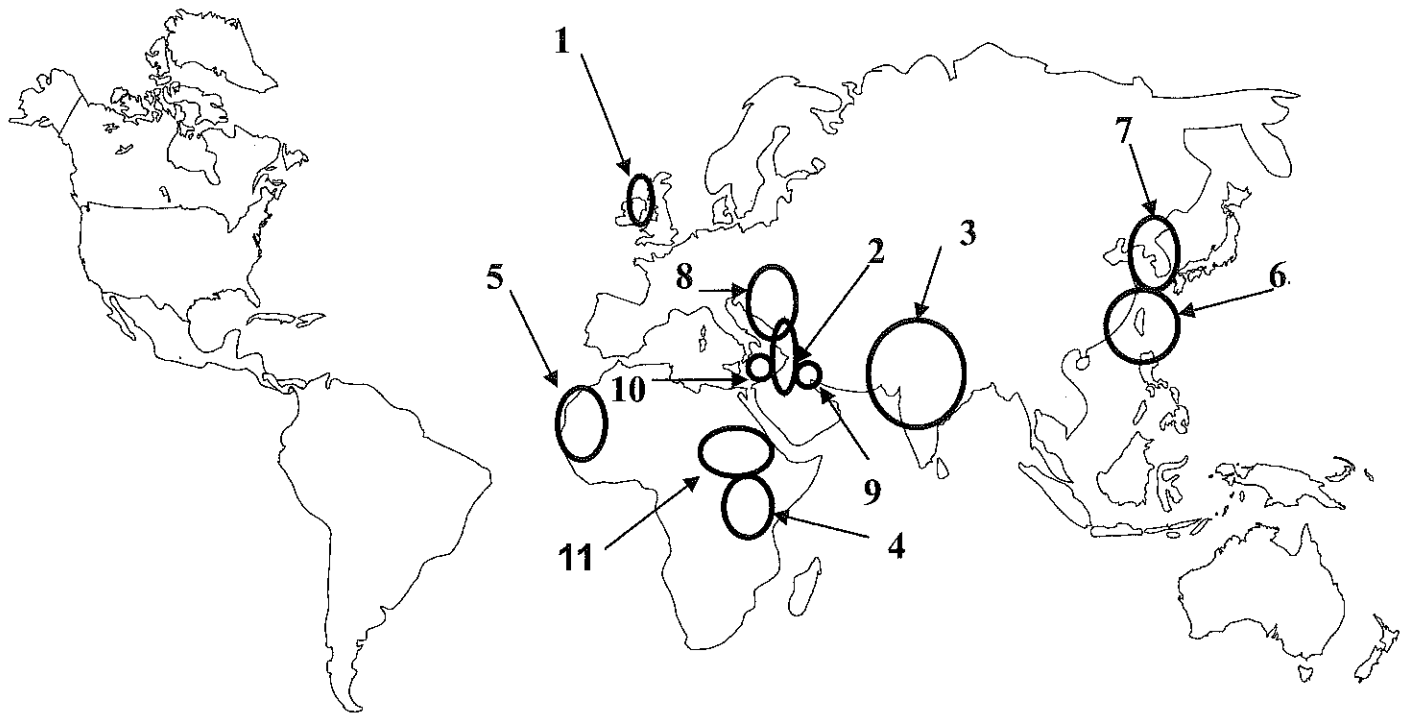


MAJOR AREAS OF CONFLICT

(WG.1, 3, 10)



1. NORTHERN IRELAND:

- There have been conflicts between the Protestants and the Roman Catholics of Northern Ireland for centuries. The parliamentary elections of 2007 were followed by an agreement between two party leaders for power-sharing in the new government.
- Both of these groups are Christian.

2. ISRAEL/PALESTINE:

- Palestine was the name of the country that existed in the Middle East on the eastern side of the Mediterranean Sea.
- In 1948, the country named Israel was carved out of the land belonging to Palestine.
- As a result of war in the region, the country Palestine ceased to exist and is today within the country, Israel.
- There is great conflict between the Israelis (Jewish) and the Palestinians (Arabs).
- The areas where the Arab Palestinians live in Israel are now part of the West Bank and Gaza Strip (sometimes referred to as Occupied Territories—meaning military occupation.)
- Jews, Christians, and Muslims all claim Jerusalem as a religious heritage site.
- Jerusalem is home to the Western Wall (Judaism), the Dome of the Rock (Islam), and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (Christianity).
- Israel has a longstanding dispute with Syria over the land known as the Golan Heights.

3. INDIA AND PAKISTAN (KASHMIR):

- The people of India and Pakistan are in a conflict dating to South Asia's independence from Britain in 1947.
- Both India and Pakistan claim the land known as Kashmir.
- Most people living in India are Hindus while most people in Pakistan are Muslim.

4. RWANDA AND BURUNDI:

- In Rwanda and Burundi, Africa the two groups of people known as the Tutsis and the Hutus fought one another in the 1990's.

5. WESTERN SAHARA/MOROCCO

- The land has been disputed land since 1975 between the country Morocco and the region Western Sahara in which Morocco claims Western Sahara.
- At stake are the natural resources in Western Sahara (phosphate mines, fishing reserves and possible oil reserves).

6. TAIWAN/CHINA

- The conflict dates back to the 1949 Chinese revolution when Mao Zedong's communists claimed the Chinese mainland and the Nationalists, led by Chiang Kai-shek, fled to the island Taiwan.
- China lays claim to Taiwan.
- China does not recognize the independence of Taiwan.

7. NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA

- The Korean War was fought between 1950 and 1953. When the war ended, two countries emerged, North Korea and South Korea.
- Because North Korea is communist and South Korea is democratic, the two countries are not on friendly terms.
- The two Koreas have never signed a peace treaty.

8. FORMER YUGOSLAVIA (BALKAN PENINSULA)

- The Balkan Peninsula was an area of conflict between the Serbs, Croats, Albanians, and Bosnians during the 1990's.

9. KUWAIT AND IRAQ

- Both countries have disputed the land boundary defined in 1932.
- The dispute led to the 1990 invasion of Iraq into Kuwait.
- The United States and Iraq remained in conflict after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Then in 2003 the United States invaded Iraq. This war with Iraq has led Iraq through major changes including a change in government and a presidential election. Continued attempts to rebuild and provide security for Iraqi citizens is still an ongoing process.

10. CYPRUS

- Cyprus is an island that has a Greek majority and a Turkish minority.
- The two ethnic groups are often in conflict.

11. SUDAN

- The Sudan is the site of a 20 year civil war between the Islamic government and the rebels (People's Liberation Army).

TERRORISM

The world today is one that must constantly deal with the threat of terrorism. On September 11, 2001, arguably the worst terrorist attack in history occurred in New York City, New York. The Twin Towers of the World Trade Center were destroyed by two separate civilian airplanes commandeered by terrorists. The same day, the U.S. Pentagon was hit by a plane controlled by a terrorist, and an additional terrorist controlled plane crashed into a Pennsylvania field. Terror attacks continue to be a major concern as the countries of the world look for ways to live together with diversity in thoughts on religion, government, and the economy.