

HIS2160 NOTES NOVEMBER 26

Iraq, The Gulf War and The Iraq War

- Iraq/Kuwait Resolution 678
 - July 1990 the **US Ambassador Glaspie** tells Iraq that they don't care about their problems with Kuwait. This was a month before the US attacked. "The US has no intention of defending Kuwait" they told Saddam.
 - UN Resolutions 678 and 661 brought harsh sanctions against Iraq.
- December 25 1991 the Soviet Union collapsed and the United States became the largest power and arbiter in the world. The Cold War was a sort of balance of power. When the Soviet Union collapsed the balance disappeared. The Iraq/Kuwait war happened during this transition period.
- Transition: The European Union formed in 1993. Manufacturing shifting from the West to India and China. Terrorist networks start to form. Oil is a crucial resource.
- Neoconservatives: Iraq is strategically very important because of its oil. Oil prices were skyrocketing.
 - Neocons believed that because Iraq controlled so much oil, it should be taken over. "We'll no longer need Saudi Arabia" and "we can make Iraq a democratic model" of the region.
- Samuel Huntington: *Clash of Civilizations* claims the West would first clash with Islam and then with China. Neocons swallowed this up.
- 2001: When the Twin Towers were bombed a story was created that blamed Iraq and the US invaded for its oil and to make Iraq a "model democracy" for the region. This backfired and the story was accepted to be false.
- UN Resolution 1441 to investigate WMDs in Iraq. Before the investigation even finished the US put forward a resolution presenting an ultimatum saying Saddam had to resign within 48 hours or Iraq would be attacked. Three members of the Security Council said they would veto the resolution and only the US and UK supported it.
 - Many protests, "let's at least wait for the report to come back at least!" Speech by **de Villepin** saying we should all wait. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJ_1hWqSz6I
- **Iraq Invasion 2003:** March 19 2003 to May 1. The US didn't wait and attacked Iraq. Bush was heavily pressured by Cheney (VP), Rumsfeld (Secretary of Defense), Wolfowitz (Deputy Secretary of Defense). Baghdad fell in May 1st, and Bush claimed victory. The Iraq army collapsed very quickly.
- The US takes over the country (Paul Bremer) and try to create order. Something about Patrick Buchanan and how he said everything the US did in the mideast was a mistake. US organize elections.
- Ayatollah Sistani: Leader of the Shia in Iraq, wanted that the Shia would win the largest block in the elections. (Three Shia groups: Dawaa, Hakim, and Sadr families). Sistani wanted the three groups to stay united, and they did and united with the Kurds. This formed a split between the Shia (allied with the Kurds) and the Sunni. The first President ended up being Kurdish.
- The largest US embassy in the world is in Baghdad.

Lebanon

- Lebanon shares its southern border with Israel.
- Until 1975 Lebanon was a model state in many ways.
 - It was democratic with regular elections, and had diverse communities that coexisted.
 - It was "the Switzerland" of the Middle East. Ski on the mountains and swim in the Mediterranean in the same day. Was also a banking center.
- The first crisis was in 1958 that catapulted from a domestic issue, to an Arab issue, to an international crisis.
- Lebanon became an independent state in 1943. Muslims and Christians signed a "**National Covenant**"
 - The Muslims acknowledged it was an independent state and that it should be separate from other Arab states.

- The Christians acknowledged its Arabic character (language and culture). They agreed not to lean on France of the West in general. Traditionally they felt that France was their protector.
- They established a 'Confessional System', divided by sects
- The executive branch:
 - * President: Maronite Catholic
 - * Prime Minister: Sunni Muslim
 - * Speaker of the House: Shia Muslim
- The legislative branch: Parliament was also divided on a confessional system to prevent religious clashes between opposing candidates (1953):
 - * Christians (54 seats):
 - Maronites: 30 seats
 - Greek Orthodox: 11 seats
 - Greek Catholic: 6 seats
 - Armenian Orthodox: 4 seats
 - Armenian Catholic: 1 seat
 - Protestants: 1 seat
 - Latin: 1 seat
 - * Sunnis: 20 seats
 - * Shia: 19 seats
 - * Druze: 6 seats
 - * Alawites: 0 seats
- The bureaucracy: the civil service was also divided by sect
- This system worked fine until 1958.
- In 1958 the Sunnis maintained that they had a majority and argued that the confessional system should be changed in their favour. Let's take a census! Parliament said fine.
 - Christians in the Parliament said we should also count Lebanese people living outside of the country. They knew that the Christians Lebanese outside the country were many.
 - * The Muslims said no, we can only count the people in the country.
 - * President Nasser stepped in and backed the Muslims. Iraq stepped in and backed the Christians.
 - * A Muslim rebellion started in Tripoli. The Army stayed neutral. Egypt and Syria had just united and wanted Lebanon to join, and the Christians resisted this. The problem had become an Arab problem.
 - * The President of Lebanon asked for help from the US saying the Communists were indirectly causing problems and the US sent a few thousand marines to the country. They organized an election and the crisis ended.
- In 1967 another crisis:
 - Muslims were angry that Lebanon did not participate in the 1967 war with Israel.
 - Muslim representation in the confessional system was raised again. The Muslims claimed the Christians were the minority but they had the majority of seats.
 - In the south the Shiite were becoming disgruntled with their situation; Beirut was booming but the South was not. A party formed called Amal (Hope party) and they claimed that *they* had the majority.
 - More than 100000 Palestinian refugees lived in Lebanon. They were mostly Sunni Muslim and the Christians feared that if the refugees were integrated that the Christians would become the minority. Palestinian commandos were forming and slipping over the border and attacking Israel. Israel would strike back and hit Shiite communities.
- Cairo Agreement 1969:
 - Brings an agreement between the Palestinians and Lebanon. The Palestinians would not interfere with Lebanese politics if Lebanon didn't interfere with the refugee camps.
 - The Palestinians agreed not to attack Israel from Lebanon.
- Jordan 1971:
 - Thousands of Palestinians were expelled from Jordan and Lebanon agreed to take them in. They arrived in thousands in Lebanon. This added more Palestinians on the Lebanese-Israeli border.

- Yom Kippur War 1973
 - Crush the commandos and risk a civil war between Christians and Muslims or fight Israel?
- Meanwhile the Shiite community was becoming larger and larger.
- Lebanese Civil War 1975-1990:
 - April 13 1975: Unidentified gunmen drive by a church in Beirut and kill 4 people during a funeral. In response, a few hours later a few Christians (Phalangists?) killed a busload of Palestinians, also in Beirut. Beirut fell into violence.
 - Syria and other Arab states intervened and sent troops.
 - Things were divided and sort of quieted down until 1982.
 - An incident happened between Israel and the PLO and Israel decided to attack the PLO in south Lebanon.
- After the war the power of the Christian President was reduced and the power of the Muslim Prime Minister increased. This pissed off the Shias.
- The seats in Parliament became 50/50 between Muslims and Christians. But the Shia believed they outnumbered the Sunni.
- After the war Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al Hariri worked to rebuild the country.
- When Hariri was assassinated the country was shocked. The country protested and eventually Syrian troops were forced to withdraw. **March 14 Alliance** (a group of political parties including Future) claimed Syria did the assassination and the **March 8 Alliance** (including Hezbollah) claimed Mossad did it.

France

- France had started off completely on Israel's side. Sold them Mirage planes
- Something something Evian Treaty.
- de Gaul press conference that pissed off Israel. "The occupation of West Bank and Gaza by Israel is like the occupation of France by the Nazis". He called the Jews "elite people, sure of themselves, and domineering". Sold planes to Iraq
- Pompidou (1969-73) sold ~100 planes to Libya (who only had 14 pilots). Libya then sent the planes to Egypt. France couldn't sell to Egypt because there was an embargo against Egypt at this time.

Peace Proposal of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia in 2007 (in regard to Israel and Palestine)

- Peace is good
- Full Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied since 1967 (and the Lebanese territories that have been evacuated since)
- A just solution for the Palestine refugee problem to be agreed upon in accordance to UN Resolution 194
- The establishment of a sovereign Palestinian state in the territories.
- If this is achieved King Abdullah believed the conflict would end and that the Arab League would recognize Israel and establish diplomatic relations. "These are talking points foo"
- Very near the 2008 talks between Olmert and Abbas (?)

Conclusion

- Powers of the Middle East: Israel, Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia
 - Conflict between Israel and Iran
 - Conflict between Saudi Arabia (15% Shia) and Iran (90% Shia)
 - * Bahrain, between the two is 70% Shia.
 - Russia backs Iran and Syrian government
- December 10 Wednesday 3pm-6pm Office Session