

ITME FELLOWSHIP | 2025

BY AVI MELAMED

“TO UNDERSTAND ISRAEL. WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE MIDDLE EAST”

ITME FELLOWSHIP | 2025

- SESSION ONE Historical Framing of the Middle East
- SESSION TWO Nationalism In The Middle East
- SESSION THREE Islam is the Solution | The Rise of Militant Islam
- SESSION FOUR Turkey and Neo-Ottomanism | Erdogan and his Quest for Regional Power
- SESSION FIVE The Islamic Republic of Iran and its Pursuit of Hegemony | Where are we now?
- SESSION SIX The Israeli Palestinian Conflict | A view from the Region
- SESSION SEVEN The West Bank and Gaza | An Insider's Perspective
- SESSION EIGHT Israel | Path, Identity, Direction
- SESSION NINE Lebanon, Syria & Iraq | Identity and the struggle for sovereignty**(extended session 1:00 - 3:30 pm EST)
- SESSION TEN Jordan | A Monarchy in Transition
- SESSION ELEVEN The Arab Gulf Monarchies and the Region Middle East Entering a New Era
- SESSION TWELVE Regional Update & Reflections ** (extended session 1:00 - 3:00 pm EST)

ITME FELLOWSHIP | SESSION #1

| COURSE OVERVIEW

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SESSION #2 NATIONALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

2/2/2025

ITME FELLOWSHIP GUEST EDUCATOR | ABDULLAH HALKHAMIS
"TO UNDERSTAND ISRAEL, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE MIDDLE EAST"

STRUGGLE OVER PATH, DIRECTION & IDENTITY IN THE ARAB WORLD IN 20TH CENTURY



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| WHERE WE LEFT OFF...

RISE & FALL OF TURKISH OTTOMAN EMPIRE [1200'S - 1924]

Towards the late 1200s, a Turkish Prince named Osman established his rule in the area known as Little Asia.

That was the beginning of the **Ottoman Empire**. At its peak (1683), the Ottoman Empire controlled much of southwest Europe, Western Asia & Northern Africa.

The Ottoman Empire ruled the Middle East for more than 600 years.

Following World War I, in 1924, the Empire formally came to an end.



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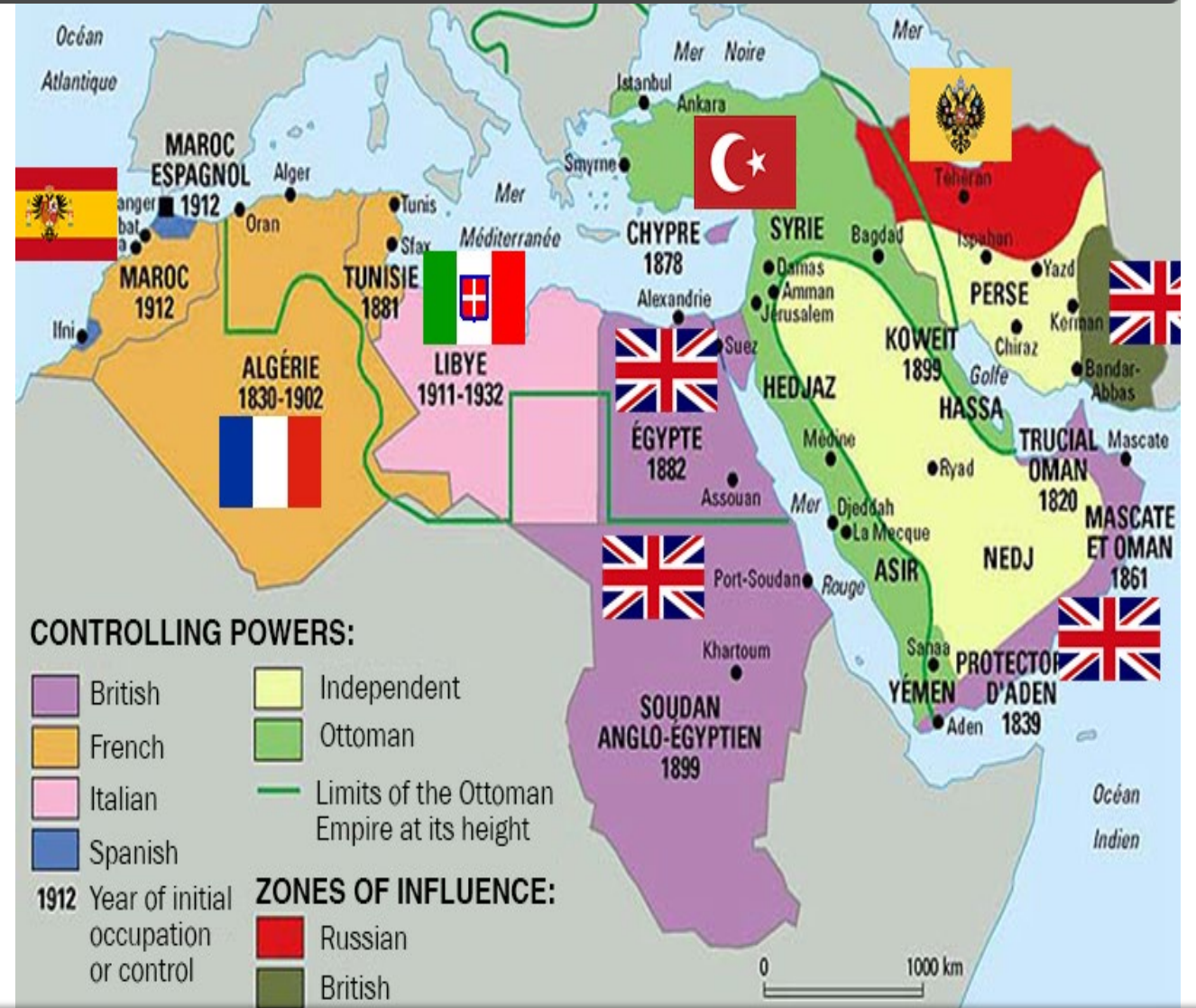
| WHERE WE LEFT OFF...

FOREIGN POWERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST – 1910'S

As the Ottoman Empire slowly declined, foreign powers increased their presence and influence in the Middle East.

Towards the end of the 1800's, parts of the Ottoman Empire were already practically ruled by foreign powers.

By the 1910s, on the eve of World War II, foreign powers deepened their de facto rule over parts of the declining Empire.



1916 | THE SYKES - PICOT AGREEMENT



Fr. Georges Picot

*Mark Sykes
2 May 1916*

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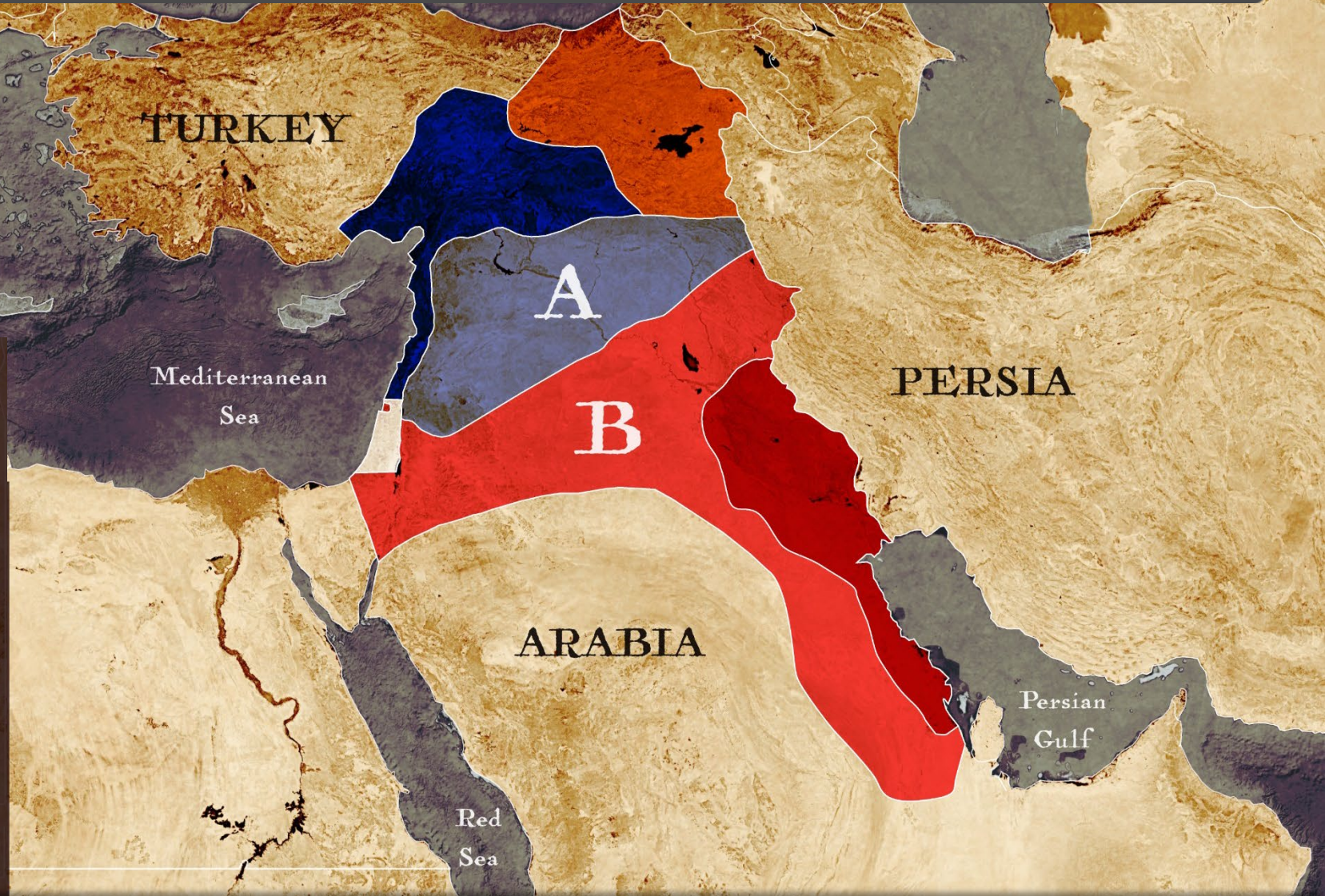
| THE END OF THE TURKISH OTTOMAN EMPIRE



1916 | THE SYKES - PICOT AGREEMENT

SYKES-PICOT AGREEMENT (1916 - ZONES A & B)

-  International Administration
-  Direct British Colonial Rule
-  Direct French Colonial Rule
-  New Arab State Under British Influence
-  New Arab State Under French Influence
-  Annexed to Russian Empire



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| THE END OF THE TURKISH OTTOMAN EMPIRE



UNDERSTANDING KEY TERMS

"QAUM" Pan Arabism

The word *Arab* means a "man of the prairie." The word in Arabic for Arab ethnicity is 'Uruba.

The goal of **PAN ARABISM** is to create one Arab entity with no physical borders that brings together all Arabs as one nation. The word in Arabic for **Pan Arabism** is *Qaum*.

QAUM centers around the fact that 'Uruba is what all Arabs have in common.

"WATANIYA" Particularistic National Statehood

The word *WATANIYA* means "the national homeland."

The goal of **PARTICULARISTIC NATIONAL STATEHOOD** is to create distinct, unique, separate, and independent Arab national states.

WATANIYA centers around the fact that *though Arabs have the same Arab ethnicity ('Uruba), other features like geography, history, dialect, tradition, etc., differentiate one Arab from another.*

Therefore, there should be **separate states with their own particularistic identities**.

"CALIPHATE" (Islamists)

The vast majority of *Arabs are Muslim in their religion.*

The goal of **ISLAMISTS** is to create one global Islamic entity known as the *CALIPHATE*.

The **Caliphate** will be ruled according to the Islamic religious codex known as the *SHARI'AH*

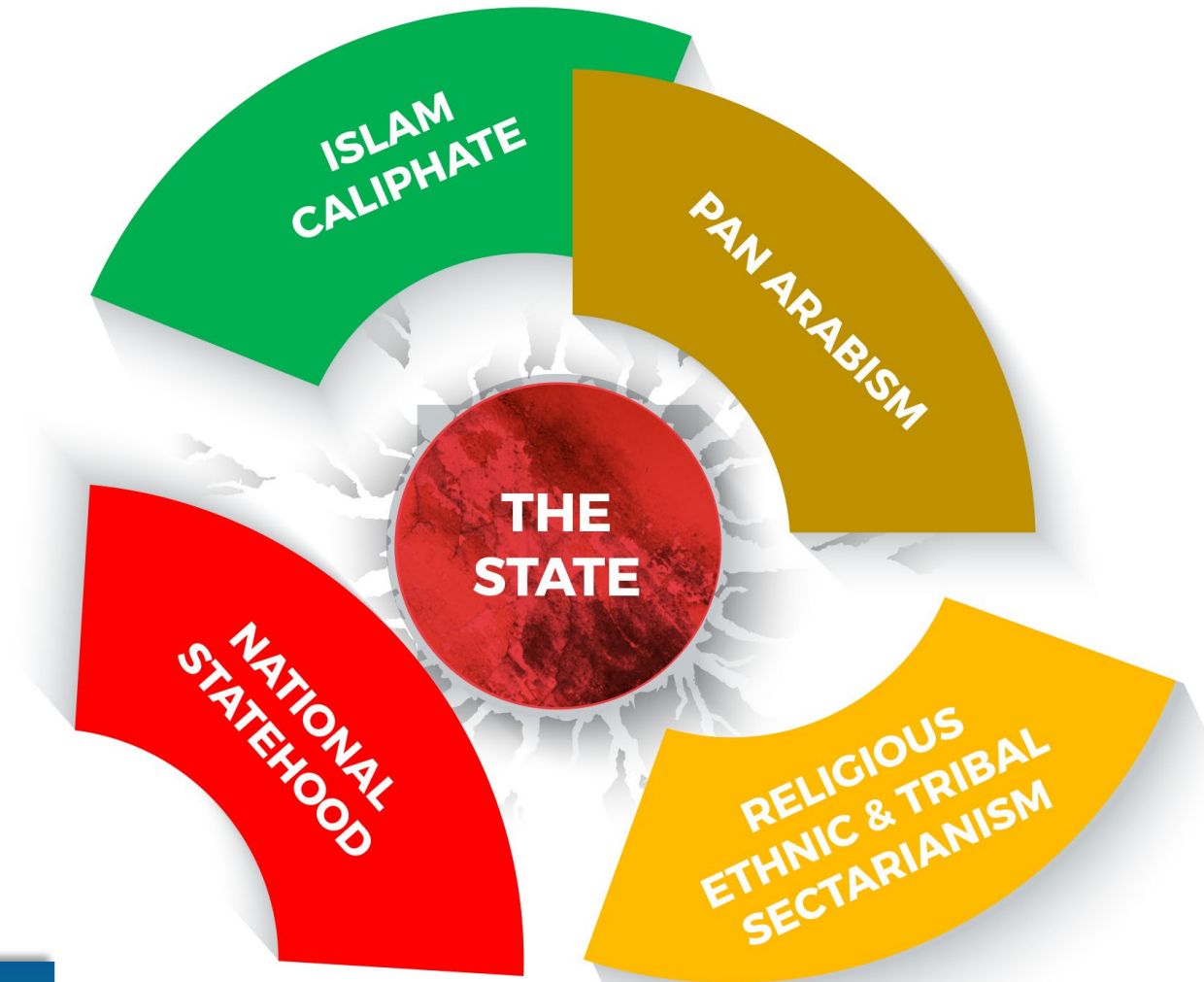
Islamists **reject and oppose both** the concepts of **QAUM** and **WATANIYA**.

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| STATEHOOD & NATIONALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST



STRUGGLE OVER THE CHARACTER OF THE STATE IN ARAB WORLD



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| STATEHOOD & NATIONALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST



ISLAMIST CAMP | THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD 1920'S



Hassan al-Bana (1906 – 1949)

- Islam **Under Attack**
- The vision of the **Caliphate**
- Islamic Religious Codex (**Shari'ah**)
- **Da'wah**: Education and Preaching
- Community, Social Service projects, etc.
- **Violent** Secret Branch
- **Umma** VS. Statehood



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| MB BECOMES LARGEST MOVEMENT IN SUNNI WORLD



➤ Egyptian President Naser's **Pan-Arab vision** excites the Arab masses.

➤ **1958-1961 United Arab Republic (Egypt + Syria)**

➤ **Wataniya** further strengthens with

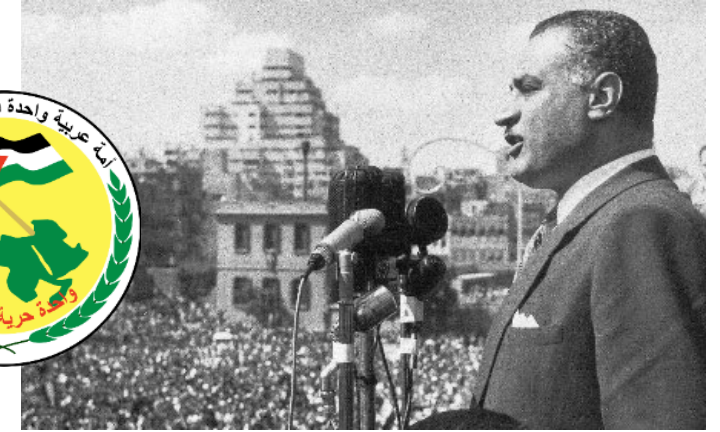
➤ the **independence** of North African Arab countries

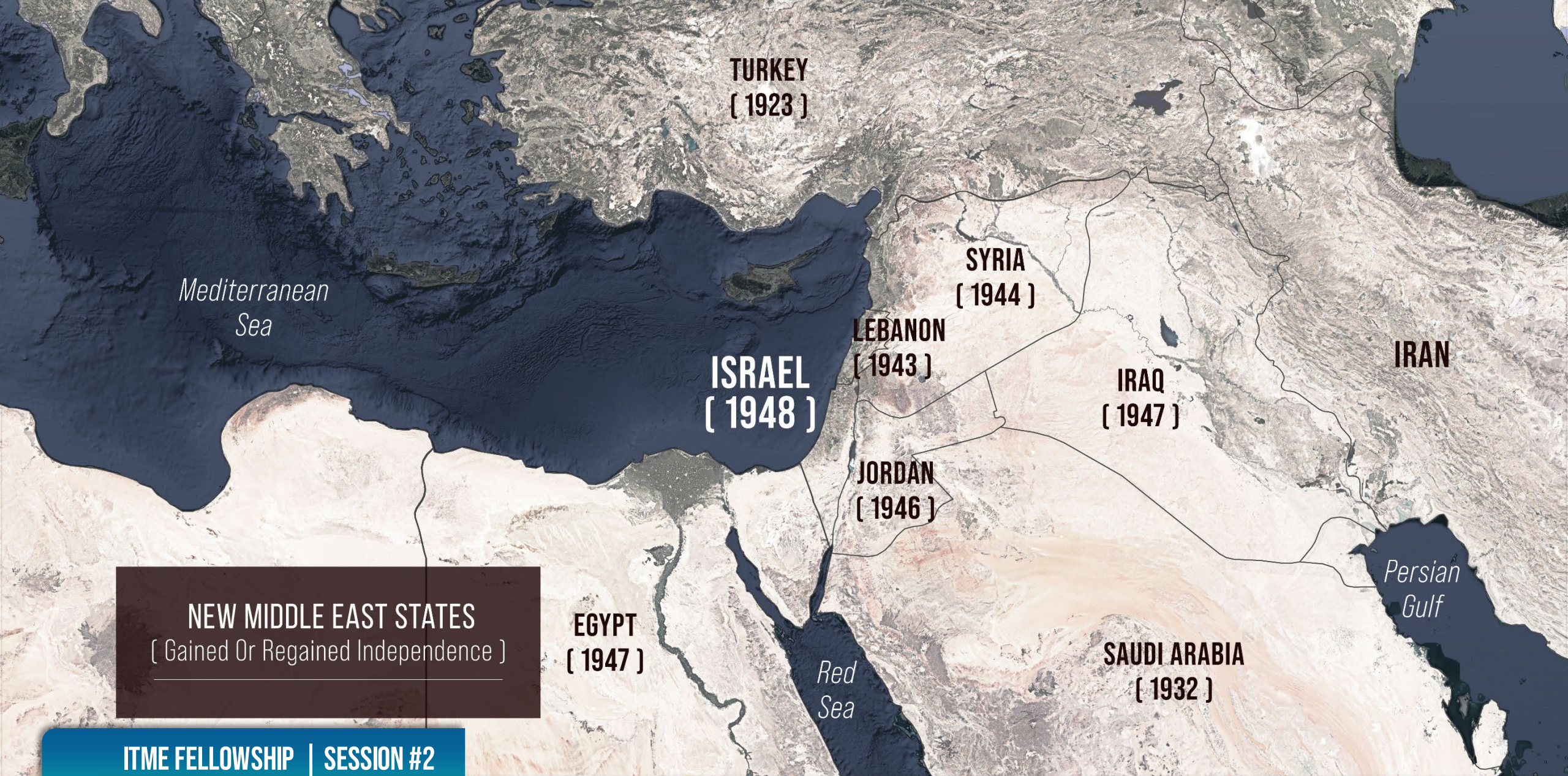
(Libya (1951), Morocco (1956), Tunisia (1956), and Algeria 1962).

➤ The **Islamist** camp is on a **collision track with governments in Egypt, Syria, and Iraq.**

➤ The **Muslim Brotherhood** is on the run in those countries.

A combination of the **oppression of the Muslim Brotherhood** and the **mounting challenges in the Arab** world paves the way for the emergence of **RADICALIZED ISLAM.**





TURKEY
[1923]

SYRIA
[1944]

LEBANON
[1943]

ISRAEL
[1948]

IRAQ
[1947]

IRAN

JORDAN
[1946]

Persian Gulf

SAUDI ARABIA
[1932]

EGYPT
[1947]

Red Sea

Mediterranean Sea

NEW MIDDLE EAST STATES
[Gained Or Regained Independence]

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| STATEHOOD & NATIONALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST

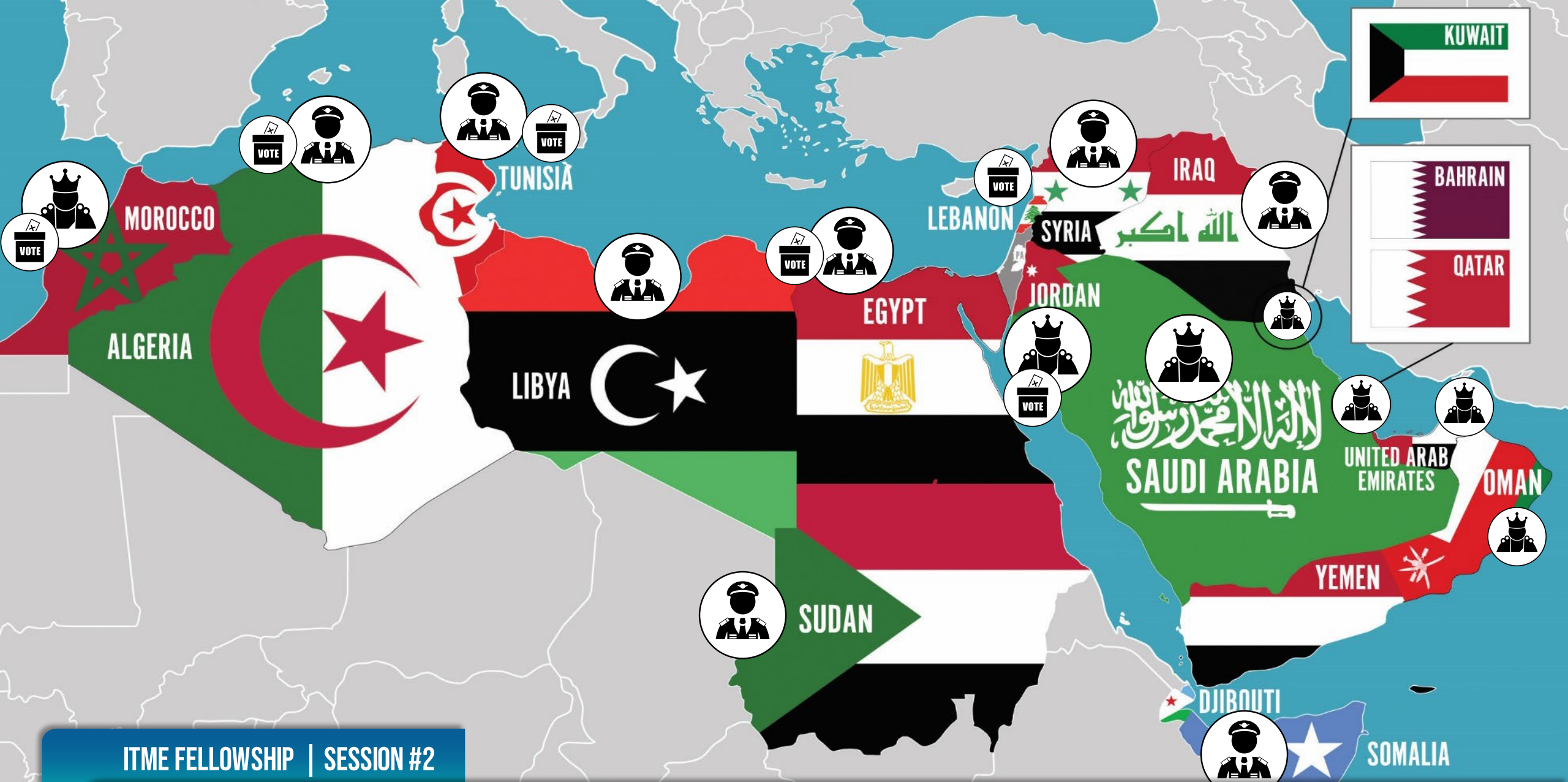




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| STATEHOOD & NATIONALISM IN THE MIDDLE EAST





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THE FAILURE OF STATEHOOD IN THE ARAB WORLD



THE SCREAM OF ANGER | THE SPARK IGNITING THE FIRE



MOHAMED AL BUAZIZI 1984 - 2011

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| THE FAILURE OF STATEHOOD IN THE ARAB WORLD



INTERVIEW WITH...

ABDULAZIZ ALKHAMIS

Distinguished journalist, political analyst, and media strategist with over 40 years of experience covering Middle Eastern politics, Islamic movements, and regional affairs. Having held top editorial positions at leading publications such as Asharq Al-Awsat, Al-Majalla, and Al-Arab Newspaper, London, he has shaped the discourse on some of the most pressing issues in the Arab world

As the host and producer of Niran Sadiqa, he continues to engage with key political and intellectual figures, offering critical insights into the complexities of the region. His expertise in investigative journalism and strategic media analysis makes him a valuable voice in understanding the forces shaping the Middle East today."

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| GUEST EDUCATOR | ABDULAZIZ ALKHAMIS