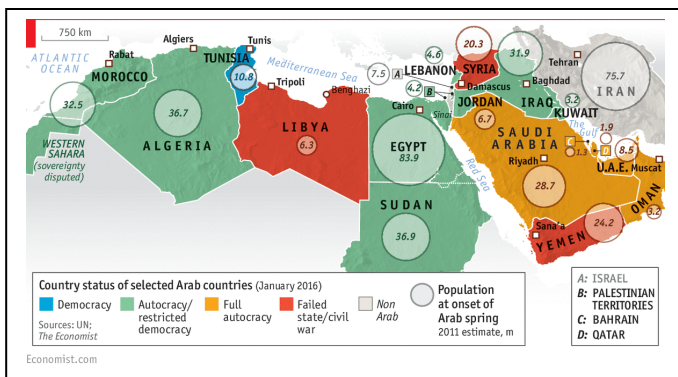# Aim #24: How did Modernization clash with traditional cultures in the Middle East and how did technology affect the relationship between governments & its citizens?

Arab Spring Movement

Country status of selected Arab countries (January 2016)
- Democracy
- Autocracy/restricted democracy
- Full autocracy
- Failed state/civil war
- Non Arab

Population at onset of Arab spring 2011 estimate, m

A: ISRAEL
B: PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
C: BAHRAIN
D: QATAR

Sources: UN; The Economist
Economist.com

Facebook Pages of Jihadis Connected To International Jihadi Recruiter

Mini Lecture

- Changes in technology spurred socioeconomic changes as well. Communication and transportation were especially significant, as they brought together people who were previously unconnected. For example, many citizens gained a much stronger sense of their country because, for the first time, trains helped them see all of it. These updates in technology contributed to strong nationalist trends in the 19th & 20th centuries.
- The tension between modernizing influences and those that maintained strictly traditional ways was not new. During the 20th century, this tension played out in highly visible ways in 2 countries- Turkey and Iran. Each country followed different paths that led to different countries by the early 21st century.
- Changes in technology further influenced the interaction between citizens and those in authority in these countries and around the world.
- For **Modernization in Turkey**, refer back to Aim #2
- For **Modernization in Iran**, refer back to Aim #18
- In the 21st century, the increasing use of the internet, social media sites, and smartphones changed how people and governments communicated. These changes brought new opportunities for better communication. They also brought new risks:
  o Some governments allowed citizens to engage in policy discussions online. For example, beginning in 2011, the American government sponsored a "We the People" website, where citizens could launch petitions online. If a petition received 100,000 signatures within 30 days, a response from the White House was required. However, presidents have been inconsistent in their responsiveness.
  o Some governments have been accused of using the internet & social media to tamper with other countries' elections. For example, Russian operatives with ties to that country's government used the internet to spread fake & divisive news stories in several countries, including France & the U.S.
  o Some people used social media to organize protests and other types of resistance to their government. In the first decade of the 21st century, the "**Arab Spring**" movement against authoritarian regimes in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Bahrain, and elsewhere made great use of several social media platforms to organize & broadcast protests. This made people in the world at large aware of repression of their movements.
  o Some used the internet and social media to recruit followers to their causes. Terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda & ISIS actively used social media to push their anti-Western agenda & recruit fighters to join them.
  o Some governments heavily censored the internet to bolster their own power & limit dissent. For example, China limits what its citizen could read & say online.
  o Some countries used computer viruses to attack the networks of rival nations. In 2017, the U.S. accused North Korea of being directly responsible for a computer virus that locked hundreds of thousands of computers in 150 countries.
- As new technologies developed, interactions between citizens, governments, and other groups evolved. Attacks on one country by another became known as **cyberwar**.

Review Questions:
1. Explain how Iran and Turkey reacted to modernization.
2. Provide some examples of how technology affects countries and their citizens.

Enduring Issue: Modernizations; Technology

Modernization in the Middle East

Directions: Read the excerpts below and answer questions.

The Turkish leader Kemal Ataturk successfully pushed through many reforms. Some of these changed the role of women in the country.

> "Everything we see in the word is the creative work of women."
> With abiding faith in the vital importance of women in society, Ataturk launched many reforms to give Turkish women equal rights and opportunities. The new Civil Code, adopted in 1926, abolished polygamy and recognized the equal rights of women in divorce, custody, and inheritance. The entire educational system from the grade school to the university became co-educational. Ataturk greatly admired the support that the national liberation struggle received from women and praised their many contributions. "In Turkish society, women have not lagged behind men in science scholarship, and culture. Perhaps they have even gone further ahead."
> He gave women the same opportunities as men, including full political rights. In the mid-1930s, 18 women, among them a villager, were elected to the national parliament. Later, Turkey had the world's first female Supreme Court justice.
> In all walks of life, Ataturk's Turkey had produced tens of thousands of well-educated women who participate in national life as doctors, lawyers, engineers, teachers, writers, administrators, executives, and creative artist.
>
> Source: Columbia.edu

1. How did Ataturk transform Turkish socirty?

Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei and Equality, March 2017

> Today, Western thinkers and those who pursue issues such as gender equality regret the corruption which it has brought about.
> Khamenei claimed that men and women are equal in the "ascendance of spiritual positions, the power of leadership, and the capability to lead humankind", but that some tasks for women "collapse and humiliate" their primary roles as housewives and mothers.
> A report by the government-controlled Mehr News Agency said the Supreme Leader "expressed hope that views of those who raised similar (gender equality) issues inside Iran were not based on the Western misconception".
> Iranian women are heavily restricted in their personal and public lives, including with state0enforced dress codes, curbs on higher education courses, jobs, and sporting activities open to them, and freedom of movement under controls requiring a husband's signature to leave the country.
>
> Source: The Independent

2. What movement in Iranian history is reflected in the text?
3. How does this represent a major change from the way life in Iran before 1979?
4. Identify and explain a similarity or a difference between this excerpt on Iran and the one above on Turkey.

The Social Media Revolution in Egypt

> Almost a year after Tunisia had erupted in mass demonstrations (2010), the central Cairo (Egypt) protests triggered further waves of change across the Middle East and North Africa, in what became known as the Arab Spring.
> But while the nature of each pro-democracy uprising, and their ultimate success, varied widely from country to country, they had one defining characteristics in common: social media.
> At time during 2011, the term Arab Spring became interchangeable with "Twitter uprising" or Facebook revolution", as global media tried to make sense of what was going on.
> But despite the Western media's love affair with the idea, the uprisings didn't happen because of social media. Instead, the platforms provided opportunities for organization and protest that traditional methods couldn't.
> In other words of one protestor, Fawaz Rashed: We use Facebook to schedule the protests, Twitter to coordinate, and YouTube to tell the world."
>
> Source: The Guardian

5. According to the article, what purpose did social media have in the Arab Spring?
6. What is the best use of this source for a historian?