

General Facts

The Middle East

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As we interpret current events in the Middle East, some basic facts should be both observed *and* integrated into our analysis

General Facts: The Middle East

— [People and/vs
Government—Representation

— [Ongoing resistance to
dictatorship (Violent/non-
violent)

— [Extremist opposition and
the lesser evil argument

— [Diversity: Class, Religion,
Ethnicity, Region

— [Collective memory of
colonialism & the State

— [Politics as the primary
cause of conflict(s) (not
culture)

Question

- ▶ What are some of the major issues in the news about the Middle East?

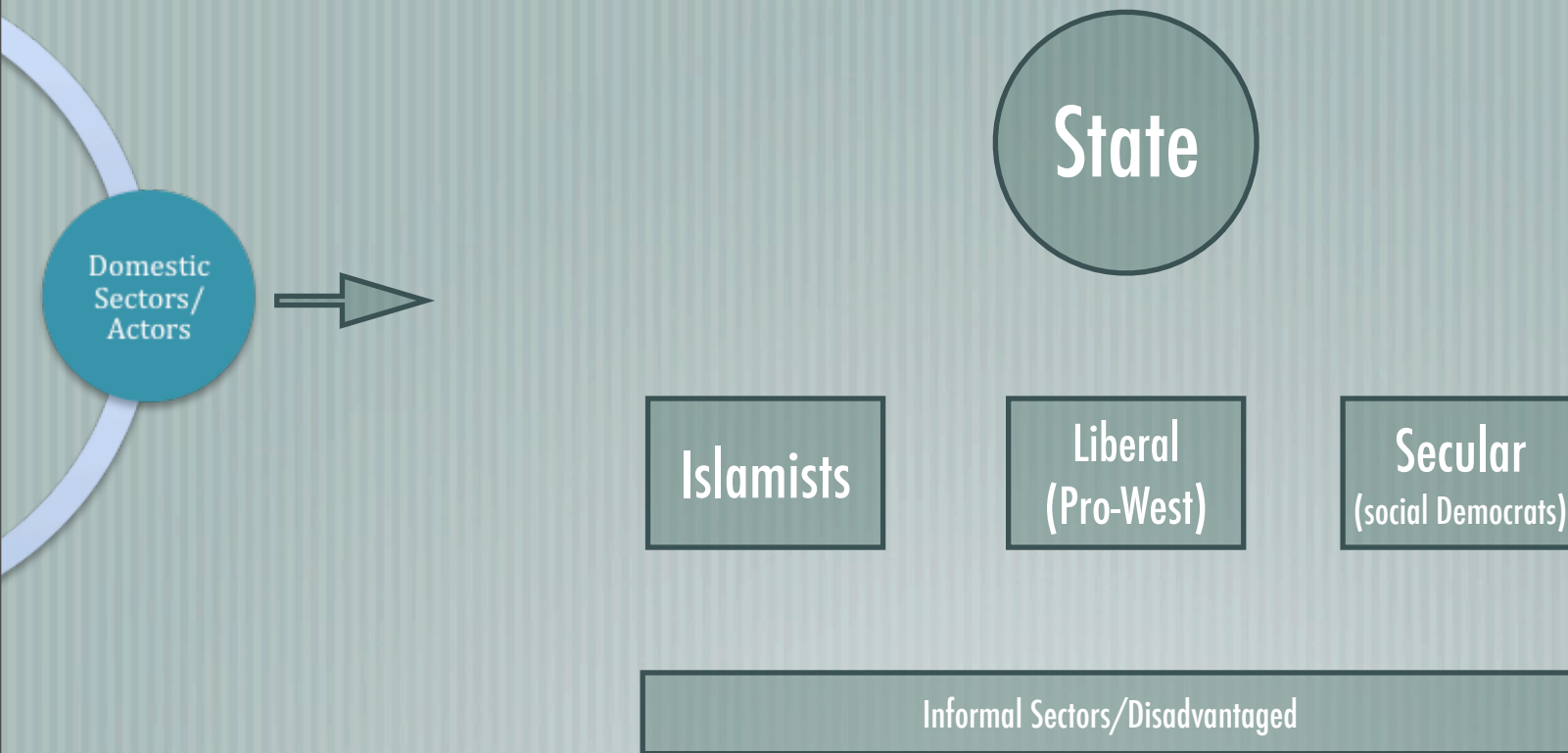
Interpretation

- ▶ How are events discussed in mainstream circles?
- ▶ What is being ignored/distorted
- ▶ The need for a more comprehensive and scientific way of looking at the middle East

Analytical Map



Domestic Political Forces/Sectors



Middle East Historical Timeline: A Preliminary Look

1. Pre-7th Century
2. 7th Century and the Advent of Islam
3. 7th Century — 13th Century: Climax of Arab-Islamic Empires
 - a. **Prophet Muhammad**
 - b. **Rightly Guided Caliphs**
 - c. **Umayyad Empire**
 - d. **Abbasid Empire**
4. 15th Century-Early 20th Century: **Ottoman Empire**
5. 19th/20th Century to Mid-20th Century: **European Colonial Rule**
6. 1940s-1950s: **National Independence**
7. **Contemporary Periods**
(Arab Nationalism, Local Nationalism, Political Islam, Reform)