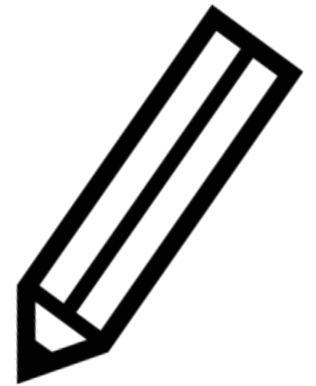


USING HIP HOP FOR

GLOBAL

LITERACY



BASIC VOCABULARY

THE WORDS “ARAB” AND “MUSLIM” ARE NOT SYNONYMOUS.

- **Arabs** are people who speak **Arabic** as their native language and identify themselves as Arabs
- **Muslims** are those who practice the religion of **Islam**
- Roughly 18% of **Muslims are Arabs**
- Many Arabs follow different faiths and live all over the world. There are Christian Arabs and Jewish Arabs living in the Middle East.

Many Arab cultural influences in Islam

- Qur'an – written in **Arabic**
- Muhammad – an **Arab**
- Prayer – facing Ka'aba (**Arabia**)
- Call to prayer – Adhan (**Arabic**) eh-than
- Holy Sites – Mecca & Medina (**Arabia**)
Jerusalem



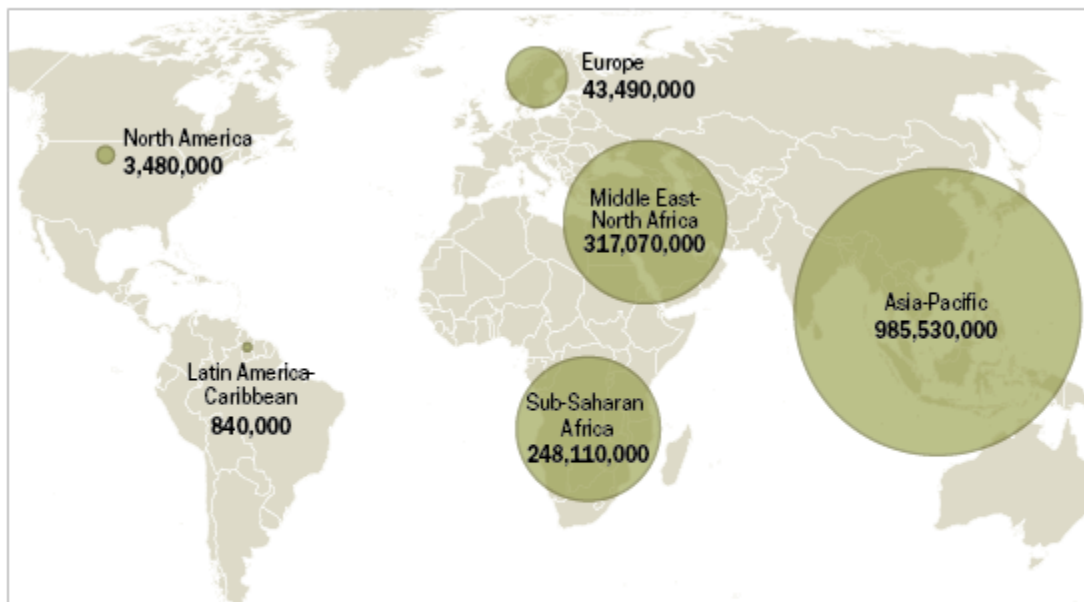
The Arab World



The Muslim World

Regional Distribution of Muslims

Population by region as of 2010



Percentage of world Muslim population in each region as of 2010



Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
 Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life • Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

10 Countries with the Largest Populations of Muslims

Estimated 2010 Muslim Population

Indonesia	209,120,200
India	176,190,000
Pakistan	167,410,000
Bangladesh	133,540,000
Nigeria	77,300,000
Egypt	76,990,000
Iran	73,570,000
Turkey	71,330,000
Algeria	34,730,000
Morocco	31,940,000

**Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life | Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

ARAB SPRING VS. UPRISINGS

According to James Gelvin...

- **People have used “spring” to describe other historical political events** (1848 Springtime of Nations in Europe, 1968 Prague Spring)
- **Most of the protests broke out in winter, not spring**
- **Spring implies a positive outcome**



**WHAT WAS THE ENVIRONMENT
IN THE ARAB WORLD LIKE
BEFORE THE PROTESTS BEGAN?**

POLITICS

- **Presidents regularly modified/ extended constitutionally mandated term limits**
- **Restricted formation of political parties**
- **“State courts” operated with unclear limits, and no checks or balances**

Autocracy: a country, state, or society governed by one person with absolute power, domineering rule or control.



American foreign policy in the region ramped up with the onset of the Cold War. The U.S. supported authoritarian regimes for:

- **stability**
- **prevent Soviet influence**
- **economic development**
- **American access to oil**



Autocracy

derived from
Greek α τoκpaτία:
α τός ("self") and κpaτείν ("rule"),
"one who rules by himself".

ECONOMIC\$

- **States played a major role in the economy**
- **“Neoliberalism” began with Egypt in 1976 with credit from the IMF. Oil prices began rapid descent in the 1980’s – many countries in debt began turning to the IMF.**

Policies	Effects
Privatization	Regime loyalists bought industries
Fiscal Austerity	Spending cuts, tax increases
Reductions in government spending	Less social services
End across-the-board subsidies on consumer goods	Subsidies for only the very poorest excludes middle class

= GREATER INCOME INEQUALITY

Unemployment was around 10-12%, in some countries as high as 15%

→ In April, the unemployment rate in NC was 5.5%

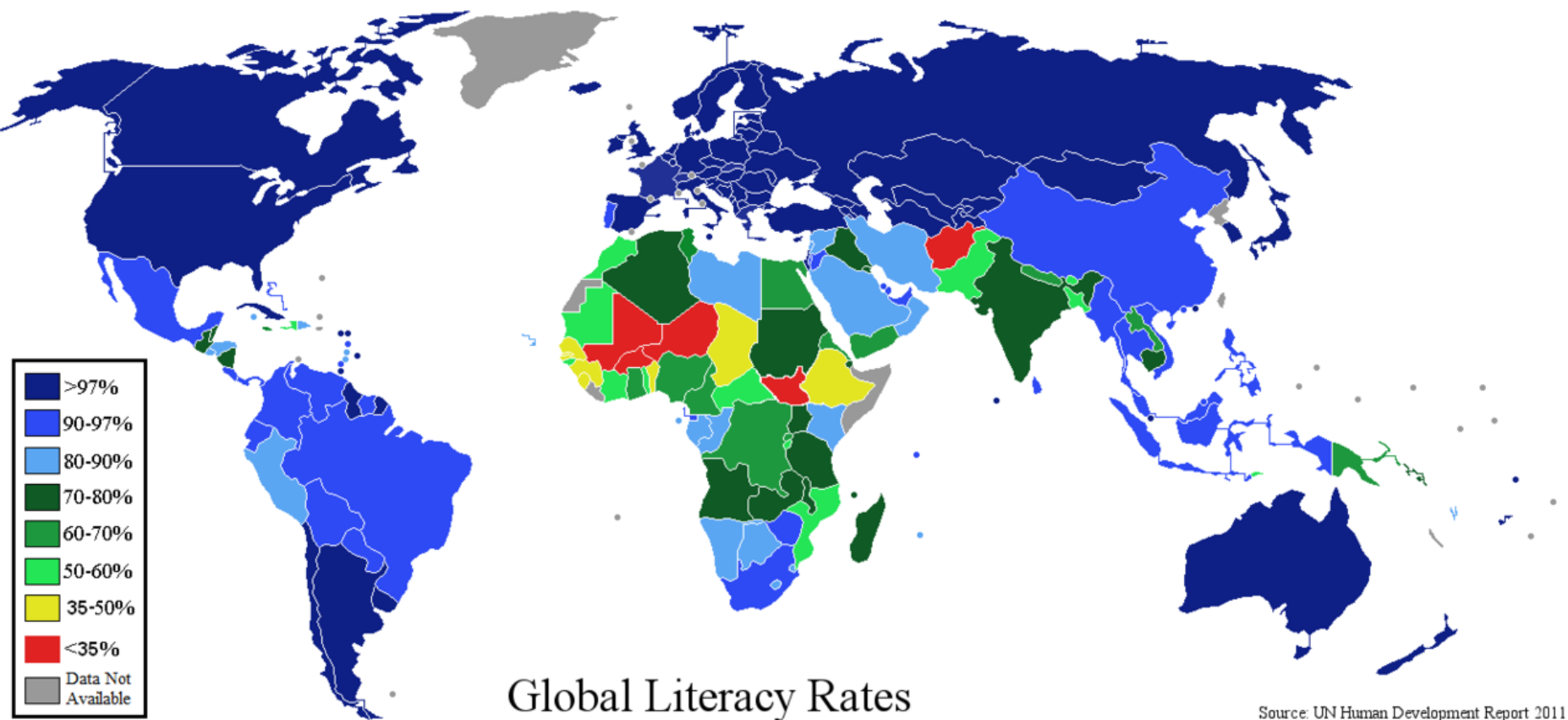


- **Rising food costs**

DEMOGRAPHICS

- **60% of the population of the Arab world is under 30, “youth bulge”**
 - **30% of youth between 15-29 make up the population of many Arab countries**
- 33.9% of US population is under the age of 24 (9.9% are ages 18-24)

“Waithood”
Waiting for jobs, waiting for marriage and intimacy, waiting for full participation in society.

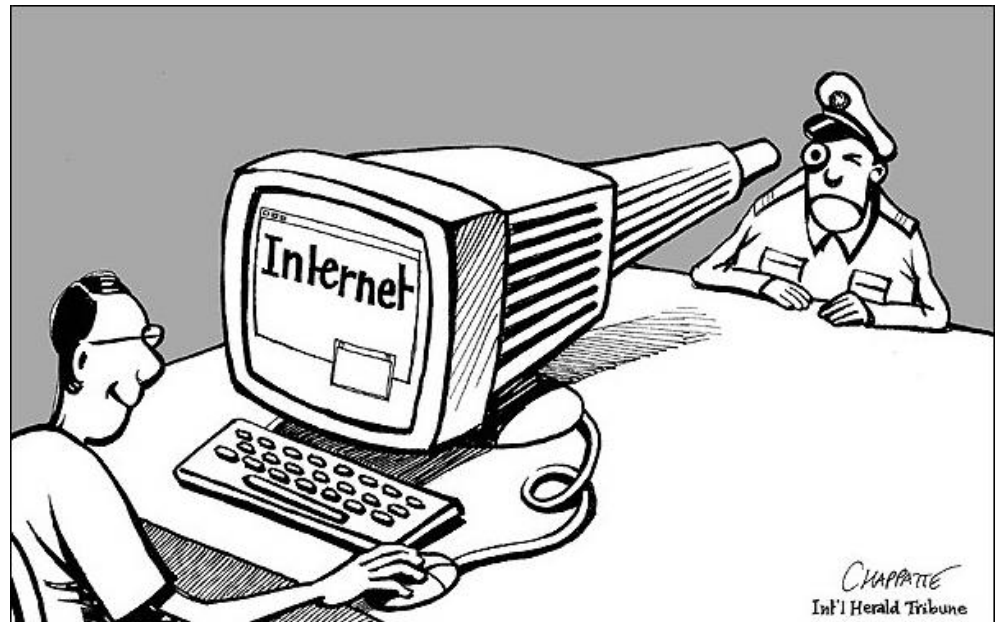


Global Literacy Rates

Source: UN Human Development Report 2011

CENSORSHIP

- In 11 of 19 Arab states surveyed, there was pre-censorship of newspapers
- Many states ban books
- Censorship of the internet common



REPORT BY THE REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ARAB STATES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME... SOURCE *THE ARAB UPRISINGS*, JAMES GELVIN

THE SPARK

December 2010: A young, unemployed man, Mohamed Bouazizi, set fire to himself after officials stopped him from selling vegetables in Tunisia (and confiscated his wares): reminder of the daily abuse of power & lack of economic opportunities

No reliable popular representation, so people took to the streets as their first option.

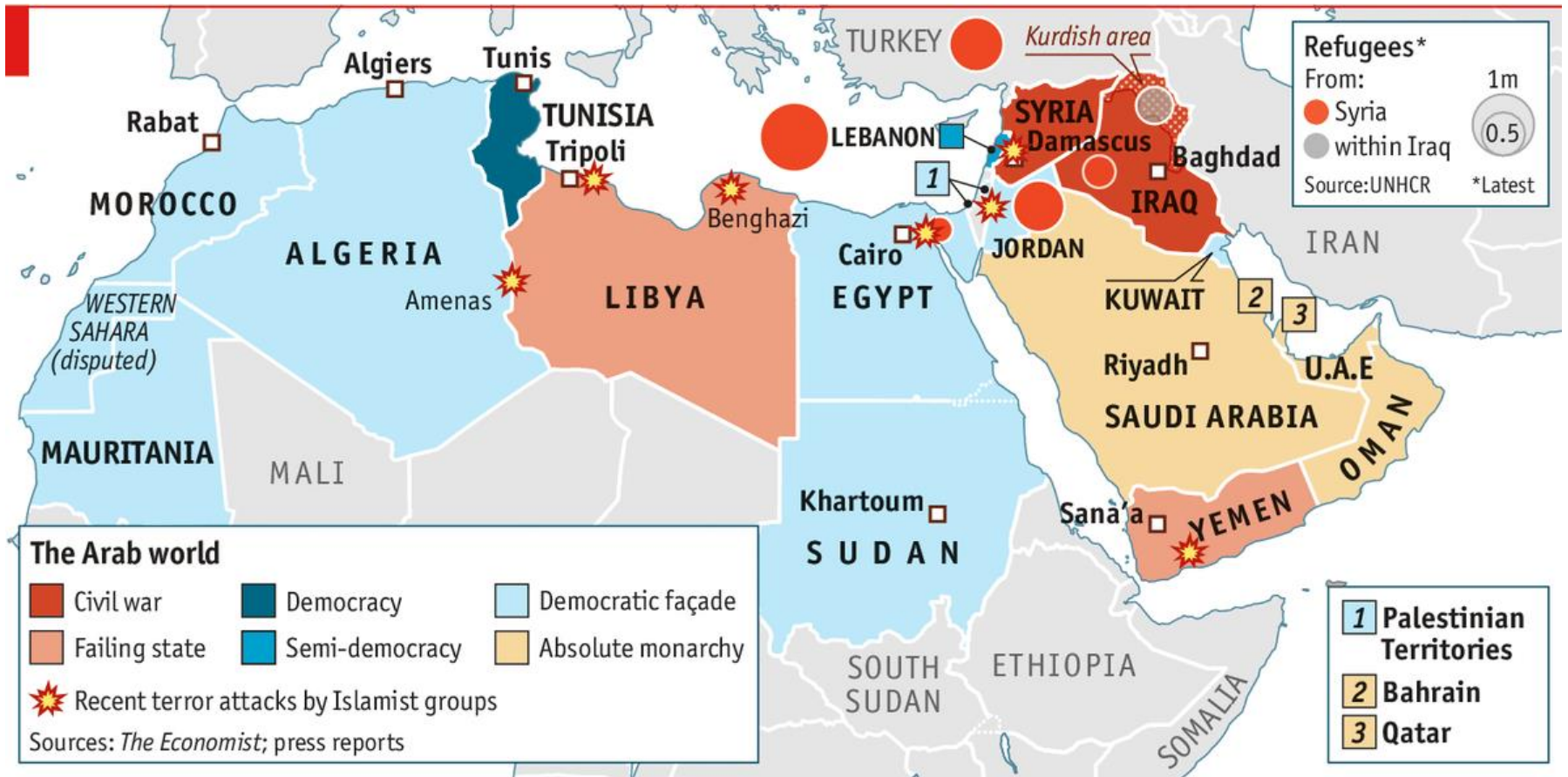


The uprising in Tunisia was the first of many in the Arab world.



Demonstrated that this kind of protest was viable elsewhere.





Economist, June 2014

**HOW IS HIP HOP INVOLVED
IN ALL OF THIS?**

HIP HOP



"Hip hop is close to Arabic culture in a way - it's based on poetry and Arabs are very fond of poetry," El Deeb

Provided an important platform for communication. A way to create moral support and encourage a spirit of resistance against the regime.

THEMES

- **Unemployment**
- **Poor housing**
- **Mismanagement**
- **Corruption**
- **Politics**

Music is a way to talk about the issues people are confronted with in their daily lives.

TUNISIA

- **Hamada Ben Amor performs under the name El Général**



- **His songs, "Rayes Le Bled" (Dec 2010) and "Tounes Blanda" led to his arrest in early January**
- **His arrest sparked public protests in his favor**
- **Since President Ben Ali fled office, he has composed dozens of revolutionary rap songs**

<http://revolutionaryarabraptheindex.blogspot.com/2011/08/el-general-rais-lebled.html>



Mr. President, here, today, I speak with you
in my name and the name of all people who live in misery.
It's 2011 and there's still a man who's dying of hunger.
He wants to work to survive, but his voice is not heard!
Go out into the street and see [how] people have become animals.
Look at the police with batons. Thwack-thwack-thwack! They don't care!
There is still no one to tell them the word "stop."

EGYPT

- Rappers helped fuel the fire against Hosni Mubarak
- Mohammed el Deeb



<http://revolutionaryarabraptheindex.blogspot.com/2014/05/deeb-ft-edd-abbas-stand-up-egyptian.html>



The people have regained the pie. The stockmarket's been put out of commission. The old slogan is back: "The police are in the service of the people." The situation was tough, but today is better. We can make our desert green. We got rid of Hitler's rule, a damned pharaoh. In the age of Twitter and Facebook the Egyptian walks confidently using the language of righteousness. They used to tell us no. It made no difference to them even if God wished the earth to split open. Our revolution is a popular, peaceful, national revolution. We have demanded freedom, dignity, and social justice.

LIBYA

- **Ibn Thabit's says he "has been attacking Gaddafi with his music since 2008."**
- **The pseudonym he uses suggests both deep piety and a respect for writing, as Hassan Ibn Thabit was the favorite poet of the Prophet Muhammad**

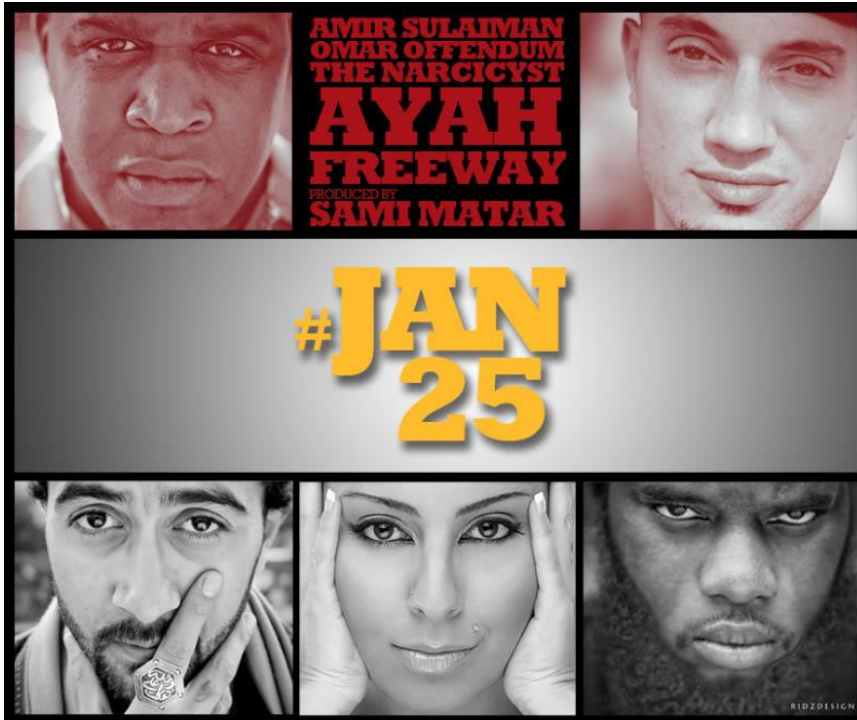


HIP HOP WITH A GLOBAL REACH

- **A way to solidifying links between Arab diasporic communities in the West with those in Arab countries**
- **“Those in exile for political or economic reasons are now collaborating with those who never left their country of origin but nevertheless felt internally displaced or dispossessed by the institutionalized power structures under which they lived”** –*Lara Dotson-Renta, Hip Hop & Diaspora: Connecting the Arab Spring, Arab Media & Society*

#JAN25

- Syrian-American Omar Offendum, Iraqi-Canadian The Narcicyst, produced by Palestinian-American Sami Matar with appearances by Palestinian-Canadian singer Ayah, and African-American converts MC Freeway and Amir Sulaiman



- Lyrics connect Egyptian politics to American politics

ARAB AMERICAN ARTISTS

Themes

- **Politics**
- **Confused identity**
- **Discrimination and Racism**
- **Religion**

Common generation

Common concerns

Omar Offendum



The Narcycist



Native Deen



Miss Undastood



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bx7uj-yFpC0>



Me, my community we work hard,
Every opportunity to break walls,
Fighting all the lunacy that they cause,
Respect here, to you and me, the same God.

Giving you the right facts,
We keep repeating that Islam has been hijacked,
We ain't like that,
Then some lunatic goes on a rampage,
Using violence and I'm outraged

GROUP WORK

WRITING YOUR OWN...

In general, what is our goal as 21st century educators?

- Help students develop knowledge and skills that will enable them to **make sense of the world** in which they live
- Give students the tools to become **fully functioning citizens**
- Foster **cooperation and understanding** between students of different backgrounds
- Students will gain the skills necessary to **compete in a global society**.



CONNECT WITH US

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