

# **North Africa and Southwest Asia**

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Economic Geography

# Natural Resources

- Oil is the major resource in this region!
- Many countries in this region are members of OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries).
- OPEC sets the price and production of oil and has members all over the world. They control 75-80% of the world's oil reserves.
- Members: Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya**, Nigeria, **Qatar, Saudi Arabia**, the **United Arab Emirates**, and Venezuela



# Countries With Oil

| Countries with oil | Countries that have very little oil |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Saudi Arabia       | Israel                              |
| Iraq               | Turkey                              |
| Iran               | Jordan                              |
| UAE                | Lebanon                             |
| Kuwait             | Syria                               |
| Qatar              | Morocco                             |
| Libya              | Afghanistan                         |

**75-80% of world's oil is located in the Middle East**

# Natural Resources

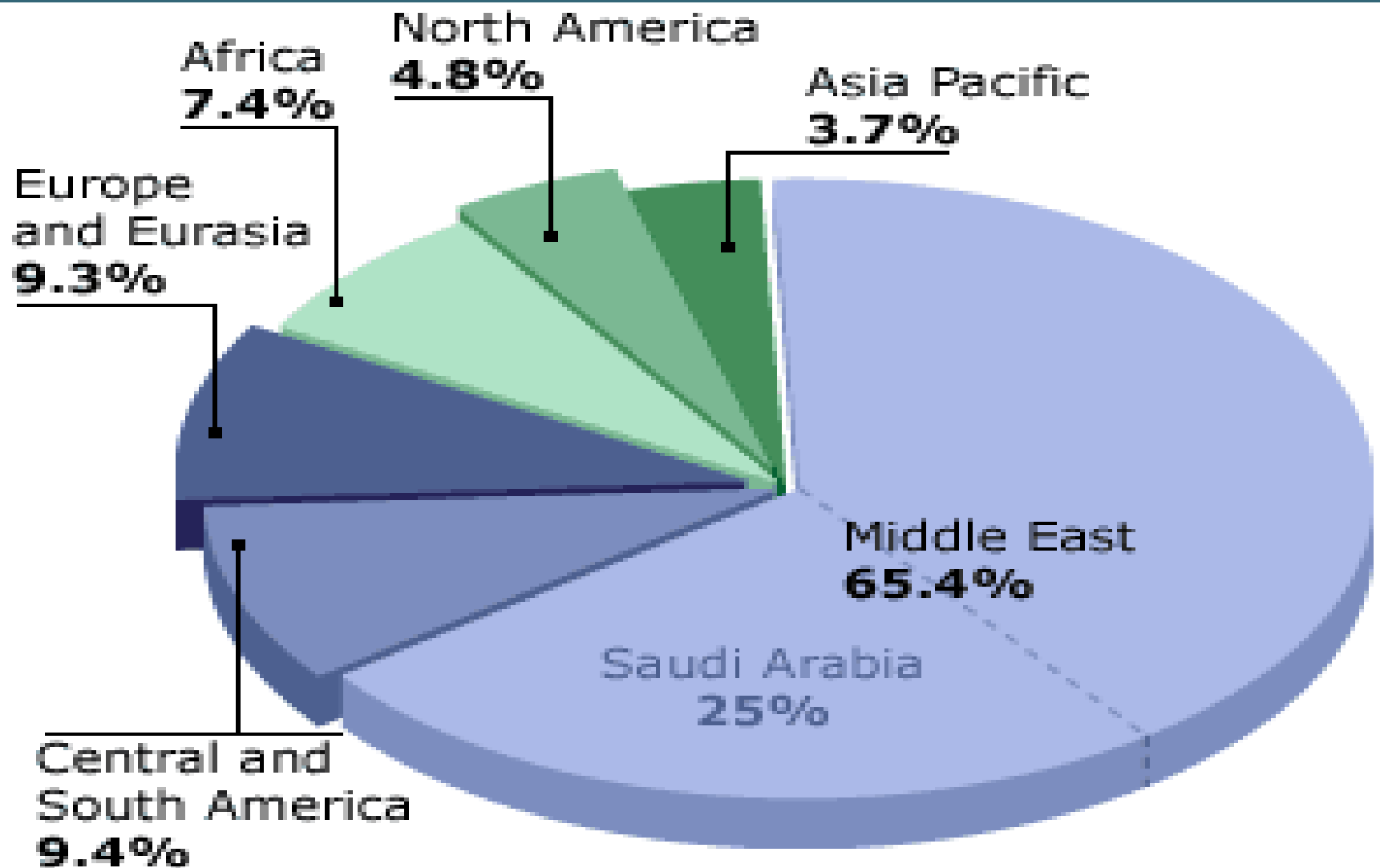
- There are positive and negative effects from oil revenues(\$). Some countries have used oil money to build/improve infrastructure such as schools, telecommunication systems, and hotels to attract tourists. However, oil fluctuates on the world market so it makes it difficult to plan for the future.



# List the Pros and Cons

| Positive/Oil  | Negative/Oil   |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Oil is valuable</li><li>2. Oil money is used to build infrastructure</li><li>3. Attract tourist</li><li>3. People have a high GDP per capita</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Oil fluctuates on the world market</li><li>2. Oil will run out eventually</li></ol> |

## PROVED RESERVES 2002\*



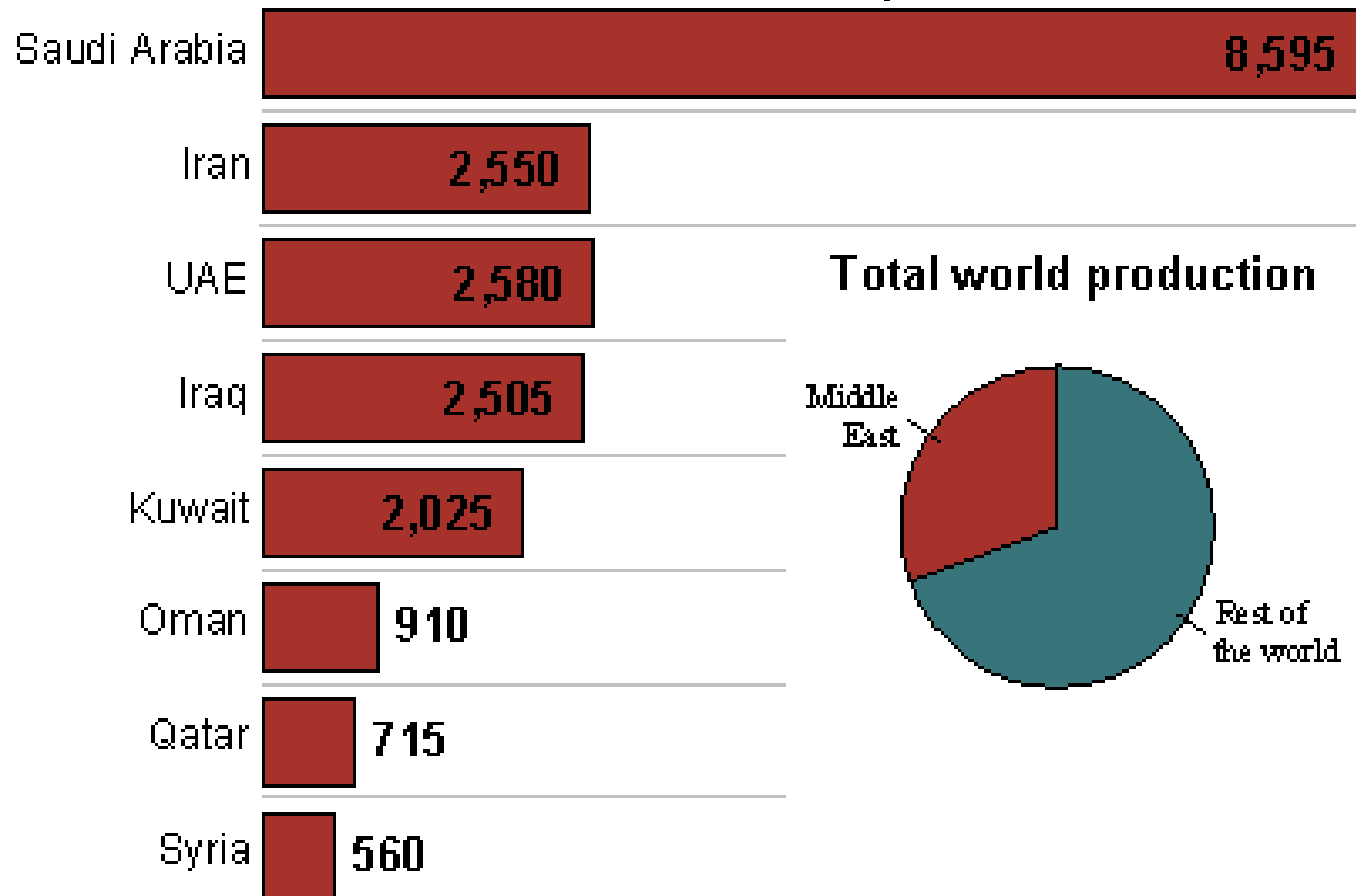
\*Proved reserves are those that the industry considers can be recovered in existing economic and operating conditions.



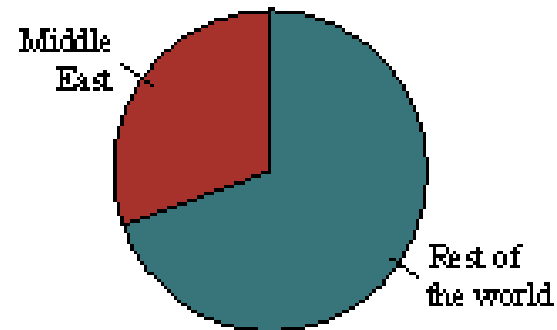
**THE OIL CORRIDOR**  
■ Oil or gas field  
R Refinery

# Middle East Oil Production

Production, 1000s of Barrels/day



Total world production



Source BP (1999 figures)



# WHERE U.S. GETS ITS OIL

Top Crude Oil Importers, Nov. 2005, In Thousands of Barrels

2000

1500

1000

500



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Energy

# Natural Resources

- The most important resource in this region is **fresh water!** Water is scarce in this region of the world. These countries need water to irrigate crops. Some countries have major rivers such as Turkey, Iraq, Israel, Syria, and Egypt.
- **Drip Irrigation:** this is a practice of using small pipes that slowly drip water just above the ground to conserve water for crops.
- **Irrigation canal:** diversion of water into carefully maintained canals



**Center Pivot Irrigation:** equipment rotates around a pivot. A circular area centered on the pivot is irrigated, often creating a circular pattern in crops when viewed from above

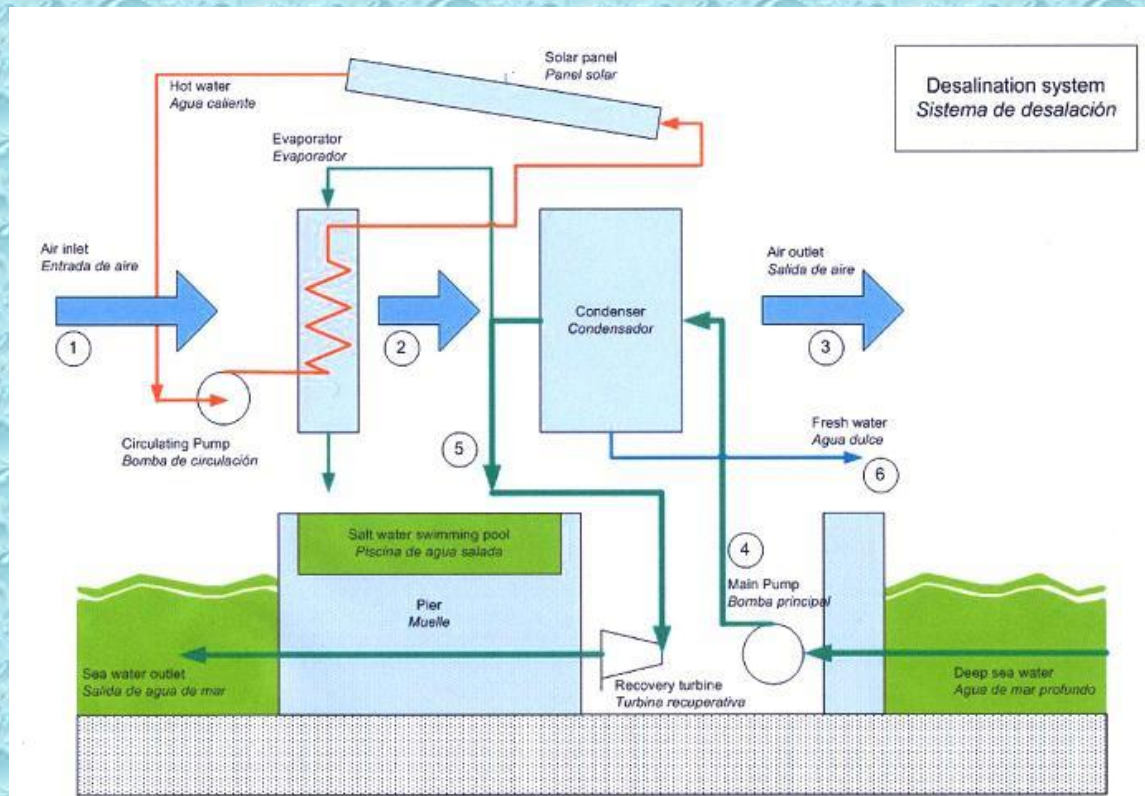


Arial view in Jordan



# Desalinization

Other countries get fresh water by converting salt water from the ocean into fresh water in a process called desalinization. This process is expensive and requires capital investment. (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, and Israel).



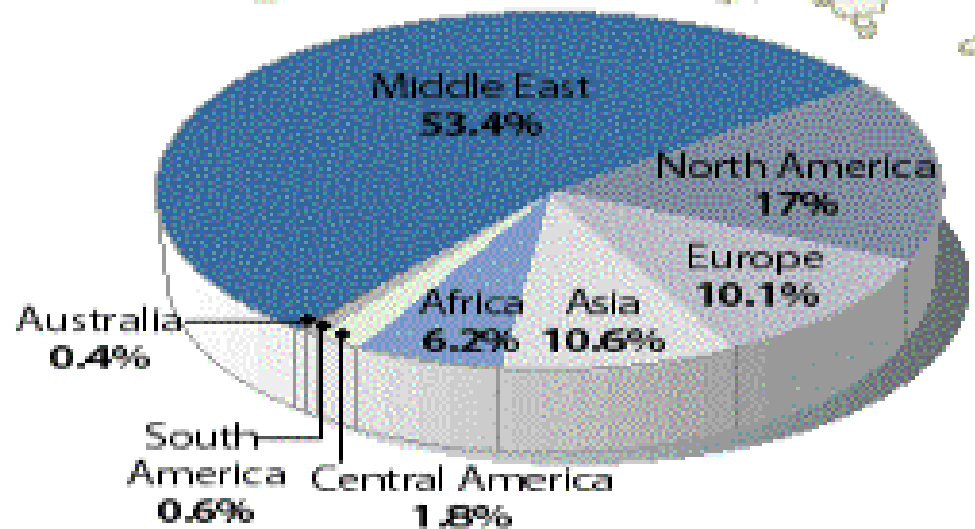
# MAJOR DESALINATION PLANTS WORLDWIDE

The United States has 2 major municipal seawater-desalination plants — 1 under construction in Tampa and another inactive plant in Santa Barbara, Calif. Other countries with 1 or more major plants are marked with red dots.



## Capacity by region

A breakdown of where desalination technology is used on seawater, salty underground water and in other water treatments around the world.

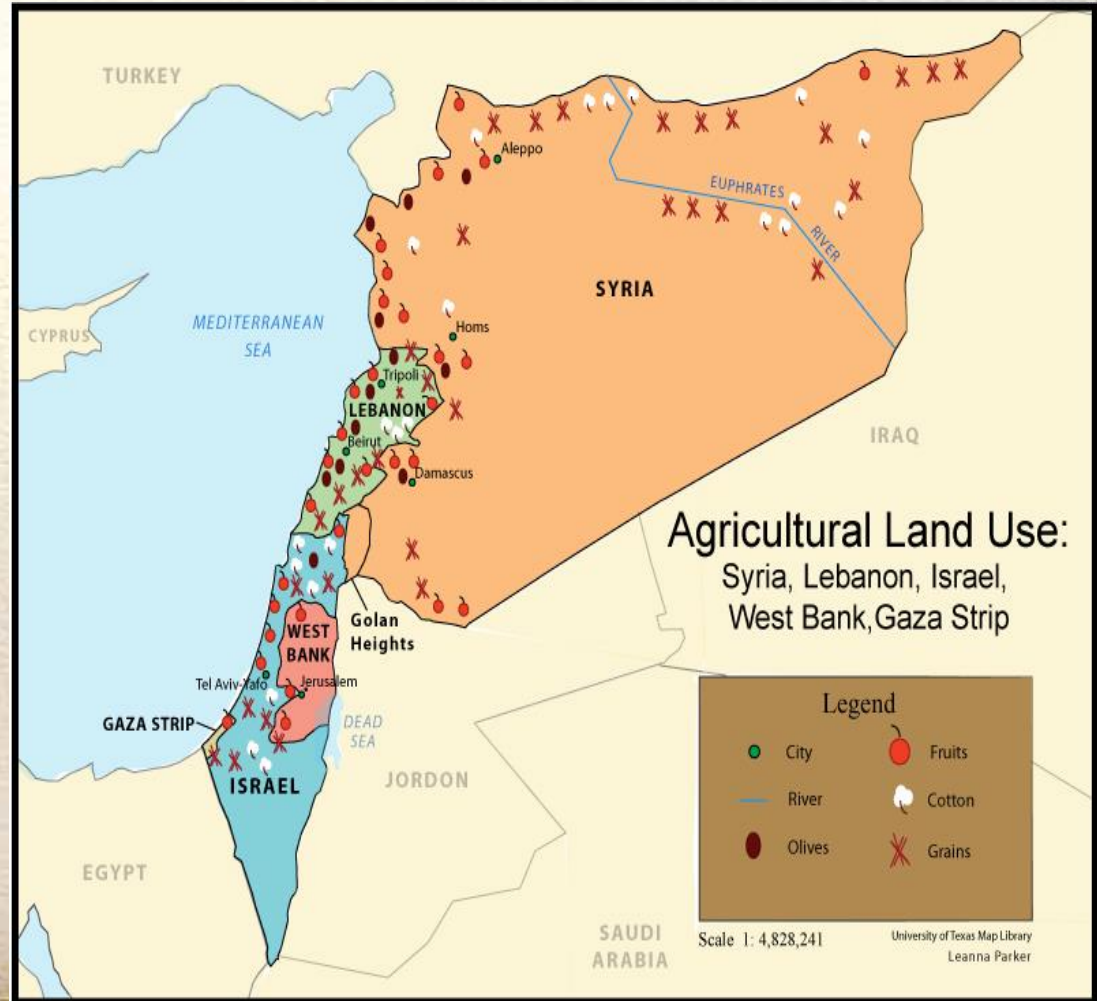


SOURCES: Engineering News-Record; Aqua Resources International Corp.; International Desalination Association

SCOTT HIESTAND/ORLANDO SENTINEL

# Agriculture

- Agriculture in this region is limited to areas near rivers or areas that can be irrigated. Areas with significant agriculture are:
  - A. Near the Nile River in Egypt
  - B. Near the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Turkey and Iraq
  - C. Heavily irrigated areas in Israel near the Jordan River



# **Economic Activity**

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- Primary - Resources are gathered (farming, hunting, fishing, timber falling, mining)
- Secondary - Resources are processed or manufactured into goods.
- Tertiary - The service industry (distributing, advertising, transportation, government employees, banking, retail sales)

# Economic Activity

- This region is highly dependant on primary economic activity.
  - A. Oil drilling
  - B. Agriculture (People grow foods in irrigated areas along rivers and on the Mediterranean Coast)
  - C. Pastoralism (Nomadic Herding - People raise herds of goats, sheep, and cattle)



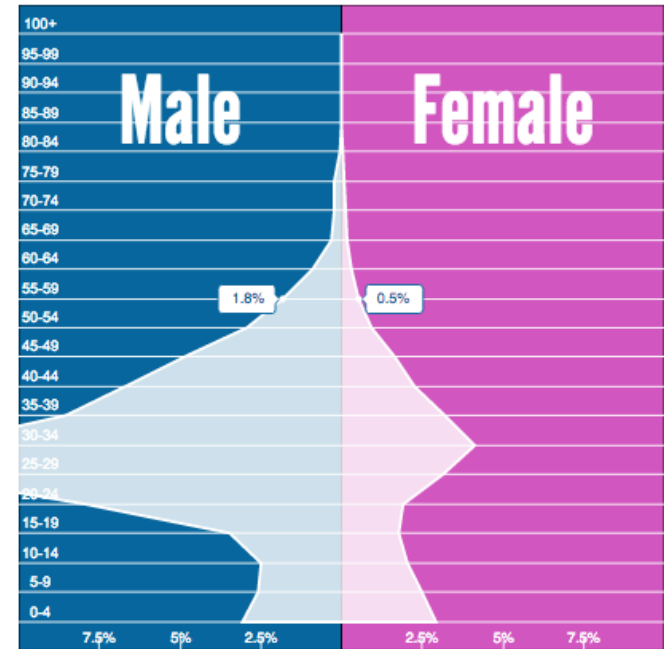


# Guest Workers

- Countries with oil have small populations. These countries allow special visas for workers. The labor shortage is filled by guest workers from south and east Asian countries such as India, Philippines, Pakistan, and Indonesia.

Qatar  
2016

Population: 2.291.000



# Trade Important to Region

- Trade has always been important to this region because it is halfway between Europe and Asia (Middle East).
  - A. The Silk Road linked China to Europe
  - B. Trade routes crossed the Sahara Desert and linked Sub-Saharan Africa to Europe



# Contemporary Trade Routes

- This area has many important trade routes such as:
  - A. The Bosphorus and Dardanelles connect the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea
  - B. The Suez Canal connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea
  - C. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean



# Modern Arabic Life

- Western technology and machines destabilized traditional ways of life.
- Camels were replaced by trucks, automobiles, and motorcycles.
- Traditional marketplaces called bazaars or **souks** are slowly replaced by Western-style supermarkets or malls.
- According to estimates, 70 percent of the population will live in cities by 2015.



# Tourism

- Some countries in this region make money from tourism.
  - A. People visit Egypt to see the pyramids
  - B. People visit Jerusalem to see holy sites (Dome of the Rock, Western Wall, Church of the Holy Sepulchre)
  - C. People visit Mecca (The Hajj)



# Developed or Developing?

- This region has a wide range of per capita income and levels of development.

| High GDP Per Capita   | Low GDP Per Capita |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Israel - 26,600       | Iraq - 3,700       |
| Saudi Arabia - 19,800 | Iran - 11,700      |
| UAE - 37,000          | Lebanon - 10,300   |
| Qatar - 87,000        | Syria - 4,700      |
| Kuwait - 55,900       |                    |