

## Chapter 6, The Middle East (pp. 141-179)

### Key Terms:

**Saddam Hussein:** President of Iraq from 1979 to 2003. He was a dictator who suppressed opposition brutally and frequently waged war against other countries.

**Hezbollah:** A Shia political party based in Lebanon but that operates worldwide.

**Caliphate:** A government led by an Islamic religious leader, the caliph. The caliph has absolute authority because he is seen as a successor to the Islamic prophet Muhammad.

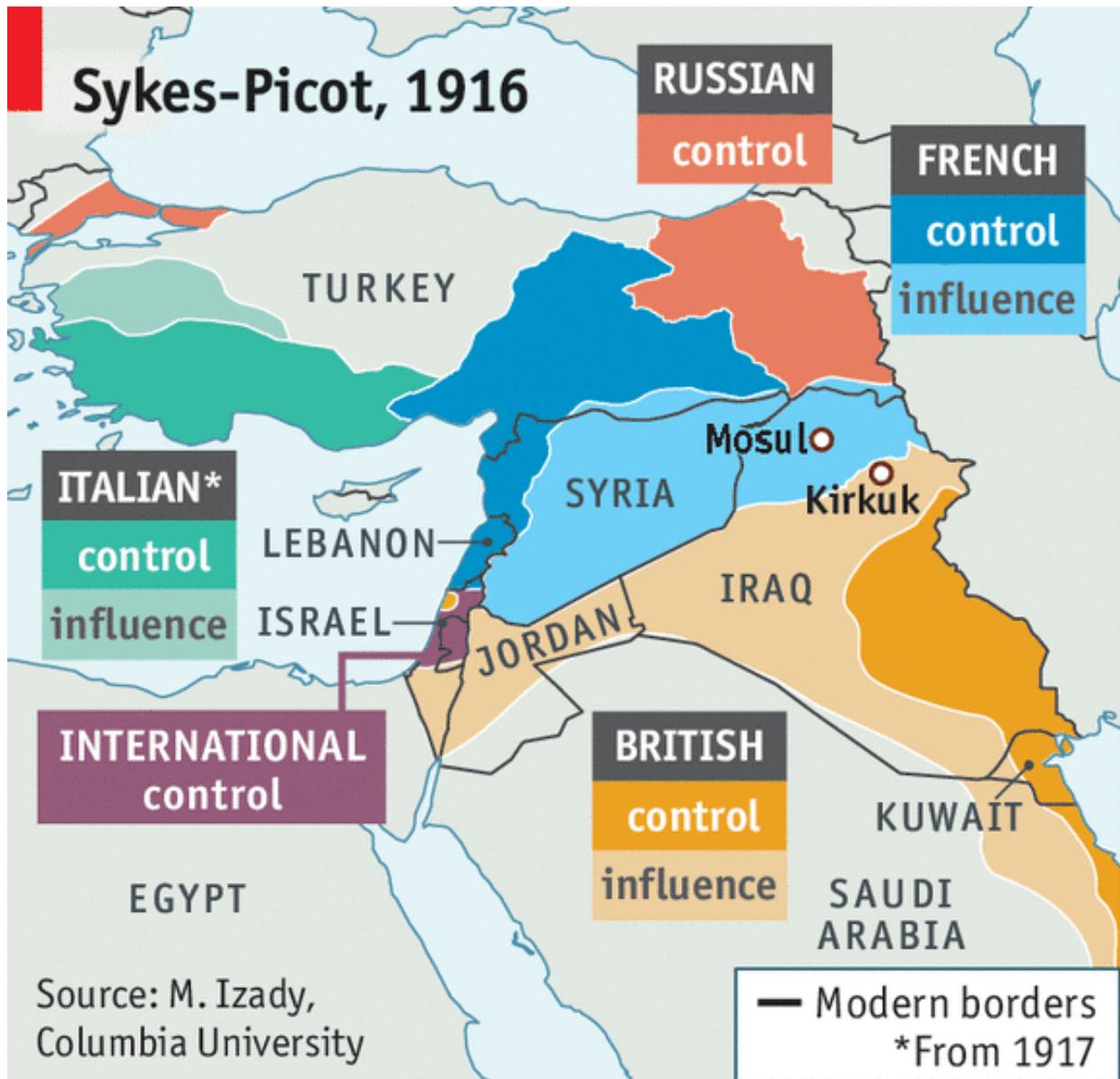
**Thirty Years War:** A highly destructive 17<sup>th</sup> century conflict within the Holy Roman Empire (now Germany) that ultimately wound up involving the major European powers of the time.

**Arab Spring:** A series of pro-democracy protests in the Arab world beginning in the Spring of 2011. The first was in Tunisia in North Africa but the protests spread to many other countries.

### Questions to Answer:

142. Why didn't the people living in the Middle East form nations?

144. What was Sykes-Picot originally? What has it come to mean more generally?



Economist.com

145. What is the most important division within the Islamic religion? What is the fundamental difference of belief between these two sides?

146. How do the many divisions within Islam make it more difficult to rule the nation states that have been created in the Middle East?

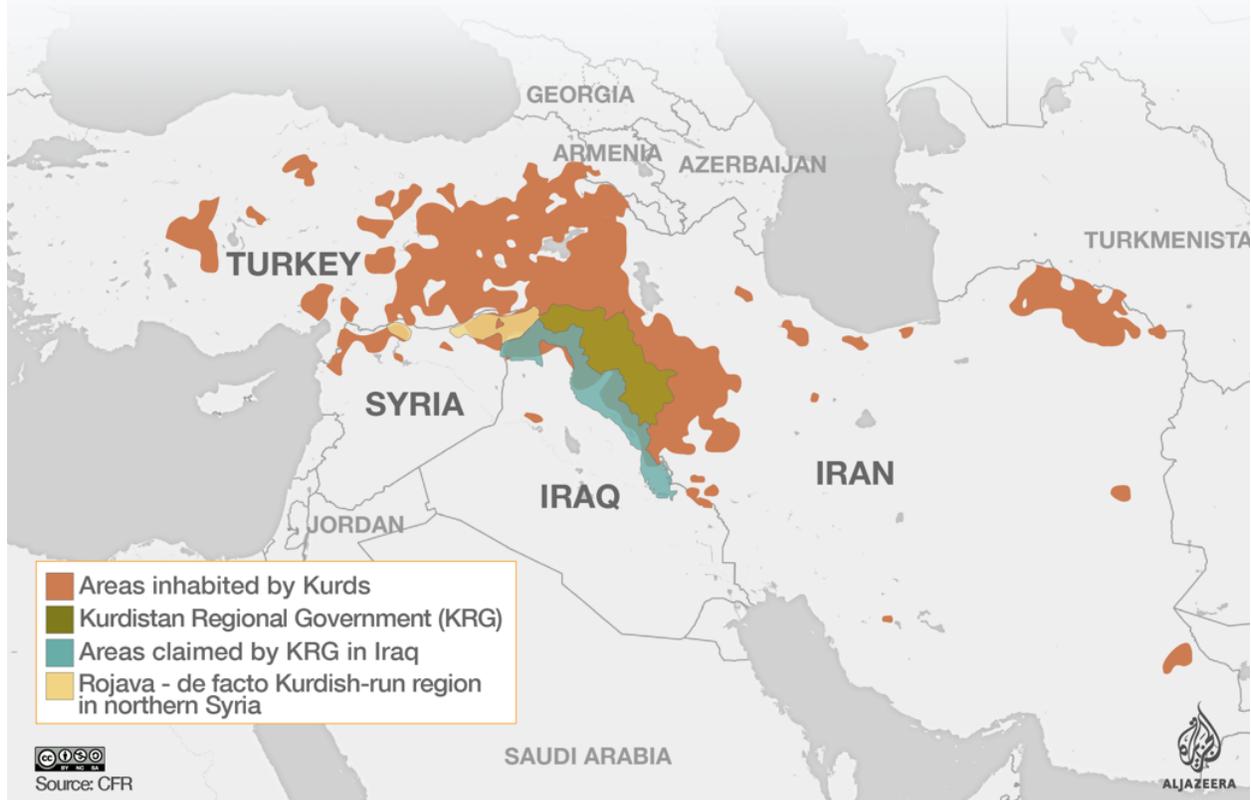


from BBC

146-148. What problems does Iraq have in terms of remaining a unified nation? Include considering what the Kurds want and what their current situation is.

# Who and where are the Kurds?

An estimated 25-30 million Kurds mostly live in Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran. The Kurds, who are mostly Sunni Muslims, do not have an official homeland and continue to seek recognition, political rights, autonomy or independence.



from Al Jazeera

150-154. Compare Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. What is similar about the difficulties each of country faces in terms of remaining a unified nation?

154-155. Why is the caliphate so attractive to citizens of the Middle East today?

155-156. What makes ISIS (also known as IS or or DAESH) especially appealing as a jihadist group?

157-158. Why has ISIS been losing territory and influence since 2015?

158-159. What factors mean that the Sunni jihadists are unlikely to achieve their goals?



from *The Economist*

160. How is the Iraqi conflict a problem that affects countries around the world?

161-162. When and why did Israel become a nation? Who created it?

163-164. Why is control of Jerusalem a difficult issue to resolve for Israelis and Palestinians?

164. What is the Gaza Strip and why is life there difficult?

165. What is the West Bank and what are Israel's defense demands with respect the West Bank?

166. How is Iran different from most countries in the Middle East?

166-168. What are some of the ways Iran's mountainous geography affects the country?

168-169. How does Iran's nuclear industry create a threat in the region, for Israel, and for countries around the world?

170. Why is there tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia and how do recent events in Iraq aggravate that tension?



172. Who was Mustafa Kemal Attaturk and what kinds of changes did he make in Turkey?

173-174. What problems does Turkey face now under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan?

175. Why is it unlikely that Turkey will be accepted into the European Union?

176-178. What factors make the democratic revolution begun in the Arab Spring unlikely to succeed?

**Questions to Ask:**

What would you like to discuss in class from this chapter? Write 3 questions. These might be about things you didn't understand or about ideas which interested you.

1.

2.

3.