

## **Middle East Historical Timeline A Preliminary Look**

1. Pre-7<sup>th</sup> Century
  2. 7<sup>th</sup> Century and the Advent of Islam
  3. 7<sup>th</sup> Century—13<sup>th</sup> Century: Climax of Arab-Islamic Empires
    - a. **Prophet Muhammad**
    - b. **Rightly Guided Caliphs**
    - c. **Umayyad Empire**
    - d. **Abbasid Empire**
  4. 15<sup>th</sup> Century-Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century: **Ottoman Empire**
  5. 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Century to Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century: **European Colonial Rule**
  6. 1940s-1950s: **National Independence**
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7. 1950s-1960s: Climax of Arab Nationalism and Socialism
  8. 1970s: Statism and Local Nationalism
  9. 1980s: Advent of Political Islam
  10. 1980s-1990s: Economic and Political Liberalization
  11. 2003-2007: The Unraveling of the Arab State System and Polarization of Regional/Sectarian Alignments
  12. 1<sup>st</sup> Decade of 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A Political Game with 4 Currents/Camps
    - a. **State** (mostly secular and authoritarian)
    - b. **Islamic Fundamentalism** (Civilian and Militant)
    - c. **Liberal Pro-US** (Politically and Economically)
    - d. **Secular Democratic and Independent Nationalist** (Opposed to all above)