

PART I

# THE MIDDLE EAST:

## THE PLACE, THE PEOPLE

One of the oldest continuously settled areas on earth, the Middle East is today a region in which overlapping but distinctive cultures and ancestral ways co-exist with modern technology. This fact-filled documentary introduces viewers to some of the diverse inhabitants and geographical contrasts that presently make up the birthplace of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Revealing how the continuity of centuries-old traditions affects contemporary experience, it highlights the major customs, religious practices and patterns of conduct that guide the lives of the region's different populations. The video, which can be used to initiate units of study about the Middle East, is suitable for classroom instruction (grades seven and up) as well as for general audiences.

Disponible en français sous le titre  
*Le Moyen-Orient : le territoire et les habitants.*

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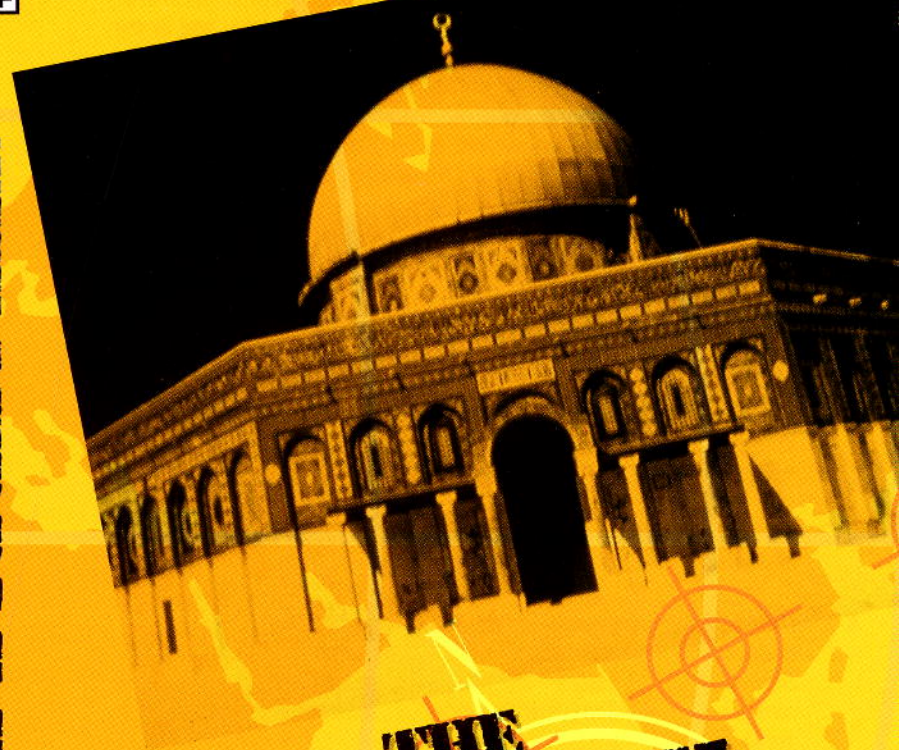
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# THE MIDDLE EAST: THE PLACE, THE PEOPLE



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## THE PLACE, THE PEOPLE

PART I

CANADIAN FORCES

ARMED ARMÉES

FORCES CANADIENNES



VHS  
113C  
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### OTHER VIDEOS IN THIS COLLECTION:

- Arctic Survival
- The Middle East:  
The Clash of History  
Part II
- Sea Survival
- Snowbirds
- Summer Bush
- Survival in Winter Bush
- The Sea Is at Our Gates
- To Show the Way





*The Middle East is the birthplace of three of the world's major religions. Judaism, Christianity and Islam each dictate different customs, lifestyle, dress, and food. This compelling, fact-filled documentary is about a land where cultures overlap yet are distinct, where complexity is the bedrock upon which the region is founded. Special attention is given to the varied ways in which religion expresses itself among observant Jews and pious Muslims, and to the significance of Jerusalem for three of the world's major faiths. The video also summarizes the value systems typical of rural villages and Bedouin communities, where family ties form the basis for society. Suitable for classroom instruction (grades seven and up) as well as for general audiences, this film can be used to initiate units of study about the Middle East.*

### **QUESTIONS AND TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

- 1. Why do history and religion play such important roles in the Middle East?*
- 2. Describe some of the ways in which religion is expressed among the different groups of Jews, Muslims and Christians shown in the video.*
- 3. Why does Jerusalem have special meaning for Judaism, Christianity and Islam?*
- 4. Define the following terms and explain their significance:*

<i>Bedouin</i>	<i>Rahmadan</i>	<i>Koran</i>
<i>Shabat</i>	<i>Mecca</i>	<i>soukh</i>
<i>mosque</i>	<i>Temple of Solomon</i>	<i>muezzin</i>
<i>Torah</i>		
- 5. How does Islam serve as a unifying force for the majority of the region's inhabitants?*
- 6. Describe some of the key features of traditional village life and the role of the family in the rural communities shown in the video.*
- 7. What kinds of physical contrasts are typical of Middle Eastern landscapes?*
- 8. Why might change be regarded as both a sign of progress and a source of tension in the Middle East?*

**Middle East Series  
Selective Chronology**

**B.C.**

- c.8000** Human settlements appear in Jericho.
- c.3500-2500** City life develops in valleys of Nile and Tigris-Euphrates rivers. Beginning of Egyptian and Sumerian (Mesopotamian) civilizations.
- c.3000** King Menes unites Upper and Lower Egypt into one nation.
- c.2600-1200** Egypt dominates Syria-Palestine.
- c.1728-1686** Rise of Babylonian Empire.
- c.1600** Canaanites in Syria-Palestine.
- c.1400** Hittites from Asia Minor conquer Babylon (Syria). Phoenicians establish coastal settlements in present-day Lebanon, Israel, western Syria and Jordan.
- c.1200** Jewish exodus from Egypt and conquest of Canaan.
- c.1029-922** Twelve tribes of Israel united under Kings Saul, David and Solomon. Solomon builds first temple at Jerusalem.
- c.930** Division of Israelite nation into kingdoms of Israel and Judah.
- c.883-612** Assyrians gain control of Syria-Palestine and Egypt and destroy Israel.
- c.612-538** Neo-Babylonian (Chaldaeian) Empire. Chaldeans take Jerusalem and conquer Judah.
- c.586** Jewish Diaspora begins.
- c.550-485** Persian Empire under Cyrus II and Darius I conquers most of Middle East.
- c.332-323** Greeks under Alexander the Great overthrow Persian Empire, incorporate much of the Middle East as part of Hellenistic Empire.
- 29 B.C. -14 A.D.** Reign of Roman Emperor Augustus. Roman Empire controls all of the Middle East, except for Persia and present-day Iraq.

**c.4** Birth of Jesus.

\* \* \*

**A.D.**

- c.30** Crucifixion of Jesus.
- c.30-95** Preaching of Christianity by the Apostles.
- 313-337** Christianity gains strength throughout Middle East under the Roman Empire. Roman Emperor Constantine founds city of Constantinople and Byzantine Empire.
- c.500** Byzantine Empire controls most of the Middle East.
- 534-628** Persians repeatedly invade the area, conquer Egypt and Asia Minor.
- c.570-571** Birth of Muhammad.
- c.600-632** Spread of Islam throughout the Arabian peninsula.

**622**

Muhammad and followers settle in Medina. Beginning of Muslim Era.

**632**

Death of Muhammad.

**c.642-700**

Muslim Arabs conquer Byzantine-controlled Syria, Palestine and Egypt. Islam spreads throughout the Middle East.

**711**

Muslim Arab army enters Spain.

**750**

Golden Age of Islam begins.

**c.1050-1100**

Seljuk Turks from Central Asia assume control of Middle Eastern lands.

**1095-1099**

First Crusade. European Christians capture Jerusalem from Seljuk Turks.

**1147-1149**

Second Crusade led by Holy Roman Emperor Conrad III and King Louis VII of France.

**1187**

Muslims under Kurdish leader Saladin recapture Jerusalem.

**1189-1202**

Third through Ninth Crusades.

**c.1220**

Mongols under Genghis Khan invade Middle East from central Asia.

**1244**

Muslims seize Jerusalem from Crusaders.

**1258**

Mongols capture Baghdad.

**1260**

Mongols are defeated at Ain Jalout by Egyptian Mamlukes.

**1291**

Muslim victory at Acre and expulsion of Crusaders from Palestine.

**1453**

Ottoman Turks capture Constantinople. End of Byzantine Empire.

**1516-1517**

Ottoman Turks conquer Syria, Palestine, Egypt and begin four-century domination of the Middle East.

**1520-1566**

Reign of Sultan Sulaiman the Magnificent. Height of Ottoman Empire.

**1798**

Napoleon Bonaparte invades Egypt, sets up military government of occupation.

**1799**

Bonaparte, defeated by the British, leaves Egypt.

**1838**

Europeans, under British leadership, initiate efforts to gain commercial domination over Ottoman Empire.

**1861**

Civil war between Maronite Christians and Druzes in Mt. Lebanon area of Syria. French intervene and establish Lebanon.

**1868**

Opening of Suez Canal.

**1882**

British occupy Egypt. First large-scale immigration to Palestine by European Jews begins.

**1891**

Prominent Jerusalem Arabs petition Ottoman government to prohibit Jewish immigration to Palestine.

**1909**

Oil first discovered in Middle East in Persia.

**1916**

Arab revolt is launched by Sharif Hussein to secure independence for Arab provinces under Ottoman rule.

- 1916** *Anglo-French Sykes-Picot Agreement divides up Middle Eastern parts of Ottoman Empire in Middle East between the British and French.*
- 1917** *Balfour Declaration issued by Britain supports idea of creating a national home for Jewish people in Palestine.*
- 1922** *League of Nations authorizes British mandate over Palestine, Iraq and Transjordan (Jordan). Establishment of French mandate for Syria and Lebanon.*
- 1933-35** *Over 100,000 European Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany and Poland arrive in Palestine.*
- 1936-39** *Palestinian Arabs revolt against Jewish immigration and land transfers; support creation of independent Arab state in the area.*
- 1936** *Anglo-Egyptian Treaty grants independence to Egypt.*
- 1943-45** *Syria and Lebanon gain independence from France. Formation of the League of Arab States.*
- 1947** *United Nations votes to partition Palestine into two separate states for Arabs and Jews.*
- 1948** *End of British mandate over Palestine. Establishment of state of Israel.*
- 1948-49** *First Arab-Israeli War. Seventy thousand Palestinian Arab refugees leave Israeli-held land.*
- 1952-56** *Egyptian Revolution. Gamal Abdel Nasser becomes President of Egypt.*
- 1956** *Egypt nationalizes the Suez Canal. Israel, Britain and France attack Egypt and occupy the canal area. Israel invades Sinai and Gaza Strip.*
- 1957** *United Nations oversees withdrawal of foreign forces from Egyptian territory and Gaza Strip. U.N. troops patrol Sinai Peninsula.*
- 1958** *Civil war breaks out in Lebanon.*
- 1964** *Founding of Palestine Liberation Organization.*
- 1967** *Arab-Israeli War (Six day War). Israel occupies Golan Heights, Gaza Strip, Sinai, and West Bank.*
- 1970-71** *Civil war breaks out in Jordan between Jordanians and Palestinians.*
- 1973** *Arab-Israeli War (Yom Kippur War). Egypt and Syria attack Israeli forces in the Sinai Peninsula and Golan Heights. Geneva Peace Conference.*
- 1974** *Arab summit conference at Rabat proclaims PLO sole representative of the Palestinian people. Sinai disengagement agreement signed by Egypt and Israel. U.N. observer forces stationed between Egypt and Israel.*
- 1975** *Renewed outbreak of civil war in Lebanon.*
- 1978** *Israel invades Lebanon in response to PLO attacks. U.N. peacekeeping force put in place following Israeli withdrawal. Egypt and Israel sign Camp David accords.*
- 1979** *Egypt and Israel sign peace treaty.*