

Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY Graduate School of Education 3 Graduate or Undergraduate Credits

Course Number: GMU EDUC 400/500 Section 637 PWCS Course: ESL 741
Dates and Time: Mondays: Jan. 12 – May 4 4:30 – 7:45 p.m.
(No class on Jan. 19; Feb. 16; & Apr. 6)

Location: C.D. Hylton High School – Room E-167
14051 Spriggs Road; Woodbridge, VA; 22193

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Course Purpose and Intended Audience

This course is designed to provide an overview of the cultures, religions, and politics of the region generally referred to as the “Middle East.” People of the region consider this a parochial term, however, as it is one first ascribed by Europeans and suggests something of a uniformity of history, culture and identity. This perception negates the reality of a region possessing a wide range of ethnic, religious, political, and historical diversity – qualities that make it one of the most complex and obscure regions of the world.

The original term “Middle East” has historically been defined as the geographic region extending from the western borders of Egypt to the eastern borders of Iraq; however, recent and current events have resulted in the need to extend this definition to include the “Arab” countries in general as well as Israel, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the regions of Kurdistan and Central Asia. This course will examine the interplay of cultures, religions, and politics within this wider region as well as explore the uniqueness of different groups in particular place and circumstance. Such an exploration requires recognition of this geographic region as the birthplace of the world’s major Western religions, as well as the recent evolutions of powerful Islamic influences such as Hamas, Hezbollah, The Taliban, and Al-Qaeda.

This is an introductory course offered to both graduate and undergraduate level students and is intended for anyone interested in expanding their knowledge and understanding of the “Middle East.” It is designed for educators in all roles of the profession and has implications for both personal and professional growth. This approach requires that course participants become engaged in closer analyses of current events as reported in the media, as well as implications all this may have for students and their families within our local communities.

Course Description

This course will focus on the cultures, religions, and politics of the world's region generally referred to as the "Middle East." It is designed as an introductory course for educators wishing to better understand the region, as well as to examine implications this has for educators in a variety of roles and skills.

While rooted in ancient histories and religious origins, this region remains one of the most complex and least understood in the world today. Much of the mystery can be attributed to the discontinuity of stable borders, as well as to the wide ranges of political influences that continually affect the many groups across the region. Time will be given to clarifying on-going conflicts between the Israelis and Palestinians, as well as those between ethnic and religious groups within Iraq and Afghanistan.

Topics to be covered in this course include: an overview of the region's major ethnic groups including Arabs, Turks, Persians, Kurds, Afghans and others; an overview of the origins and beliefs of Western religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Zoroastrianism, and the Baha'i Faith); political institutions including non-state players such as the Muslim Brotherhood; traditional cultural beliefs and practices; family and child-rearing traditions; languages and communication styles (verbal and non-verbal); and educational experiences of students from different areas of the region.

Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are to assist class members to:

1. Expand an **awareness** and better understanding of factors related to the wide ranges of diversity and experiences among people of the "Middle East";
2. Acquire a general **knowledge** base about similarities and differences among cultural groups, geographies, historical backgrounds, concepts of different religious beliefs and practices, and differing perceptions of current issues;
3. Engage in a process of on-going learning about the "Middle East" through class participation, including a closer examination and analyses of news media, books, films, and other learning media;
4. Utilize opportunities for interacting with other professionals in PWCS to better understand similar and differing perceptions and points of view about topics related to the course content, as well as to share personal and professional experiences; and
5. Develop and demonstrate **skills** which reflect paradigm shifts in thinking and professional behavior regarding "norms" of teaching, assessing, communicating, and interacting with "Middle Eastern" families.

Course Format

Class sessions will consist of lectures, film clips, charts, printed materials, and structured activities, as well as large and small group class discussions. As far as possible, full and on-time attendance is requested of all class members.

Participants will be expected to commit to **out-of-class** hours for study and research as appropriate for graduate or undergraduate courses. This includes; reading all handouts and assigned materials; viewing selected films; scanning news media for items and events related to class topics; creating a retrievable notebook (or file) of course materials; and writing journal responses based upon books and/or films from a recommended list. A self-assessment mid-term and a final take home examination are required of all students; additionally, an appropriate “class-sharing project” is required for graduate-level students.

Course Requirements and Criteria for Grading

1. Class members are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in activities and discussions; read assigned materials and view required selected films; and scan current news events between class sessions. (15% of grade)
2. Participants will write a minimum of four (undergraduate) or five (graduate-level) journal responses related to books and/or videos on the “Recommended List” attached to this syllabus. Each journal response should be about 2-3 pages in length (double-spaced) and reflect the writer’s own personal thoughts and reflections about the book or film. Journals will be due on Sessions 3, 5, 7, 9 for all class members and on Session 11 for graduate-level students. (25% of grade)
3. Participants will compile a resource notebook or other system of retrieval for handouts, notes, and other materials gathered during this course. Notebook should be “user-friendly” for the professional work setting and will be due for checking on Session 12. (15% of grade)
4. Participants will complete a midterm self-assessment and a final take home exam that demonstrates a basic understanding of the topics and content covered during this course. This exam consists of a core content response section (10 questions) and two additional essay questions which participants may choose from a provided list. Essay questions will be handed out on Session 12. (30% of grade)
5. Undergraduate students will conduct an interview with someone from one of the geographic regions studied and complete a written 2-3 page response journal about the interview to be handed in. (15% of grade)
Graduate-level students will select a class-sharing project to be presented during one of the final two class sessions. This project will consist of something relevant to the class and will be a 5-8 minute time limit oral presentation with a brief (4-6) page handout for each class member. The idea must be original and should include at least 5 bibliography resources. (15% of grade)

Schedule of Classes

Session #1

Course Overview and Structure

- Overview of course design, content, objectives, and criteria for assessment
- Personal introductions of class members
- Understanding the nature of ‘culture’ and ‘worldview’
- A framework for course studies: ethnic groups; religions; politics; and “sacred geography”
- Structure of classes and out-of-class requirements
- Implications for educators

Session #2

People, Places and Politics of the Middle East

- Class sharing and warm-up activity
- Who are the **People** of the Middle East?
 - Roots in ancient histories and religions
 - Relationships of history to current conditions
- “Sacred geographies” and the importance of **Place**
- Brief overview of recent and current **Politics** around the region
- Importance of the “Middle East” in contemporary world events
- Implications for educators

Session #3

Who Are the “Arabs?”

- Class sharing and warm-up activity
- Arabic roots in tradition and nomadic origins
- Relationship of Arabs to Islam and the Arabic language
- “Arab Nationalism” and cultural identities
 - Cultural snapshots of Arab countries
 - Who are the Palestinians?
- Basic cultural beliefs, values, and family life
- Arabs in the United States and around the world
- Implications for educators

Journal #1 due

Session #4

Origins of the Three Major Western Religions

- Class sharing and warm-up activity
- Who are the “Children of Abraham?”

- Understanding Abraham's story
 - Jews, Christians, and Muslims: similarities and differences
- Christians in the Middle East
- Muhammad: Prophet of Islam
 - Life of the Prophet (PBUH)
 - Basic concepts and beliefs among Muslims
 - Diversity among branches of Sunni and Shi'a Islam
- Muslims in the United States and around the world
- Implications for educators

Session #5

Religions in the Middle East Today

- Class sharing and warm-up activity
- Understanding Judaism, historic and contemporary
- Israel as a Jewish nation: reclaiming of a "birthright"
 - Brief history of modern Israel
 - Conflict between Israel and the Palestinians
 - Issues at stake in reaching an agreement
- Impact of non-state players in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Zionists, the Muslim Brotherhood, and others
- Jerusalem: "Holy City of 3 Faiths"
- Implications for educators

Journal #2 due

Session #6

Iraq: From Ancient Origins to Modern Conflict

- Class sharing and warm-up activity
- Roots in ancient Mesopotamia
 - Historical roots of Western civilizations
 - Biblical roots of Western religions
- Creation of "Iraq" following collapse of Ottoman rule
- Brief history of modern Iraq
 - Rule of Saddam Hussein and the Baathist party
 - Invasion and occupation by the United States
- Conflict in Iraq today
 - Who's fighting whom, and why?
 - Implications for regional unsettlements
 - Multiple views of the United States as "friend" or "foe"
- Basic cultural beliefs, values, and family life in Iraq
- Implications for educators

Session #7

The Kurds and Kurdistan

- Class sharing and warm-up activity
- Who are the Kurds?
 - History, religion, and current politics
 - The “problem of the Kurds” after the Ottoman Empire
- Kurdistan: Regional homeland across four countries
 - Kurds in Turkey: largest minority group and on-going conflicts
 - Kurds in Iraq: implications for national unity, stability, or disintegration
 - Kurds in Iran: surviving the Islamic Revolution and beyond
 - Kurds in Syria, the United States and around the world
- Basic cultural values, beliefs, and family life
- Implications for educators
- Self-assessment mid-term

Journal #3 due

Session #8

The End of the Ottoman Empire and Creation of Modern Turkey

- Class sharing and warm-up activity
- Brief history of Ottoman rule from 1300 through World War I
- End of the Ottoman Empire and creation of current borders
- The Turks and Turkey in modern history
 - The rule of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk
 - The high cost of “democracy” in modern Turkey
- Culture, religion, and politics among Turks today
 - A “bridge” between the “Middle East” and Europe
 - Continuing plagues of “the Armenian genocide” and “the Kurdish problem”
 - Turks in Turkey, the general region, and around the world
- Basic cultural values, beliefs, and family life
- Implication for educators

Session #9

Who Are the “Persians?”

- Class sharing and warm-up activity
- Roots in the ancient Persian Empire
 - Biblical and historical backgrounds
 - Religious roots of Zoroastrianism, Shi’a Islam, and the Baha’i Faith
- Iranians and political dynasties through the Pahlavi monarchy
- The Iranian Revolution of 1979 and creation of “The Islamic Republic of Iran”

- Societal changes over the last 30 years
- Relations between Iran and the United States since 1953
- Iran as the rising power in the “Middle East” today
 - Neighborhood changes and implications
 - Influences among Shi’a groups in the “Middle East”
- Basic cultural beliefs, values, and family life
- Iranians in the United States and around the world
- Implications for educators

Journal #4 due

Session #10 Afghanistan and Central Asia

- Class sharing and warm-up activity
- The “stans” of Central Asia:
 - Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan
 - Similarities, differences, and regional influences
- Afghanistan: “Place of the Afghans”
 - Brief history and geography
 - Thirty year timeline of conflict and violence
- People, places, and uncertain politics
 - Mujahadeen, mullahs, and warlords
 - Pashtunistan and the Pakistani border
 - Who are the Taliban?
- Osama bin Laden and the origins of Al-Qaeda
- The 2003 invasion and entry of NATO forces
- Basic cultural beliefs, values, and family life
- Afghans in the United States and around the world
- Implications for educators

Session #11 Pakistan – An Idea and Its Competing Ideologies

- Class sharing and warm-up activity
- Pakistan: the geography of India partitioning
 - Creation of an Islamic homeland
 - Brief history and redefining events
- People, provinces, and competing political ideations
- Al-Qaeda and other extremist groups in Pakistan
- Current politics and relations
 - Leaders and political parties
 - Balancing relations between diverse groups and pressures from outside Pakistan
- Basic cultural beliefs, values, and family life

- Implications for educators
- Journal #5 due** (Graduate-level participants)

Session #12 **Implications for Educators in PWCS about Culture, Religion, and Political Conditions in the “Middle East” (Small and Large Group Discussions)**

- Importance of knowing proper identity of students
- Understanding of basic cultural beliefs, values, and family life
- Oral and written language and communication styles
- Differences in assumptions between “Middle Eastern” and “Western” cultures
- Refugee experiences and family separations
- Impact of violence, loss, and instability on family life
- “Windows and mirrors” in the school environment
- Implications for teaching, assessing, communicating, and interacting with families from different regions and/or competing conflicts within a region
- Final exam of core content (10 questions)

Resource Notebook due

Final exam essay questions handed out

Session #13 **Special Topics and Begin Class-sharing Projects**

- Discussions from class suggestions
- Case studies and group discussion of possible solutions
- Begin class-sharing projects
- (Film clips of movies and documentaries if time permits)

Interview due (Undergraduate-level participants only)

Session #14 **Presentations of Class-sharing Projects and Class Closure**

- Continuation of class-sharing projects
- Final reflections and feedback on course
- Course evaluation
- Class closure

Final exam essay questions due

!!! That's All !!!

“Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies”

Recommended Reading List

1. Abu-Jaber, Diana (2005): The Language of Baklava – A Memoir. Anchor Books; NY.
2. Ajami, Fouad (1999): The Dream Palace of the Arabs – A Generation’s Odyssey. Vintage Books; NY.
3. Ajami, Fouad (2006): The Foreigner’s Gift – The Americans, the Arabs, and the Iraqis in Iraq. Free Press; NY.
4. Alley, Midaq (1975): Naguib Mahfouz. Anchor Books; N.Y. (Other books by this author as well)
5. Armstrong, Karen (1997): Jerusalem – One City, Three Faiths. Ballantine Books; NY.
6. Armstrong, Karen (1992): Muhammad – A Biography of the Prophet. Harper Collins Publishers; San Francisco, CA.
7. Aslan, Reza (2006): No god but God – The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam. Random House Trade Books; NY.
8. Bahrapour, Tara (1999): To See and See Again. University of California Press; Berkeley.
9. Bailey, Betty Jane & Bailey, J. Martin (2003): Who Are the Christians in the Middle East? William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company; Grand Rapids, MI.
10. Barakat, Halim (1993): The Arab World – Society, Culture, and State. University of California Press; Berkeley, CA.
11. Bergen, Peter L. (2001): Holy War, Inc. – Inside the Secret World of Osama bin Laden. The Free Press; NY.
12. Bowden, Mark (2006): Guests of the Ayatollah – The First Battle in America’s War with Military Islam. Atlantic Monthly Press; NY.
13. Cahill, Thomas (1998): The Gift of the Jews – How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels. Doubleday; NY.
14. Carter, Jimmy (2006): Palestine – Peace Not Apartheid. Simon & Schuster; NY.

15. Chandrasekaran, Rajiv (2007): Imperial Life in the Emerald City Inside Iraq's Green Zone. Alfred A. Knopf; NY.
16. Chayes, Sarah (2006): The Punishment of Virtue – Inside Afghanistan After the Taliban. The Penguin Press; NY.
17. Cohen, Stephen Philip (2004): The Idea of Pakistan. Brookings Institution Press; Wash., D.C.
18. Davis, Joyce M. (2003): Martyrs – Innocence, Vengeance, and Despair in the Middle East. Palgrave – Macmillan; NY.
19. Diamant, Anita (1992): The Red Tent. Picador USA; NY.
20. Dumas, Firoozeh (2003): Funny in Farsi – A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian American. Random House; NY.
21. Farmaian, Sattareh Farman (1992): Daughter of Persia – A Woman's Journey from Her Father's Harem Through the Islamic Revolution. Crown Publishers; NY.
22. Feiler, Bruce (2002): Abraham – A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths. William Morrow – Harper Collins; NY.
23. Fernea, Elizabeth W. (1965): Guests of the Sheik. Anchor Books – Doubleday; NY.
24. Francona, Rick (1999): Ally to Adversary – An Eyewitness Account of Iraq's Fall from Grace. Naval Institute Press; Annapolis, MD.
25. Gartenstein-Ross, Daveed (2007): My Year Inside Radical Islam. Jeremy P. Tarcher – Penguin; NY.
26. Guppy, Shusha (1988): The Blindfold Horse – Memories of a Persian Childhood. Beacon Press; Boston, MA.
27. Hiro, Dilip (2005): The Iranian Labyrinth – Journeys Through Theocratic Iran and Its Furies. Nation Books – Avalon Publishing Group; NY.
28. Hosseini, Khaled (2003): The Kite Runner. Riverhead Books; NY.
29. Hosseini, Khaled (2007): A Thousand Splendid Suns. Riverhead Books; NY.
30. Howell, Georgina (2006): Gertrude Bell – Queen of the Desert, Shaper of Nations. Farrar, Straus and Giroux; NY.
31. Jones, Ann (2006): Kabul in Winter – Life Without Peace in Afghanistan. Metropolitan Books – Henry Holt & Co.; NY.

32. Karabell, Zachary (2007): Peace Be Upon You – The Story of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish Coexistence. Alfred A. Knopf; NY.
33. Kinzer, Stephen (2003): All the Shah's Men – An American Coup and the Roots of Middle East Terror. John Wiley & Sons; NY.
34. Klaitis, Alex and Gulmamadova-Klaitis (2005): Love and War in Afghanistan. Seven Stories Press; NY.
35. Lamb, David (2002): The Arabs – Journeys Beyond the Mirage. Vintage Books; NY.
36. Lewis, Bernard (1998): The Multiple Identities of the Middle East. Schocken Books; NY.
37. Mahfouz, Naguib (1975): Midaq Alley. Anchor Books – Doubleday; NY. (Other fictional books by this Egyptian author as well.)
38. Mango, Andrew (2004): The Turks Today. The Overlook Press; NY.
39. McCauley, Martin (2002): Afghanistan and Central Asia – A Modern History. Pearson Education Limited; London, UK.
40. Michener, James A. (1978): Caravans. Fawcett Crest; NY.
41. Molavi, Afshin (2002): Persian Pilgrimages – Journeys Across Iran. W.W. Norton & Co.; NY.
42. Mortenson, Greg & Relin, David Oliver (2006): Three Cups of Tea – One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations ... One School At a Time. Penguin Group; NY.
43. Nafisi, Azar (2004): Reading Lolita in Tehran. Random House; NY.
44. Nafisi, Azar (2008): Things I've Been Silent About. Random House; NY.
45. Nasr, Vali (2007): The Shi'a Revival. W.W. Norton & Company; NY.
46. Nydell, Margaret K. (2006): Understanding Arabs – A Guide for Westerners. Intercultural Press; Yarmouth, ME.
47. Pahlavi, Farah (2004): An Enduring Love – My Life with the Shah: A Memoir. Miramax Books; NY.
48. Peters, F.E. (1982): Children of Abraham – Judaism, Christianity, Islam. Princeton University Press; Princeton, NJ.
49. Queen Noor (2003): Leap of Faith – Memoirs of an Unexpected Life. Miramax Books; NY.

50. Ramazani, Nesta (2002): The Dance of the Rose and the Nightengale. Syracuse University Press; New Haven, CT.
51. Rashid, Ahmed (2002): Jihad – the Rise of Militant Islam in Central Asia. Yale University Press; New Haven, CT.
52. Rashid, Ahmed (2000): Taliban – Militant Islam, Oil, and Fundamentalism in Central Asia. Yale University Press; New Haven, CT.
53. Sasson, Jean P. (1992): Princess – A True Story of Life Behind the Veil in Saudi Arabia. Avon Books; NY. (Also: [2001]: Princess Sultana's Daughters.)
54. Sciolino, Elaine (2000): Persian Mirrors – the Elusive Face of Iran. Simon & Schuster – Touchstone; NY.
55. Seierstad, Anne (2002): The Bookseller of Kabul. Little, Brown Publishers; UK.
56. Shadid, Anthony (2005): Night Draws Near – Iraq's People in the Shadow of America's War. Henry Hold & Co.; NY.
57. Shawcross, William (1988): The Shah's Last Ride. Simon & Schuster – Touchstone; NY.
58. Sipler, David K. (2002): Arab and Jew – Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land. Penguin Books; NY.
59. Siletz, Ari B. (1992): The Mullah with No Legs and Other Stories. Intercultural Press; Yarmouth, ME.
60. Viorst, Milton (2001): In the Shadow of the Prophet – the Struggle for the Soul of Islam. Westview Press – Perseus Books Group; NY.
61. Wallach, John & Janet (1989): Still Small Voices – The Untold Human Stories Behind the Violence in the West Bank and Gaza. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich; NY.
62. Weaver, Mary Anne (2002): Pakistan – In the Shadow of Jihad and Afghanistan. Farrar, Straus & Giroux; NY.
63. Wright, Lawrence (2006): The Looming Tower – Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11. Vintage Books – Random House; NY.
64. Yildiz, Kerim (2004): The Kurds in Iraq – The Past, Present and Future. Pluto Press; Ann Arbor, MI.
65. Yildiz, Kerim (2007): The Kurds in Iran – The Past, Present and Future. University of Michigan Press; MI.

Recommended Films

Children of Heaven – (Iran)

Color of Paradise – (Iran)

Journey of Hope – (Kurds from Iraq)

Kandahar – (Afghanistan during the Taliban rule)

The Kite Runner – (Afghanistan)

Osama – (Afghanistan during the Taliban rule)

Paradise Now – (Palestinians)

The Syrian Bride – (Israeli Bride in Syria)

Turtles Can Fly – (Kurdish children in Iraq)

The White Balloon – (Iran)

Documentaries

America At a Crossroads Series (PBS Television)

Control Room – (Inside Al Jazeera satellite news network)

God's Warriors: Jewish Warriors; Muslim Warriors; Christian Warriors
("Christiane Amanpour Reports" on CNN)

Jerusalem – City Touched by God (PBS Television)

Occupation 101 – (Palestinian-Israeli conflict)

Three Faiths. One God - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (PBS Television)

Additional Bibliography

1. Ali, Ahmed (1993): Al-Quran – A Contemporary Translation. Princeton University Press; NJ.
2. Armstrong, Karen (1993): A History of God – the 4000 Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Alfred Knopf; NY.
3. Armstrong, Karen (2000): Islam – A Short History. A Modern Library Chronicles Book – The Modern Library; NY.
4. Belt, Don (Ed.) (2001): The World of Islam. National Geographic; Wash., D.C.
5. Bogel, Emory C. (1998): Islam – Origin and Belief. University of Texas Press.
6. Chaliand, Gerard (Ed.) (1993): A People Without a Country (Kurds). Olive Branch Press; NY.
7. Cragg, Kenneth (1999): Jesus and the Muslim. One World Publications; Boston, MA.
8. Esposito, John L. (1988): Islam – The Straight Path. Oxford University Press; NY.
9. Esposito, John L. (1992): The Islamic Threat – Myth or Reality. Oxford University Press; NY.
10. Ewans, Martin (2002): Afghanistan – A Short History of Its People & Politics. Harper Collins; NY.
11. Findley, Carter Vaughn (2005): The Turks in World History. Oxford University Press; UK.
12. Finkel, Caroline (2005): Osman's Dream – The Story of the Ottoman Empire 1300-1923. John Murray Publishers; London, UK.
13. Friedman, Thomas (1990): From Beirut to Jerusalem. Anchor Books; NY.
14. Fromkin, David (2001): A Peace to End All Peace. Owl Books; NY.
15. Gibran, Kahlil (1975): The Treasured Writings of Kahlil Gibran. Castle Books; Edison, NJ. (Also: The Prophet).
16. Green, Joey (2003): Jesus and Muhammad – The Parallel Sayings. Seastone; Berkeley, CA.

17. Gregg, Gary S. (2005): The Middle East: A Cultural Psychology. Oxford University Press; NY.
18. Hitti, Philip K. (1970): The Arabs – A Short History. Henry Regency Co. – Gateway; Chicago, IL.
19. Hourani, Albert (1992): A History of the Arab Peoples. Warner Books; NY.
20. Lewis, Bernard (1997): The Middle East – A Brief History of the Last 2000 Years. Simon & Schuster – Touchstone; NY.
21. Lynch, E. and Hanson, M. (2004): Developing Cross-Cultural Competence – A Guide for Working with Children and Their Families. Brooks Publishing Co.: Baltimore, MD.
22. Mackey, Sandra (1998): The Iranians – Persia, Islam, and the Soul of a Nation. Penguin Group – Plume; NY.
23. Mackey, Sandra (2002): The Saudis - Inside the Desert Kingdom. W.W. Norton & Co.; NY.
24. Magnus, Ralph H. & Naby, Eden (1998): Afghanistan – Mullah, Marx, and Mujahid. Westview Press; Boulder, CO.
25. McDowell, David (1997): A Modern History of the Kurds. I.B. Tauris; NY.
26. McGoldrick, M.; Pearce, J.K.; and Giordano, J. (2005): Ethnicity and Family Therapy. The Guilford Press; NY.
27. McKiernan, Kevin (2006): The Kurds – A People in Search of Their Homeland. St. Martin's Press; NY.
28. Michaud, Roland & Sabrina (1980): Afghanistan. The Vendome Press; NY.
29. Munier, Gilles (2004): Iraq: An Illustrated History and Guide. Interlink Publishing Group; Northampton, MA.
30. National Geographic (2003): Atlas of the Middle East. Wash., D.C.
31. Phipps, William E. (1996): Muhammad and Jesus – A Comparison of the Prophets and Their Teachings. Continuum; NY.
32. Smith, Huston (1991): The World's Religions. Harper; San Francisco, CA.
33. Tripp, Charles (2002): A History of Iraq. Cambridge University Press; UK.

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