



## Teaching the Middle East: A Resource for High School Educators

### The Question of Identity: Ethnicity, Language, Religion, and Gender, Before Islam - Part II: The Concept of Ethnicity

Dr. Martin Stokes (Fellow of St. John's College, Oxford University)

#### Lesson Plan 2:

#### How Does Ethnicity Affect Middle Eastern Politics?

**General Description of Lesson Plan:** Students will analyze the effects of ethnicity on the politics and governance of nations within the Middle East.

**Created By:** Blake Noel, Bronzeville Scholastic Institute, Chicago, IL

**Subject Area(s):** History, Sociology, Political Science

**For Grade Level(s):** 8-12

**Time Needed:** One week

#### Outcomes/Objectives:

Students will be able to identify specific instances where ethnicity has impacted Middle Eastern Politics. Students will be able to recognize critical factors in the use and construction of ethnicity. Students will be able to address the role of power differentials in the creation of ethnicity.

**Materials:** See graphic organizer located at the end of this lesson.

#### Suggested Procedure(s):

Have students reflect on the group politics of the most recent local or national election and guide them in sorting out the various interest groups into a T-chart, with Republican on one side and Democrat on the other. Once you have created a list, help students see the larger connections, i.e. many religious conservatives vote for the conservative or Republican Party. In this way, the teacher helps the student to see the role of group identity, or ethnicity, as a potent political factor.

Once students have a grasp of this relationship, have them read the modules, focusing on the examining stereotypes sections and links, and analyze several of the pictures by answering the questions at the end of each section and completing a graphic organizer, see example. The graphic organizer should ask students to focus on the ethnic and political aspects of the reading, specifically the nations, religions, cultures involved and the ultimate effect on the

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history of that country. The teacher should take time to analyze at least one picture, focusing on the captions, as an example.

### **Evaluation/Assessment Strategies:**

The students can use their graphic organizers to create a presentation about one of the guiding questions, which they can deliver to the class. This should be done as a small group project and the products can range from power points to brochures. Also the teacher should assign the nations to each group to avoid repetition. After all of the presentations are completed, the students should be asked to assess the role of Ethnicity in politics throughout the entire Middle East.

### **Use these guiding questions to spur discussion in your classroom:**

1. How has ethnicity affected the politics of a Middle Eastern country?
2. Describe the variety of ethnic identities within one Middle Eastern country.
3. What is the role of religion in uniting or dividing political groups within the Middle East?

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### Evaluation Rubric:

### Oral Presentation Rubric: The Relationship between Politics and Ethnicity in the Middle East

Teacher Name:

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
<b>Content</b>	Shows a full understanding of the topic.	Shows a good understanding of the topic.	Shows a good understanding of parts of the topic.	Does not seem to understand the topic very well.
<b>Comprehension</b>	Student is able to accurately answer almost all questions posed by classmates about the topic.	Student is able to accurately answer most questions posed by classmates about the topic.	Student is able to accurately answer a few questions posed by classmates about the topic.	Student is unable to accurately answer questions posed by classmates about the topic.
<b>Speaks Clearly</b>	Speaks clearly and distinctly all (100-95%) the time, and mispronounces no words.	Speaks clearly and distinctly all (100-95%) the time, but mispronounces one words.	Speaks clearly and distinctly most (94-85%) of the time. Mispronounces no more that one word.	Often mumbles or cannot be understood OR mispronounces more than one word.
<b>Stays on Topic</b>	Stays on topic all (100%) of the time.	Stays on topic most (99-90%) of the time.	Stays on topic some (89-75%) of the time.	It was hard to tell what the topic was.

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### Ethnicity and Politics of the Middle East

<b>Title of Document or Picture</b>	<b>Nation(s) involved</b>	<b>Religion(s) involved</b>	<b>Ethnic or cultural group(s)</b>	<b>Political Effect</b>