

Questions on the Middle East

The middle East is a complex region with a rich history making research on the overwhelming. There are key issues, however, that will help you frame a perspective and select a topic to explore. When you can respond to the following questions with confidence, you are ready to begin your journey:

- What is the Arab Spring?

The Arab Spring movement is a movement in which many Arab countries have overthrown their totalitarian government and installed democratic governments.

- What are the 5 Pillars of Islam?

1. There is only one Allah
2. Ritual prayers: pray five times a day
3. Ritual fasting on the 9th month
4. Almsgiving to the poor
5. Pilgrimage to Mecca

- Why are Judaism, Christianity, and Islam referred to as the Abrahamic religions?

All originate from Abraham. Islam was started by Abraham's first son from his second wife, Ishmael. Christianity and Judaism originate from Abraham's second son from his first wife, Isaac. Christianity then split with Judaism when Christ, a Jew, started his ministry. Islamic people believe in all of the prophets down to Mohammed, but most believe him to be the last prophet. Christians believe Jesus to be the son of God.

- Why is the United States embroiled in the Middle East?

The United States has been involved in the Middle East ever since World War II. The United States thought it its moral obligation to the Jews to grant them their own homeland because of how they were treated during World War II. It was mainly the U.S. that pushed the U.N. to recognize the need and grant it.

- What is America's foreign policy on Israel?

America is Israel's best ally, and as such, will defend, help, and otherwise assist Israel in its wars and other ventures, within reason. The U.S. advises Israel as well.