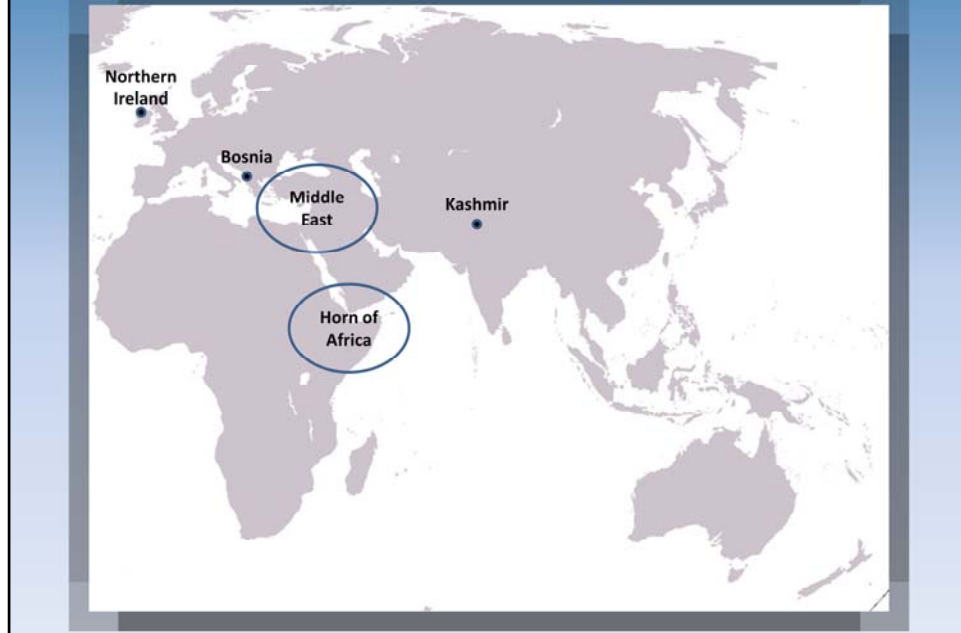


Modern Ethnic and Religious Conflicts



In this presentation, you are going to explore some recent religious and ethnic conflicts around the world. Some of these conflicts are over, and some are still going on.

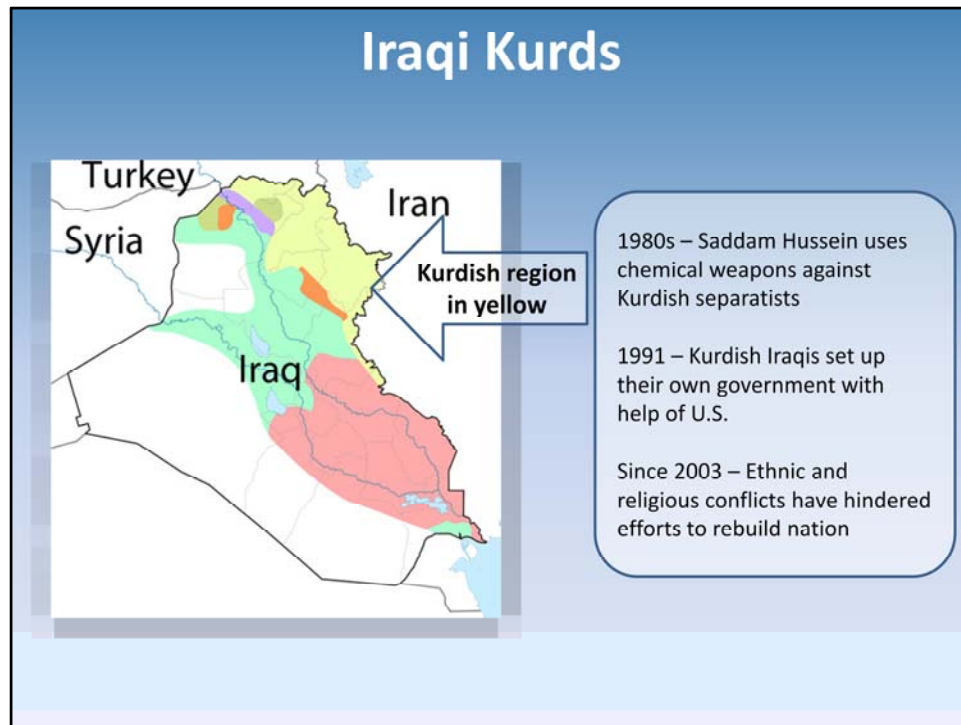
You will start with conflicts in the Middle East, and then move on to Northern Ireland, Bosnia, the Horn of Africa, and end with the current situation in Kashmir.



The conflict in the Middle East, between Arabs and Israelis, is one of the most prominent religious conflicts in the modern world. This conflict has its roots in the creation of Israel as a Jewish state in 1948, out of the mandate of Palestine. Palestine was held by the Ottoman Empire, and then the British, after World War I. Under British rule, Jewish migration to this land increased, especially with the persecution of the Jews by the Nazis during World War II.

When Israel declared its independence in 1948, many of the Palestinians left the country. The surrounding countries went to war with Israel many times with the goal of destroying it; however, Israel has survived. The Jews see Israel as their homeland – a place where they can live without fear of oppression. The Palestinians, and some of the surrounding countries, see Israel as land that was illegally taken from them with the help of the Western powers.

Since Israel's founding, the United States has been an important ally in helping it become the dominant military power in the Middle East. America's strategy for the region depends heavily on the continued strength of Israel.




Also in the Middle East, Kurdish people in Iraq were attacked under the leadership of Saddam Hussein. The Kurdish people live in a territory that spans northern Iraq, northern Iran, and southern Turkey. During the late 1980s, after years of conflict, Saddam Hussein, the dictator of Iraq, launched attacks using chemical weapons on Kurdish populations inside Iraq.

After the 1991 Gulf War, the Kurdish people in Iraq were able to set up their own government, with help from the U.S. and Great Britain. Since the invasion of Iraq in 2003, the country is going through a rebuilding process. Ethnic divisions between Kurds and Arabs, as well as religious conflicts between Sunni and Shiite Muslims, have made the rebuilding process very difficult. These conflicts threaten the future of Iraq and the United States ended its major military involvement in the country at the end of 2011.

[Map courtesy Ruffy.]

Northern Ireland



The map shows the island of Ireland and the United Kingdom. Northern Ireland is highlighted in blue, and the Republic of Ireland is highlighted in green. Arrows point to the respective regions.

Conflict between Catholics and Protestants

1922 – Island divided into two countries: Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland

Catholic nationalists – wanted to unify with Republic of Ireland

Protestant unionists – wanted to remain part of U.K.

Some groups (IRA) used violence to pursue their goals

1998 – Good Friday Agreement has brought peace to the region

Religious conflicts are not always between people of different religions. Lasting for decades, the conflict in Northern Ireland between Protestants and Catholics is an example of a conflict between different denominations within the same Christian religion.

Since 1922, the island of Ireland has been divided into two countries, the Republic of Ireland, which is primarily Catholic, and Northern Ireland, which is primarily Protestant. While the Republic of Ireland is independent, Northern Ireland remains part of the United Kingdom. The conflict in Northern Ireland was between two groups: Catholic nationalists who sought to reunify Northern Ireland with the Republic of Ireland, and Protestant unionists who wanted Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom.

The Irish Republican Army is a paramilitary group that actively attacked British buildings and establishments to try to unify Ireland in the 1970s, 1980s, and early 1990s. A number of people were killed as a result of their activities.

With the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998, violence between the groups has all but disappeared. This agreement resolved a number of outstanding issues between the groups, and ensured that the paramilitary organizations responsible for most of the bombings gave up their weapons. As a result, Northern Island continues to exist as part of the United Kingdom.

[Image of mural courtesy Sean Mack.]

Bosnian War 1992-1995

Up To \$5 Million Reward
Wanted
For crimes against humanity

Milosevic, Karadzic, and Mladic have been indicted by the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for crimes against humanity, including murders and rapes of thousands of innocent civilians, torture, hostage-taking of peacekeepers, wanton destruction of private property, and the destruction of sacred places. Mladic and Karadzic also have been indicted for genocide.

To bring Milosevic, Karadzic, and Mladic to justice, the United States Government is offering a reward of up to \$5 million for information leading to the transfer to, or conviction by, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia of any of these individuals or any other person indicted by the International Tribunal.

If you believe you have information, please contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, or write the U.S. Department of State, Diplomatic Security Service at:

Slobodan Milosevic
President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Radovan Karadzic **Ratko Mladic**

REWARDS FOR JUSTICE
Post Office Box 96781 • Washington, D.C. 20090-4781 U.S.A.
email: mail@dsirewards.net • www.dsirewards.net
1-800-437-4371 (U.S.A. Only)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIPLOMATIC SECURITY SERVICE

Conflict among Catholic Croats, Orthodox Christian Serbs, and Muslim Bosnians

Early 1990s, breakup of Yugoslavia following the fall of the Soviet Union.

Neighboring Serbia attacked in support of Bosnia's Serb population.

NATO stepped in to curb the conflict and establish peace in the region

Milosevic arrested and put on trial. He died during the trial.


Bosnia is a small country in the Balkan region of Europe. This country has a long history of conflict among three groups: Catholic Croats, Orthodox Christian Serbs, and Muslim Bosnians. The roots of the grievances among these groups go back centuries.

After World War II, Bosnia was part of communist Yugoslavia and there was little violence among these groups. However, when Yugoslavia dissolved as a country in the early 1990s, the Serbian forces, in cooperation with Slobodan Milosevic, the ruler of neighboring Serbia, tried to commit “ethnic cleansing” in Bosnia. This means they tried to remove the other groups from the region by force.

During the war, Serbian forces killed over 100,000 people and committed horrible atrocities. A NATO force of 60,000 troops helped establish a degree of peace in the region and eventually arrested Milosevic.

[Picture of building burning courtesy Mikhail Evstafiev.]

Horn of Africa



Somali pirates hold Chinese fishing vessel
and crew hostage

Somalia
In state of civil war since 1991

1993 – 1995 – U.N. led a mission to provide humanitarian relief and restore order

Pirates operate in areas with no central government

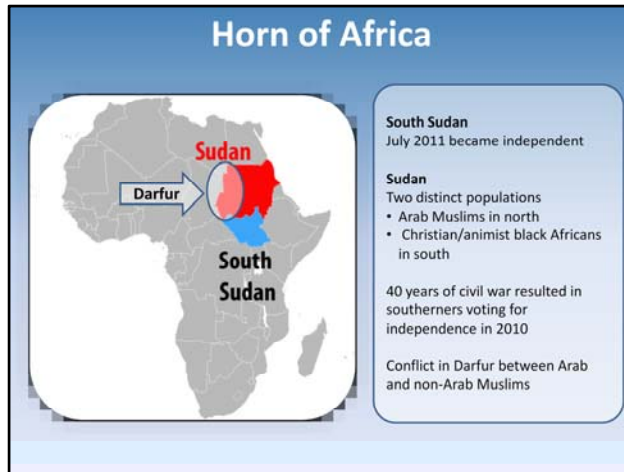
Groups with links to Al-Qaeda have operations there

The Horn of Africa has been the site of many ethnic and religious conflicts since the 1960s, when most African countries gained their independence from the colonial powers.

Somalia has been in a constant state of civil war since 1991, when clan-based rulers revolted against the central government, leading to the government's downfall. Under the authority of the United Nations, American soldiers joined a mission to provide humanitarian relief and restore order. The Americans and the U.N. left in 1995, after suffering significant casualties.

Efforts to restore the central government with the help of the Ethiopian military have had limited success. The lack of a central government has created problems for the international community. Pirates have set up operations along the coast in areas with no central authority and have hijacked ships from all over the world that pass through the area.

In addition, some radical Islamic groups have established operations in Somalia that are linked to Al Qaeda, a militant terrorist organization.



In July of 2011, South Sudan became the latest country in Africa to become an independent nation. Its citizens achieved independence by voting to secede from Sudan after suffering through civil wars rooted in religious and ethnic conflicts.

When Sudan achieved independence from Britain in 1956, the country had two distinct populations. Those in the north were Arab and primarily Muslim, while those in the south were black Africans who were Christian and animist. The government and most of the wealth in the country were controlled by northerners, and many of the laws that they passed discriminated against non-Muslims.

For nearly 40 years, the country was in a state of civil war with groups in the south fighting against the government in the north. These wars, in combination with droughts, led to the death and displacement of millions, mostly in southern Sudan. In 2004, the two sides agreed to a cease-fire. Finally, in 2010, South Sudan voted to secede from the north and became independent in 2011.

During the last decade, there was fighting in the western region of Darfur, which remains part of Sudan. Although the majority of the people living in this region are Muslim, they maintain a distinct culture from the people near the central part of the country who have more in common with people in Egypt.

Rebels in Darfur fought against government troops. In response, the government supported Arab militias who burned non-Arab villages and drove farmers off their land into refugee camps. The U.S. called these actions genocide, although the U.N. did not. Millions were killed or displaced in this conflict. As of 2012, a peace settlement between the two groups has ended fighting in the region.



Although India and Pakistan have been independent since 1947, the border between these two rivals in the Kashmir region has never been formalized. Over the years, this has resulted in wars and ongoing disputes between the two countries, with potentially serious consequences given that both countries have nuclear weapons.

When the two countries became independent from Great Britain at the end of World War II, India was dominated by Hindus, while Pakistan was dominated by Muslims. Kashmir has a predominantly Muslim population, but more than half of the territory in this region came under the control of India.

The current boundaries in the Kashmir region are roughly the same as those established during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947. Neither side recognized the right of the other to rule over the regions that it controlled in Kashmir. Meanwhile, some people in the Kashmir region, especially those living under Indian rule, have sought autonomy. This has resulted in tensions between the residents in this region and the Indian military which maintains control.

Both India and Pakistan have accused each other of sponsoring terrorist actions directed against the other in these regions. Muslim Kashmiri separatist groups have recently committed terrorist attacks in India. India claims that these groups have been supplied and financially supported by militant groups in Pakistan.

Many people believe that the greatest danger comes from the possibility of conflict between these two rivals over this territory. China also controls part of this disputed area, making it another possible combatant if war were to break out in the region.

Ethnic and Religious Conflicts

Question 1 of 7

Point Value: 10

What country is shown in red on the map?

- Somalia
- Sudan
- Bosnia
- Kashmir



PROPERTIES

On passing, 'Finish' button:

On failing, 'Finish' button:

Allow user to leave quiz:

User may view slides after quiz:

User may attempt quiz:

Goes to Next Slide

Goes to Next Slide

After user has completed quiz

At any time

Unlimited times

