

middle-east-per-1

Russell Mears

May 2020

1 Islam Questions

1. What Is Islam?
 - Islam is a monotheistic religion based on the teachings on Muhammad
2. Define the following terms: Mecca, Muhammad, Mosque.
 - **Mecca:** Mecca is the holiest city for Muslims, the place where Muhammad was born.
 - **Muhammad:** Muhammad was an Arab religious, social, and political leader and the founder of Islam.
 - **Mosque:** a Muslim place of worship.
3. What are the five pillar's of Islam?
 - The Five Pillars of Islam are the five obligations that every Muslim must satisfy in order to live a good and responsible life according to Islam.

2 Holy Paces Questions

1. Which three monotheistic religions were founded in Southeast Asia?
 - Christianity
 - Islam
 - Judaism
2. Why is Jerusalem important to all three groups?
 - For Christians, Jerusalem is the place where Jesus preached, died and was resurrected.
 - For Muslims, Jerusalem is a site of key events in the life of Jesus and other important figures. It's also the spot where, according to traditional interpretations of the Koran and other texts, the prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven.
 - Jewish rabbinical teachings hold that when the Messiah comes, the temple will be rebuilt.
3. What site in Jerusalem has prompted clashes between the Jews and Muslims?
 - The last standing wall, the western wall, has been the reason for lots of conflict between the two groups.

3 Northeast Questions

1. Explain the meaning of the following terms: Kurds, Mesopotamia, Sunni, Shi'ite, & Taliban
 - **Kurds:** a member of a mainly Islamic people living in parts of eastern Turkey, northern Iraq, western Iran, and eastern Syria.
 - **Mesopotamia:** Mesopotamia was an ancient region located in the eastern Mediterranean bounded in the northeast by the Zagros Mountains and in the southeast by the Arabian Plateau, corresponding to today's Iraq, mostly, but also parts of modern-day Iran, Syria and Turkey.
 - **Sunni:** the larger of the two main branches of Islam, which differs from Shia in its understanding of the Sunna, its conception of religious leadership, and its acceptance of the first three caliphs.
 - **Shi'ite:** an adherent of the Shia branch of Islam.
 - **Taliban:** The Taliban is a brutal, fundamentalist religious group that held power over most of Afghanistan during the late 1990s.
2. What role has oil played in the clashes over land in this sub-region?
 - Naturally, oil has played a major role in Saudi Arabia's economy and governmental budget. Furthermore, this wealth allows Saudi Arabia to finance its foreign policy goals; most notably its bid to contain Iranian influence in the Middle East.
3. What do the nations in this sub-region need to do to develop their economies?
 - They need natural resources like oil along with the developments made by a free market.

4 Case Study Questions

1. What proposal did the UN make after WW2 regarding Jerusalem?
 - The United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine was a proposal by the United Nations, which recommended a partition of Mandatory Palestine at the end of the British Mandate. On 29 November 1947, the UN General Assembly adopted the Plan as Resolution 181 (II).
2. What Actually Happened to the city?
 - During the Six-Day War in 1967, which saw hand-to-hand fighting on the Temple Mount, Israeli forces captured the Old City along with the rest of East Jerusalem, subsequently annexing them as Israeli territory and reuniting them with the western part of the city.
3. How does the Israeli government handle the holy sites in Jerusalem?
 - The Israeli legislative and judiciary system is committed – wittingly or unwittingly to validating the intensive political activities by successive Israeli governments geared towards solidifying and strengthening the Jewish identity of the holy sites.
4. Why is control of Jerusalem such a difficult diplomatic problem to solve?
 - Jerusalem is currently a autocracy, and the problems are based on the religions, so the government could be punished for dealing with with church, when church and state are separate.
5. What two groups of people want to control Jerusalem?
 - Both Israelis and Palestinians claim the city as their political capital and as a sacred religious site.