

Kennesaw State University High School Model United Nations XXXI
The League of Arab States
March 10-11, 2017 Kennesaw, GA
Email: ksuhsmun2017@gmail.com

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2017 Kennesaw State University High School Model United Nations Conference. My name is *Sam Compagno* and I am the Director of Arab League. I am a senior pursuing a major in criminal justice, and want to join the Air Force after graduation where I hope to fly fighters or join the Office of Special Investigations. I did Model United Nations throughout high school and participated in this very conference. At the last Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference in Atlanta, I received the Outstanding Delegation award as well as a perfect score on my position paper. Outside of Model United Nations, I am working on earning my instrument rating for my private pilot's license and enjoy listening to Tom Clancy novels on Audible.

Joining me at the dais this year is Assistant Director *Haley Bufka*. Haley is a freshman at Kennesaw State University who is new this year to the Model United Nations team. She attended the 2016 Atlanta Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference with the KSU team, where she won an outstanding delegation award. Haley is a Chemistry Major and plans to add an International Affairs minor in the coming semester. With her knowledge, she hopes to join the Peace Corps after graduation to travel internationally and make a positive impact in people's lives. Haley is very excited to be a part of your dais and looks forward to helping the committee be both a fun and productive experience.

Also joining the Dais as Chair is *Dom Young*. Dom is a new member to the Model United Nations team. Dom is a senior at Kennesaw State majoring in English with a minor in Asian Studies. This is his first year participating in Model UN and HSMUN. This past year, Dom participated in a KSU study abroad program to Nagoya, Japan. Since that time he has been learning Japanese and is now pursuing a job teaching abroad. He is truly excited to be a member of the League of Arab States committee and is eager to learn more about global relations.

Finally, joining the dais as Research Assistance is *Vanessa Godinez*. She is a junior at KSU, double majoring in International Affairs and Communications. She has participated in Model UN, Arab League, NATO, European Union, and African Union throughout her years at KSU. Her goals after graduation are to become a Foreign Service officer and eventually be able to travel the world. Unfortunately, she will be representing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the Southern Regional Model Arab League Conference during the HSMUN conference and therefore unable to attend, but she is confident that this committee will be an educational and memorable experience!

The topics under discussion for Arab League are:

- I. Developing Strategies to Settle Water Sharing Disputes between Arab States and between Arab States and non-Arab Neighbors**
- II. Promoting Expansion in Non-Petroleum Sectors of the Economy**

Each country delegation within this committee is expected to submit a two paged position paper which covers both of the agenda topics. Information for properly formatting the position papers as well as valuable advice for writing a quality paper can be found on our website <http://hsmun.hss.kennesaw.edu/> or by contacting the Director of your committee. Plagiarism in an academic setting is unacceptable and will nullify any and all scores for the paper in question. The objective of a position paper is to present the diplomatic position of your country on both agenda topics as closely as possible to how an actual diplomat would present the position of his or her native state. When researching for your position papers and preparing for this committee, we highly encourage you to carefully read this background guide and utilize the resources we have provided for you. The research guide contains information that will benefit you not only for your work in Arab League at this conference, but for your potential future studies.

Committee History

“The purpose of the League is to draw closer the relations between member States and co-ordinate their political activities with the aim of realizing a close collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries.”

Pact of the League of Arab States, Article 2

On 7 October 1944, official representatives from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Lebanon, and Transjordan (now Jordan) convened in Alexandria, Egypt in order to form a union which could better represent their regional interests. A year later, The League of Arab States (LAS) was formally inaugurated through the signing of the Arab League Pact. For the founding Arab states, consolidating their power into an entity designed to promote their social, economic and cultural autonomy was a definitive priority, as noted by the Arab League's Charter signed by each member state.¹

Through their continued cooperation, the Arab League has established key regional organizations, like the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (ALESCO) and the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU). These organizations manage cultural, academic and economic affairs which affect the whole of the Arab world. Among various other directives, ALESCO has various subsidiary organizations such as the Arab Centre for Arabization, Translation, Authorship and Publication, the Arabization Coordination Bureau, the Institute of Arab Manuscripts, the Institute of Arab Research and Studies, and the International Institute for the Arabic Language.² The CAEU is equally important; it is responsible for several notable trade agreements, such as 1997 Greater Arab Free Trade Area Agreement, which aimed to foster a higher level of internal trading among Arab nations,³ and the 2004 Agadir Agreement, which sought to facilitate integration between Arab states and the EU as a part of the broader EU-Mediterranean process.⁴

The LAS has been an extremely important figure in regional politics. From the very beginning, the League has never supported the consummation of a Jewish state. As early as 1945, a boycott on Jewish businesses in Palestine was declared by Arab League member states. The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was created during the 1964 Cairo summit, an organization which would later come to represent Palestine officially at the next Cairo summit, only twelve years later.⁵ The identification of Palestine as a free and independent state was, and still is, a key matter of solidarity among member states.

The Arab League has time and time again shown its commitment to curbing regional violence and maintaining peace in the Arab world. For instance, after a brutal civil war broke out in Lebanon in 1975, the LAS authorized the deployment of an Arab peacekeeping force, called the Arab Deterrent Force (ADF), to prevent further destabilization.⁶ A few years later in 1989, the Arab League appointed a committee chaired by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Kuwait, Lebanon and the PLO, to begin devising a solution which could finally end the perilous conflict. This led to the drafting of the Taif Agreement (or National Reconciliation Accord), which, after being signed by Lebanese parliament members, essentially ended the war not a year later.⁷

With 22 member states currently active, it's clear that the Arab League has grown a great deal since its inception. It is no surprise either; the LAS has continually shown its dedication to achieving greater political stability, greater diplomatic problem-solving initiatives, and greater economic cooperation. With this dedication tucked in heart and mind, the League of Arab States will continue to work tirelessly to provide a better future for all of its Member States.

¹ "Charter of Arab League", League of Arab States, March 22, 1945.

² "Overview of ALECSO," Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization, February 2, 2016, <http://www.alecso.org/site/alecso-about/2015-04-01-12-43-08.html>.

³ "The Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA): An Estimation of the Trade Effects," Javad Abedini and Nicolas P rid, <http://economics.ca/2007/papers/0300.pdf>.

⁴ "Agadir Agreement (2004), last modified August 17, 2015," <http://www.bilaterals.org/?-Agadir-Agreement-2004>

⁵ "The Arab League," Council on Foreign Relations, Johnathan Masters, January 26, 2012, <http://www.cfr.org/middle-east-and-north-africa/arab-league/p25967>.

⁶ "The Riyadh Conference and the Arab Deterrent Force," Last modified December 1987, <http://www.country-data.com/cgi-bin/query/r-8067.html>.

⁷ "Taif Agreement," Last Modified November 11, 2015, http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Taif_Agreement

I. Developing Strategies to Settle Water Sharing Disputes between Arab States and between Arab States and non-Arab Neighbors

“The challenge of securing safe and plentiful water for all is one of the most daunting challenges faced by the world today”

Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary- General

Introduction

Currently in the Middle East, there are ongoing disputes over the availability of potable water. With main water sources stretching through various countries and territories, the issue of who maintains control of the water arises. This has created a large scale security issue as well as heightened uncertain water politics throughout the region. Arab Member States have to rely on their non-Member State neighbors, Iran and Turkey for adequate water supply. Water politics in the region have not been covered extensively, and long-term regulations and guidelines on how to deal with this issue are nonexistent. The major water sources in the region are the Nile, Jordan, Tigris, and Euphrates rivers. Groundwater and underground aquifers exist as well, but often are not refilled or restored to acceptable or adequate levels. With a growing population, water resources are increasingly scarce, as more people have to allocate a limited supply of water in a vast and desert region. Imposed international borders have also restricted which countries have access to various water resources.⁸



The Nile River

The Nile River runs through ten different countries in Africa, yet Egypt controls most of the water and the policies associated with it. In a 1929 treaty between Egypt and the British colonies in the region, Egypt was granted fifty-seven percent of the Nile's water.⁹ One such case of Egypt's control and power of the Nile was the construction of the Aswan Dam. This diverted most of the water to Egypt's agricultural and irrigation market. The Nile is a major source of political power within the region. While Egypt has maintained control over the Nile, as of 1959, they signed a treaty with Sudan increasing their control over the Nile from 57 percent to 66 percent and left Ethiopia dried up.¹⁰



⁸ “Stemming The Rising Tide: The Future of Water Conflicts in the Mena Region,” Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, Mahmood Monshipouri, April 21, 2015, <http://journal.georgetown.edu/stemming-the-rising-tide-the-future-of-water-conflicts-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/>.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Ibid.

The Tigris and the Euphrates

The Tigris and Euphrates rivers originate from Turkey and flow through Iraq into Kuwait, eventually emptying into the Persian Gulf. With Iraq in possession of most of the rivers and the continuing struggle against Islamic extremists, the availability of water has become more dangerous. As a result, many Arab nations have to borrow water from Iraq. Regional differences and ongoing war have made this a source of contention. Iraq, Turkey, and Syria have almost gone to war over their waters. The Islamic State, or Daesh, has control of the major dams and does not have the resources to maintain such infrastructures. As of recent events, Daesh has commandeered the Mosul dam. Therefore, if it is not maintained, or purposely destroyed, it could mean disaster for the region.¹¹ The extremist group has also obtained control over the Tabqa dam which provides water and power to over five million people.¹²



The Arab- Israeli Conflict

The Arab-Israeli conflict has been a perpetual issue since Israel's inception in 1948. Israel has illegally obtained land through two wars, one in 1967 and again in the June war of 1973. They have gained control of the West Bank of Jordan and have displaced millions of Palestinians. The control of the Jordan River could mean that Israel has the power to control its people. The plight of the Palestinians depends on the availability of water and access to it. The Oslo accords gave Jordan the right to control the West Bank, but the Palestinian issue is still prevalent and has made the sharing and distribution of water increasingly more difficult since the 1967 war when Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria.¹³

Committee Directives

It is imperative for the Arab League to continue to watch over and provide assistance for their Arab neighbors. The importance of water in the region is substantial, and the availability and access to this resource is of top priority. Sharing borders with multi-national states has provided obstacles to the access and security of water. In order to gain and maintain access to clean water, we must look for better relations within and outside of the Arab world. Mighty rivers, such as the Tigris, Euphrates, and the Nile all sustain life and promote economic growth. How can Arab states achieve secure access to water? How can Arab states maintain a positive and beneficial relationship with their Arab and non-Arab neighbors? Levee the positive and negative options for opening and/or closing relations with other states. What historical events have helped shape this water disparity and what progress has been made since? Focus on how states can gain access and how much access they should obtain from a water source. How can Egypt disperse the mighty Nile equally and fairly amongst her neighbors? What measures can ensure easy and fair access to the Nile? How can the Arab states negotiate with other factions, such as Daesh or non-Arab neighbors, to maintain a secure access to dam maintenance and water distribution? Why should the Arab-Israeli conflict matter to the question of access to potable water? How can Arabs affected by Arab-Israeli conflict obtain necessary water? What should the Arab League do to address these security concerns? As a delegate of your Member State, emphasize your state's interests, needs, and wants and understand how to accomplish these goals. The Arab world has and will continue to face an impending water dilemma, and it is up to this committee to figure out a solution to help alleviate this problem.

¹¹ "Mideast Water Wars: In Iraq, A Battle for Control of Water," Environment 360, Fred Pearce, August 25, 2014, http://e360.yale.edu/feature/mideast_water_wars_in_iraq_a_battle_for_control_of_water/2796/.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Benjamin MacQueen, "Nationalism, Islamism, and the Politics of Ideology," *An Introduction to Middle East Politics*, ed. Natalie Aguilera (Washington DC:SAGE Publications 2013), 120-166.

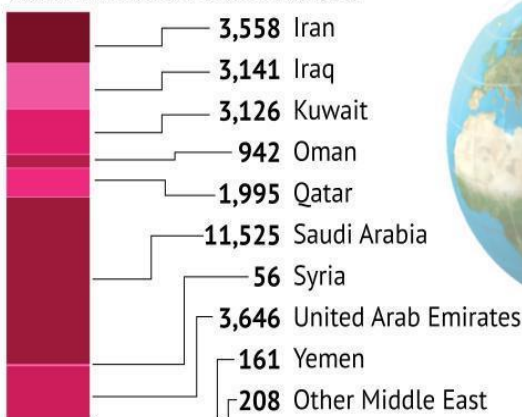
II. Promoting Expansion in Non-Petroleum Sectors of the Economy

Introduction

Whether you are an expert in or a just starting to study Arab studies, you know that oil is a huge part of the Arab world. It is what made many small nations into global economic powerhouses. Oil and its relations have shaped Arab economies since the dawn of independence/formation of nation states in the Arab World. The discovery of oil, as well as the understanding of its importance for meeting world energy needs not only expanded the strategic significance of Arab countries, but also helped build their economies into the global sector. During the 20th century, the socio-economic and political transformation of the Arab countries and their relationship to major powers were influenced by the international political economy of oil on the one hand and influenced by the impact of the development of the oil sector on individual Arab economies on the other.¹⁴ While these factors play a key role in Arab nations economic choices, petroleum is a natural and finite resource. The Arab League must find ways to support their economy through non-petroleum and non-oil sectors.

MIDDLE EAST OIL PRODUCTION

Numbers represent thousands of barrels per day for 2013



Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2014

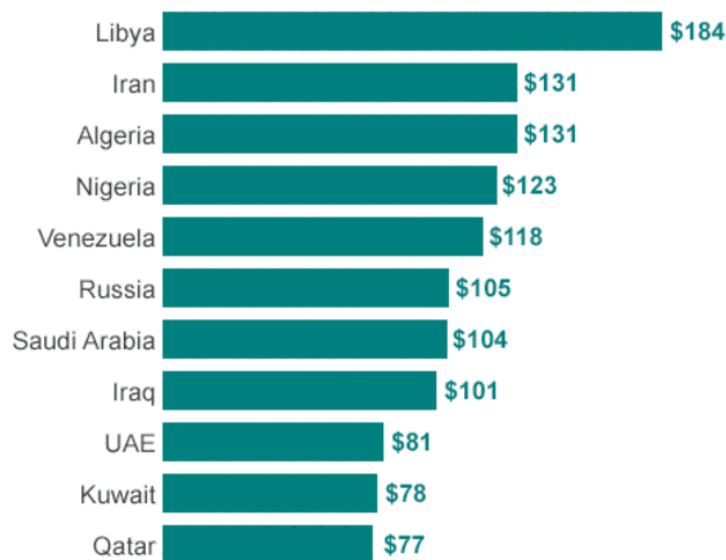


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Negative Effects of an Only Oil Economy

Despite their diversity, most oil-exporting Arab countries face the same challenges when it comes to jobs and more inclusive growth. The current environment of long-lasting, low oil prices has exacerbated these challenges. The non-oil private sector remains relatively small and, consequently, has very limited growth and employment. While some countries have made more headway than others in diversifying their economies, the energy/petroleum sector remains dominant in many economies. However, this sector creates very few jobs directly, even though oil revenue is often used to finance an oversized public sector. Still, the employment situation varies greatly across countries: some states rely heavily on foreign labor to fill jobs while other Member States' oil exporters need to meet the needs of a fast-growing domestic labor force. Because oil is an exhaustible and finite resource, new sectors need to be developed so they can take over as the oil and gas industry dwindles. While some countries have ample

Oil price needed to balance budgets



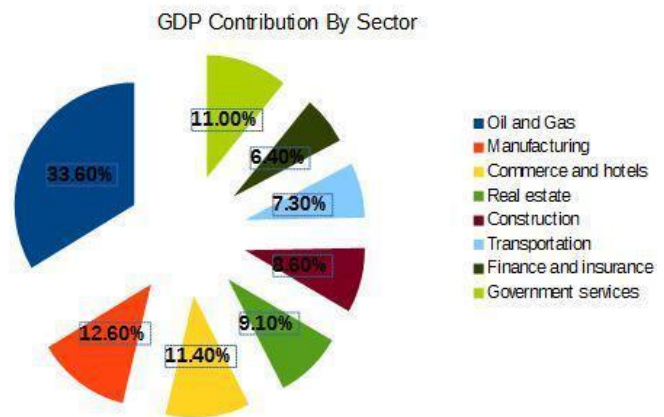
Source: Deutsche Bank and IMF

¹⁴ "The Contribution of the Oil Sector to Arab Economic Development," Majid Al-Moneef, September 2006, http://www.adelinotorres.info/medioorient/arabes_petroleo_e_desenvolvimento_dos_paises_arabes.pdf.

reserves, hydrocarbon resources in a number of Arab countries could be depleted in the foreseeable future. One must also take into consideration that even non-oil activities in many oil-exporting Arab Member States are to some extent dependent on funding from oil revenues. Member States must grow to be truly self-sufficient in the non-oil sectors, so that they will provide a sustainable source of growth and employment once oil resources are depleted. Over-reliance on oil also worsens macroeconomic volatility. When oil prices drop, as is presently the case, the related decline in fiscal revenue often requires cuts in public spending.¹⁵ These cuts then weaken any growth in the non-oil sector and strain the sustainability of public, non-petroleum related employment. All in all, members of the Arab world must somehow support their non-oil sectors of their economy. If not, hardships may fall when their oil supply diminishes.

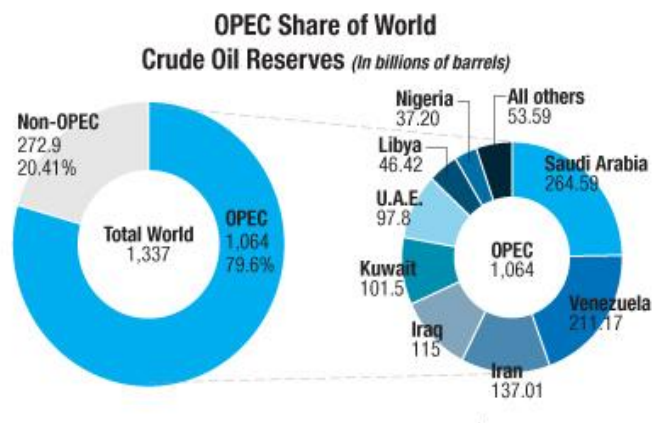
Possible and Current Non-petroleum Sectors

Many nations in the Arab world have already started the shift from an oil based economy to a more sustainable non-oil based economy. However, some nations are struggling to start the conversion. Some possible sectors that nations could and have found success are goods markets, agriculture, and tourism sectors. The United Arab Emirates (as shown in the graph to the right), Qatar, and Bahrain all have highly efficient goods markets. Some of the ways these Member States have accomplished this growth in entrepreneurship includes further reforms in three key areas: higher education & training, goods market efficiency and labor market efficiency.¹⁶



In the Middle East and North Africa, there is a dire need for research in agriculture: of the 11 countries surveyed, only two – Jordan and Oman – spend over 1 percent of their agricultural GDP on research and development, as recommended by the United Nations. This means members of the Arab world are typically less likely to succeed in the agricultural sector. By promoting the research and implication of strong crop varieties with strong genetic backgrounds that can protect them against any biotic or abiotic stress, Arab nations can build a sustainable economy through the agricultural sector and prevent food shortages in the area.¹⁷

The development of tourism industries is a major feature of the process of globalization. Like many other export sectors such as textiles, tourism is labor intensive. This is beneficial to Arab states, because most nations in the region struggle with unemployment, especially with young adults. This promotion of tourism is viewed by its proponents



¹⁵ “Economic Diversification in Oil-Exporting Arab Countries” International Monetary Fund, April 2016, <https://www.imfconnect.org/content/dam/imf/Spring-Annual%20Meetings/AM16/Documents%20and%20Publications/042916.pdf>.

¹⁶ “Saudi Arabia 3rd Most Competitive in the Arab World,” Saudi Gazette, September 28, 2016,

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/business/economy/2016/09/28/Report-Saudi-Arabia-3rd-most-competitive-in-the-Arab-world.html>.

¹⁷ “Innovating Agriculture in the Arab World,” Kaylyn Hlavaty, June 3, 2015, <http://technologyreview.me/en/energy/innovating-agriculture-in-the-arab-world/>.

as having great potential to provide jobs and hard currency thus promoting macroeconomic stability. It was also thought that through forward and backward linkages it could support other indigenous sectors such as food production and consumer goods. Tourist zones could be set up in less urbanized areas of different nations, leading to a more balanced regional development and growth.¹⁸

Possible Incentives for Economic Diversification

We have seen throughout history that people do not like change, especially drastic changes like a shift in economic structure. Possible incentives for this change can come from many different areas. Some of these areas can be from organizations the Arab World is already a part of. Strong examples are organizations like the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)¹⁹ and the Sustainability Excellence Organization²⁰ can redefine their sustainability and unity goals to include other markets besides oil. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the Beirut Institute²¹ can be utilized to provide monetary incentives and advice on how to make the switch to a more sound economic system. Even governments and government bodies of the Arab world can provide some type of monetary incentive to promote business growth; such a cutting taxes, lowering interest rates on small business, and even lowering minimum wage and education prices. However, in the end, these incentives must actually work. Without economic diversification in the Arab world, the oil based economies in these nations can and will plummet in the foreseeable future due to the lack of diversification.

Committee Directives

The goal of this committee is to find ways for Arab states to diversify their economies now, so that economic and financial hardships are prevented in the future. It is imperative that this committee fully discusses the lack of economic diversification and how this economic gap affects the Arab world in the present and in the future. Some key questions to be considered are as follows: What sectors will be profitable for most, if not all Member States? How will this body promote economic diversity in their own state and other Member States? What incentives will better persuade Member States to convert their economies from petroleum to non-petroleum based economies? What steps should be taken to ease this transition? What laws can be enforced to support non-oil sector business? How much of a change/shift should be made? Is economic diversity even relevant at this point in time or is this a future problem? All of these questions should be fully considered and researched when writing your Member State's position paper.

Research Appendix

The resources listed below are provided to help guide your research as you prepare and write your position papers. These resources include general knowledge, knowledge on both topics that we will be discussing, and other sources of news and helpful resources. Also, it may be in your benefit to follow reputable news sources to gain the most up to date information on the Arab League.

General Resources

- The official website of the Arab League (since Arabic is the only option, Google Chrome provides a translation to your preferred language) <http://www.lasportal.org/Pages/Welcome.aspx>
- BBC background on the Arab League <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-15747941>
- BBC timeline of key events on the Arab League <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-15747947>
- The New York Times Section on the Arab League <http://www.nytimes.com/topic/organization/arab-league>

¹⁸ "The Development Of Tourism Industries In The Arab World: Trapped Between The Forces Of Economic Globalization and Cultural Commodification," Waleed Hazbun, <http://Hazbun.Mwoodward.Com/Globalization.Html>.

¹⁹ "OPEC," accessed October 26, 2016, http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/.

²⁰ "Sustainability Excellence," accessed October 26, 2016, <http://sustainabilityexcellence.com/>

²¹ "Beirut Institute," Raghida Dergham, accessed October 26, 2016, <http://www.beirutinstitute.org/en/About>

- The Council of Foreign Affairs backgrounders on the Arab League <http://www.cfr.org/middle-east-and-north-africa/arab-league/p25967>
- The Model Arab League website provides an abundant amount of resources to use for your research <http://ncusar.org/modelarableague/current-participants/research-resources/>
- The CIA World Factbook is a great resource for beginning your research: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

Topic I Resources

- The Water Project analysis on the water crisis in the Middle East <https://thewaterproject.org/water-crisis/water-in-crisis-middle-east>
- Medea Institute analysis on the geopolitics of water throughout the Arab League and bordering countries <http://www.medea.be/en/themes/geopolitics/water-problems-in-the-middle-east/>
- BBC classifications of obstacles facing the Arab League <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-11101797>
- Future issues that may arise in the MENA region <http://journal.georgetown.edu/stemming-the-rising-tide-the-future-of-water-conflicts-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/>
- The future of water security in the Arab League http://www.ijhssnet.com/journals/Vol_2_No_21_November_2012/2.pdf
- Water wars in the Middle East and how Iraq is battling for control. http://e360.yale.edu/feature/mideast_water_wars_in_iraq_a_battle_for_control_of_water/2796/
- MacQueen, Benjamin. "Nationalism, Islamism, and the Politics of Ideology." *An Introduction to Middle East Politics*. ed. Natalie Aquilera (Washington DC: SAGE Publications 2013). 120-166.

Topic II Resources

- Arab League opportunities from the Iran Nuclear Deal <http://carnegieendowment.org/2015/08/25/iran-nuclear-deal-unlocking-oil-and-gas-investment-opportunities-pub-61092>
- Oil Prices effect on the economy in the Arab League <http://carnegieendowment.org/2015/06/30/middle-east-and-north-africa-oil-producers-are-facing-new-price-reality-pub-60605>
- The petrochemical industry can create new opportunities in the Arab League <http://www.mckinsey.com/industries/oil-and-gas/our-insights/when-gas-gets-tight-next-steps-for-the-middle-east-petrochemical-industry>
- Refinery expansion plans have hit a standstill after much planning <http://www.wsj.com/articles/middle-east-refinery-expansion-plans-hit-snags-1438591860>
- The regional economic outlook in the Arab League <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2015/mcd/eng/pdf/menap1015.pdf>
- Controlling the expanding growth of oil in the middle east <http://www.forbes.com/sites/judeclemente/2015/03/29/the-middle-east-s-growing-oil-demand-problem/#2ad5022b4867>