

# Modern Middle East Nations

## and Their Strategic Places in the World

A Book Series for High School Students (Junior & Senior)

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“Situating as it is between Africa, Europe, and the Far East, the Middle East has played a unique role in world history. Often described as the birthplace of religions and the cradle of civilizations, this region and its peoples have given humanity some of its most precious possessions. At the same time, the Middle East has had more than its share of conflicts. The area is strewn with the ruins of fortifications and the cemeteries of combatants, not to speak of modern arsenals for war. Today, more than ever, Americans are aware that events in the Middle East can affect our security and prosperity. . . . Still it is fair to say that most Middle Eastern countries remain a mystery, their cultures and religions barely known, their peoples and politics confusing and strange.”

“The purpose of this book series is to change that, to educate young readers in the basic facts about the 23 states and many peoples that make up the region. (For our purposes, the Middle East also includes the North African states linked by ethnicity, language, and religion to the Arabs, as well as Somalia and Mauritania, which are African but share the Muslim religion and are members of the Arab League.) A notable feature of the series is the integration of geography, demography, and history; economics and politics; culture and religion.”

--Harvey Sicherman, President of the Foreign Policy Research Institute (from the Introduction to the Series)

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