History, Culture and Conflict
In the Middle East

Wonders of Arabia
Windstar Cruises
Ross Arnold, Fall 2017
Wonders of Arabia Lectures

- Nov 8- *Children of Abraham; Understanding Islam*

- Nov 9- *Moses, Israelites, and Crossing the Red Sea; Lawrence of Arabia, Bedouins and Victory in WWI*

- Nov 10- *History & Culture of Oman*
  - 11/11- Salalah, Oman

- Nov 12- *Alexander the Great & Hellenism; Crusades*

- Nov 13- *History, Culture & Conflict in the Middle East*
  - 11/14- Khasab, Oman
  - 11/15- Dubai
Diagram of geopolitical relationships in the Middle East

- US
- Turkey
- Lebanon
- Hezbollah
- Syria
- Kurds
- Iraq
- Pakistan
- Libya
- Egypt
- Saudi Arabia
- Qatar
- Iran
- Sudan
- Houthis
- Yemen

Note: Palestine and Israel were discounted for the sake of simplicity.

Institute of Internet Diagrams - karlremarks.com 2015
Major Arenas of Conflict in the Middle East

1. Between Islamic Middle Eastern people/countries and the West.

2. Between religious and political factions within Islam in the Middle East (Shia v. Sunni; Salafi or Shia Islamists v. moderates; Sunni Sudan v. Shia Iran; etc.)

3. Between Israel and many neighboring Middle Eastern countries, especially over issues in Palestine.
The McMahon-Hussein Correspondence, July 1915-January 1916

Sir Henry McMahon
British High Commissioner, Egypt

Hussein bin Ali
Sharif of Mecca/ King of Hejaz
What Great Britain promised the Arabs
The Sykes-Picot Agreement, May 1916

Colonel Sir Mark Sykes

Francoise George-Picot
What Great Britain promised the Arabs
“Turkish President (Recep Tayyip Erdoğan) Declares Lawrence of Arabia a Bigger Enemy than ISIS”
The Balfour Declaration, November 1917

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in assuring you, on behalf of my right honourable government, of my government’s willingness to consider favourably any scheme for settling the permanent of the Jewish national home in Palestine, on the understanding that any scheme so approved shall be carried into effect subject to such conditions as may be agreed upon between the representatives of the Jewish community and the government of the country in the future constituted under the terms of this declaration.

I believe that any such settlement scheme would be for the benefit of the country in the future constituted under the terms of this declaration.

Yours faithfully,

Arthur James Balfour
UK Foreign Secretary

Baron Walter Rothschild
British Jewish Leader
"We Arabs... look with the deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement. Our deputation here in Paris is fully acquainted with the proposals submitted yesterday by the Zionist Organization to the Peace Conference, and we regard them as moderate and proper. We will do our best, insofar as we are concerned, to help them through; we will wish the Jews a most hearty welcome home... I look forward, and my people with me look forward, to a future in which we will help you and you will help us, so that the countries in which we are mutually interested may once again take their places in the community of the civilized peoples of the world."

King Faisal of Syria
Israeli territorial changes 1949 - 1967
Website for lecture videos:

www.litchapala.org
(Lakeside Institute of Theology)

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