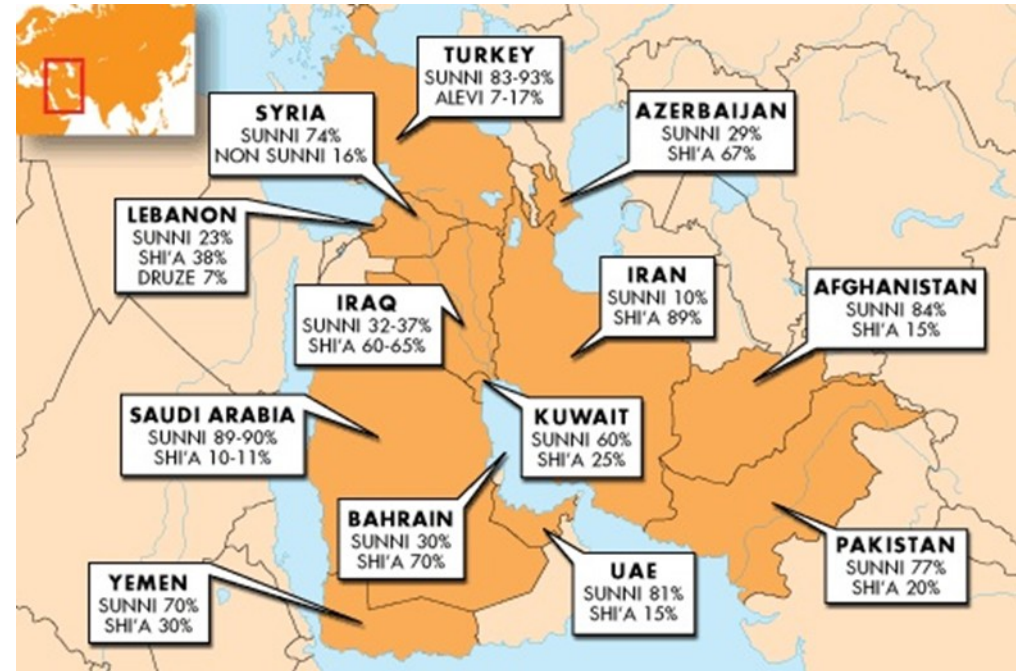
RELIGIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST

- Many religions have got their origins in the Middle East.
- Religions of the book: Judaism, Christianity, Islam – three monotheistic religions.
- In the past there was a lot of religious tolerance, nowadays religion is often a source of conflict.



ISLAM

- 5 pillars of Islam:
 - Shahada: Faith
 - Salah: Prayer
 - Zakāt: Charity
 - Sawm: Fasting (Ramadan)
 - Hajj: pilgrimage to Mecca
- Significant dispute between Shia Muslims and Sunni Muslims.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION