

MIDDLE EAST: BASIC FACTS

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Education Week 2005 handout

BYU

GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL MANKIND (Statement of the First Presidency, Feb. 15, 1978)

Based upon ancient and modern revelation, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints gladly teaches and declares the Christian doctrine that all men and women are brothers and sisters, not only by blood relationship from common mortal progenitors but also as literal spirit children of an Eternal Father.

The great religious leaders of the world such as Mohammed, Confucius, and the Reformers, as well as philosophers including Socrates, Plato, and others, received a portion of God's light. Moral truths were given to them by God to enlighten whole nations and to bring a higher level of understanding to individuals. ...

Compare Book of Mormon: 2 Nephi 29:7, 12; 30:8; Mosiah 3:13; **Alma 29:8**;
Doctrine and Covenants 11:22; **109:54-58**; and **Ezekiel 47:22-23**.

Middle East and (continental) United States COMPARISON:

Size: ME = 2,780,000 square miles US = 3,018,000 square miles
Middle East is 92% the size of the continental United States; that is 1/12th less in size.
(ME + Afghanistan = 3,030,000 sqmi = 104% the size of the continental United States)

Population: ME = 336 million US = 294 million
Middle East has 114% the population of the United States; that is, 1/7th more people.
(ME + Afghanistan = 366 million people = 124% the population of the United States)

Economics: ME = GDP of 2,198 billion dollars US = GDP of 11,750 billion dollars
Middle East has 18.7% (1/5th) of the gross domestic productivity of the United States.
ME = PPP of c. \$6,700 per capita US = PPP of \$40,100 per capita
Middle East has a "Purchasing Power Parity" per person of about one-sixth of the US.

Middle Eastern Countries "POWER INDEX" (Combining Size, Population, & Gross Domestic Product)

NOTE: bigger numbers = larger land areas/populations/GDP; ranked from 17 (largest) to 1 (smallest)
GDP = Gross Domestic Product; PPP = Purchasing Power Parity per capita; PS# = "Personal Satisfaction" #

Country	Size (sq. miles)	Pop. (millions)	GDP (\$ billions)	Power #	PPP/p (\$)	PS#
first tier		"BIG FOUR"				
Iran	16 (636,000)	+ 15 (68 m)	+ 17 (\$517 b)	= 48 (17)	+ 9 (\$7,700)	13
Egypt	15 (387,000)	+ 17 (78 m)	+ 15 (\$316 b)	= 47 (16)	+ 5 (\$4,200)	10½
Turkey	14 (301,000)	+ 16 (70 m)	+ 16 (\$509 b)	= 46 (15)	+ 8 (\$7,400)	11½
Saudi Arabia	17 (830,000)	+ 14 (26.4 m)	+ 14 (\$310 b)	= 45 (14)	+ 10 (\$12,000)	12
2,154/2,780 th/sq/mi = 77 % of land ; 242/336 m/pop = 72 % of people ; 1652/2198 \$b = 75% of wealth						
second tier		"MIDDLE SEVEN"				
Iraq	12 (169,000)	+ 13 (26 m)	+ 12 (\$90 b)	= 37 (13)	+ 4 (\$3,500)	8½
Syria	10 (71,500)	+ 11 (18 m)	+ 10 (\$60.5 b)	= 31 (12)	+ 3 (\$3,400)	7½
Israel	7 (8,000)	+ 10 (6+ m)	+ 13 (\$129 b)	= 30 (11)	+ 14 (\$20,800)	12½
Yemen	13 (204,000)	+ 12 (21 m)	+ 3 (\$16 b)	= 28 (10)	+ 2 (\$800)	6
Oman	11 (82,000)	+ 6 (3 m)	+ 8 (\$38 b)	= 25 (9)	+ 11 (\$13,100)	10
Jordan	9 (38,000)	+ 9 (6- m)	+ 7 (\$25.5 b)	= 25 (9)	+ 6 (\$4,500)	7½
U. Arab Emir.	8 (32,000)	+ 5 (2.5 m)	+ 11 (\$64 b)	= 24 (7)	+ 17 (\$25,200)	12
604.5/2,780 th/sq/mi = 22 % of land ; 82.5/336 m/pop = 24.5% of people ; 423/2198 \$b = 19% of wealth						
third tier		"smallest six"				
Kuwait	6 (7,000)	+ 4 (2 m)	+ 9 (\$48 b)	= 19 (6)	+ 15 (\$21,300)	10½
Lebanon	4 (4,000)	+ 8 (3.8 m)	+ 4 (\$19)	= 16 (5)	+ 7 (\$5,000)	6
Qatar	5 (4,200)	+ 3 (0.9 m)	+ 5 (\$19.5 b)	= 13 (4)	+ 16 (\$23,200)	10
Cyprus	3 (3,500)	+ 2 (0.8 m)	+ 6 (\$20.5 b)	= 11 (3)	+ 12 (\$17,000)	7½
"Palestine"	2 (2,400)	+ 7 (3.7 m)	+ 1 (\$2.8 b)	= 10 (2)	+ 1 (\$720)	1½
Bahrain	1 (300)	+ 1 (0.7 m)	+ 2 (\$13 b)	= 4 (1)	+ 13 (\$19,200)	7

21.4/2,780 th/sq/mi = **1% of land**; 11.9/336 m/pop = **3.5% of people**; 123/2198 \$b GDP = **6% of wealth**

PRIMARY SOURCES: 2005 CIA – The World Factbook; Worldbank.org website; World Book Atlas

Pillars of Judaism

- ✧ WRITINGS of the TaNaCh (Old Testament; Holy Scriptures)
- ✧ TEACHINGS concerning God, covenant, Messiah, charity
- ✧ PRINCIPLES of a noble, just moral-ethical society
- ✧ PRACTICES of Sabbath, Holy Days, cleanliness, food
- ✧ PRIORITIES of family, justice, humankind

Purpose = demonstrate GOD’S TRUE WAY to the world; leading to a messianic era

Pillars of Islam

- ﷻ declaration of belief (*shahada*: “There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His prophet”)
- ﷻ prayer five times daily (*salat*: pre-dawn, noon, late afternoon, sunset, late evening)
- ﷻ almsgiving and charity (*zakat*: 2.5% of net worth?, income? or savings?)
- ﷻ fasting during Ramadan (*sawm*: ninth month of the lunar calendar; Oct 4 - Nov 2/3, 2005)
- ﷻ pilgrimage to Mecca (*hajj*: at least once in a lifetime; during twelfth lunar month)

Process & Product: PURIFICATION of the soul and society in fulfillment of God’s will

BUILDING BRIDGES between JEWISH-MUSLIM-LDS COUSINS

<u>Bridge</u>	<u>Judaism</u>	<u>Islam</u>	<u>Mormonism</u>	<u>Unique LDS</u>
Abraham’s children	as Jews	as Arabs	from Joseph tribes	covenant birthright
Articles of Faith (13)	Moses Maimonides	Al-Ghazali	Joseph Smith	became scripture
Charity/alms	mitzvot	alms	tithing, F.O., etc.	no paid clergy
Cities, sacred	Jerusalem	Mecca, Medina, Jer.	New Jerusalem	where prophet lives
Clothing, sacred	<i>tallit ketan (arba kanfot)</i>	pilgrimage attire (<i>ihram</i>)	temple robes/garments	modesty, shield, reminder
Communal services	Jewish agencies	charity organizations	welfare, social services	HT & VT programs
Day of worship	Saturday	Friday	Sunday	exceptions in M.E.
Education	Hebrew/Jewish	religious schools	seminary/institute	secular ed. & faithfulness
Families	small, high quality	large, protected	large, strong emphasis	see TV info-mercials
Fasting	on certain holy days	month of Ramadan	monthly fast Sundays	Fast offerings
Father’s role	teacher	defender	exemplar	FHE; eternal families
Health code	kosher laws	no pork, alcohol	Word of Wisdom	no tobacco, coffee
Mission, peculiar people	improve civilization	war against paganism	share gospel	missionary work (0.5%)
Prophets	ancient & future	Biblical/Mohammad	J.S., others, current	15 prophets, apostles
Religious way of life	devotion	purification	perfection	eternal progression
Salvation for others	Noachian laws	People of the Book	redemption of the dead	postmortal chances
Sanctuaries, rel. centers	synagogues, “temples”	mosques	churches, stake centers	temples
Scriptures	Tanach (O.T.)	Bible, Koran	Bible, BM, D&C, PGP	“open” new scriptures
Social order, ideal	messianic era	social, moral order	Zion society	moral agency
Symbols	Star of David	Crescent	Angel Moroni	not the cross or fish

basic PEOPLES: ARABS TURKS AFRO-HAMITES PERSIANS KURDS JEWS many other smaller groups

basic CULTURES: PATRIARCHAL (tribes, extended & immediate families); ORIENTAL (Asian not Occidental/Western); SEMITIC (languages, traditions, etc.); + European/American influences (intrusions?)

basic RELIGIONS: ISLAM – Sunni & Shi’a; CHRISTIANITY – Eastern, Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, LDS; JUDAISM – ultra-orthodox, orthodox, cultural, agnostic, national; Druze, Baha’i, various other religions

basic POLITICAL SYSTEMS: REPUBLICS OLIGARCHIES MONARCHIES Dictatorships Democracies

basic PROPHECIES

MISSIONARY WORK (in region and/or among Muslims?)

TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM (temples?)

TWO PROPHETS (to the Jewish nation)

ARMAGEDDON (two armies of armies)