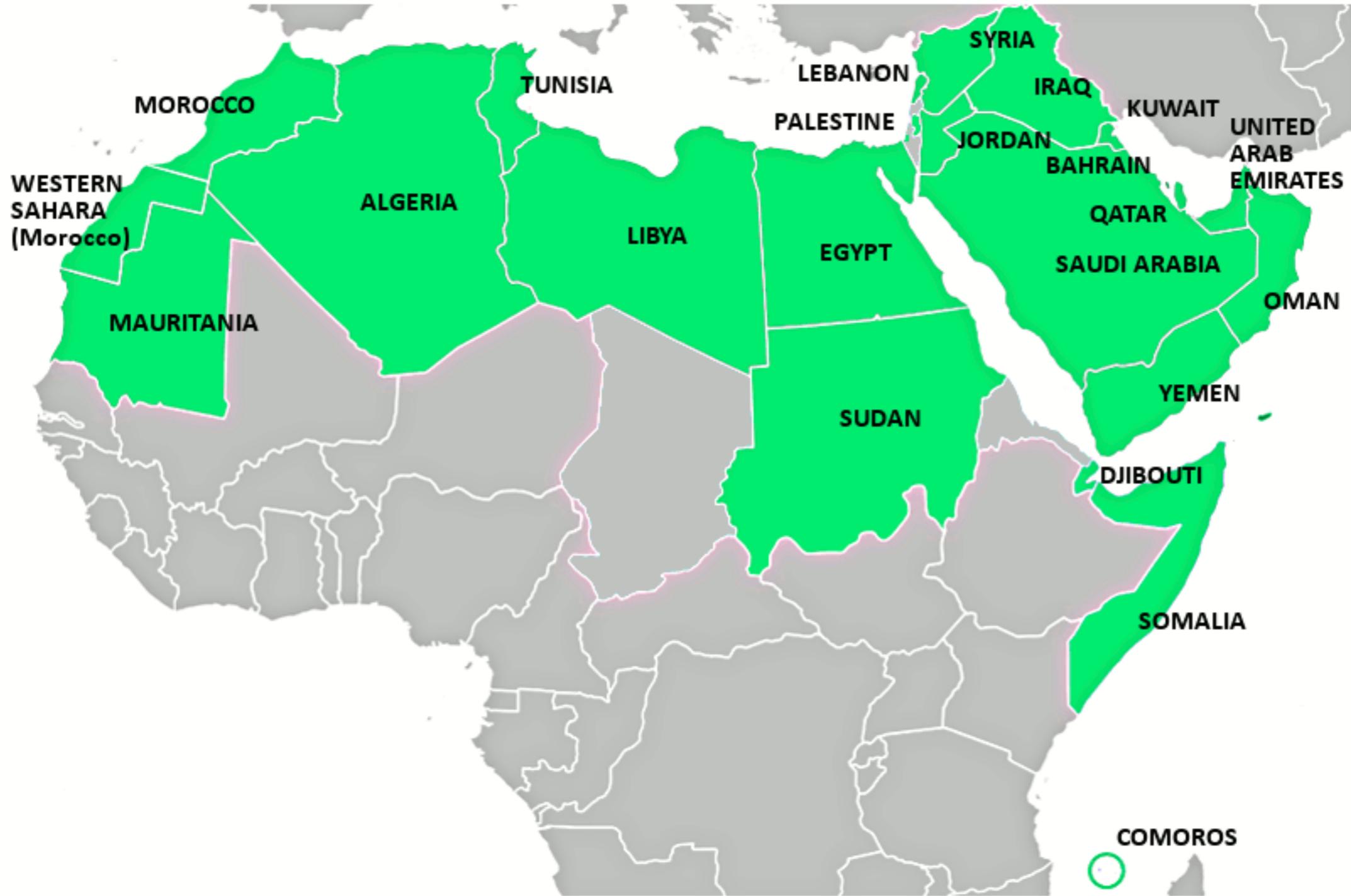


Incorporating Islam into Day-to-Day Subject Teacher Training Workshop

The Arab Spring - Dr Saussan Khalil
22 March, 2019



The Arab World



Arab Spring - timeline

1. **Tunisia, 17 Dec 2010:** street vendor Mohammed Bouazizi sets himself on fire to protest the arbitrary seizing of his vegetable cart by police over failure to obtain a permit. Protest spread across the country and eventually prompted authoritarian president Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali to abdicate and flee to Saudi Arabia. He had ruled the country with an iron fist for more than 20 years.
2. **Egypt, 25 Jan 2011:** inspired by the events in Tunisia and building on earlier protest movements, mass protests start in Egypt leading authoritarian president Hosni Mubarak to step down. He had ruled for almost 30 years. Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood is elected president in 2012, then a coup led by defense minister Abdel Fattah el-Sisi installed the latter as president in 2013, and he remains in power today.
3. **February 2011:** mass-protests start to appear across the region
4. **Morocco, 22 May 2011:** police beat thousands of pro-democracy protesters. Moroccan voters approve constitutional changes that limit the power of the country's monarchy.
5. **Bahrain:** peaceful pro-democracy protests in the capital Manama in 2011 and 2012 were violently suppressed by the government of King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. Officially, the country has a constitutional monarchy form of government, but personal freedoms remain limited. The plight of the Bahraini people was dramatically portrayed in the documentary *Shouting in the Dark*, which was released in 2012.

Arab Spring - aftermath

1. **Libya:** authoritarian dictator Colonel Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown in **October 2011**, during a violent civil war, and was executed by opposition fighters. Video footage of his death was seen by millions online. Since Gaddafi's downfall, Libya has remained in a state of civil war, and two opposing governments effectively rule separate regions of the country. This has contributed, in part, to the ongoing worldwide refugee crisis, which has seen thousands flee Libya, most often by boat across the Mediterranean Sea, with hopes of new opportunities in Europe.
2. **Syria:** pro-democracy protests began in Syria on **15 March 2011**, but escalated to a civil war that has lasted for several years, forcing many to leave the country to seek refuge in Turkey, Greece and throughout Western Europe. For a time, the militant group ISIS had declared a caliphate—a nation governed by Islamic law—in northeastern Syria. The group executed thousands of people, and many others fled the region in fear of their lives. Although ISIS has largely been defeated in Syria, the oppressive regime of long-time dictator Bashar al Assad remains in power in the country.
3. **Yemen:** Yemenis hold a “Million Man March,” a large-scale pro-democracy protest on **23 September, 2011**. Yemen dictator Ali Abdullah Saleh signs a power-sharing agreement. He resigns altogether in February 2012 and is later killed, in 2017, while the country is still engulfed in a civil war. The country's infrastructure has suffered significant damage, and the conflict has devolved into tribal warfare.

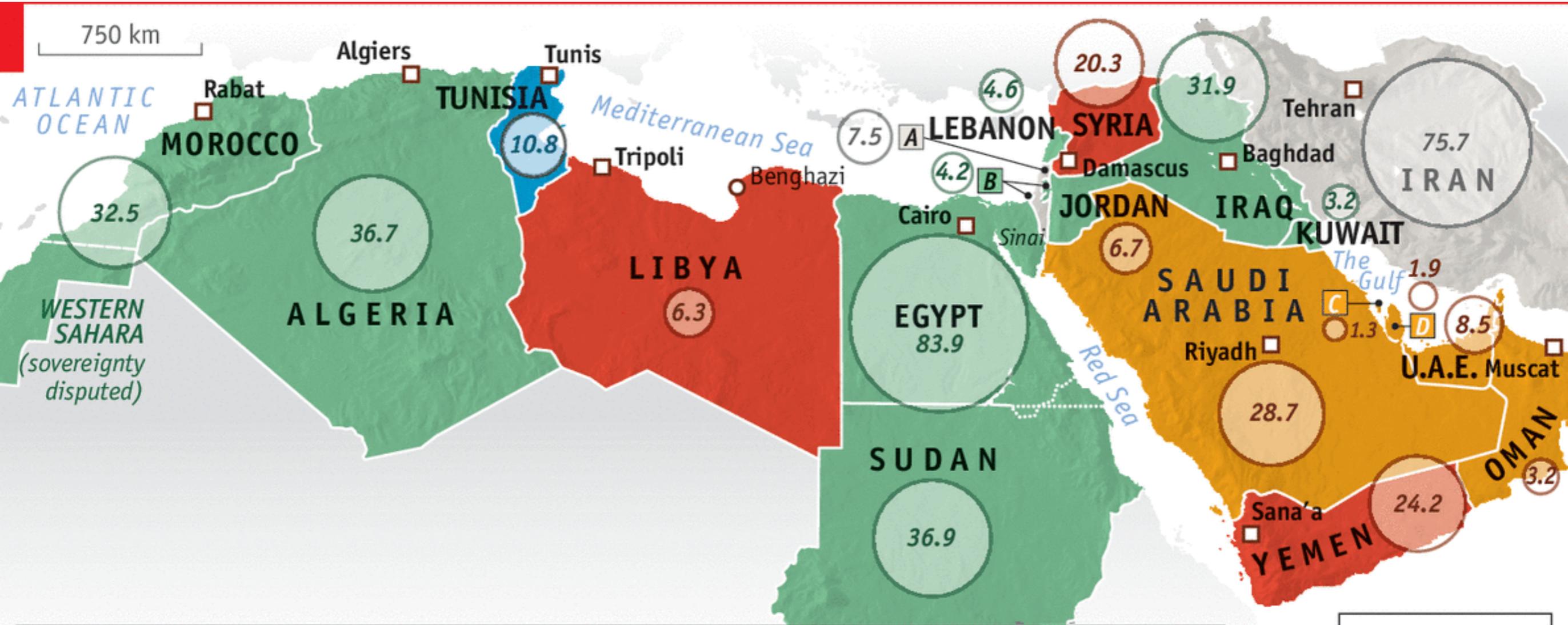
What happened after the Arab Spring?

-  Government was overthrown and there was a successful transition to democracy.
-  Government was overthrown and the new government is still developing.
-  Government was not overthrown, but changes were made.
-  Fighting a civil war
-  Protests were stopped, no major changes were made.



Arab Spring - new developments

1. **Sudan:** after years of civil war, South Sudan gains independence in 2011. In December 2018, the ongoing Sudan Uprisings begin.
2. **Algeria:** weeks of protests in Algeria have pushed long-time leader Abdelaziz Bouteflika to drop his plans of running for a fifth term as president. He became president in 1999 following a civil war. He has rarely been seen in public since he suffered a stroke in 2013.



Country status of selected Arab countries (January 2016)

- Democracy
 - Autocracy/restricted democracy
 - Full autocracy
 - Failed state/civil war
 - Non Arab
- Sources: UN; *The Economist*

○ Population at onset of Arab spring 2011 estimate, m

- A: ISRAEL
- B: PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
- C: BAHRAIN
- D: QATAR

Arab Spring - culture focus



Arab Spring - culture focus

1. The Arab Spring of 2011 was hailed as the **'internet revolution'** due to the prominent role of social media and the prominent rise of citizen journalism
2. The protesters showed enormous creativity in their slogans and posters, creating new street art and music
3. Unity between Muslims and Christians was a key theme
4. Women were actively involved in protests and started calling out harassment, with movements against it springing up for example in Cairo



Arab Spring - culture focus



Arab Spring - culture focus



Arab Spring - culture focus



Arab Spring - culture focus

The Arab Spring in 2011 was a time of hope and the desire for a better future, particularly for the youth in Egypt. How many images relating to the themes of unity and hope do you see in this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV9UY_8qABY

- Old and young
- Muslim and Christian
- Religious and secular (e.g. bearded men and non-bearded men, veiled women and non-veiled women)
- Men and women
- Army and civilian
- Rich and poor (you may not recognise them but the clip includes several famous actors, alongside the ‘people’!)

Resources

Books

- Tweets from Tahrir
- Translating Egypt's Revolution
- "[Routledge Handbook of the Arab Spring](#)" (Abingdon: Routledge, 18 Dec 2014), Routledge Handbooks Online.

Websites

- History (timeline of 2011 events): <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/arab-spring>
- The Economist (5 years on, 2016): <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2016/01/11/the-arab-spring-five-years-on>

Films

- This Week (The Economist, 2017, Egypt) : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaUR2w0eETc> (4:46 min)
- The Square (Award-winning documentary film, 2013, Egypt): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twB2zAOzsKE> (trailer only, 2:32 min)
- Bahrain: Shouting in the Dark (Al-Jazeera, 2011): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaTKDMYOBOU> (full documentary, 50:55 min)
- Voice of Freedom (song): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sV9UY_8qABY

Thank you!

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