

REQUIRED RESOURCE CENTER PROJECTS FOR
STUDENTS TAKING THE MIDDLE EAST COURSE #213

The following projects will become part of your requirement to achieve mastery in this course. Your instructor will inform you as to the number of projects that will be submitted. All the books and magazines listed can be found in the Social Studies Resource Center, Room 361. It is your responsibility to make use of these materials and to submit your work on time.

1. "The Middle East is not a clearly defined area. The term is often used by various people to designate different areas."

Using the article by Roderic H. Davison pps. 5-14 in (The Middle East - Selected Readings -Peretz) write an essay answering the questions below:

- a) How does Roderic define the term, "Middle East"?
- b) How did this region of the world come to be called the Middle East?
- c) What problems does a vague definition of the Middle East present to American foreign policy?

2. Assume that you are a member of a UN Economic Survey-Mission sent to the Middle East to report on the region's economic conditions. Prepare a report that could be submitted to the General Assembly dealing with the geographic, agricultural, and environmental conditions of the area. In your report you should offer proposed solutions for the problems of the Middle East and express your views on the future prospects for the region.

Refer to (The Middle East Selected Readings-Peretz) pps. 16-23.

3. Assume that you are a member of the U.S. Peace Corps who worked in Egypt in Watermelon Village during the early years of Gamal Nasser's rule. Write a report to your supervisor describing:

- a) Life in the village before Nasser came to power.
- b) The changes in village life that took place under the leadership of Nasser.
- c) Describe the most pressing problems that still face the village. Refer to Hedrick Smith "Watermelon Village Races Against Time" pps. 176-185 in (The Middle East Selected Readings -Peretz).

4. One of the most problems facing Israel today is the growing conflict between western and oriental Jews. Read "The Other Israel" by Amos Eilon pps. 219-224 in (The Middle East Selected Readings -Peretz) and in an essay explain:

- a) Why this problem exists in Israel.
- b) Describe two specific programs that you might devise if you were an Israeli cabinet minister responsible for dealing with this problem.

5. In his reading "Arabic: The Cornerstone of Islam" pps. 50-56 in (The Middle East Selected Readings-Peretz) Anwar Chojne discusses the significance of Arabic to Arab-Muslim society as a) an artistic and correct expression b) an instrument of religion c) a medium of culture, and d) a mainstay of contemporary Nationalism. In an informative essay explain what Mr. Chojne means in each case.

6. For centuries the Arab people of the Middle East have read the collection of stories called "The Thousand and One Nights". Read the Tales of Sinbad The Sailor and Sinbad the Porter pps. 65-69 in (The Middle East Selected Readings-Peretz) and in an essay explain:

- a) Why the people of the Middle East still enjoy these stories.
- b) How these stories reflect the values treasured by the Arabs of the past?
- c) Whether or not these values are worthwhile today?

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14. Assume you were going to be a participant in a panel discussion or debate. Prepare written answers to deal with an Israeli or Arab point of view of the topic "The Middle East Crisis: Can It Be Solved." Read pps. 300-311 Dwing, to obtain background material.
15. Read the "Bedouin Feast" by T. E. Lawrence in Peretz's The Middle East: Selected Readings, pps. 29-33.
- What interests you most in Lawrence's account of the Bedouin feast?
 - From the accounts read, what are the Bedouin rules of good and correct behavior?
 - Would you respect this code of behavior? Explain?
16. Read selections in Peretz's The Middle East: Selected Readings, pps. 114-121. Answer the following questions in essay form:
- Why did Britain occupy Egypt?
 - What were the advantages to Egypt of British rule? What were the grievances of the Egyptians?
 - Evaluate the wisdom of the various phases of British policy in Egypt?
17. "Nationalism has been a strong force that has shaped nations." Choose two of the following nations and in an essay show how nationalism has been a powerful force:
- Turkey
 - Iran
 - Israel
 - Egypt.
- Source: Read pps. 535-553 - The Afro-Asian World - Kolavzon.
18. View filmstrip "The Land of Israel" Pathoscope Educational Films Inc.
- What information can you get from this film?
 - Is "Kibbutz - Venture in Utopia" a good title for this film strip?
 - Write an essay that could serve as a narrative for this film strip.
19. Read pps. 101-106 in Israel The Promised Land. Because one of every 10 Israeli citizens is an Arab:
- Should there be Moslem courts in Israel?
 - Should Arabs be encouraged to join the military service?
 - Has the Israeli Government been fair to Arab citizens? Choose any two of the above statements. For one take on Israeli point of view and for the other present in writing an Arab point of view.
20. In a well written essay compare and contrast the role of women in Israel with the role of women in the U.S. Source: Israel The Promised Land pps. 86-90. 1969 Handbook on Women Workers pps. 3-4.

21. Is the Middle East ripe for communism? Read the article by W.Z. Laquer on "Communism and The Middle East" pps. 205-216 "In West And Non West - Dean" and in an informative-essay answer the following:

- a) What appeal does Laquer feel communism has to the Middle East?
- b) What are the chances for communism's success in the Middle East?"
- c) Can Islam and communism exist side by side?

22. Does King Hussein's struggle with Arab Guerrillas imperil the Middle East? Answer this question in an informative essay. Refer to vertical file on Middle East in the Social Studies resource center. Be sure to make specific references to materials used.

23. Is Arab unity a realistic goal? Answer this question in essay form. Material can be found in the vertical file on the Middle East in the Social Studies resource center. Be sure to make specific references to materials used.

24. What problems does the Middle East crisis raise for U.S. foreign policy? Answer this question in an informative essay. Refer to the vertical file on the Middle East in the Social Studies resource center. Be sure to make specific references to materials used.

25. Using source material that can be found in the vertical file on Israel and the Middle East in the Social Studies resource center write an essay explaining why you think the Middle East will be the scene of more war or a peace settlement between Israel and the Arab states.

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