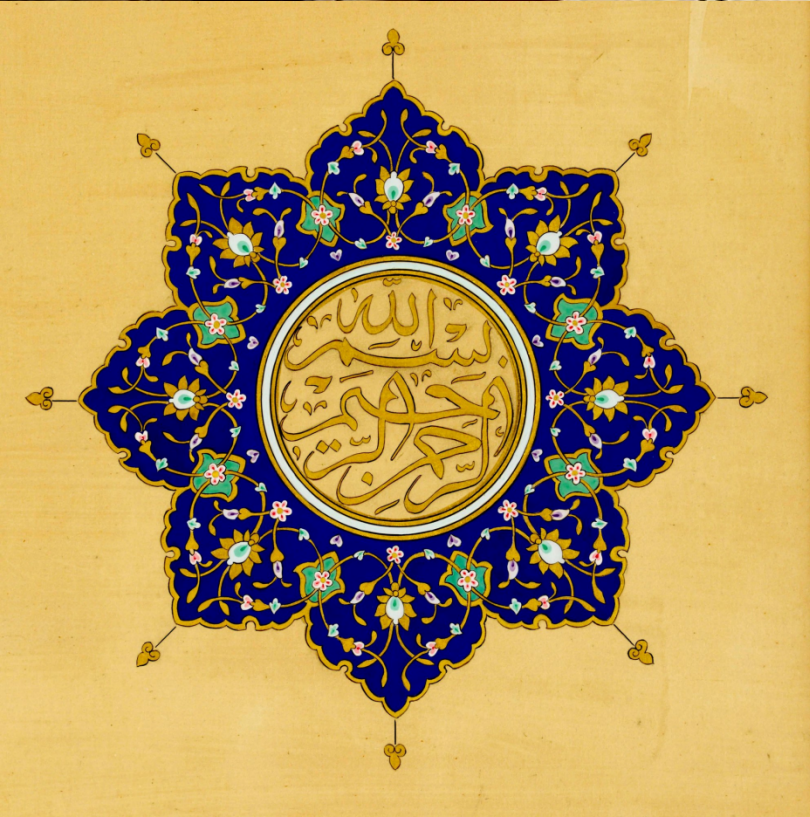


MIDDLE EAST CULTURE AND ISLAM



Culture

- Main ethnic group is
- Other groups include the Turks, Persians (Iran), and Kurds
 - have always been dominated by other countries
 - Unsuccessfully lobbying to
- All culture is based
- All 3 Judeo-Christian religions present
 - in Israel
 - Pockets of widespread, but mainly in
 - everywhere else (different types)



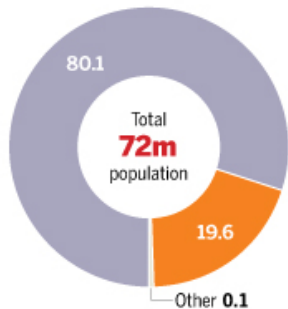
Religious distribution of the Middle East



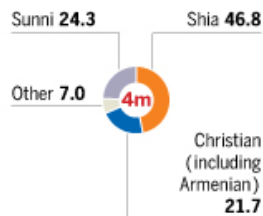
Middle East religions
% of population (2008-09 estimate)

Shia* Sunni Wahhabi/Salafi Christian Other

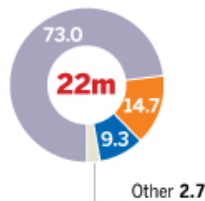
Turkey



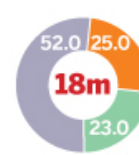
Lebanon



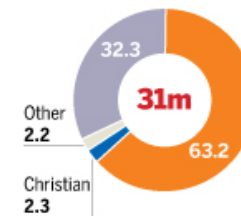
Syria



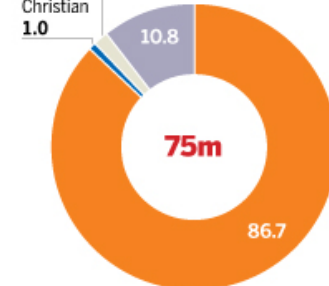
Saudi Arabia



Iraq



Iran



* Includes gnostic Alawites and Alevis

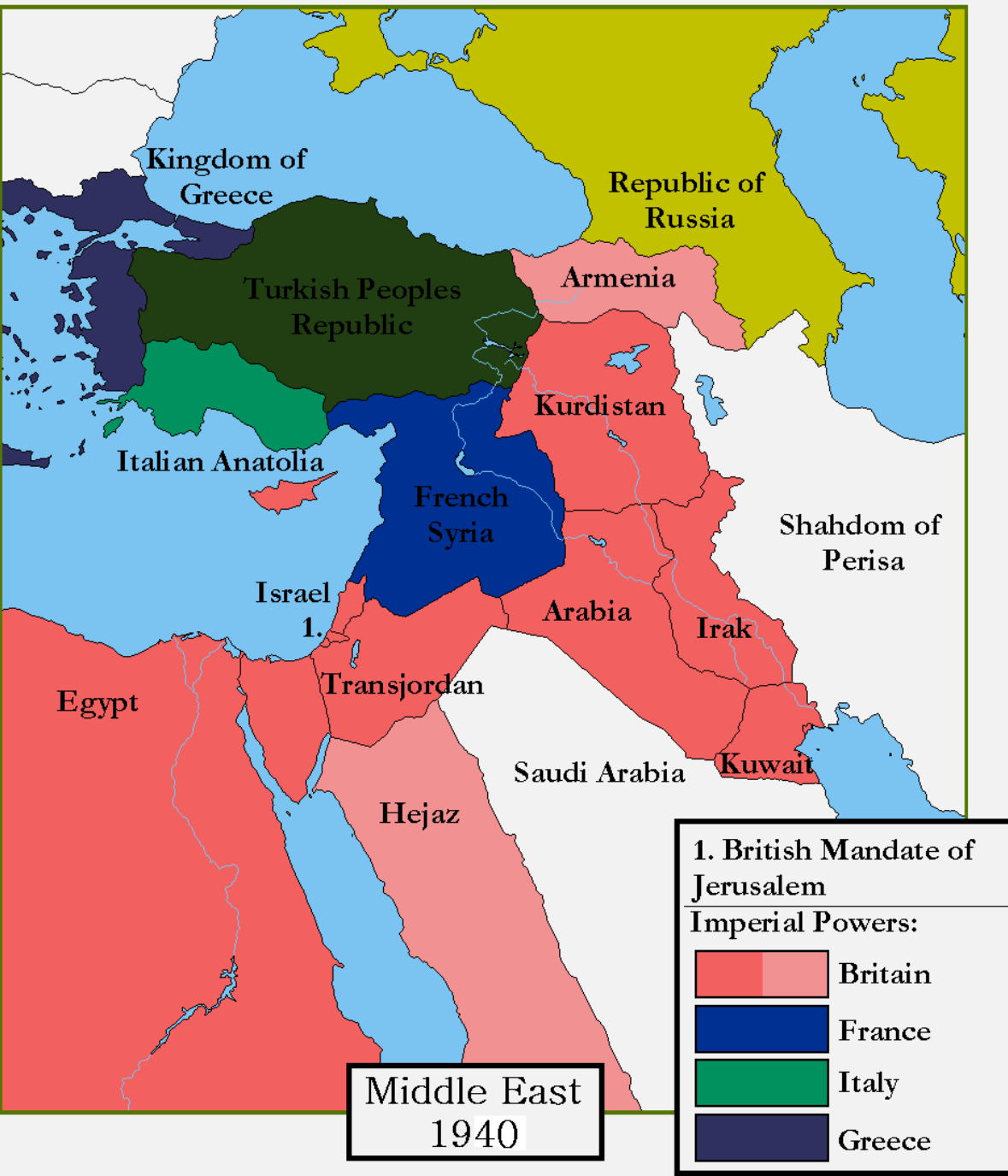
Expatriate workers are not included in these figures

Source: Based on work by Dr Michael Izady at gulf2000.columbia.edu

FT graphic

European Influence

- Europeans colonize the Middle East following World War I to
 - British promise Arabs independence if
 - Rather than gaining independence, region becomes a (colony) of
- Independence granted following , but has led to , and in some cases outright , of Westerners



- France controls
- Britain controls

Basic Principles of Islam

- Place of worship is called a
- “ ” means “submission to God”
- “ ” means “one who submits”
- Teachings were written down and collected in the Islamic sacred text called the
- Believe that only in its original language can one know the full meaning and beauty of the text
 - Has been translated into other languages, but not considered to be the

After Muhammad

- When Muhammad dies, no
- Muslims agreed that his father-in-law & one of the earliest converts should be the
 - Successor to Muhammad as the
- Using , the Muslims unite the Arabs and convert them to Islam
- Under the 1st 4 caliphs Muslims conquered Egypt and Middle East from Byzantines and all of Persia
 - given equality, others forced to convert to Islam and/or made into slaves



Split of Islam

- When picking caliph, 2 ways of picking:
 - Descendant of Muhammad, called ()
 - Most qualified and able Muslim ()
- None of the 1st 3 caliphs were
- 3rd caliph is assassinated by Shiites demanding Ali, Muhammad's son-in-law, be the caliph
- Ali named the 4th caliph, but largely rejected as many view him

Split of Islam

- Civil war starts between the who support Ali and the who view him as an assassin
- Ali and much of his family are massacred after being defeated in battle
- Remaining Shiites flee to after being defeated
 - This is why is the only country today that is Shiite

