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Subject Project: Middle East
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Middle East in general</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East Oil (illust)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maps of Israel (illust)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The State of Israel</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The New Jerusalem (illust)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Israeli Flag (illust)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel’s Prime Minister Ben-Gurion (illust)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map of Transjordan (illust)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Kingdom of Transjordan</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transjordan’s King Hussein (illust.)</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Republic of Syria</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map of Syria and Lebanon (illust)</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An orange grove (illust)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Lebanon Republic</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Present Middle East Situation</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map of Middle East (illust)</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Middle East in general.

Economics: The key to the Middle East is oil. Although there aren't any oil wells in Israel, Syria, Transjordan or Lebanon, there are three pipe lines running through them from Iraq and Saudi Arabia. All of Europe's oil runs through them, and during the Suez Canal crisis they were cut, and Europe was without oil. The price of all oil products went up and petrol was rationed.

The three world powers, United States, United Kingdom and U.S.S.R. are all interested in the Middle East because of the oil that is found there.

History: The Middle East became part of the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire in 1517, and continued so until December 15th 1917 when the First World War ended. The only interruptions in Turkish rule were when the Christians ruled Palestine for a century, and in the eighteenth...
century, France, under Napoleon, attempted to
found an empire on the Nile, which was soon
crushed.

After the First World War, in 1920, the part
of the Ottoman Empire became independent countries,
under separate rule.

During the Second World War most Middle East
countries helped the Allies and Syria was attacked
by the Nazis.

After it, Lebanon disengaged itself from Syria,
Palestine split, and became the State of Israel, and
the Kingdom of Transjordan; and the United Arab
Republic was formed.

Religion: Most Middle Easterners are Arabs,
believing in the Muslim faith. Other religions are:
the Jewish faith, about 1,700,000 people, in Israel;
the Christians about 360,000, found mostly in Leb-
anon; the Druze (Christian-Arabs) at least 60,000;
The Buddhists, about 10,000, found in Egypt.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>85,559,390</td>
<td>app. 2,531,300 sq. m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>24,110,000</td>
<td>296,107 sq. m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran (Persia)</td>
<td>21,146,000</td>
<td>628,000 sq. m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>5,209,000</td>
<td>116,000 sq. m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>1,425,000</td>
<td>app. 5,000 sq. m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>7,000,000</td>
<td>1,000,000 sq. m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>1,872,390</td>
<td>7,992 sq. m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>22,500,000</td>
<td>356,000 sq. m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>3,506,000</td>
<td>app. 55,000 sq. m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transjordan</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>app. 37,157 sq. m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The State of Israel

Israel, formerly Palestine, lies at the Western tip of Asia, on the Eastern Shore of the Mediterranean Sea. Its boundaries are: to the North, Lebanon; to the East, Syria and Transjordan; to the South, Egypt; to the West, the Mediterranean Sea. Its total perimeter is 714 miles.

Israel’s area is approximately 7,992 square miles. Its highest point is Mt. Meron (3,962 feet), and its lowest point, the lowest place in the world, on the shores of the Dead Sea, (1,256 feet below sea level).

Rivers and lakes: the River Jordan, running between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. It is a boundary between Transjordan.

The Dead Sea: the lowest place in the world is on the shores of the Dead Sea. Because of evaporated salt content in it is so high, that it is impossible to sink in it.

Cities: Jerusalem: Capital of Israel. In
1956 its population was 146,000. It is a very ancient city and it was first occupied by the Egyptians, about 1300 B.C., as a stronghold. The next most important date in Jerusalem's history is 332 B.C., when Alexander the Great conquered Syria. The gates of Jerusalem were thrown open to him and he left the Jews in peaceful occupation.

Three religions live there, Jews, Christians and Moslems; and there are many holy places.

In recent years great progress has been made with new buildings and architecture.

It is very strange that the modern part of Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, and the ancient walled part, with many holy places, is in Transjordan.

Tel-Aviv: a very modern city, with a population of 370,000 in 1956. It was formerly called Jaffa, and in Biblical times, Joppa. Nine tenths of the population are Jewish.
NEW IMMIGRANTS, some of over 170,000, who have arrived in Israel during the last few months, are routed to new homes by the government. The first look at new land from ship or train is overwhelming. They arrive penniless, but are equipped with hope of a better future.

Photographs by Jerry Cooke

The Israeli Flag.

It is Jerusalem's port, and in ancient times it exported Lebanese timber that floated down the shore. Modern exports are: oranges, soap of olive oil, sesame, barley, water melons and wine.

Haifa: Also very modern. The population in 1956 was 157,000. Port, situated in the Bay of Acre. There is a commercial air-port here. Exports: oranges and petroleum.

History: It is hardly believable that Israel, one of the world's oldest nations, is celebrating her ninth anniversary – of her independence; but it is true.

Palestine was first inhabited by the Semitic peoples and next, in 1600 B.C., by the Egyptians who occupied it for 100 years.

In 1000 B.C., the Hebrew peoples rebelled and placed a leader on their throne. Most of the people in the surrounding countries thought that they would like to join up, so they rebelled also, and the Hebrews...
Monarchy was formed.

It lasted for 3 centuries till the Assyrians attacked. Assyrian rule lasted for about 90 years.

The next great ruler was Alexander the Great, who captured Palestine in the 4th century B.C.

After he died in 323 B.C., his empire fell to pieces under Ptolemy, and Palestine remained under neutral rule for about 100 years till the Romans, under Pompey, captured Palestine at about 50 B.C.

They remained there for 450 years, till 175 A.D., making Caesarea their outpost.

Palestine became very important in the eyes of Europe during the 12-13 centuries, because it was captured by the Frankish Kingdom (which was Moslem) under Saladin.

The Moslems had no ideas about the Christian faith, so they disregarded the Holy Places. The European Christians objected to this, and sent armies to free Palestine. These wars were called the Crusades.

The Christians did not have, after about 350 years of rule, the power to overthrow the Ottomans, who were the last to rule Palestine.

The Ottomans ruled till 1917, when World War ended.

From 1920 to 1948 Palestine was under a mandate of the League of Nations.

After the mandate had expired, wars broke out in Palestine, and two sections; for the Jews, the State of Israel was formed. At the same time, the Moslems, the Kingdom of Transjordan, were formed.

Population and Religion: Parish.


Note: this census was taken in 1950.

Immigration: During the last
was formed.

It lasted for 3 centuries till the Assyrians attacked. Assyrian rule lasted for about 90 years. At that time, the ruler was Alexander the Great, who captured Palestine in the 4th century B.C. He died in 323 B.C. His empire fell to the Persians, and Palestine remained under Persian rule for about 100 years till the Romans, under the command of Julius Caesar, captured Palestine at about 50 B.C.

Palestine became very important in the eyes of the Christians during the 12th-13th centuries, because it was under the Frankish Kingdom, which was led by Saladin. Muslims had no idea about the Christian Holy Places. The Crusaders objected to this, and sent their forces toPalestine. These wars were called the Crusades.

The Christians did not have much luck, and after about 350 years of rule, the Frankish Kingdom was overthrown by the Ottoman Turks, in 1516. The Ottomans ruled till 1917, when the First World War ended.

From 1920 to 1948, Palestine was ruled by Britain under a mandate of the League of Nations.

After the mandate had expired, in 1948, religious wars broke out in Palestine, and it was divided into two sections: for the Jews, the State of Israel; and for the Muslims, the Kingdom of Transjordan.

Population and Religion: Israel's population is 1,572,390. Composed of:

- Jews: 1,667,455
- Muslims: 138,590
- Christians: 45,764
- Druze (Arab Christians): 20,551

Immigration: During the last ten years, Israel
has received by far, more immigrants than the number of its original population.

95% of them are Jews, coming to Israel to start life afresh, after the ruin and turmoil of Europe.

Products: Natural minerals found there are iron ore, mica, manganese ore, petroleum, phosphates, gypsum, felspar, potassium chloride, granite and table salt.

Agricultural: Israel's perfect climate; frost free, plentiful water, good soils and sunshine, makes it possible to grow most of her food. She grows: citrus fruits, bananas, groundnut etc.
The Kingdom of Transjordan

Transjordan lies on the South Western boundaries are:
- To the North, Syria;
- To the South, Saudi Arabia and Iraq;
- To the South, Saudi Arabia and Iraq;
- To the West, Israel.

Its area is approximately 37,157 sq. miles.

Rivers and lakes: the River Jordan, which runs from between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee, is a boundary between Israel and Jordan.

Cities: Amman, Jordan's capital, is a centre for canal trade between Syria and Egypt.

Petra: its magnificent ruins are one of the most historically important sites in the Middle East.

Jerusalem: only the ancient city of its kind remains.

The modern part of Israel's population in 1956 was 66,000 people.

Holy Places

History: For early history
The Kingdom of Transjordan

Transjordan lies on the South Western tip of Asia. Its countries are: to the North, Syria; to the East, Saudi Arabia and Iraq; to the South, Saudi Arabia; and to the West, Israel.

Its area is approximately 37,157 square miles.

Rivers and lakes: the River Jordan which runs between the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee. It is a country between Israel.

Cities: Amman is Jordan's capital. It is the centre for road trade between Syria, Arabia and Egypt.

Petra: its magnificent ruins of ancient architecture, attract many visitors.

Jerusalem: only the ancient walled part is in Transjordan. The modern part is Israel's capital. The population in 1936 was 146,000 people. The old part has many Holy Places.

History: (For early history see Israel.)
Transjordan was originally part of Palestine under British Mandate.

In 1921, it accepted as its Emir Abdullah, the second son of Hussein, ex-King of the Hijaz. In 1923, Great Britain signed a treaty with the Emir, recognizing him as head of an independent government, provided it remained constitutional and would be guided by a British resident in foreign policy. Another treaty, in 1946, recognized Abdullah's full sovereignty and he assumed the title of King. During the Second World War his Arab Legion served the Allies well, and the R.A.F., under a treaty of 1946, has a station at Amman.

Population and Religion: Transjordan's population is 1,500,000, of which 170,000 are Druze.

Products: owing to the countries mountainous and semi-desert terrain, little is grown; however,
in the west, around the River Jordan the land is fertile, and fruits are grown there.

Natural: Valuable chemical salts, including potash, are worked in the Dead Sea area, and around Amman there are phosphate deposits.
The Republic of Syria

Syria lies on East coast of Asia. Its boundaries are:
to the North, Turkey; to the East, Iraq; to the South,
Iraq, Transjordan and Israel; and to the West, Lebanon
and the Mediterranean Sea. Its area is approximately
55,000 square miles.

Rivers and lakes: the Euphrates river, running
from the Taurus Mountains to the Persian Gulf.

Cities: Damascus is Syria's capital. It is one of the
oldest cities in the world. Its gardens and vineyards, orange
and lemon groves, peach and apricot orchards, are
irrigated by streams that come tumbling down from
the mountains.

It is a contrast of old and new, with spacious
thoroughfares lined with modern shops, and narrow
lanes bordered by tiny booths where merchants in
flowing robes sit cross-legged behind their wares.

Aleppo: It is joined to Alexandretta, Baghdad,
Beirut and Damascus by air. It is a very
ancient trading city, but now the industries are mainly European, except for carpet making and the silk trade.

As you approach it, you see the domes and minarets of its buildings, and many mosques.

History: Syria (including Lebanon) was first inhabited by the Semitic race, but at a very early period, about 1600 B.C., the Aramaeans absorbed the earlier race.

At a very early period, Syria became the meeting place of Egyptians and Babylonians, through which the produce of the Phoenicians was carried to the Western lands of the Mediterranean Basin.

The next great ruler was Alexander the Great who captured Syria in the 4th century B.C. After his death, in 323 B.C., his empire fell to his under Ptolemy's rule, and the Aramaeans ruled again. But not for long. In 64 B.C., Syria was conquered for the Romans by Pompey. The Romans remained there for 450 years.
making Antioch their outpost.

During the Crusading period, the Jerusalem kingdom had a foot hold in South Syria (Beirut and Tripoli).

The kingdom of Jerusalem was crushed by the Ottomans in 1516, who took the whole eastern Mediterranean coast.

The Ottomans ruled for 4 centuries, till 1917 when the First World War ended.

In 1920 the French were given a mandate over Syria, and they occupied Damascus. In 1935, the towns of Alexandretta and Antioch were given back to Turkey, and they are now known as Hatay.

During the Second World War, the Nazis prepared to attack Syria, but the British and French troops intervened. After the war, in 1946, the French High Commissioner proclaimed the termination of the mandate, declaring Syria and
Lebanon, who had broken away from Syria, fully independent and sovereign State.

Population and Religion: Syria's population is 3,806,000. The majority of people in Syria are Moslems, although there are over a million Christians of diverse branches.

Products: Syria grows tobacco, wheat, silk cocoons, wool, hides, sponge, eggs and fruit.

Manufactured products are: woven fabrics and Damascus steel, out of which, for hundreds of years, the best sword and knife blades were made.

There are no natural resources to speak of.
The Lebanon Republic.

Lebanon, formerly a state of Syria, lies on the Eastern tip of Asia, with its boundaries as such: in the North, Syria; in the East, Syria; in the South, Israel; in the West, the Mediterranean Sea.

Lebanon's area is approximately 5,000 square miles. Cities: Beirut, Lebanon's capital. Under French rule it became a center for educational movements, and it has French and American universities. From it there are flying services by Damascus to Baghdad, and farther east.

Tripoli: it began to grow rapidly, when it became the terminus on the Mediterranean Sea of one of the oil pipe-lines of Iraq.

History: (For early history see Syria). From 1920 to 1946 the French had a mandate over Lebanon (and Syria). In 1946, after the French and British forces had crushed a Marjo attack on Syria, the Free French High Commis-
Tower in the Levant, proclaimed the termination of the Mandate, declaring Syria, and subsequently Lebanon, fully independent and sovereign state.

Population and Religion: Lebanon's population is 1,425,000. It is officially half Christian and half Muslim.

Products: There aren't any industries, nor any natural resources, but these things are grown: timber (the cedars of Lebanon), olives, dates, and citrus fruits.
The Present Middle East Situation

There are intense nationalist movements in all Middle East countries with the exception of Israel.

In Egypt, Nasser threw out King Farouk and is now president.

Recently in Iraq, King Faisal was murdered and the nationalist rebels took control of the country.

In Lebanon, President Chamoun was about to be overthrown, when he called in U.S. troops, who now occupy important posts in the country.

In Jordan, U.K. troops were called in to prevent the rebels gaining control of the country.

Oil is the prize of the Middle East, and all countries are fighting to control it.

Very good work.

A+.

Nasser... limitless ambition.