

Geopolitics of the Contemporary Middle East

Resource Logistics, Boundary Fractures and Sovereign Balance of Power

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Level: Advanced Graduate / Master of Science

Course Overview

This advanced framework analyzes the structural power dynamics, logistics pipelines, and boundary fractures that govern the contemporary Middle East, from Morocco to the Arabian Peninsula. The curriculum bypasses standard journalistic narratives, focusing on quantitative statecraft, military partnerships, and the thermodynamic realities of resource infrastructure.

Core Methodological Modules

1. Anthropological Foundations & Ideological Frameworks

Comparative assessment of theological socio-economics: the Western *Homo Faber* construct versus Islamic concepts of sovereign predestination, fatalism, and economic community. Impact of these divergent paradigms on state architecture, legal systems, and strategic long-term planning.

2. Imperial Legacies & Ideological Transitions

The structural dissolution of the Ottoman Empire and the subsequent transition from colonial mandates to contemporary political models. Analytical breakdown of three sovereign archetypes: Western-backed absolute monarchies, secular Arab socialist republics, and localized security states.

3. Resource Logistics & Energy Infrastructures

Mapping global transit bottlenecks (Strait of Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb, Suez Canal) and upstream hydrocarbon infrastructure. Strategic evaluation of resource manipulation as a tool for asymmetric warfare and regional sovereign leverage.

4. Military Partnerships & Armament Supply Networks

Quantitative tracking of defensive procurement networks. Comprehensive analysis of regional defense agreements and weapon supply lines linking Middle Eastern states with global superpowers: the United States, France, Great Britain, and China.

5. Ethnic Composites & Strategic Mapping

Deep mapping of demographic, sectarian, and ethnic distributions across sovereign borders. Identification of structural friction points and localized insurgent vectors used as proxy levers in the regional balance of power.