

Title of the Course:
West Asia in the Global Politics

CBCS 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

In modern and contemporary era, the West Asian region continues to be an area of tremendous strategic, political, economic and religious importance not only to us but for the whole world. However, it owes extraordinary significance for the US and other major and emerging powers like China and India due to its being the repository of energy resources & strategic location. 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. 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. This course aims to familiarize and develop a critical understanding about the significance of the region for the the international politics.

Course Content

Unit I: Significance of the West Asia in Global Politics

- Religious and Cultural significance of the West Asia
- Oil and Economic significance of the region
- Strategic significance of the West Asia

Unit II: West Asia and the Major Imperial Powers

- Decline of the Ottoman Empire and the Establishment of European hegemony
- World War I and Emergence of the Nationalism
- Balkanisation of the West Asia- Creation of new states
- Evolution of Zionism and Creation of Israel

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 expansion and also regional powers
- Tripartite War (Suez Crisis), US & Arab Cold War Politics
- Evolution of the Special Relationship between the US and Israel
- Islamic Revolution of Iran and its Ramifications and Iran-Iraq War
- Camp David Agreement under the Auspices of the US & Its Ramifications
- The Perennial Palestine Question & Intifada

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 & Dual Containment Policy of the US
- 9/11 and its impact on the region
- The Neo-cons Agenda, Bush Doctrine, The War Against Terror
- The US Invasion of Iraq and its Implications
- The Palestine Question and Major Powers (Quaterat)
- Emergence of Iran's Nuclear Issue
- Arab Uprising and its implications
- Russian Intervention in Syria and Emerging multipolar world
- Growing Influence of China and India

Essential Reading:

- **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. Mearsheiner 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, 3rd edn.
- **Mansfield, Peter**, *A History of the Middle East*, Penguin, 2004, (edited and updated by Nicholas Pelham)

Suggested Readings:

For General & Historical Perspective

- **Hourani, Albert, Houry, Philip and Wilson, Mary C. (Eds.)**, *The Modern Middle East*. London, I.B. Tauris, 2004.
- **Pappe, Ilan**, *The Modern Middle East*, Abingdon, Routledge, 2005
- **Olivier Roy**, *the Politics of Chaos in the Middle East*, 2007

Major Powers and the Gulf

- **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
- **L. Carl Brown (ed.)**, *Diplomacy in the Middle East: the International Relations of Regional and Outside Powers*, London: I.B. Tauris, 2004
- *International Interests in the Gulf Region*, Abudhabi: ECSSR, 2004
- **Gilles Kepel**, *the War for Muslim Minds: Islam and the West*, New Delhi: Viva Books, 2008

Gulf/Middle East in the World Affairs

- **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
- **Zahlan, R.S**, *The Making of the Modern Gulf States*. Reading, Ithaca Press, Revised Edition, 1999.
- **Al-Qasimi, Sultan Muhammad**, *The Myth of Arab Piracy in the Gulf*, London, Routledge, 1986.
- **Azmi, Rafiullah**, *Conflict in the Gulf: British Quest for Domination and the Ottoman Response*, Delhi: Academic Excellence, 2004
- *Middle East & North Africa*, Europa Publication , 2007
- **Lenczowski, George**, *The Middle East in World Affairs*. Ithaca, New York, Cornell University Press, 4th Edn. 1980.

US and the Middle East

- **John J. Mearesheiner and Stephen M. Watt**, *Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy*, London: Allen Lane, 2007
- **Abbas Amanat and Magnus T. Bernhardsson (ed.)**, *US-Middle East Historical Encounter: A Critical Survey*, University Press of Florida, 2007
- **David W. Lesch (ed.)**, *the Middle East and the United States: A Historical and Political Reassessment*, Boulder: Westview Press, 1999
- **Eddie J. Girdner**, *USA and the New Middle East*, New Delhi: Gyan Publishing House, 2008

US and the Persian Gulf

- **Robert J. Pauly, JR**, *US Foreign Policy and the Persian Gulf: Safeguarding American Interests through Selective Multilateralism*, Burlington: Ashgate Publishing Co., 2005
- **Steven Wright**, *the United States and the Persian Gulf Security: the Foundations of the War on Terror*, Berkshire: Ithaca Press, 2007

US, Oil and the Persian Gulf

- **Abir, Mordechai**, *Oil, Power and Politics: Conflict in the Arabia, The Red Sea and the Gulf*, London, Frank Cass, 1974.
- **Bahgat, Gawdat**, *American Diplomacy in the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea*, University Press of Florida, 2003
- **Isaak, David T, and Fesharaki, F**, *OPEC, The Gulf and the World Petroleum Market*, London, Croom Helm, 1983.
- **Karlsson, Svante**, *Oil and the World Order: American Foreign Oil Policy* (1986)
- **Kent, Marian**, *Oil and Empire: British Policy and Mesopotamian Oil, 1900-1920*. London, Macmillan, 1976
- **Yergin, Daniel**, *The Prize: the Epic Quest For Oil, Money and Power*. New York, Simon and Schuster, 1990.
- **Yetiv, Steven**, *Crude Awakenings: Global Oil Security and American Foreign Policy* (2004)

Arab States in the West Asian Affairs

- **Rubin, Barry M**, *The Arab States and the Palestine Conflict*. New York, Syracuse University Press, 1991.

Regional Powers and the Gulf

- **Ramazani, Rouhollah K.**, *The Persian Gulf: Iran's Role*. Charlottesville, VA, University Press of Virginia, 1972
- **Haj, Samira**, *The Making of Iraq 1900-1963: Capital, Power, Ideology*. New York, State University of New York Press, 1997
- **Mark, Phoebe**, *The History of Modern Iraq*. London, Longman, 1983
- **Polk, William R**, *Understanding Iraq: The Whole Sweep of Iraqi History from Genghis Khan's Mongols to the Ottoman Turks to the British Mandate to the American Occupation*. New York, Haper-Collins, 2005
- **Keddie, Nikki R**, *Iran, Religion, Politics and Society*. London, Frank Cass, 1980
- **Kinzer, Stephen**, *All the Shah's Men: An American Coup and the Roots of Middle Eastern Terror*. John Wiley and Sons, Inc, 2004.

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.

Method of Instruction: There will be four lecture of one hour each per week. Students would be encouraged to ask questions, discuss and debate during class. Students would be expected to follow developments related to the West Asian region through multiple sources and look actively for analytical articles on topics in the course.

Evaluation and Assessment: The students would be assessed on the basis of a written assignment/term paper and also presentation of the same of 20 marks, 5 marks for active participation in the class and end sem. exam of 75 marks based on descriptive questions. The formats for writing term paper will be discussed in the class. The term paper will be presented in seminar mode on a mutually agreed dates between the teacher and students.