

## THREE NATIONS ON THE ROAD TO MODERNIZATION

### FIND OUT

- What were the causes of the Islamic revolution in Iran?
- What economic policies have Egyptian leaders followed?
- How has Turkey progressed toward modernization?

**Vocabulary** theocracy

Despite great progress, education is uneven. Literacy varies from one country to another, between urban and rural areas, and between social classes. For example, the adult literacy rate in Yemen is less than 40 percent, and in Israel it is more than 90 percent.

Although most boys attend school, education for girls lags in many countries. In rural families, where a child's labor is needed, one or more boys may go to school, but the girls do not. Many parents think girls do not need to learn to read and write. Still, the enrollment of girls is growing. In Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates, for example, all girls attend school.

The population explosion has created problems in education. Each year, the growing number of school-age children outpaces the number of schools and teachers. Countries must spend an ever-larger part of their limited budgets on education. They do so, however, because a skilled and literate population is essential to a modern nation.

## SECTION 2 REVIEW

1. **Identify:** fertigation.
2. **Define:** desalination.
3. (a) List three economic goals of Middle Eastern nations. (b) Give an example of how they have tried to achieve one of these goals.
4. Describe three ways in which Middle Eastern nations have tried to expand agriculture.
5. (a) How have oil-rich nations benefited from oil profits? (b) How has oil wealth affected the poorer nations of the Middle East?
6. What social changes has urbanization brought to the Middle East?
7. **Analyzing Ideas** Why is a skilled and literate population essential to a modern nation?
8. **Writing Across Cultures** Write a paragraph comparing the issues that create conflicts between generations in the United States and in the Middle East.

In 1971, Iran's ruler, Shah Muhammad Reza Pahlavi, organized a fantastic spectacle to celebrate 2,500 years of Persian (Iranian) monarchy. His own family was a newcomer among the many dynasties that had ruled Iran. Yet, the shah turned to Iran's splendid past to strengthen his own image in the eyes of his people and the world.

Eight years later, the shah and his family had to flee their homeland as religious revolutionary forces swept into power. The new rulers of Iran also appealed to the past. Their Islamic revolution grew out of deep attachments to Muslim traditions dating from the time of Muhammad.

In this section, you will read about three of the largest and most influential nations of the Middle East: Iran, Egypt, and Turkey. Each has a history that is rooted in ancient civilizations. Each has followed its own path to modernization.

### Iran

Iran is the second-largest country in the Middle East and has the third-largest population. Its huge oil resources, strategic location



**Nomads in Iran** The mountainous land of south-central Iran is the home of the Qashqai, a nomadic group of about 400,000 people. In search of pasture lands for their sheep, Qashqai often travel several hundred miles between summer camps in the highlands and winter camps in the lowlands. **Environment** Why might the Qashqai have to travel so far to find pastures?

on the Persian Gulf, and Islamic revolution have made it a focus of world attention.

**Land and resources.** Much of Iran is a dry, rugged plateau. Most Iranians live in the northeast, where the rainfall is adequate for farming. Tehran, the capital, is located in this fertile region. Like other Iranian cities, Tehran has grown rapidly. Still, about one third of Iranians are farmers who produce a variety of crops.

Oil plays a dominant role in Iran's economy, accounting for more than 25 percent of the national income and 75 percent of the value of its exports. Iran's oil reserves are the third largest in the Middle East and the fourth largest in the world. Output decreased sharply after the 1979 revolution and a long war with Iraq. Today, the country is struggling to return to prewar levels of oil production.

**The people.** Iran is home to more than a dozen ethnic groups, including Persians,

Kurds, Baluchis, and Armenians. Only a small percentage of the people are Arabs. Most Iranians speak Persian, a modern form of the language of ancient Persia. Most Iranians are Muslims, but Iran is the only Middle Eastern nation where Shiites are in the majority.

**Modernization.** As elsewhere in the developing world, nationalism fueled a drive to modernize. Iran was the first Middle Eastern country to end western control of its oil resources. In 1951, it nationalized its oil wells and refineries. During the 1950s and 1960s, the shah used wealth from oil to launch sweeping economic and social reforms. His goal was to make Iran "comparable to the most developed countries in the world."

Under a land reform program, the shah broke up large estates and distributed the land to peasants. He improved health care and education. The government financed water projects and new roads and encouraged

industrial growth. The shah's social reforms also gave women new rights, including the right to vote.

The reforms provoked loud protest, especially from religious leaders. They condemned the shah's efforts to replace Islamic traditions with secular western ideas. Other critics denounced government corruption and the shah's failure to help the poor. They bitterly criticized Iran's alliance with the United States. The shah used secret police to silence protesters, forcing many into exile.

**Islamic revolution.** The shah's policies failed to improve life for many Iranians. Instead, a growing gap separated the small, westernized middle and upper classes from the rest of the people. Also, nationalists' anger increased over Iran's dependence on the West. These conditions led many Iranians to embrace the ideas of an outspoken Muslim fundamentalist, the Ayatollah\* Ruhollah Khomeini (ī uh TOH luh roo HOH luh koh MAY nee). From his exile in France, Khomeini condemned western influences on his country. "In Iran, until something has a western name it is not accepted," he declared. He called on Iranians to defend their values. "An enlightened heart cannot stand by silently and watch while traditions and honor are trampled upon," he said.

In 1979, growing unrest forced the shah to flee. Khomeini returned to Iran to lead the Islamic revolution. He and his supporters made Iran a **theocracy**, a nation ruled by religious leaders. They made the Koran the basis of all law. They replaced secular courts with religious courts and enforced Muslim traditions, such as requiring women to wear veils in public. Strict new laws banned western music and movies. As part of their antiwestern campaign, revolutionaries in Iran held 52 American citizens as hostages for more than a year.

Revolutionaries saw themselves as leaders of a spiritual revolution that would sweep the



**Demonstration in Tehran** These Iranians are carrying pictures of the Ayatollah Khomeini. Islamic fundamentalists like these strongly supported his rule. Iran today seeks closer ties with other nations, but not with the United States, which it calls "the symbol of bullying . . . and cruelty to the weak nations of the world." **Culture** Why does Iran accept some western practices but reject others?

Muslim world. This Islamic religious revolution had an impact outside Iran. However, it did not trigger Islamic revolutions elsewhere because other countries had different political and social conditions and were not Shiite.

**Economic patterns.** Economic development slowed after the Iranian revolution. Because of a United States trade boycott, Iran could not get spare parts for its factories. Many plants eventually closed. Internal turmoil and war with Iraq further disrupted Iran's economy. The Iran-Iraq War lasted from

\* *Ayatollah* is a Persian word that means "sign of Allah." It is the highest title that can be held by a Shiite Muslim religious leader.

1980 to 1988. It led to an estimated 1 million casualties, slowed oil production, and caused enormous destruction.

Like the shah, the new Islamic government extended land reform and irrigation projects. When the Iran-Iraq War ended, it moved resources into rebuilding the economy. Today, Iran has industries ranging from food processing to auto assembly plants.

After Khomeini died in 1989, new leaders slowly made changes. They rebuilt some ties to western nations that had been cut during the revolution. In 1999, Iran celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the Islamic revolution. By then, the country had edged toward democracy with elections. It still faced serious economic problems. Low oil prices hurt income, and the large population of young people needed education and jobs.

Despite some changes, Iran remains committed to Islamic principles. As it moves

ahead with modernization, it wants to preserve the goals of its revolution.

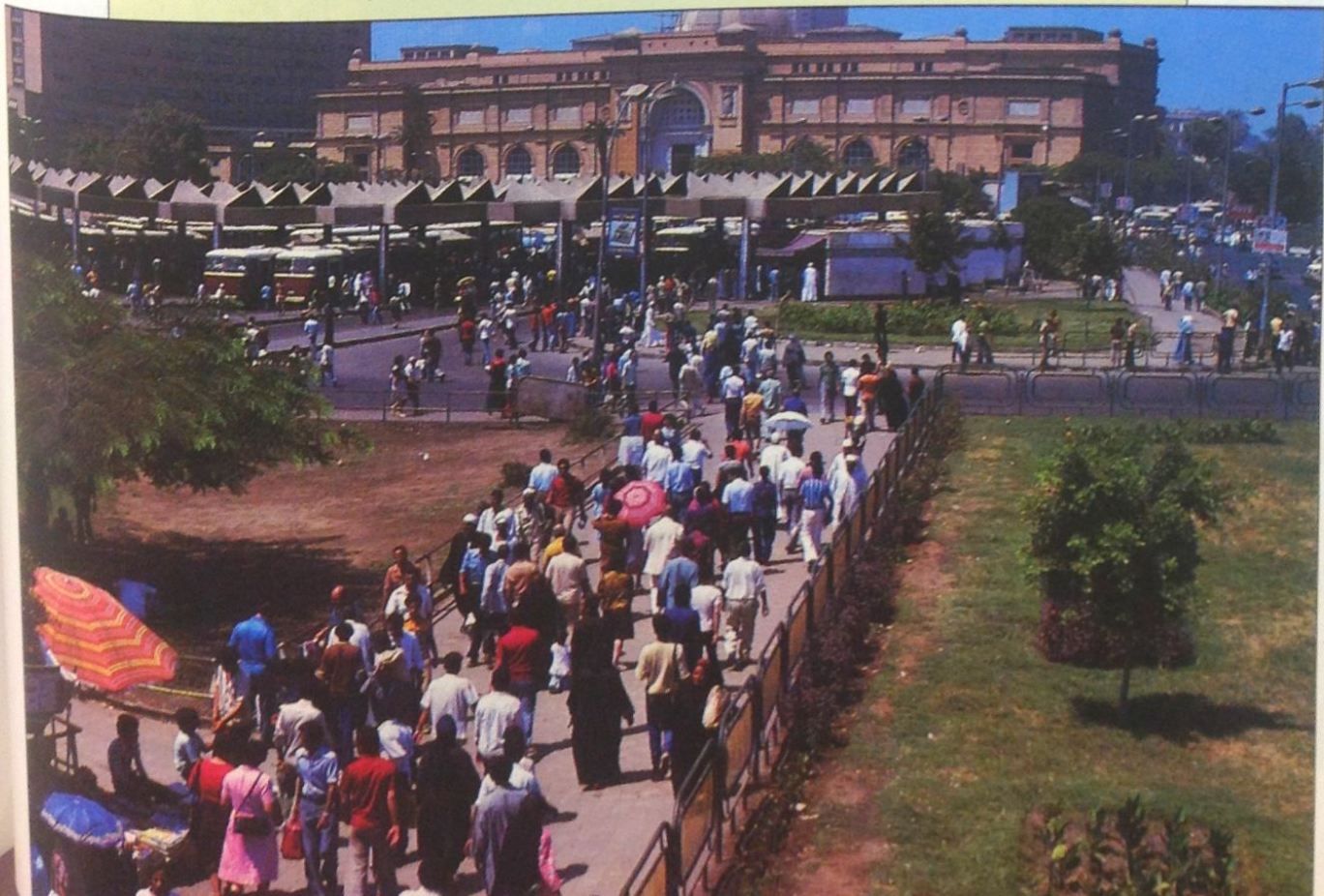
## Egypt

As in Iran, nationalism helped shape modern Egypt. Egypt, however, lacks Iran's vast oil resources, and its geography poses obstacles to development.

**Land and people.** Egypt has the largest population in the Middle East and ranks third in size. Because most of Egypt is desert, about 95 percent of Egyptians live on just 5 percent of land. Cities, towns, and villages border a narrow strip of land along the Nile River. Almost 12 percent of Egypt's people live in Cairo.

Despite urban growth, about 40 percent of the Egyptian people are still farmers. Today, as in the past, the fertile Nile Valley is Egypt's greatest natural resource. Developing

**Downtown Cairo** With a rapidly growing population, Egypt is troubled with high unemployment. As a result, many young men travel to other Arab countries in search of jobs. In the early 1990s, over 2 million Egyptians were working abroad and sending money home to support their families. **Geography** How might Egypt's geography contribute to unemployment?



agriculture is a major goal of the government's economic policies.

**Nasser's policies.** In the 1950s, President Gamal Abdel Nasser promoted Arab socialism. He increased the economic power of the government by nationalizing industries and taking control of foreign-owned businesses, including the Suez Canal. He redistributed land to poor farmers and increased the wages of urban workers. Nasser's goal was to expand farm output and end economic dependence on the West by developing Egypt's industry.

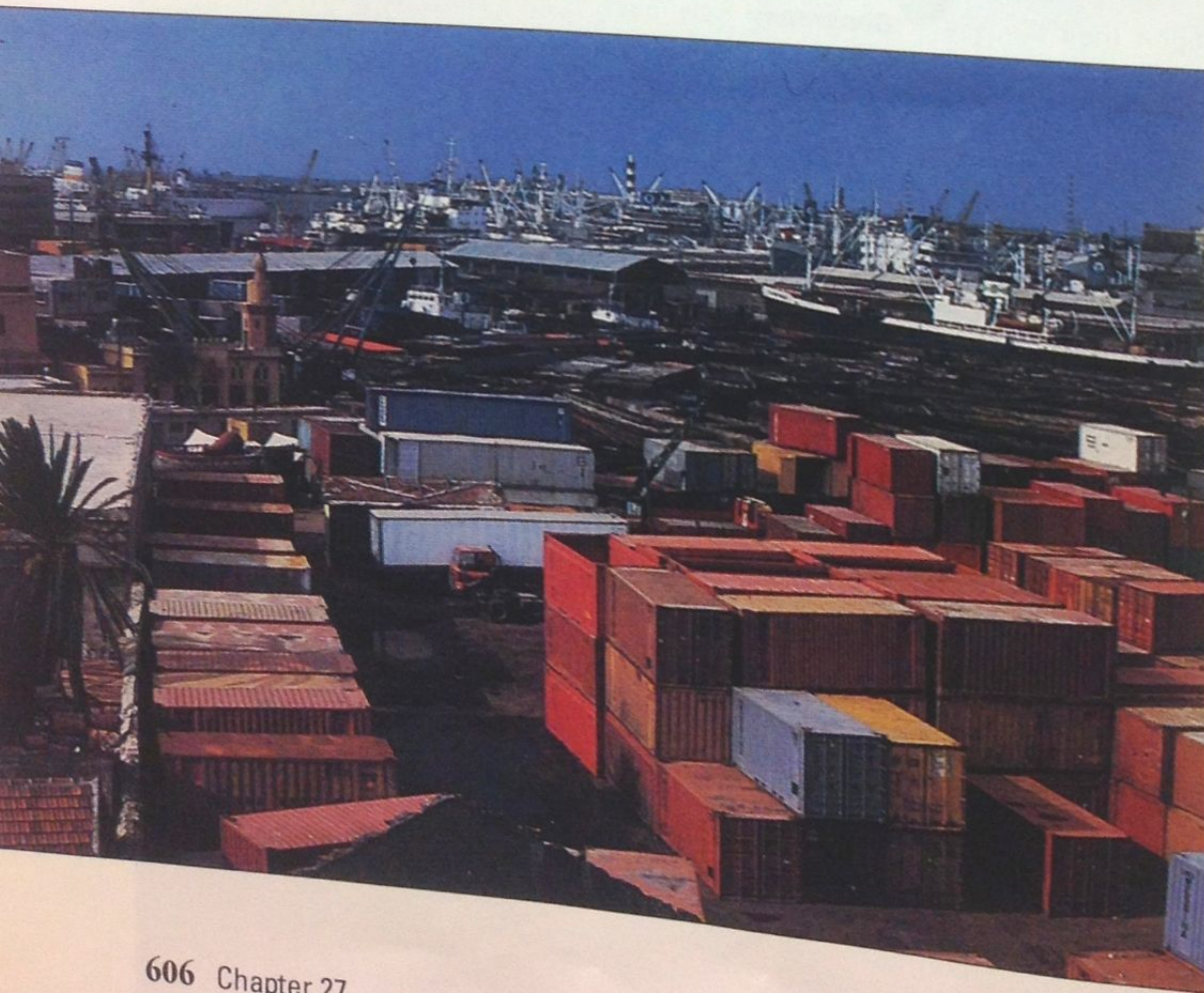
With foreign loans and grants, first from the United States and then from the Soviet Union, Nasser financed the building of the Aswan High Dam. This huge dam allowed Egypt to irrigate more farmland, control Nile flooding, and produce low-cost hydroelectric power for factories and homes. Lake Nasser, which formed behind the dam, also supported a fishing industry.

The dam has had environmental costs, however. It ended the annual Nile flood, which brought fertile soil to the valley. Today, Egyptian farmers must buy costly chemical

fertilizers. Without new deposits of soil at the Nile delta, coastal erosion has increased. Also, changes in the Nile water led to reduced fish life in the Mediterranean.

**Economic patterns.** Under Nasser, Egypt made some economic progress. It built new industries, such as textiles, chemicals, and steel. However, Arab-Israeli tensions led to two disastrous wars. Also, Egypt had trouble getting the capital it needed to invest in industry. Western nations distrusted Nasser's socialist economic policies and feared they would not be repaid if they lent money to Egypt. In addition, they were concerned about Nasser's close relationship with the Soviet Union.

Nasser's successor, Anwar Sadat, moved away from Arab socialism. However, the government continued to play a major role in the economy. Sadat encouraged an economic "open door" policy. He welcomed foreign investment and supported private industry. He also took Egypt on a new course in foreign affairs and became the first Arab leader to make peace with Israel. (See Chapter 28.) Other



#### The Port of Alexandria

Much of Egypt's trade passes through Alexandria. Egypt remains an agricultural nation, whose main export is cotton. However, Egypt also is building steel mills, light industries, and food processing plants as it becomes industrialized.

**Choice** How does the rapidly growing population of Egypt encourage the growth of industry?

Arab nations condemned his action and expelled Egypt from the Arab League.

In 1981, Sadat was assassinated by Muslim extremists. Hosni Mubarak, the new president, focused on pressing economic problems. He had to balance the needs of a large population with demands to repay foreign debts. Lenders urged him to cut spending on food, housing, and social programs. Such cuts, however, hurt millions of poor Egyptians. Muslim fundamentalists won support by setting up their own aid programs.

Mubarak, too, faced violence from Muslim extremists. Hoping to harm Egypt's tourist industry, extremists attacked foreigners visiting ancient sites. They also terrorized Egyptian villages. Such tactics brought a harsh government response and cost them popular support.

In foreign affairs, Mubarak took a cautious approach. He supported peace with Israel but improved ties with Arab nations. During the 1991 Persian Gulf War, he backed the allied coalition against Iraq in exchange for western aid.

## Turkey

Turkey links the Middle East and Europe. Most of Turkey, including its capital, Ankara, lies in Asia Minor. A tiny area is located in Europe. Several bridges across the Bosphorus link Europe and Asia.

Turkey's location gives it control of the sea route that connects the Black Sea with the Mediterranean. Ships from the former Soviet Union and parts of Eastern Europe must pass through the Turkish Straits to reach the Mediterranean, Africa, and beyond.

During the Cold War, Turkey developed economic and military ties with Western Europe. It is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a western military alliance. Turkey has applied for membership in the European Union (EU). Membership would help increase its trade with Europe. However, many Europeans oppose opening their borders to Turkey's large Muslim population.

**Land and people.** Unlike other Middle Eastern countries, Turkey has no deserts. Like Iran, it has high, arid plateaus. Its land varies from a tropical southern coast to cooler interior highlands. In these diverse climates, farmers cultivate crops ranging from bananas and olives to wheat and potatoes.

Although nearly all Turks are Sunni Muslims, they are not Arabs. Turks take pride in their distinct language, culture, and history. For hundreds of years, their huge Ottoman Empire dominated the Middle East and parts of Europe.

About 15 percent of Turkey's population are Kurds. Most of them live in the mountains of the southeast. As in Iran and Iraq, Kurds in Turkey face discrimination and repression. The government tried to suppress Kurdish culture and forbid teaching the Kurdish language in schools. This policy led to violence and new demands from Kurds for self-rule or an independent state. Kurdish rebels battled government forces, and some turned to terrorism. Fighting spread to nearby countries with large Kurdish minorities.

**Economic patterns.** In the 1920s, Kemal Atatürk set out to make Turkey a modern, secular state. Since then, the country has made steady progress toward that goal. Turkey has one of the most balanced economies in the Middle East today. New irrigation systems and the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and improved seeds have helped farmers increase their output. At the same time, Turkey has developed manufacturing. To make up for its lack of oil, Turkey has built dams that provide hydroelectric power.


In the past, the government exercised substantial control over the economy. Although it permitted private enterprise, it also owned many industries. More recently, the government has reduced its role in the economy, privatized some industries, and sought joint ventures with European companies.

**Challenges.** Despite progress toward modernization, Turkey still faces many challenges. The population is growing faster than the economy's ability to create new jobs. Many



**Kurdish Farmers in Turkey** About half of the world's 20 million Kurds live in Turkey. The Kurds have always resisted foreign rulers. For centuries, they have tried to establish their own nation in the mountainous region where the borders of Turkey, Iran, and Iraq meet. **Human Rights** Why might Turkey, Iran, and Iraq discriminate against the Kurds?

Turks have found work in Western Europe, especially in Germany. The money they send home helps their families and the economy in general. Economic slowdowns in Western Europe and anti-foreign feeling there have forced many Turks to return home.

At times, economic and political crises have contributed to unrest and violence. Turkey has many political parties, and rivalry among them has caused instability. On occasion, the military has seized power, although it has always returned the government to civilian hands. (  See Connections With Literature, page 807, "Selected Poetry.")

By the 1990s, Islamic reformers had won support, especially among the poor. Islamic political parties won some elections because they tried to solve the desperate needs of people in urban and rural areas.

Islamic reformers reject western values, but their religious goals clash with Turkey's secular constitution. The military opposes any change in the separation between government and religion. Thus Turkey today stands at a crossroads amid the demands of radical Islam, democracy, and the military.

## SECTION 3 REVIEW

- 1. Locate:** (a) Iran, (b) Egypt, (c) Turkey, (d) Ankara, (e) Istanbul.
- 2. Identify:** (a) Muhammad Reza Pahlavi, (b) Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, (c) Gamal Abdel Nasser, (d) Aswan High Dam, (e) Anwar Sadat, (f) Hosni Mubarak, (g) Kurds.
- 3. Define:** theocracy.
- (a) What economic and social reforms did the shah of Iran introduce? (b) Why did many Iranians support the Islamic revolution?
- (a) What economic policies did Nasser introduce? (b) How did Sadat and Mubarak change Nasser's policies?
- (a) Describe three steps that Turkey has taken toward modernization. (b) Describe three challenges that Turkey faces today.
- 7. Comparing** (a) What goals do Iran, Egypt, and Turkey have in common? (b) Compare the ways in which each nation has pursued its goals.
- 8. Writing Across Cultures** In a brief paragraph, describe how your life might be different if you lived in Iran.

# CHAPTER 27 REVIEW

## Understanding Vocabulary

Match each term at left with the correct definition at right.

1. pan-Arabism
2. Shariah
3. fertigation
4. desalination
5. theocracy

- a. method of pumping water and fertilizer to the roots of plants
- b. nation ruled by religious leaders
- c. movement to unite all Arabs based on their common language and culture
- d. Islamic law
- e. process of converting sea water into fresh water

## Reviewing the Main Idea

1. How has Islamic law influenced Middle Eastern governments?
2. Describe three causes of instability in the Middle East.
3. What steps have Middle Eastern governments taken to promote economic growth?
4. How has rapid population growth in the Middle East affected agriculture?
5. How did the shah try to modernize Iran?
6. Why has Egypt had difficulties in its efforts to modernize?
7. (a) How is Turkey similar to other Middle Eastern nations? (b) How is it different?

## Reviewing Chapter Themes

1. The nations of the Middle East looked for ways to end western domination. Discuss how the following steps were intended to reduce economic dependence on the West: (a) nationalization of industries, (b) increased spending on education.
2. Oil has divided the Middle East into "have" and "have-not" nations. (a) How have oil-rich nations used their wealth to modernize? (b) How have poorer Middle Eastern nations benefited from the oil wealth of their more prosperous neighbors?
3. Rapid population growth poses a challenge to modernization. Describe what problems the population boom creates in (a) food production, (b) cities, (c) education.

4. Middle Eastern governments have taken a strong role in planning and supervising economic development. (a) Describe the steps taken by the governments of Iran, Egypt, and Turkey to encourage modernization. (b) What challenges did each country face as it modernized?

## Thinking Critically

1. **Analyzing Ideas** How does Islamic fundamentalism offer an alternative to westernization in some nations of the Middle East?
2. **Making Global Connections** If the population of the United States were distributed like that of Egypt, most Americans would live in an area the size of Montana. (a) How has geography created hardships for Egypt? (b) How has it favored the United States?

## Applying Your Skills

1. **Comparing Points of View** Review the section titled "Women's Lives" and the Up Close, "A Bitter Choice," on pages 600–601. (a) What different points of view about women are presented? (b) What arguments does each side use to support its point of view? (c) With which side do you agree? Explain. (See Skill Lesson, page 629.)
2. **Making a Generalization** Make a generalization about the challenges Middle Eastern societies face as they try to modernize. Then give at least two facts to support your generalization.