

# SOUTHWEST ASIA

OIL AND WATER

# Page 475

- Oil: More than half the world's oil reserves are found in this region.
- Some experts believe that the freshwater supplies of the Arabian peninsula will be exhausted in the next 25 to 30 years.

# OIL

- P. 489-490
- Southwest Asia's most abundant resource: Oil.
- Major oil fields are located in the Arabian Peninsula, Iran, and Iraq, with natural gas fields close by.
- These fields provide the major portion of income for nations with petroleum reserves.
- About one-half of the world's oil reserves are found in Southwest Asia, along the coast of the Persian Gulf and at off shore drilling sites in the Gulf itself.

# WATER

- P. 490
- The most valuable resource in parts of Southwest Asia is water. In mountainous lands such as Turkey, Iran, Lebanon and Afghanistan, water is plentiful compared to the rest of the region. It can be harnessed for hydroelectric power.
- However, elsewhere, water is a scarce resource that must constantly be guarded and carefully used.

## Southwest Asia



- Dams and Irrigation Systems:
- Turkey is building a series of dams and a man-made lake on the upper Euphrates River. The dams will provide water and hydroelectricity. Controversy: countries downstream from the dam will lose the use of the water for irrigation and hydroelectricity.
- The National Water Carrier project in Israel carries water from the northern part of the country to sites in the nation's center and south.

- Drip Irrigation: practice of using small pipes that slowly drip water just above ground to conserve water used for crops.
- Desalinization: removal of salt from ocean water.
- Fossil water: water pumped from underground aquifers.

- Oil and natural gas deposits were formed millions of years ago.
- First SW Asia oil discovery was in 1908 in Persia, now known as Iran. In 1938, oil companies found more oil fields in Arabian Peninsula and Persian Gulf. In 1948, world's largest oil fields discovered at al-Ghawar.
- Petroleum not processed is called crude oil. Crude oil must be moved to a refinery to be converted into useful products. Pipelines transport the crude oil to either refineries or to ports where the oil is picked up by tankers and moved to other places for processing.



- P. 499
- Pipelines in this region move the crude oil to ports on the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. Oil tankers then carry the petroleum to markets in the rest of the world.
- Moving oil always involve risk of oil spills. 1991, during Persian Gulf War, tankers and oil storage terminals in Kuwait were blown up, spilling 240 million gallons of crude oil.
- Oil tankers risk collisions or running aground.

- Answer questions on page 500:
- 14.
- 15.
- 16.
- 17.
- 19.
- 20.
- Main Ideas
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