



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Crises in the Middle East and Issues Stemming from Them

Syrian civil war

- humanitarian disaster
- refugees
- involvement of Iran, Russia, China, US
- rise of ISIS

Peacebuilding in Iraq and Afghanistan

- security
- women's/minority rights
- international involvement

Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

- international law
- Palestinian refugees (internal and in other countries)

Refugee crises

- refugees fleeing from conflicts in the Middle East. (Syria, Iraq, Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Afghanistan, etc.)
- refugee-receiving countries in the Middle East (Lebanon, Jordan, Iran)
- refugees transiting MENA countries: sub-Saharan Africans crossing (and/or settling in) Morocco en route to Europe
- asylum-seekers, such as gay men leaving Iran

Minorities

- ethnic groups, such as the Kurds
- religious groups, such as Christians or Yazidis

Environmental issues

- water scarcity
- impact of global climate change (desertification, rising sea levels)

Political transitions/upheavals

- secession in Oman
- political dissent within established monarchies (Saudi Arabia, Morocco)
- adjustments post-Arab Spring in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya
- unrest in Turkey

Ongoing conflicts between countries

- US versus Iran
- Lebanon versus Israel
- Middle Eastern attitudes towards Israel
- disagreements within the Persian Gulf region