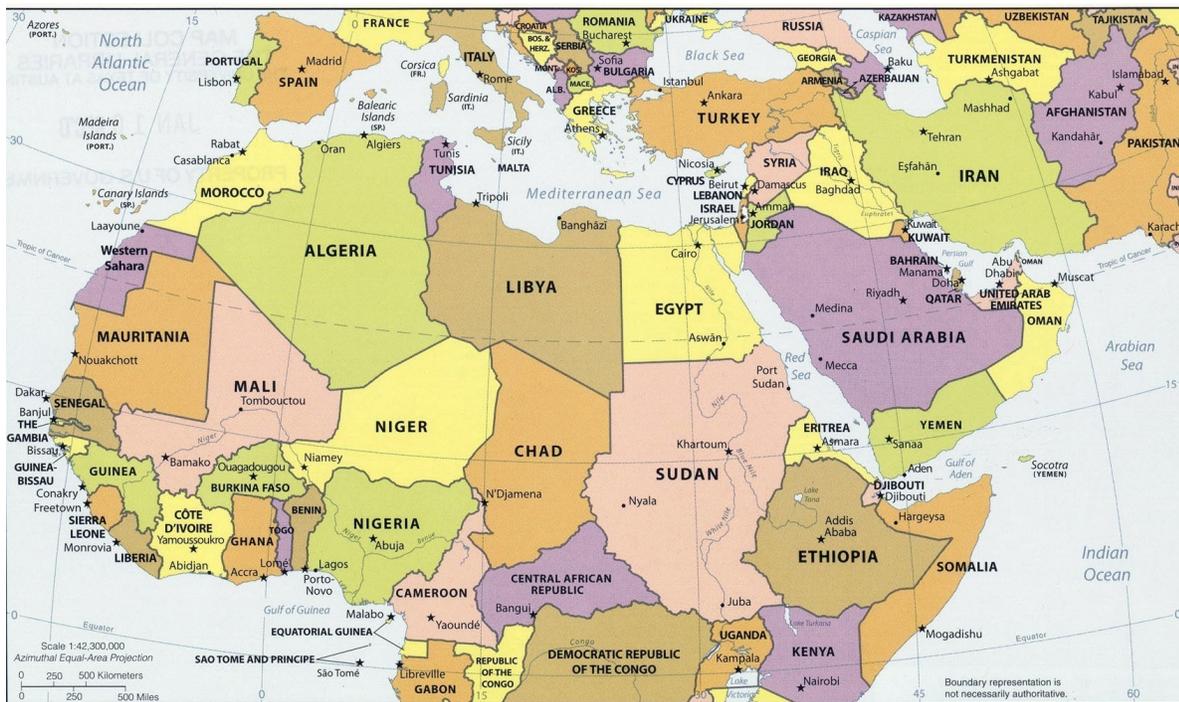


PROFILE OF A REGION

STUDENT'S NAME: Alexya Sawyer

NAME OF THE REGION: North Africa & Southwest Asia

1) Please insert a map of the region below:



2) Please review the section of the textbook introducing the region, and summarize the location, the dominant climates, and the natural resources of the region in one or two paragraphs:

The realm of North Africa and Southwest Asia extends from the Atlantic Ocean along the Moroccan coast to the western border of China. It includes the regions of North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Central Asia (often referred to as Turkestan). The typical climate in North Africa and Southwest Asia is dry and hot in the vast stretches of relatively low, flat land. There is typically a bit of moisture where the mountain ranges are that capture the moisture and

rainfall. North Africa, Southwest Asia, and Turkestan all have significant reserves of oil, natural gas, and important minerals.

- 3) Referring to the data available in the textbook and online (especially at the World Bank databank website at <https://databank.worldbank.org/home.aspx>), please discuss the level of development of the region in at least one paragraph:

The discovery of the largest known oil reserves on the planet has made this region central to the global economy. It has also made some countries very wealthy, while other countries have little to no oil from which to benefit. Beginning in 2010, much of the region has experienced waves of political protests to confront corruption and demand greater freedoms. The outcome of the protests has ranged from some reforms to civil war. Women do not have the same political rights as men, and their primary role is still seen as raising children, a factor that has led to persistently high birth rates. The statistic shows gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in the MENA countries in 2018. GDP is the total value of all goods and services produced in a country in a year. It is considered to be a very important indicator of the economic strength of a country and a positive change is an indicator of economic growth. The MENA region in North Africa and Asia comprises Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen. In 2018, the estimated GDP per capita in Algeria amounted to around 4,080.91 U.S. dollars.

- 4) Referring to the data available in the textbook and online (especially at the Freedom House website at: <https://freedomhouse.org/>), please discuss the level of democracy (or freedom) of the region in at least one paragraph:

The region of North Africa and Southwest Asia (called "Middle East and North Africa" in the Freedom House surveys) has ranked lower than other regions of the world in these surveys. In the 2006 survey, only one nation in this region was given the status of "Free." Even so, the survey showed improvements in rights and liberties in this region. According to the [Democracy Index](#) 2016 study, [Israel](#) and [Lebanon](#) are the only democratic countries in the [Middle East](#), while [Tunisia](#) (#69 worldwide) is the only democracy in [North Africa](#). The measure of the level of democracy in nations throughout the world published by [Freedom House](#) and various other [freedom indices](#), the Middle Eastern and North African countries with the highest scores

are [Israel](#), [Tunisia](#), [Turkey](#), [Lebanon](#), [Morocco](#), [Jordan](#) and [Kuwait](#). Countries that are occasionally classified as partly democratic are [Egypt](#) and [Iraq](#). The remaining countries of the Middle East are categorized as [authoritarian regimes](#), with the lowest scores held by [Saudi Arabia](#) and [Yemen](#).

[Freedom House](#) categorizes Israel and Tunisia as "Free". As a result, Tunisia is the only country in [North Africa](#) classified as "Free" by the [Freedom House](#) organization. Lebanon, Turkey, Kuwait and Morocco "Partly Free", and the remaining states as "Not Free" (including [Western Sahara](#), which is largely controlled by Morocco). Events of the "[Arab Spring](#)" such as the [Tunisian Revolution](#) may indicate a move towards democracy in some countries which may not be fully captured in the democracy index. In 2015, Tunisia became the first Arab country classified as free since the beginning of Lebanon's civil war 40 years ago. Theories are diverse on the subject. "Revisionist theories" argue that democracy is slightly incompatible with Middle Eastern values. On the other hand, "post-colonial" theories (such as those put forth by [Edward Said](#)) for the relative absence of [liberal democracy](#) in the Middle East are diverse, from the long history of imperial rule by the [Ottoman Empire](#), [United Kingdom](#) and [France](#) and the contemporary political and military intervention by the [United States](#), all of which have been blamed for preferring authoritarian regimes because this ostensibly simplifies the business environment, while enriching the governing elite and the companies of the imperial countries.