

Israel and the Dramatic Changes in the Middle East

Optimists of Pessimists?

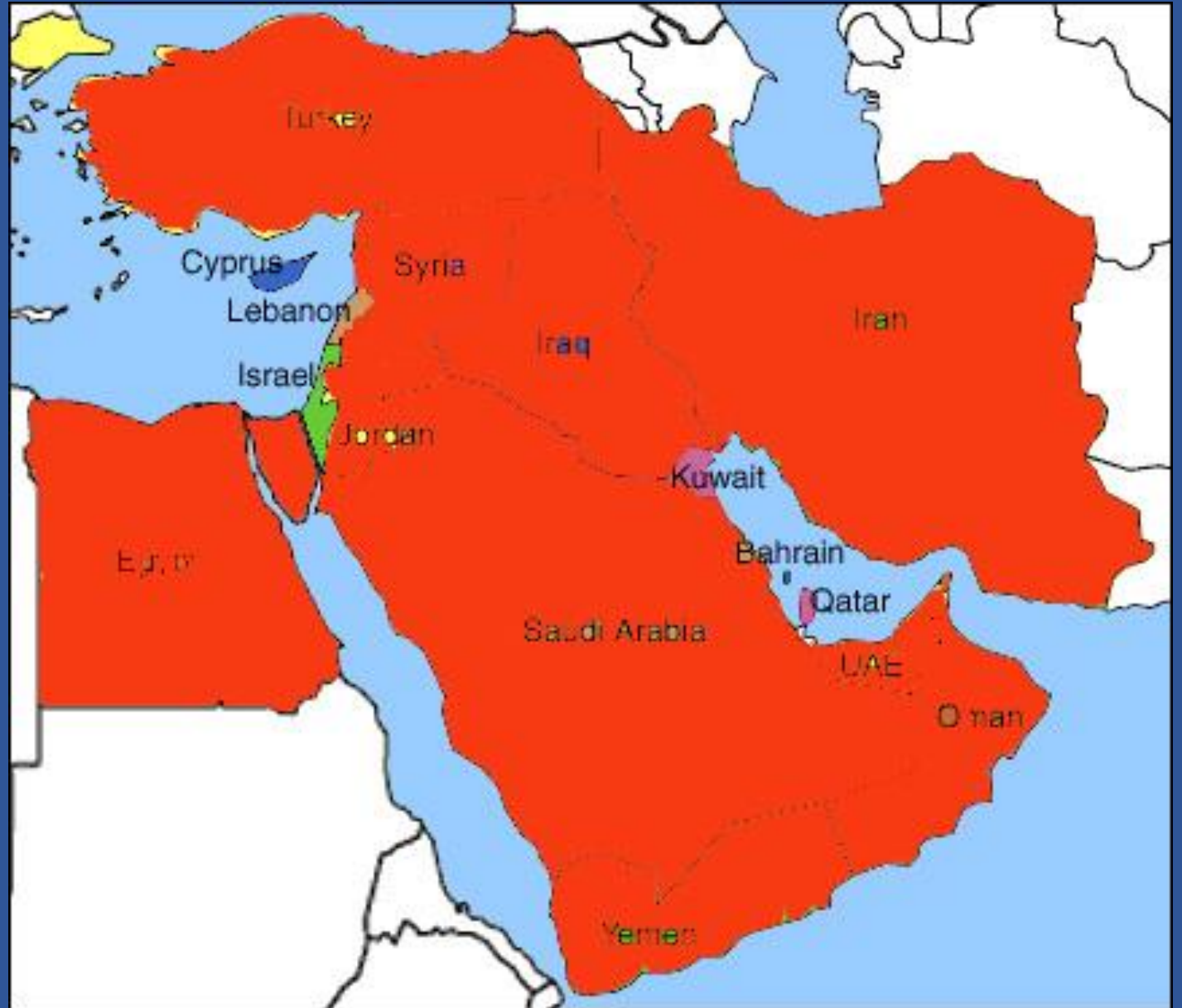
- At this juncture should we be *optimists or pessimists* regarding the future of Israel in a changing Middle East?
- Should we be worried about Islamic State (IS)?
- Should we be worried about Iran and its nuclear capability?
- Should we be worried about the general break-down of State control throughout the Arab Muslim world?
- Or should we be optimists given Israel's continuing growth in population and its political and economic stability and technological development?

The Middle East



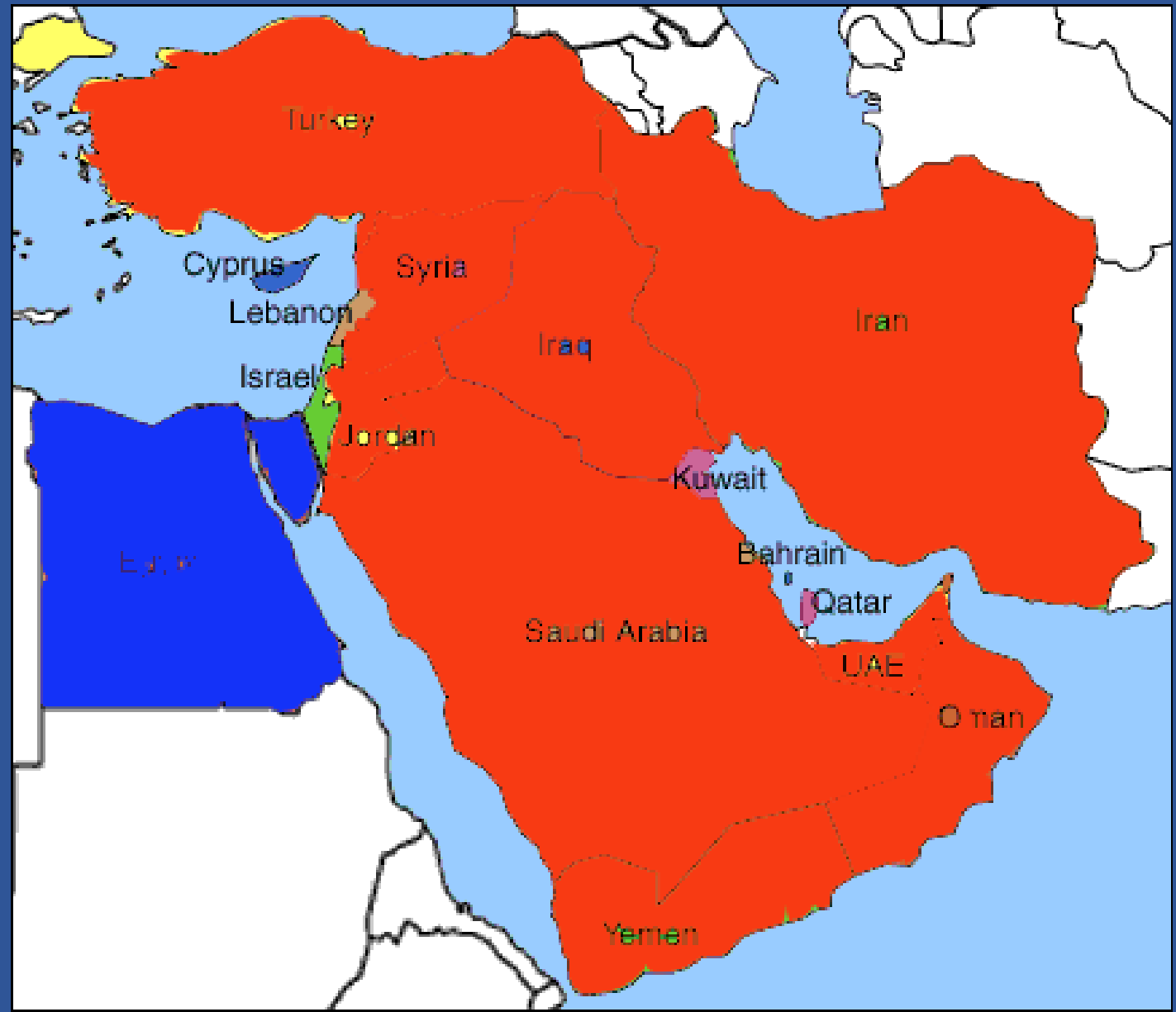
The Middle East after 1948

The War of Independence



The Middle East East after 1979

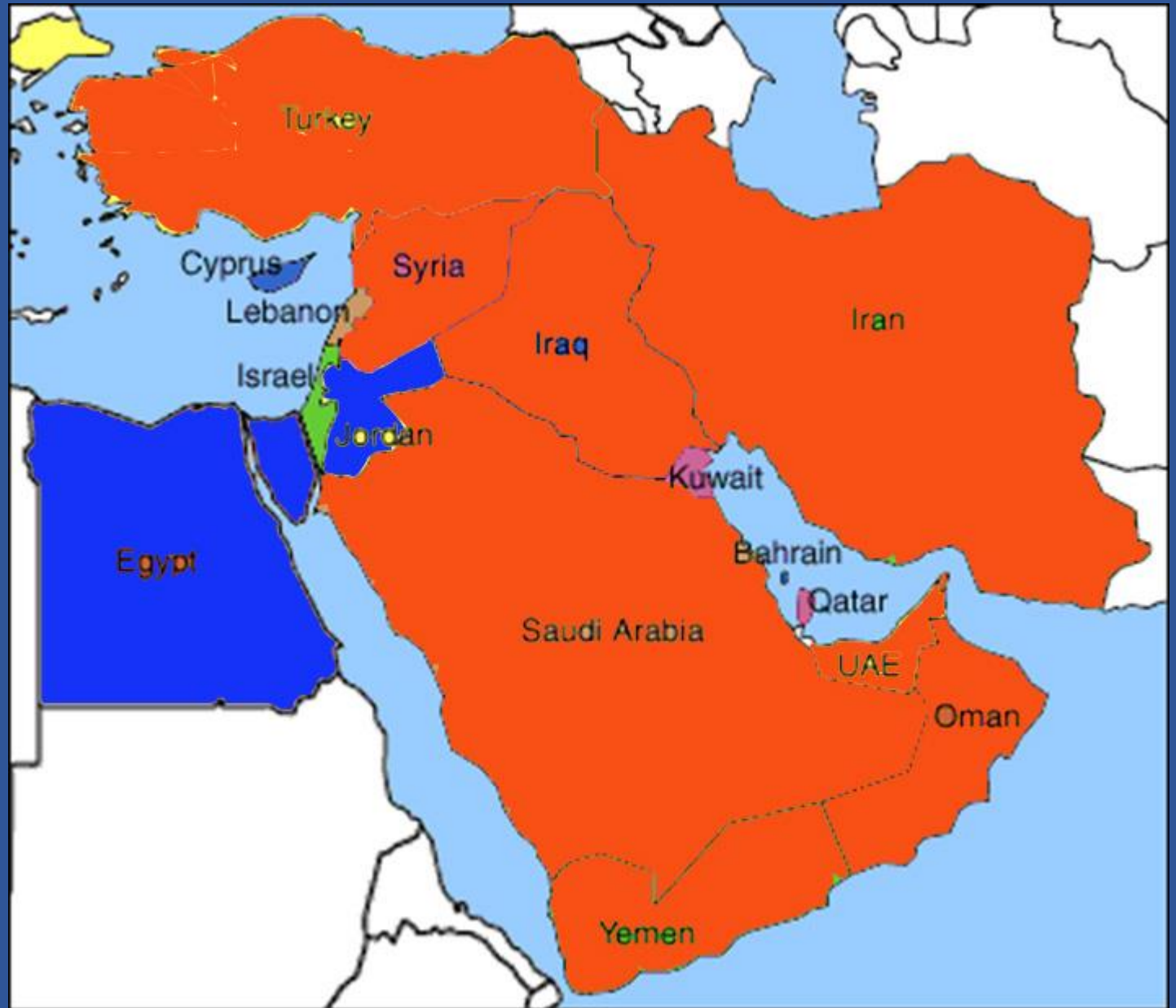
The Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty



The Middle East

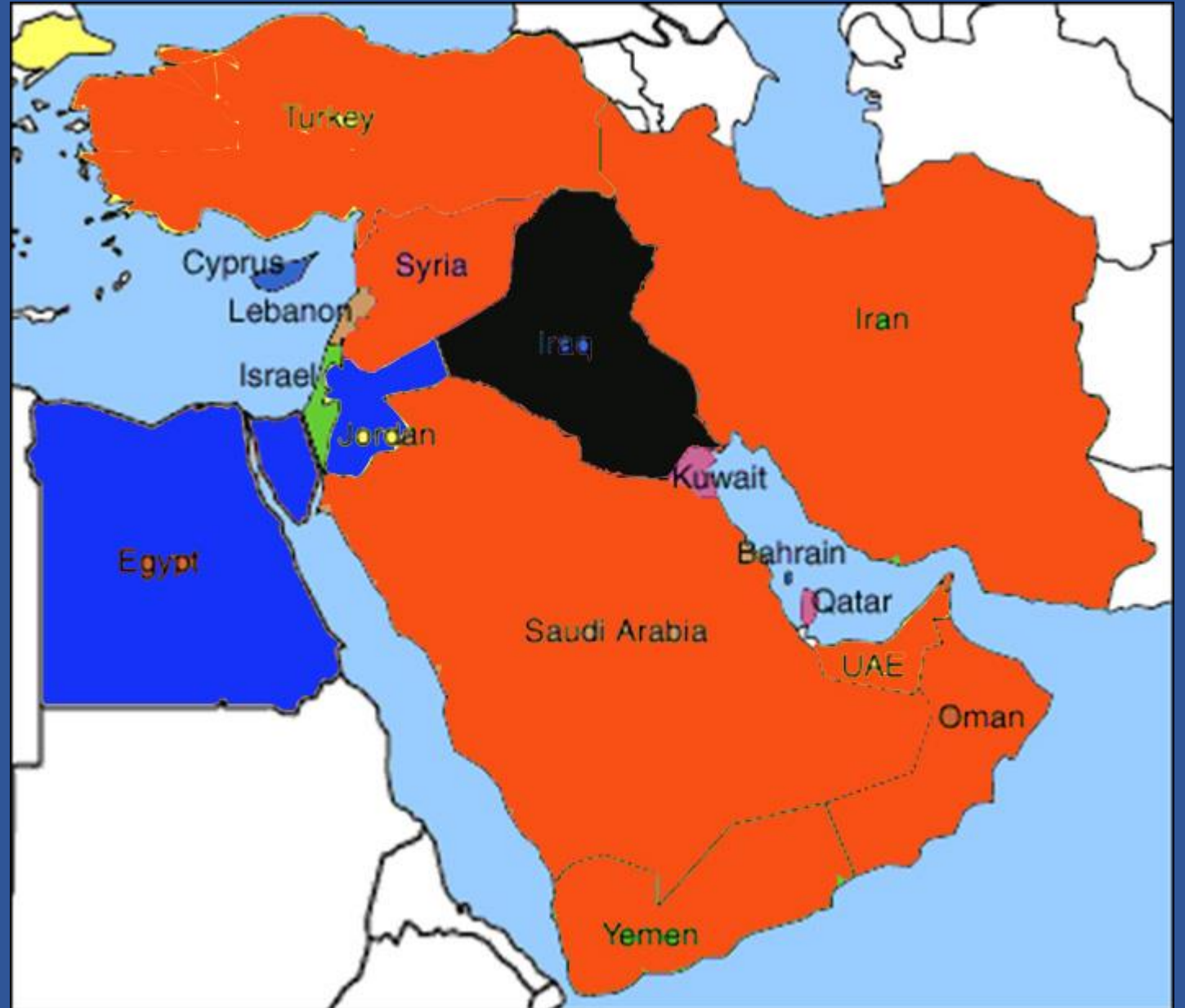
After 1994

The Israel-Jordan
Peace Treaty



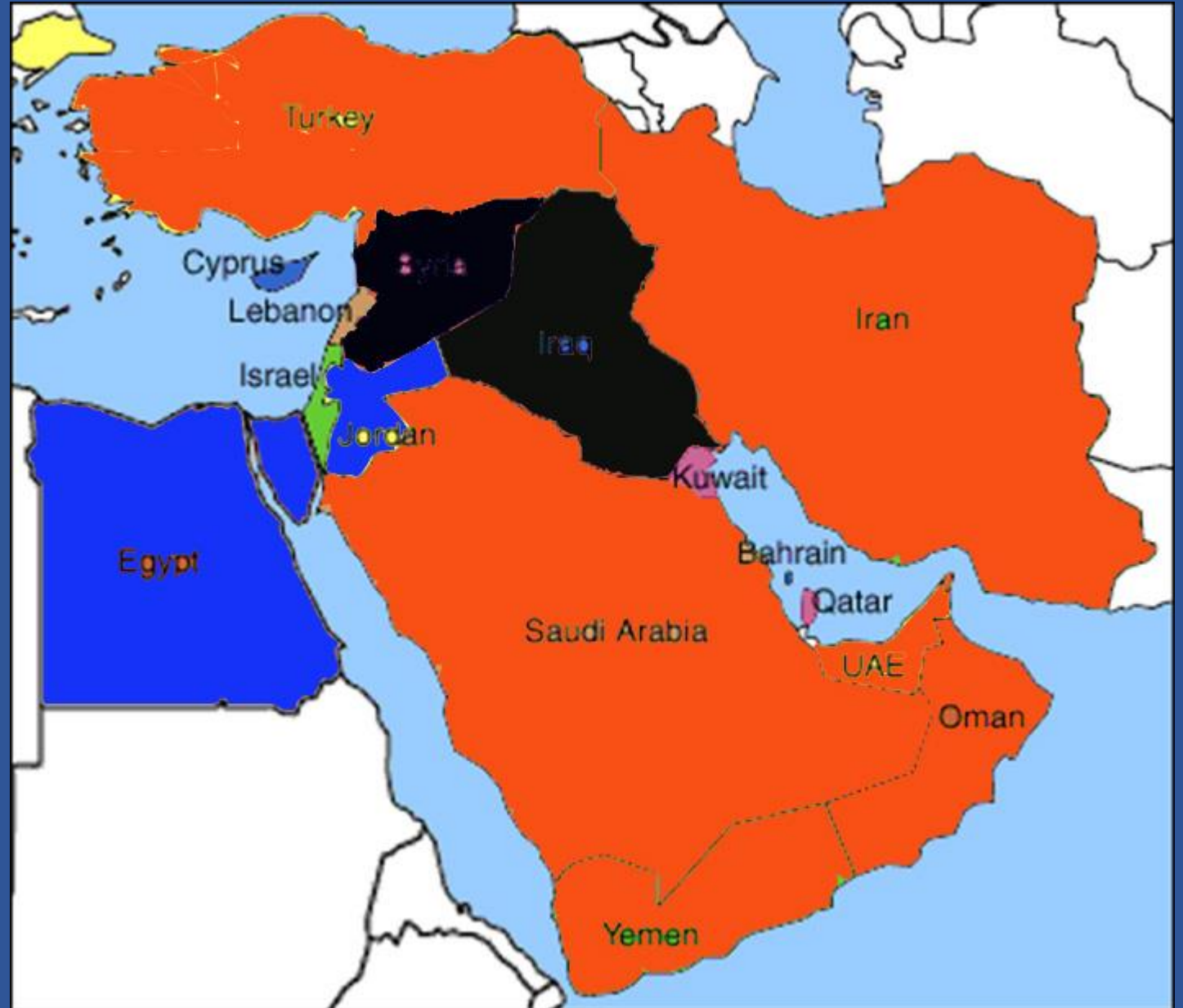
The Middle East East after 2003

The Iraq War



The Middle East after 2011

The Syrian Civil War



The Middle East after 2015

The Turkish-Israeli agreement and the growth of IS leading to talks with the Saudis



The Middle East East after 2020?

What happens to
IS, Iran and
Hizbollah?



What about the Palestinians?

- Frankly they don't count
- They are unable to inflict anything but minor terrorist attacks
- Hamas in Gaza can fire rockets, but pay accordingly
- They have been unable to organize a state
- They are not significantly aided by the Arab States
- The level of corruption is incredible (billions stolen)
- They can only organize an effective PR campaign

Who owns the Land?

- The Balfour Declaration by the British Govt. of 1917 intended Palestine to be a Jewish Homeland
- The Treaties of San Remo and of Sevres (1920) after WWI that divided the Turkish Empire included the Balfour Declaration and did not mention any Arab State in Palestine
- The British Mandate given by the League of Nations in 1922 formalized this arrangement and was ratified by the UN
- There has never been a sovereign State called Palestine

Where do the Palestinians come from?

- The name Palestine is a Roman invention from the Philistines who no longer exist
- Both the Romans and British used the term Palestine to avoid identification with the Jews
- The Arabs came from Arabia and conquered Jerusalem in 639 ce
- Many of today's Palestinians are descended from Jews and Christians who were forcibly converted to Islam

A Two-State Solution?

- The Two-State solution was thought up by Western diplomats and intellectuals who believe in abstract concepts
- The Palestinians do not want a two-state solution, but one state of Palestine controlled by them
- The Jews do not want an economically unviable terrorist mini-state adjacent to their heartland
- I predict, apart from all the nice sentiments, that there will never be a two-state solution
- Israel will not survive if a two-state solution is forced upon it

The Future of the Middle East

- The Islamic State (IS) will be defeated by a coalition of the US, Russia, Iran, the Kurds and anti-regime Syrians
- IS is repressive and offers no future for its citizens
- The Assad regime in Syria will eventually collapse because it holds only ca. 15% of Syria
- Iran will attempt to obtain nuclear weapons leading to a crisis, the outcome of which cannot be predicted
- Basically I am an optimist, Israel will survive!