

Cultural Diversity in Middle East



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**What Comes to Your Mind when I
Say
The Middle East**



Introduction



An Ambiguous Term

- Derived from a European perspective
- For some it refers to the area bounded by the Mediterranean sea, the Arabian Peninsula and the Taurus and Zagros Mountains.
- For others, it refers to Egypt, Arabia and the Gulf States.
- Others use the term as a synonym for the Arab world, sometimes including Turkey and Iran.



The Islamic World

- All the Arabic countries,
- Nations with predominantly Muslim majority like Iran, Turkey, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Malaysia, and some sub-Saharan countries (Mali, Chad, Senegal, Sierra Leon, Nigeria)
- Muslims as minorities (India, Russia, China)

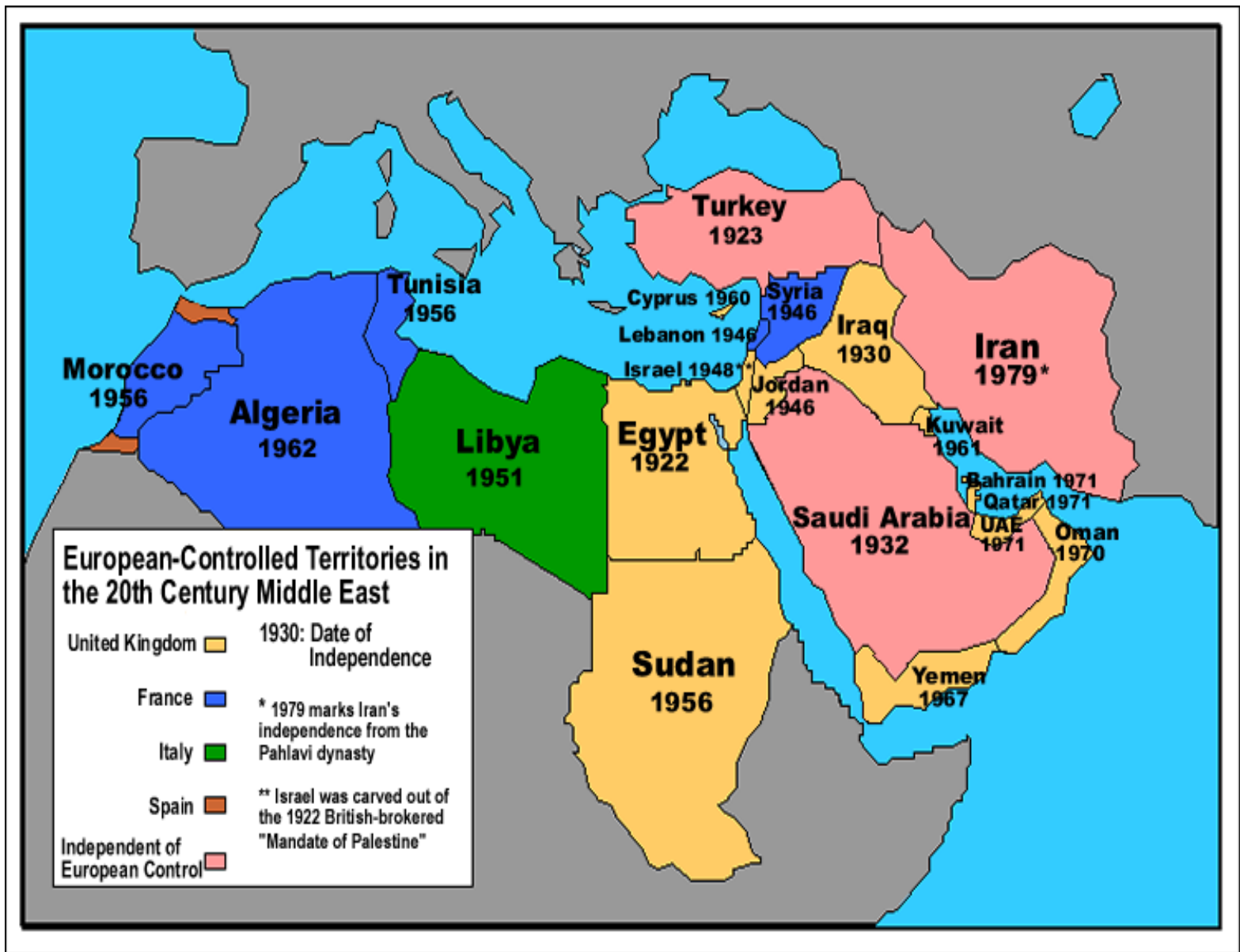


The Arab World

- A region that stretches over 5 million square miles
- 22 Arab 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, and Yemen.



- Arabic is the official and the original language of the Qur'an.
- Arabs are the dominant ethnic group but there are other groups like: Berbers (North Africa, Kurds (Iraq & Syria), Nubians (Egypt & Sudan), Armenians



Is Our Cultural Identity “the Same or Different?”



- Geography
- Ancient civilizations
- Religion
- Language
- Food
- Singing, dancing
- Architecture
- Cultural practices



Geography





Ancient Civilizations

The cradle of ancient civilizations:

- The Pharoanic Civilization (3150 BC)
- The Phoenician Civilization (3200 BC)
- The Sumerian civilization (4th century BC)



The Middle East is the Birth Place of Judaism, Christianity and Islam

- **Judaism**
- **Christianity**
- **Islam**



Islam



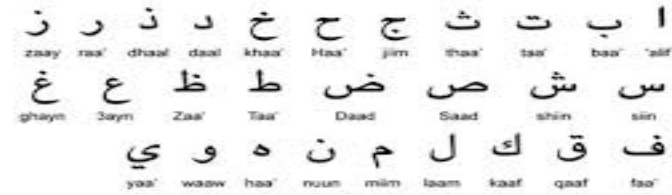
Women's Dress Code



Women in Egypt



Arabic



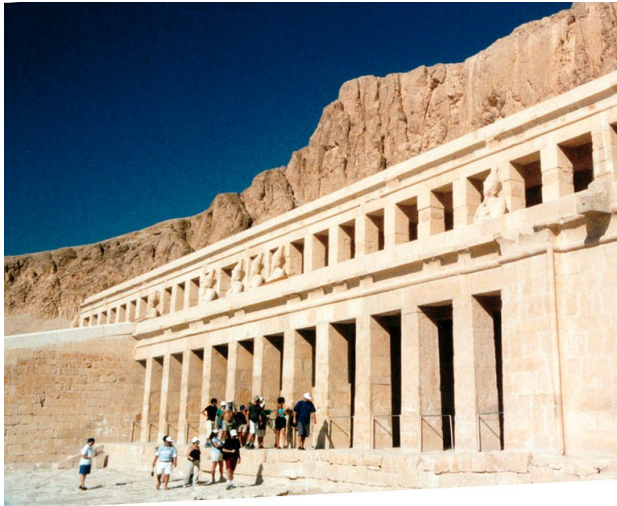
Spoken Arabic can be broadly categorized into the following, main dialect groups:

- 1. Egyptian Arabic**
- 2. North African Arabic** (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya),
- 3. Hassaniya Arabic** (Mauritania),
- 4. Levantine Arabic** (Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine),
- 5. Iraqi Arabic,**
- 6. Gulf Arabic** (Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the U.A.E. and Oman).
- 7. Hejazi Arabic** (Western Saudi Arabia)
- 8. Najdi Arabic** (Central Saudi Arabia).
- 9. Yemeni Arabic** (Yemen & southwestern Saudi Arabia)





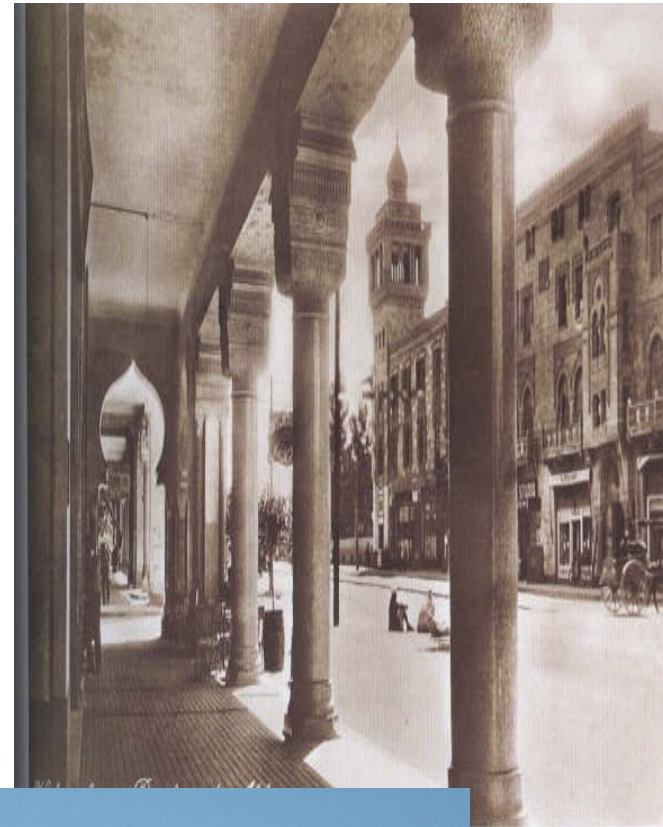
Egyptian Architecture



Egyptian Architecture



More Architectural Designs



Moroccan Architecture



Shem el-Neseim: Ancient Egyptian Spring Festival Still Celebrated



Conclusion

According to Stuart Hall:

- “Difference persists – in and alongside continuity.”
- “The difference matters.”

Thank You

