



Reference Aid

~~(U)~~ Arabic—A Practical Reference



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~~(U)~~ Prepared by the Strategic Analysis Group, Homeland Environment Threat Analysis Division.

~~(U)~~ Scope

~~(U//FOUO)~~ Homeland Security Reference Aids—prepared by the DHS/Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A)—provide baseline information on a range of homeland security issues. This product is one in a series of reference aids designed to provide operational and intelligence advice and assistance to regional, state, and local fusion centers. DHS/I&A intends this background information to assist federal, state, tribal, and local homeland security and law enforcement officials in conducting analytic activities related to the use of the Arabic language.

~~(U)~~ Not intended to be a comprehensive study on the Arabic language, this reference aid presents an overview of the Arabic dialects and transliteration standards as well as the structure of Arabic names and their meanings to assist analysts in dissecting long Arabic names. It also lists Arabic words frequently found in intelligence reporting. Appendix A lists geographically designated Arabic names. Appendix B describes the months of the Islamic calendar, the names of the days in the Islamic week, and the normal times of Islamic prayer. A brief history of Arabic and its root system is provided in Appendix C.

~~(U)~~ This reference aid draws upon a variety of open source materials and unclassified information, and incorporates suggestions from intelligence analysts knowledgeable about the Arabic language. Unclassified reference sites are listed in Appendix D for further assistance.

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(U) Dialects

(U) Classical Arabic, or al-Fusha (meaning “most beautiful, purest”), is the language of the Quran and was originally the dialect of Mecca in about 600 A.D. that was spoken by the Prophet Muhammed. An adapted form of this dialect, Modern Standard Arabic (MSA), is used in books, newspapers, many television and radio programs (soap operas and local talk shows may use the vernacular form of the language), educational institutions, and mosques as well as in conversation at international events among educated Arabs from different countries. MSA generally does not vary from country to country; however, it is not used in family conversations or in interpersonal conversations outside the home.

(U) Educated Arabs can speak their regional or local dialects, or al-Amiyah, but they may shift to MSA when necessary to establish communications, depending on circumstances. Regional and local dialects differ from MSA in pronunciation, word derivation, sentence structure, and choice of words, and differ from one region to another; local dialects generally are not written.

(U) *Egyptian Arabic*: the most widely understood regional dialect given the popularity of Egyptian-made films and TV shows.

(U) *Maghrebi Arabic*: includes Algerian, Moroccan, and Tunisian Arabic as well as Maltese and Western Libyan Arabic local dialects.

(U) *Levantine Arabic*: includes Western Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Western Jordanian Arabic as well as Cypriot Maronite Arabic local dialects.

(U) *Iraqi Arabic and Khuzestani Arabic*: includes regional dialects spoken in parts of Iraq and the Iranian province of Khuzestan, respectively.

(U) *East Arabian Arabic*: includes Eastern Saudi Arabian, Western Iraqi, and Eastern Syrian Arabic as well as local Jordanian Arabic dialects and some Omani local dialects.

(U) *Gulf Arabic*: includes Bahraini, Saudi Eastern Province, Kuwaiti, United Arab Emirates, and Qatari Arabic as well as some local Omani Arabic dialects.

(U) Western Words in Arabic

(U) Many English, French, and other non-Arabic words have been introduced into both MSA and colloquial Arabic. Examples include al-film, al-doktor, al-telefon, and al-konsul.

~~(U)~~ Arabic Words in Other Languages

~~(U)~~ Arabic words in the English language include admiral, alchemy, algebra, camphor, jasmine, safari, and many others. Spanish has more than 5,000 words derived from Arabic, largely the result of Arabic being spoken in parts of Spain during the Arab occupation from about 711 until the 1500s. The influence of Arabic on other languages is strongest in Muslim countries—Arabic is a major source of vocabulary for Berber, Kurdish, Persian, Swahili, Urdu, Hindi, Turkish, Malay, and Indonesian. Other languages such as Maltese and Kinubi are derived from Arabic. Most Islamic religious terms in these languages are direct borrowings from Arabic.

~~(U)~~ Transliteration

~~(U)~~ Arabic does not use the Latin alphabet or sounds familiar to English and many other Western languages. There are several different standards of Arabic transliteration—the method used to represent Arabic sounds in the Latin alphabet.

- ~~(U)~~ One scholarly system relies on adding marks to letters and underlining or italicizing them. For example, the name “Khaled” in this system could be written “haled.”
- ~~(U)~~ Another system uses Latin letters by Arabic speakers when Arabic writing is unavailable. The Standard Arabic Technical Transliteration System or SATTs represents each Arabic letter with a unique symbol and is used for transmitting Arabic language text. Khaled would be written as “OALD.”
- ~~(U//FOUO)~~ The Intelligence Community (IC) uses the “IC Standard for Transliteration of Arabic,” a Romanized transliteration of Arabic, for most written reports and products for IC consumers. Khaled would be written as “Khaled.” The U.S. military uses this system with slight variations.

~~(U)~~ Other countries often transliterate Arabic names differently if they fail to use an internationally established transliteration system. Newspapers, for example, have transliterated the Libyan head of state’s name as “Muomar Qadafy,” “Momar Gadafi,” and “Mu ‘Omar Gadafi.” The name of the assassinated Hizballah senior leader Mughniya is spelled “Moughniyeh” in some press reporting. The name Khalif also can be transliterated as “Khalaf.” Abu Ammar can be written as “Abu Amar” or “Ebu Amar.” Some intelligence reports give the possible name variations, while others do not. Some databases automatically factor in possible variations.

~~(U)~~ Letter Variations

~~(U)~~ In addition to variations resulting from the use of different transliteration systems, some variations reflect the different spellings that French, British English, and American English speakers use for Arabic names. In English, for example, a name would be spelled “Musawi” but in French it is “Moussaoui.” The Prophet’s name is spelled

“Muhammad” in the English system but “Mohamet” or “Mohamed” in French. The French spelling of Arabic names is found in former French colonies, including North Africa.

(U) Other examples of letter variations are:

- (U) O, U as in Osama or Usama
- (U) T, S as in Hafit or Hafis
- (U) T, TH, S as in Hafit, Hafith or Hafs
- (U) TH, Z as in Hafith or Hafiz
- (U) DH, D, Z as in Dhahran, Dahran or Zahran
- (U) J, G as in Jamila or Gamila
- (U) Q, GH, G as in Qatar, Ghatar, or Gatar
- (U) G, GH as in Ganaim or Ghanaym
- (U) H, KH, K as in Haled, Khaled or Kaled
- (U) D, TH, or Z as in Ustad, Ustath, or Ustaz
- (U) U, OO, O as in ‘Umar, ‘Oomar, or ‘Omar
- (U) Y, I as in Samy or Sami
- (U) OU, W as in Oualid or Walid
- (U) W, V as in Waheed, Vahiid, or Vahid
- (U) EE, E, I, II as in Waheed, Wahed, Wahid, or Wahiid

(U) An apostrophe representing several Arabic letters sometimes precedes a letter. When searching for a name, drop the apostrophe. For example, if searching the name Ra’id, (where the apostrophe represents the “ayn” sound), just search under the name Raid or Raed.

(U) Structure of Arabic Names

(U) Knowledge of the structure of Arabic names will assist an analyst in conducting name checks and working with other aspects of name tracking. Unlike most American names, which typically comprise a first (given) name, an optional middle name, and last (surname) name, an Arabic name can have many elements. These elements can include:

- (U) *Ism*: the given or “first name.” In the name Saleh Ali Muhammad Adnan al-Ghamdi, for example, Saleh is the ism.
- (U) *Kunya*: an honorific name and refers to the bearer’s first born. Abu Saleh means “Father of Saleh;” Umm Nura means “Mother of Nora.”
- (U) *Laqab*: a person’s attributes or habits, as in Abu Karim, meaning “Father of Generosity.”
- (U) *Honorable Titles*: titles that become a part of a person’s name, such as *sheikh*, meaning a person of influence, as in Sheikh Adel; or *hajji*, meaning a pilgrim. The title Sayyid in Shia Islam carries great meaning and signifies ties

with the direct blood line of Prophet Muhammad. These titles are normally not a part of a person's legal name, and name research can be done by using or not using the title.

- (U) *Nisba*: a person's occupation, geographic home area, or descent (tribe or family), resembling a Western surname. The nisba follows a family through several generations. Saleh al-Misri means "Saleh the Egyptian."
- (U) *Nasab*: a person's heritage, indicated by the words *ibn* or *bin*, which mean "son." Ibn Khaldun means "son of Khaldun," with Khaldun being the father's ism or given name.
- (U) *Noms de Guerre*: Muslims involved in wars, insurgencies, or terrorist operations often use a nom de guerre. Abu Jihad, for example, would mean "Father of Holy Struggle."

~~(U//FOUO)~~ **Frequently Found Nisba Names of Geographic Home Area.** Nisba names sometimes reveal an individual's country of origin, but not necessarily his true ethnicity. Ahmad al-Libi, for example, could have been born in or worked or lived for a period of time in Libya; alternatively, his ancestors could have been from Libya, although he himself may never have lived or visited there. It is also possible that the name is entirely fabricated. See Appendix A for a list of geographically designated Arabic names.

(U) **Typical Regional Names.** The following names from different Arab countries illustrate how last names, and sometimes first names, are associated with certain parts of the Arab world. Many of them are tribal in origin. North African names, for example, usually are very different from those on the Arabian Peninsula. North African last names often begin with Ben (or Bin), as in the name of the former Algerian President Ben Bella. Other common North African last names are Boudiaf, Benhassi, and Lacheraf. Some common North African first names are Ameer, Ahcene, Abayghur, and Hachim. These names are not found in other parts of the Arabic-speaking world. Some of the names from this region reflect the Berber influence in those countries.

- (U) *Algeria*: Abderrahmane Benguerah; Mourad Amrouche
- (U) *Bahrain*: Ghassan Ahmed Khalid Abdulla; Yasser Ghanim Shaheen
- (U) *Egypt*: Ahmed Taher Elfadly; Hasan Isaac Mahmoud Aboul Nasr
- (U) *Jordan*: Jafar Abed A. Hassan; Malek Atallah Alhabahbeh
- (U) *Morocco*: Abdelouahed Benmouna; Mohammed Benjilany
- (U) *Saudi Arabia*: Abdullah Abdulaziz Al Dahlawy; Nail Ahmed Al Jubeir
- (U) *Sudan*: Khidir Haroun Ahmed; Abdelbagi Hamdan Kabeir
- (U) *Yemen*: Yahya Abdullah Alshawkani; Ahmed S. Al Kadi

(U) **Meaning of Arabic Names.** Islam often influences Muslim names. Historically, Arab parents named their children with a religious word or phrase that reflected what they perceived to be an attribute of God. They intended to influence the child's behavior, hoping to mold his or her character. This naming trend continues today to varying degrees in the Islamic world.

- (U) *Abbas, Abas*: lion
- (U) *Abbud, Abud*: worshipper
- (U) *Abdullah, Abdu Allah Abdalah*: servant of Allah
- (U) *Adel, Adl, 'Adl*: just
- (U) *Ahmed, Ahmad*: most highly adored or praised; variation of name Muhammad
- (U) *Al Hussein, Al-Hussain, Al Husayn*: the handsome one; name of Prophet Muhammad's grandson
- (U) *Al-Tayyib, Attayib*: the good one
- (U) *Amir, Ameer*: ruler, prince, leader
- (U) *Asad, Assad, Asadd*: lion
- (U) *Azzam, 'Azam*: determined, resolved
- (U) *Fahd, Fahad*: lynx
- (U) *Habib, Habeeb*: beloved
- (U) *Hadi, Hadia*: religious guide
- (U) *Hamaz*: enthusiasm, violence
- (U) *Imam*: Islamic leader, often the leader of a mosque or community
- (U) *Iman*: faith, belief
- (U) *Mubarak*: happy, blessed
- (U) *Shafiq, Shafeeq, Shafeek*: kind, tender
- (U) *Tariq*: shining star that leads the way
- (U) *Um-Kulthoum*: name of the Prophet's child
- (U) *Usama, Osama, Usamah*: associated with a lion

(U) Some Arabic names have Biblical origins:

- (U) *Ibrahim*: Abraham
- (U) *Musa*: Moses
- (U) *Dawud*: David
- (U) *Mikha'il*: Michael
- (U) *Yusuf*: Joseph
- (U) *Saara*: Sarah
- (U) *Nuh*: Noah
- (U) *Yaqub*: Jacob
- (U) *Yunus*: Jonah
- (U) *Suleiman*: Solomon
- (U) *'Isa*: Jesus
- (U) *Yahya*: John
- (U) *Maryam*: Mary
- (U) *Jibril*: Gabriel

(U) **Names Associated With Islam.** Followers of Shia and Sunni Islam often use given names that are associated with past members of their particular branch of Islam. Among the Shia, these names have symbolic religious significance: *Ali*, a name especially popular among Lebanese Shia, and *Hassan* are associated with *Hassan ibn Ali*, the Prophet Muhammad's first grandson. Other popular Shia names with religious connotations include Asghar, Hussein, Jaffar, and Ridha for men and Zahraa for women; these names are often found in the countries where the Shia form the majority of the population, including Iran, Iraq, Oman, Bahrain, and Azerbaijan. For Sunnis, Muhammad is a popular name, as well as Abu Bakr, Ahmad, Khalid, Omar, Othman, and Yazid. Often, American converts to Islam take these historic Shia or Sunni names.

(U) **Appropriate Forms of Address.** Forms of address can vary from country to country and by the circumstances of meeting, but typical examples include:

- (U) A man whom you do not know named Ahmed would be addressed formally as Sayyid Ahmed or Mister Ahmed; if you knew him already, he would be addressed informally as Ahmed.
- (U) A married woman whom you do not know named Sara would be addressed formally as Sayyida Sara or Mrs. Sara; if you knew her already, she would be addressed informally as Sara.
- (U) An unmarried woman whom you do not know named Sara would be addressed formally as Anissa Sara or Miss Sara.

(U) Some Arabs use their titles with their first names. If you are presented to a man (named Abdullah) or woman (named Nura) who uses the title *Haj* or *Haja*, you can address them as Haj Abdullah or Haja Nura; similarly, a man named Musa who uses the title Sheikh could be addressed as Sheikh Musa.

(U) Arabic Words and Phrases Often Used in Intelligence Reporting

(U) *abaya*: an overgarment worn by some women in Muslim-majority countries. It is the traditional form of *hijab/Jilbab*, or Islamic dress, for many women in predominantly Islamic countries, especially in the Arabian Peninsula.

(U) *Al-Alam al-Arabi*: "The Arab World" referring to Arabic-speaking countries stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arabian Sea and from the Mediterranean Sea to the Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean. It includes Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

(U) *al-ansar*: "partisan" as in Asbat al-Ansar, or "Band of Partisans."

(U) *al-Ikhlās*: Islamic Internet network, meaning "the purity" or "the refining."

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~~(U)~~ *Arab*: member of an ethnic group with origins among the Semitic peoples of the Middle East. Most Arabs are followers of Islam, but many are adherents to other faiths, including Christianity, Coptic Christianity, and Judaism.

~~(U)~~ *As-Sahab Media Production*: a group that produces and distributes al-Qa'ida messages; "as-sahab" means "the clouds."

~~(U)~~ *bayat*: swearing allegiance to a person.

~~(U)~~ *caliphate*: the ideal Islamic form of government representing the political unity and leadership of the Muslim world.

~~(U)~~ *Dar al-Islam*: "The House of Islam" where Muslims can practice their faith freely.

~~(U)~~ *Dar al-harb*: "The House of War" or "The Domain of Disbelievers" or non-Islamic societies.

~~(U)~~ *Dhimmi*: a non-Muslim subject of a state governed according to sharia law.

~~(U)~~ *Eid al-Adha*: the Muslim Feast of Sacrifice, which lasts four days.

~~(U)~~ *Eid al-Fitr*: the Muslim Feast of Breaking the Fast, which comes at the end of Ramadan and lasts for three days.

~~(U)~~ *faqih*: a jurist and expert on *fiqh* or Islamic jurisprudence.

~~(U)~~ *fatwa*: a religious edict or ruling on Islamic law.

~~(U)~~ *hadith*: oral traditions relating to the words or deeds of Prophet Muhammad.

~~(U)~~ *hajj*: the Muslim religious pilgrimage to Mecca and the fifth pillar of Islam.

~~(U)~~ *hawala*: informal money transfer system based on a network of money brokers in a relationship based on trust. With origins in Islamic law, it is common in the Middle East and in Islamic communities in Africa and Asia.

~~(U)~~ *hijab*: a cover, referring primarily to a woman's head and body covering; in Islamic scholarship, hijab can have a wider meaning of modesty, privacy, and morality.

~~(U)~~ *ijtihad*: the process of making legal decisions by independent interpretation of the Islamic legal sources such as the Quran and *Sunnah*.

~~(U)~~ *jamia* or *jam'ia*: a gathering; also can refer to a university, a mosque, or more generally, a community or association.

~~(U)~~ *jihad*: "strive" or "struggle;" interpreted as a religious duty for some Muslims.

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~~(U)~~ *Mahdi*: the “guided one” who, according to Islamic prophesy, is the redeemer of Islam and will stay on earth for a certain period of time; for Shia, the Mahdi is the 12th or “hidden” Imam.

~~(U)~~ *madrassa*: usually refers to an Islamic school, but can mean any type of religious or secular school; variously transliterated as madrasah, madarasaa, medresa, madrassa, or madraza.

- ~~(U)~~ Madrasa Islamia: Islamic school
- ~~(U)~~ Madrasa deeneya: religious school
- ~~(U)~~ Madrasa khasa: private school

~~(U)~~ *Marja at-Taqlid*: “The Source to Follow” for the Shia; includes the Grand Ayatollah, who has the authority to make legal decisions about Islam.

~~(U)~~ *merkaz*: a center, as in a social center.

~~(U)~~ *mujahidin*: “strugglers,” as in Muslims who fight in a war or any other type of struggle; popularly known as “Holy Warriors.”

~~(U)~~ *Muslim*: a follower of Islam. Islam has two primary denominations, Sunni and Shia, as well as several minor denominations. Sunni and Shia are essentially similar in belief but have significant theological and legal differences. A Muslim can be of any ethnic origin, including Arab, African, Chinese, European, or Indonesian, among others.

~~(U)~~ *niqab*: a veil covering the face, worn by some Muslim women as a part of hijab.

~~(U)~~ *Quran*: the word of God revealed to the Prophet Muhammad; the central religious text of Islam.

~~(U)~~ *Ramadan*: the most sacred month during which Muslims fast and engage in other forms of piety between dawn and sunset.

~~(U)~~ *al-shabbab*: the youth, as in Hizbul Shabbab, the hard-line faction of the Islamic Courts Union in Somalia.

~~(U)~~ *al-shahadah*: “testimony;” the Muslim declaration of belief in the oneness of God and the acceptance of Muhammad as his final prophet.

~~(U)~~ *shaheed*: a witness or martyr who dies fulfilling a religious commandment or in the act of waging war for Islam.

~~(U)~~ *sharia*: the body of Islamic religious law based on the Quran.

~~(U)~~ **Sheikh:** a word or honorific term that literally means "elder." It is commonly used to designate an elder of a tribe, a lord, a revered wise man, or an Islamic scholar. Also transliterated as Sheik, Cheikh, or Shaikh, among other variants.

~~(U)~~ **Shia:** the second-largest denomination of Islam, comprising about 15 percent of Muslims worldwide. The Shia-Sunni religious divide occurred following the death of the Prophet Muhammad. Shias claim the authority of the Prophet's descendants, known as Shia Imams, and especially Ali ibn Abi Talib, the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law. Shias believe that Ali should have been the first caliph and that leadership should pass down only to direct descendants of Muhammad through Ali and Fatima, the Prophet's daughter.

~~(U)~~ **sunnah:** the way of the prophet or the religious actions initiated by him.

~~(U)~~ **Sunni:** the largest denomination of Islam, comprising about 85 percent of Muslims worldwide. The word Sunni comes from the word *sunnah*, which means "the words and actions or example of the Islamic prophet Muhammad." Unlike Shia, Sunnis believe that the first four caliphs were the rightful successors to Muhammad, and that since God did not specify any particular leaders to succeed Muhammad, leadership had to be elected.

~~(U)~~ **takfir:** the practice of considering a Muslim an unbeliever.

~~(U)~~ **umma:** the community or a nation of states; can mean the entire Arab world or the Muslim world.

~~(U)~~ **umra:** a lesser pilgrimage; normally a shortened version of the Hajj.

~~(U)~~ **wilayat al-faqih:** a concept in Shia Islam that gives Islamic jurists guardianship over those in need of it.

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(U) Appendix A: Geographically Designated Arabic Names

Arabic Term	English Definition
(U) al-Adami	from Aden, Yemen
(U) al-Afriqi; al-Afriki	the African
(U) al-Ajnabi; al-Agnabi	the foreigner (or outsider)
(U) al-almani	the German
(U) al-Amriki	the American
(U) al-Andalusi	from Andalusia
(U) al-Anfirsi	the man from Antwerp
(U) al-Arjantini	the Argentinian
(U) al-Armini	the Armenian
(U) al-Ayrlandi; al-Irlandi	the Irishman
(U) al-Badawi	the Bedouin
(U) al-Baljiki; al-Biljiki; al-Balgiki	the Belgian
(U) al-Bangali; al-Bangladishi	the Bangladeshi
(U) al-Baritani; al-Britani	the Brit
(U) al-Bedoui	the Bedouin
(U) al-Brazili	the Brazilian
(U) al-Burtughali	the Portuguese
(U) al-Danmarki	the Dane
(U) al-Emirati; al-Imarati	the man from the Emirates
(U) al-Englisi; al-Inklizi; al-Inglizi; al-Injalizi; al-Englizi	the Englishman
(U) al-Faransi; al-Faransawi	the Frenchman
(U) al-Farsi; al-Farisi; al-Parsi	the Iranian; the Persian
(U) al-Fasi	from Fez; Morocco
(U) al-Filastini	the Palestinian
(U) al-Filibini	the Filipino
(U) al-Fiyatnami	the Vietnamese
(U) al-Ghani	the Ghanaian
(U) al-Gharbi	the Westerner
(U) al-Hadrami	from the Hadramat region of Yemen
(U) al-Halabi	from Aleppo; Syria
(U) al-Hindi	the Indian
(U) al-Hulandi	the Hollander; from The Netherlands
(U) al-Ifranji; al-Ifrangi	the European
(U) al-Ighriqi	the Greek
(U) al-Irani	the Iranian
(U) al-Iraqi	the Iraqi
(U) al-Irlandi; al-Ayrlandi	the Irishman

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Arabic Term	English Definition
(U) al-Isbani	the Spaniard
(U) al-Iskutlandi	the Scot
(U) al-Islandi	the Icelander
(U) al-Isra'ili	the Israeli
(U) al-Janubi	the Southerner
(U) al-Jawfi	from the Jauf region of Yemen or Saudi Arabia
(U) al-Jazairi	the Algerian
(U) al-Kamiruni	from the Cameroons
(U) al-Kanadi	the Canadian
(U) al-Karibi	from the Caribbean
(U) al-Kashmiri	from Kashmir
(U) aliji	from the Persian Gulf
(U) al-Khawaga, al-Khawaji, al-Khawagi	Meaning "sir" or "mister" and used for Christians and Westerners; in Egypt has meaning of "gringo"
(U) al-Kimi	the Kenyan
(U) al-Kubawi	the Cuban
(U) al-Kuri	the Korean
(U) al-Kuwayti	the Kuwaiti
(U) al-Libi	the Libyan
(U) al-Libiri	the Liberian
(U) al-Lubnani	the Lebanese
(U) al-Madani	from Medina, Saudi Arabia
(U) al-Maghribi	the Moroccan
(U) al-Majari, al-Magari	the Hungarian
(U) al-Makkawi, al-Makki	from Mecca, Saudi Arabia
(U) al-Masri	the Egyptian
(U) al-Miksiki	the Mexican
(U) al-Muritani/Mauritani	from Mauritania
(U) al-Nimsawi	the Austrian
(U) al-Nubi	the Nubian (border between Egypt and Sudan)
(U) al-Nurwaji	the Norwegian
(U) al-Parsi, al-Farsi, al-Farisi	the Persian, the Iranian
(U) al-Qamari	from the Comoros Islands
(U) al-Qubrusi	the Cypriot, from Cyprus
(U) al-Qudsi	from Jerusalem
(U) al-Romani	the Romanian
(U) al-Russi	the Russian
(U) al-Sa'idi	from Upper Egypt (upland area of southern Egypt)
(U) al-Samarra'i	from Samarra, Iraq
(U) al-Saudi	the Saudi
(U) al-Shami	the Syrian; or from Damascus; the Northerner (when North Yemen)
(U) al-Sharqi	the Easterner
(U) al-Shili	the Chilean

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~~(U)~~ Appendix B: The Islamic Calendar for 2009

~~(U)~~ The Islamic calendar is based on the 12-month lunar year, which consists of about 354 days and, thus, is 11 days shorter than the solar year. As a result, the beginning and end of a month can vary annually. In 2008 (Islamic year 1430), Muharram, the first month of the year, began on 10 January and ended on 7 February; in 2009 (Islamic year 1431), the same month began on 29 December 2008 and ended on 26 January 2009. Fixed holiday dates can also change depending on the year. Islamic years are counted from first year of the Prophet Muhammad's migration from Mecca to Medina in 622.

~~(U)~~ The 2009 (1431) Islamic Calendar

- ~~(U)~~ **Muharram** (29 December 2008–27 January 2009): “The Sacred Month” or “that which is forbidden;” warfare is forbidden during this month.
- ~~(U)~~ **Safar** (28 January–25 February): “The Month Which Is Void.”
- ~~(U)~~ **Rabi’ al-Awwal** (26 February–27 March): “The First Spring.”
- ~~(U)~~ **Rabi al-Thani** (28 March–25 April): “The Second Spring.”
- ~~(U)~~ **Jumada al-Ula** (26 April–25 May): “The First Month of Dryness.”
- ~~(U)~~ **Jumada al-Thaniyah** (26 May–23 June): “The Second Month of Dryness.”
- ~~(U)~~ **Rajab** (24 June–23 July): “The Revered Month.”
- ~~(U)~~ **Sha’ban** (24 July–21 August): “The Month of Division.”
- ~~(U)~~ **Ramadan** (22 August–20 September): “The Month of Great Heat.” Muslims fast from dawn to sunset, with certain exceptions for health and travel. Some extremists consider it a month of jihad.
- ~~(U)~~ **Shawwal** (21 September–19 October): “The Month of Hunting.”
- ~~(U)~~ **Dhu al-Qa’dah** (20 October–18 November): “The Month of Rest.”
- ~~(U)~~ **Dhu al-Hijjah** (19 November–17 December): “The Month of Pilgrimage.”

~~(U)~~ Special Days of 2009 (1431)

- ~~(U)~~ **29 December 2008:** Ra's al-Sana, "Head of the Year;" the Islamic New Year.
- ~~(U)~~ **7 January:** Ashura, "The Tenth." For the Shia, Ashura commemorates the slaying of Husayn, the son of Caliph Ali and the end of a 10-day period of intense mourning.
- ~~(U)~~ **9 March:** Mawlid al-Nabi, "The Birthday of the Prophet."
- ~~(U)~~ **5 August:** Laylat al-Bara'ah, "The Night of Forgiveness;" dedicated to prayer and when sins are absolved.
- ~~(U)~~ **16 September:** Laylat al-Qadr, "The Night of Destiny" or "The Night of Power." The night in 610 A.D. during which, according to Muslim belief, Muhammad received the first of God's revelations; an evening some extremists believe is auspicious for a terrorist attack.
- ~~(U)~~ **21 September:** Eid al-Fitr, "The Feast of Fast-Breaking;" lasts for three days and marks the end of Ramadan; it is the second most important holiday after Eid al-Adha.
- ~~(U)~~ **26 November:** Al-Hajj, "The Greater Pilgrimage."
- ~~(U)~~ **28 November:** Eid al-Adha, "The Feast of Sacrifice;" marks Abraham's sacrifice and is the most important religious celebration in the Islamic calendar.
- ~~(U)~~ **5 December:** Eid al-Ghadir, "The Feast of Ghadir;" observed only by Shia Muslims and is the name of the oasis where the Prophet designated his son-in-law Ali as his successor.

~~(U)~~ Islamic Week

~~(U)~~ The Islamic week is derived from the Jewish week, as was the medieval Christian week, all of which have numbered weekdays in common. All three coincide with the Saturday through Friday planetary week. Muslims gather for worship at a "masjid" (mosque) on "gathering day," which corresponds to the sixth day of the Jewish and medieval Christian week and to Friday of the planetary week.

- ~~(U)~~ Yaum as-Sabt: Sabbath day or Saturday
- ~~(U)~~ Yaum al-Ahad: first day or Sunday
- ~~(U)~~ Yaum al-Ithnayn: second day or Monday
- ~~(U)~~ Yaum ath-Thalatha': third day or Tuesday
- ~~(U)~~ Yaum al-Arba'a': fourth day or Wednesday
- ~~(U)~~ Yaum al-Khamis: fifth day or Thursday
- ~~(U)~~ Yaum al-Jum'a: sixth day or Friday

~~(U)~~ **Prayer Times**

~~(U)~~ Religious Muslims pray five times a day at appointed times:

- ~~(U)~~ Fajr: half an hour before dawn
- ~~(U)~~ Dhuhr: immediately after noon
- ~~(U)~~ Asr: mid-afternoon
- ~~(U)~~ Maghrib: after sunset until dusk
- ~~(U)~~ Isha'a: after darkness and at any time before Fajr the next day

~~(U)~~ Appendix C: Arabic Language Facts

~~(U)~~ History

~~(U)~~ Arabic is classified as a Central Semitic tongue originating in the Arabian Peninsula and is now spoken by an estimated 186 million native speakers. An additional 246 million speak it as a second language. Arabic is linguistically related to Amharic (Ethiopia's national language), Aramaic, and Hebrew. The writing of Arabic began in about 500 A.D., and Arabic has been the liturgical language of Islam since the seventh century. It is the official language of Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, the Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Western Sahara, and Yemen.

~~(U)~~ Root System

~~(U)~~ Arabic has 28 consonants and three vowels, which may be short or long. Words are constructed from three-letter "roots" that convey a basic idea. For example, k-t-b conveys the idea of writing. Adding other letters before, between, and after the root letters produces many associated words, including "yaktub" or "he writes;" "kitaba" or "the act of writing;" and "kitab" or "book." Slight changes in the root of a verb can change its meaning; for example, "kasara" or "he broke" becomes "kassara" to say "he smashed to bits" or "inkasara" meaning "it was broken up." Subject, verb, and object word order in Arabic varies widely.

~~(U)~~ Appendix D: Reference Sources

~~(U)~~ Books

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