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## SPECIAL INTEREST ALIEN HANDBOOK



JOINT TASK FORCE NORTH

March 2008

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This smart book was compiled by Joint Task Force North in response to a support request by the United States Border Patrol. The purpose is to provide the Department of Homeland Security with a basic reference and questioning guide to determine the validity of an apprehended individual's stated country of origin and to assist in identifying those that are Special Interest Aliens (SIAs). Customs and Border Protection identifies thirty-four countries and two territories as special interest countries. This is current as of March 1, 2008.

Joint Task Force North is grateful to the United States Embassy Defense Attaché Offices who provided valuable input into the completion of this essential smart book. In addition, several internet websites were utilized as references including the *CIA World Fact Book* retrieved from [www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html), *Global Survey* retrieved from [www.preventgenocide.org](http://www.preventgenocide.org) and the *Countries of the World* retrieved from [www.infoplease.com/countries.html](http://www.infoplease.com/countries.html). *US State Department's Country Background Notes* retrieved from [www.state.gov/t/pa/ei/bgn](http://www.state.gov/t/pa/ei/bgn). Additional cultural information was retrieved from [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com).

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AFGHANISTAN

- What language is spoken in Herat? Dari.
- What language is spoken in Kandahar? Pashto.
- Describe the flag of Afghanistan



Three equal vertical bands of black (hoist), red, and green with a gold emblem centered on the red band; the emblem features a temple-like structure encircled by a wreath on the left and right and by a bold Islamic inscription above.

- What is the Capital of Afghanistan? Kabul.
- Who was Ahmed Shah Massoud? Leader of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance; assassinated by the Taliban, 9 Sep 2001.
- How long was the insurgency against the Soviets? 10 years (1979-1989).
- What ethnic groups exist in Afghanistan? Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Aimak, Turkmen, Baloch.
- What are the predominate religious groups in Afghanistan? Sunni Muslim, Shi'a Muslim.
- What mountain range divides Afghanistan? Hindu Kush Mountains.

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**Name and Document form:** Taskera/taskira (16 page ID booklet)

**Year established:** 1973

**Categories and groups:** The Taskera notes religious affiliation.

**Comments:** The Taliban militia regime (1996-2001) made two initiatives in which they proposed that, in addition to the religious affiliation on the ID card, minority Hindu and Sikh men and women would be required to wear distinctive identifying clothing or yellow (saffron) cloth tags. The distinctive tags on clothing were introduced in Kandahar in 1999.

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**ALGERIA**

- In what year did Algeria gain independence from France? 1962.
- What is the official currency of Algeria? Algerian dinar.
- Describe the flag of Algeria.



Two equal vertical bands of green (hoist side) and white; a red, five-pointed star within a red crescent centered over the two-color boundary. The crescent, star, and color green is traditional symbols of Islam (the state religion).

- What is the capital of Algeria? Algiers.
- What is the majority ethnic group in Algeria? Arab-Berber.
- What religious groups exist in Algeria? Sunni Muslim with a small Christian and Jewish population.
- What is the national holiday in Algeria? 1 Nov (1954), Revolution Day
- What is the official language of Algeria? Arabic.
- How many provinces are in Algeria? 48 provinces (Wilayat).



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**BAHRAIN**

- What is the national holiday of Bahrain? 16 Dec (1971), National Day
- What is the currency of Bahrain? Bahrain dinar.
- Describe the flag of Bahrain.



Red with a white serrated band (five white points) on the hoist side. The five points represent the five pillars of Islam.

- What is the capital of Bahrain? Al – Manamah.
- What is the geographic make up of Bahrain? An archipelago of 36 islands located off the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia.
- What ethnic groups form the population of Bahrain? Bahrain, Asian, other Arab, Iranian.
- What religious groups form the Bahrain population? Shi'a Muslim, Sunni Muslim.
- What is the major railway system in Bahrain? There is no rail in Bahrain.
- Name the major languages spoken in Bahrain. Arabic, English, Farsi, Urdu

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**BANGLADESH**

- What are the major national holidays of Bangladesh? 26 Mar (1971) Independence Day, 16 Dec (1971) Victory Day
- What is the currency in Bangladesh? Bangladeshi Taka.
- Describe the flag of Bangladesh.



Green with a large red disk slightly to the hoist side of center. The red sun of freedom represents the blood shed to achieve independence. The green field symbolizes the lush countryside and is the traditional color of Islam.

- Name the current Caretaker Advisor (Prime Minister) of Bangladesh. Fakhruddin Ahmed
- Who is the “father” of Bangladesh? Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (also known as Bangabandhu). Some may answer it as Zia ur-Rahman, who was the military commander during the independence war.
- What is the name of the national cricket team? Tigers.
- What countries border Bangladesh? India and Burma/Myanmar
- Name the major rivers of Bangladesh? Jamuna, Meghna, Padma.
- Name the political divisions of Bangladesh? Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet.

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**DJIBOUTI**

- What is the national holiday of Djibouti? 27 Jun (1977), Independence Day
- What is the currency in Djibouti? Djibouti Franc.
- Describe the flag of Djibouti.



Two equal horizontal bands of light blue (top) and light green with a white isosceles triangle based on the hoist side bearing a red five-pointed star in the center.

- What is the capital of Djibouti? Djibouti.
- What is the make-up of terrain in Djibouti? Mostly a stony desert, with scattered plateaus and highlands.
- What are the main ethnic groups in Djibouti? Somali, Afar, French, Arab, Ethiopian, Italian.
- What religions form Djibouti's population? Muslim; Christian.
- What are the official languages in Djibouti? French and Arabic.
- Who was Djibouti's first Prime Minister after independence from France in 1977? Ahmed Dini.

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**EGYPT**

- What is the national holiday of Egypt? 23 Jul (1952), Revolution Day
- What is the currency of Egypt? Egyptian Pound.
- Describe the flag of Egypt.



Three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and black with the national emblem (a shield superimposed on a golden eagle facing the hoist side above a scroll bearing the name of the country in Arabic) centered in the white band.

- What is the capital of Egypt? Cairo.
- What is the major river that runs through Egypt? The Nile
- What are the major ethnic groups in Egypt? Egyptians, Bedouin, Berber, European.
- What is the national anthem of Egypt? The Arab Republic of Egypt Hymn (AKA 'Bilady, Bilady, Bilady' or 'My Homeland, My Homeland, My Homeland').
- What are the two islands in the Egyptian Nile? Az-Zamalik (Gezira) and Ar-Rawdah (Roda).



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**Name and Document form:** ID card

**Year established:** not known

**Status:** still in use

**Categories and groups:** Religious affiliation is noted on ID cards, including Muslim, Coptic, Catholic or Orthodox Christians. Coptic Orthodox Christians are estimated to make up 6 to 12% of Egypt's 60 million population.

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**ERITREA**

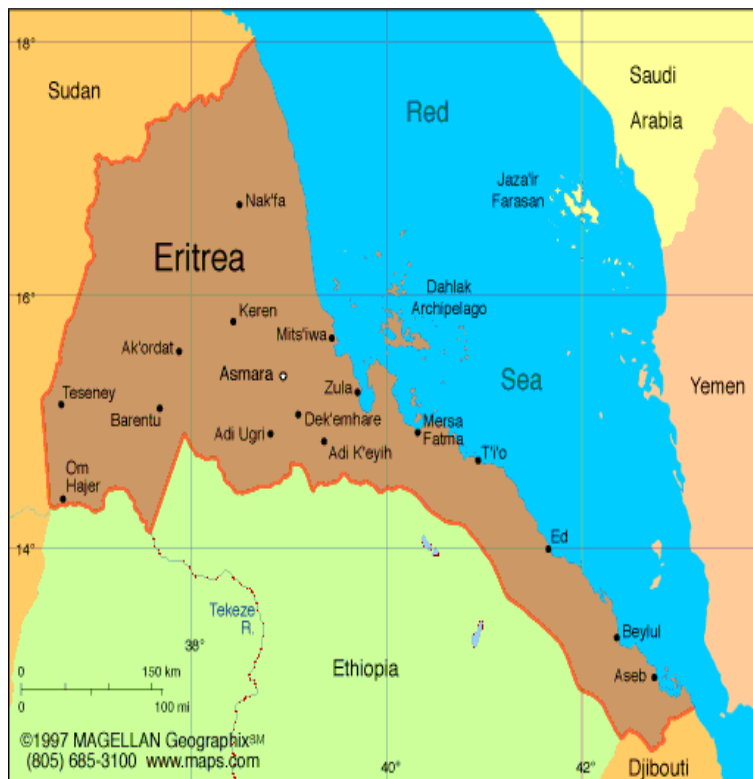
- What is the national holiday of Eritrea? 24 May (1993), Independence Day
- What is the currency of Eritrea? Nafka.
- Describe the flag of Eritrea.



Red isosceles triangle (based on the hoist side) dividing the flag into two right triangles. The upper triangle is green, the lower one is blue. A gold wreath encircling a gold olive branch is centered on the hoist side of the red triangle.


- What is the capital of Eritrea? Asmara.
- What are the main ethnic groups in Eritrea? Ethnic Tigrinya, Tigre and Kunama, Afar.
- What religious groups exist in Eritrea? Muslim, Coptic Christian, Roman Catholic, Protestant.
- What is the geography in Eritrea? Coastal Desert Plain, Highlands, Flat rolling Plains.
- Who is Mengistu Haile Mariam? Mengistu Haile Mariam was the head of state of Ethiopia (while it ruled Eritrea) from 1977 to 1991.
- What is the name of Eritrea's main port? Massawa (Mesä´we).

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**INDONESIA**

- What is the national holiday of Indonesia? 17 Aug (1945), Independence Day
- What is the currency of Indonesia? Indonesian Rupiah.
- Describe the flag of Indonesia.  

- Two equal horizontal bands of red (top) and white.
- What is the capital of Indonesia? Jakarta.
- What is the geography of Indonesia? Archipelago in Southeast Asia consisting of more than 17,500 islands.
- What are the main ethnic groups in Indonesia? Javanese, Sudanese, Madurese, Coastal Malays.
- What religious groups exist in Indonesia? Muslim, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Hindu, Buddhist.
- What happens to temple icons on the day before Balinese Caka New Year? They are taken to the sea or springs and washed for purification.

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**Name and Document form:** Kartu Tanda Penduduk (KTP), ID Card

**Year established:** not known

**Status:** still in use.

**Categories and groups:** The ID card (KTP) indicates religion (agama) as the 7th of 17 items on the back side of the card. Religious categories include: Islam, Katolik (Christian-Catholic), Protestant (Christian-Protestant), Hindu, Buddha (Buddhist). From 1979 to 1998 the category Konghucu (Confucianism) was prohibited as a category. Until 1996 "E.T." for "Ex-Tapol" (political prisoner) was stamped on KTP cards to identify former PKI (Communist Party of Indonesia) members.

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IRAN

- What is the national holiday of Iran? 1 Apr (1979), Republic Day
- What is the currency of Iran? Iranian Rial. Although not an official currency since 1932, the toman (ten rial) is frequently used to express amounts of money. Prices are currently most commonly marked in toman, sometimes meaning 1,000 or 1,000,000 toman (10,000 or 10,000,000 rial). Bank notes have Latin numerals as well as Arabic and Farsi (Persian) numerals.

- Describe the flag of Iran.






- Three equal horizontal bands of green (top), white, and red. The national emblem (a stylized representation of the word Allah in the shape of a tulip, a symbol of martyrdom) in red is centered in the white band. ALLAH AKBAR (God is Great) in white Arabic script is repeated 11 times along the bottom edge of the green band and 11 times along the top edge of the red band.
- What and when is *Nowruz*? *Nowruz* is the Iranian New Year's. This holiday, which predates the arrival of Islam in Iran, lasts 13 days and always begins on or within a day of 21 March, the vernal equinox. *Nowruz* is also celebrated by Afghans and Kurds.
- What and where is Persepolis? Persepolis (or Takhti-e Jamshid) is Iran's most famous tourist attraction. It is the ruin of an ancient summer palace raised by Alexander the Great in 331 BC. It is located between Esfahan on the north and Shiraz on the south.

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**IRAQ**

- What is the national holiday of Iraq? 17 Jul (1978), Revolution Day
- What is the currency of Iraq? New Iraqi dinar.
- Describe the flag of Iraq.  
  
  

- Three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and black; the phrase ALLAHU AKBAR (God is Great) in green Arabic script is centered in the white band. Council of Representatives approved this flag in Jan 2008 as a compromise temporary replacement for Ba'athist Saddam-era flag.
- What two major rivers run through Iraq? Tigris and Euphrates.
- What were the names of Saddam Hussein's sons? Uday and Qusay.
- Are Uday and Qusay dead or alive? Dead.
- What languages are most commonly spoken in Iraq? Arabic, Kurdish, Assyrian, Armenian.
- What is the name of a small religious group in northern Iraq that some people call "Devil Worshipers?" Yazidis.



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**JORDAN**

- What is the national holiday of Jordan? 25 May (1946), Independence Day
- What is the currency of Jordan? Jordanian dinar.
- Describe the flag of Jordan.



- Three equal horizontal bands of black (top, the Abbassid Caliphate of Islam), white (the Ummayyad Caliphate of Islam), and green (the Fatimid Caliphate of Islam). A red isosceles triangle (representing the Great Arab Revolt of 1916) based on the hoist side bearing a small white seven-pointed star symbolizing the seven verses of the opening Sura (Al-Fatiha) of the Holy Koran. The seven points on the star represent faith in One God, humanity, national spirit, humility, social justice, virtue, and aspirations.
- What is the capital of Jordan? Amman.
- What languages are spoken in Jordan? Arabic, English.
- What main ethnic groups exist in Jordan? Arab, Circassian, Armenian.
- What religions exist in Jordan? Islam (Sunni), Christian, Greek Orthodox.
- What other large cities exist in Jordan? Zaeka, Irbid, As-Salt.
- What is the official name of Jordan? Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

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**KAZAKHSTAN**

- What is the national holiday of Kazakhstan? 16 Dec (1991), Independence Day
- What is the currency of Kazakhstan? Tenge.
- Describe the flag of Kazakhstan.



Sky blue background representing the endless sky and a gold sun with 32 rays soaring above a golden steppe eagle in the center. On the hoist side is a "national ornamentation" in gold.

- What is the capital of Kazakhstan? Astana.
- What languages are spoken in Kazakhstan? Kazakh (Qazaq), Russian.
- What ethnic groups exist in Kazakhstan? Kazakh, Russian, Ukrainian, Uzbek, German, Tatar
- What religions exist in Kazakhstan? Islam, Russian Orthodox, Protestant.
- What other large cities exist in Kazakhstan? Almaty, Karaganda, Shymkent, Taraz.
- What is Kazakhstan's major export? Oil.

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**KUWAIT**

- What is the national holiday of Kuwait? 25 Feb (1950), National Day
- What is the currency of Kuwait? Kuwaiti dinar.
- Describe the flag of Kuwait.



Three equal horizontal bands of green (top), white, and red with a black trapezoid based on the hoist side.

- What is the capital of Kuwait? Kuwait.
- What is the national name of Kuwait? Dawlat Al Kuwayt.
- What is the largest city in Kuwait? As-Salimiyah.
- What languages are spoken in Kuwait? Arabic and English.
- What ethnic groups exist in Kuwait? Kuwaiti, other Arab, South Asian, Iranian.
- What religious groups exist in Kuwait? Islam, Christian, Hindu, Parsi.

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**LEBANON**

- What is the national holiday of Lebanon? 22 Nov (1943), Independence Day
- What is the currency of Lebanon? Lebanese Pound.
- Describe the flag of Lebanon.



Three horizontal bands of red (top), white (double width), and red with a green cedar tree centered in the white band.

- What is the capital of Lebanon? Beirut.
- What is the official language of Lebanon? Arabic.
- What is the official name of Lebanon? Al-Joumhouriya al-Lubnaniya (Republic of Lebanon).
- Where is the city of Naqoura located? Southwest corner near the border with Israel.
- What is the name of the mountain range in Lebanon? Lebanese Mountains.



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**Name and Document form:** *Tathkarat al-Hawiya* or *Ikhraj Kayd qayd*, National ID card  
**Date established:** 1970's **Status:** Still in use.  
**Categories and groups:** Cards issued in the 1970's included religious affiliation. Cards issued after Mar 1997 do not list religious affiliation, however the cardbearer's religious affiliation still can be determined through reading the card's bar code. **Comments:** In compliance with the 1989 Taif Accord, cards do not list the religion or sect of the holder.

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**LIBYA**

- What is the national holiday of Libya? 1 Sep (1969), Revolution Day
- What is the currency of Libya? Libyan Dinar.
- Describe the flag of Libya.



Plain green; green is the traditional color of Islam (the state religion).

- What is the capital of Libya? Tripoli.
- Where is Tripoli located? Northwest corner on the Mediterranean Sea.
- What is the name of the desert in Libya? Sahara.
- Where is Tobruk located? Northeast corner on the Mediterranean Sea.
- What country borders Libya? Egypt, Sudan, Chad, Niger, Algeria, Tunisia.
- Where is Surt located? North central on the Gulf of Sidra.

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**MALAYSIA**

- What is the national holiday of Malaysia? 31 Aug (1957), Independence Day or Malaysia Day
- What is the currency of Malaysia? Ringgit.
- Describe the flag of Malaysia.



14 equal horizontal stripes of red (top) alternating with white (bottom). There is a blue rectangle in the upper hoist-side corner bearing a yellow crescent and a yellow 14-pointed star. The crescent and the star are traditional symbols of Islam.

- In which city are the Petronas Towers located? Kuala Lumpur.
- What are the three main ethnic groups in Malaysia? Malay, Chinese, Indian.
- How many "states" is Malaysia divided into? 13 states.
- On which island is Eastern Malaysia located? On the island of Borneo.
- Eastern Malaysia is divided between what two states? Sarawak and Sabah.
- What body of water separates peninsular Malaysia from East Malaysia on Borneo? South China Sea

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**Name and Document form:** NRIC; **Year established:** not known; **Status:** still in use  
**Year religious affiliation added:** 1999 **Categories and groups:** Malaysia has long included race (*bangsa*) on their ID cards. In Oct 1999, the government added religion (*agama*) to ID cards. Malaysia has ID cards in four different colors: blue for citizens, red for permanent residents, green for limited-stay residents, brown for ex-convicts and "political offenders". **Comments:** Adherence to Islam is considered intrinsic to Malay ethnic identity.

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MOROCCO

- What is the national holiday of Morocco? 30 Jul (1999), Throne Day
- What is the currency of Morocco? Dirham.
- Describe the flag of Morocco.



Red with a green pentacle (five-pointed, linear star) known as Solomon's seal in the center of the flag.

- Which Moroccan won two gold medals in the 2004 Olympics? Hicham El Guerrouj.
- What is the *La Marche Verte* and when did it occur? In Nov 1975, King Hassan II mobilized 350,000 unarmed Moroccan citizens in what came to be known as the "Green March" into Western Sahara. The march was designed to both demonstrate and strengthen Moroccan claims to the territory from Spain.
- What days of the week are the Moroccan weekend? Unlike many Arab nations, a Moroccan weekend is Saturday and Sunday.
- Who was the King prior to Mohammed VI? How long was his reign? King Hassan II reigned from 1961 to 1999. (38 years).
- What is the official language of Morocco? Arabic.

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**NORTH KOREA**

- What is the national holiday of North Korea? 9 Sep (1948) Founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)
- What is the currency of North Korea? North Korean won.
- Describe the flag of North Korea.



Three horizontal bands of blue (top), red (triple width), and blue. The red band is edged in white. On the hoist side of the red band is a white disk with a red five-pointed star.

- What is Kim Jong-il's birthdate (official version)? 16 Feb 1942.
- Who is Kim Jong-il's mother? Kim Jong-suk.
- Where was Kim Jong-il born (official version)? Mount Baekdu.
- What is Kim Il-Sung's birthdate? 15 Apr 1912.
- What is Kim Jong-il's sister's name? Kim Kyong-hui.
- Who is Chairman of the National Defense Commission? Kim Jong-il.



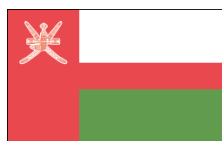
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OMAN

- What is the national holiday of Oman? 18 Nov (1940) Birthday of Sultan Qaboos.
- What is the currency of Oman? Omani Rial.
- Describe the flag of Oman.



Three horizontal bands of white, red, and green of equal width with a broad, vertical, red band on the hoist side. The national emblem (a khanjar dagger in its sheath superimposed on two crossed swords in scabbards) in white is centered near the top of the vertical band.

- What is the capital of Oman? Muscat.
- In which town/region was Sultan Qaboos born? Salalah in the Dhofar region.
- What is the name of international airport in Muscat? Seeb International.
- What form of Islam is primarily followed in Oman? "Ibadiyya" or "Ibadhi", separate and distinct from Shi'a or Sunni.
- What are the names of the two tallest mountains (Jebels, in Arabic) in Oman? Jebel Shams and Jebel Akhdar.
- What is the uninhabited portion of Oman called? Rub al khali (The Empty Quarter).

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**PAKISTAN**

- What is the national holiday of Pakistan? 23 Mar (1956), Republic Day
- What is the currency of Pakistan? Pakistani Rupee.
- Describe the flag of Pakistan.



Green with a vertical white band (symbolizing the role of religious minorities) on the hoist side. A large white crescent and star are centered in the green field. The crescent, star, and color green are traditional symbols of Islam.

- Who is the Quaid I Azam (AKA Muhammad Ali Jinnah) and when is his birthday? Founder of Pakistan, birthday is celebrated 24 Dec.
- What is ISI? Directorate for Inter-Services Intelligence (also Inter-Services Intelligence). Pakistan's equivalent of the US CIA.
- Who is Dr. A.Q. Khan? Dr. Abdul Qadir Khan is the founder of Pakistan's nuclear weapon program.
- Which city is in Pakistan – Muzaffarabad or Srinagar? Muzaffarabad. (Srinager is in Indian held Kashmir)
- Where is Gwadar? It is a port city on Pakistan's Arabian Sea coast, in Baluchistan Province.
- What is Lollywood? Pakistan's version of Hollywood, based in Lahore.

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**Name and Document form:** NIC, National ID card

**Year established:** National Registration Act 1973.

**Status:** Still in use.

**Categories and groups:** Religious affiliation appears on the application for ID cards and also on Pakistani Passports. In order to obtain a passport, Muslims must affirm declare that Ahmadis are non-Muslims, and specifically denounce the founder of the Ahmadi movement. The Pakistan government refuses to recognize Ahmadis as Muslims.

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**PHILIPPINES**

- What is the national holiday of the Philippines? 12 Jun (1898) Independence Day (from Spain).
- What is the currency of the Philippines? Philippine peso.
- Describe the flag of the Philippines.



Two equal horizontal bands of blue (top) and red with a white equilateral triangle based on the hoist side. In the center of the triangle is a yellow sun with eight primary rays (each containing three individual rays) and in each corner of the triangle is a small yellow five-pointed star.

- What is the capital of the Philippines? Manila.
- What is the official name of the Philippines? Republic of the Philippines.
- On what island is Manila located? Luzon.
- What are the official languages of the Philippines? Filipino and English.
- What is Ati-Atihan? The three-day Filipino version of Mardi Gras celebrated in Kalibo on Panay in the third week in January

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**QATAR**

- What is the national holiday of Qatar? 3 Sep (1971) Independence Day
- What is the currency of Qatar? Qatari Riyal.
- Describe the flag of Qatar.



Maroon with a broad white serrated band (nine white points) on the hoist side.

- What is the capital of Qatar? Doha.
- What is the official name of Qatar? State of Qatar.
- Where is Doha located? Central-east coast on the Persian Gulf.
- What countries border Qatar? Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (SE).
- What is the official language of Qatar? Arabic.
- What language is commonly used as a second language? English.



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SAUDI ARABIA

- What is the national holiday of Saudi Arabia? 23 Sep (1932), Unification of the Kingdom
- What is the currency of Saudi Arabia? Saudi riyal.
- Describe the flag of Saudi Arabia.



Green with large white Arabic script (translated as *There is no God but God; Muhammad is the Messenger of God*) above a white horizontal saber (the tip points to the hoist side).

- What is the capital of Saudi Arabia? Riyadh.
- What is the official name of Saudi Arabia? Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Who was Mohammed bin Abdul Wahhab? 18th century leader of the Wahhabi movement or Wahhabism, the back-to-basics religious movement that is still Saudi Arabia's official form of Islam.
- Where is Mecca located? West coastal area near the Red Sea.
- What is the official language of Saudi Arabia? Arabic.
- What countries border Saudi Arabia to the south? Yemen, Oman, UAE (United Arab Emirates).

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**Name and Document form:** National ID cards and Iqamas (resident identity cards)

**Year established:** Unknown **Status:** Still in use.

**Categories and groups :** Only Muslims can be citizens of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The government requires non-citizens to carry Iqamas, which contain a religious designation for "Muslim" or "non-Muslim." **Comments:** In Dec 2001, Saudi women were issued National ID cards, including a photo of the bearer's uncovered face. In the past the names of Saudi women have been included only on a family ID card, listing them as dependents of a father or husband.

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SOMALIA

- What is the national holiday of Somalia? 1 Jul (1960), Foundation of the Somali Republic. NOTE - 26 Jun (1960) in Somaliland.
- What is the currency of Somalia? Somali Shilling.
- Describe the flag of Somalia.



Light blue with a large white five-pointed star in the center.

- Who was the first president of Somalia? Aden Abdulle Osman Daar.
- Name the second largest city of Somalia? Hargeysa or Hargeisa.
- What are the names of the two main rivers of Somalia? The Juba River and Wabi Shabelle or Wabi Shawelle.
- Who was president of Somalia before the 1969 coup of Gen. Mohammed Siad Barre? Abdirashid Ali Shermarke (or Abdirashiid Ali Shermaarke).
- Which are the main six major clan-families in Somalia? Darod, Digil, Dir, Hawiye, Issaq, and Rahanwayn.
- Name the four main ports of Somalia? Berbera, Kismaayo (or Chismayu), Merca, Mogadishu
- What is the capital of Somalia? Mogadishu.

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SUDAN

- What is the national holiday of Sudan? 1 Jan (1956) Independence Day
- What is the currency of Sudan? Sudanese Pound (Dinar prior to Jan 2007).
- Describe the flag of Sudan.



Three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and black with a green isosceles triangle based on the hoist side.

- What is the capital of Sudan? Khartoum.
- What is Sudan's official name? Republic of the Sudan.
- What countries border Sudan? Libya, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Central African Republic, Chad.
- What is the official language of Sudan? Arabic.
- What three rivers converge at Khartoum? Nile, White Nile, Blue Nile.
- Where is Port Sudan located? Central east coast on the Red Sea.
- Where is Darfur? Western portion, on the border with Chad.

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SYRIA

- What is the national holiday of Syria? 17 Apr (1946) Independence Day.
- What is the currency of Syria? Syrian Pound.
- Describe the flag of Syria.



Three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and black, with two small green five-pointed stars in a horizontal line centered in the white band.

- From what town is Hafez al-Assad (birth place)? Qardaha in the Latakia province of western Syria.
- What mountain overlooks Damascus? Jabal (Mount) Qasiyoun.
- What two youth organizations must every Syrian child participate in (camp) during the summer? Tala'il al-Ba'ath (Children of the Ba'ath); and Al-Itihad ash-Sha'ab ath-Thowri (Revolutionary Youth Organization).
- What is the name of Syria's main prison, often used for political prisoners? Saydnayah Prison (if older, they might refer to either the Mezze Prison or the Tadmur Prison). Officially closed in Sep 2000.
- What is the name of the national test that marks the end of secondary school? The "Baccalauriyah" (Baccalaureate).
- What is the capital of Syria? Damascus.



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**Name and Document form:** Special ID cards and stamps on the regular ID card

**Year established:** Unknown

**Status:** Still in use.

**Categories and groups:** Syrian Kurds are issued special red identity cards. ID cards of Syrian Jews include the word MUSSAWI ("follower of Moses") stamped in red. Both groups have restricted rights.

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**TAJIKISTAN**

- What is the national holiday of Tajikistan? 9 Sep (1991) Independence or National Day
- What is the currency of Tajikistan? Somoni.
- Describe the flag of Tajikistan.



Three horizontal stripes of red (top), a wider stripe of white, and green. A gold crown surmounted by seven gold, five-pointed stars is located in the center of the white stripe.

- What is the capital of Tajikistan? Dushanbe.
- What is the official name of Tajikistan? Republic of Tajikistan.
- What are the major ethnic groups in Tajikistan? Tajik, Uzbek, Russian
- From whom did Tajikistan win its independence? Soviet Union.
- What is the name of the mountain range in Tajikistan? Pamir Mountains.
- What country borders Tajikistan to the east? China.

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**THAILAND**

- What is the national holiday of Thailand? 5 Dec (1927), Birthday of King Phumiphon (or BHUMIBOL)
- Describe the flag of Thailand.



Five horizontal bands of red (top), white, blue (double width), white, and red.

- What festival celebrates the traditional Thai New Year? Songkran (or Water) Festival in mid-April.
- What is the name of the most famous Wat (temple), next to the Grand Palace in Bangkok? Wat Phra Kaew (Temple of the Emerald Buddha).
- What is the Thai name for Bangkok? Krungthep (or Krung Thep Maha Nakhon)
- What are the names of the first two ancient capital cities of Thailand? Sukhothai and Ayudhya.
- What festival celebrates the end of the rainy season? Loy Khratong.
- What is the currency of Thailand? Baht.

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**Name and Document form:** National ID cards  
**Date religious affiliation added:** Apr 12, 1999 **Status:** still in use.  
**Categories and groups:** Min of Interior issues ID cards with an optional designation for religious affiliation. The change in policy was in response to the demands of parliamentarians who wanted easier identification of persons requiring Muslim burial.  
**Comments:** Highlanders are issued with a special blue card certifying them to be Thai. Pink cards are issued to refugees from Burma. Some members of northern hill-tribes, even persons born in Thailand, bear ID cards that restrict them from travel elsewhere in Thailand.

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**TUNISIA**

- What is the national holiday of Tunisia? 20 Mar (1956) Independence Day.
- What is the currency of Tunisia? Tunisian Dinar.
- Describe the flag of Tunisia.



Red with a white disk in the center bearing a red crescent nearly encircling a red five-pointed star. The crescent and star are traditional symbols of Islam.

- What is the capital of Tunisia? Tunis.
- What is the official name of Tunisia? Tunisian Republic.
- From whom did Tunisia gain its independence? France.
- What countries border Tunisia? Algeria and Libya
- Where is Tunis located? North coast on the Mediterranean Sea.
- What is the name of the ancient Phoenician city? Carthage

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**TURKEY**

- What is the national holiday of Turkey? 29 Oct (1923) Independence Day.
- What is the currency of Turkey? Turkish Lira.
- Describe the flag of Turkey.



Red with a vertical white crescent (the closed portion is toward the hoist side) and white five-pointed star centered just outside the crescent opening.

- What is the capital of Turkey? Ankara.
- What is the official name of Turkey? Republic of Turkey.
- What is the official language of Turkey? Turkish.
- What is on the northern border of Turkey? Black Sea.
- What is on the southern border of Turkey? Mediterranean Sea.
- Name the founder and first President of Turkey. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk



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**Name and Document form:** Nüfus Cuzdani (Population Card) (AKA Kimlik kartı)

**Year established:** not known;

**Status:** still in use.

**Categories and groups:** The Nüfus Cuzdani is the national ID card, and must be carried at all times after age 15. The religion (Dini) of the cardbearer is noted on the top of the back side.

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**TURKMENISTAN**

- What is the national holiday of Turkmenistan? 27 Oct (1991) Independence Day.
- What is the currency of Turkmenistan? Turkmen manta (or manta).
- Describe the flag of Turkmenistan.



Green field with a vertical red stripe near the hoist side, containing five carpet gols (designs used in producing rugs) stacked above two crossed olive branches similar to the olive branches on the UN flag. A white crescent moon and five white stars appear in the upper corner of the field just to the fly side of the red stripe.

- Why five stars and five carpet gols? The stars represent the five provinces (welayatlar), and the carpet gols represent the five major tribes of Turkmenistan. (alternate answer: the stars represent the 5 pillars of Islam).
- What are the most commonly seen words on buildings in Turkmenistan? “HALK, WATAN, BEYIK TURKMENBASY” (The People, the Nation, Turkmenbasy the Great).
- What are the new names of the following cities, and which of the welayatar is each located in?

<u>Old Name</u>	<u>New Name</u>	<u>Welayat</u>
Nebit Dag	Balkanabat	Balkan
Krasnovodsk	Turkmenbasy	Balkan
Gyzyl Arbat	Serdar	Balkan

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**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

- What is the national holiday of the United Arab Emirates? 2 Dec (1971) Independence Day.
- What is the currency of the United Arab Emirates? Emirati Dirham.
- Describe the flag of the United Arab Emirates.



Three equal horizontal bands of green (top), white, and black with a wider vertical red band on the hoist side.

- What is the capital of the United Arab Emirates? Abu Dhabi.
- What is the famous camel racetrack in Dubai? Nad Al Sheba?
- What is the name of the large UAE mountain near Al Ain? Jebel Haffitte.
- What is the name of the UAE oasis near the KSA border? Liwa.
- Which emirate is considered the cultural center of the country of UAE? Sharja.
- What is the name of the smallest UAE emirate? Ajman.
- What is the name of the largest UAE Emirate? Abu Dhabi

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UZBEKISTAN

- What is the national holiday of Uzbekistan? 1 Sep (1991) Independence Day.
- What is the currency of Uzbekistan? Uzbekistani Sum.
- Describe the flag of Uzbekistan.



Three equal horizontal bands of blue (top), white, and green separated by red fimbriations with a white crescent moon and 12 white stars in the upper hoist-side quadrant.

- What is the capital of Uzbekistan? Tashkent.
- Most of Uzbekistan's territory lies between which two major rivers of Central Asia? Syr Darya and Amu Darya.
- What is the official name of Uzbekistan? Republic of Uzbekistan.
- What are the major religions in Uzbekistan? Muslim (Sunni), Eastern Orthodox
- What is the official language of Uzbekistan? Uzbek.
- Where is Tashkent located? Northern border with Kazakhstan.
- What sea is shared by Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan? Aral Sea.

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YEMEN

- What is the national holiday of Yemen? 22 May (1990) Unification Day.
- What is the currency of Yemen? Yemeni Rial.
- Describe the flag of Yemen.



Three equal horizontal bands of red (top), white, and black.

- What is the capital of Yemen? Sanaa.
- What is the official name of Yemen? Republic of Yemen.
- What borders Yemen to the south? Gulf of Aden.
- What borders Yemen to the east? Red Sea.
- What is the official language of Yemen? Arabic.



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**GAZA AND WEST BANK**

- What is the capital of the Palestinian State? Undetermined (Proposed).
- What does “Al Fatah” mean? To Open.
- Who are considered the founders of Al Fatah? Yasser Arafat and Kahlil Wazir aka Abu Jihad (killed 1988).
- Who is considered the founder of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)? George Habash.
- Who or what is Abu Nidal? Sabri Khalil al-Banna, who split from Al Fatah to start the Abu Nidal Organization in 1974.
- What countries border the Gaza Strip? Egypt and Israel.
- What is the predominant Muslim sect in Gaza? Sunni.
- What is the predominant Muslim sect in the West Bank? Sunni.
- What country borders the West Bank on the east? Jordan.
- What sea is in southeast part of the West Bank? Dead Sea.

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