

THE U.S., AL QAEDA, AND THE MIDDLE EAST



EUROPEAN COLONIALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST



****European imperialism already made the Middle East uneasy with the West**

AL QAEDA'S ISSUES WITH THE WEST:



- Angry that U.S. troops are in Saudi Arabia – holy land for Islam
- Angry that the U.S. supports Israel
- Opposed the U.S. policy concerning Iraq after the first Gulf War

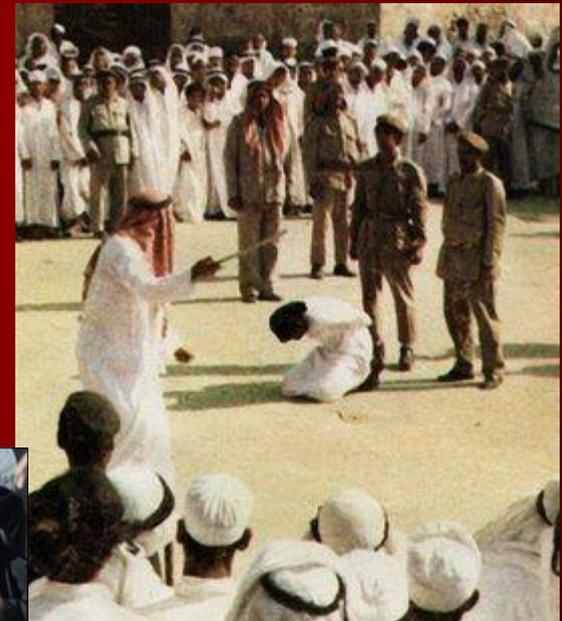
AL QAEDA'S ISSUES WITH THE WEST:

- Believe the U.S. actions in the Middle East equate to a declaration of war.
- They believe they are defending Islam because they believe that the U.S. is trying to destroy Islam.



SHARIA LAW

- Set of religious principles based on the Koran, by which Muslims are required to live (4Parts)
 - Worship
 - Commerce
 - Crime & Punishment
 - Marriage & divorce
- Banned Behavior ****Should be punished****
 - Drinking
 - Drugs
 - Adultery



SHARIA LAW

- Scholars say Koran sets sanctions such as lashes or stoning for adultery
- Sharia law permits behavior banned in many countries (ie. Polygamy)
- Mosques often operate sharia courts, but rulings have no legal status



Orthodox Jews
have similar
Beth Din
Courts

POLITICAL ISLAM



- Political Islam (or Islamic Fundamentalism) believes only one interpretation of the Qu'ran is accurate.
- They work to have this interpretation of Islam be the foundation of all aspects of society.
- They try to rid society of all non-Islamic influences.

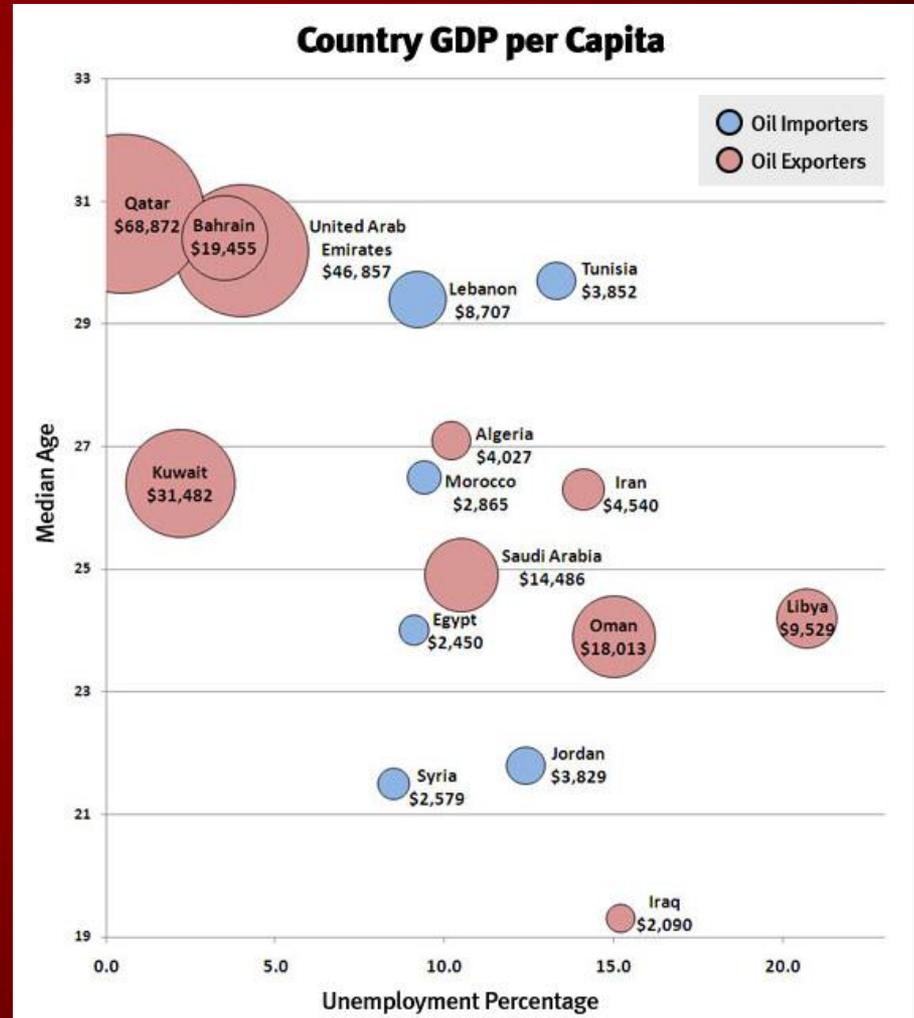
WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- The failure of other political movements have left many looking to political Islam for the answer to the problems.



ROLE OF ECONOMICS

- The transformation to a market economy in the 1990s left many in poverty.



MARKET ECONOMY

- Opened countries to more foreign investment
- Raised unemployment and reduced government assistance for the poor.

EFFECT OF M.E. ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS



- Those in poverty search for ways to provide for their families.
- Many terrorists organizations promise they will provide for their family.
- Many times they actually provide for the family, making the people feel indebted to the group.



THE US INVOLVEMENT IN THE M.E.

Why are we there?

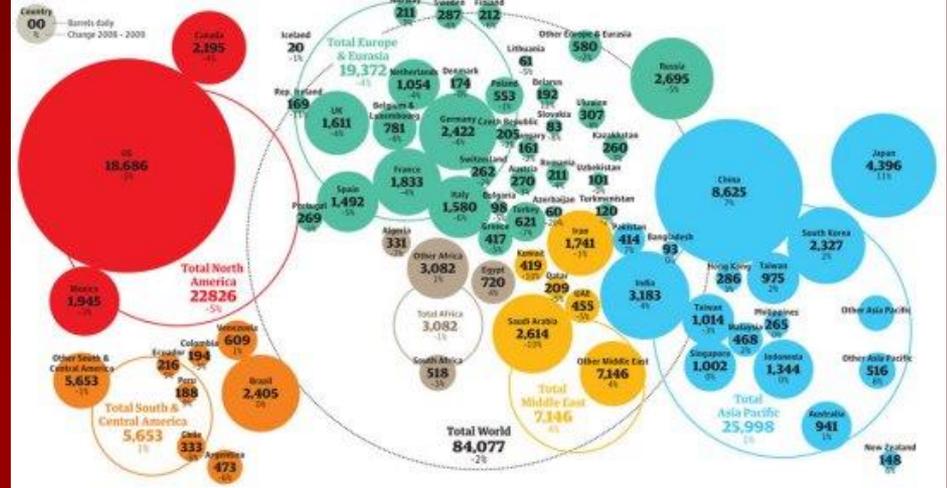
ECONOMIC INTERESTS:

- Protect oil interests



Oil consumption around the world

Thousand barrels daily 2009



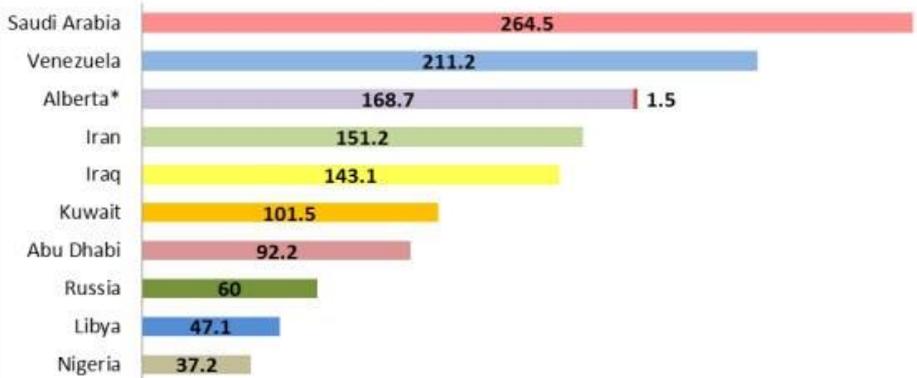
SOURCE: BP STATISTICAL REVIEW OF WORLD ENERGY

World oil consumption

Thousand barrels daily, 1965 - 2009



World's Largest Oil Reserves in 2011 (Billion Barrels)



*Alberta's total oil reserves were 170.2 billion barrels, of which crude bitumen reserves accounted for 168.7 billion barrels and conventional crude oil reserves for 1.5 billion barrels.

Sources: ERCB 2012 ST-98 Report "Alberta's Energy Reserves 2011 and Supply/Demand Outlook 2012 - 2021" and Oil & Gas Journal "Worldwide Look at Reserves and Production. Special Report",

SECURITY INTERESTS:

- Puts the U.S. in the center of power in the Middle East.



IDEOLOGICAL INTERESTS:

- Spread democracy throughout the region
- Support Israel

