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Meet the Leaders from the Middle East

Some of the world's most-known leaders come from the Middle East. Many of these leaders disagree with each other. This leads to **conflict**.

There are some leaders who are angry about Israel (IZ-ree-uhl). They do not think this nation deserves to exist in their region. Leaders from Egypt and Palestine (PAL-uh-stine) have reached out to make peace with Israel. Others have not been able to agree on peace treaties.

A few leaders promote **religious extremism** (ik-STREEM-izuhm). They let their religious beliefs excuse violence. These leaders want to see other countries ruled by an extreme form of Islam (is-LAWM).

In today's world, oil is a very powerful resource. The land in the Middle East has 65 percent of the world's oil. Everyone wants to control that oil. One leader from Iraq (ih-RAWK) was Sadaam Hussein (suh-DAHM hoo-SAYN). He started a war over oil.

Some of the leaders in the Middle East have made these conflicts worse. Others have tried to end these conflicts. It is because of these leaders and the issues they face that people focus on the Middle East.

Where Is the Middle East?

The Middle East is in the middle of the Eastern Hemisphere. Egypt and Turkey are the border on the west side of the Middle East. Pakistan is the border in the east. All the nations in between these countries make up the Middle East. Some of these nations are Syria (SEAR-ee-uh), Lebanon (LEB-uh-nuhn); Israel, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Iran (ih-RAN).



These children ride a bike and watch Palestinian fighters.

