Conceived as an introduction to the history of the modern Middle East, this course will examine the political, economic, social, and cultural institutions and forces that have most profoundly affected events in the region. The emphasis throughout will be on identifying the way in which specific events and long-term processes have informed social and political reality in the contemporary Middle East. We will focus our study on a number of significant political, social, economic and cultural developments and movements, including (but not limited to): the emergence of Arab and other forms of nationalism, the rise and formation of modern nation states, the role of imperialist and colonial powers in the region, regional conflicts, the rise of Islamism, and the evolution of ethnic, class, and gender identities.

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