

Title of the Course:

## **West Asia in International Politics**

Compulsory course  
For  
M.A. (International Relations-West Asian Studies)  
Course No: MWAS-  
Semester- II

Centre for West Asian Studies  
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

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### **Course Description**

Historically speaking, the West Asian region had the distinction of being cradle of civilization as many civilizations flourished at various times in the history of mankind. Thus this region has been the battle ground for the interests of the major foreign powers for the last two hundred years. It continues to be an area of tremendous strategic, political, economic and religious importance even in contemporary time. However, it owes extraordinary significance for the US/Europe and other major and emerging powers like China and India due to its being the repository of energy resources & strategic location. This course aims to familiarize and develop a critical understanding about the significance of the region for the international politics. This course would deal with the interests, policies and politics of the major external powers, mainly the US, towards the region since the cold war era.

### **Course Content**

#### **Unit I: Significance of the West Asia in International Politics**

- Emergence of West Asia in the international Politics: Approaches and Perspectives
- Religious and Cultural significance of West Asia
- Geo-politics of Oil and its Impact on the West Asia
- Strategic Significance of West Asia

## **Unit II: West Asia and the Major Imperial Powers in the Post World War I Period**

- Post World War I Settlements and End of the Ottoman Empire
- European Hegemony over the Region and Balkanisation of West Asia
- Mandate System and Creation of new Nation-States
- Zionism, Jewish Terror and the British Repression against the Arabs Resistance
- Creation of Israel and Role of Britain and the US
- The Arab Struggle for Independence in Palestine, Iraq, and Syria

## **Unit III: West Asia and the Cold War Politics**

- Emergence of the Bipolar World and its Impact on the Region
- US Policy of Containment of the USSR and also Regional powers
- Emergence of Nasser, Tripartite War (Suez Crisis), and Arab Cold War Politics
- Evolution of the Special Relationship between the US and Israel
- The Perennial Palestine Question: Arab-Israel Wars, Intifada
- Camp David Agreement and End of Arab Radical Camp
- Islamic Revolution of Iran and its Ramifications, and Iran-Iraq War

## **Unit IV: The West Asia in the Post-Cold War Era and beyond 9/11**

- Disintegration of the USSR & Emergence of the Unipolar World
- The Gulf War II & US Policy of Dual Containment
- 9/11 and its Impact on the region: The 'War Against Terror'
- The US Invasion of Iraq and Emergence of Iran's Nuclear Issue
- The Palestine Question and Major Powers today
- Arab Uprising and its Implications
- Emerging multi-polar World: Russian Intervention in Syria
- Growing Influence of China and India

### **Reading List:**

- **Ayoob, M. (Ed.),** *The Middle East in World Politics*, London, Croom Helm, 1981.
- **Fromkin, David,** *A Peace to End all Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East.* Owl Books, Paperback 2001
- **John J. Mearesheiner and Stephen M. Watt,** *Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy*, London: Allen Lane, 2007
- **Eddie J. Girdner,** *USA and the New Middle East*, New Delhi: Gyan Publishing House, 2008
- **Fromkin, David,** *A Peace to End all Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East*, Owl Books, Paperback 2001( New York: Avon Books, 1989)

- **Mamdani, Mahmood**, *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim- An African Perspective*, Columbia University
- **Lockman, Zachary**, *Contending Visions of the Middle East: the History and Politics of Orientalism*
- **Pappe, Ilan**, *The Modern Middle East*, Abingdon, Routledge, 2005, (CWAS)
- **Milton-Edwards, Beverley**, *Contemporary Politics in the Middle East*, 2006, Polity Press, USA (CWAS)
- **Milton-Edwards, Beverley, & Hinchcliffe, Peter**, *Conflicts in the Middle East Since 1945*, Routledge, 2008, 3<sup>rd</sup>edn.
- **Mansfield, Peter**, *A History of the Middle East*, Penguin, 2004, (edited and updated by Nicholas Pelham)
- **L. Carl Brown (ed.)**, *Diplomacy in the Middle East: the International Relations of Regional and Outside Powers*, London: I.B. Tauris, 2004
- **Tareq Y. Ismael**, *the International Relations of the Middle East in the 21 st. Century: Patterns of Continuity and Change*, Aldershot: Ashgate, 2000
- **Louise Fawcett**, *International Relations of the Middle East*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2005
- **David E. Long and Christian Koch**, *Gulf Security in the Twenty-First Century*, Abudhabi: ECSSR, 1997
- **Lenczowski, George**, *The Middle East in World Affairs*. Ithaca, New York, Cornell University Press, 4<sup>th</sup> Edn. 1980.
- **Yergin, Daniel**, *The Prize: the Epic Quest For Oil, Money and Power*. New York, Simon and Schuster, 1990.

### **Method of Instruction:**

Lectures and Tutorials will be held on a weekly basis. Questions, Discussion and debate during classes will be strongly encouraged. Students are expected to keep informed of the current events in the West Asian Region.

### **Method of Assessment:**

A mid-term exam would consist of essay questions based upon the topics covered upto that point. It will be of 25 marks and student must answer two question out of 4 of 12.5 marks each. The final exam would be conducted according to a schedule at the end of the semester will be of 75 marks. In the final exam, student must answer 5 out of 10 questions.