# Arabs and Arab-Americans

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## Language Analyst (Arabic &Tigrinya)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 03-08-2012 BY 65179/DMH/BAW/STP/bls

# Session Outline

- Quiz Yourself on Arabs & Arab-Americans.
- How Arabs view America.
- Identity, behavior, and beliefs in the Arab World vs. Western Society.
- Some helpful sources/websites for further information.

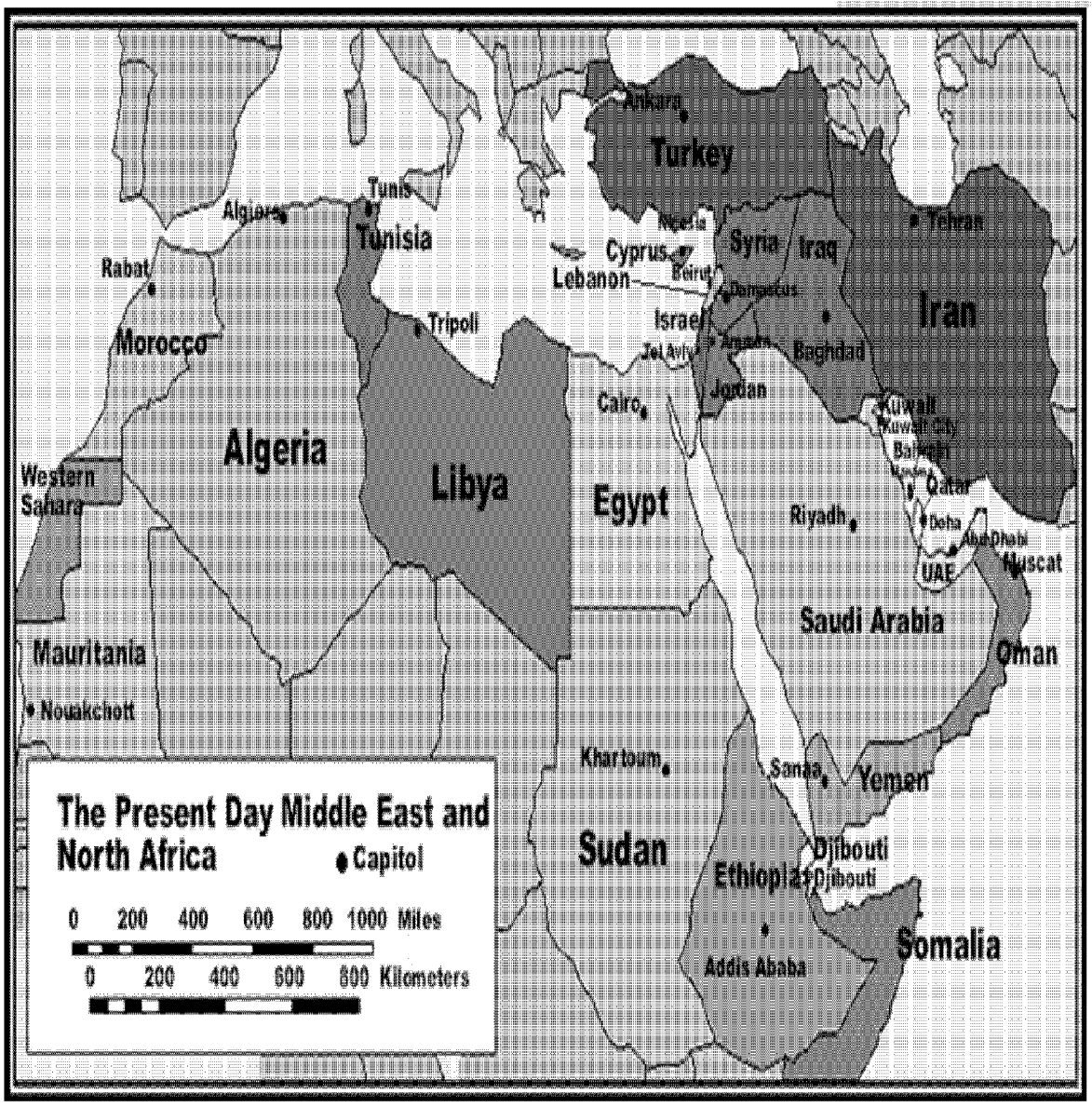
# Arabs and Arab-Americans

## Quiz Yourself

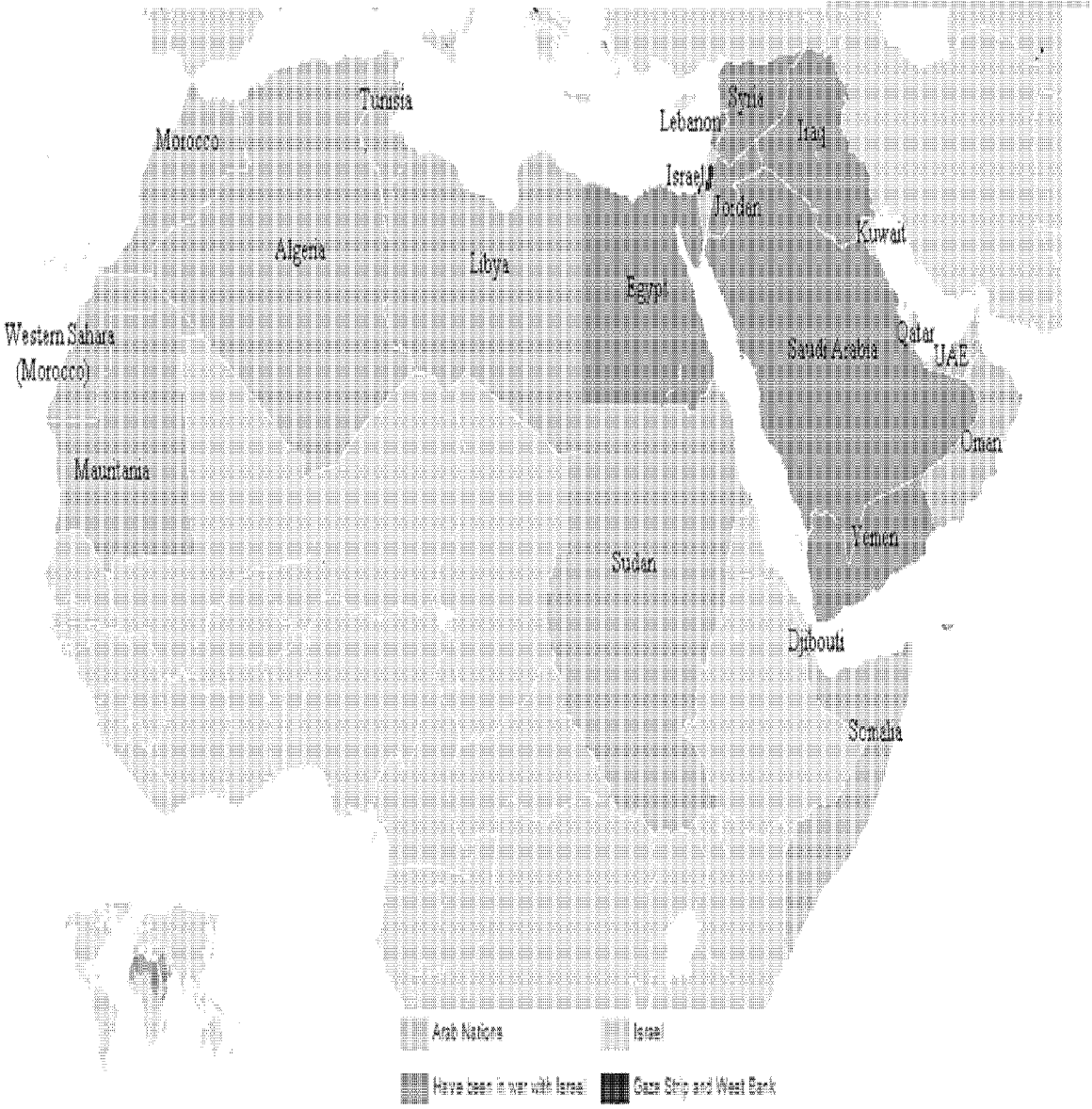
# Quiz Yourself: The Arab World

- Which of the following countries are considered Arab?
  - Algeria
  - Yemen
  - Israel
  - Saudi Arabia
  - Iraq
  - Afghanistan
  - Iran
  - Sudan

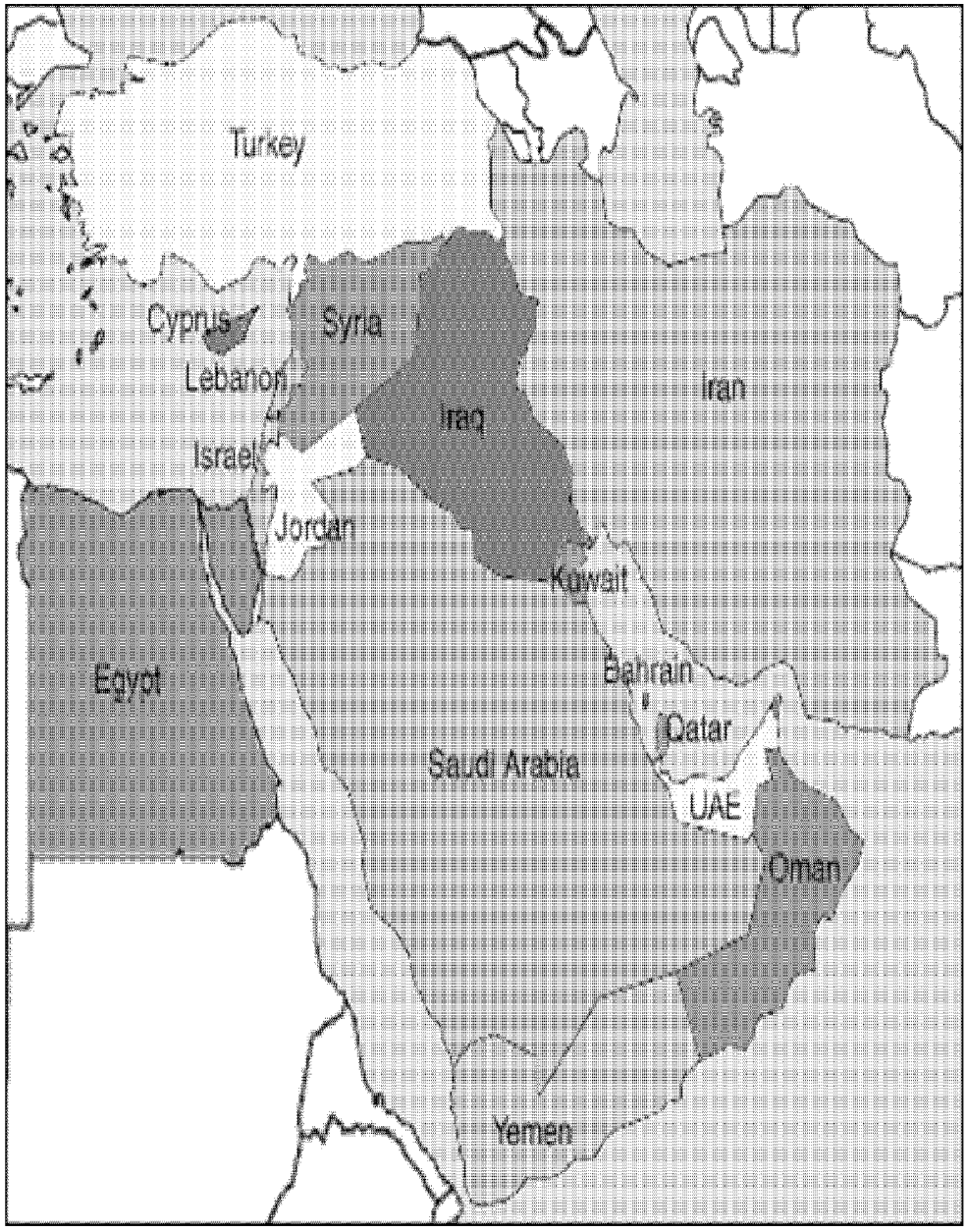
# The Arab World



# Political Map of the Arab League states and Israel



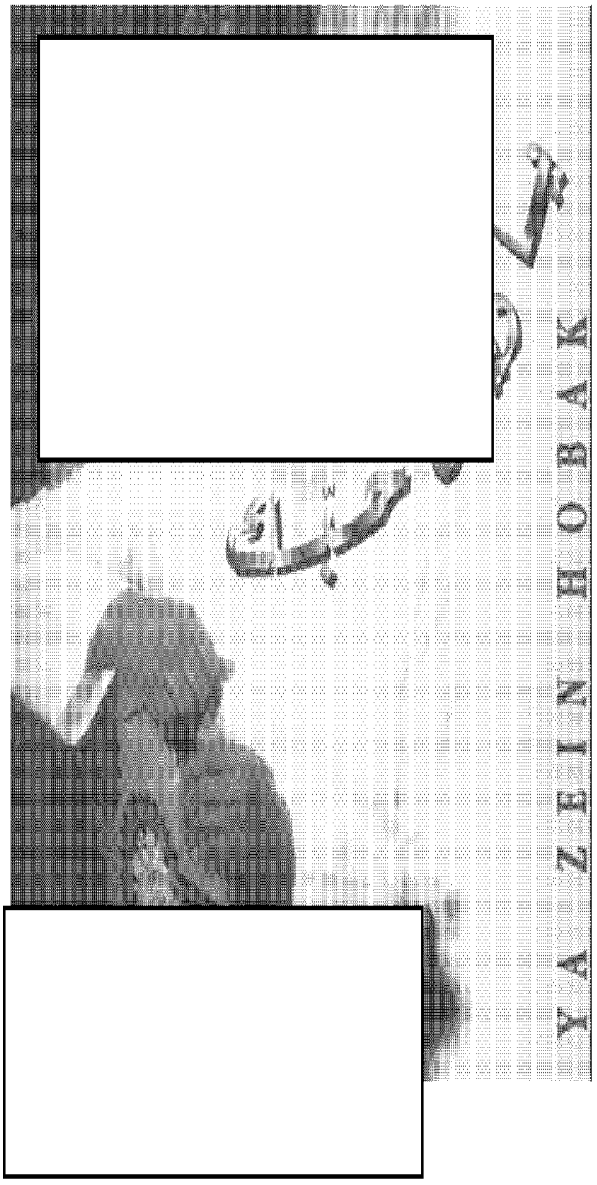
# The Middle East



# الوطن العربي

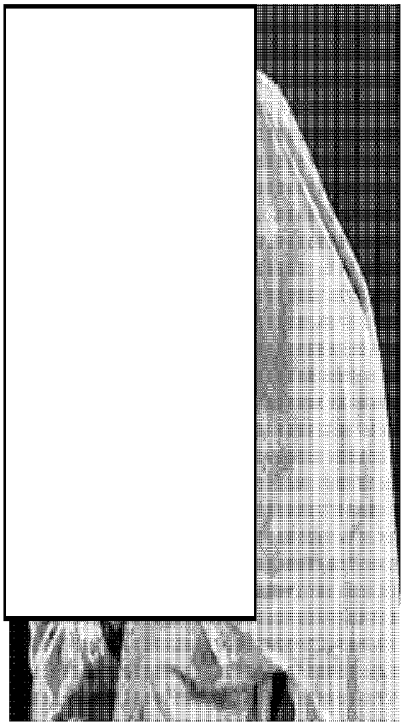


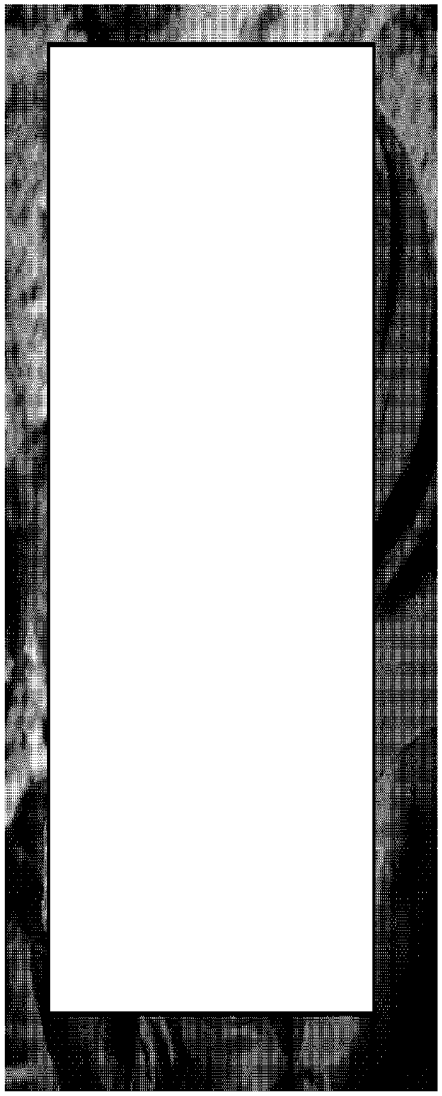
# Photos from Arab countries




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# Photos from Arab countries

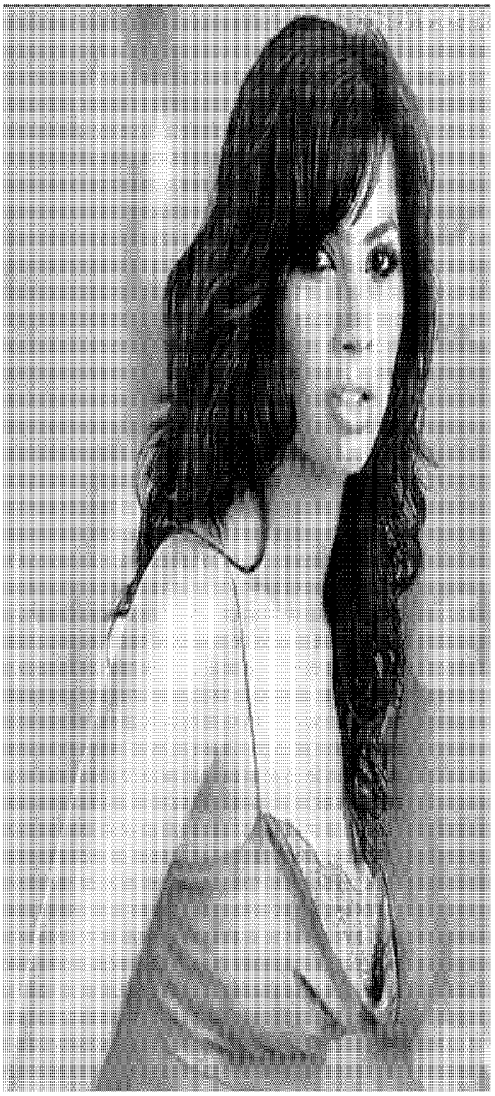




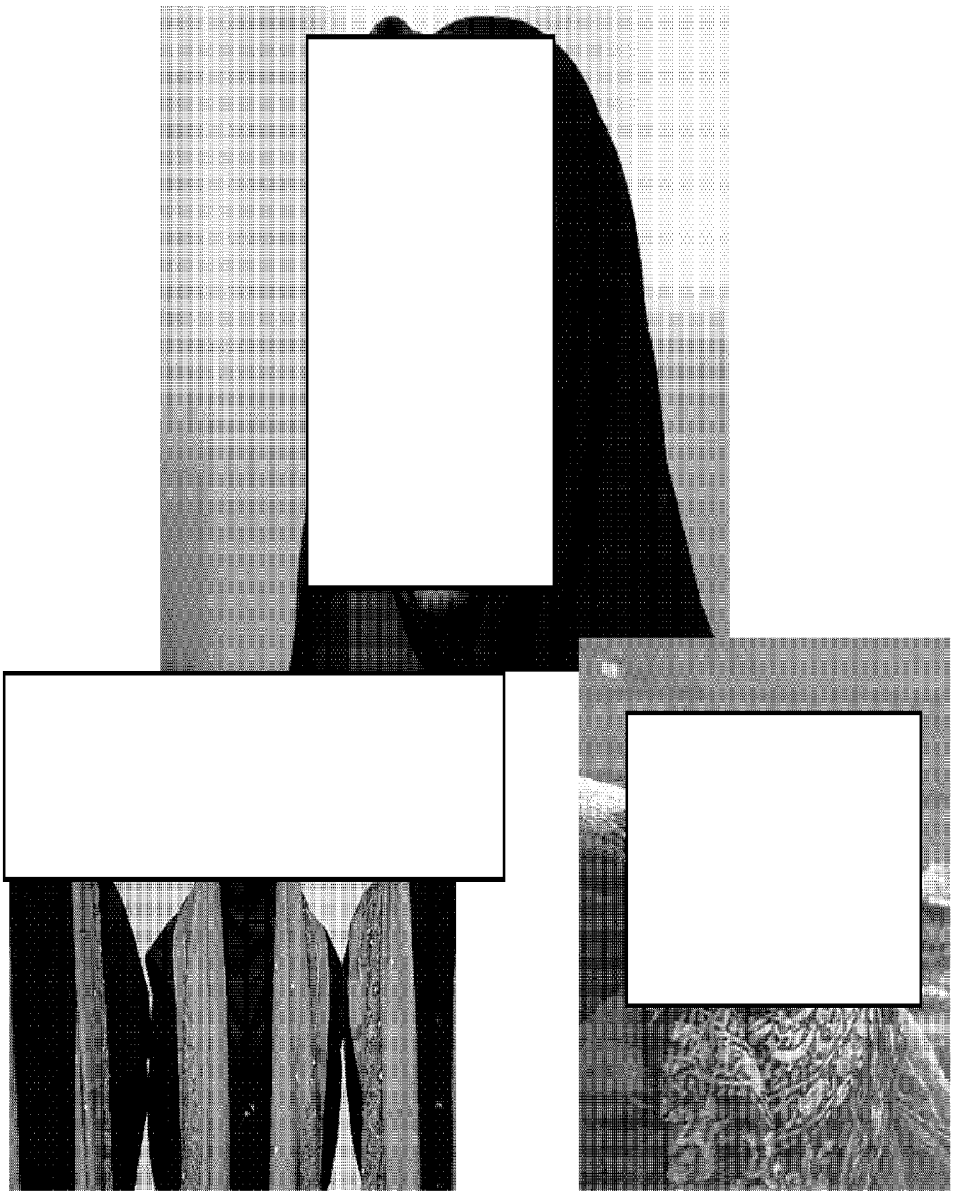
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# Arab Singers



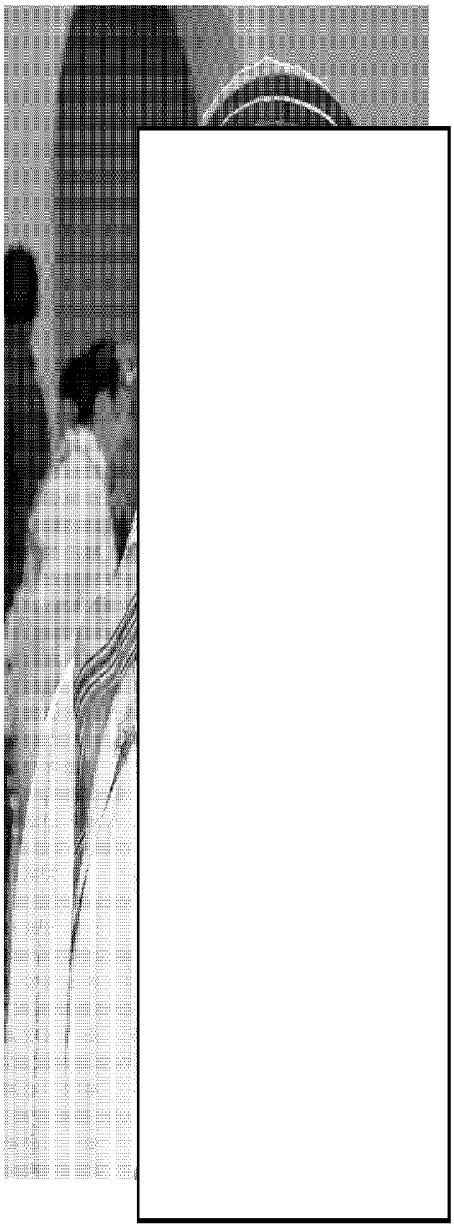



# Women from Iran



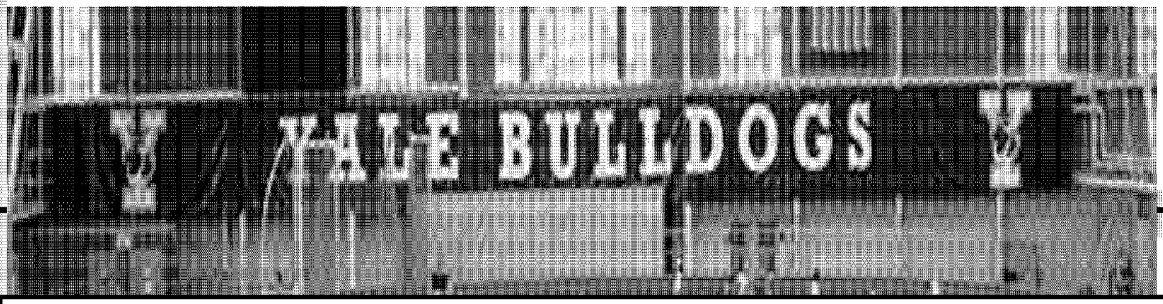
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# Photos from the Arab world





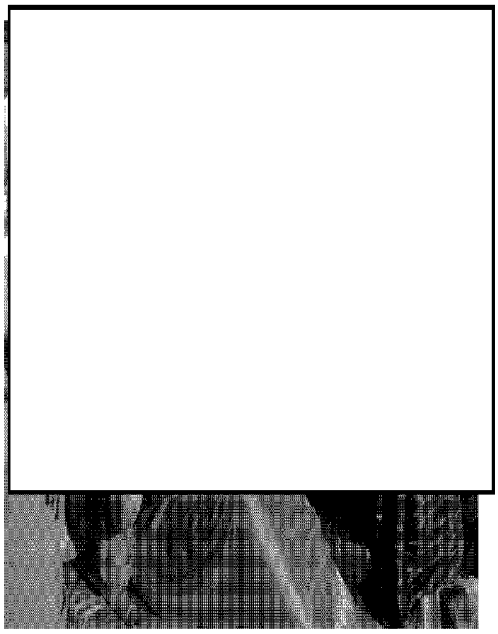
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# Weddings



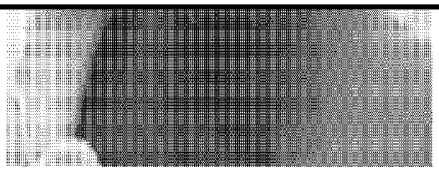




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# Identity Crisis?





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# Quiz Yourself: Arab-Americans

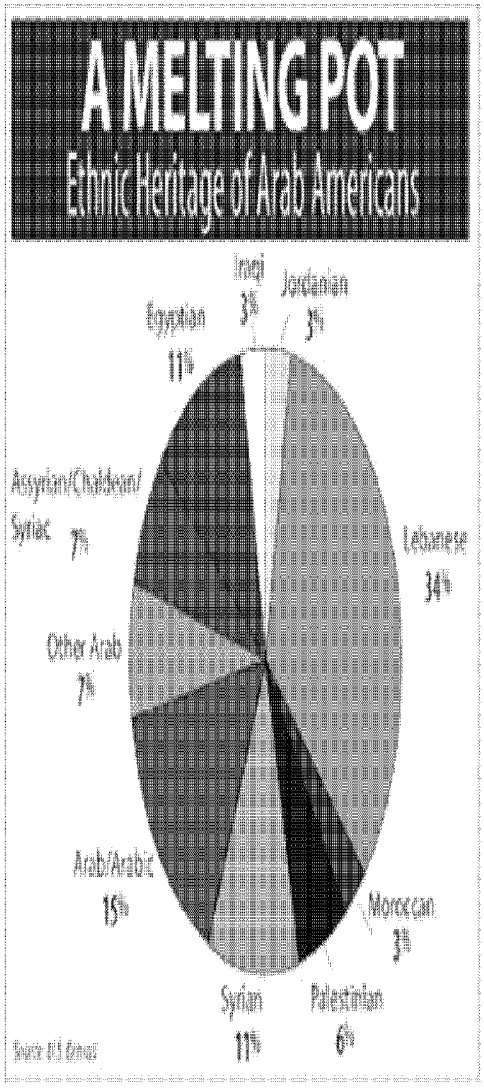
- How many Arab-Americans are there?
  - 3,000
  - 300,000
  - 3 million
  - 300 million
  - No one knows

# We don't really know… but…

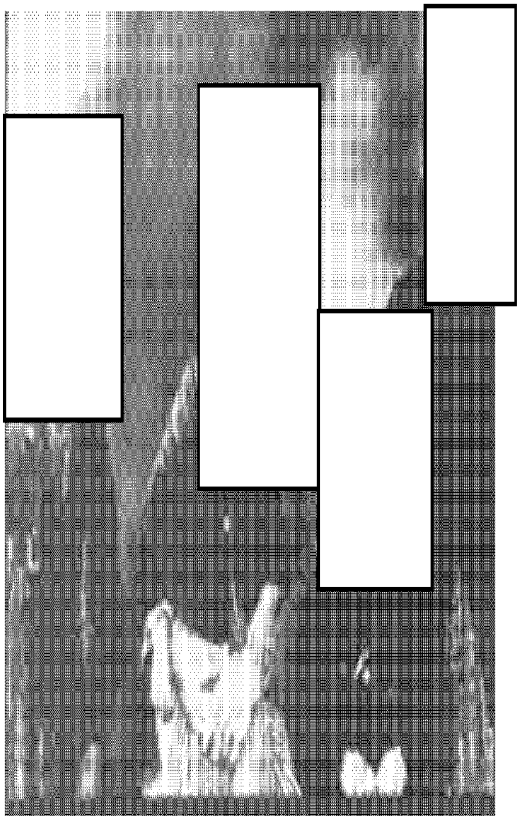
- 3 million is the estimated number of Americans of Arab Ancestry.*
- The highest population of Arab-Americans is in Detroit and the second highest is in Los Angeles.
- 80% of Arab-Americans are 2nd generation or more.

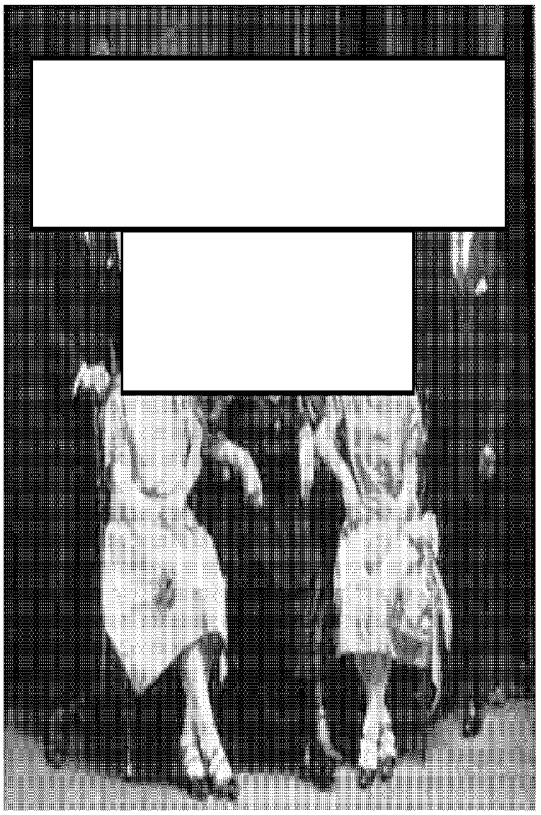
# U.S. Arab American Population

| Nationality Group | Population Estimates |
|---|---|
| Lebanese/Syrian | 1,600,000 |
| Egyptians | 360,000 |
| Palestinian/Jordanian | 180,000 |
| Iraqi | 160,000 |
| Moroccan | 100,000 |
| Other | 600,000 |
| Total | 3,000,000 |



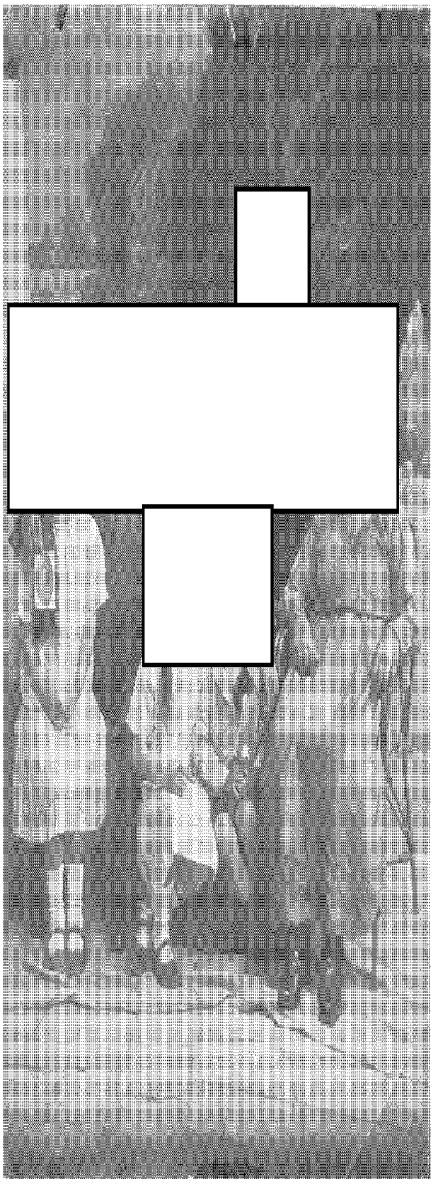
# Who are Arab Americans?

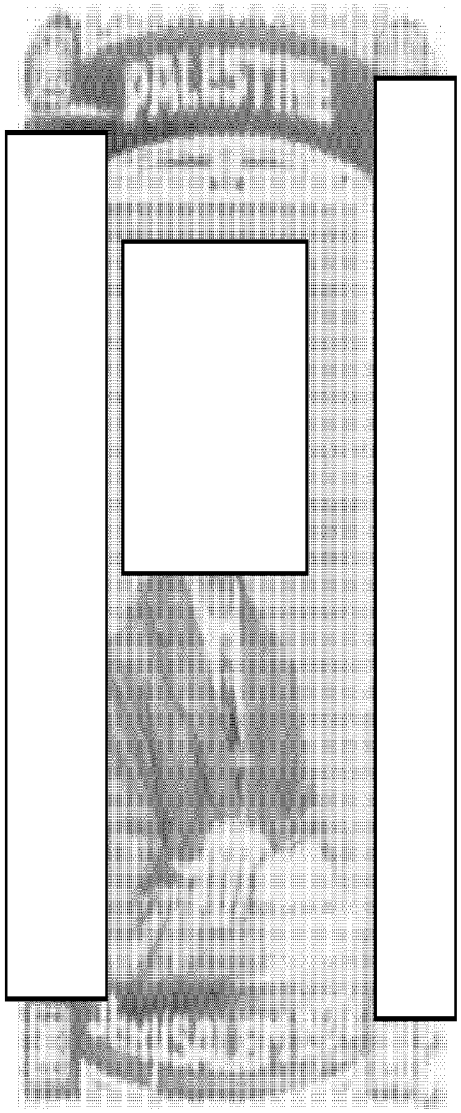




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# Arab American Families

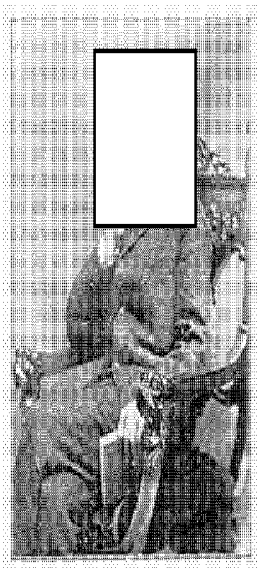




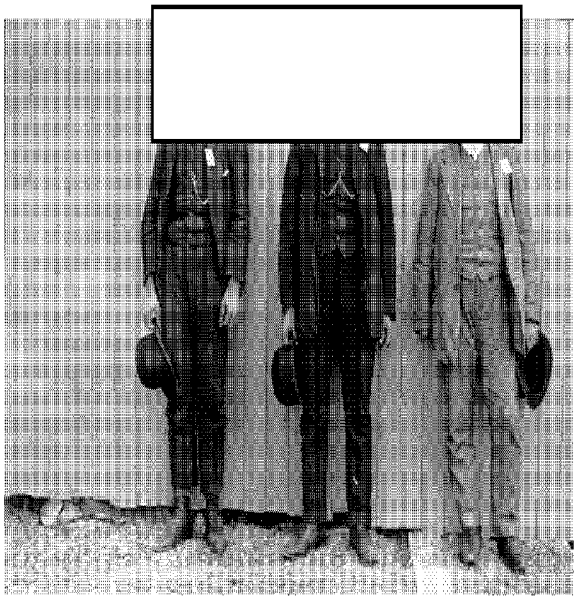

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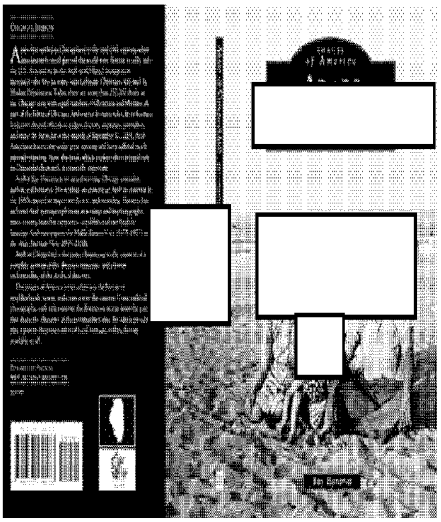
# Arab American Families





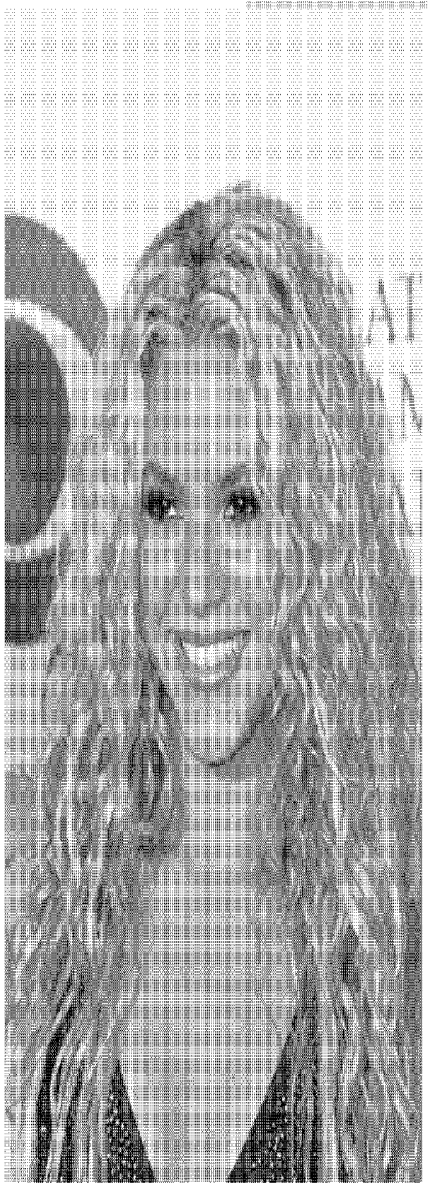
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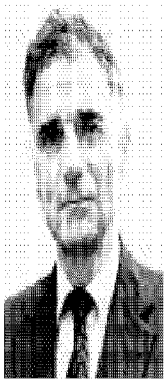


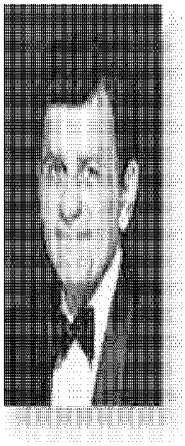
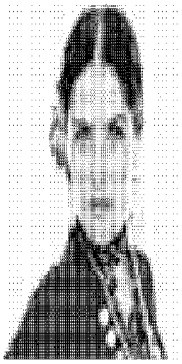
# Quiz Yourself: Famous Arab-Americans

- Who is a famous Arab-American?
  - Casey Kasem
  - Salma Hayek
  - Tony Shalhoub
  - Paula Abdul
  - Shakira
  - Ralph Nader
  - Steve Jobs
  - Paul Orfalea
  - Paul Anka
  - Nawal Nur

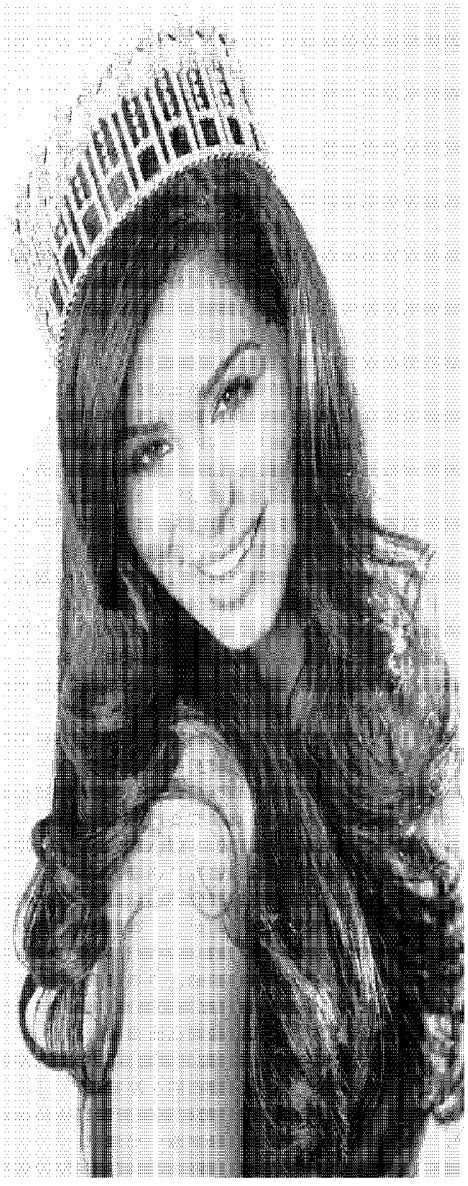


# They All Are!

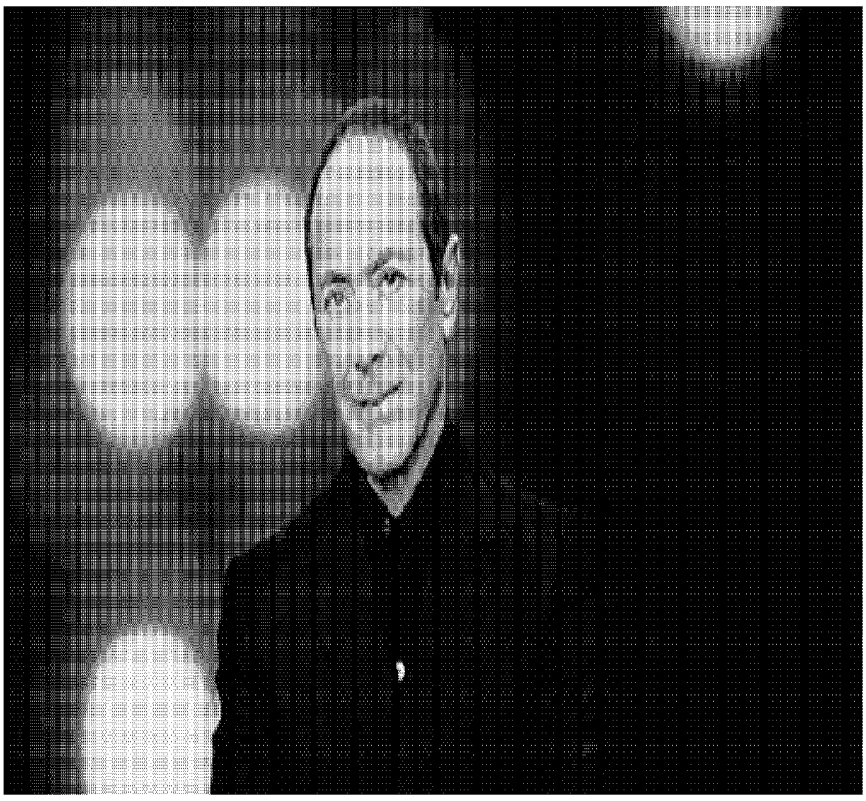



# Miss America 2010
# Rima Fakih

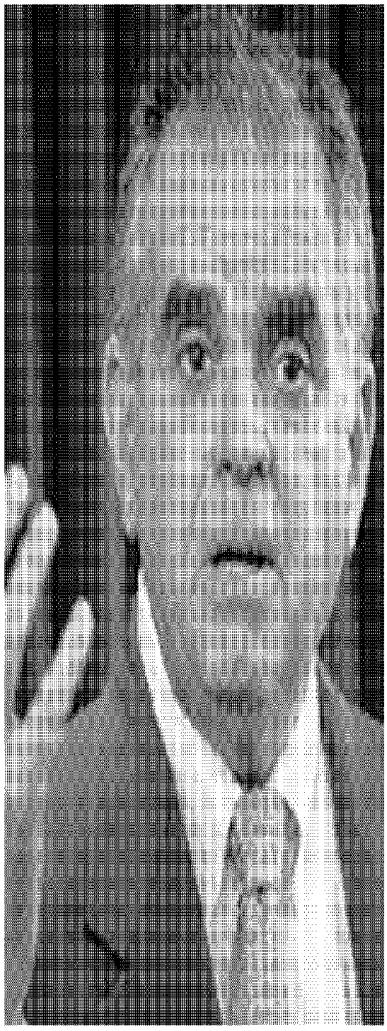


# They All Are!



# LaHOOD, Ray H., (1945 - )

- A Representative from Illinois; born in Peoria, Peoria County, Ill.[He is of Arab descent, part Jordanian and part Lebanese ]
- B.S., Bradley University, Peoria, Ill., 1971;
- Elected as a Republican to the One Hundred Fourth and to the six succeeding Congresses (January 3, 1995-January 3, 2009);
- Secretary of Transportation in the Cabinet of President Barack Obama, 2009-.
- As Secretary of Transportation, LaHood leads an agency with more than 55,000 employees and a $70 billion budget that oversees air, maritime and surface transportation missions.

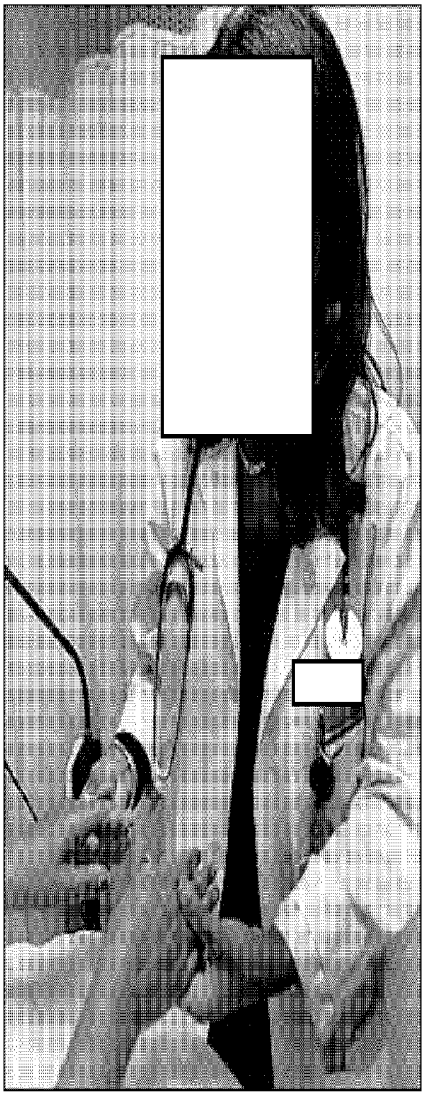


# Sudanese American

- [redacted]
  Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
  [redacted]

She is

- a board certified Obstetrician/Gynecologist,
- [redacted]

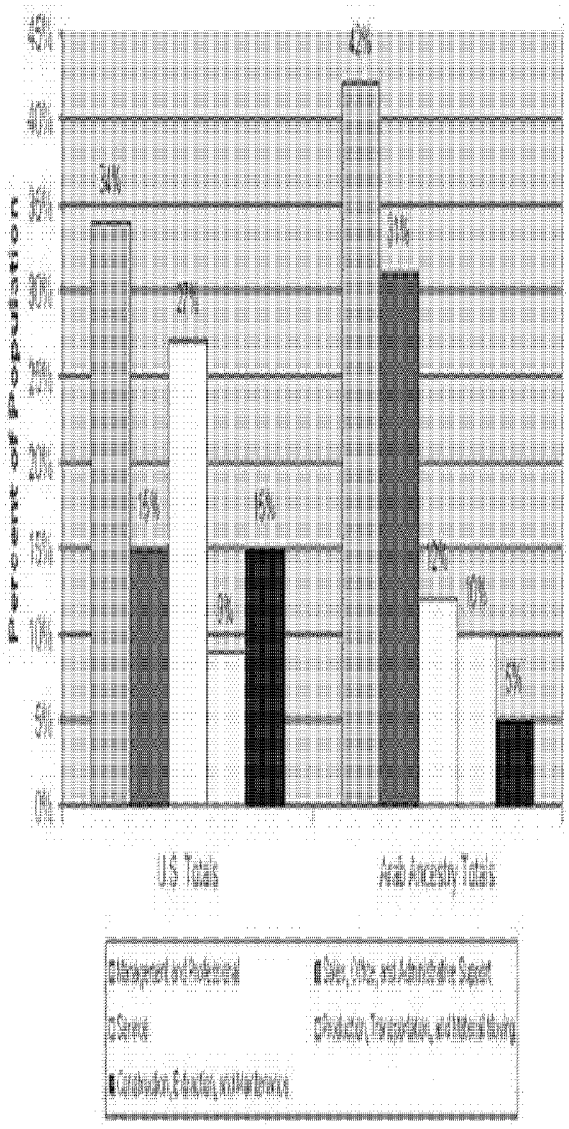



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# Statistics

## Employment:

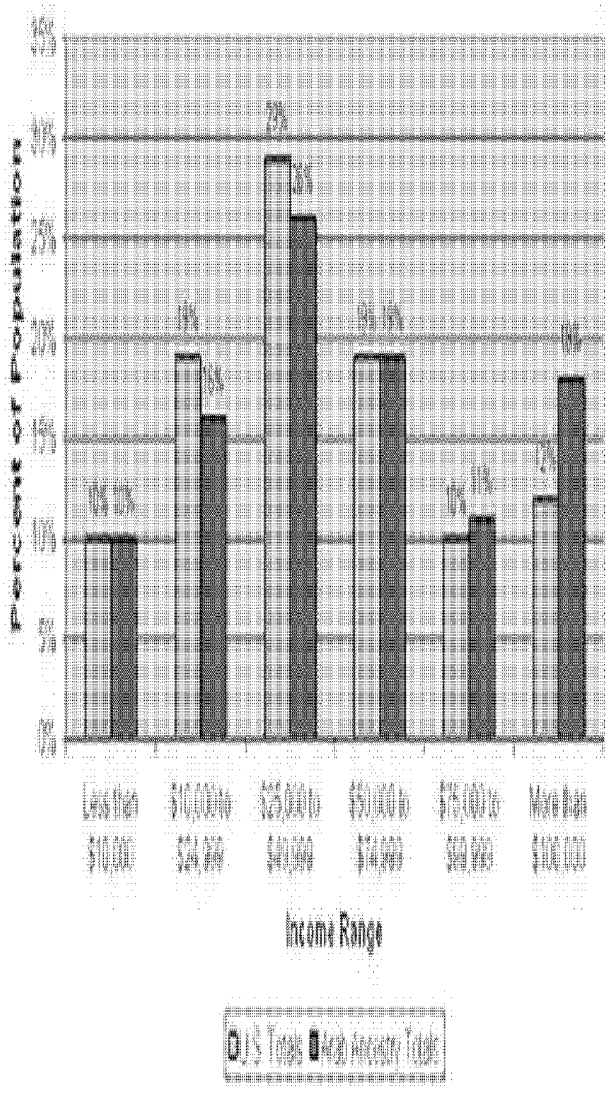
- 80% of Arab Americans ages 16 & older hold some form of employment
  - 88% in private sector
  - 12.4% are government employees
- 73% are in managerial, technical, and sales/administrative positions.



# Statistics (contd.)

## Income:

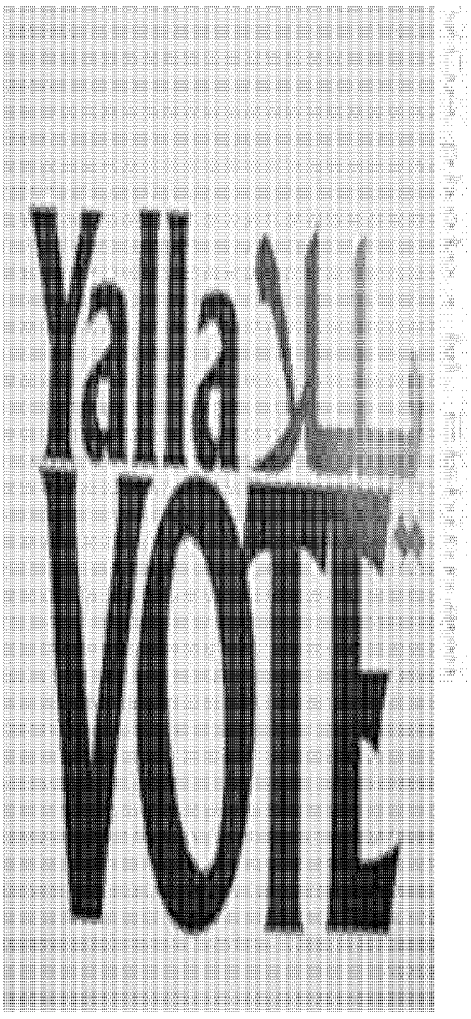
- Average income is $53k which is 22% higher than the national average of $43k
- Arab-American consumers have a buying power of $104 billion



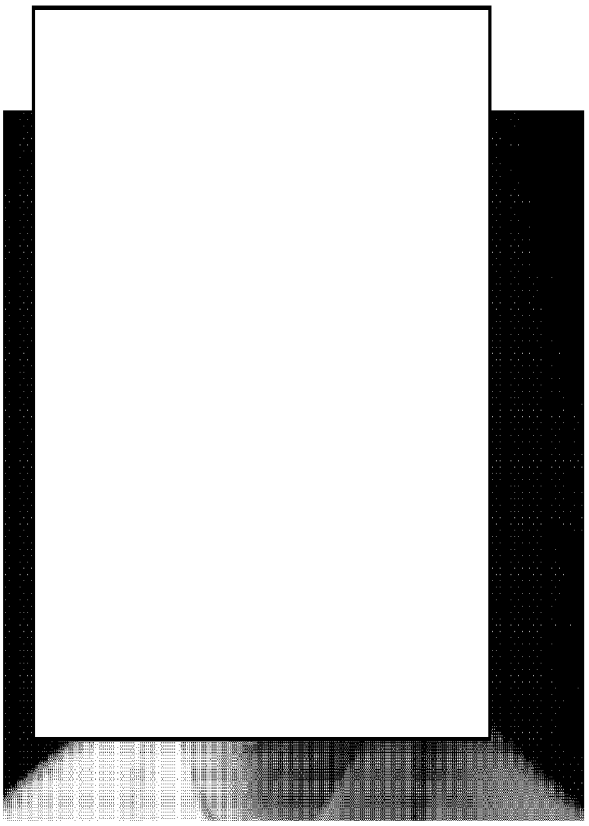
# POLITCS

# Q: Do Arab Americans vote?

- 86% of Arab Americans are registered to vote; 60% voter turnout
- Arab Americans are well represented in 55 congressional districts and make up between 1.5% and 4.5% of the total voting population.
- In the 2000 Presidential election, 40% of Arab Americans who voted registered as Democrats, 38 % registered as Republicans and 22% registered as Independent voters.
- In comparison, 49 percent of Americans registered as Democrats, while 48 percent were Republican voters and three percent registered as Independent voters.



# American-Arabs & Politics






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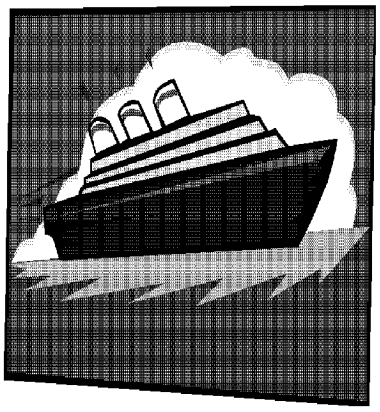
# Who are some prominent Arab-American politicians?

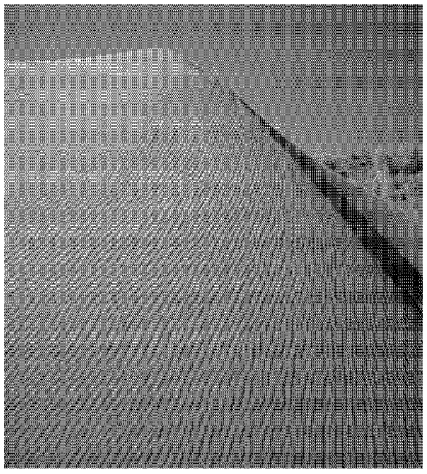
- Former U.S. Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine [1991 – 1993];
- Former Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham;
- Former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala;
- Former New Hampshire Governor and White House chief of staff John H. Sununu,
- 2000 presidential candidate Ralph Nader.



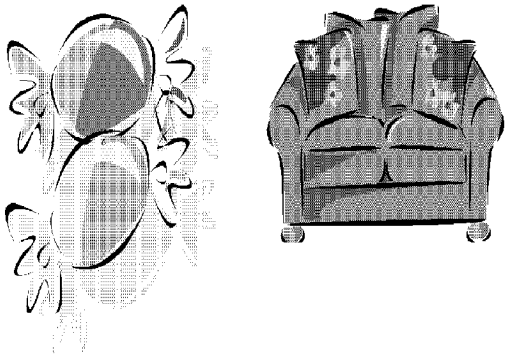
# Quiz Yourself: Arabic Language

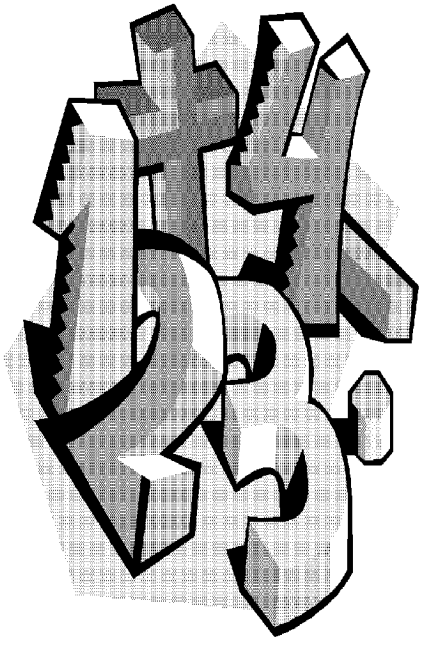
- Which of the following come(s) from the Arabic language?
  - Algebra
  - Admiral
  - Alcohol
  - Sahara
  - 1, 2, 3





# All of Them!





- As well as “candy,” “sofa” and all the other numbers (ARABIC numerals.)
- Many words beginning with “al-” come from the Arabic language.

# Arabic Numerals

١ ٢ ٣ ٤ ٥ ٦ ٧ ٨ ٩ .

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

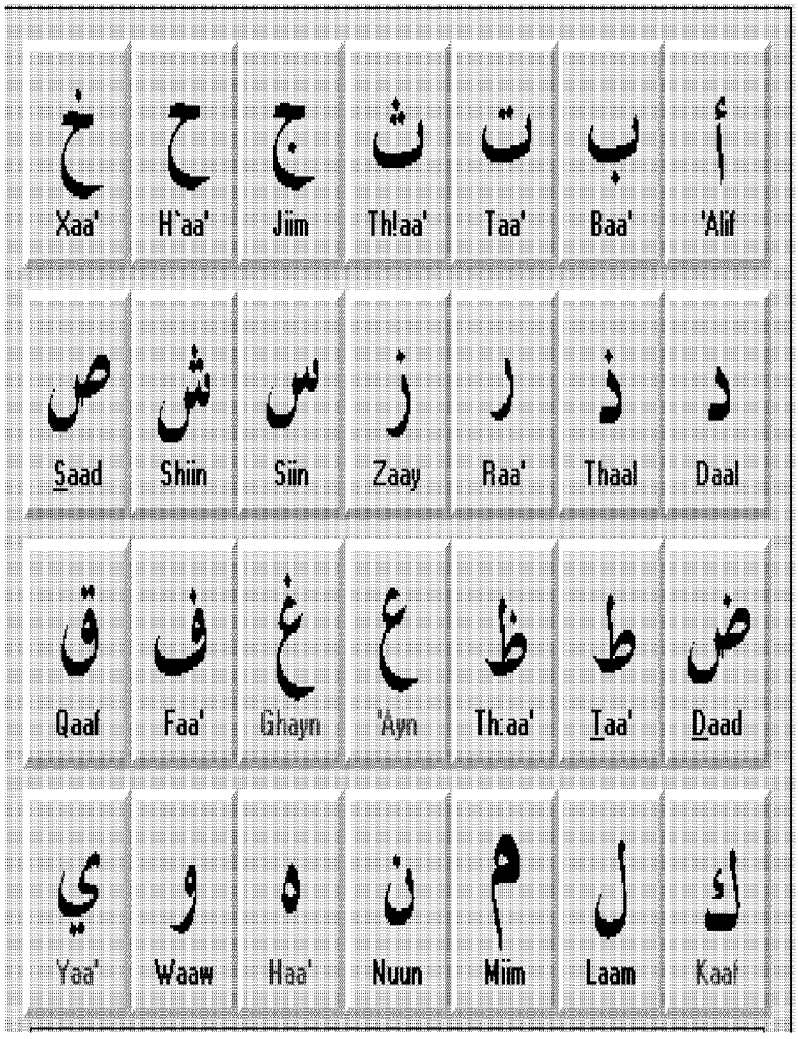
- Arabic and English numbers: similarities
- While most of Arabic is read right to left, the number system is read left to right.




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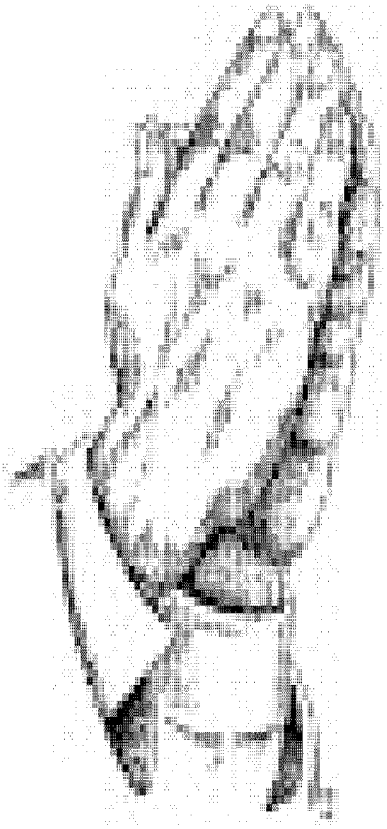
# The Arabic Language

## الأحرف الا بجد يَة



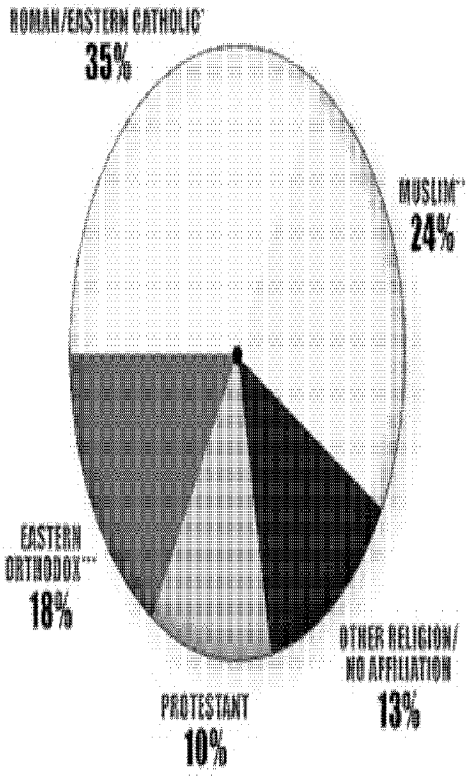
# Quiz Yourself: Religion

- What is the percentage of Arab-American Christians?
  - 7%
  - 33%
  - 56%
  - 70%



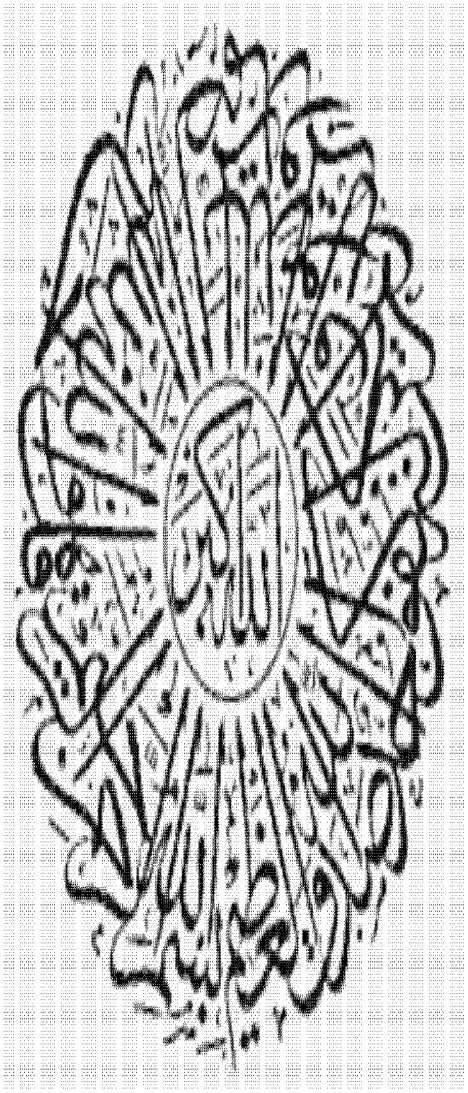
# Arab-American & Religion

- **70%** of Arab-Americans are Christians.
  - 35% Catholics includes Roman Catholic, Maronite, and Melkite
  - 23% are Orthodox (includes Antiochian, Syrian, Greek and Coptic.
  - 10% are Protestant.
- 24% are Muslim (includes Sunni, Shi'a, and Druze).
- In contrast, almost 75 % of Americans identify as Christian; 13 % are secular; and 14 p% practice another or no religion and 1.3 percent practice Judaism in the United States.



# Islam

- Islam means service or submission to the will of God. The followers of Islam are called Muslims. The Arabs were the first Muslims
- Arabs make up only 18% of Muslims world wide.
- Islam is based on five pillars.
- The holy book of Islam is the Qu'ran.



# Old Testament, New Testament or Qu'ran?

1. Those who break God's covenant after it is ratified, and who sunder what God has ordered to be joined, and do mischief on earth: These cause loss only to themselves.
2. And be steadfast in prayer and charity, and pray with others.
3. I will send my terror before you and throw into confusion all the peoples whom you find in your path. I will make your enemies turn their backs.
4. Behold! God said: "Oh Jesus! I will raise ye to myself..."
5. So if your faith remains strong after being tried by fiery trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor.
6. O children of Israel! call to mind My favor which I bestowed on you and be faithful to (your) covenant with Me, I will fulfill (My) covenant with you; and of Me, Me alone, should you be afraid.
7. And one of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your tongues and colors; most surely there are signs in this for the learned.

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6. O children of Israel! call to mind My favor which I bestowed on you and be faithful to (your) covenant with Me, I will fulfill (My) covenant with you; and of Me, Me alone, should you be afraid.
7. And one of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your tongues and colors; most surely there are signs in this for the learned.

# Old Testament, New Testament or Qu'ran?

1. Those who break God's covenant after it is ratified, and who sunder what God has ordered to be joined, and do mischief on earth: These cause loss only to themselves. QU'RAN
2. And be steadfast in prayer and charity, and pray with others. QU'RAN
3. I will send my terror before you and throw into confusion all the peoples whom you find in your path. I will make your enemies turn their backs. OT
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# Muslims, Christians & Jews

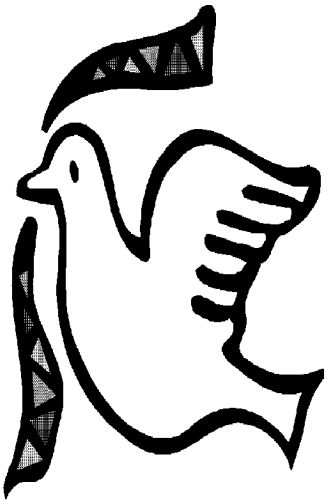
- Those who believe (in the Quran), and those who follow the Jewish (scriptures), and the Christians...and (all) who believe in God and the last day and work righteousness, shall have their reward with their Lord; on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve." The Qur'an, 2:62

# Quiz Yourself: 9/11

- How many of the perpetrators of the September 11th tragedy was/were Arab American?
  - 0
  - 1
  - 4
  - 5

# Absolutely None

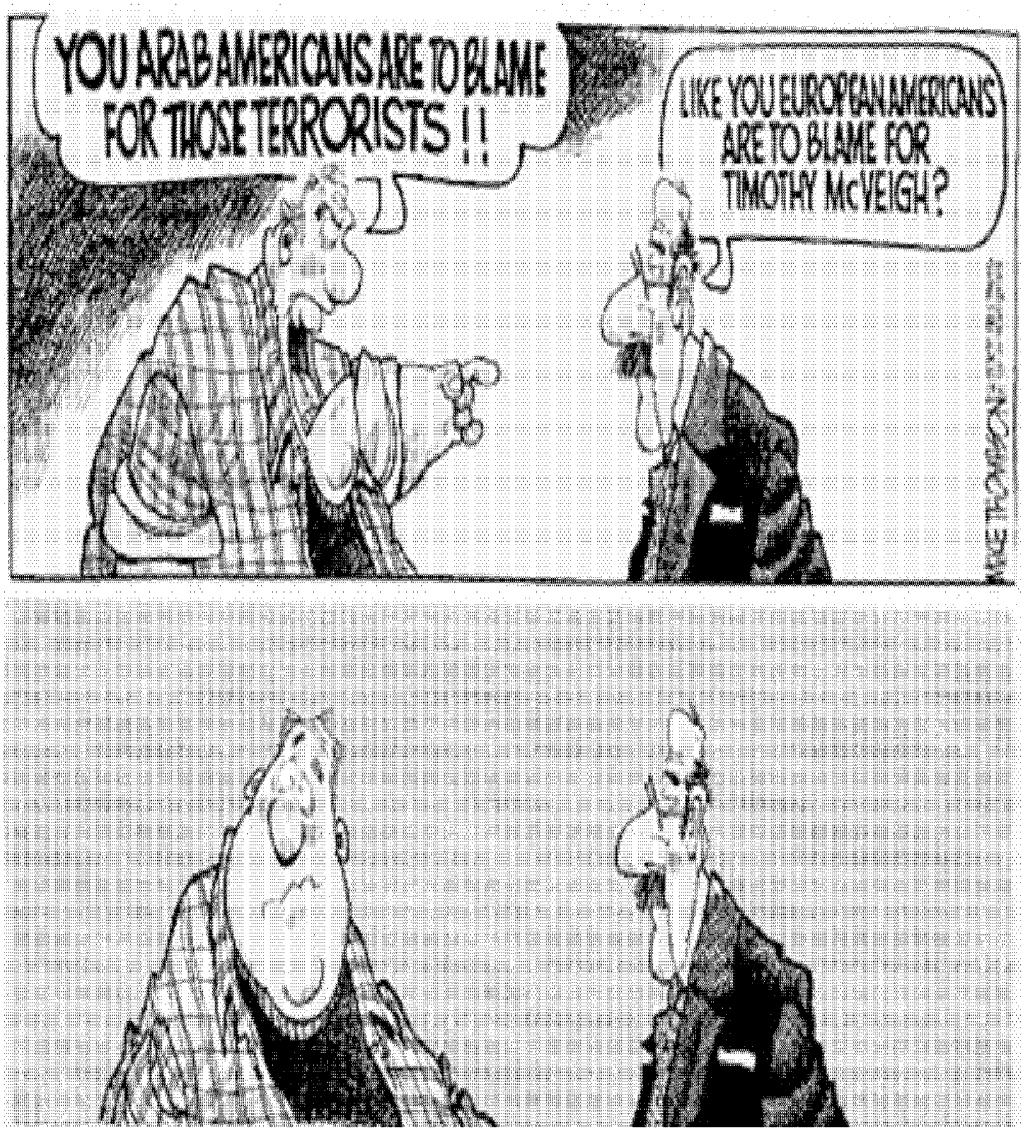
- While the *terrorists* were not Arab-Americans (or Muslim Americans), some of the *victims* were.
- And then, many became victims of another kind...



# US& West
# Arabs=Muslims



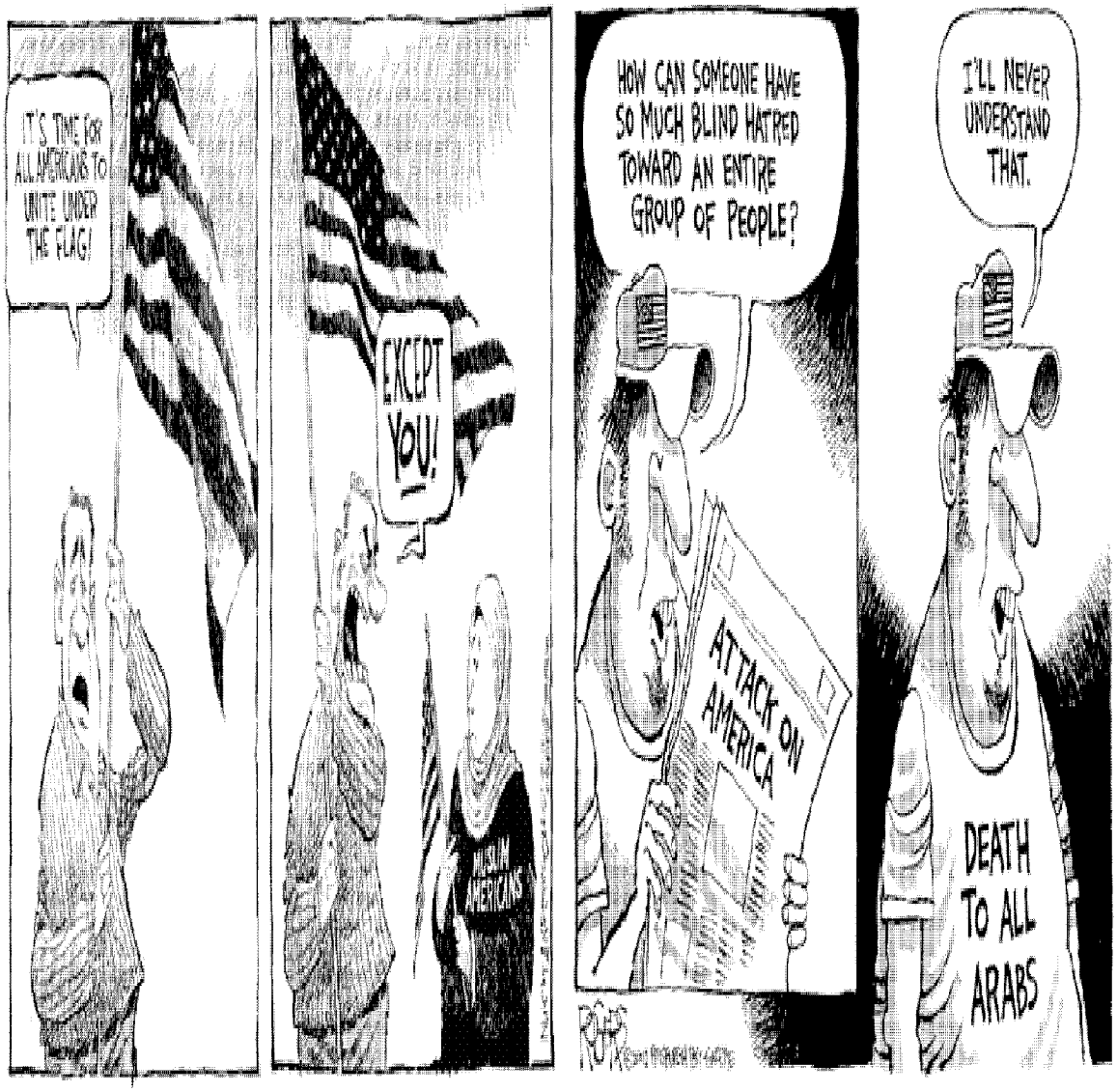
# Some Americans said:



# Some Americans said:



# Some Americans said (contd.):

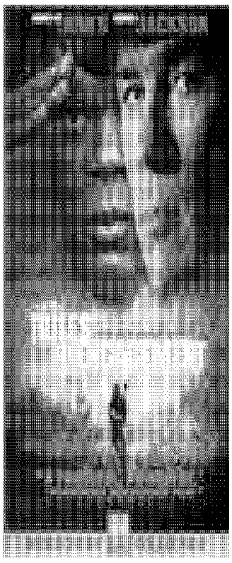


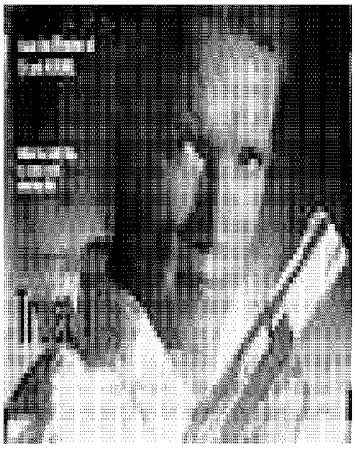
# The Muslim-Americans responded:



# Quiz Yourself: Media Portrayals

- Which of the following films portray Arabs positively?
  - Rules of Engagement (2000)
  - **The Siege(1998)**
  - True Lies (1994)
  - Protocol (1984)
  - None of the above





# None of the Above (Sigh)

- Those films that don't show Arabs as barbaric, savage, violent or out-right villains, show them instead as exotically foreign, backwards, stupid or otherwise one-dimensional.



# But, the ADC has endorsed some movies

- Recently, however, the ADC celebrated films portraying Arabs fairly and accurately, films such as **"Syriana**," "**Paradise Now**" and **"Kingdom of Heaven."**

# Movie about Arab-Americans



# How Arabs View America

- Americans as people vs. America as a nation/government
  - The distinction between two different entities
  - Characteristics of both:

1. (US) Country/government: aggressive, arrogant.
2. (American) individuals: simple, easy to convince, verging on the gullible/believe anything.

# How Arabs View America

- A 2003 study found that very few people in the survey have a favorable opinion of the U.S.: 4% in Saudi Arabia, 6% in Morocco, 13% in Egypt and 32% in Lebanon
- Most people say that their attitudes are based on American policies, not American values

# How Arabs View America

- **American Interests**
  1. Oil at the expense of democracy
  2. Support of Israel

  97% of Saudis, 91% of Lebanese, 87% of Jordanians, 93% of Moroccans & 77% of Egyptians feel that American policy in Iraq is motivated mainly by oil and secondarily by U.S. support for Israel

  3. Support of old regimes (KSA, Egypt & Jordan)

  Some analyst argue: Why would America push for democracy when these regimes are so publicly helpful/supportive of the US?

# 2009
# Annual Arab Public Opinion Survey

- Survey conducted April-May 2009 in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia (KSA) and UAE\

- Sample size: 4,087
- Margin of error: +/- 1.6%

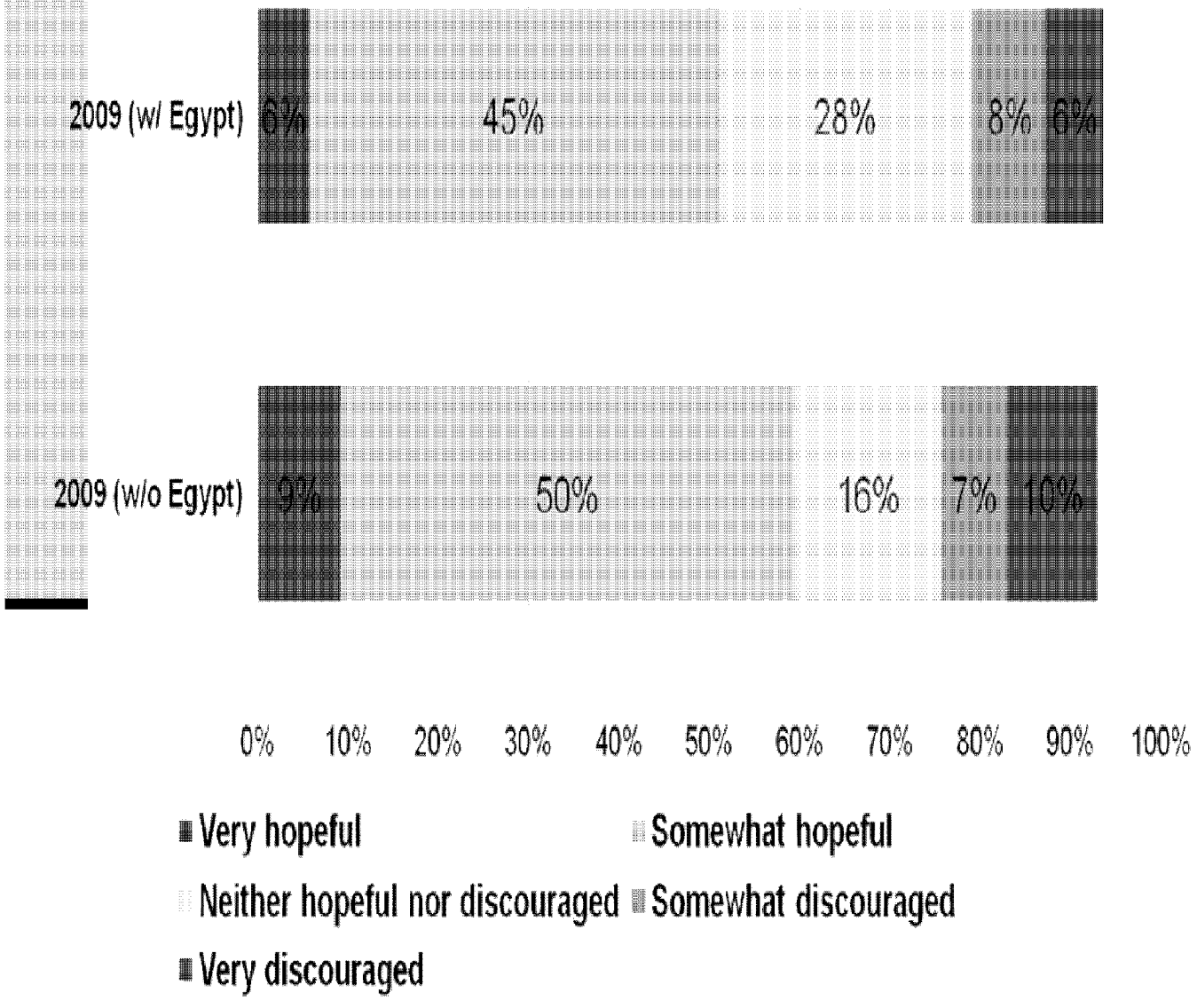
- Professor [redacted] Anwar Sadat Chair for Peace and Development

  University of Maryland
  with Zogby International

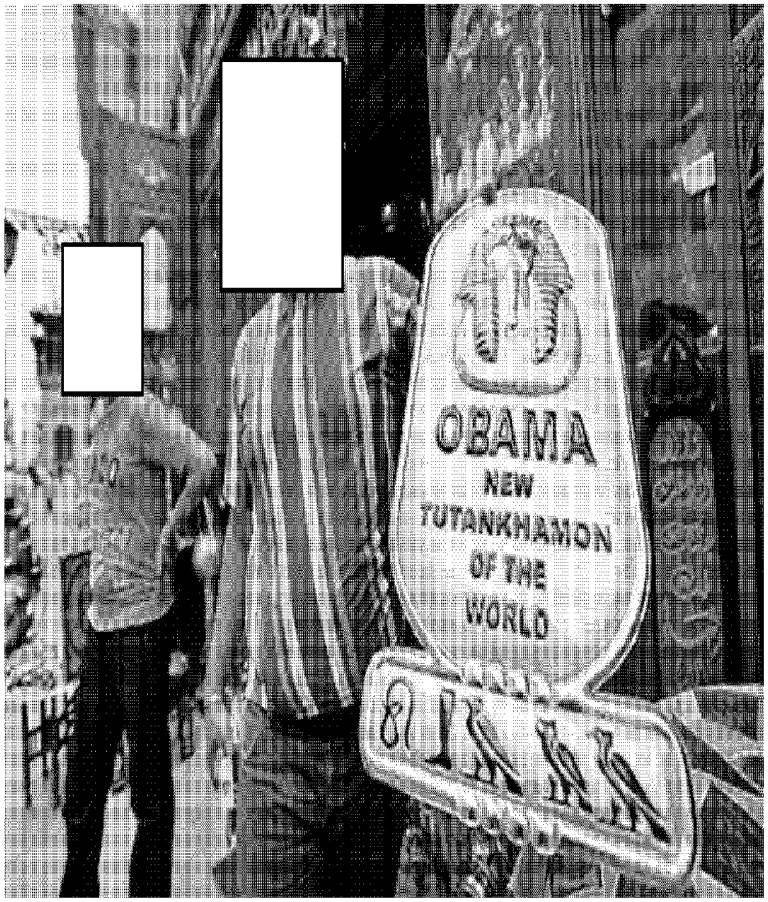
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# United States & the Middle East

After a few weeks of the Obama Administration, how would you describe your attitudes toward the policy in the Middle East?

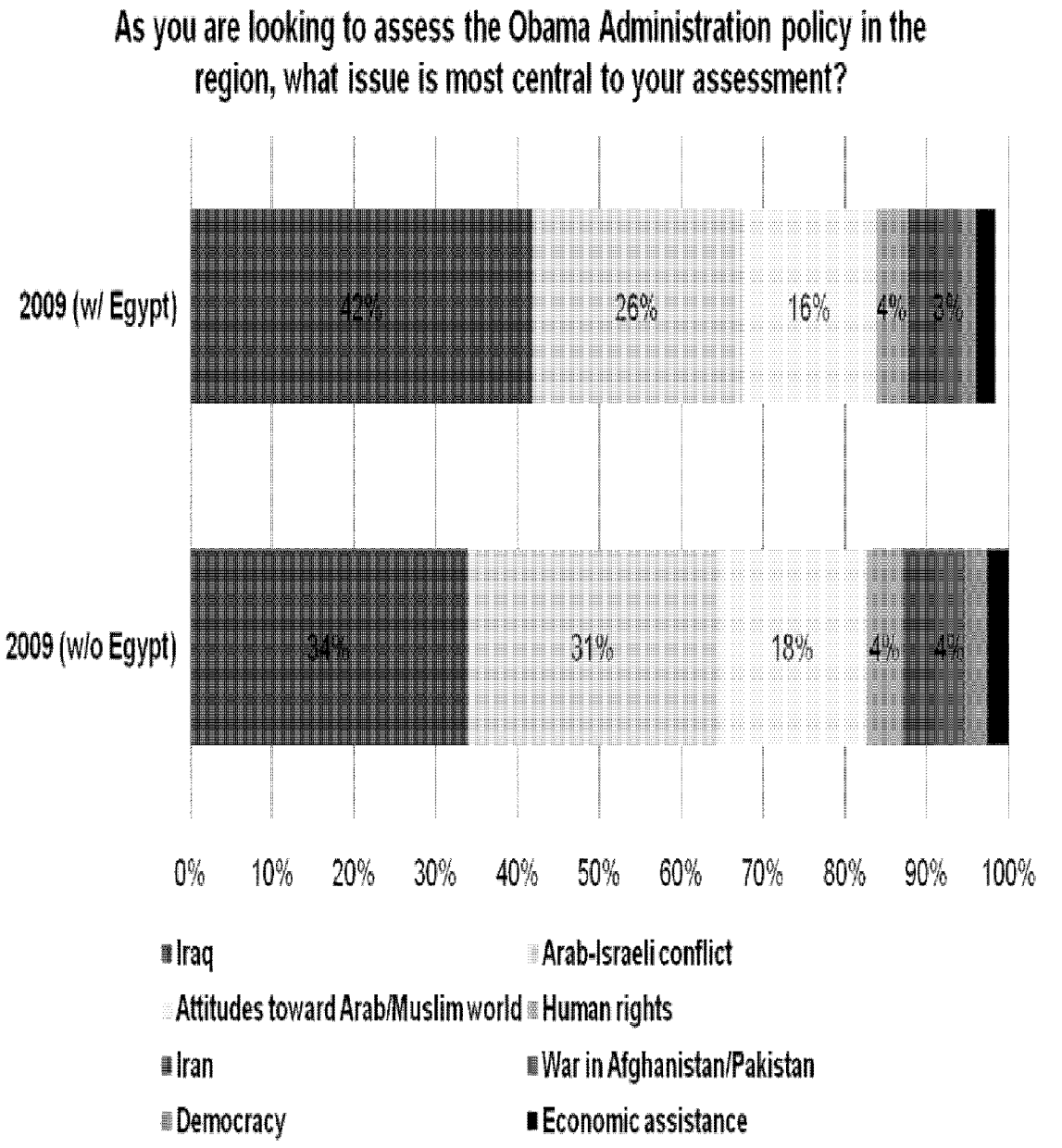


# Obama in Egypt: June/2009

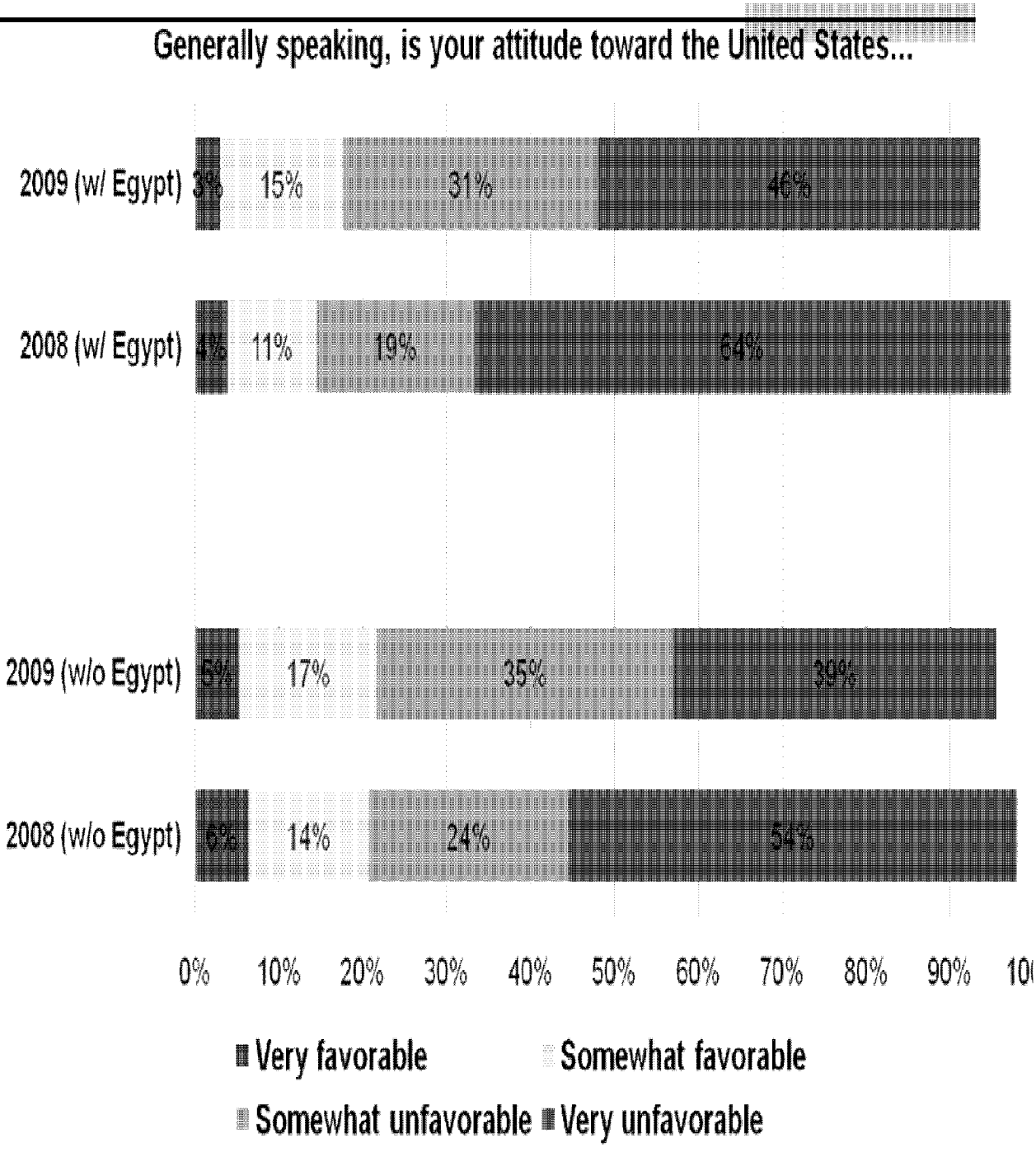



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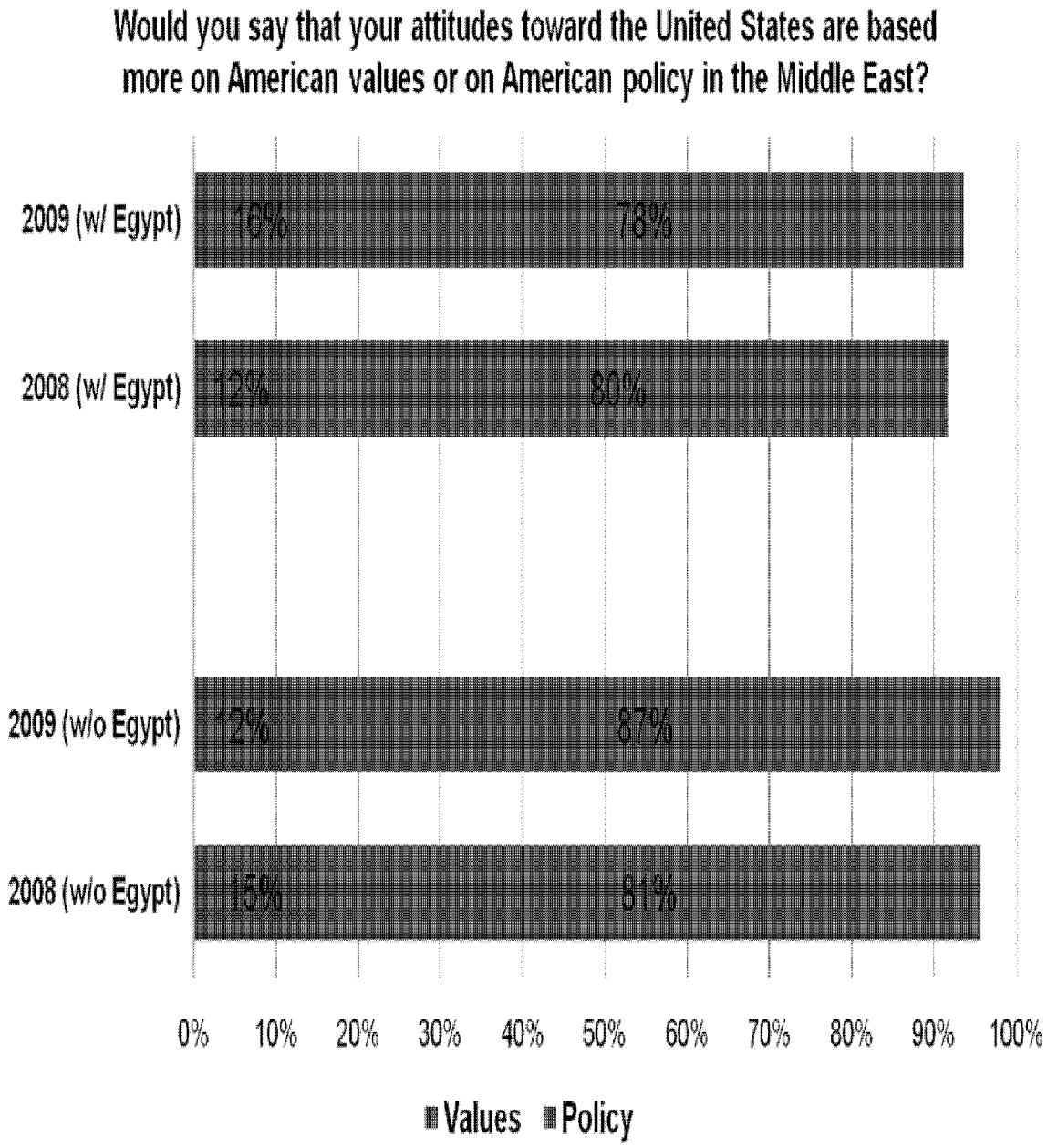
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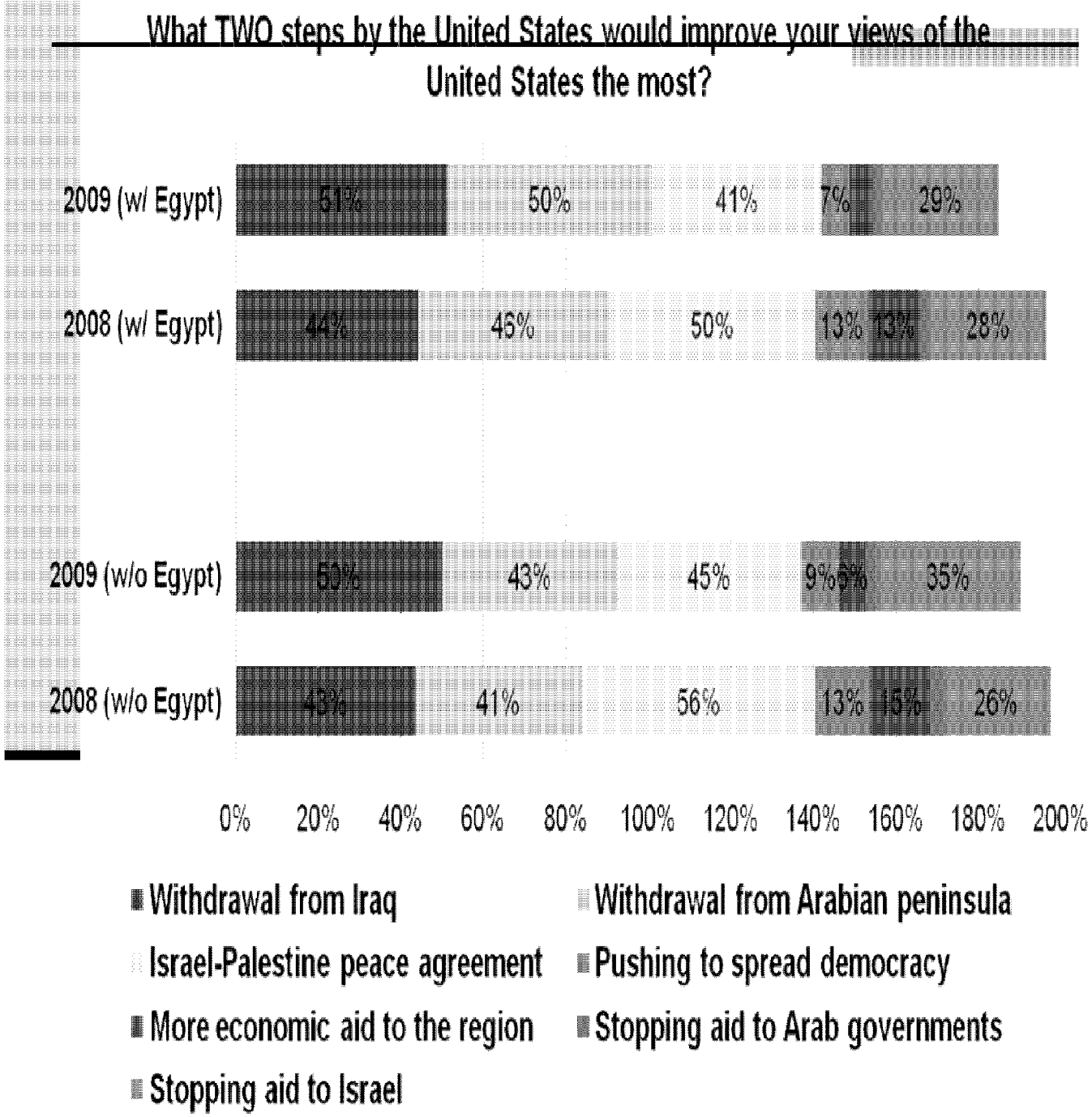
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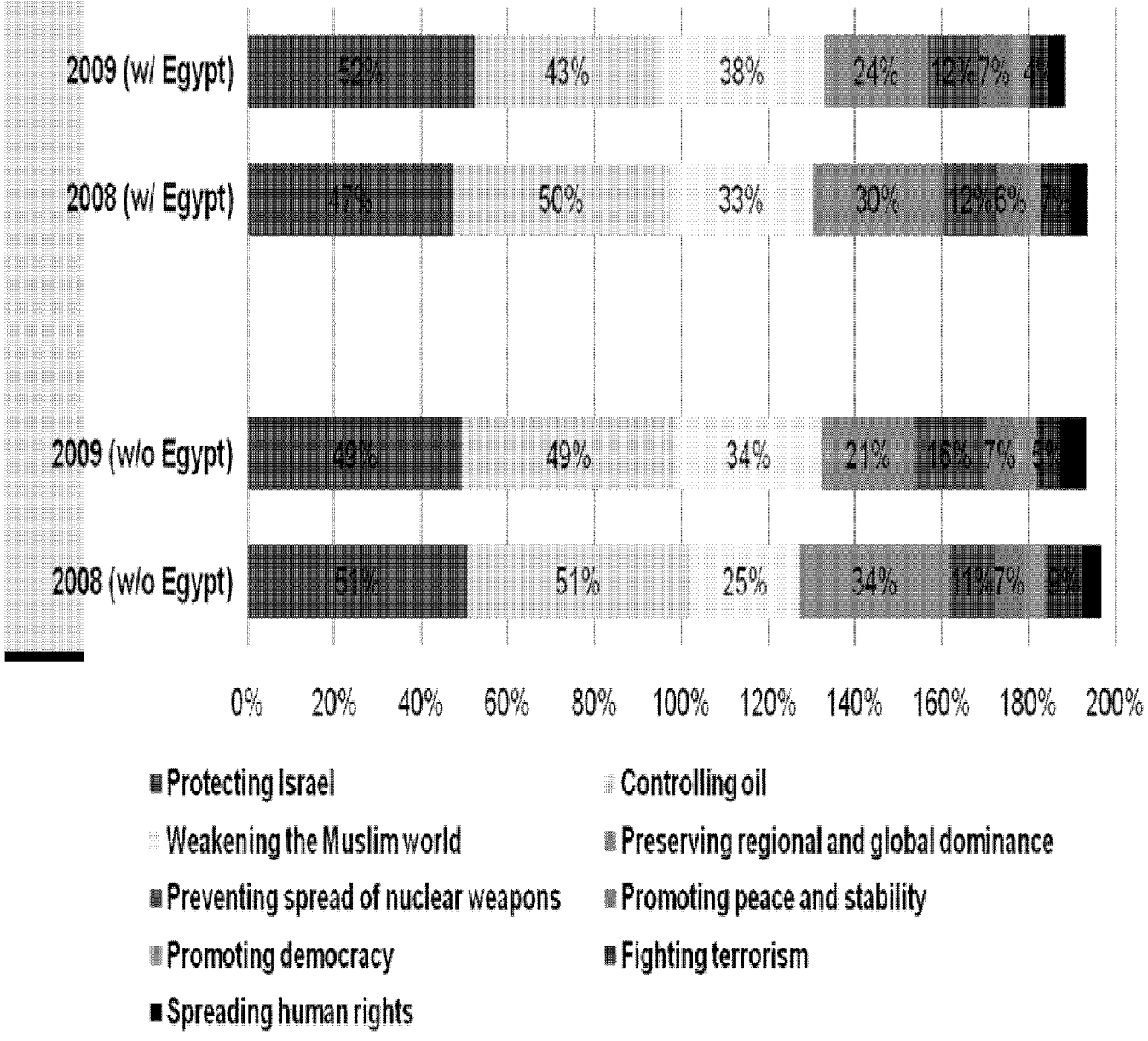


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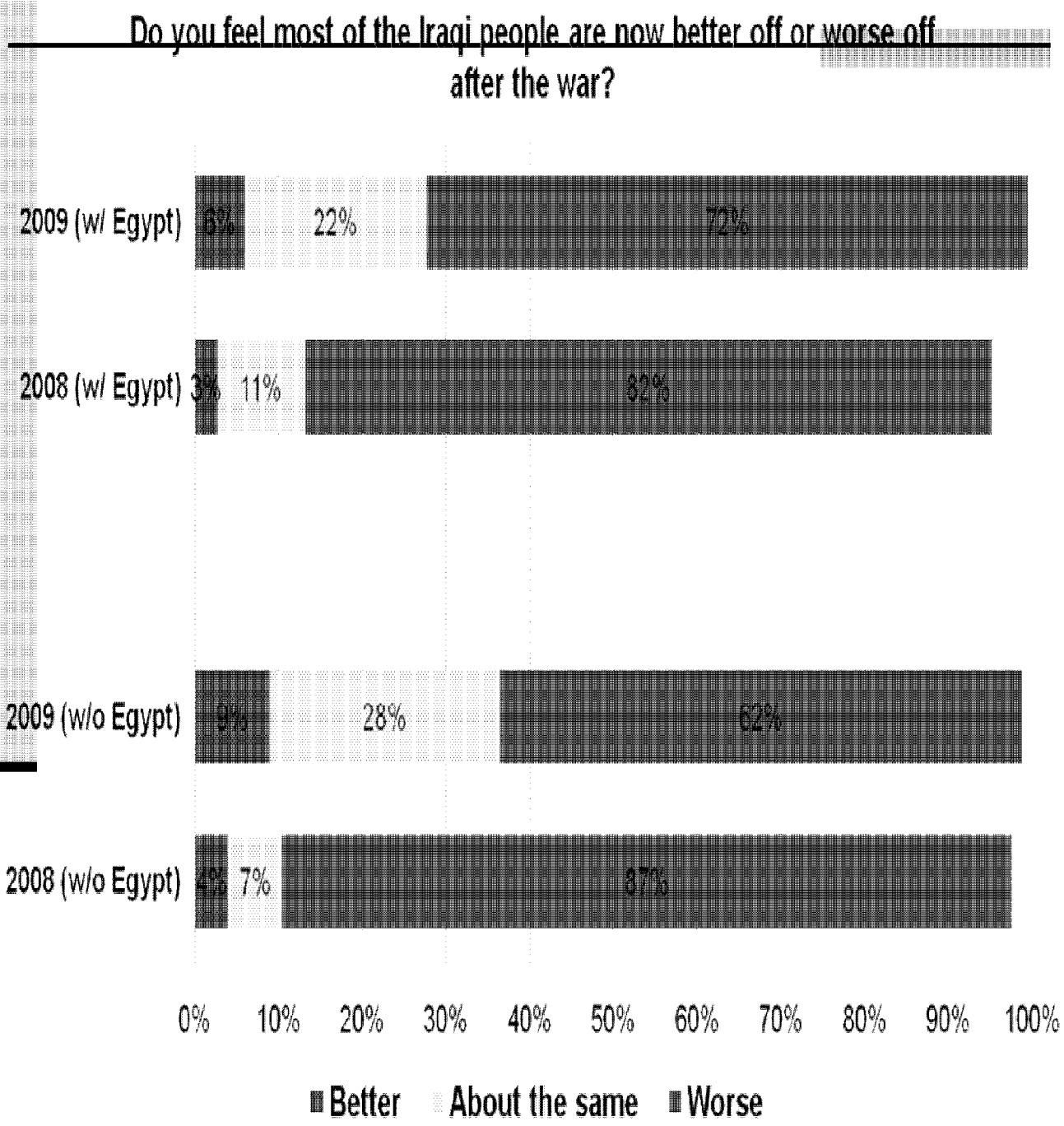


# United States & the Middle East

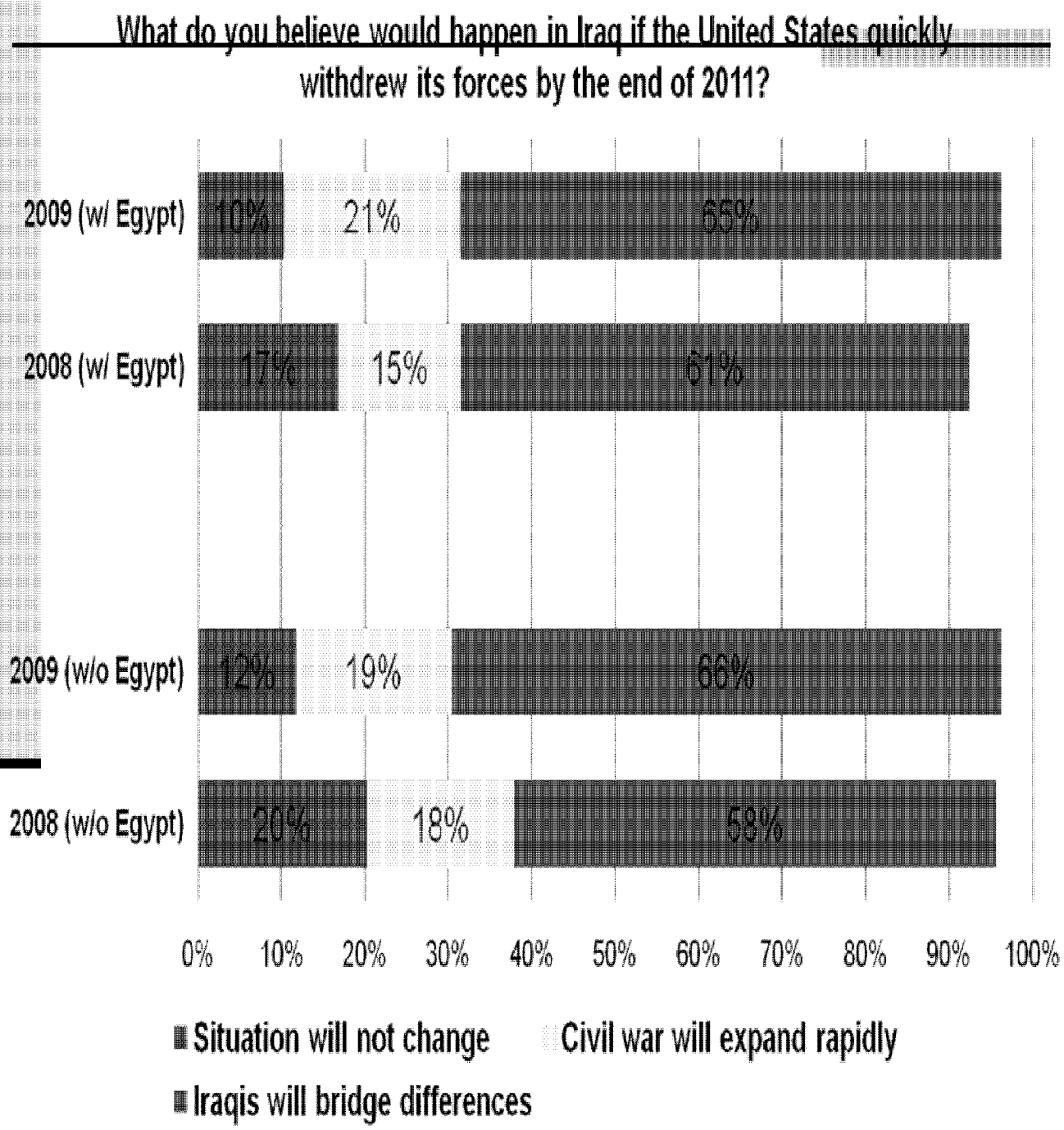
**Which TWO of the following factors do you believe are most important in driving American policy in the Middle East?**



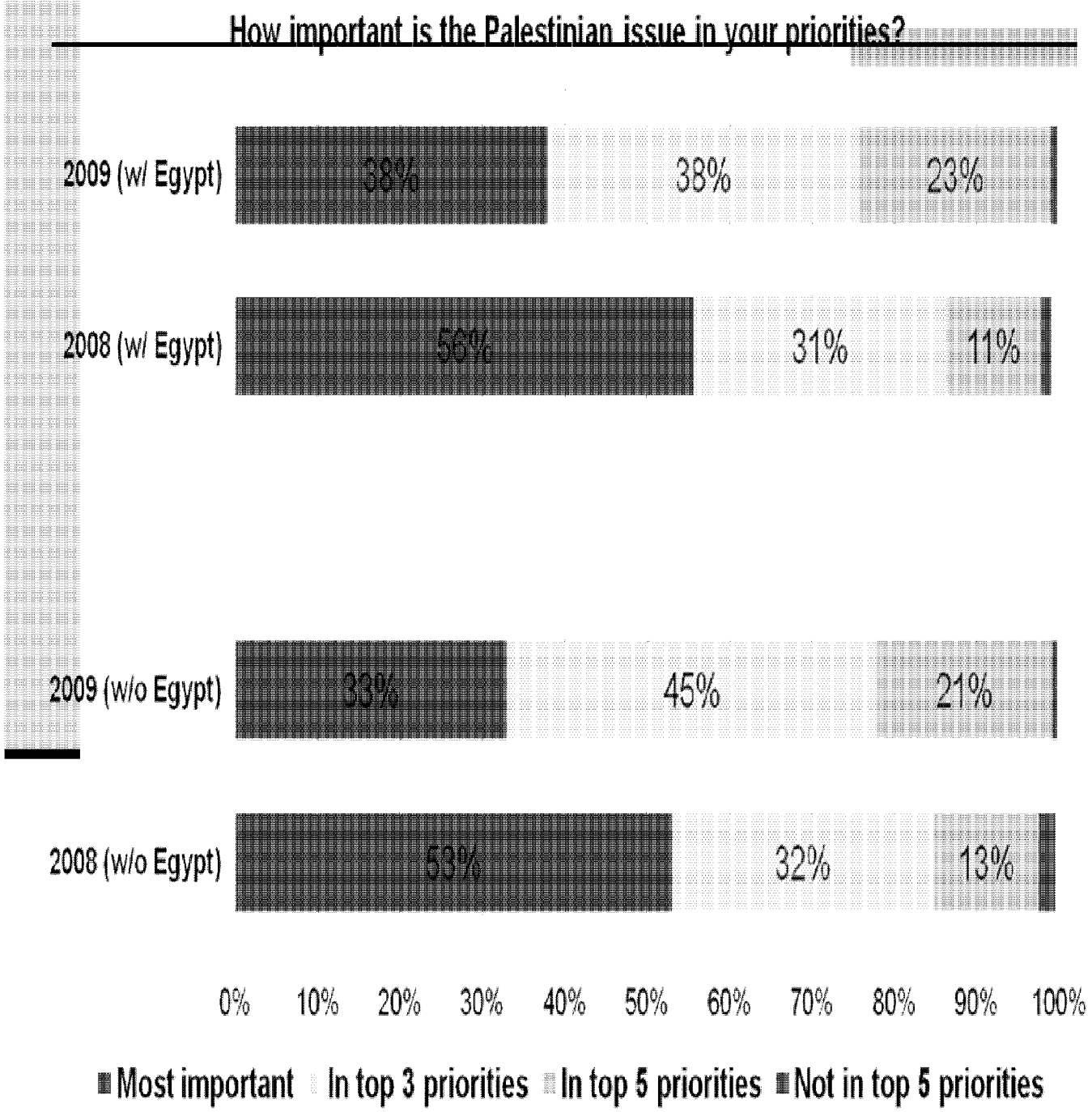
# Iraq


Do you feel most of the Iraqi people are now better off or worse off after the war?
2009 (w/ Egypt)
6%
22%
72%
2008 (w/ Egypt)
3%
11%
82%
2009 (w/o Egypt)
9%
28%
62%
2008 (w/o Egypt)
4%
7%
87%
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
Better
About the same
Worse

# Iraq

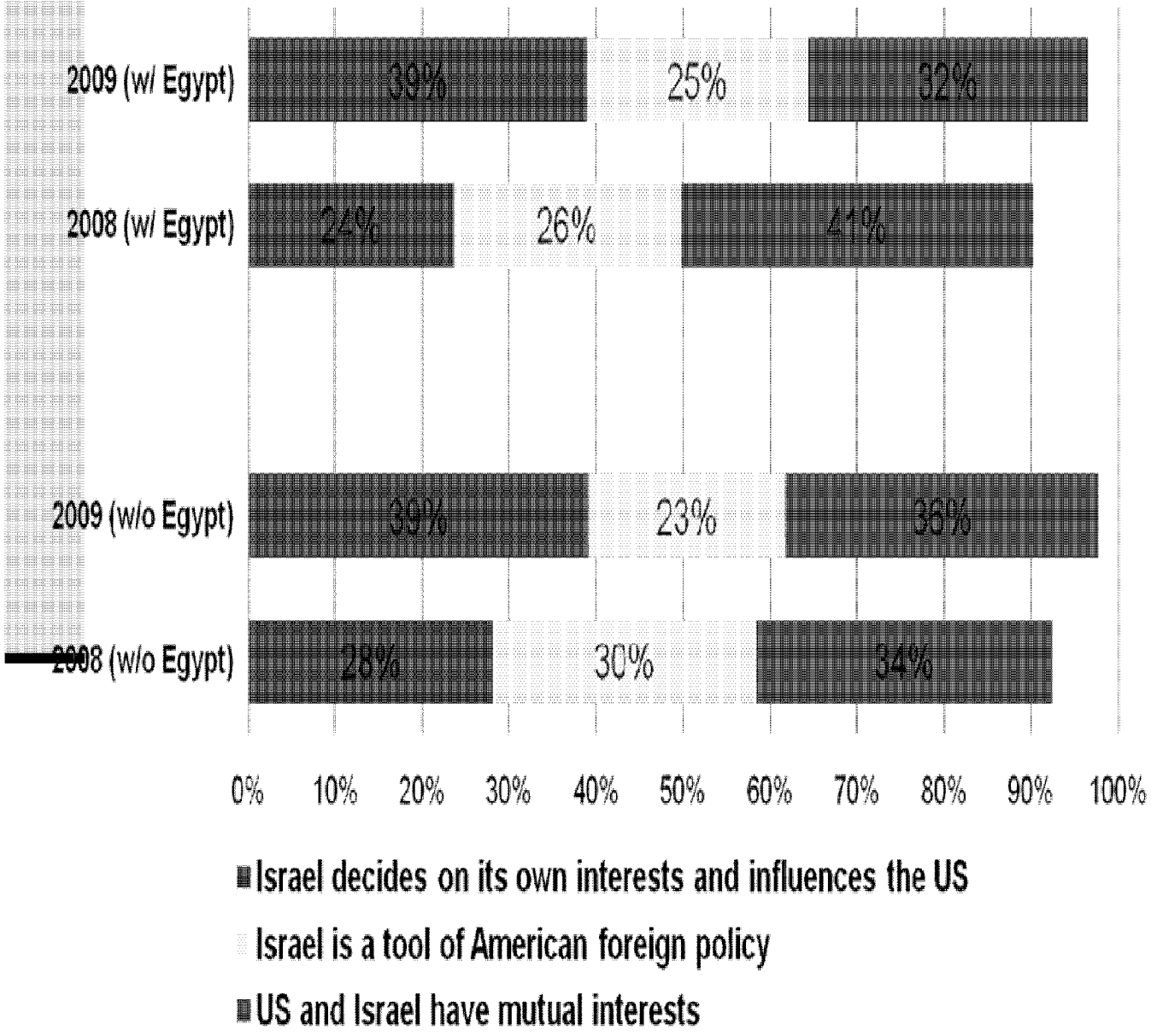

What do you believe would happen in Iraq if the United States quickly withdrew its forces by the end of 2011?
2009 (w/ Egypt)
10%
21%
65%
2008 (w/ Egypt)
17%
15%
61%
2009 (w/o Egypt)
12%
19%
66%
2008 (w/o Egypt)
20%
18%
58%
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
Situation will not change
Civil war will expand rapidly
Iraqis will bridge differences

# The Arab-Israeli Conflict



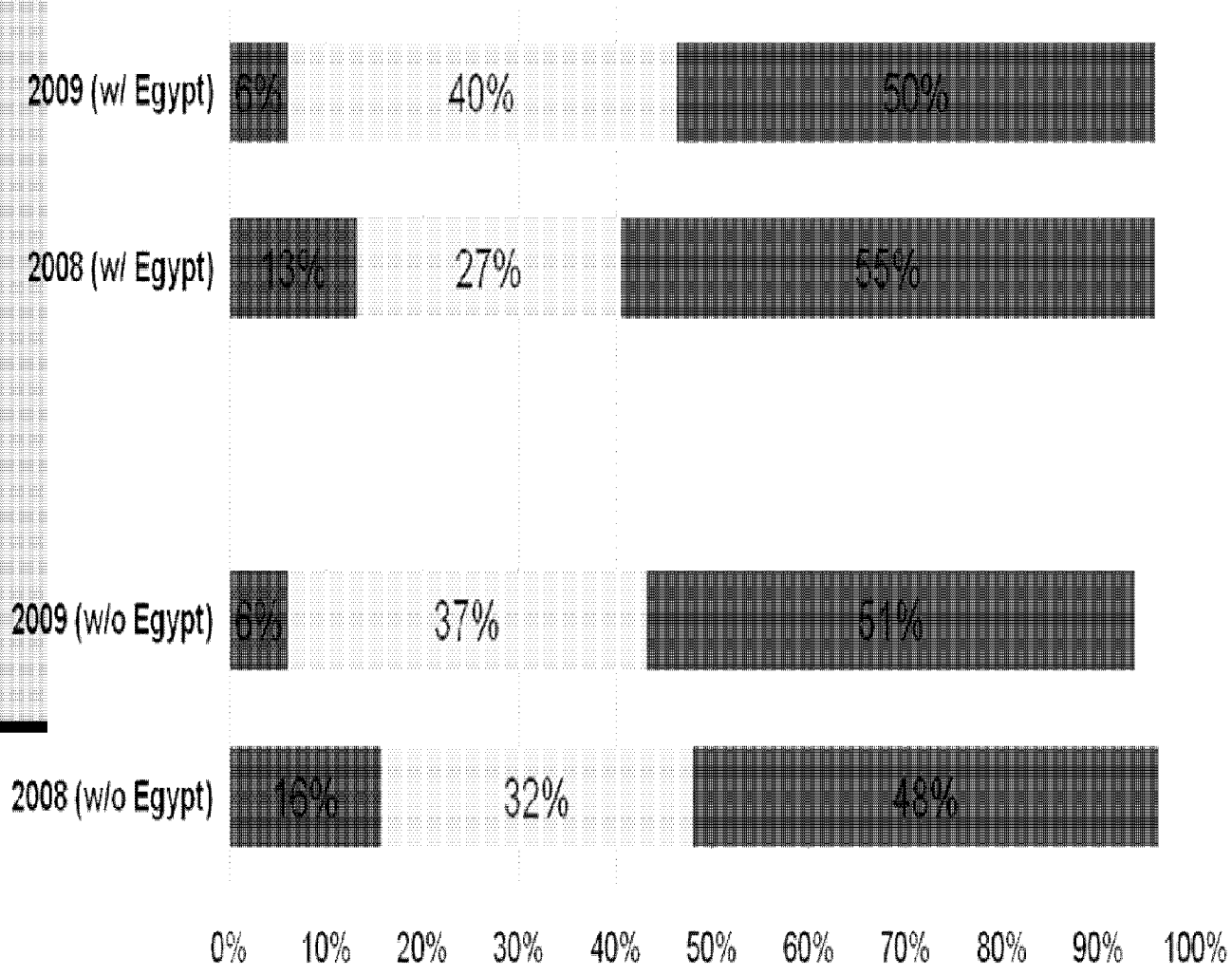
# The Arab-Israeli Conflict

What do you believe motivates Israeli policies in the region and American support for these policies?



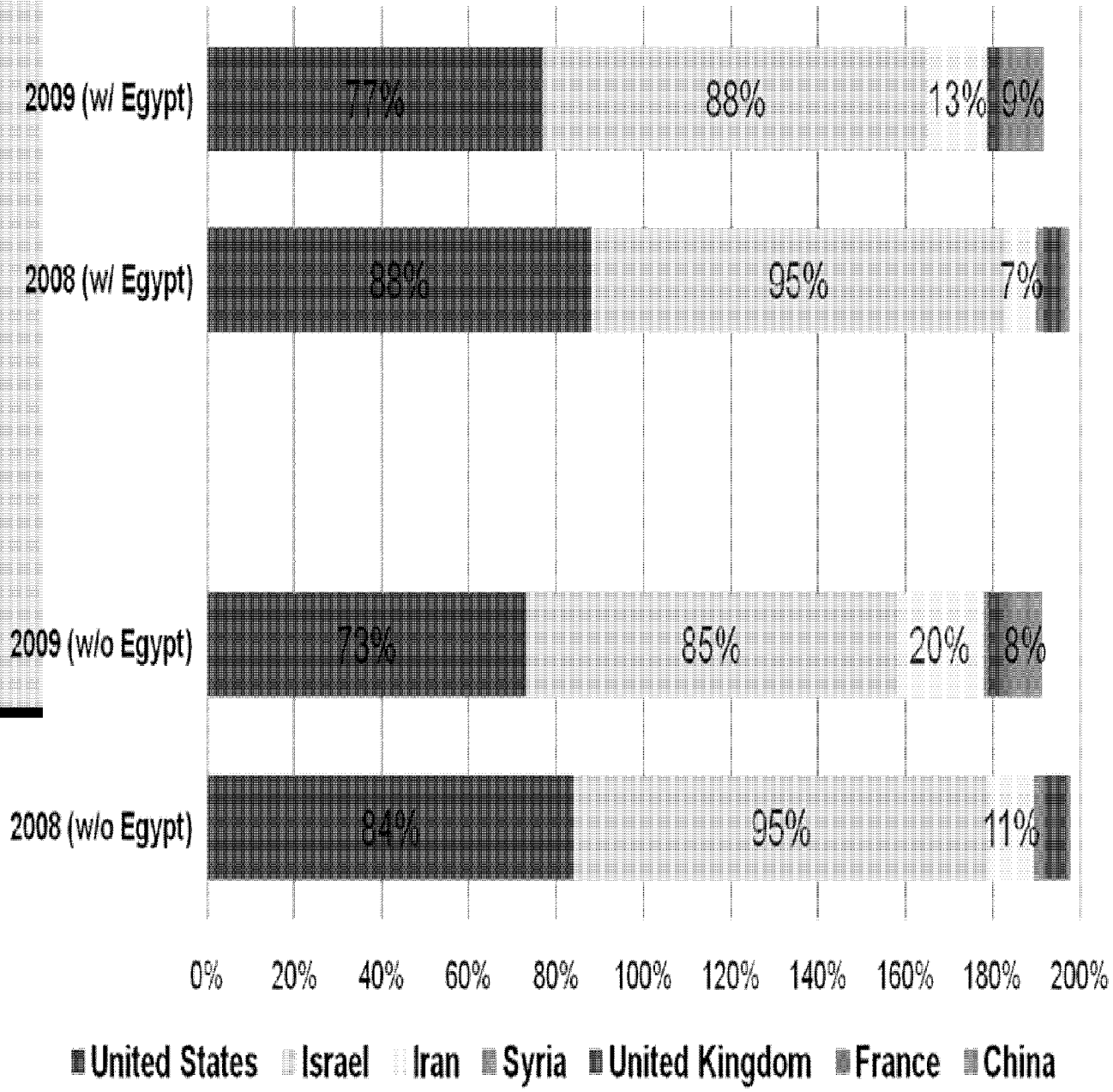
# The Arab-Israeli Conflict

**Which of the following statements is closest to your view about the prospects of lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians?**

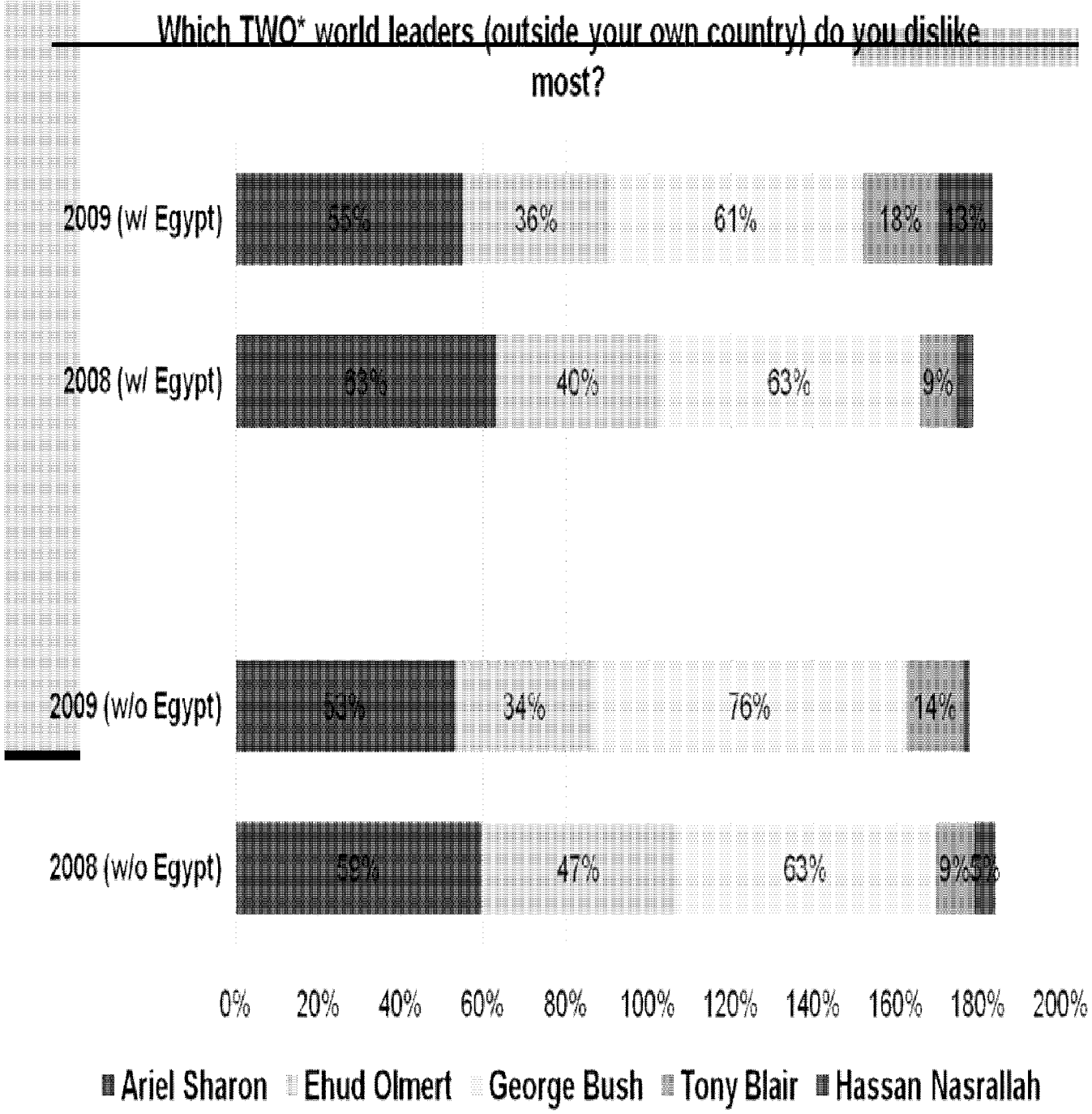


# International Dynamics

Name TWO countries that you think pose the biggest threat to you.

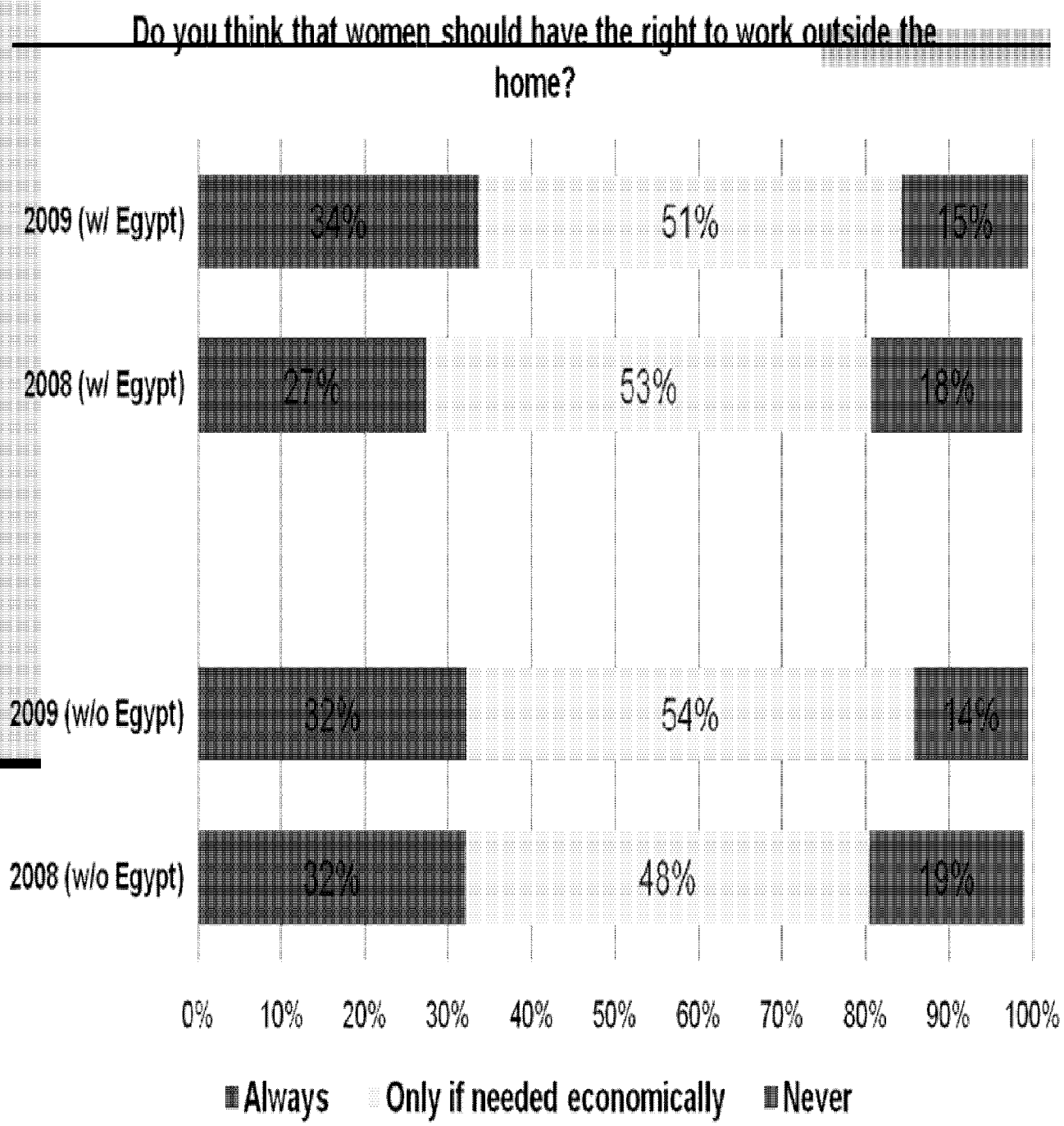


# International Dynamics

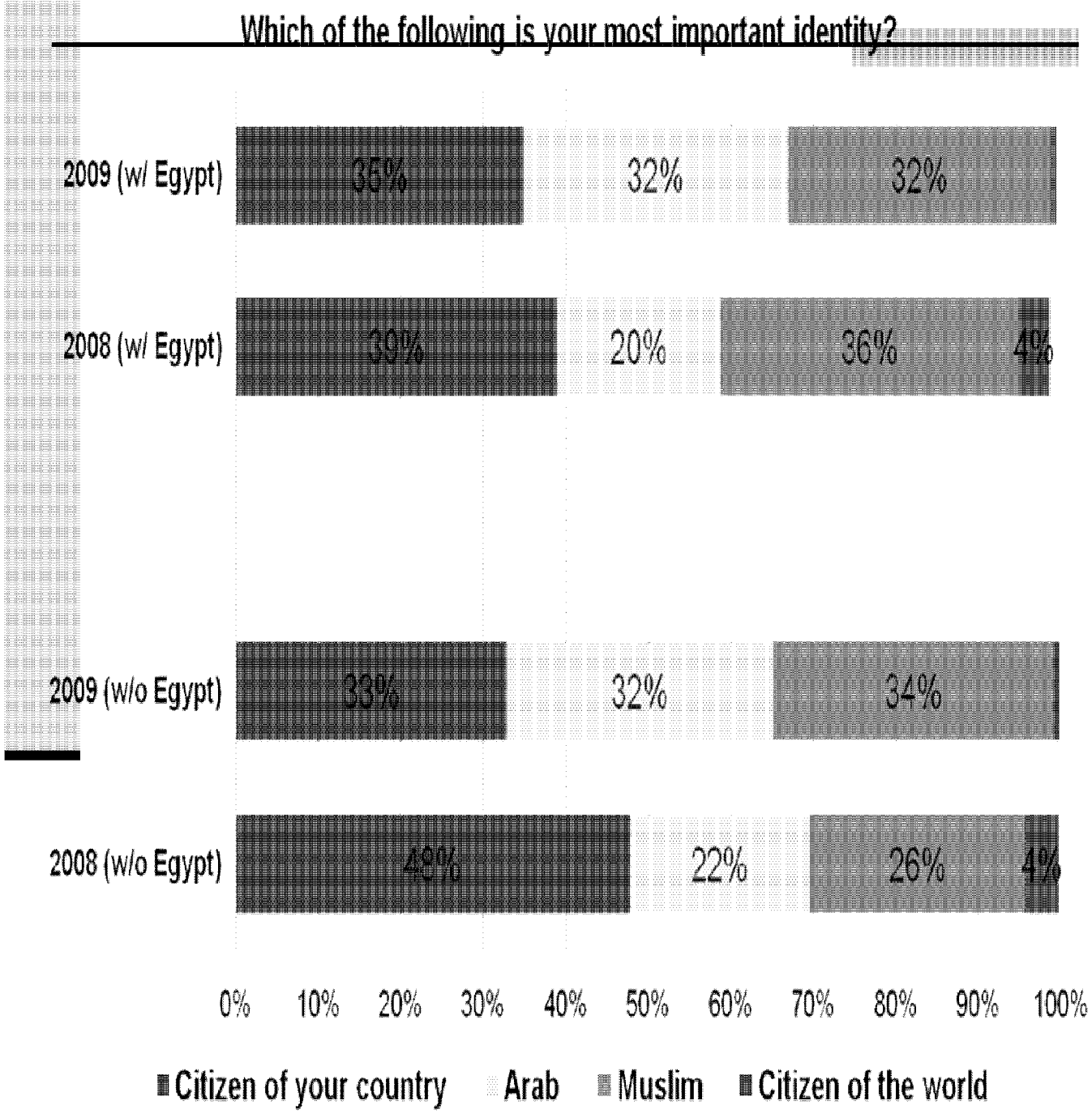



* In 2009 participants were asked who they dislike most and second most; in 2008 participants were asked which two they dislike.

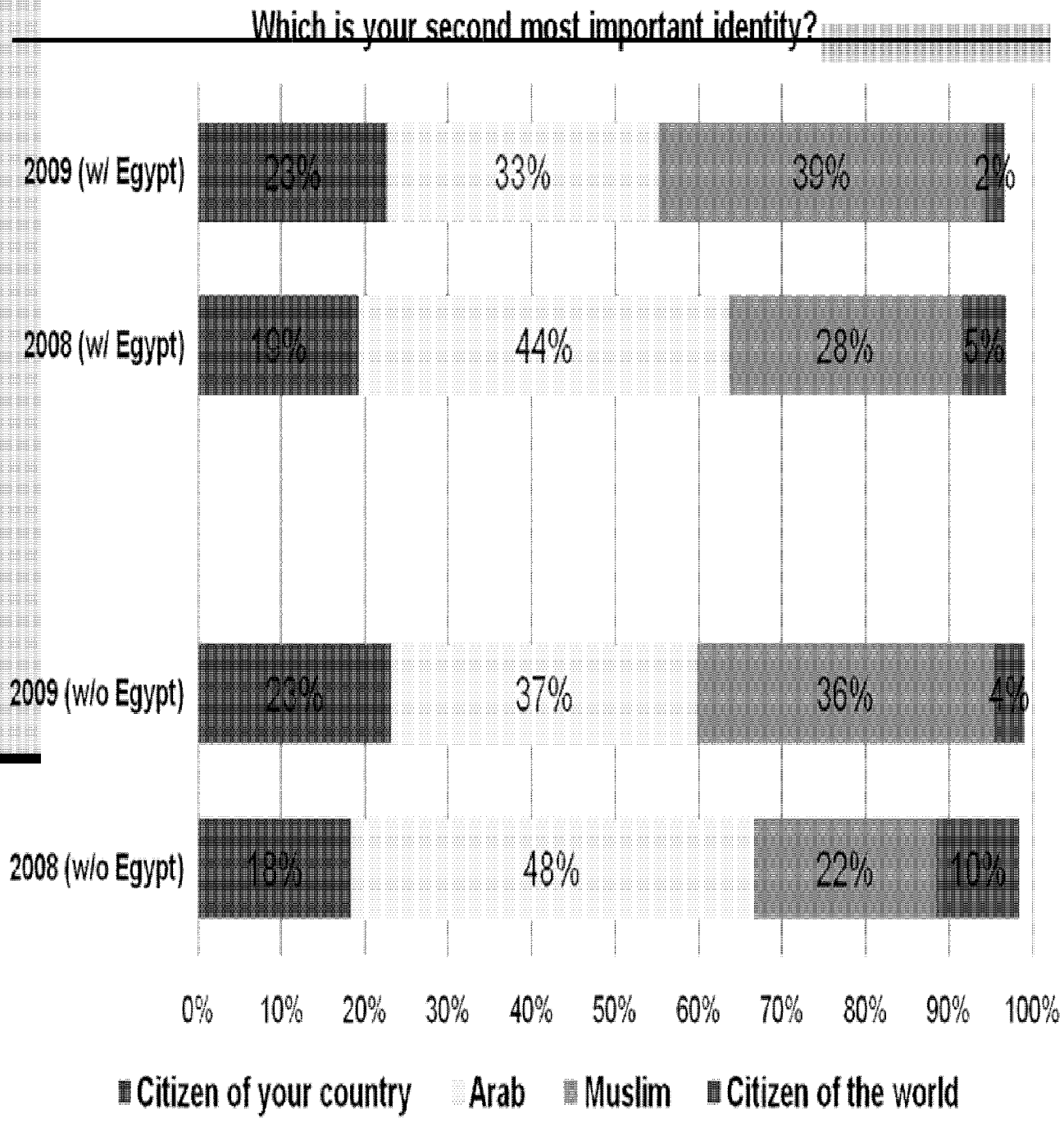
# Women's Rights



# Identity

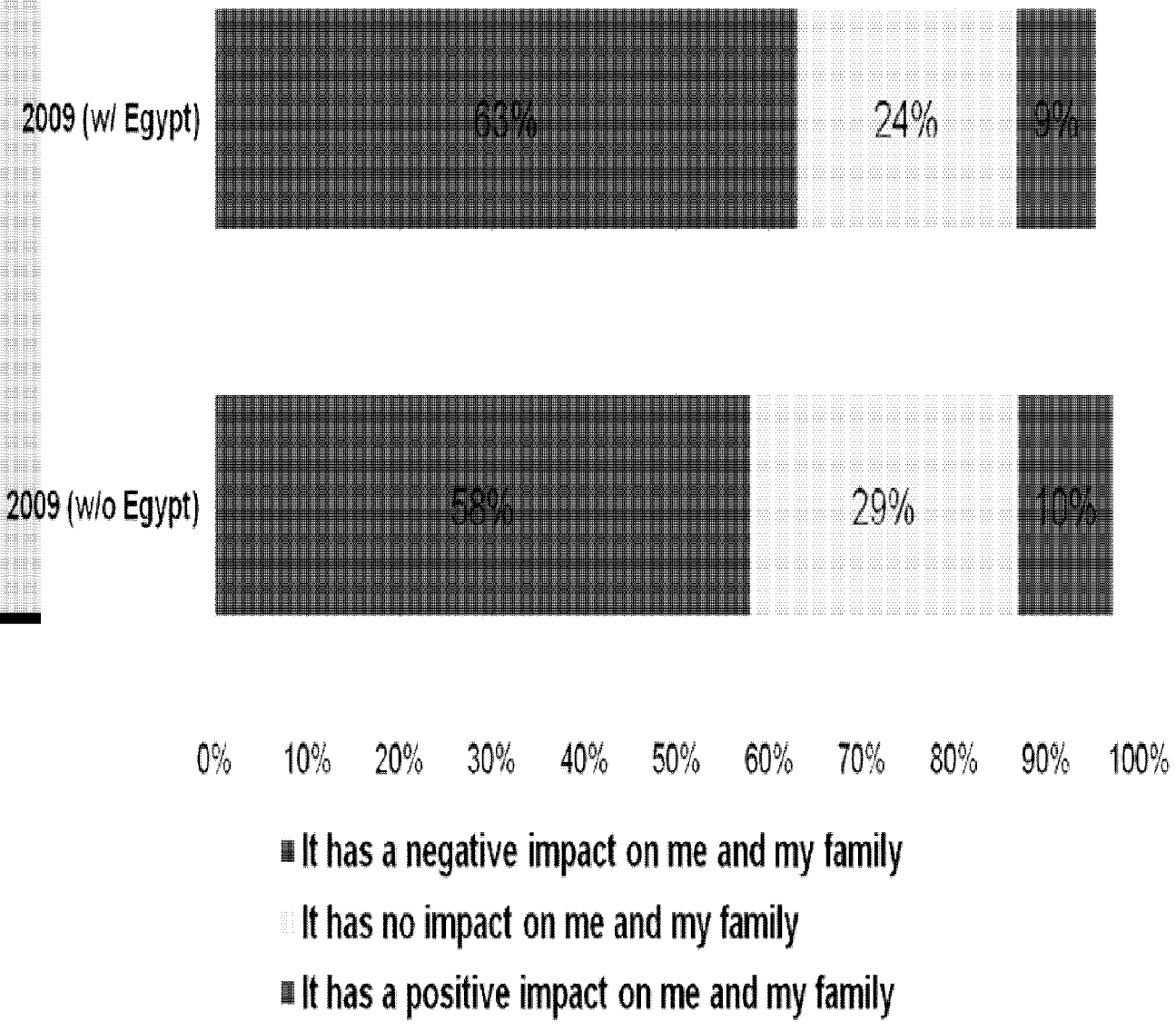

Which of the following is your most important identity?
2009 (w/ Egypt)
35%
32%
32%
2008 (w/ Egypt)
39%
20%
36%
4%
2009 (w/o Egypt)
33%
32%
34%
2008 (w/o Egypt)
40%
22%
26%
4%
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
Citizen of your country
Arab
Muslim
Citizen of the world

# Identity


Which is your second most important identity?
2009 (w/ Egypt)
23%
33%
39%
2%
2008 (w/ Egypt)
19%
44%
28%
5%
2009 (w/o Egypt)
23%
37%
36%
4%
2008 (w/o Egypt)
18%
48%
22%
10%
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%
80%
90%
100%
Citizen of your country
Arab
Muslim
Citizen of the world

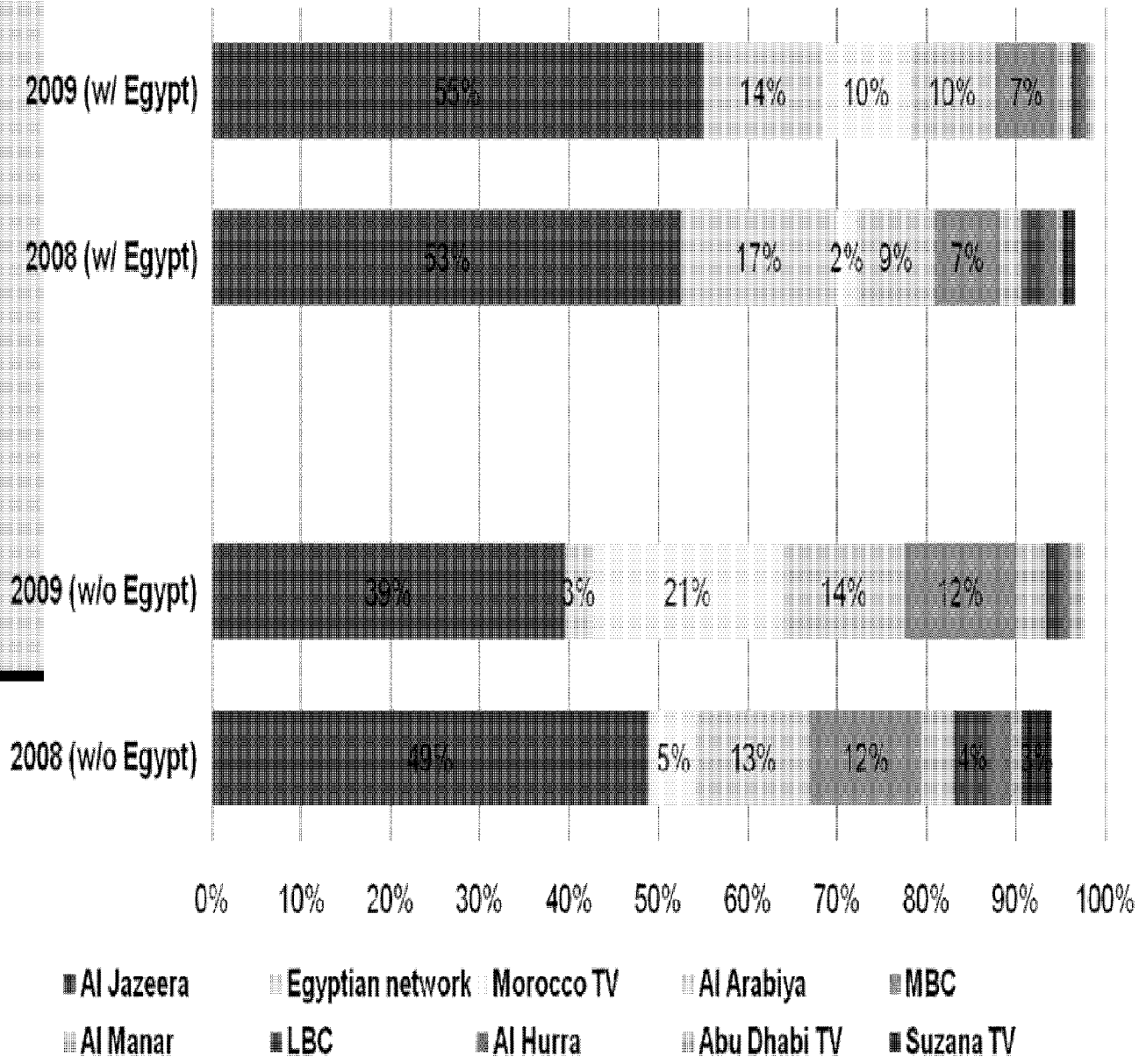
# Economy

When you look at its global impact, which of the following is closer to your views about the weakened American economy?



# Media

When you watch international news, which of the following network's news broadcasts do you watch most often?

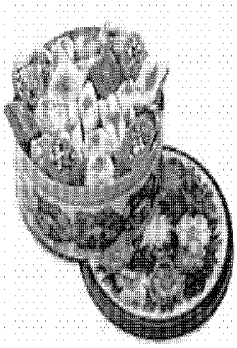


# Gallup Poll Results: How Americans view Muslims

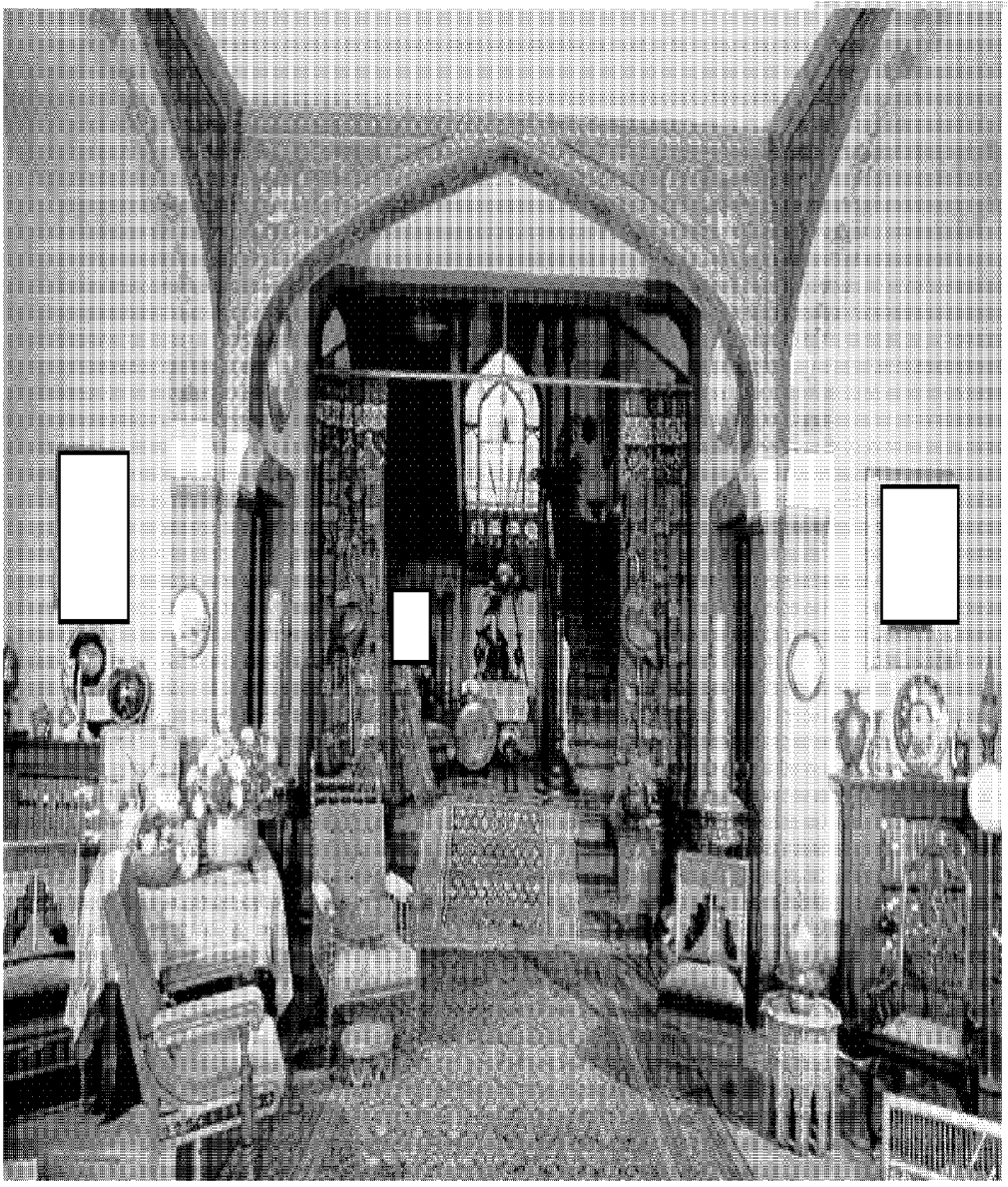
| Americans and Muslims | March/2002 | May 2009 |
|---|---|---|
| | About six months after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack - 82% of Americans said they believed people in Muslim countries had either a very or a somewhat unfavorable view of the United States. | 80% of Americans believe that people in Muslim countries have an unfavorable view of the U.S |
| | 9% of Americans say such attitudes are positive | 13% of Americans say such attitudes are positive |
| | 78 % ascribe it to misinformation | 64% of Americans ascribe much of this negativity toward the U.S. on misinformation from the media and the governments of Muslim countries, rather than on what the U.S. has done |
| **Americans' Views of Muslim Countries** | 41% had unfavorable opinions; 24% favorable | 39% of Americans have an unfavorable opinion of Muslim countries; 21% say their attitudes toward Muslim countries are favorable. |
| **Americans' Knowledge About Muslims** | 46% say they know a great deal | majority of Americans, 53%, say they know a great deal (10%) or a moderate amount (43%) about the opinions and beliefs of people in Muslim countries. |

# The Three-Dimensional Arab-Americans

- Arabs and Arab-Americans have a diverse and detailed culture that includes:
  - A long and deep heritage
  - A deep pride in their language
  - An emphasis on family, faith and education
  - An insistence on hospitality
  - A love of music, dance and literature
  - FOOD!

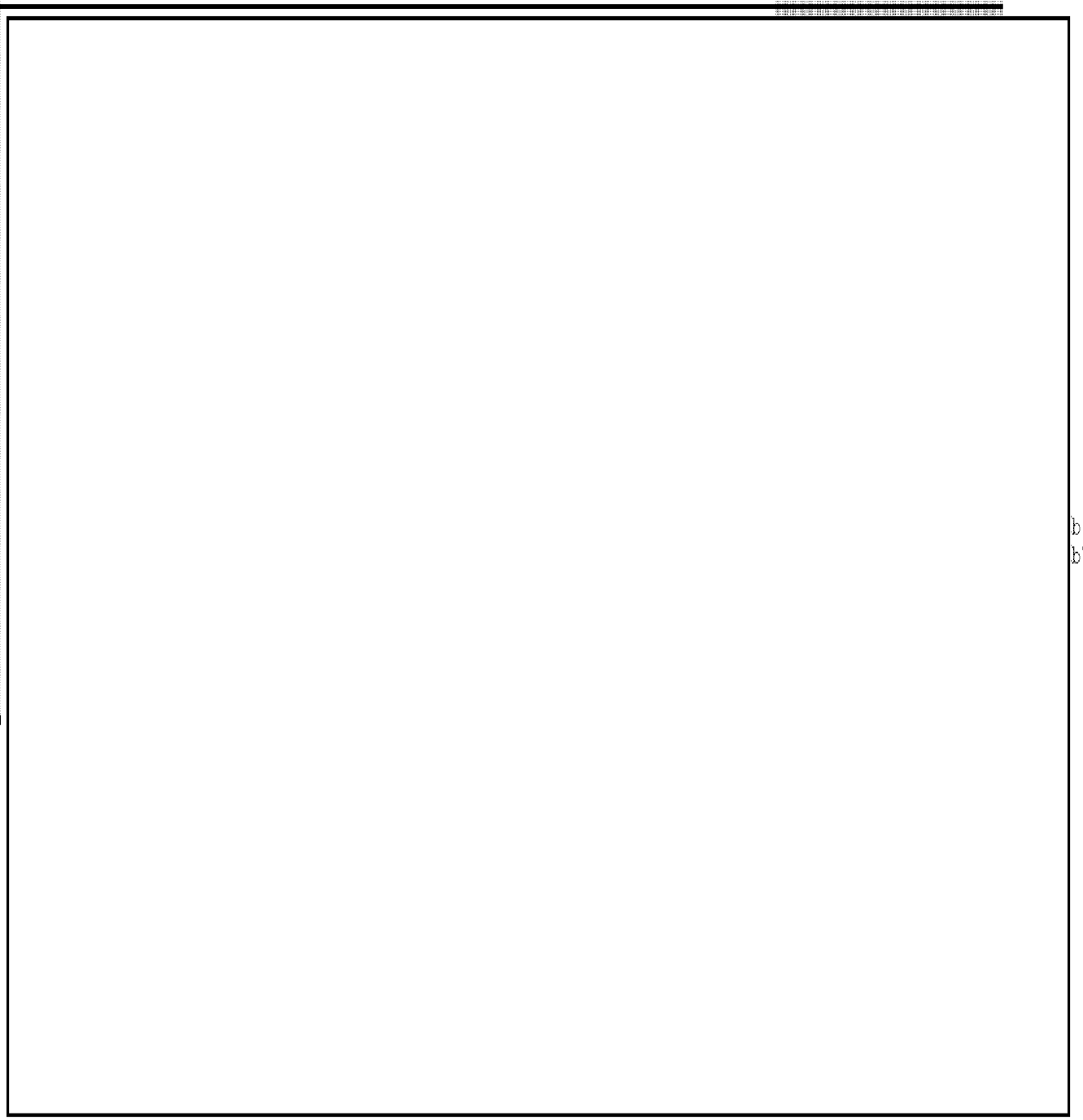


# Arab home



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b7C

# MY house in Sudan ☺



b6
b7C

# The Arab Home

- The consumption of spaces and places within our homes is expressive of culture.
- Home is considered as 'private', a woman's space.
- The roles of body modesty and clothing are major elements in articulating 'forbidden' & 'permitted' space.
- There is an inclination to formally or informally designate spaces and boundaries defining personal space, spaces for close kin, and spaces where gender-segregated friends, neighbors, and strangers can meet within the home.
- The Middle Eastern sense of what is totally private is more absolute, due largely to the moral concerns of Islam. Within Arab Muslim homes, there is a sharper distinction between men's and women's spaces as well as transitional spaces in moving from one to another. Compared to the West there is also a sharper distinction in these homes between public and private space, often with high exterior perimeter walls and inward facing rooms.
- While there are also gendered areas within Western households, the study found sharper and more formally drawn boundaries within the present study in Qatar. The basis for these differences are cultural and do not arise from prescriptions within Islam, although there is disagreement on this point.

# The Arab: Pride in the Past

Some of the contributions of Arabs to civilization

- Mathematics
- Concept of Zero
- Decimal system
- Algebra

- Astronomy
- Invented astrolabe, device used to chart precise timing of sunrise and sunset

- Architecture:
- Numerous grand mosques
- Engineering:
- Invented the water wheel
- Invented an irrigation system

- Music:
- Harp, lyre & tambourine were developed in early Arab civilization

# Features of Arab culture

- Arabs come from three distinct cultures: village, city and nomadic.
- Although all three cultures share many traditions, most come from city or village backgrounds.

# Common values among city & village

1. Arabic culture is very religious.
2. Great dependency on God.
3. Duty-bound society.
4. Socially, politically & economically conservative.
5. Patriarchal: It is a male centered society.
6. Patrilineal: The line of the father's name is passed on to his off springs to ensure connections to the ancestors & keep the family tree alive.
7. Patrilocal: Newly wed couple often join the groom's family residence.
8. Exogamy/Endogamy: Islam encourages marriage outside culture (exogamy), Arab culture encourages & prefers marriage within the family (endogamy).
9. Monogamy/Polygamy: Polygamy (having more than one wife at the same time) was widely practiced in pre-Islamic eras.

# Family structure

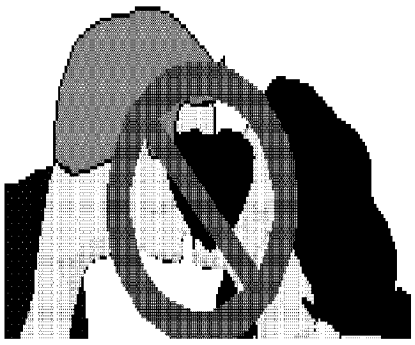
- **If Quran is the soul of Islam, then family can be described as the body .**
- Loyalty to family or surname influences all aspects of family life and society.
- Family is more important than the individual and more influential than nationality. People draw much of their identity from their role in the family.
- In Arab families, gender and age plays a big role in specifying responsibilities.
- In the past, most major family decisions were made by the father, but recently some of these decisions are made jointly by both the father and the mother.

# Arab Perspective Vs Western Perspective

| Arab Perspective Vs Western Perspective | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Arab | Western/US |
| Family | is center of everything | Important but not as central to individual |
| Friends | Friends: Periphery but courteous to all | Core to some, important to most |
| "Honor" | It is very important & is to be protected/defended at all cost | Typically not as important |
| "Shame" | (esp. against family) avoided at all costs. Criticism & insults taken seriously | Typically not as important |
| Time | Less rigid. Approach to time is much more relaxed and slowed than in the West | Very structured & deadlines must be met |
| Religion | Central to all things | Varies by individual; very personal; not discussed in polite conversations |
| Society | Family/tribe is most important | Individual rights |
| Government | Most are secular but still emphasize religion | Purpose is to protect rights & improve standard of living |
| Values | Age & wisdom honored | Youth & beauty praised |

# Conservative behavior

- In public, Arabs behave conservatively. Public display of affection between spouses is almost nonexistent.
- You will also notice that laughter and joking in public is toned down, which is not the case in private gatherings.
- Arguments between spouses, friends, and people in general are also kept private or conducted in a way that guarantees no one else is aware of it.
- Issues between spouses are kept very private especially from their kids. Spousal problems are rarely shared with others even close friends.
- In public, acting and appearing in a manner that may attract attention be it via loud talking, out of the ordinary clothes, hairstyles, etc; is looked upon as a sign of imbalance in behavior and character.



# Body language and Greetings

- Both are significant in Arab cultures.
- The body language is distinctly different and must be learned to effectively reinforce the intended message, and perhaps more importantly to not give unintended insults.
- Extend your right hand ONLY at the beginning of the greeting and at the end of the visit. Shake hands a bit longer but less firmly than we do in the West.
- Non-Arabs should try to limit physical contact to a handshake.
- Most Arabs do not share the American concept of personal space. In conversation they tend to talk in your face; it is considered offensive to step or lean away.

# Greeting women

- In all cases, make sure that there is enough personal space between you and any woman around you; be it while walking, standing somewhere, or even when talking.
- **Don't compliment your Arab host/associate on the beauty of his wife or sister or daughter (it's not a compliment).**

# Hygiene/Food

- Personal Hygiene is extremely important for both spiritually and practical reasons.
  - Meals are frequently eaten by hand; hands are washed before and after eating.
  - Formal washing of the face, hands and forearms is required before daily prayers or fasting
- Arabs are restricted from eating pork.
- Alcohol is forbidden. If invited to the home of an Arab family, it is considered rude to decline the offer of a drink (tea and Arabic coffee) is offered as an expression of friendship.
- Accept the beverage with the RIGHT HAND ONLY! When eating, drinking, offering, or passing use the right hand only! The LEFT HAND is considered UNCLEAN.. Avoid discussions on political issues, religion, alcohol and male-female relations over dinner or tea.

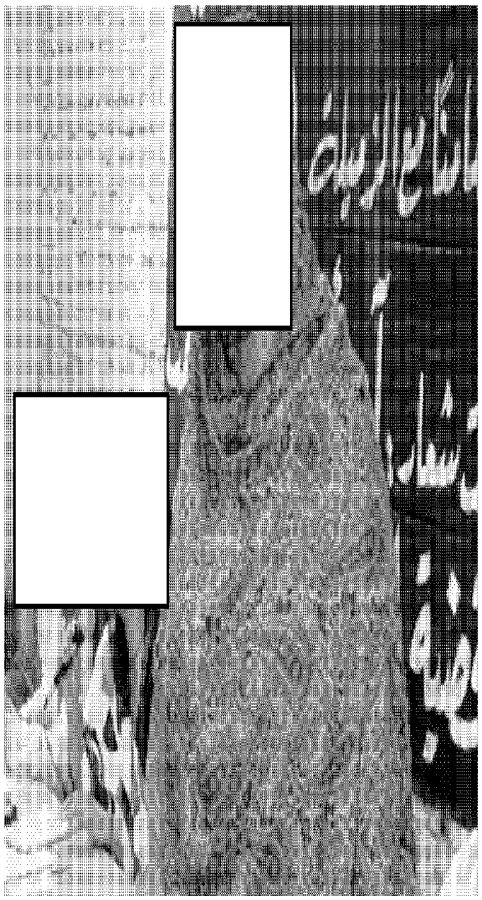
# Important Do's and Dont's for non-Arabs to consider

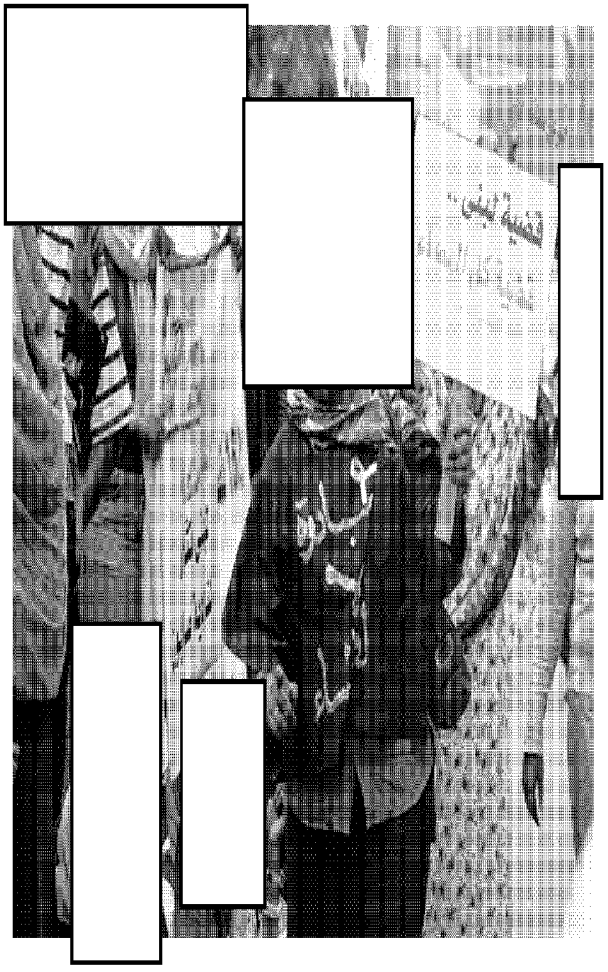
| Do's | Don'ts |
|---|---|
| 1. Talk about football, children and food. | 1. Talk about sex, Israel or religion (at least be sensitive when talking about religion). Note that people may bring up one of these subjects - this may, in rare cases, be an attempt to trap you into saying something you shouldn't.<br><br>Do not ever, ever say anything negative about Mohammed, or name inanimate objects such as teddy bears after him. |
| 2. Feel happy to say you are Christian, if you are a Christian: you are, after all, people of the Book. | 2. Say you are an atheist. It's just not worth it unless you want to be deluged with a constant supply of pamphlets from worried Muslims anxious to save your soul. |
| 3. Women should feel free to leave their hair uncovered; wear shorts (but not too short), t-shirts etc | 3. Don't expose your stomach, your thighs or wear tight clothing that shows off your body. |
| 5. Be warm and friendly, and take your time over your greetings - show a personal interest in the person you are dealing with, and that you care about them. | 5. Don't be cold/brusque. There is no surer way to make people dislike you/complain about you. Don't get straight down to business - take your time to get to know people and you will more likely get better results |
| 7. Do talk to women when it is part of business, when you work with them, when they initiate an acceptable topic of conversation. | 7. Don't initiate a private conversation with a Muslim women. Do not offer to meet a Muslim woman in a private place. Do not initiate a handshake with a person of the opposite sex.<br><br>Do not ask a man what his wife's name is. Try asking a man how his family is rather than how his wife is. |

# Important Do's and Don'ts for non-Arabs to consider (contd.)

| | |
|---|---|
| 8. Do expect huge variations in what individual Arabs feel is acceptable, based both on personality, education (at home or abroad), experience, family and nationality. | 8. Don't expect all Arabs to be the same. |
| 10. Ask if you can take a photograph. While in general you shouldn't take a photograph of a woman, there are circumstances when it seems to be acceptable, and women who do not mind. An example might be of a women demonstrating traditional activities at the Heritage Village. | 10. Take pictures without asking permission first. Don't even stare at women. Do not photograph official buildings without permission [if you are in Arab country] |
| 11. Do shake the hand of people of the same sex. | 11. Point with the soles of your feet or shoes at an Arab; don't put your feet up on your desk. Don't be surprised if you receive a kiss on the cheek from an Arab man. |
| 12. Do expect people to be late. Do interpret 5 minutes as 10, 10 as 20 and so on. | 12. Do not out rightly criticize people, or call them a failure. Try to be tactful rather than direct. |
| 13. Understand that there is a social caste system. This is not an egalitarian society, and people have status according to a whole host of factors including race, family, education and so on. | Do not be surprised that some people would consider their title/status to be important |
| 14. Do expect to make friends. This may be a very different society, but people can be warm and caring. Just not when they are in their cars! | 14. Do avoid being overly intimate with your spouse in public. |

# Don’ts I am fortunate not to deal with





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# President Obama's speech in Cairo University, June 2009



# Questions



# For More Information: Websites

- Saudi Aramco World– Free subscriptions
  www.saudiaramcoworld.com
- Family languages of the world:
  http://www.ship.edu/~cgboeree/languagefamilies.html
- Arab-Americans:
  http://www.aaiusa.org/
- Arab Nationalism: Mistaken Identity (The rise and fall of Arab Nationalism:
  http://www.geocities.com/martinkramerorg/ArabNationalism.htm
- American-Arab Anti Discrimination Committee
  http://www.adc.org
- Audio recordings in different Arabic accents (kol-lahjah).
  www.kol-lahjah.com/en/
- http://www.muslimwestfacts.com
  A study/report on Muslim Americans/March 2009
- http://www.americanarab.com/
- www.tolerance.org
- Lawrence Wright www.lawrencewright.com

From our own Intranet:

- [redacted]

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# BOOKS & References


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- Elizabeth Bosahda.*Arab-American Faces and Voices: The Origins of an Immigrant Community.*
- We the People of Arab Ancestry in the United States.
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- The Arab World, Bill Moyers. A five-part PBS series about Arabs. 1991

## A list of some words with their Arabic origins and meanings.

*Note: that "al" is the Arabic word for "the"*

- 1. Admiral = amir al (ruler of; originally "amir al-bahr," ruler of the sea)
  2. Alchemy = alkimia (from Greek "chemia," a pouring together)
  3. Alcohol = al kohl (powder of antimony, used to color the eyebrows)
  4. Alcove = al-qobbah (vault, arch, dome)
  5. Aldebaran = al-debaran ("the following," from debar, "to follow"; a star in the constellation Taurus)
  6. Alembic = alanbiq (a chemical apparatus formerly used in distillation, from Persian "ambiq," a still, and Greek, "ambix," a cup of a still)
  7. Alfalfa = al-fac, facah (the best fodder)
  8. Algebra = al-jabr (the reunion of broken parts, from "jabara," to reunite, bind together)
- 9. Alkali = al-qaliy, (ashes of the plant saltwort, from "qalay," to roast in a pan)
  10. Almanac = almanakh (calendar)
  11. Amber = 'anbar (ambergris)
  12. Arsenal = dar as-sina'ah (workshop, literally, house of skill or trade)
  13. Azure = lazward (sky blue, from Persian "lazhward")
  14. Candy = qandi (made of sugar, from Sanskrit "khanda," sugar in pieces; "khand," to break)
  15. Cipher = sifr (a cipher, nothing, from "safara," to be nothing)
  16. Coffee = qahwa (coffee)
- 17. Cotton = qutun (cotton)
  18. Crimson = qermez (crimson, from Sanskrit "krmija")

## A list of some words with their Arabic origins and meanings. (contd.)

- 19. Elixir = el iksir (the philosopher's stone)
  20. Gazelle = gazal (gazelle)
  21. Hazard = perhaps from al-zar (dice)
  22. Julep = julab (from Persian "gulab," rose water)
  23. Magazine = makhzan (a storehouse)
  24. Mattress = matrah (mattress, foundation, place where anything is thrown)
  25. Muslin = Mawsil (Mosul, a city in Iraq where muslin was first made)
  26. Ream = rizmat (a bale, a packet, especially a ream of paper; from "razama," to pack together)
  27. Saffron = za'faran

- 28. Sahara = sahra (desert)
  29. Sash = shash (turban)
  30. Satin = Zaitun (medieval name of Chinese city)
  31. Sherbet = sherbet (from "sharaba," to drink)
  32. Sofa = soffah (cushion on a saddle for a camel)
  33. Sugar = sakkar (from Persian "shakar" and Sanskrit "carkara," gravel or candied sugar)
  34. Syrup = sharab (from "shariba," to drink)
  35. Tariff = tar'if (explanation, information, a list of things, especially of fees to be paid; from "`arafa," to inform)
  36. Zenith = semt-ar-ras (zenith, "way of the head")
  37. Zero = sifr (a cipher)

- (Source: Webster's Deluxe Unabridged Dictionary (New York: Dorset & Baber, 1983)

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