



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Free Resources for Educators to Learn about Middle East Conflicts

Syrian civil war

- “Syria’s War Has Never Been More International” (article):
<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/02/syria-civil-war-next/553232/>
- “The Syrian Conflict – MES: Foreign States (a guide to foreign involvement with links to articles – and other tabs exploring other aspects of the conflict):
<https://guides.library.illinois.edu/Syria/Foreign>

Peacebuilding in Iraq and Afghanistan

- “11 Facts That Explain the Escalating Crisis in Iraq” (easy-to-use, Syria/ISIS):
<https://www.vox.com/2014/6/13/5803712/11-things-iraq-crisis-isis>
- “ISIS Fast Facts” (including a timeline): <https://www.cnn.com/2014/08/08/world/isis-fast-facts/>
- “‘We’re All Handcuffed in This Country.’ Why Afghanistan Is Still the Worst Place in the World to Be a Woman” (article): <https://time.com/5472411/afghanistan-women-justice-war/>
- “Peacebuilding in Afghanistan” (International Crisis Group report):
<https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-asia/afghanistan/peacebuilding-afghanistan>
- “Building Peace in Afghanistan from the Bottom-Up” (US Institute of Peace article):
<https://www.usip.org/blog/2019/08/building-peace-afghanistan-bottom>
- “Six Elements of Post-War Reconstruction” (1 page summary for use with high school students):
https://cmes.arizona.edu/sites/cmes.arizona.edu/files/2.%20Elements%20of%20%20Postwar%20Recons._1.pdf (Part of a lesson plan on post-war reconstruction: <https://cmes.arizona.edu/post-war-reconstruction-what-happens-after-conflict-ends.>)

Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

- “Overview of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict” (6 pages):
<https://cmes.arizona.edu/sites/cmes.arizona.edu/files/Overview%20of%20the%20Palestinian-Israeli%20Conflict.pdf>
- “Palestinian Refugees: Locations and Numbers” (brief report with links):
<http://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/report/89571/middle-east-palestinian-refugee-numberswhereabouts>

Refugee crises

- “The World’s Refugees in Numbers”: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/refugees-asylum-seekers-and-migrants/global-refugee-crisis-statistics-and-facts/>

Minorities/Women

- “Everything You Need to Know about Being Gay in Muslim Countries” (article): <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/21/gay-lgbt-muslim-countries-middle-east>
- “How Are Iranian Gay Men Coping with Systematic Suppression under Islamic Law? A Qualitative Study” (article): <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12119-019-09613-7>
- “Who Are the Kurds?” (article): <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29702440>
- “Middle East Christians” (several BBC articles): <https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cq23pdgv2w3t/middle-east-christians>
- “Christians of the Holy Land” (60 Minutes video – 14 minutes): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5p8mZ-HN-0>
- “Yazidi Women Struggle to Return to Daily Life after Enduring Islamic State Brutality” (9 ½-minute video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rC7u2QMmfXg>
- “What Factors Determine the Changing Roles of Women in the Middle East and Islamic Societies?” (article): <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/questions/women/index.html>

Environmental issues

- “Water in Crisis – Middle East” (online article): <https://thewaterproject.org/water-crisis/water-in-crisis-middle-east>

Political transitions/upheavals

- “Beyond Syria: The Arab Spring’s Aftermath” (article): <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/dec/30/arab-spring-aftermath-syria-tunisia-egypt-yemen-libya>
- “Oman’s Renaissance – and What Will Follow” (article on a country in the Arabian peninsula that is stable and open – and which just lost its long-time ruler of 50 years): <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/01/14/sultan-qaboos-legacy-oman-confront-challenges-middle-east/>
- “Dissent in Morocco: Not All for One” (article): <http://araborganizing.org/dissent-in-morocco-not-all-for-one/>
- “What’s Driving Unrest and Protests in Turkey” (article): <https://www.cnn.com/2013/06/03/world/europe/turkey-conflict-explainer/index.html>
- “Yemen Crisis: Why Is There a War?” (article): <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29319423>

Ongoing conflicts between countries

- “Trouble in the Gulf as US-Iran Dispute Threatens to Escalate into Serious Conflict” (article): <http://theconversation.com/trouble-in-the-gulf-as-us-iran-dispute-threatens-to-escalate-into-serious-conflict-117081>
- “The Israel-Lebanon Conflict: 1978-Present” (article): https://www.historyguy.com/israel-lebanon_conflict.html
- “Israel-Iran Conflict to Be Major Middle East Issue in 2020” (article): <https://www.dw.com/en/israel-iran-conflict-to-be-major-middle-east-issue-in-2020/a-51600787>