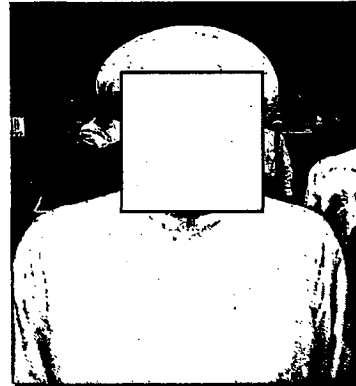


Sunnis and Shi'as

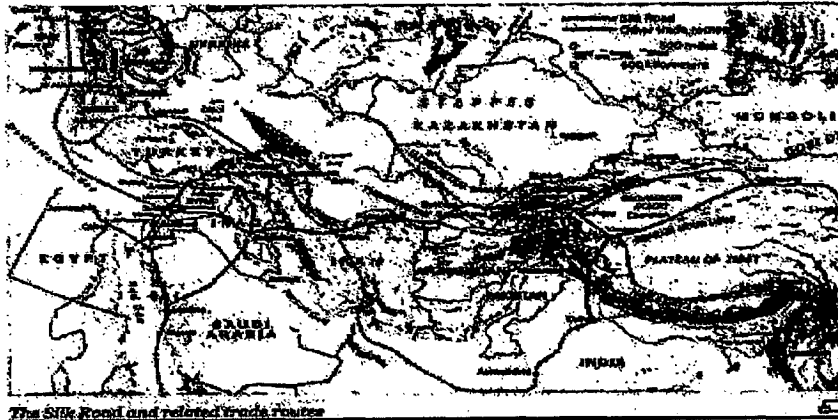


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An Introduction and Comparison

The period before Islam

- ❖ Trade was a dominant feature
- ❖ Silk, spices, and perfumes
- ❖ Payment in gold



Trade had a great impact on political life in Arabia



Common people were concerned with religion

- ❖ People worshipped many gods
- ❖ The Black Stone (Cube), Ka'ba, was visited yearly by tribes from around the Arabian peninsula
- ❖ The Black Stone contained 360 gods (number of days per year)
- ❖ The Black Stone contained idols that represented different tribes

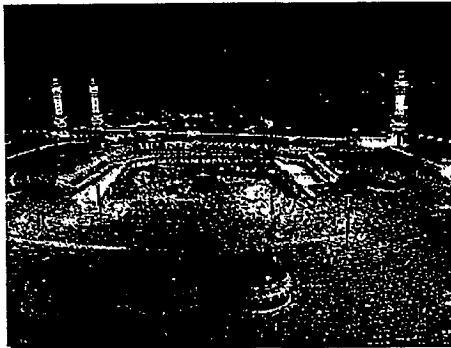
The Birth of Muhammad

- ❖ Born a few weeks after his father's death into the Quraysh tribe in Mecca
 - ❖ The Quraysh tribe was in charge of the Ka'ba
- ❖ Born into a poor but respected clan, the Hashim clan, a subgroup of the Quraysh tribe
- ❖ Orphaned when he was 6 years old
 - ❖ Lived with a paternal grandfather who died two years later
 - ❖ Raised by his paternal uncle, Abu Talib

The Life of Muhammad

- ❖ As a young man, was the shepherd of a small flock of sheep
- ❖ Later became a businessman who oversaw a caravan that transported goods to Syria
- ❖ Had the reputation of being honest, trustworthy, and kind
- ❖ Married Khadijah, who was 40, widow, and wealthy, at the age of 25
 - ❖ Khadijah was the first convert to Islam

The new religion in Mecca



- ❖ Muhammad journeys to Jerusalem and ascends through the seven layers of Heaven on al-Buraq
- ❖ Al-Isra' and al-Mi'raj
- ❖ Mecca, Medina, and Jerusalem

Becoming the Prophet



- ❖ Muhammad begins to question polytheism
- ❖ Travels to Mount Hira for numerous periods of contemplation

The Hijrah to Yathrib (Medina)

- ❖ The death of Abu Talib
- ❖ The plot to assassinate Muhammad
- ❖ The escape to Yathrib in 622
- ❖ Al-Ansar
- ❖ The first Islamic state

The Three Major Battles

- ❖ Badr
- ❖ Uhud
- ❖ Ditch



The March into Mecca



- ❖ Forgave all the people who had persecuted him
- ❖ Eliminated idolatry in Mecca
- ❖ Lived in Medina until his death in 632

After the Death of Muhammad

- ❖ The Shura was called
- ❖ A caliph or khalifah was to be the political leader
- ❖ A representative council that would keep the caliph on the straight and narrow
- ❖ Abu Bakr was elected
- ❖ Ali, the Prophet's cousin, objected but months later gave his blessing

The Damage was Done



- ❖ Ali's followers never accepted Abu Bakr
- ❖ Ali's followers wanted the ruler to be from the house of the Prophet

The Four Rightly Guided Caliphs



- ❖ Abu Bakr al-Saddiq
(632-634)
- ❖ Umar ibn al-Khattab
(634-644)
- ❖ Uthman ibn Affan (644-656)
- ❖ Ali ibn Abi Talib
(Muhammad's cousin)
(656-661)

Family Feud

- ❖ A'ishah vs Ali in the Battle of the Camel (656 A.D.)
- ❖ Abdallah ibn Saba' role
- ❖ The Kharajite's role



The Shi'a Inception

- ❖ Hussain, Ali's first-born son, is assassinated at Yazid's hands near Kufa, Iraq
- ❖ Ali Zayn al-'Abidin, the second son of Ali, lived in Medina until 713
- ❖ The line of Shi'a authority descends from Ali Zayn al-'Abidin

The Fifth Generation of Ali and Different Shi'a Sects

- ❖ The two half-brothers: Zayd and al-Baqir
- ❖ The Fivers: Halted the direct line of spiritual succession with Zayd
- ❖ They believe that any descendant of Ali from that point on can be the Imam regardless of the family tree
- ❖ Another split occurred after the death of Ja'far al-Sadiq

The Fifth Generation of Ali

- ❖ The majority followed al-Baqir
- ❖ They are close to Sunnis in their practices and accept the caliphate of the first two caliphs

Zaydis or Fivers

- ❖ Zaydis or Fivers reside mostly in Yemen and make up more 40% of the Yemeni population
- ❖ Zayd's son, Ja'far al-Sadiq (699-765) the sixth Imam, is the brain behind the basis of Shi'a legal and religious concepts
- ❖ Ja'far's teaching, mathhab, is followed by the majority of Shi'a worldwide

Ali and the Shi'a Sects, cont.

❖ Zayd

- ❖ Followers became known as "Fivers"
- ❖ Greatest concentration located in Yemen
- ❖ Accept most of the teachings of the Sunnis

❖ Al-Baqir

- ❖ Had a son named Jafar al Sudiq

Ja'far's two descendants

- One group followed Isma'il
- The Fatimid Dynasty in Egypt –The founding of the al-Azhar university
- Aga Khan is present worldwide Imam of one of the two existing Isma'ili branches

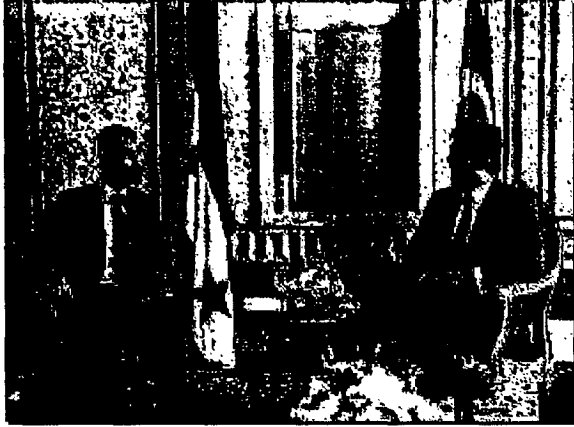


Ja'far's Descendants

- ❖ In addition to Isma'il, Ja'far also had a son named Musa with fewer followers

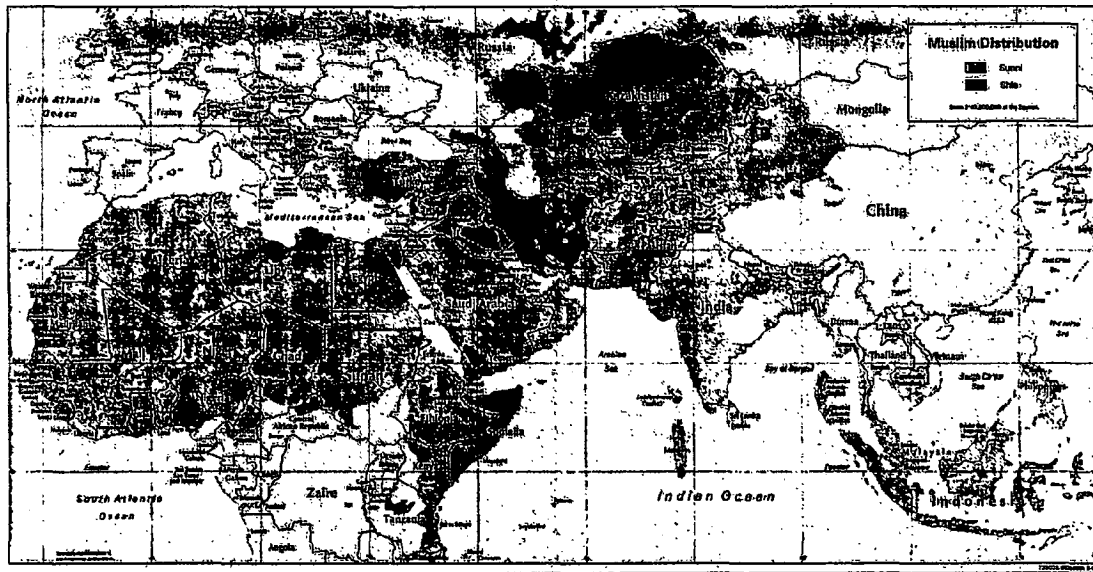


And the divisions continue...



❖ The Alawites of
Syria and Turkey

Distribution of Sunnis and Shi'as



Common Beliefs and Practices

- ❖ Qur'an
- ❖ Prophet Muhammad
- ❖ Friday is the day of worship
- ❖ Jesus' resurrection was fiction and never happened
- ❖ Jesus will come again

Different Theological and Ritual Practices

- ❖ Shi'as interpret some verses of the Qur'an differently than Sunnis
- ❖ Shi'as have their own books of prophetic tradition
- ❖ Shi'as have their own Hadith- Path of Eloquence (Nahj al-Balagha)-sermons of Ali

Shi'a Practices I

- ❖ Shi'as combine certain prayers-they pray three instead of five times
- ❖ Shi'as praise Ali in their call to prayer
- ❖ Shi'as celebrate extra holidays (al-Ghadir and 'Ashura



Shia Practices II

- ❖ Shi'as visit tombs and pray for Imam's intercessions
- ❖ Shi'as vilify most of the Prophet's companions
- ❖ Deem Ali and his male descendants to be the leaders/Imams- not the most qualified adult male.
- ❖ Believe descendants of Ali possess a divine secret and are sinless and infallible

Shi'a Practices III

- ❖ Practice of the doctrine of Taqiyyah when necessary to avoid persecution
- ❖ Practice the Marja' al-Taqlid (source of emulation)
- ❖ Pay one fifth (Khums) of their income to the local mullah on top of the regular zakat
- ❖ Practice the marriage of Mut'ah (temporary marriage)

Shi'a Beliefs

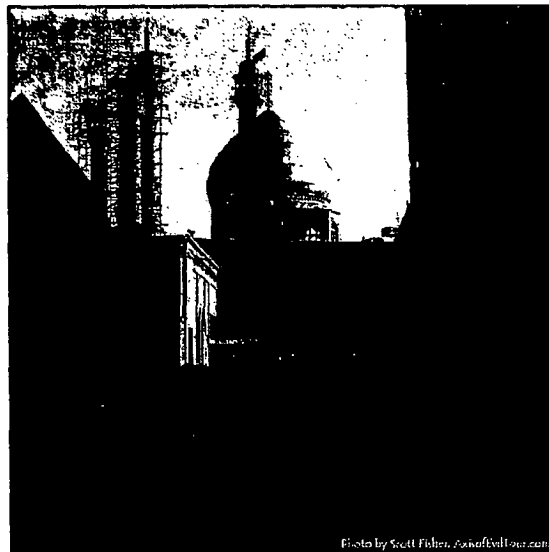
- ❖ Deem Ali and his male descendants to be the leaders-Imams
- ❖ Believe that the descendant of Ali possess a divine secret and are sinless and infallible
- ❖ Accept as true that the Imams, who have some attributes of God, are perfect in interpreting the Qur'an
- ❖ Believe that on Judgment Day, Imams, along with the Prophet's daughter, Fatimah, will intercede on behalf of the believers

Where Shia Leaders Are...

**Khamenei, Makaram Shirazi,
Fazel Lankarani, Tabrizi;
Bahjat, Safi Golpaygani, and
Shirazi are based in Qom in
Iran**



**Mohammad Rida Ali al-Sistani
is based in al-Najaf in Iraq**



Sunni Schools of Jurisprudence



- ❖ Hanafi
- ❖ Maliki
- ❖ Shafi'i
- ❖ Hanbali

The Five Pillars of Islam (Sunnis)

- ❖ Shahadah (God Is One and Muhammad is His Prophet)
- ❖ Salat (Prayer)
- ❖ Zakat (Alms Giving) 2.5%
- ❖ Sawm (Fasting)
- ❖ Hajj (Pilgrimage)

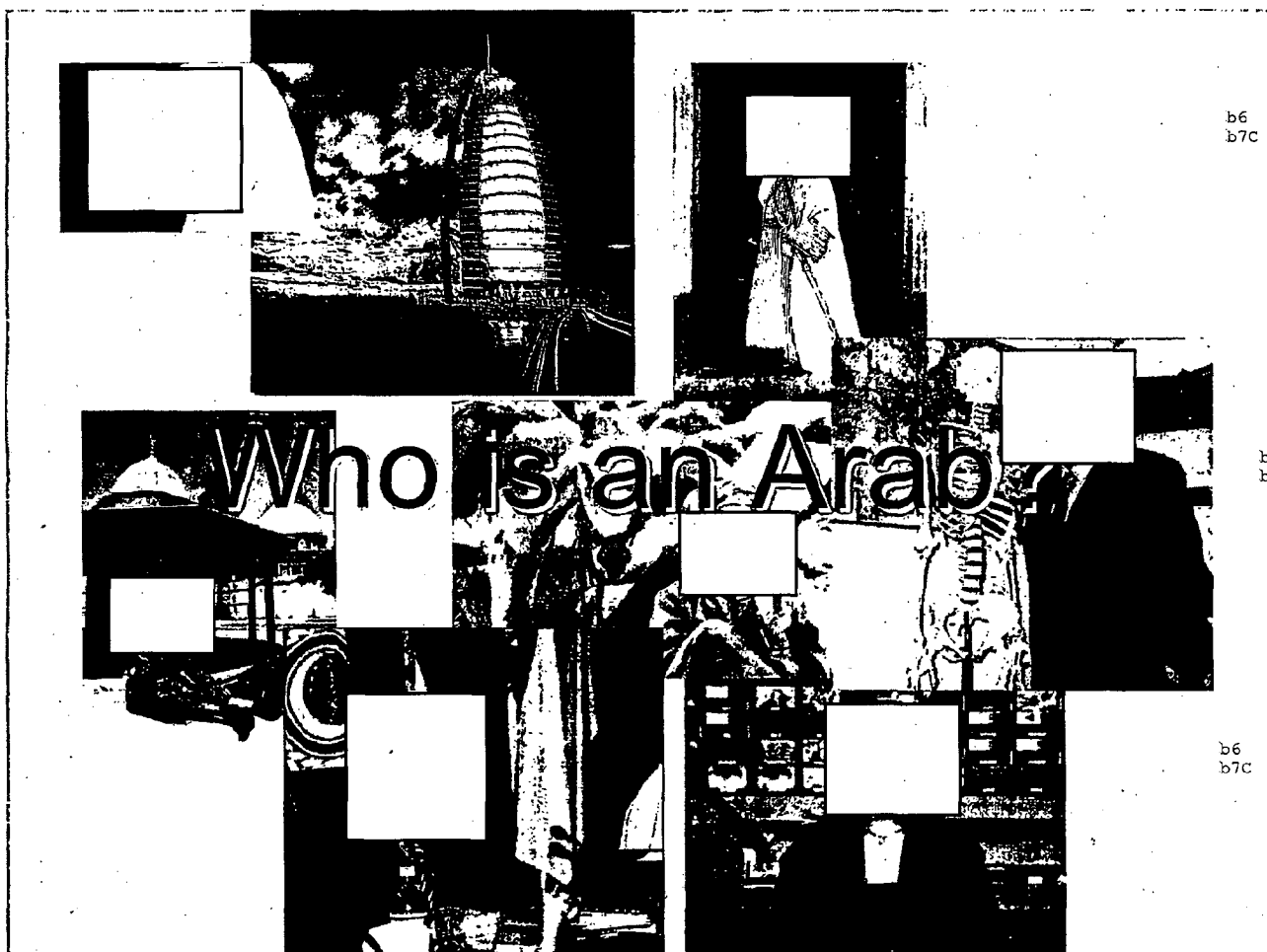
Sunnis follow

- ❖ The Holy Qur'an (the word of God)
- ❖ The Hadith which was completed within 200 years after the death of Prophet Muhammad
- ❖ Any Hadith that contradicts the Qur'an was rejected
- ❖ Here is an example of the Hadith by Imam Bukhari (Sahih)

“On the authority of Abu al-Nu’man, who said he heard it from Sa’id ibn Zaid, who heard it from ‘Ali ibn Zaid, who said he heard it from Jabir ibn ‘Abdallah, who heard it from the Prophet: the Prophet said, ‘Whoever has three daughters, cares and provides for them, and show them mercy, will enter paradise.’”

The Middle East: Being an Arab



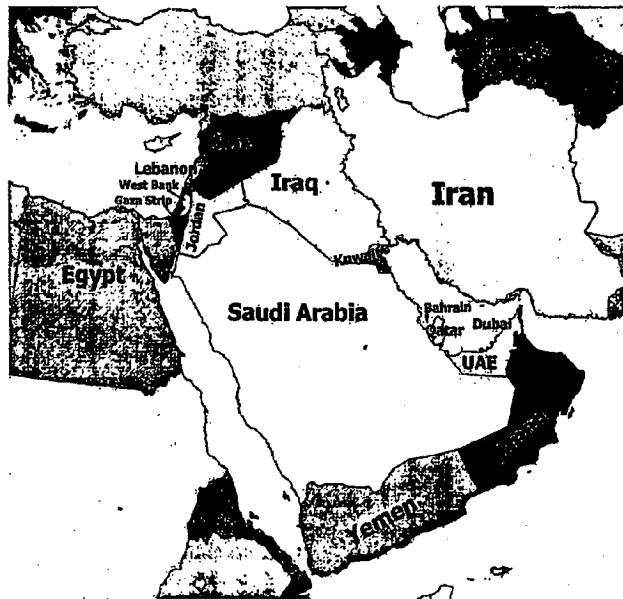


Who is an Arab?

To be an Arab is a cultural trait rather than racial. An Arab is a person who speaks the Arabic language. The Arab world includes Muslims, Christians and Jews.



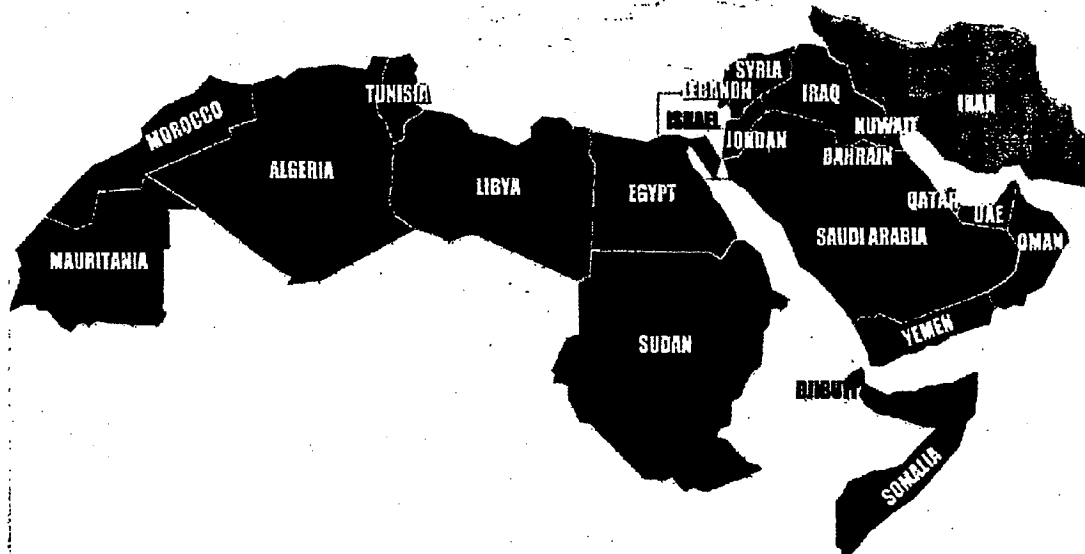
What is the Middle East?



What is the Middle East?

- Opinions vary as to what countries make up the modern definition of the Middle East.
- Armenia and Azerbaijan used to be associated with the Middle East, but no longer.
- Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, U.A.E., Uzbekistan, and Yemen

What is the Arab World?



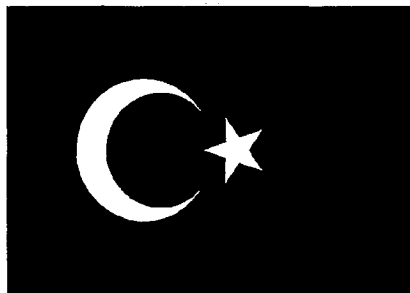
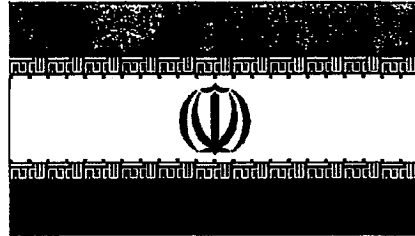
What is the Arab World?

The Arab World is comprised of 22 countries: Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.), and Yemen.

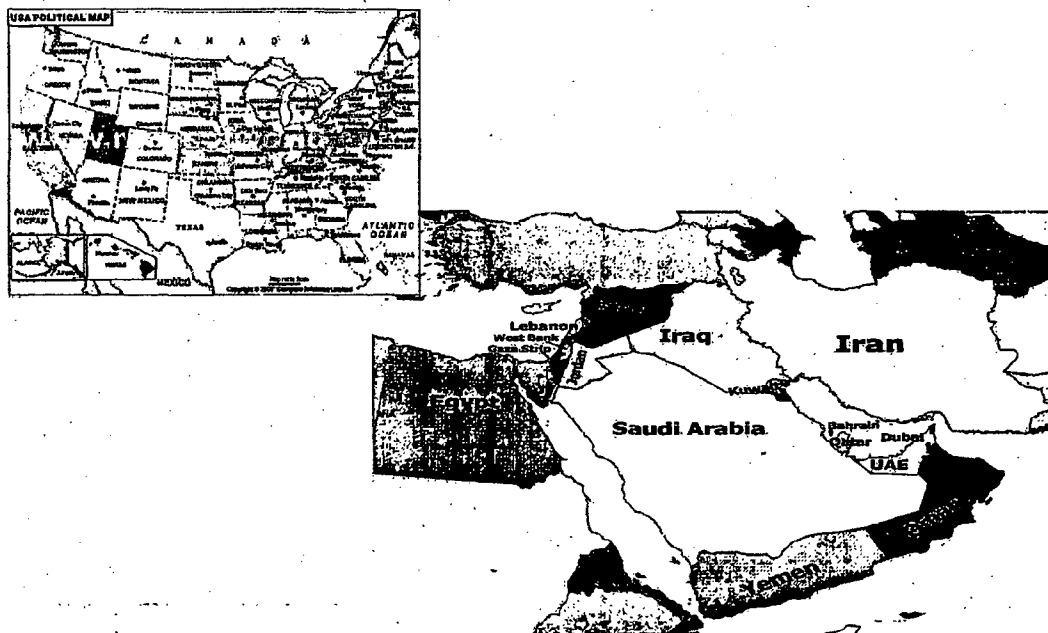


What is the Arab World?

Iran and Turkey
are not Arab
countries



The Middle East is almost twice the size of the USA



Political Systems of the Middle East

- Traditional monarchies
- Parliamentary republics
- Constitutional monarchies

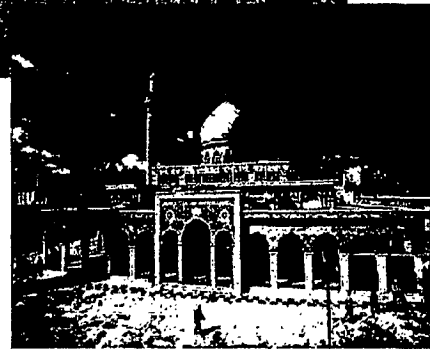
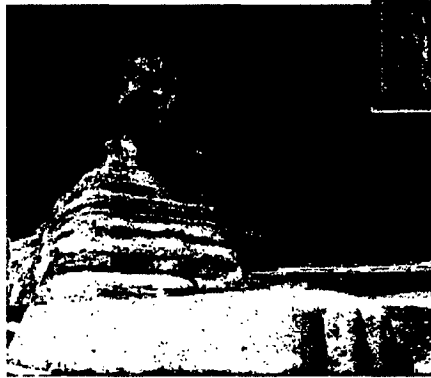
Traditional monarchies

- Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia



Parliamentary republics

- Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Syria, Libya, Iraq and Yemen



Constitutional monarchies

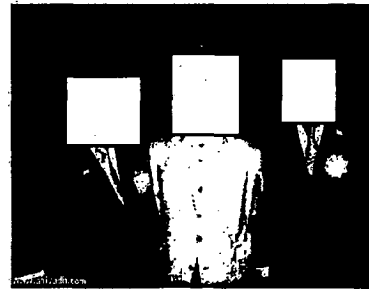


In Jordan and Morocco, the king bases legitimacy on direct descent from the Prophet Muhammad. The king, however, is not a religious leader.

Arab Dress

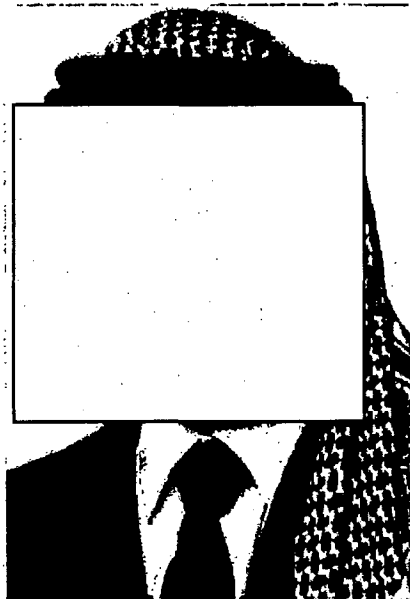
Arab Dress, Men

Arab dress for men ranges from traditional flowing robes to western business suits to blue jeans, T-shirts.



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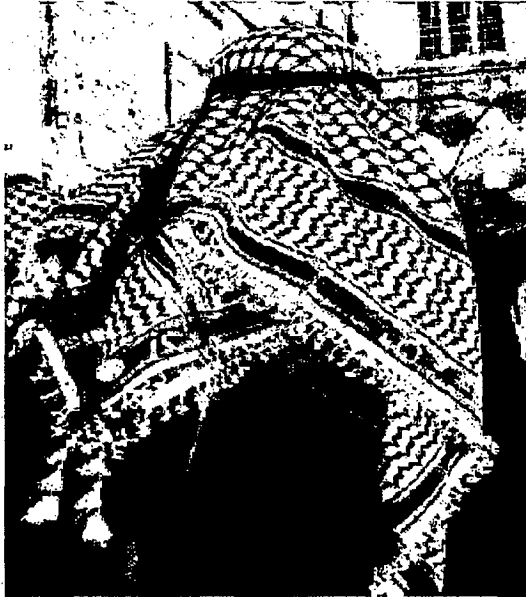
Headdress



- Red and white checkered headdress means that the wearer comes from a country with a monarch and has made the Hajj.
- Generally of Jordanian origin

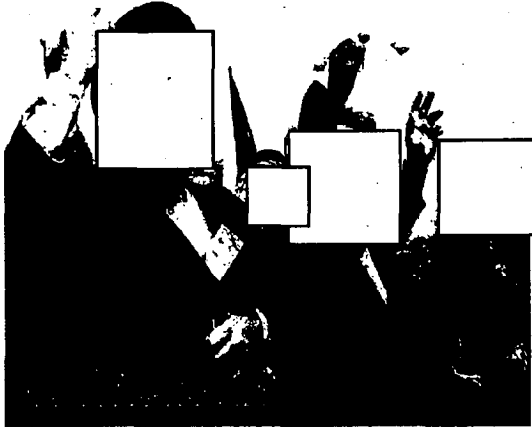
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Headdress



- Black and white checkered headdress is historically Palestinian in origin.
- Black and grey represent Presidential rule and completion of the Hajj

Shi'a Headdress



- Shi'a clergy who wear black turbans are somehow connected to the Prophet or his family
- Shi'a clergy who wear white turbans are associated with the lower echelon of Shi'a hierarchy

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Arab Dress: Women



- It should be noted that concerns for modesty is the reason for the burka.
- Devout Muslim women cover their faces as well as every inch of their bodies by wearing robes/veils

Rural women

Rural women who work in the field may wear less restrictive garments which are usually lighter in color and weight.



Societal Differences

- Adherence to tradition depends on the society
- Saudi Arabia is more traditional
- Syria, Egypt and Lebanon are less traditional



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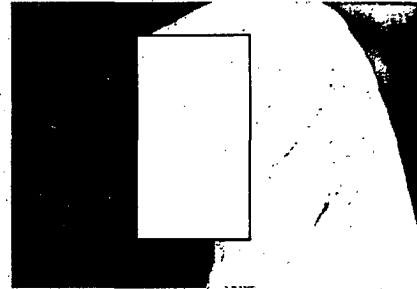
Traditional women's clothing



Traditional dress
covers the entire
body ('abayah,
jilbab, or chador)
and head/face (veil,
hijab, or chador)

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Women in Arab Societies

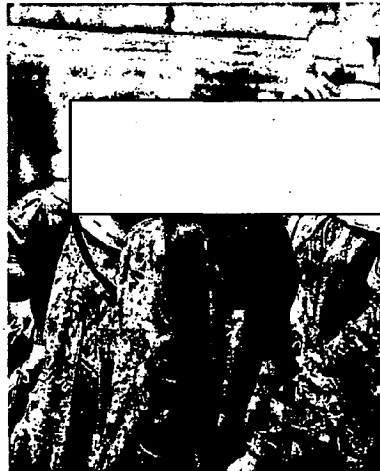


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- Women are typically subordinate to men
- Most restrictive conditions exist on the Arabian Peninsula
- Most relaxed conditions in Syria, Lebanon and Egypt

Please Do:

- Respect the privacy and the protected role of women in Arab countries
- Stand when women enter a room
- Respect different living areas



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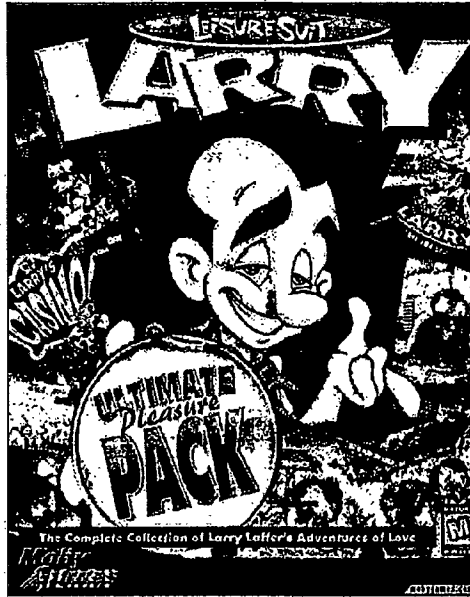
Please Don't:



**Shake hands with an
Arab woman unless
you are a woman or
unless she offers
her hand to you first**

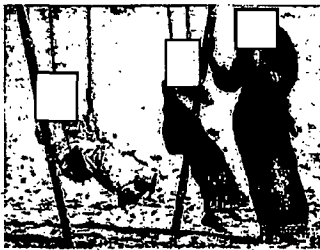
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Please Don't:



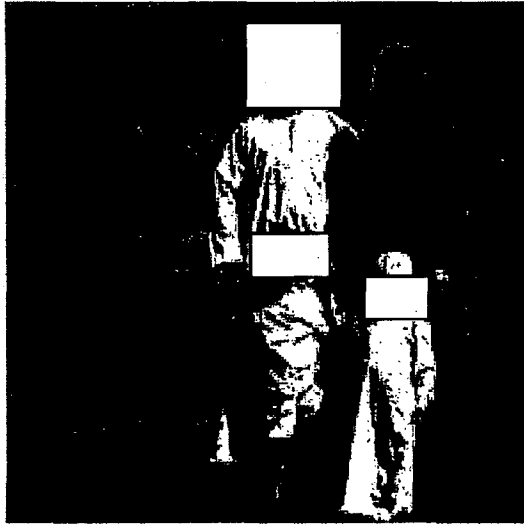
- Flirt, hit on, hug or talk in private with women; it could jeopardize their safety
- Stare at a woman or maintain eye contact
- Expect to share meals or socialize with the opposite sex

Family



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Family



- Family loyalty and obligations always come first in relation to friends or work
- Relatives are expected to help each other especially if a financial need arises

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b7c

Please Don't:



**Ask a man questions
about his wife or
other female
members of his
family**

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- Arabs honor and respect their families
- Larger is better; larger families provide for possible economic benefits

Arab sons

**The eldest son cares
for his parents in
their later years**



- Males are the head of an Arab family
- Family is the center of honor, loyalty and reputation



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Friendship

- Arabs highly value friendship
- If asked for a favor you can't supply by an Arab friend, find a pleasant way to refuse



Friendship

- Family loyalty and obligation always come first in relation to friends or work
- Relatives are expected to help each other especially if a financial need arises.



b6
b7c

Arab customs

- A true Arab does not admit that he doesn't know
- There is no such thing as constructive criticism; any criticism can be taken as an insult



b6
b7c

Arab Customs

A headscarf is worn by women as a sign of respect even when wearing Western clothing



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Personal Space



Personal space



- Most Arabs do not share the American concept of personal space in public or private settings.
- It is considered offensive to step or lean away.

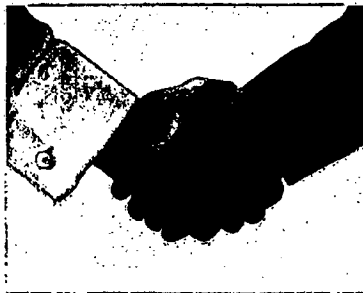
Women and Personal Space



- Do not stand close to a woman
- Do not lean in toward a woman

Greetings

- Make sure to shake hands with all the men present when conducting business
- Do not grip the hand too tightly



Greetings



- Allow plenty of time for drinks and chit-chat before you conduct any business.
- THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO DO IN ORDER TO GAIN TRUST

Eating Etiquette

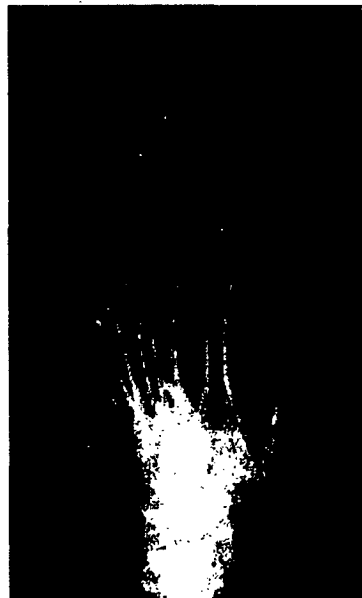
Etiquette

- Refuse modestly an offer for a drink (usually tea or coffee)
- Accept what is offered (after refusal) and drink all of it



Etiquette

- Make sure to use your right hand when accepting food or drinks, or when passing
- Never use the left hand if you're eating from communal dishes



Eating, Arabic Style

- Be prepared to overeat
- Have light meals the day before you're invited to eat



Eating

- If you're in Morocco, count the tablecloths
- For each tablecloth on the table, a course will be served



Rules



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- Sit properly
- Keep feet on the ground



**Shake hands when meeting and
when bidding someone
goodbye**

Be prepared to offer a cigarette
to everyone in the group should
you light one





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**Offer your seat to women or any
one older than you if no other
seats are available**

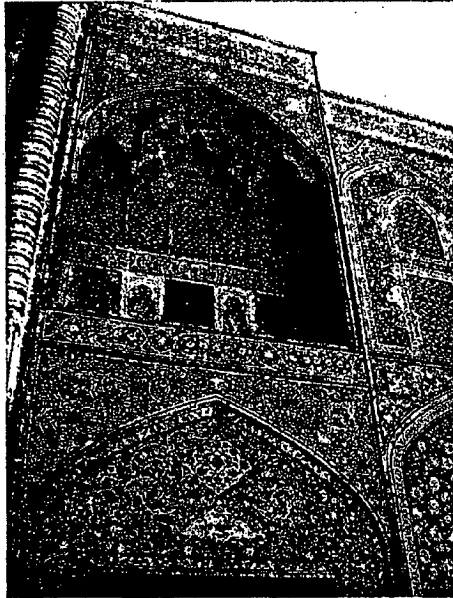


**Allow women and older men to
go before you at doorways**

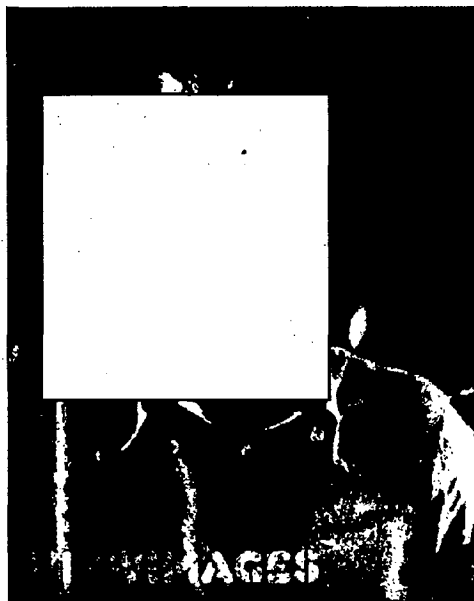
**Greet elderly people first and
usher them to the front of the
line**



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**Be a gracious
host and
accompany your
guests to the
outer gate or the
car**



Don't lean
against the
wall when
talking to
someone; it is
rude.

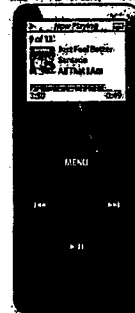
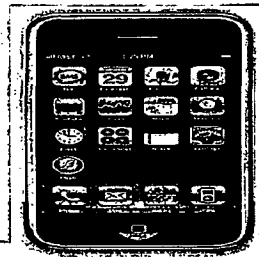
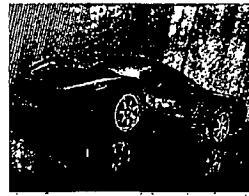
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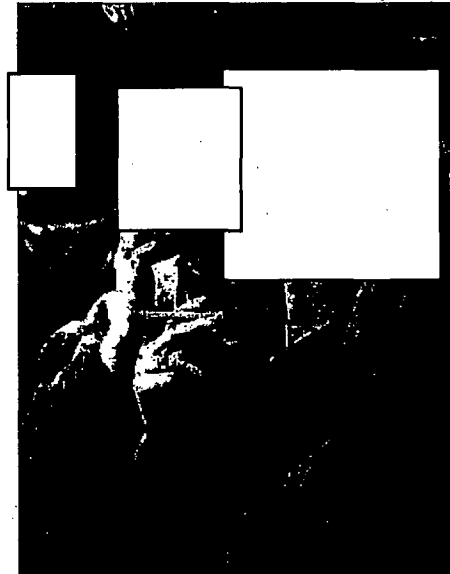
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**Don't put your hands in your
pockets; it is rude.**

- Don't express your admiration for small, portable, expensive objects
- Arabs will insist they be taken as a gift



- Women should not smoke or drink alcohol in the presence of men
- It is considered rude and unacceptable.



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Body Language

Counting

When you're counting or enumerating points, the polite way to indicate the number one is with your thumb, two with thumb and forefinger, etc.



“Thank you”

Placing the palm of the right hand on the chest, bowing the head a little and closing one's eyes connotes “thank you.”



“Slow down”

- The polite way to indicate the need to slow down is NOT how we do it
- To ask someone politely to slow down, touch the thumb lightly to bunched fingers (thumb up) and shake slightly



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“No”

A quick snap of the head upwards with an accompanying click of the tongue connotes “No”, “Unlikely”, or “what you say is wrong.”

The Physical Side

- Walking hand in hand by two males is acceptable
- Touching among the same sex implies liking and admiring



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Successful Meetings

Set the Meeting Stage

Choose a pleasant, quiet, and private location away from distractions



Planning your meeting

Plan a light agendum: Middle Easterners resist pressure to accomplish too much at an initial meeting



Planning your meeting



**Expect tardiness:
up to ninety
minutes is NOT
rude or insulting**

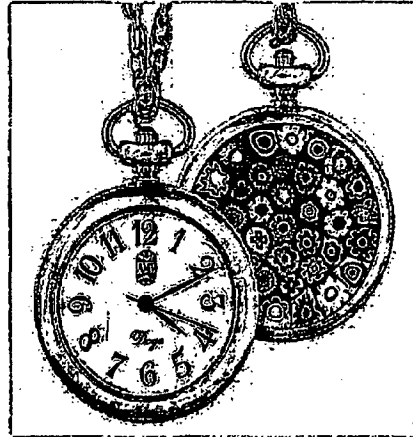
At the meeting...

Do NOT wear sunglasses even if the meeting is taking place outdoors in the bright sunlight



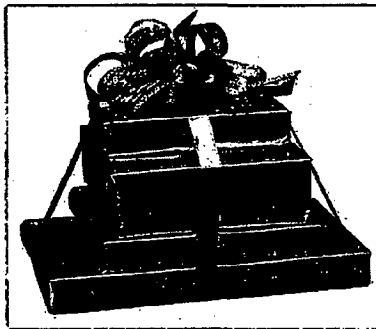
At the meeting...

- Do not look at your watch during the meeting.
- It would imply the person is not worth your time.



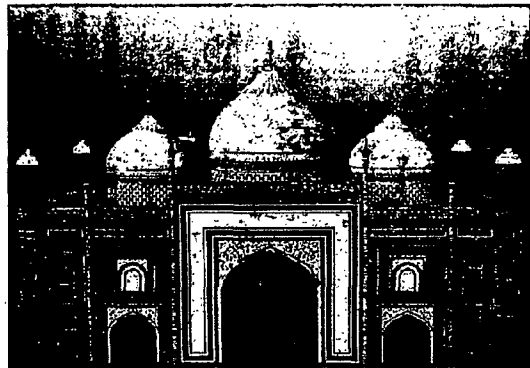
Meetings and Gifts

- Greeting gifts are appropriate if the meeting takes place in a home.
- Receive the gift with both hands and do NOT open in front of the gift-giver.

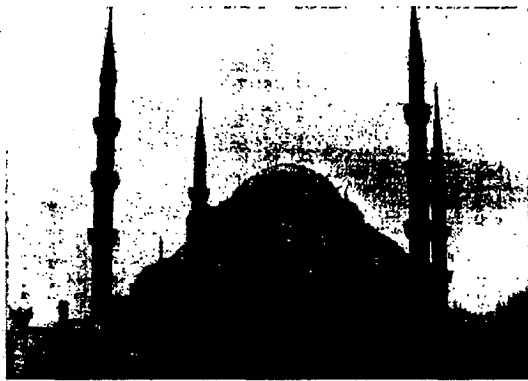


Visiting a Mosque

- Take off your shoes at the entrance
- Wear pants
- Wear long sleeves if you are a woman
- Speak softly
- Keep your camera in your car or at home

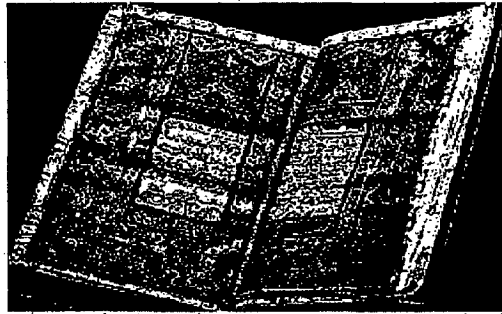


Visiting a Mosque



- Expect to see a mosque without furniture; simplicity is advocated in Islam
- If you find yourself in a situation where you don't know what to do, ask, or just watch and imitate

How to Handle the Qur'an



- Must have clean hands
- Keep on highest bookshelf or place; never on the floor
- Cover with plastic or cloth when not in use
- Place nothing on top of the Qur'an

Correct Terminology and Pronunciation

- Muslim
- Allah means God
- Qur'an
- Jihad means struggle: greater v lesser
- Arab is a noun or adjective
- Arabic is the name of the language
- Arabian is an adjective: Arabian horse, Arabian Peninsula

Arab Concept of Revenge



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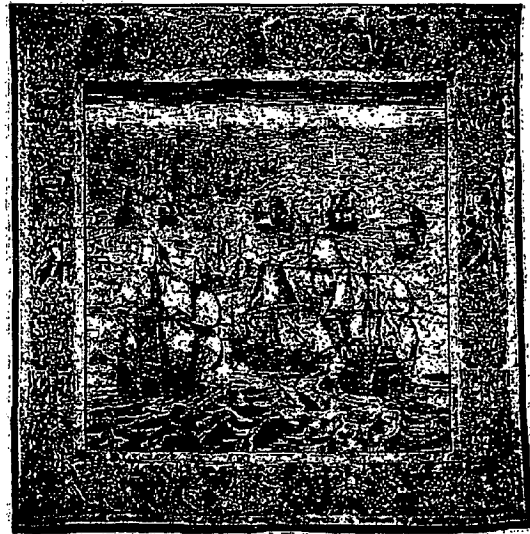
Revenge

- Arab concept of revenge is strong
- Is to be found in the Old Testament and the Qur'an: "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth."
- Conflict continues for generations



Revenge

- Diya (blood money) is mentioned in the Qur'an and advocated by Islam in order to defuse the cycle of revenge
- Diya is a non-negotiable sum of money that is paid in cases of accidental death



Arab Education in the Middle East



- Greatly influenced and controlled by the Regime
- Stresses memorization
- Varies across the region in terms of literacy

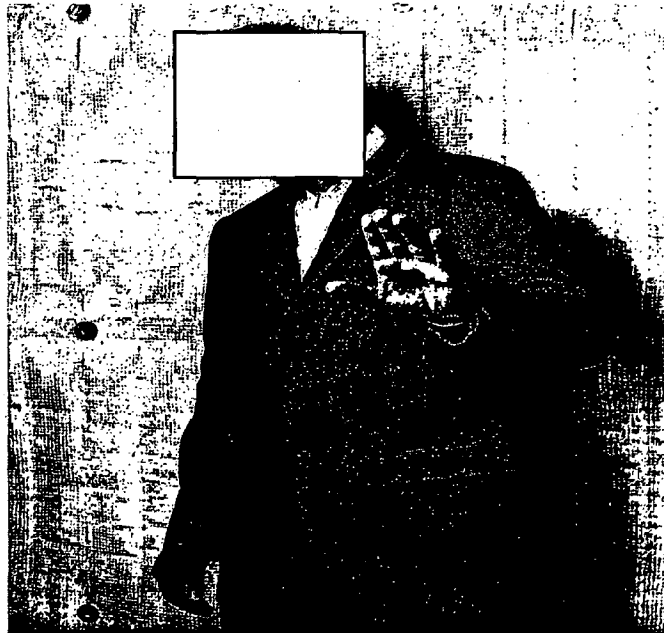
In the USA: Arab Americans

- More than 85% with a HS diploma
- More than 40% hold a bachelor's degree or higher (24% of Americans at large)
- More than 17% have a post-graduate degree (9% is the American average)



b6
b7c

The End



b6
b7C