

International Organizations

50 Important Topics - 2024 [2 PM]

Scheduled Date	Subject
01/04/24	Economy
02/04/24	Science & Technology
03/04/24	Environment & D.M.
04/04/24	Science & Technology
05/04/24	Environment & D.M.
06/04/24	-----
07/04/24	-----
08/04/24	Economy
09/04/24	Science & Technology
10/04/24	Economy
11/04/24	English
12/04/24	International Relations
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15/04/24	Geography
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18/04/24	-----
19/04/24	Polity & Governance
20/04/24	Polity & Governance
21/04/24	-----
22/04/24	Maths
23/04/24	-----
24/04/24	Geography
25/04/24	Polity & Governance
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27/04/24	-----
21/04/24	-----
29/04/24	Social Schemes
30/04/24	-----
01/05/24	International Relations
02/05/24	Geography
03/05/24	Reasoning
04/05/24	Environment & D.M.

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RAPID REVISION

CSAT ₹1,500 GS ₹3,500

CSAT + General Studies ₹4,000

MOST IMPORTANT TOPICS FOR PRELIMS 2024



HOURS

1500 TOPICS

11th April 2024 - 29th April 2024

Special Inclusions


- 6 FLT's (3 GS+ 3 CSAT)
- Value Additions Material
- Subject Specific MCQS





Revise International Relations for UPSC Prelims 2024 | 50 Important Topics Series | Sleepy Classes

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Welcome to a groundbreaking journey where we unravel the essence of the most crucial 50 topics for the UPSC Prelims 2024 ...

1. Indian Ocean Conference

- The 'Indian Ocean Conference' is a flagship consultative forum for countries in the region, organised annually by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in association with the India Foundation.
- **The seventh edition of the conference is being held in Perth on February 9 and 10 in association with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Australian government along with Singapore's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies and Perth- US Asia Centre.**

Indian Ocean Conference

- The theme of this edition of the conference is **'Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean'**.
- The conference will bring together delegations led by ministers from over 22 countries and senior officials from 16 countries and six multilateral organizations.

Indian Ocean Conference

- Since its debut in 2016 in Singapore, the Indian Ocean Conference has played an important role in **bringing together countries and principal maritime partners of the region** together on a common platform to deliberate upon the **prospects of regional cooperation** for Security and Growth for all in the Region.

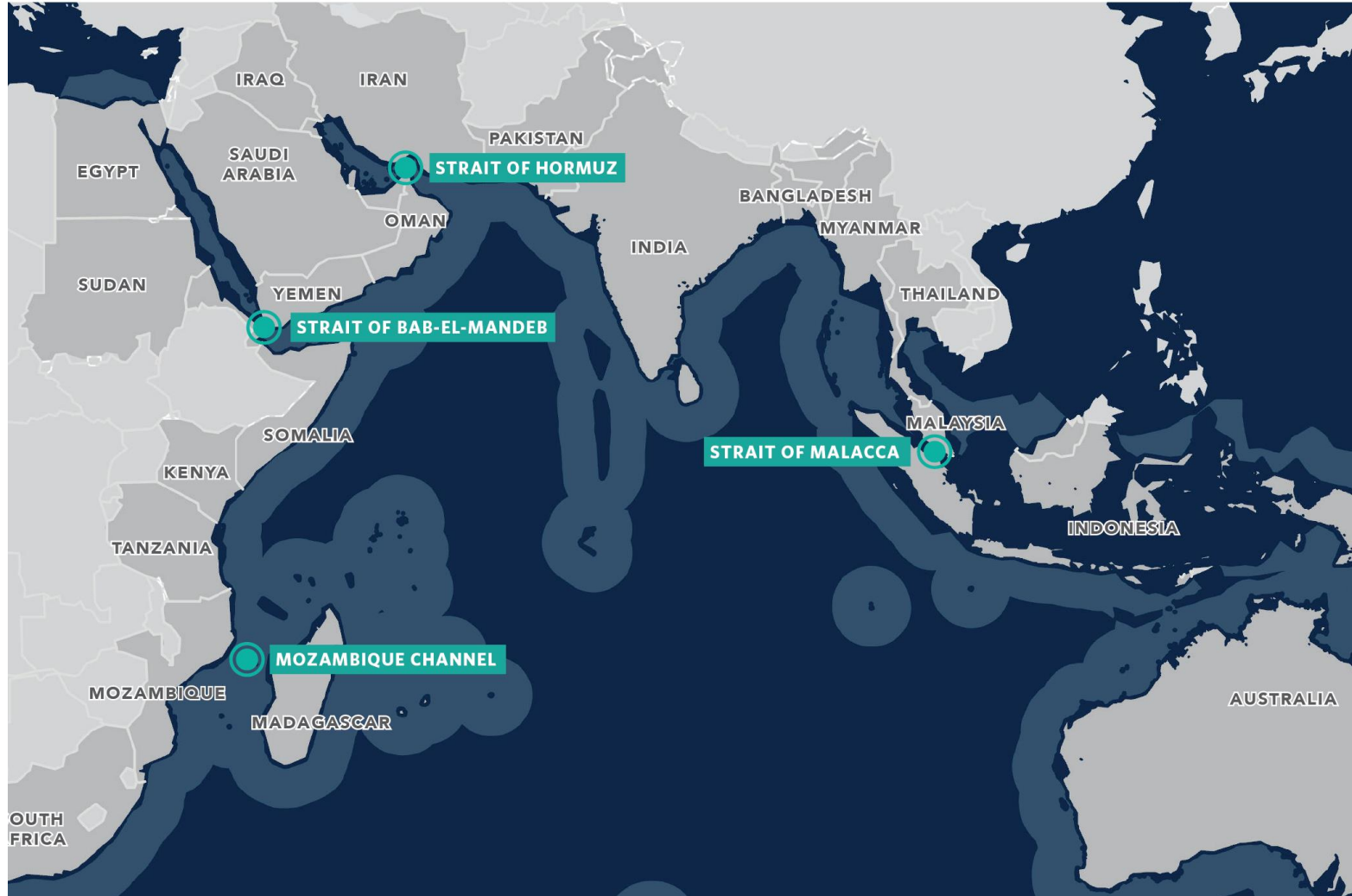
Indian Ocean Region



Indian Ocean Conference

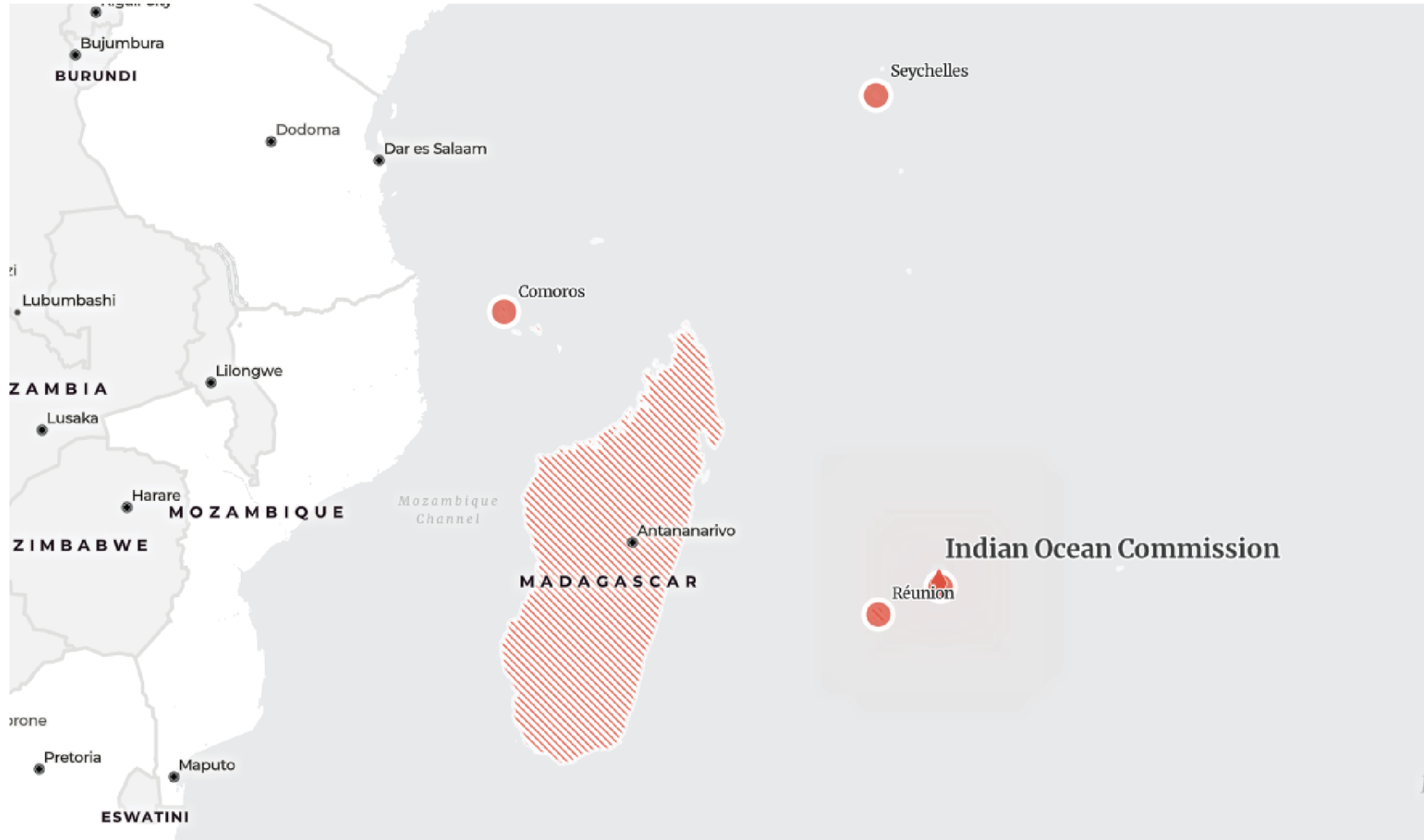
- Previously, the Conference has taken place in Singapore, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Maldives, UAE and Bangladesh.
- The 6th Indian Ocean Conference 2023 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Figure 5. Choke Points in the Indian Ocean



2. Indian Ocean Commission

- IOC is an intergovernmental organization comprising four African island nations – **Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles** – France via Réunion, and **6 observers: China, India, Japan, Malta, the EU, and the United Nations**.
- IOC provides counsel to the four island nations and Réunion in the areas of tourism, trade, economic development, natural resource management, public health, and renewable energy.



Indian Ocean Commission

- The organisation coordinates cooperative efforts amongst its member and observer nations which primarily focus on environmental management and preservation.
- Some of the more specific areas of focus in its past projects include maritime concerns and fisheries, the needs of growing island states, adapting to climate change outcomes, food security and public health.

Indian Ocean Commission

- The IOC was created in 1982 in Port Louis, by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Mauritius, Madagascar and Seychelles.
- In 1984, the General Cooperation Agreement signed in Victoria (Seychelles) institutionalized the organization.
- In 1986, Comoros and France (Réunion Island), joined the organisation.
- In 1989, the IOC was provided with a General Secretariat. **The headquarters of the IOC is located in Mauritius.**

3. Non-Aligned Movement

- The 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement was held in January 2024 in Kampala, Uganda.
- Out of 120 member states around 90 participated in the summit including 30 heads of state.
- **The event was marked by strong criticism of Israel's actions during the Israel-Hamas war by many participating delegations.**

Non-Aligned Movement

- It was the first time since 2009 (Sharm El Sheikh) that the NAM summit was organized in Africa and first time since 1998 (Durban) it was organized in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Approximately, $2/3^{\text{rd}}$ of the United Nations' members are represented at the Non-Aligned Movement, **and they comprise 55% of the world's population**

Non-Aligned Movement

- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is a forum that is not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.
- **After the United Nations, it is the largest grouping of states worldwide.**

Non-Aligned Movement

- Drawing on the principles agreed at the Bandung Conference in 1955, the NAM was established in 1961 in Belgrade, Yugoslavia through the initiative of President of Yugoslavia Josip Broz Tito, President of Egypt Gamal Abdel Nasser, Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru, President of Indonesia Sukarno, and President of Ghana Kwame Nkrumah.

Non-Aligned Movement


















- **South Sudan became the new member(121st) of NAM.**
- Membership: It has 121 members (including India) comprising 53 countries from Africa, 39 from Asia, 26 from Latin America and the Caribbean and 2 from Europe.
- **18 countries and 10 international organizations are observers at NAM.**



NAM Member Countries: (120)

 Afghanistan	 Colombia	 Haiti	 Mozambique	 Singapore
 Algeria	 Comoros	 Honduras	 Myanmar	 Somalia
 Angola	 Congo	 India	 Namibia	 South Africa
 Antigua and Barbuda	 Côte d'Ivoire	 Indonesia	 Nepal	 Sri Lanka
 Azerbaijan	 Cuba	 Iran (Islamic Republic of)	 Nicaragua	 Sudan
 Bahamas	 Democratic People's Republic of Korea	 Iraq	 Niger	 Suriname
 Bahrain	 Djibouti	 Jamaica	 Nigeria	 Eswatini
 Bangladesh	 Dominica	 Jordan	 Oman	 Syrian Arab Republic
 Barbados	 Dominican Republic	 Kenya	 Pakistan	 Thailand
 Belarus	 Democratic Republic of the Congo	 Kuwait	 Palestine	 Timor-Leste
 Belize	 Ecuador	 Lao People's Democratic Republic	 Panama	 Togo
 Benin	 Egypt	 Lebanon	 Papua New Guinea	 Trinidad and Tobago
 Bhutan	 Equatorial Guinea	 Lesotho	 Peru	 Tunisia
 Bolivia	 Eritrea	 Liberia	 Philippines	 Turkmenistan
 Botswana	 Ethiopia	 Libya	 Qatar	 Uganda
 Brunei Darussalam	 Fiji	 Madagascar	 Rwanda	 United Arab Emirates
 Burkina Faso	 Gabon	 Malawi	 Saint Kitts and Nevis	 United Republic of Tanzania
 Burundi	 Gambia	 Malaysia	 Saint Lucia	 Uzbekistan
 Cambodia	 Ghana	 Maldives	 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	 Vanuatu
 Cameroon	 Grenada	 Mali	 Sao Tome and Principe	 Venezuela
 Cape Verde	 Guatemala	 Mauritania	 Saudi Arabia	 Vietnam
 Central African Republic	 Guinea	 Mauritius	 Senegal	 Yemen
 Chad	 Guinea Bissau	 Mongolia	 Seychelles	 Zambia
 Chile	 Guyana	 Morocco	 Sierra Leone	 Zimbabwe

NAM Observer Countries: (17)

 Argentina	 Croatia	 Paraguay
 Armenia	 El Salvador	 Serbia
 Bosnia and Herzegovina	 Kazakhstan	 Tajikistan
 Brazil	 Kyrgyzstan	 Ukraine
 China	 Mexico	 Uruguay
 Costa Rica	 Montenegro	

NAM Observer Organizations: (10)

African Union	League of Arab States
Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
Common-wealth Secretariat	South Center
Hostosian National Independence Movement	United Nations
Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front	World Peace Council

4. Paris Club

- The Paris Club is an informal group of creditor countries that work together to support nations facing financial difficulties, chiefly those struggling to pay off debts.
- Established in 1956, the club has its headquarters in the city it is named after.
- The group aims to help stabilise the macroeconomic and financial situation of countries and promote sustainable economic growth.



Paris Club

- The Paris Club helps countries tide over financial difficulties.
- Countries facing financial constraints and unable to meet their debt repayment deadlines can approach the Paris Club for support in mediating with creditor countries.

Paris Club- Debt Treatment

- Negotiating new terms for the loan
- Extending repayment deadlines
- Having the owed amount reduced
- Cancelling some of the debt owed

Paris Club- Debt Treatment

- This provides nations in debt with a **communication channel** with their lenders with mediators present.
- This has been a **relatively successful approach** for the Paris Club as club members have **generally been the creditors of debts** accrued by developing nations.

Paris Club- Debt Treatment

- The club operates on the consensus that all agreements reached between the club and the debtor country apply equally to all creditors within the club.
- This means that once an agreement is signed, **debtors cannot accept less favourable terms from non-club members** and other bilateral creditors.

Paris Club- Debt Treatment

- The Paris Club only deals with debt between governments and does not handle any private or individual loan repayment.
- The Paris Club originated from a meeting held in Paris in 1956 when Argentina agreed to meet its public creditors.
- Over time, the Paris Club has played a significant role in debt agreements worldwide.

Paris Club- Members

- The Paris Club members include countries with a strong influence on global economies and the international financial system, such as the **United States, Germany, Japan, France, and the United Kingdom.**

Paris Club- Members

- There are a **total of 22 members** in the club currently.
- Other members include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Paris Club- Members

- India is among the observers, along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, OECD, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), European Commission, African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and Inter-American Development Bank (IADB).

5. International Atomic Energy Agency

- The International Atomic Energy Agency is the world's **central intergovernmental forum** for scientific and technical cooperation in the nuclear field.
- It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

International Atomic Energy Agency

- The **IAEA was created in 1957** in response to the deep fears and expectations generated by the **discoveries and diverse uses of nuclear technology.**
- The Agency's genesis was U.S. President Eisenhower's **"Atoms for Peace"** address to the General Assembly of the United Nations on 8 December 1953.

International Atomic Energy Agency

- The Agency was set up as the world's “Atoms for Peace” organization **within the United Nations family.**
- From the beginning, it was given the mandate to work with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies.

International Atomic Energy Agency

- The Agency **shall seek to accelerate** and enlarge the **contribution of atomic energy** to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.
- It shall ensure, so far as it is able, that assistance provided by it or at its request or under its supervision or control **is not used** in such a way as to **further any military purpose**.

International Atomic Energy Agency

- In 2005, the Norwegian Nobel Committee **awarded the Nobel Peace Prize** to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to its Director General, Mohamed ElBaradei, for their work for a safer and more peaceful world.
- **The IAEA also has one observer state, the State of Palestine**

The remaining **UN member states** that, as of 2023, have no relationship with the IAEA are:

-  Andorra
-  Bhutan
-  Equatorial Guinea
-  Guinea-Bissau
-  Kiribati
-  Maldives
-  Micronesia
-  Nauru
-  São Tomé and Príncipe
-  Solomon Islands
-  Somalia
-  South Sudan
-  Suriname
-  Timor-Leste
-  Tuvalu

6. UNCTAD

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is an intergovernmental organization within the United Nations Secretariat that promotes the interests of developing countries in world trade.
- It was established in 1964 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and reports to that body and the **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

UNCTAD

- UNCTAD is composed of 195 member states and works with nongovernmental organizations worldwide; its permanent secretariat is in Geneva, Switzerland.
- All UN members + UN observer states Palestine and the Holy See.

UNCTAD

- The primary objective of UNCTAD is to formulate policies relating to all aspects of development, including trade, aid, transport, finance and technology.
- It was created in response to **concerns among developing countries** that existing international institutions like GATT (now replaced by the World Trade Organization), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank **were not properly organized to handle** the particular problems of developing countries.



UNCTAD

- One of UNCTAD's principal achievements was conceiving and implementing the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), **which promotes the export of manufactured goods from developing countries.**

UNCTAD 15th Session

- The fifteenth session of UNCTAD was originally scheduled in 2020 but was delayed until 2021 due to COVID-19.
- This was the first time that the UNCTAD is held in a Small Island Developing State.

UNCTAD 15th Session- Barbados

- UNCTAD's 15th **quadrennial conference** (UNCTAD15), held from 3 to 7 October 2021, adopted the **Bridgetown Covenant** to promote inclusive and resilient economic recovery in **developing countries** as they grapple with unequal access to COVID-19 vaccines, a debt crisis, the climate emergency and other unprecedented challenges.

Publications By UNCTAD

- The Trade and Development Report
- The Trade and Environment Review
- The World Investment Report
- The Economic Development in Africa Report
- The Least Developed Countries Report

UNCTAD

- UNCTAD is a founding member of the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative along with the Principles for Responsible Investment, the **United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI)**, and the UN Global Compact.

7. UNCLOS

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was **adopted in 1982.**
- It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and **order in the world's oceans** and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources.

UNCLOS

- It embodies in **one instrument** traditional rules for the **uses of the oceans** and at the same time introduces new legal concepts and regimes and addresses new concerns.
- The Convention also provides the framework for further development of specific areas of the law of the sea.

UNCLOS

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea was opened for signature at Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 10 December 1982.
- It entered into force 12 years later, on 16 November 1994.
- A subsequent Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention was **adopted on 28 July 1994** and entered into force on 28 July 1996.
- This Agreement and Part XI of the Convention are to be interpreted and applied together as a single instrument.

UNCLOS

- The Convention establishes a comprehensive legal framework to regulate all ocean space, its uses and resources.
- It contains, among other things, provisions relating to the **territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the continental shelf, the exclusive economic zone and the high seas.**
- It also provides for the protection and preservation of the marine environment, for marine scientific research and for the **development and transfer of marine technology.**



UNCLOS

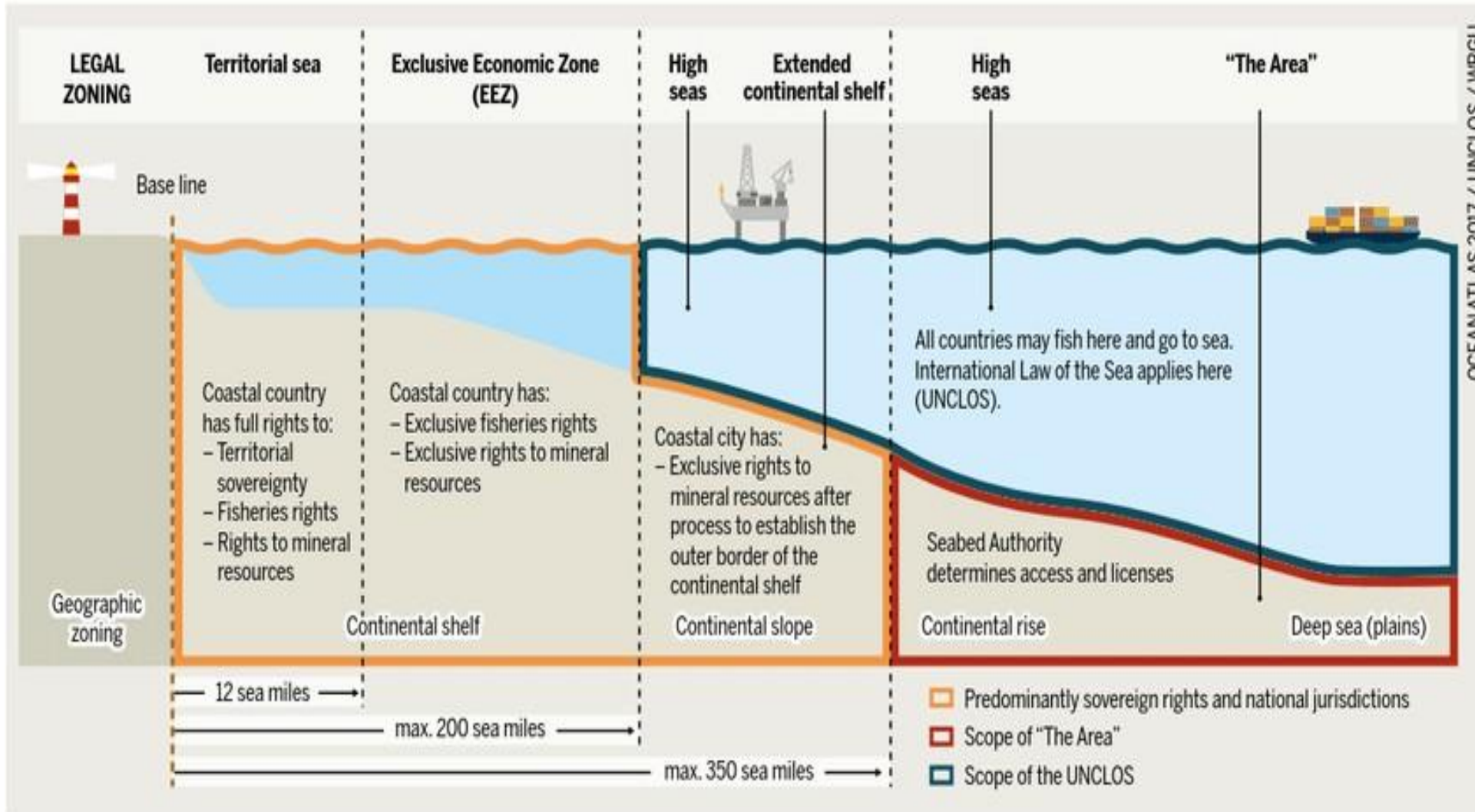
- One of the most important parts of the Convention concerns the exploration for and exploitation of the resources of the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction (the Area).
- The Convention declares the Area and its resources to be **"the common heritage of mankind"**.
- The International Seabed Authority, established by the Convention, administers the resources of the Area.

UNCLOS

- The United Nations General Assembly decided, in 2015, to develop an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

UNCLOS

- The United Nations Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty or BBNJ Treaty, also referred to by some stakeholders as the **High Seas Treaty**, is a legally binding instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- The text was finalised during an intergovernmental conference at the UN on 4 March 2023 and adopted on 19 June 2023.



UNCLOS

- UNCLOS does not deal with matters of territorial disputes **or to resolve issues of sovereignty**, as that field is governed by rules of customary international law on the acquisition and loss of territory.
- The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 has a target regarding conservative and **sustainable use of oceans and their resources** in line with UNCLOS legal framework.

UNCLOS

- In 2023, agreement was reached on a High Seas Treaty to be added as an instrument of the convention, **to protect ocean life in international waters.**
- This would provide measures including Marine Protected Areas and environmental impact assessments.

Ethnic Groups

8. Rohingyas

- As per the **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**, over 4,500 Rohingya refugees set off on dangerous journeys across the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea last year.
- Of these, 569 people lost their lives or went missing in 2024, marking the highest death toll since 2014.

Who are the Rohingya refugees?

- **The Rohingya are a Muslim minority ethnic group with their roots in the Arakan kingdom in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma.**
- **Describing the etymological origins of the term Rohingya, the Council on Foreign Relations notes that Rohang derives from the word 'Arakan' in the Rohingya dialect and ga or gya means from.**

Rakhine State



Rakhine (Arakan) State in Myanmar

Who are the Rohingya refugees?

- The Rohingya claim to have lived in Myanmar's **Rakhine State** for generations, but successive governments in the country have disputed their ties, **labelling them illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.**

Who are the Rohingya refugees?

- The Rohingya are culturally and religiously distinct from the majority Buddhist population in Myanmar and speak a Bengali dialect which is different from the common Burmese language.
- Myanmar has refused to recognise them as an ethnic group, denying them citizenship since 1982, thus **making them the world's largest stateless population**, devoid of fundamental rights and security.

Who are the Rohingya refugees?

- **Myanmar's Citizenship Law 1982:**
 - According to Myanmar's 1982 citizenship law, members of the Rohingya community, along with other ethnic minorities, can only attain citizenship if they prove their ancestors resided in Myanmar before 1823.
 - Otherwise, even if one of their parents is a Myanmar citizen, they are deemed to be **“resident foreigners” or “associate citizens.”**

Why have Rohingyas fled their homeland?

- **Rohingya Exodus and Persecution:**
 - Following decades of discrimination, violence, and persecution by Myanmar's security forces, the Rohingya community began fleeing the country in **significant numbers starting in 2012.**

Why have Rohingyas fled their homeland?

- The exodus was sparked by a military crackdown in response to the rape and murder of a Rakhine woman in a Rohingya-dominated area, exacerbating tensions between the Rohingya and the Buddhist community in Rakhine.

Why have Rohingyas fled their homeland?

- Escalating tensions in the region frequently erupted into violence, leading hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas to flee their homes and seek refuge in neighbouring countries such as **Bangladesh, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and India.**

2017 Rohingya Crisis

- The largest exodus occurred in August 2017 following a massive wave of violence in Rakhine, forcing over 750,000 Rohingya to seek sanctuary in Bangladesh to escape the brutality of Myanmar's security forces.

Why have Rohingyas fled their homeland?

- During this crisis, entire villages were destroyed, families were torn apart or killed, and grave human rights violations, including mass rape, were reported.
- **The United Nations characterised the 2017 violence as "ethnic cleansing" and described the humanitarian situation as "catastrophic."**

Ethnic Groups In Myanmar

Myanmar: Major ethnic groups




Myanmar officially recognises 135 ethnic groups but Rohingya Muslims have been rendered stateless and stripped of their citizenship.

ETHNIC GROUPS

-  Bamar
-  Shan
-  Karen
-  Rakhine*
-  Rohingya
-  Kachin
-  Chin
-  Karenni
-  Mon
-  Wa
-  Kokang Chinese

 Ethnic minority states

* Includes other Rakhine Muslim minorities

-  Rakhine-Rohingya inter-ethnic conflict
-  Conflict area
-  Capital



Source: Al Jazeera, agencies, freeburmarangers, Burma - Insurgency and the Politics of Ethnicity (Marth Smith)



9. Kurds

- Between 25 and 35 million Kurds inhabit a mountainous region straddling the borders of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Armenia.
- They make up the **fourth-largest ethnic group** in the Middle East, but they have never obtained a permanent nation state.

Kurds

- Today, they form a distinctive community, united through race, culture and language, even though they have no standard dialect.
- They also adhere to a number of different religions and creeds, **although the majority are Sunni Muslims.**

Kurds

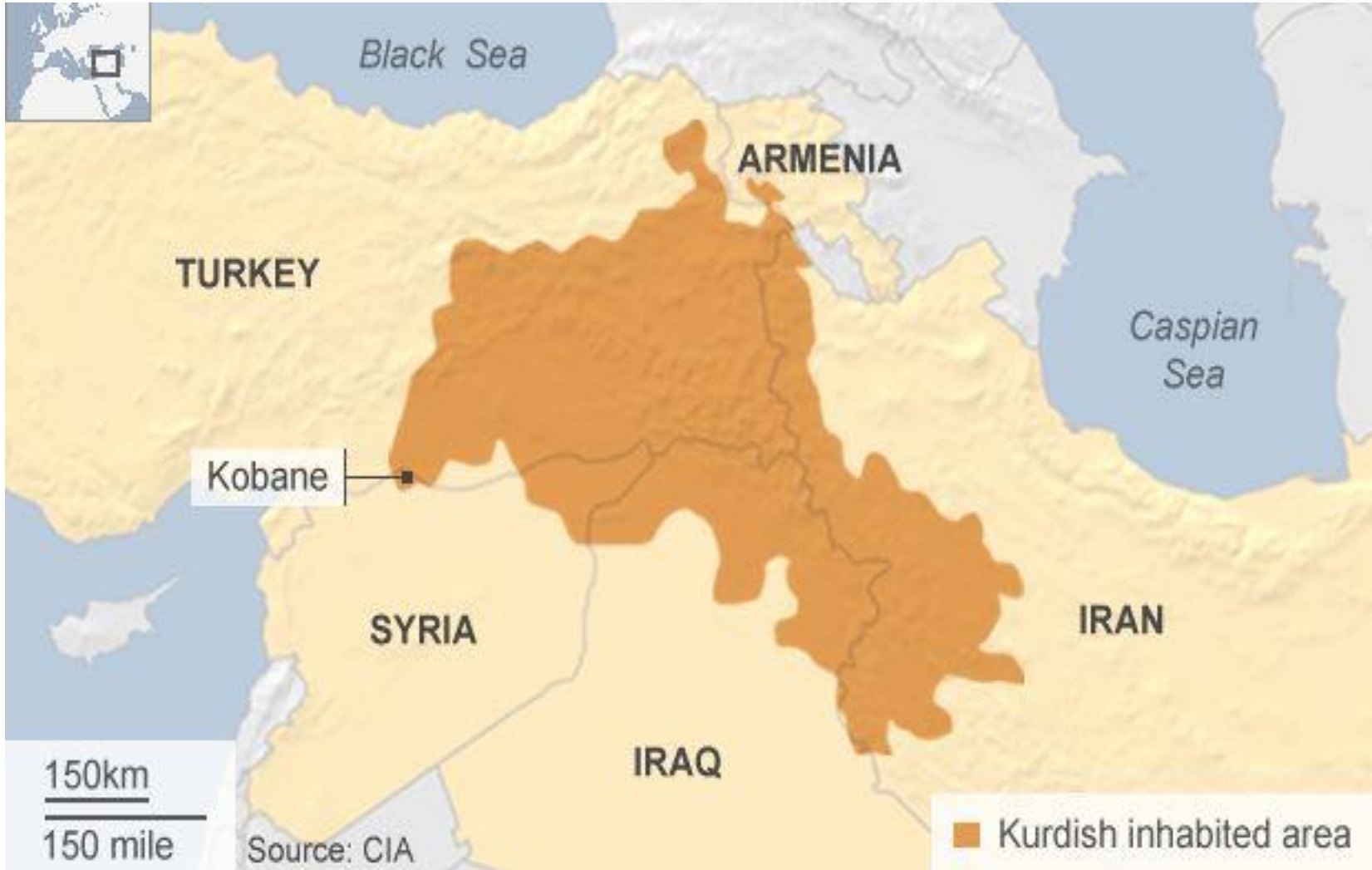
- In the early 20th Century, many Kurds began to consider the creation of a homeland - generally referred to as **"Kurdistan"**.
- After World War One and the defeat of the Ottoman Empire, the victorious Western allies made provision for a Kurdish state in the 1920 Treaty of Sevres.

Kurds

- Such hopes were dashed three years later, however, when the Treaty of Lausanne, which set the boundaries of modern Turkey, **made no provision for a Kurdish state** and left Kurds with minority status in their respective countries.
- Over the next 80 years, any move by Kurds to set up an independent state was brutally quashed.



Kurdish Inhabited Area



10. Houthis

- The Houthi group originated in the late 1990s when the Houthi family established a religious revival movement for the **Zaydi sect of Shi'ite Islam** in northern Yemen.
- The Zaydi sect had previously ruled Yemen but had become marginalised.
- As tensions with the government escalated, the Houthis engaged in guerrilla wars with the national army and a brief border conflict with Saudi Arabia.

Yemen: Areas of control and conflict

- Conflict zones
- Yemeni government forces
- Houthi forces
- UAE-backed anti-Houthi forces opposed to government
- UAE-backed Southern Transitional Council (STC) forces



Source: Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies, May 2020

BBC

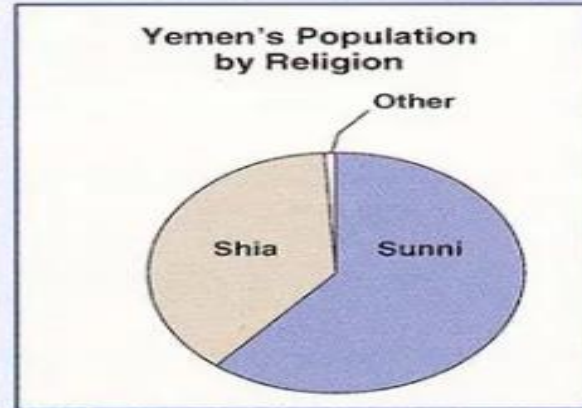
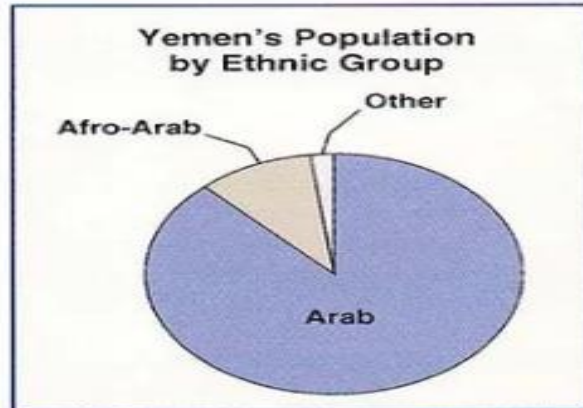
Who are Houthis?

- During the Yemen war that began in late 2014, the Houthis gained power by capturing Sanaa.
- Concerned about the influence of Shi'ite Iran near its border, Saudi Arabia intervened with Western support in 2015 to back the Yemeni government.
- **The Houthis controlled much of the north, while the internationally recognized government operated from Aden.**

Who are Houthis?

- Houthis have become very powerful. They control a large **chunk of territory of Yemen's North and West.**
- They have capability to significantly disrupt maritime shipping in the Red Sea.

Distribution of Ethnoreligious Groups and Key Tribal Areas



Saudi-led intervention in the Yemen's Civil War

- On March 26, 2015, Saudi Arabia, leading a coalition of nine countries from West Asia and North Africa, **initiated a military intervention** in Yemen in response to a joint request from Yemeni President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi.
- This request followed the ousting of Hadi's forces from Sanaa by Houthi insurgents during the Yemeni Civil War.

Saudi-led intervention in the Yemen's Civil War




- In 2015, prompted by Hadi's solicitation, Saudi Arabia orchestrated a coalition comprising predominantly Sunni Arab nations, which included Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). **(Operation Decisive Storm)**
- Subsequently, in 2018, the coalition expanded to incorporate the military forces of Pakistan and Eritrea.
- Their collective objective was to reinstate Hadi's administration, and to achieve this, they executed aerial offensives against the Houthi forces.

Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi

عبدربه منصور هادي



Saudi-led coalition against Yemeni rebels

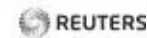
■ Nations with confirmed military participation
  Naval units
  Fighter jets
  Troops
■ With potential participation



Source: Reuters; al-Arabiya

n.a. - number of units not confirmed

Staff, G. Cabrera, 27/03/2015



11. Yazidis

- The Yezidis is one of many religious minorities in Iraq.
- At the centre is the teaching about a fallen angel who is forgiven by God and set to govern the Earth in God's place.

Yazidis

- It is this **story of a fallen angel** as a figure of worship that has led to the more than a century-long persecution of the Yazidis.
- In both Christianity and Islam, the devil is presented as a fallen angel, **which has led them to be perceived as devil-worshippers.**
- This perception was used by IS group to justify their **atrocities against this minority** group.

Yazidis

- The 2014 Yazidi genocide that was carried out by the Islamic State saw over 5,000 Yazidis killed and thousands of Yazidi women and girls forced into sexual slavery, as well as the flight of more than 500,000 Yazidi refugees.

Yazidis

- Yazidis are a Kurdish-speaking endogamous religious group who are indigenous to Kurdistan, a geographical region in Western Asia that includes parts of Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran.
- The majority of Yazidis remaining in the Middle East today live in Iraq, **primarily in the governorates of Nineveh and Duhok.**

Yazidis

- There is a disagreement among scholars and in Yazidi circles on whether the Yazidi people are a distinct ethnoreligious group or a religious sub-group of the Kurds, an Iranian ethnic group.
- Yazidism is the ethnic religion of the Yazidi people and is monotheistic in nature, having roots in a pre-Zoroastrian Iranian faith.



TURKEY

DOHUK

Lalesh

SHEKHAN DISTRICT

Mount Sinjar

Mosul

IRAN

NINEVEH

SINJAR DISTRICT

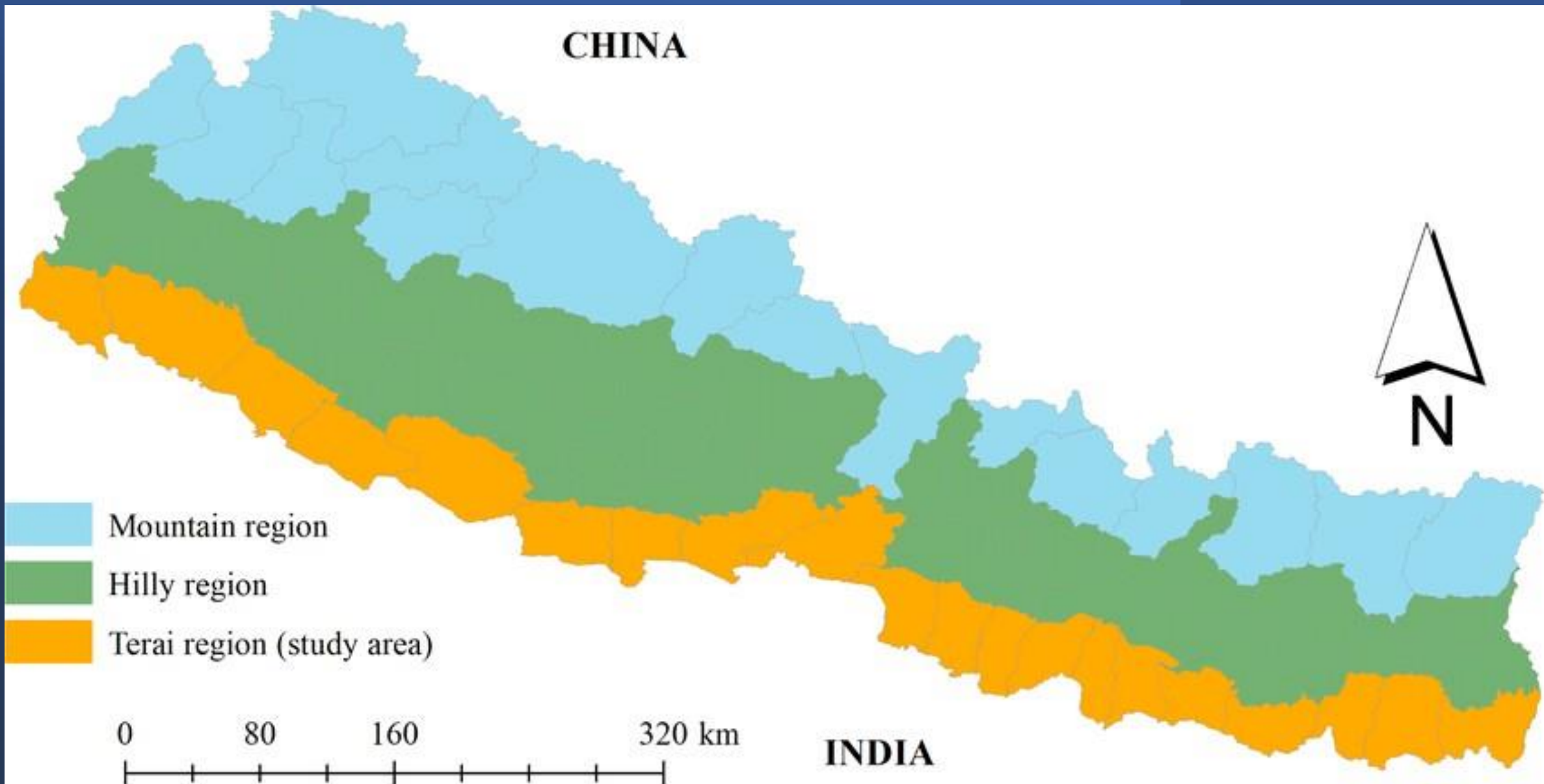
SYRIA

IRAQ

12. Madhesis

- Madhesis are an important segment of the population in Nepal.
- They **occupy economically** the most significant region of the country with 70-80% of the country's industries being located in the Terai region.

CHINA



- Mountain region
- Hilly region
- Terai region (study area)

0 80 160 320 km

INDIA

Madhesis

- It accounts for 65% of Nepal's agricultural production.
- Needless to say, the country's economy depends heavily on the region.
- Strategically, the Terai belt constitutes the lifeline of Nepal.
- All the key transportation routes from India pass through this region, making it the gateway to the landlocked country.

Madhesis

- Almost all the country's import and export takes place through this region.
- Given these factors, any disturbance in the region involving the Madhesis becomes extremely critical as it has the potential to *seriously jeopardise the country.*

Madhesis

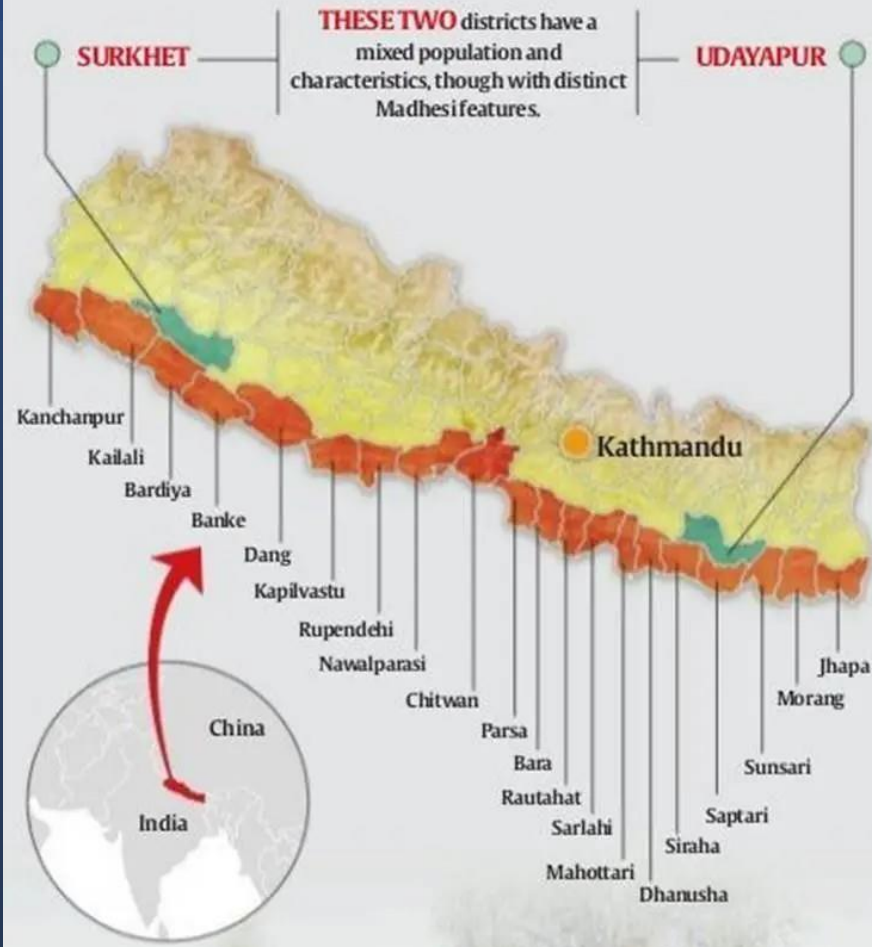
- The Madhesi has historically been part of the larger Mithila region.
- Most of the affluent of the Terai are educated in India, and the democracy on the other side of the border has kept levels of political awareness high.

Madhesis

- Most of the 11 Indian ambassadors to Nepal since 1990 have been from Bihar – and about half of them belong to a sizeable caste in Nepal's Terai.

The bottom layer

The plains of Madhes cover 22 of Nepal's 75 districts, 17% of the country's area, and are home to over 50% of its population. The land, a narrow strip running along Nepal's southern border with India, is fertile and has a concentration of industries – yet, the region feels deeply discriminated against by Kathmandu



Extremist Groups in News

13. Hamas

- Hamas is an Islamist militant group and one of the major political parties in the Palestinian territories.
- **It governs over two million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.** It is primarily known for its armed resistance against Israel.
- In October 2023, Hamas launched a large-scale surprise attack on southern Israel, resulting in casualties and hostages.
- **Many countries have designated Hamas as a terrorist organization, although some apply this label only to its military wing.**



Hamas

- Iran provides material and financial support to Hamas, and Turkey is reportedly a haven for some of its top leaders.
- In contrast, **its rival party, Fatah, which dominates the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and governs in the West Bank**, has renounced violence.
- The division in Palestinian leadership and Hamas's steadfast hostility toward Israel have created challenges for stability in Gaza.

Origins of Hamas

- **Founding and Purpose:** Hamas, derived from Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya, was founded by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a Palestinian cleric associated with the Muslim Brotherhood.
- He established Hamas as the Brotherhood's political arm in Gaza in December 1987, during the first intifada, to counter Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and resist Israeli occupation.

Muslim Brotherhood

- This is a **transnational Sunni Islamist** organization founded in Egypt by Islamic scholar and schoolteacher *Hassan al-Banna* in 1928.
- Al-Banna's teachings **spread far beyond Egypt**, influencing today various Islamist movements from charitable organizations to political parties.

Muslim Brotherhood

- Initially, as a Pan-Islamic, religious, and social movement, it preached Islam in Egypt, taught the illiterate, and set up hospitals and business enterprises.
- It later advanced into the political arena, aiming to end British colonial control of Egypt.
- The movement's self-stated aim is the establishment of a state ruled by sharia law under a caliphate its most famous slogan is "Islam is the solution"



Origins of Hamas

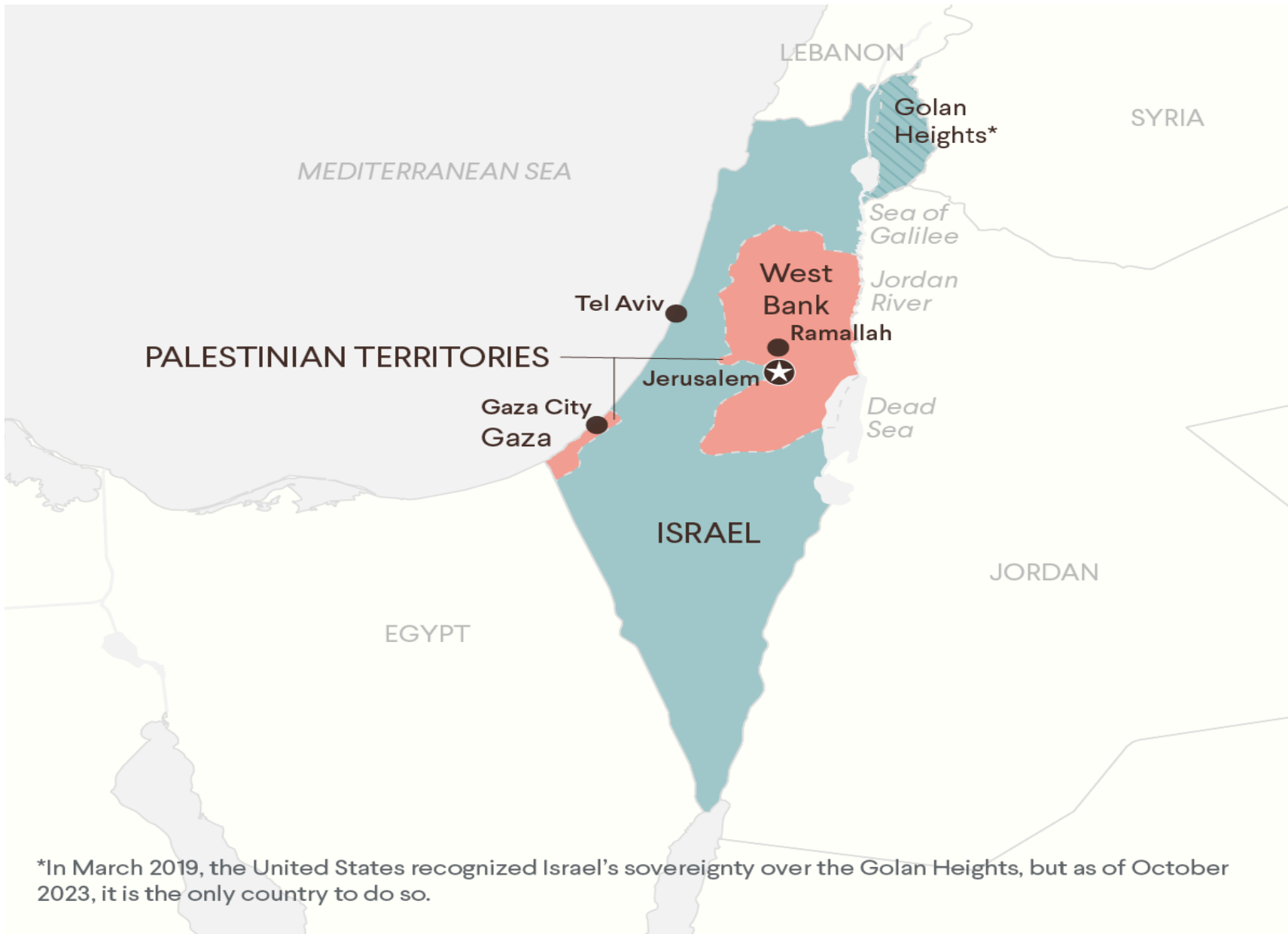
- **Charter and Goals:** In 1988, Hamas published a charter calling for Israel's destruction and the establishment of an Islamic society in historic Palestine.
- While refusing to recognize Israel, Hamas presented a modified document in 2017 accepting an interim Palestinian state along the pre-Six-Day War "Green Line" border.

Origins of Hamas

- **Violent Tactics:** Hamas employed suicide bombings in April 1993, preceding the Oslo Accords between PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.
- **Despite the accords, which established limited self-government through the Palestinian Authority (PA), Hamas continued violent resistance.**

Oslo Accords- 1993





*In March 2019, the United States recognized Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, but as of October 2023, it is the only country to do so.

Origins of Hamas

- **Designation as Terrorist Organization:** In 1997, the United States designated Hamas as a foreign terrorist organization due to its involvement in violent activities.

Leadership Structure of Hamas

- **Leadership Bodies:** Hamas maintains a multifaceted leadership structure encompassing political, military, and social functions.
- Policy decisions are predominantly made by the politburo, operating in exile, while local committees address grassroots issues in Gaza and the West Bank.

Leadership Structure of Hamas

- **Current Political Chief:** Ismail Haniyeh currently holds the position of political chief, succeeding Khaled Meshaal in 2017.
- Haniyeh is based in Doha, Qatar, since 2020 due to movement restrictions into and out of Gaza imposed by Egypt.

Chairman of Hamas

Ismail Haniyeh

إسماعيل هنية



Haniyeh in 2020

Chairman of the Hamas Political Bureau

14. Hezbollah

- Hezbollah, translating to the "**Party of God**" is a Lebanese Shia Islamist political party and a militant group recognized as a terrorist organization by the U.S., the U.K., Israel, Germany, Australia, and other nations.
- Hezbollah's Origin:
 - Established in 1982 after the **Israeli Defence Forces (IDF)** invaded Lebanon during the active presence of the **Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO)**.

Hezbollah Overview

- Emerged as a resistance force against the Israeli invasion, garnering support not only from Lebanon's Shia population but also from Palestinian groups.
- **Iran, undergoing an Islamic revolution in 1979, became a state sponsor of Hezbollah.**

Hezbollah Overview

- **Historical Context:**

- Originating in the 1980s, **Hezbollah's roots trace back to Lebanon's confessional system post-independence in 1943**, marked by power division among major religious groups.
- The influx of displaced Palestinians in the early '70s shifted **Lebanon's demographic balance** in Favor of Sunni Muslims, contributing to a civil war from 1975 to 1989.



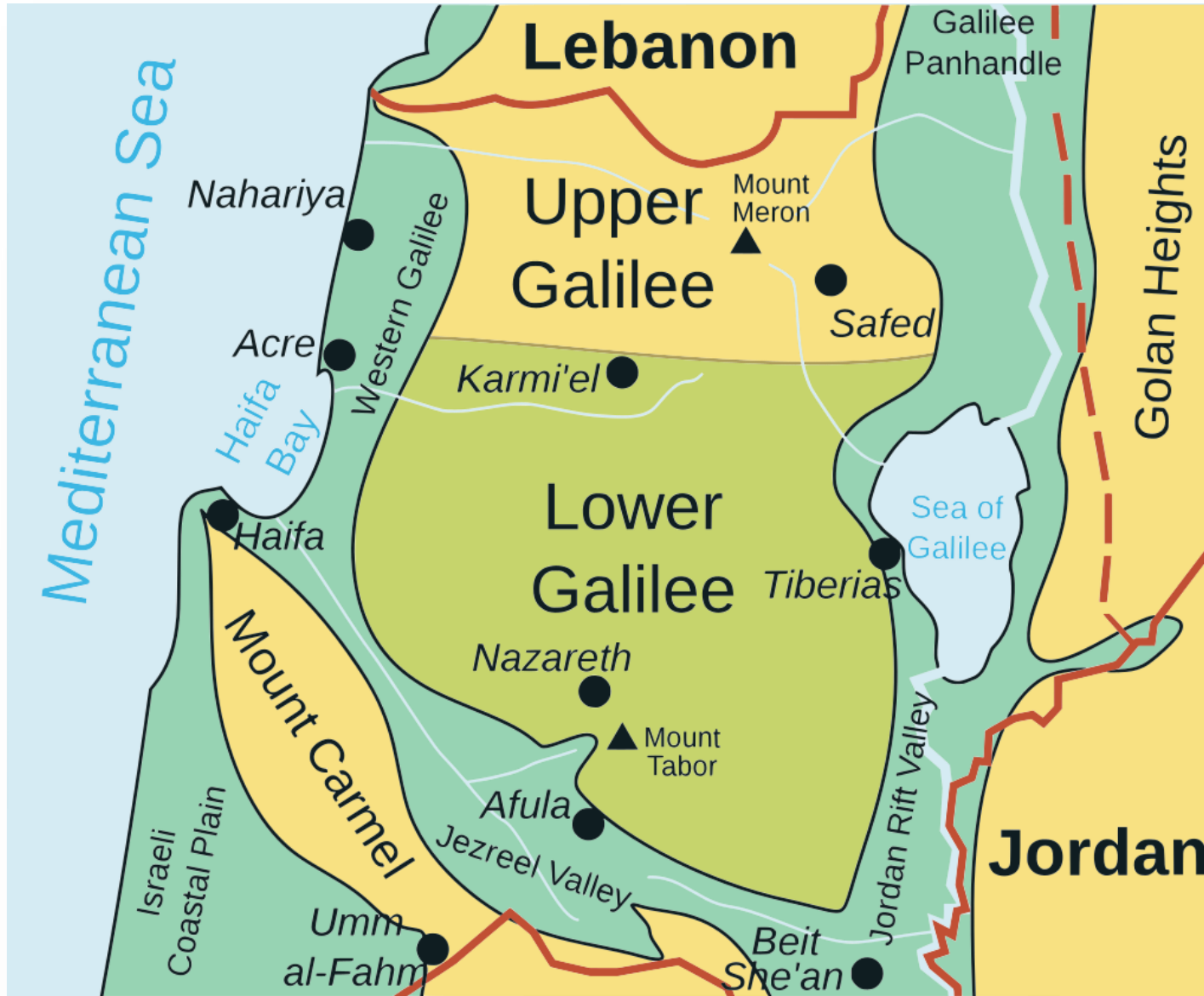
Hezbollah Overview

- The civil war saw Syrian intervention in 1976, along with U.S. and United Nations involvement, escalating the already complex geopolitical situation.

Hezbollah Overview

- Israeli Invasion - "Operation Peace for Galilee" (1982):
 - Israel invaded Lebanon during its civil war, launching "Operation Peace for Galilee" with objectives such as eliminating threats to northern Israel, dismantling PLO forces, and ending Syrian influence.
 - The invasion was prompted by the shooting of Israel's ambassador, Shlomo Argov, by the Abu Nidal Palestinian Organisation.





15. M23 Rebels

- The rebels are named after a peace agreement they signed with the Congolese government on March 23, 2009, when they were fighting as part of a group calling itself the National Congress for the Defence of the People (CNDP).
- **Many CNDP fighters were integrated into the Congolese army, officially known by its French initials FARDC.**



M23 Rebels

- The rebels belong to the minority Tutsi ethnic group and have close ties to the Tutsi in neighbouring Rwanda.
- International human rights groups say M23 fighters have been responsible for widespread war crimes, including summary executions, rapes, and the forced recruitment of children

M23 Rebels

- The majority of M23 rebel combatants originate from North Kivu province and specifically from Masisi and Rutshuru.
- These territories are close to the border of Rwanda where fighting takes place.
- They are extremely familiar with this terrain and might enjoy local support from inhabitants.

M23 Rebels

- The M23 group accuses the Congolese authorities of **failing to combat the Rwandan Hutu rebels** who settled in eastern Congo after the Rwandan genocide in 1994, as well as other armed groups that pose a threat to Congolese Tutsis.

Miscellaneous Topics

16. Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC)

- **The Djibouti Code of Conduct**, also recognized as the Code of Conduct concerning the **Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden**, was officially adopted on **January 29, 2009**.

Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC)

- Established within the framework of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), its primary objective is to foster comprehensive cooperation among signatory nations to effectively combat piracy and armed robbery against ships.

Jeddah Amendment

- Additionally, the amendment aimed to enhance the national and regional capacities of member states, serving as a foundation for addressing broader maritime security concerns and contributing to sustainable development within the maritime sector.

Jeddah Amendment

- **Expanding the Scope:** In 2017, an essential amendment, known as the **Jeddah Amendment**, broadened the DCOC's scope to encompass a wide range of illicit maritime activities.
- This expansion included addressing issues such as human trafficking and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

Signatories and Geographical Coverage:

- The Djibouti Code of Conduct has garnered signatures from 20 countries, including Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Comoros, Egypt, Eritrea, Jordan, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates.

Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCOC)

- These member states are **strategically located in areas adjacent to the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and the east coast of Africa**, encompassing island nations in the Indian Ocean.

Countries- Djibouti Code of Conduct



Observer Status

- Noteworthy international actors, including **India, Japan, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States**, assume observer status within the Djibouti Code of Conduct framework.
- This signifies their **active engagement and interest** in the collaborative efforts aimed at **ensuring maritime security** and combating a spectrum of maritime threats in the designated geographical regions.

17. Fab 4/ Chip 4 Alliance

- The U.S.-led "Fab 4" semiconductor alliance of **Taiwan, the United States, Japan and South Korea** held its first video meeting of senior officials focused on supply chain resilience.

Fab 4 Chip Group or Chip 4

- The meeting discussed the establishment of an advance warning mechanism for guaranteeing **consistent chip supply**.
- Taiwanese delegates proposed that the Fab 4 **exchange information on various aspects** of the supply chain as soon as possible.
- Taiwan and South Korea will effectively manage **manufacturing problems**, Japan will report on materials issues, and the United States will focus **on market issues.**

What Exactly is the Fab 4 chip group?

- Taiwan, the United States, Japan, and South Korea have formed a semiconductor alliance.
- The term "Fab" refers to a **shorthand industry** term for the fabrication plants where chips, which are used in everything from refrigerators and smartphones to fighter jets, are produced.
- Members of the group include Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd (2330.TW), the world's largest contract chip maker, and South Korean memory chip giants.

What exactly is the Fab 4 chip group?

- South Korean Memory Chip Giants
Include Samsung Electronics Co Ltd (005930.KS) and SK Hynix (000660.KS).
- There will be other major Japanese semiconductor material and equipment suppliers.

The Significance of FAB 4

- As prominent members of the Indo-Pacific region, the countries play an important role in the global semiconductor industry.
- They also have extensive economic and trade ties with other countries in the region.

What is the Significance of the Semiconductor Industry?

- A semiconductor is a material with **unique electrical properties** that allow it to form the basis for devices such as computers and smartphones.

Government Initiatives in India

- **The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** is a scheme for the establishment of compound semiconductor facilities.
- **Vedanta and Taiwanese chipmaker Foxconn** plan to build a \$1.54 billion semiconductor plant in **Gujarat**.

Government Initiatives in India

- India, Japan and Australia had announced plans in September 2021 to establish a semiconductor supply chain initiative **“to secure access to semiconductors and their components”**.
- A further convergence of regional efforts is a distinct possibility if the US were to play a fostering role to avoid overlap of efforts by partner countries.
- Heralding the possibility of India being possibly drafted into some of the mainstream chip alliances that are being discussed.

Gains for India

- There is also a *deal between India and the United states* on fostering private sector cooperation in semiconductor manufacturing could have upsides from New Delhi's perspective.
- The possibility of India getting aligned into a more central role in the global electronics supply chain is among the most important.
- Especially the possibility of finding potential convergence in the chip manufacturing incentive scheme launched by the country and those by other governments across the world.



18. Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations

- **Canada and India are in a standoff over diplomatic immunity.**
- **Canada has recalled 41 of its diplomats from India, fearing that they may lose their diplomatic immunity and their safety may be at risk.**
- **The US and UK have backed Canada's diplomats, citing the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.**
- **India has not explained why it is revoking diplomatic immunity for some Canadian diplomats.**

Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations

- **The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations** (1961) is a **UN treaty that establishes** fundamental principles for how countries should treat each other's diplomatic representatives.
- **One key aspect is diplomatic immunity**, granting diplomatic exemption from certain laws and taxes, ensuring they can **perform their roles without fear** or intimidation.

Understanding the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations

- This immunity is derived from the 1961 Convention and the Convention on Consular Relations, 1963.
- **Diplomatic agents are considered inviolable**, and the receiving State must respect and protect their person, freedom, and dignity.

Recalling Diplomats According to the 1961 Vienna Convention

- **Article 9 of the convention** allows the receiving State to declare a member of the diplomatic staff persona non grata without providing reasons.
- The sending State is then required to either recall the individual or terminate their functions with the mission.

Recalling Diplomats According to the 1961 Vienna Convention

- If the sending State refuses to comply, the receiving State may refuse to recognize the individual as a member of the mission.
- **Article 11 permits the receiving State to limit the size of a diplomatic mission** based on reasonable and normal considerations.

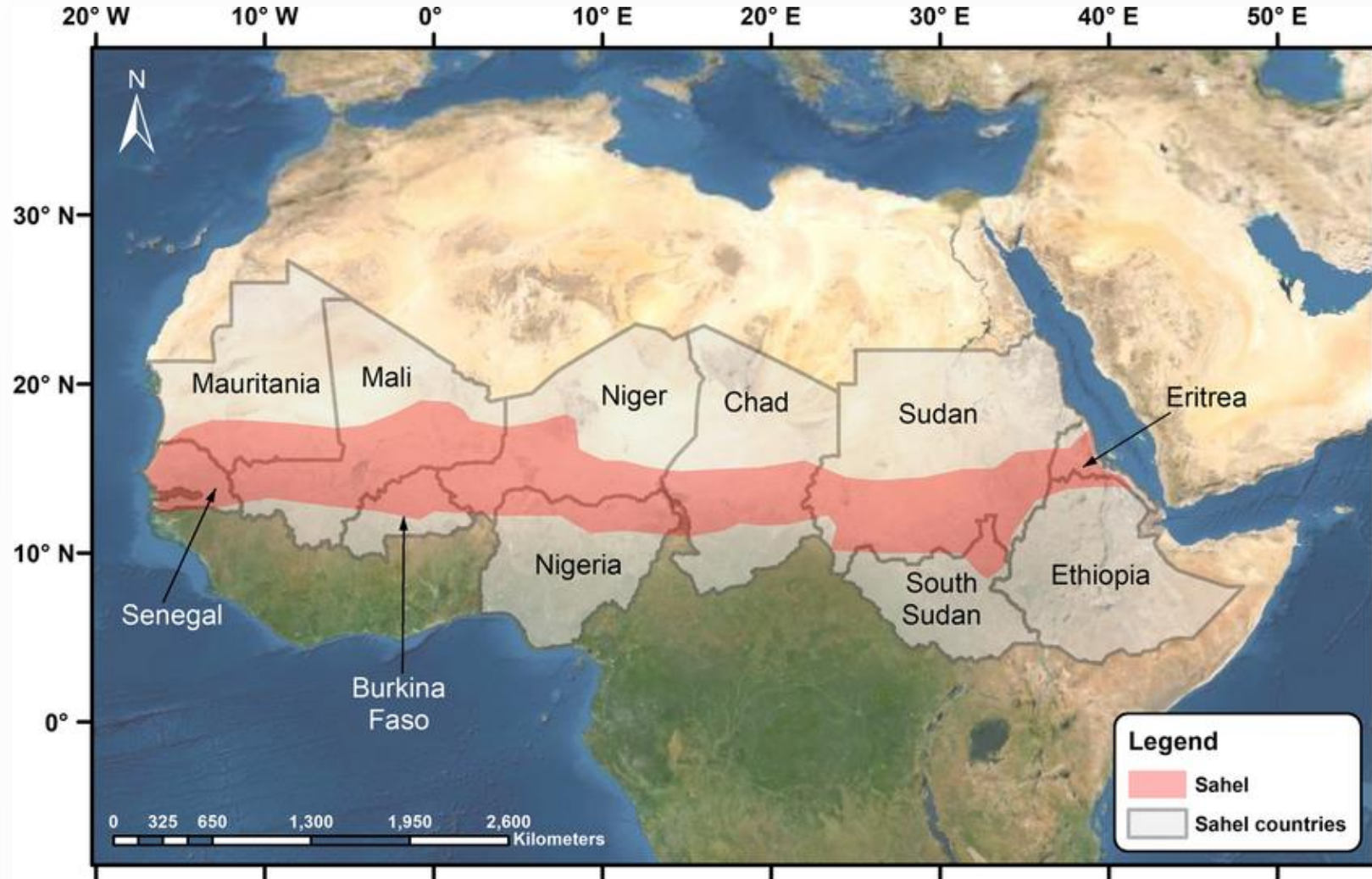
India's Use of Parity

- External Affairs Minister Jaishankar explained that parity is authorized by the Vienna Convention, citing concerns about continuous interference in Indian affairs by Canadian personnel.
- He suggested that more information about these concerns might come to light over time.
- Notably, **Russia and the United States engaged in a similar diplomatic recall over the principle of parity around 2017**, reducing the presence of their missions during a period of strained relations.

19. Sahel Alliance

- Sahel region is full of potentials which makes this area a land of opportunity: human capital, natural resources, renewable energy potential.
- Unfortunately, several factors hinder its development:
- Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger face many challenges.
- Including chronic insecurity, a lack of economic prospects, and poor access to education, employment and essential services such as water and electricity.

Sahel Region



Sahel Alliance

- Climate change is weakening the region even more.
- An appropriate reaction, one that would be rapidly effective in the field, was necessary to deal with this instable and fragile situation.
- A response taking security challenges into account, a response capable of ensuring the region's lasting and sustainable development.

Sahel Alliance

- Development partners and large international organizations provided the response to this double-edged challenge of security and development.
- In July 2017, several development partners launched the Sahel Alliance, an international cooperation platform to provide more and better support for development initiatives in the Sahel.

Sahel Alliance

- Since its launch, the **African Development Bank, Canada, Denmark, the European Investment Bank, the European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, United Nations, the United States, and the West African Development Bank** have joined the initiative as full members.

Sahel Alliance- Members

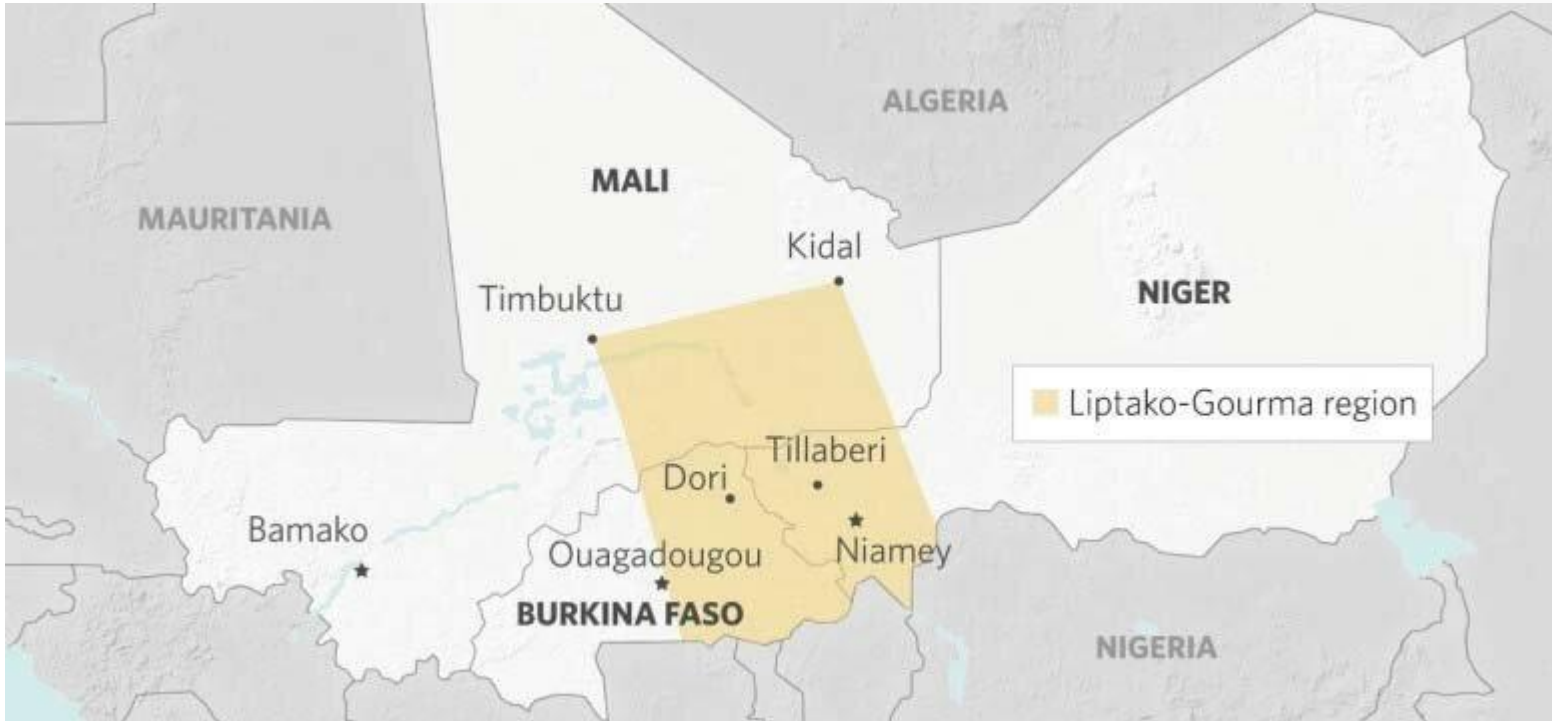
- Japan, Belgium, Switzerland, Finland, the International Finance Corporation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, Ireland and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie.

20. Liptaka Gourma Charter

- The establishment of the Alliance of Sahel States was formalized through the signing of the **Liptako-Gourma Charter**, a document rooted in the geographical nexus where the borders of all three member countries converge.
- Spanning approximately 370,000 square kilometers, the Liptako-Gourma region is home to nearly half of the combined population of these nations.



Liptaka Gourma Region



Liptaka Gourma Region

- Created in December 1970, the Authority has as its goal the promotion of the area's mineral, energy, hydraulic, and agricultural resources within a regional framework.
- The zone covered by the authority corresponds to the **border regions of the three countries**, and covers an area of 370,000 Square Km, including 19 provinces of Burkina Faso, 4 administrative regions of Mali, and two departments and an urban community of Niger.

Liptaka Gourma Region

- This zone is composed entirely of the semi-arid Sahel region.
- The dominant economic activity is agriculture and livestock herding, but the zone has considerable energy, hydraulic, and mining potential.

Liptaka Gourma Region

- On 24 January 2017, the three states agreed to form a joint task force to combat insecurity and terrorism in the region, to be headquartered in Niamey, with rotating leadership to represent all three nations.
- The task force was created as a subordinate unit of the multinational force of the **G5 Sahel countries, which includes Mauritania and Chad** as well as the three countries of the Liptako-Gourma Authority.

Liptaka Gourma Region

- A mutual defense pact known as the Alliance of Sahel States was formed by the three states on 16 September 2023 during the 2023 Nigerien crisis to help against possible threats of armed rebellion or external aggression while ECOWAS threatens to intervene against the coup in Niger.

21. CFE Treaty

- Negotiated during the final years of the Cold War, the **Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE)** Treaty is often referred to as the "cornerstone of European security."
- The treaty, signed on November 19, 1990, eliminated the Soviet Union's overwhelming quantitative advantage in conventional weapons in Europe by setting equal limits on the number of tanks, armored **combat vehicles (ACVs), heavy artillery, combat aircraft, and attack helicopters that NATO** and the Warsaw Pact could deploy between the Atlantic Ocean and the Ural Mountains.

CFE Treaty

- The CFE Treaty was **designed to prevent** either alliance from amassing forces for a blitzkrieg-type offensive and **establish a military balance between NATO and the Warsaw Treaty Organization**, at a lower level of armaments.
- The CFE Treaty (1990) and the politically binding 1992 Concluding Act of the Negotiation on Personnel Strength of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe both contained numerous provisions that focused on confidence building and stabilizing nature.



CFE Treaty

- In 2007, **Russia "suspended" its participation** in the treaty, and on 10 March 2015, citing NATO's alleged **de facto breach of the Treaty**, Russia formally announced it was "completely" halting its participation in it as of the next day.
- On 7 November 2023, Russia withdrew from the treaty, and in response the United States and its NATO allies suspended their participation in the treaty.

22. Nobel Peace Prizes to UN Organizations

- Peace Prize was to be awarded to the person who had done most for "fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses".
- In 75 years, the United Nations, its specialised agencies, related agencies, funds, programmes and staff were awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize twelve times.

Nobel Peace Prizes to UN Organizations

- One agency, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) received the famous prize in both 1954 and 1981.
- Two Secretaries-General, Kofi Annan and Dag Hammarskjöld, were also honoured for their work by the Norwegian Nobel Committee



2020 - World Food Programme (WFP)

The Nobel Peace Prize 2020 was awarded to United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) "for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas and for acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict."



2013 - Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

The Nobel Peace Prize 2013 was awarded to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons "for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons". OPCW's Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü said the award will only spur the organisation's efforts, commitment and dedication.



2007 - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Albert Arnold (Al) Gore Jr

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Albert Arnold (Al) Gore Jr. have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such



2005 - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Mohamed ElBaradei

The Nobel Committee selected the IAEA and its Director General Mohamed ElBaradei as the recipients of the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize “for their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way”.



2001 - United Nations and Kofi Annan

The United Nations and its Secretary-General Kofi Annan have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize “for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world”.



1988 - United Nations Peacekeeping Forces

The Nobel Committee awarded the prize because “The peacekeeping forces of the United Nations have, under extremely difficult conditions, contributed to reducing tensions where an armistice has been negotiated but a peace treaty has yet to be established”.



1981 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

"The Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees has, in the opinion of the [Nobel] Committee, carried out work of major importance to assist refugees, despite the many political difficulties with which it has had to contend."



1969 - The International Labor Organization (ILO)

The International Labour Organization was awarded the Peace Prize since it has done most to promote fraternity among nations by ensuring social justice, the Nobel Committee said. "Beneath the foundation stone of the ILO's main office in Geneva lies a document on which is written: 'Si vis pacem, cole justitiam. If you desire peace, cultivate justice!'"



1965 - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Upon giving the prize, the Nobel Committee declared that "everyone has understood the language of UNICEF, and even the most reluctant person is bound to admit that in action UNICEF has proved that compassion knows no national boundaries".





1961 - Dag Hammarskjöld, Second Secretary-General of the United Nations

"Dag Hammarskjöld was exposed to criticism and violent, unrestrained attacks" explained the Nobel Committee "but he never departed from the path he had chosen from the very first: the path that was to result in the UN's developing into an effective and constructive international organization."



1954 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The UNHCR "shows us that the unfortunate foreigner is one of us; it teaches us to understand that sympathy with other human beings, even if they are separated from us by national frontiers, is the foundation upon which a lasting peace must be built".



1950 - Ralph Bunche, United Nations mediator in Palestine during the 1948 conflict between the Arabs and Jews

Ralph Bunche received the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize for his late 1940s work as a United Nations mediator in the Palestine conflict. He called himself 'an incurable optimist'. Bunche was the first African American and person of color to be so honored in the history of the prize.

23. UDHR

- UDHR is a milestone document in the history of human rights.
- Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 (General Assembly resolution 217 A) as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations.



UDHR

- It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected and it has been translated into over 500 languages.
- The UDHR is widely recognized as having inspired, and paved the way for, the adoption of more than seventy human rights treaties, applied today on a permanent basis at global and regional levels (all containing references to it in their preambles).

Why and How was it drawn up?

- **Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt chaired a formal drafting committee, including members from eight countries, selected for geographical representation, as part of the new Commission on Human Rights.**
- **In the conclusive drafting stage in 1948, over 50 U.N. member countries participated, and the U.N. General Assembly endorsed the result on Dec. 10, 1948, with eight countries abstaining, and none voting against.**

What did it achieve?

- **While not a treaty and lacking inherent legal binding,** the declaration's principles have been integrated into numerous countries' laws and are regarded as the foundation for international human rights law.
- **According to the U.N., it has not only inspired but also paved the way for over 70 global and regional human rights treaties.**

What is the Universal Declaration?

- **The Universal Declaration**, a concise document, comprises a preamble and 30 articles delineating fundamental rights and freedoms.
 - **Article 1** asserts that every human is born free and equal in dignity and rights.
 - **Article 2** ensures entitlement to all rights and freedoms without discrimination based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status.

What is the Universal Declaration?

- Other articles highlight **the rights to life, liberty, and personal security, prohibiting slavery, servitude, torture, and cruel or degrading treatment.**
- The declaration emphasises equality before the law and the right to a fair and public hearing by an impartial tribunal.
- It also grants the right to seek asylum in other countries from persecution.

What is the Universal Declaration?

- Enshrining freedom of religion, opinion, and expression, as well as the right to peaceful assembly, the declaration affirms the universal right to education

24. UNHCR

- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a **global organization** dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for people forced to flee their homes because of conflict
- Formally known as the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1950 in the aftermath of the Second World War to help the millions of people who had lost their homes and persecution.

UNHCR

- Formally known as the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1950 in the aftermath of the Second World War to help the millions of people who had lost their homes.

UNHCR

- Refugees are among the most vulnerable people in the world.
- The 1951 Refugee Convention, supplemented by its 1967 Protocol, help protect them.
- The 1951 Convention provides the internationally recognized definition of a refugee and outlines the legal protection, rights and assistance a refugee is entitled to receive.
- The **core principle of the 1951 Convention** is non-refoulement, which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom.

UNHCR

- To date, 146 countries are party to the 1951 Convention, and 147 to the 1967 Protocol.
- Article 1 of the 1951 Convention defines a refugee as someone who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of [their] nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail [themselves] of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of [their] former habitual residence, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it

UNHCR

- India is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol and does not have a national refugee protection framework.
- However, it continues to grant asylum to a large number of refugees from neighbouring States and respects UNHCR's mandate for other nationals, mainly from Afghanistan and Myanmar.

UNHCR

- While the Government of India deals differently with various refugee groups, in general it respects the principle of for holders of UNHCR documentation.
- For some time now, India's concerns about security have had a more restrictive impact on asylum space in the country.

25. UN Funds & Programmes

UNDP

Headquarters: New York City, USA

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works in nearly 170 countries and territories, helping to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and build resilience so countries can sustain progress. As the UN's development agency, UNDP plays a critical role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

UN-HABITAT

Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya

The mission of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.

UNEP

Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established in 1972, is the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment.

UNICEF

Headquarters: New York City, USA

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in 190 countries and territories to save children's lives, to defend their rights, and to help them fulfil their potential, from early childhood through adolescence.

UNFPA

Headquarters: New York City, USA

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead UN agency for delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, and every young person's potential is fulfilled.

WFP

Headquarters: Rome, Italy

The World Food Programme aims to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. The world's largest humanitarian agency, WFP helps almost 100 million people in approximately 88 countries with assistance every year through food or cash distributions and more. The World Food Programme was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020.