

Top Themes – Middle East/North Africa

1. The region was home to some of the world's earliest civilizations that developed along its river basins.
2. This region is a cultural crossroads that has always impacted areas far removed and been impacted by far away areas.
3. This region is the source of the three big monotheistic faiths: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
4. Shortly after the initial rise of Islam, it became the dominant religion throughout the region.
5. Drought and unreliable rainfall dominate in much of the region. Population clusters exist where water supply is adequate.
6. Certain countries of this region have enormous reserves of oil and natural gas, creating immense wealth for some, but often not for most.
7. Although job situations are bleak in several countries, the literacy rate of young people has gone up tremendously.
8. Conflict over resources, especially water, is a constant threat to the region where population growth rates are high.
9. Religious, ethnic, and cultural discord, frequently cause instability and strife in this region.
10. A vast majority of the population in this region does not support the terrorist activities of extremist groups.