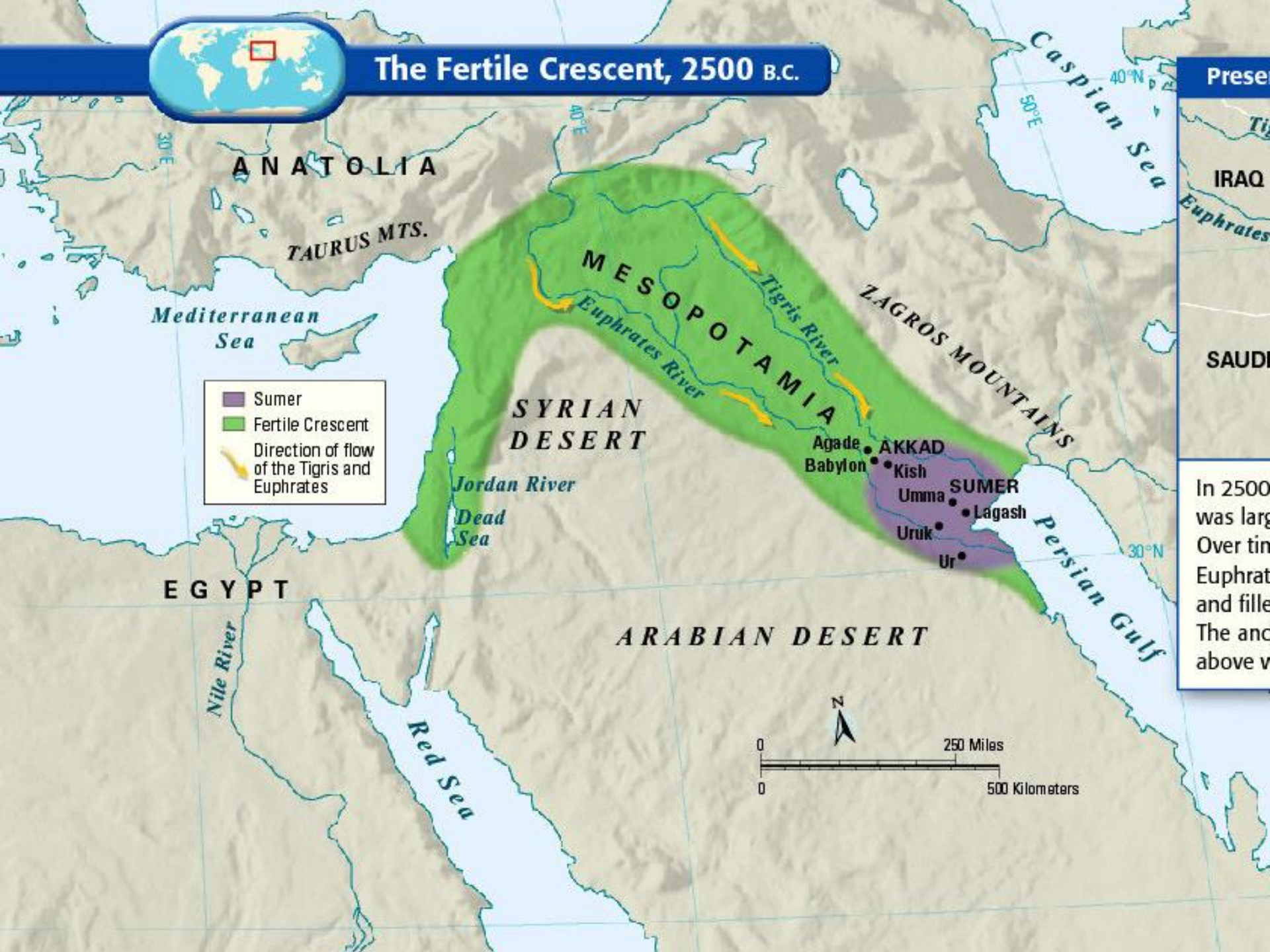


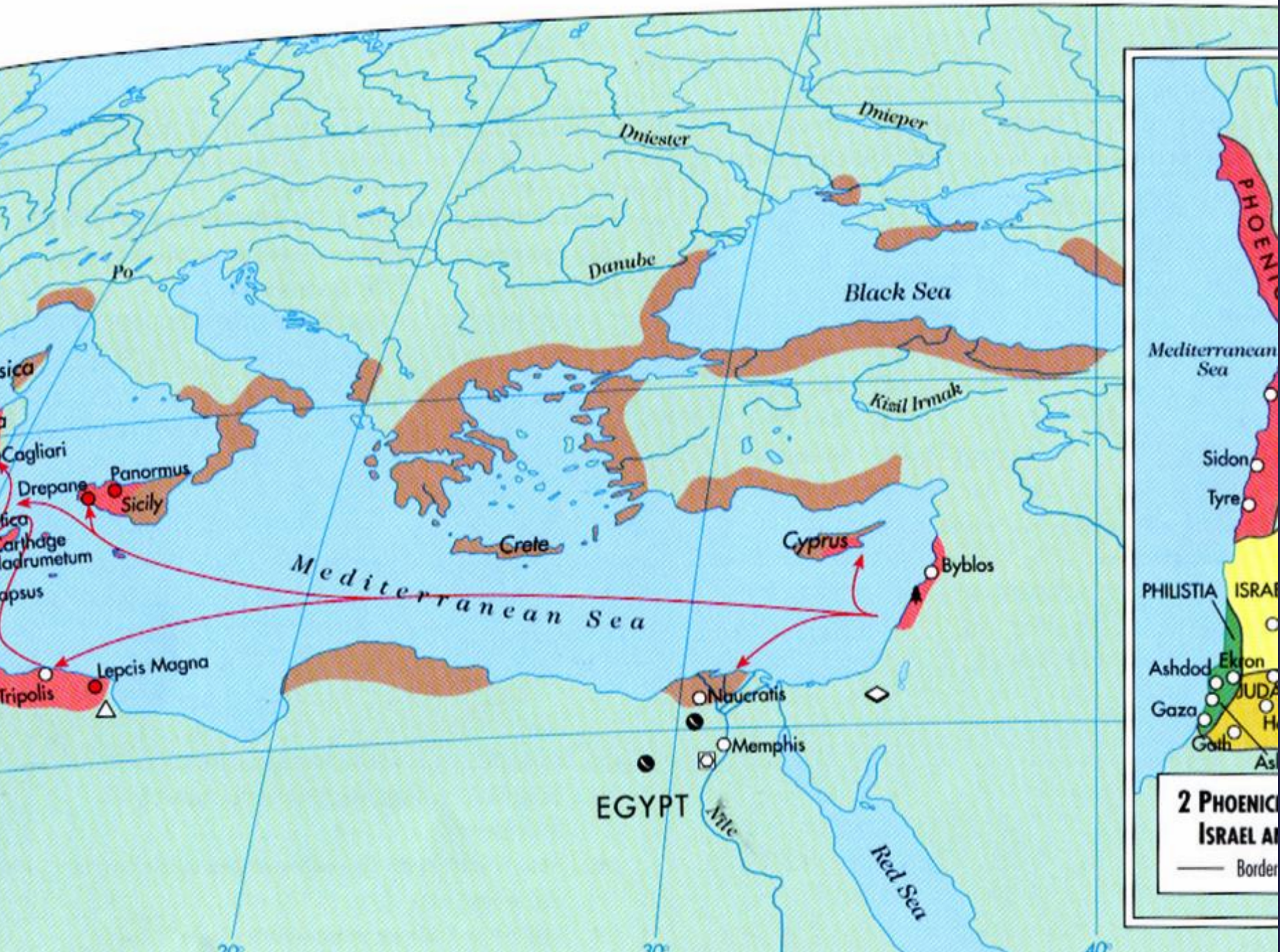


The Fertile Crescent, 2500 B.C.



- Sumer
- Fertile Crescent
- Direction of flow of the Tigris and Euphrates

Present
IRAQ
SAUDI
In 2500 B.C. was largely...
Over time...
Euphrates...
and filled...
The ancient...
above v...



**2 PHOENICIA
ISRAEL AND**

— Border

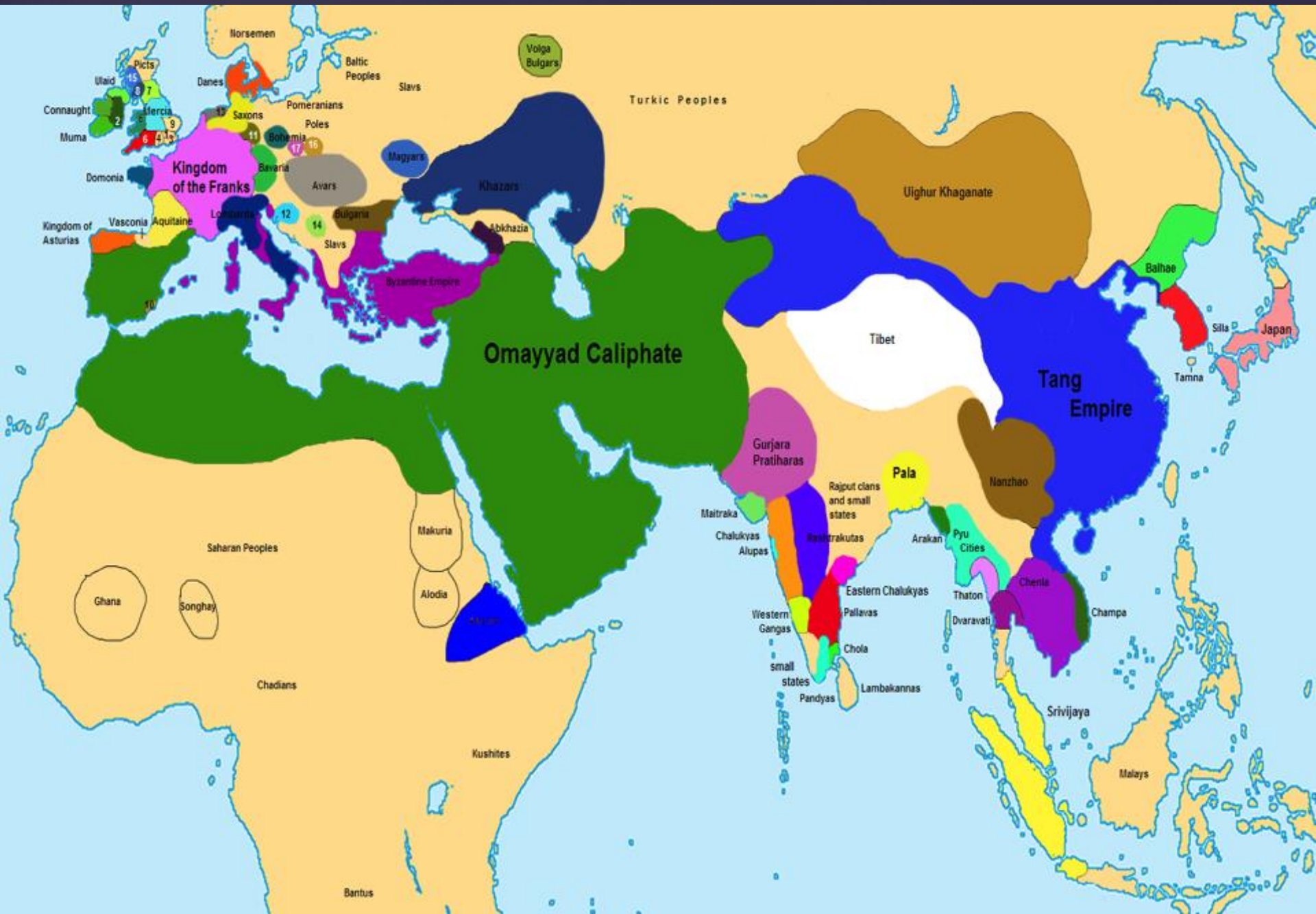


Spread of religions, 0 - 600 A.D.

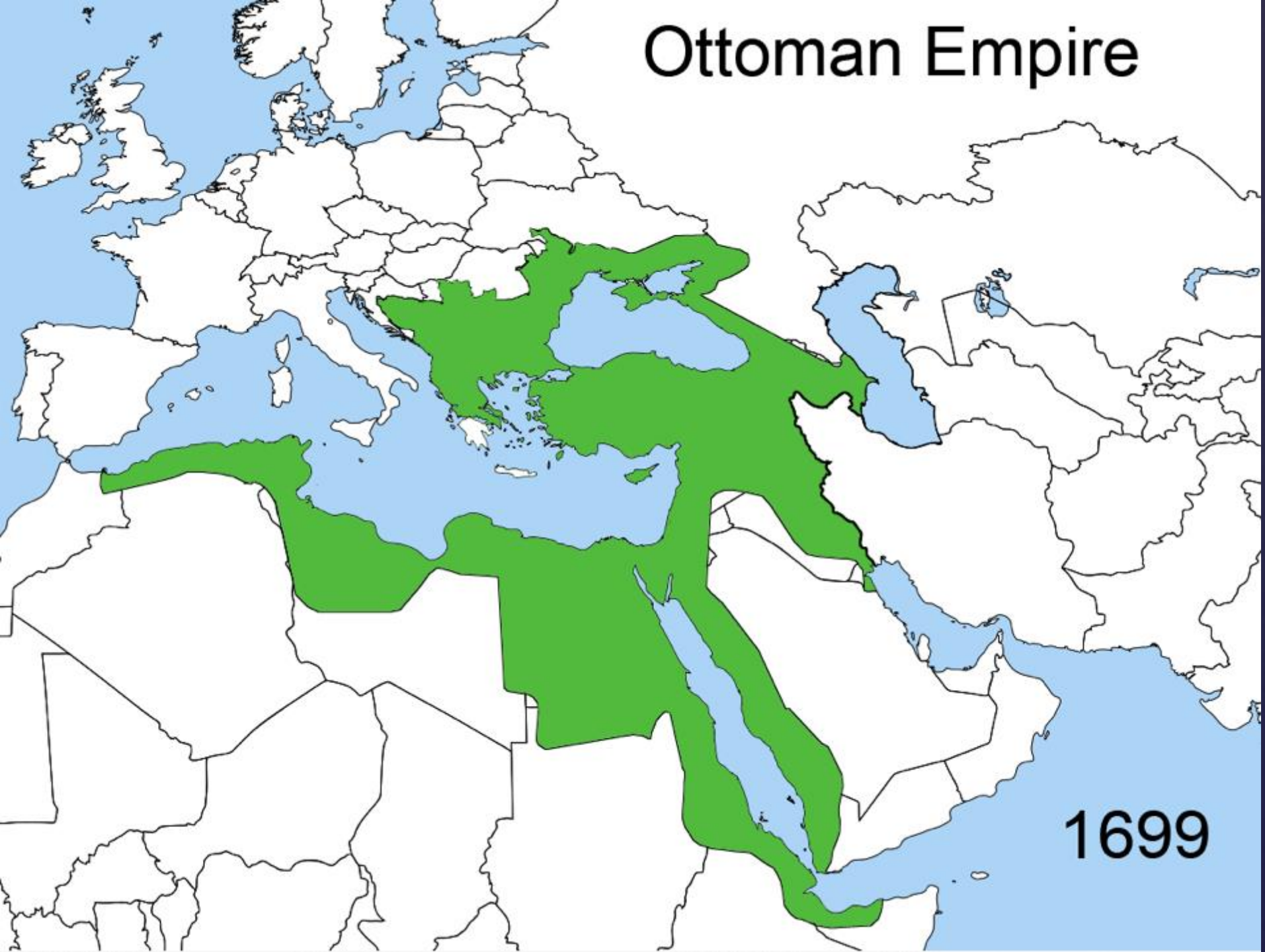
- Judaism
- Christianity
- Mithraism
- Mithraic sites

Officially Christian by 600 A.D.



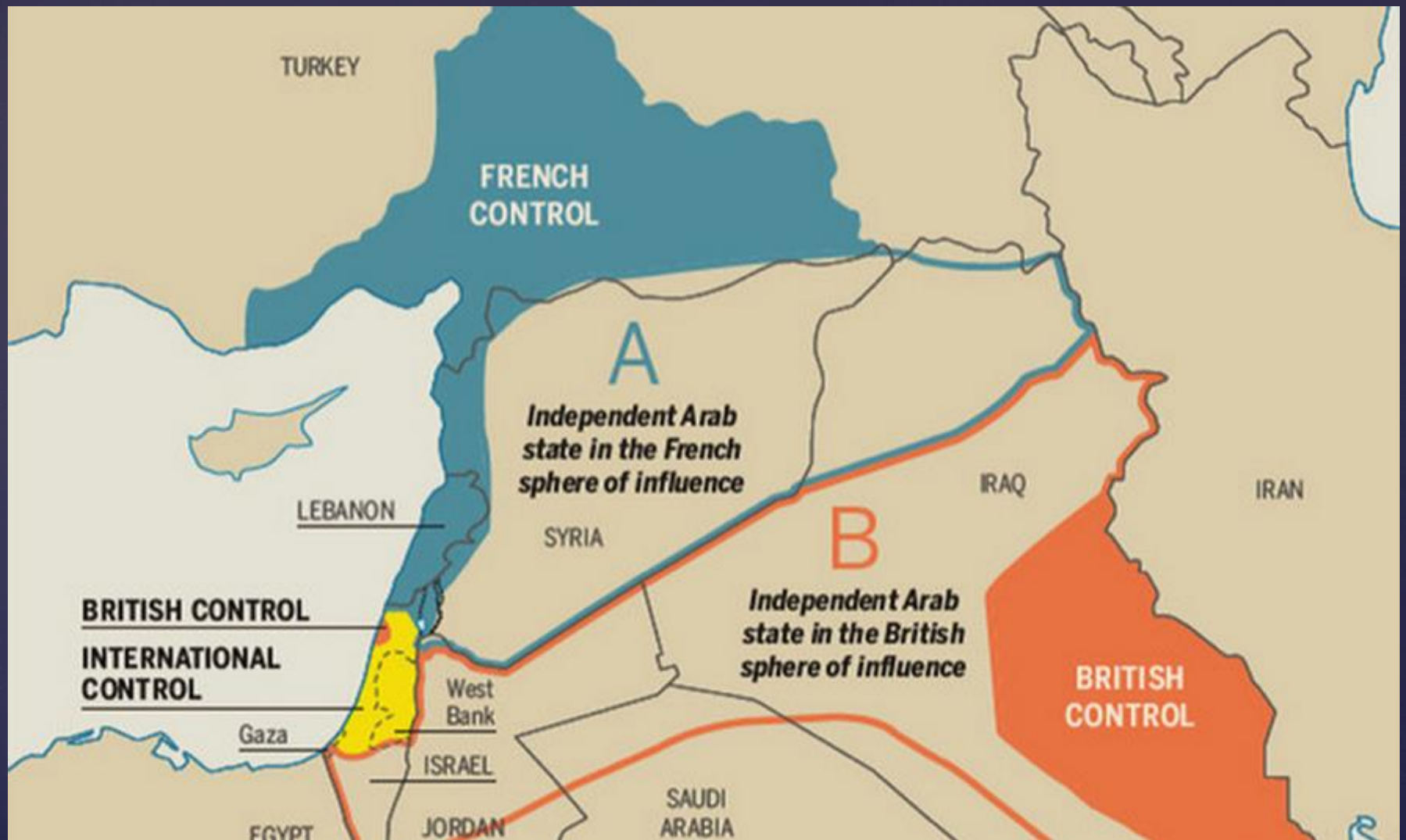


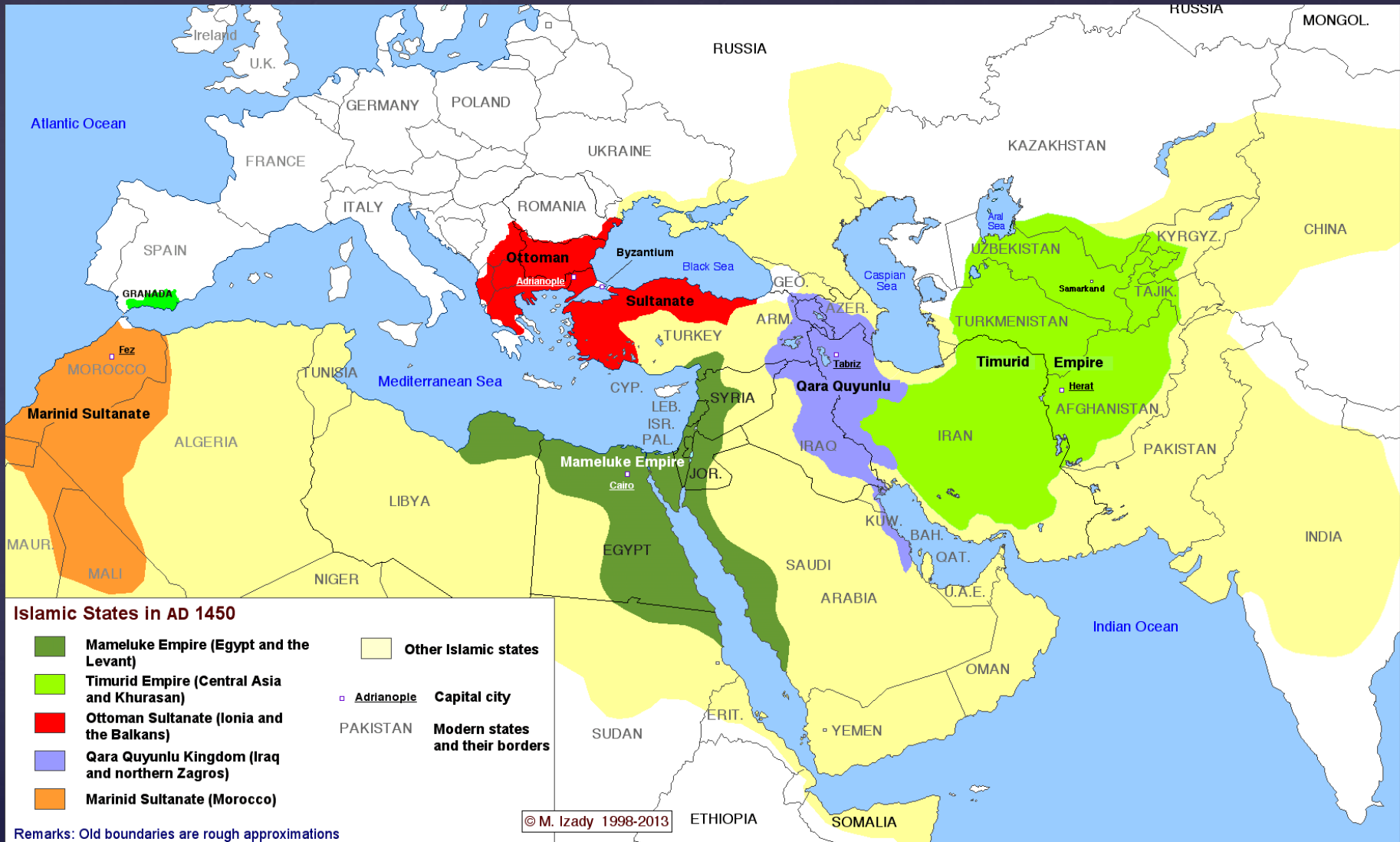
Ottoman Empire

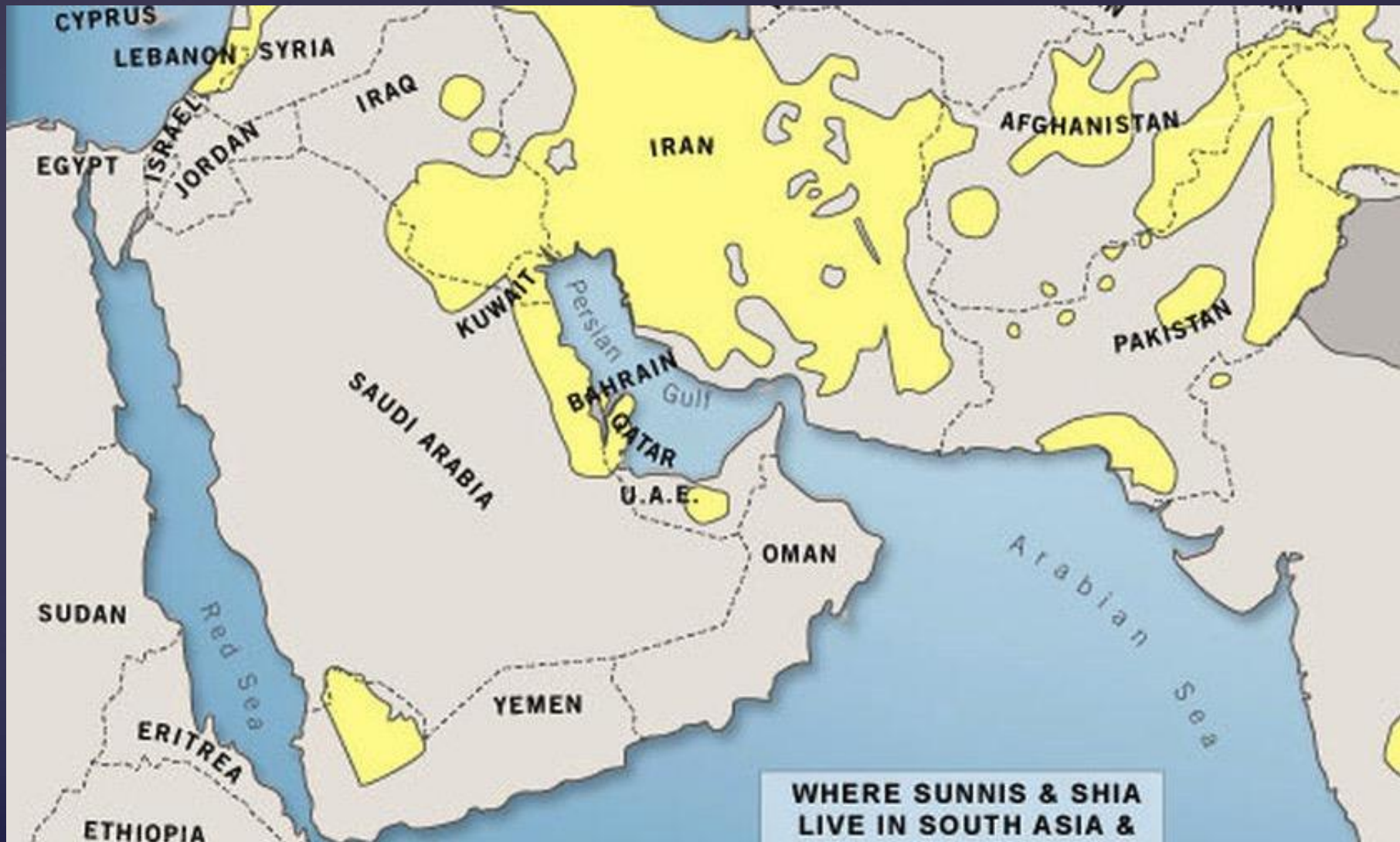


1699









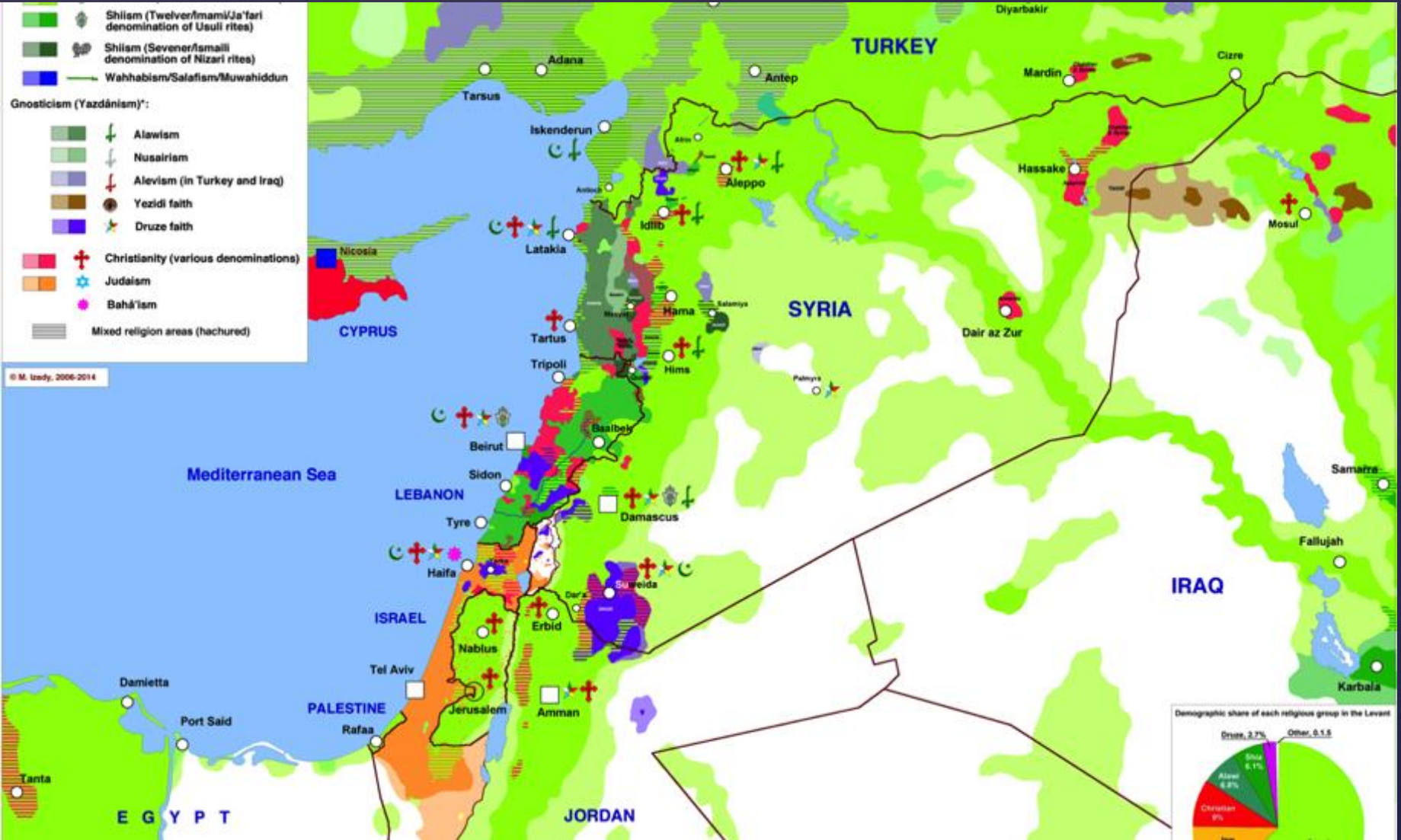


Israeli territorial changes 1949 - 1967

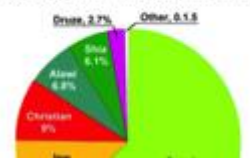


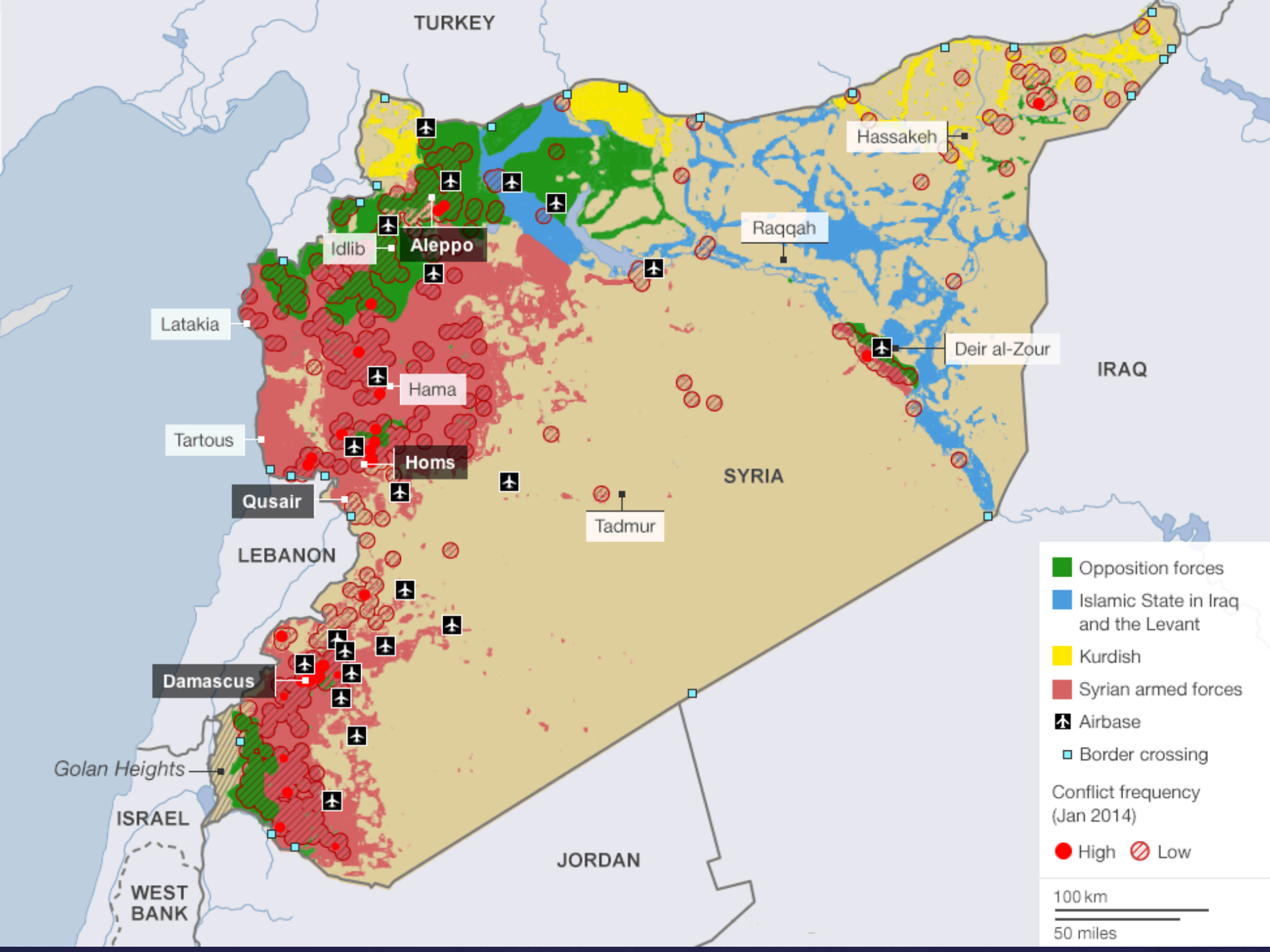


© M. Izady, 2006-2014

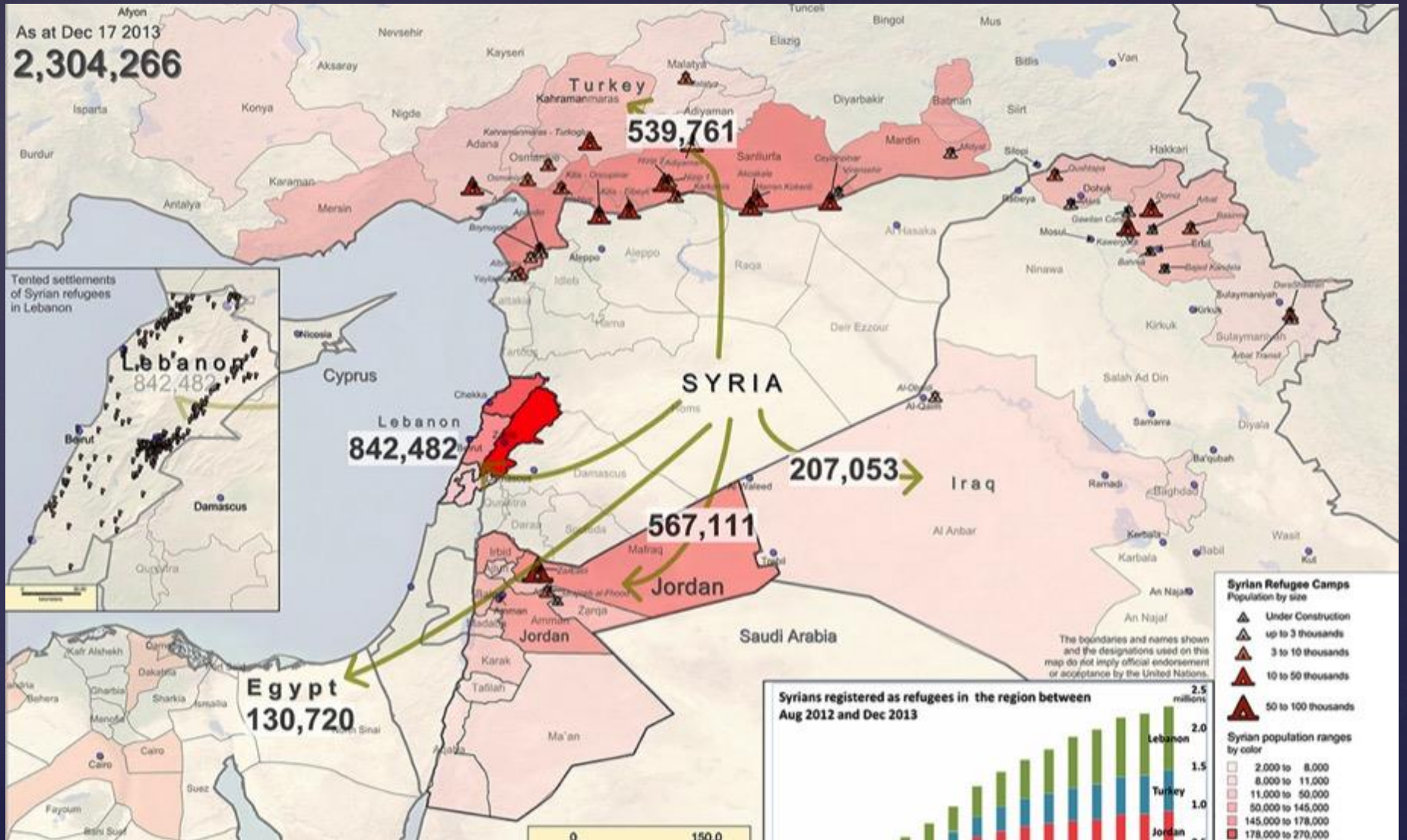


Demographic share of each religious group in the Levant





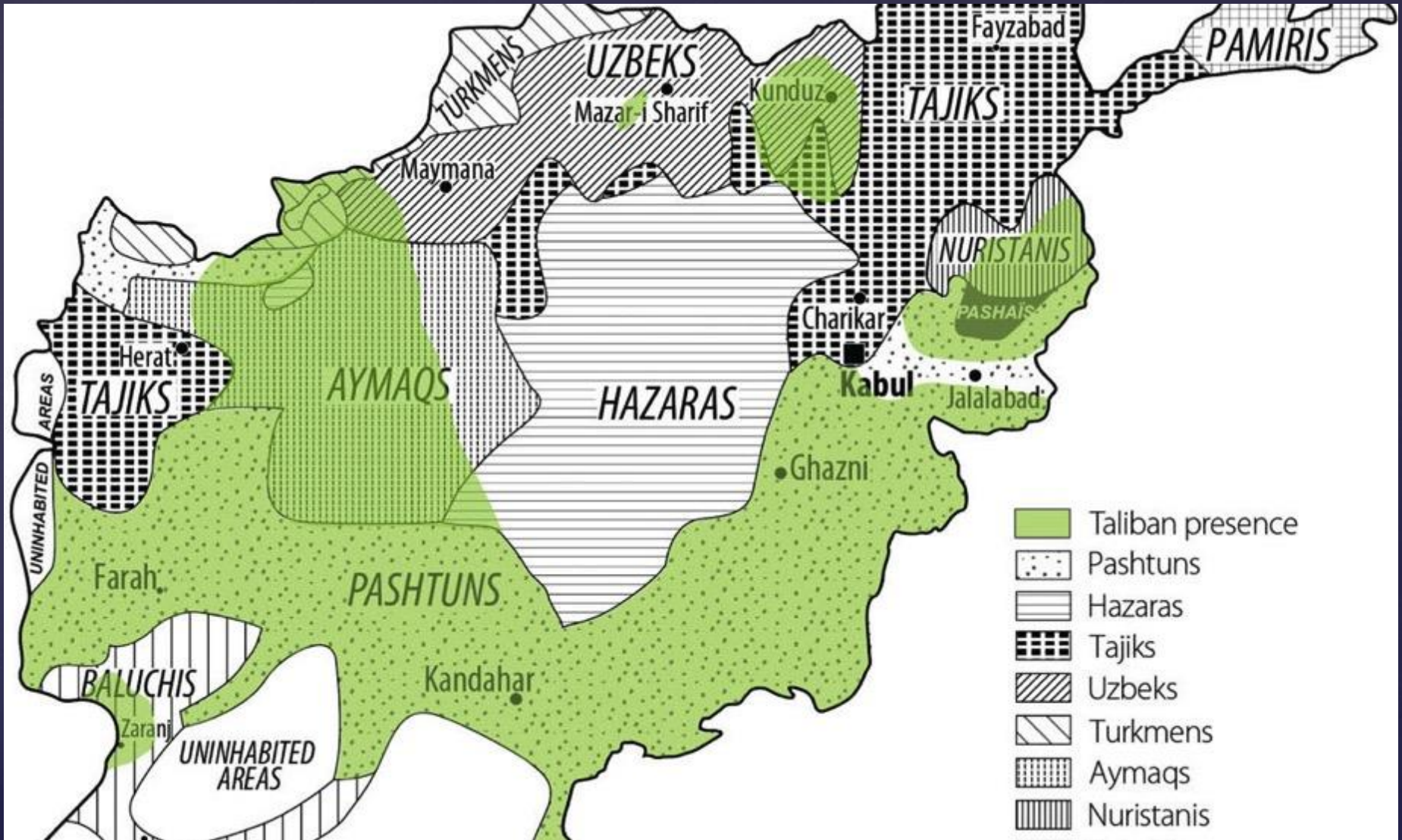
As at Dec 17 2013
2,304,266

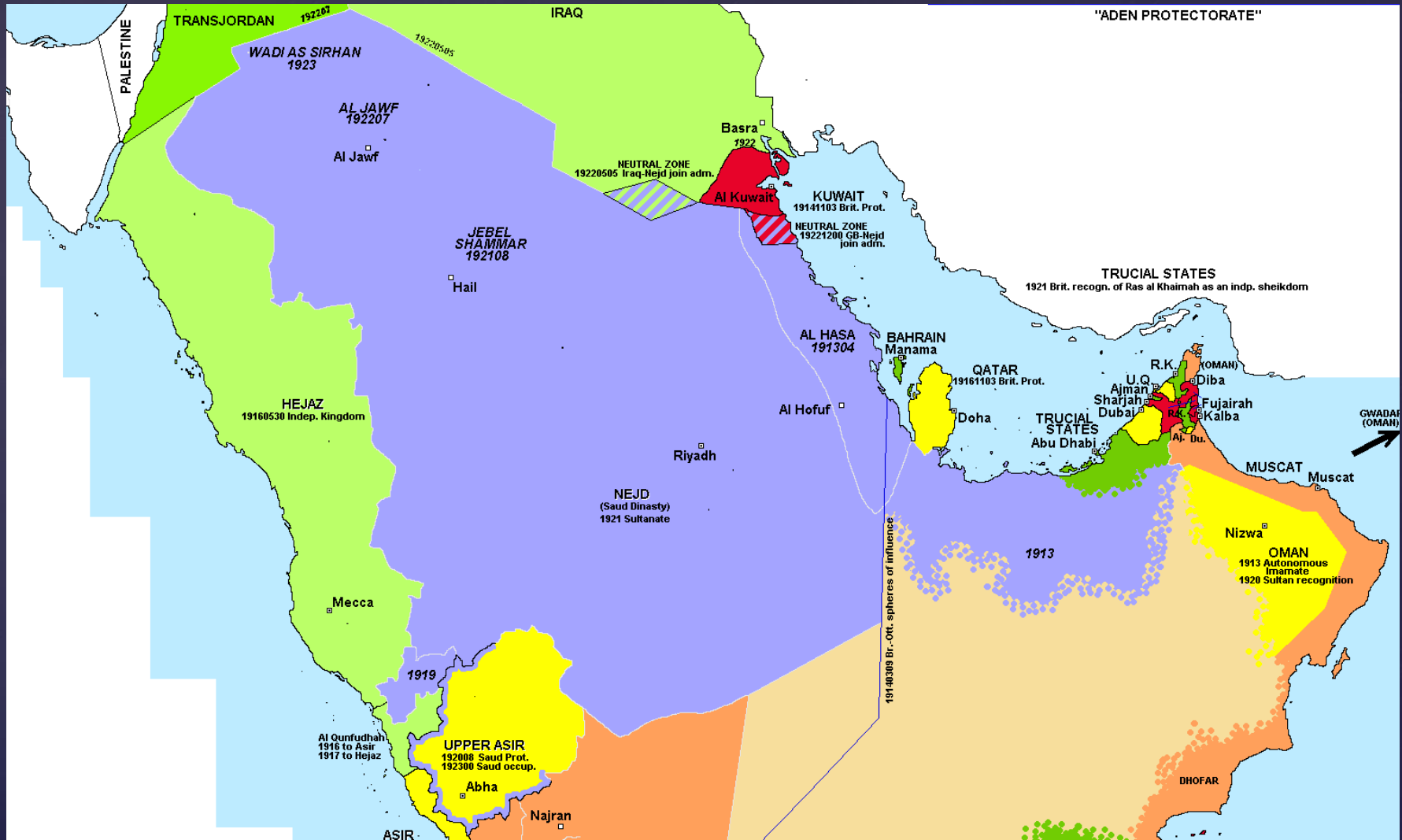




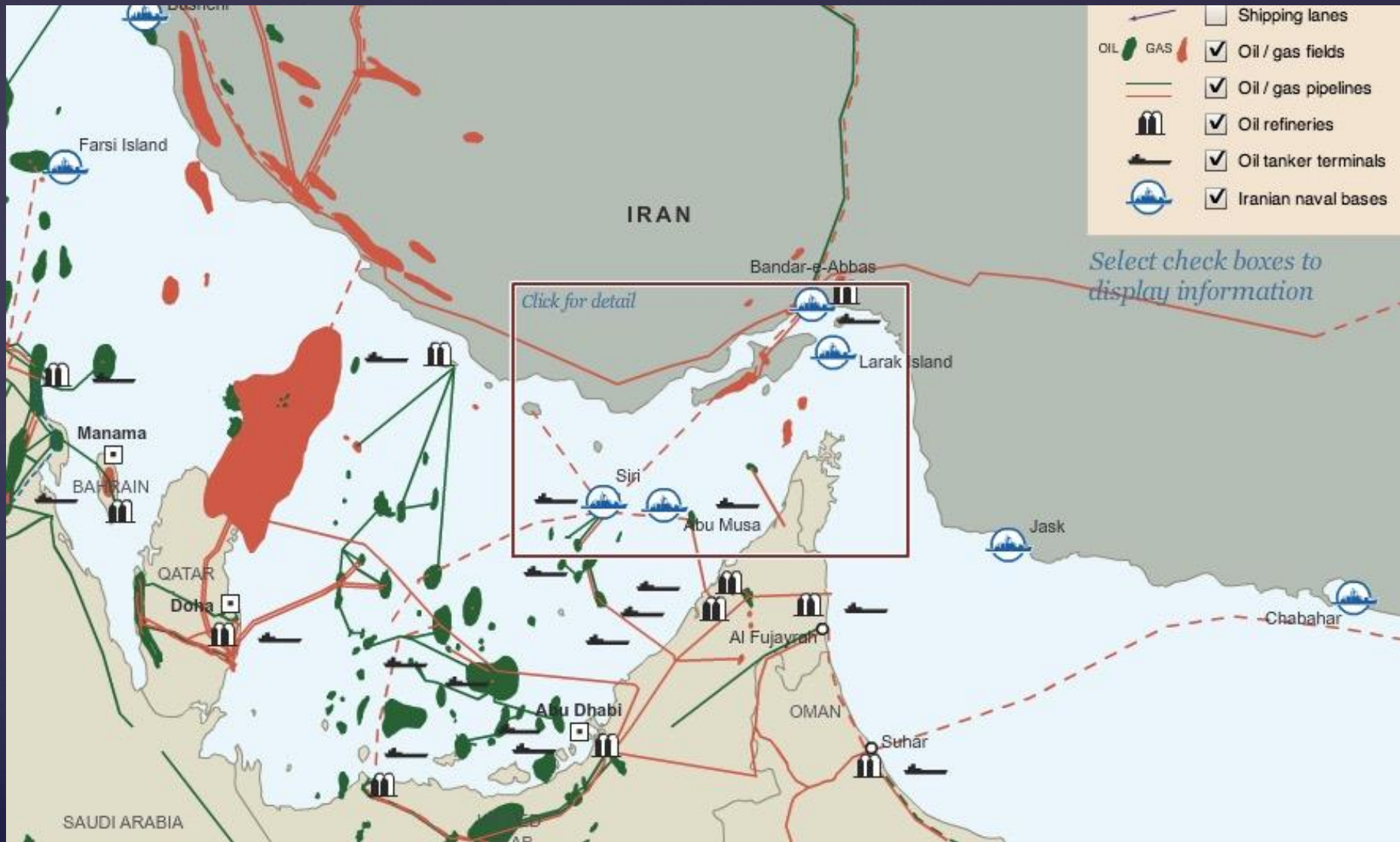


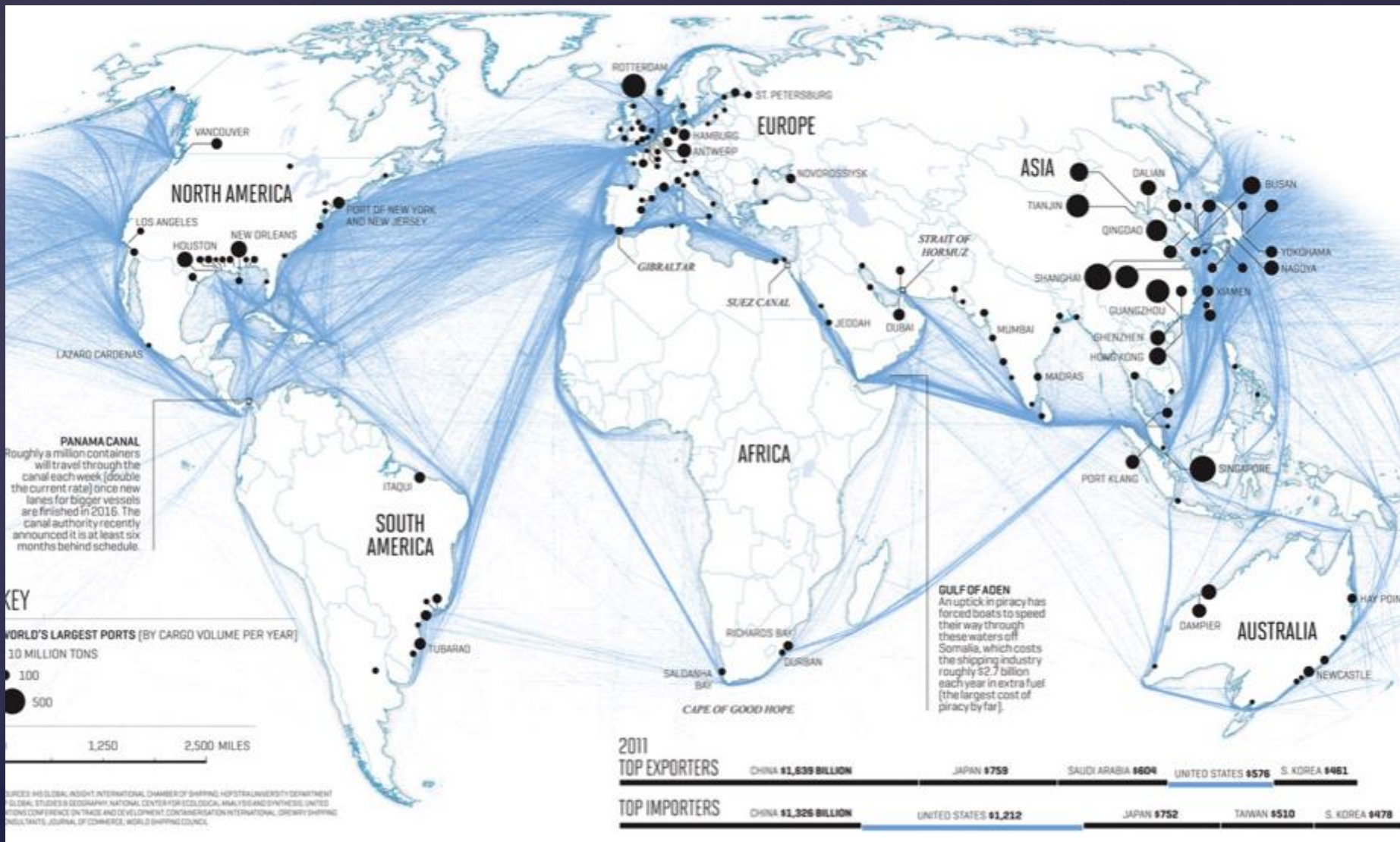












PANAMA CANAL
 Roughly a million containers will travel through the canal each week (double the current rate) once new lanes for bigger vessels are finished in 2016. The canal authority recently announced it is at least six months behind schedule.

KEY
WORLD'S LARGEST PORTS (BY CARGO VOLUME PER YEAR)
 10 MILLION TONS
 ● 100
 ● 500
 1,250 2,500 MILES

GULF OF ADEN
 An uptick in piracy has forced boats to speed their way through these waters off Somalia, which costs the shipping industry roughly \$2.7 billion each year in extra fuel (the largest cost of piracy by far).

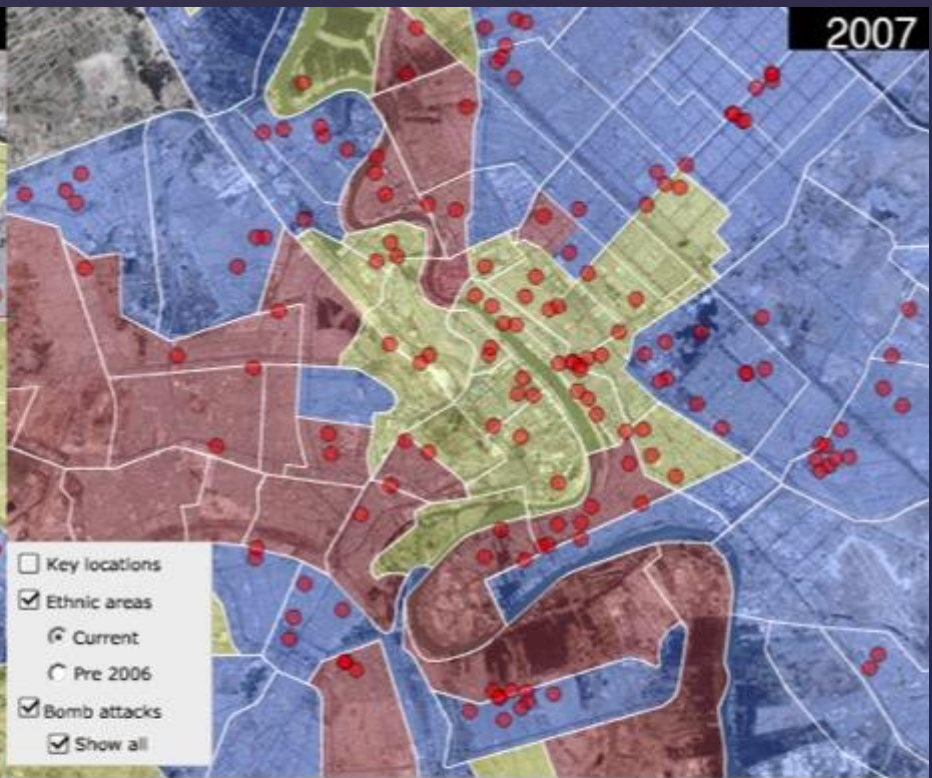
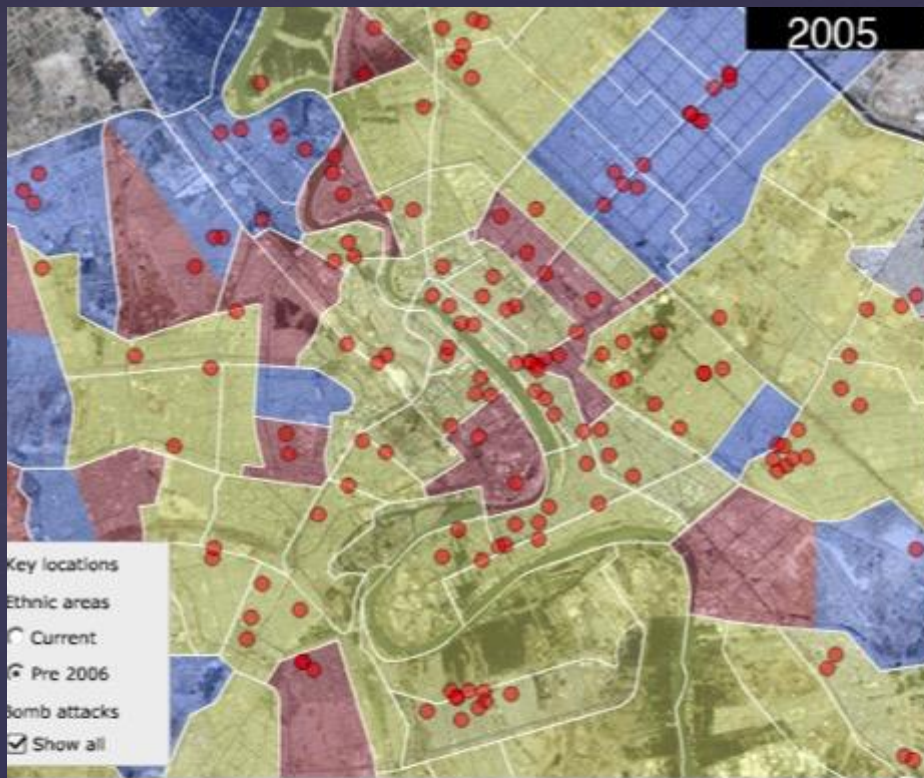
2011 TOP EXPORTERS

CHINA \$1,839 BILLION	JAPAN \$759	SAUDI ARABIA \$604	UNITED STATES \$576	S. KOREA \$461
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TOP IMPORTERS

CHINA \$1,326 BILLION	UNITED STATES \$1,212	JAPAN \$752	TAIWAN \$510	S. KOREA \$478
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SOURCES: AND GLOBAL ASIGHT; INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING; HOUSTON UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL STUDIES; GEOGRAPHY NATIONAL CENTER FOR ECOLOGICAL ANALYSIS AND SYNTHESIS; UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT; CONTAINERISATION INTERNATIONAL; OCEANIC SHIPPING NEWS; WATTS JOURNAL OF COMMERCE; WORLD SHIPPING COUNCIL.



- Mostly Shia
- Mostly Sunni
- Sunni/Shia mixed
- Bombing with +10 deaths

