



Geography Mapping Classes



Neetu Singh

Asia– Largest Continent





ARCTIC OCEAN

0 350 700
0 500 1000 K

EUROPE * Moscow

RUSSIA

* Nursultan

Ulaanbaatar *

P'yongyang *

NORTH KOREA

JAPAN * Tokyo

* Seoul

SOUTH KOREA

Tropic of Can

PACIFIC OCEAN

ASIA

CHINA

Ankara *

TURKEY

GEORGIA

ARMENIA

LEB

SYRIA

AZER

TURKM.

UZBEK

KYRGYZ

* Bishkek

* Tashkent

* Dushanbe

* TAJIK

* Kabul

* Islamabad

* Nepal

* Kathmandu

* Thimphu

* Bhutan

* New Delhi

* Dhaka

* Bangladesh

* India

* Sri Lanka

* Colombo

* Male

* Maldives

* Sri Lanka

* Colombo

* Male

* Maldives

Beijing *

Taipei *

TAIWAN

HONG KONG (S.A.R.)

MACAU (S.A.R.)

Manila *

PHILIPPINES

Hanoi *

VIETNAM

Bangkok *

THAILAND

Phnom Penh *

CAMB

BRUNEI

Bandar Seri Begawan *

Malaysia

Singapore

SINGAPORE

INDONESIA

Jakarta *

Dili *

EAST TIMOR (TIMOR-LESTE)

AFRICA

INDIAN OCEAN

Equator

10°

FACTS

Asia is bounded by the Arctic Ocean to the north, the Pacific Ocean to the east, the Indian Ocean to the south, the Red Sea (as well as the inland seas of the Atlantic Ocean—the Mediterranean and the Black) to the southwest, and Europe to the west. Asia is separated from North America to the northeast by the Bering Strait and from Australia to the southeast by the seas and straits connecting the Indian and Pacific oceans. The Isthmus of Suez unites Asia with Africa, and it is generally agreed that the Suez Canal forms the border between them. Two narrow straits, the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles, separate Anatolia from the Balkan Peninsula.

EUROPE

MIDDLE EAST

BLACK SEA

CASPIAN SEA

ASIA

TURKEY

SYRIA

LEBANON

ISRAEL

WEST BANK

IRAQ

IRAN

GAZA STRIP

JORDAN

KUWAIT

EGYPT

BAHRAIN

SAUDI ARABIA

QATAR

OMAN

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

OMAN

RED SEA

Persian Gulf

DIRECTION

YEMEN

ARABIAN SEA

AFRICA

INDIAN OCEAN





The area originally separating Israel from Jordan is typically described as the “1967 or pre-1967 border.” The frontier was never recognized as the border of Israel, however, and is actually **the armistice line** agreed to by Jordan and Israel in 1949. It is often referred to as the “**Green Line**” because that is the color of the pen used to draw the ceasefire line between Israel, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan following the 1967 War. Today, it is used to demarcate Israel from the disputed territories of East Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria (the West Bank)

1947

UN Partition Plan (Resolution 181)

■ Arab State | 45%

■ Jewish State | 55%

■ Jerusalem under
international control

Following the end of WWII, the newly formed United Nations proposed a plan that would grant **55 percent of historic Palestine to a Jewish state and 45 percent to a non-contiguous Arab one.**

This plan was never implemented on the ground.

Conceptual map



ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

Jerusalem - the divided city

West Jerusalem has been Israeli territory since 1948 with Jews forming the majority. East Jerusalem was occupied by Israel in 1967 but Palestinians remain the majority.

WEST JERUSALEM



EAST JERUSALEM



OLD CITY



- Religious sites**
- 1. Al-Aqsa Mosque Compound
 - 2. Wailing Wall
 - 3. St James Cathedral
 - 4. Church of the Holy Sepulchre

1948

Palestinians expelled



■ Palestinian

■ Israeli

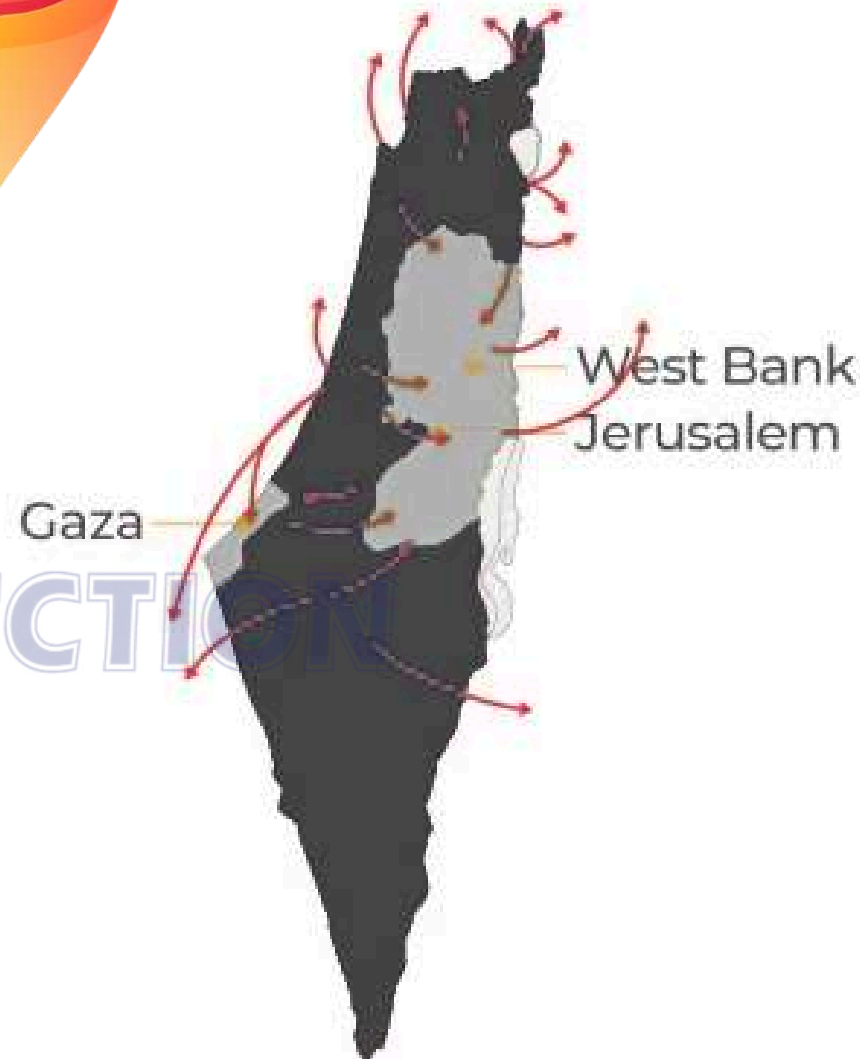
□ Armistice "Green" Line
(Created in 1949)



DIRECTIO

Zionist military forces expelled at least **750,000 Palestinians** and captured **78 percent of historic Palestine.**

The remaining 22 percent was divided into the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



1967

Israel occupies Gaza and the West Bank

 Palestinian (under Israeli occupation)

 Israeli

 Egyptian and Syrian land occupied by Israel

During the June 1967 War, Israel occupied all of historic Palestine and expelled a further **300,000 Palestinians** from their homes.



DIRECTION



The West Bank is named for its location on the western bank of the Jordan River. The term gained prominence after Transjordan (now Jordan) occupied and subsequently annexed the territory following the 1948 Arab–Israeli War, distinguishing it from the "East Bank" (the main kingdom of Jordan)

Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea



Both are part of the
Jordan Rift Valley

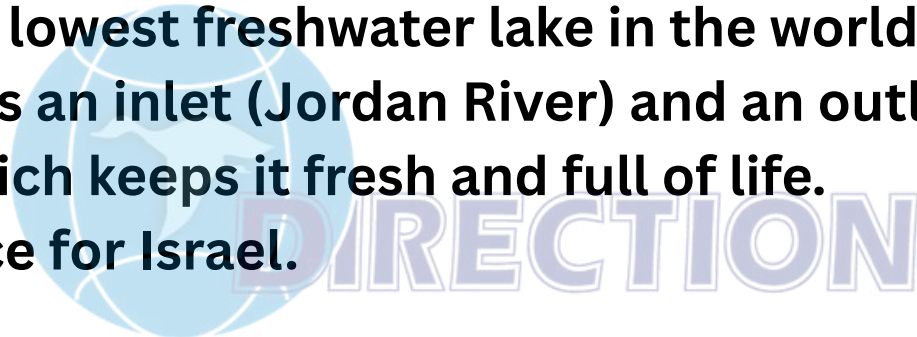
The Jordan River flows south from the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. Often used to illustrate the difference between receiving and giving: the Sea of Galilee takes in and gives out (teeming with life), while the Dead Sea only takes in and gives nothing back (lifeless).

The Dead Sea (The "Dead" Sea)

- Bordered by Israel and Jordan, it is the lowest point on Earth (over 430 meters below sea level).
- It is one of the world's saltiest bodies of water (approx. 34.2% salinity), about 10 times saltier than the ocean.
- Due to high salinity, no fish or plants can survive in its waters, though minimal bacteria and microorganisms exist.
- Renowned for extreme buoyancy, therapeutic black mud, and mineral-rich, calm waters.
- Environmental Status: It is a terminal lake with no outlet, losing water rapidly through evaporation and human diversion of the Jordan River.

The Sea of Galilee (Lake Kinneret)

- Located in northern Israel, north of the Dead Sea.
- It is a freshwater lake, the lowest freshwater lake in the world.
- Unlike the Dead Sea, it has an inlet (Jordan River) and an outlet, allowing water to flow through, which keeps it fresh and full of life.
- Acts as a vital water source for Israel.



Gaza: 16 years of living under blockade

Israel's land, air and sea blockade has trapped more than two million people inside the Gaza Strip since 2007. No portion of Gaza's society or economy has been left untouched.

 **Population**
2.3m

One of the most densely populated areas in the world

 **Area**
365 km²

Unemployment rate
45%

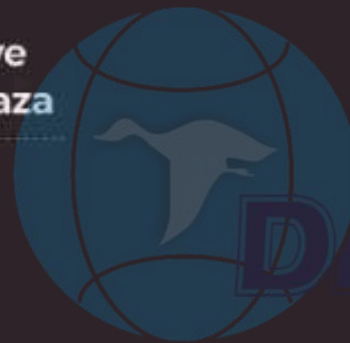
Among the highest in the world

Food insecure households
64%

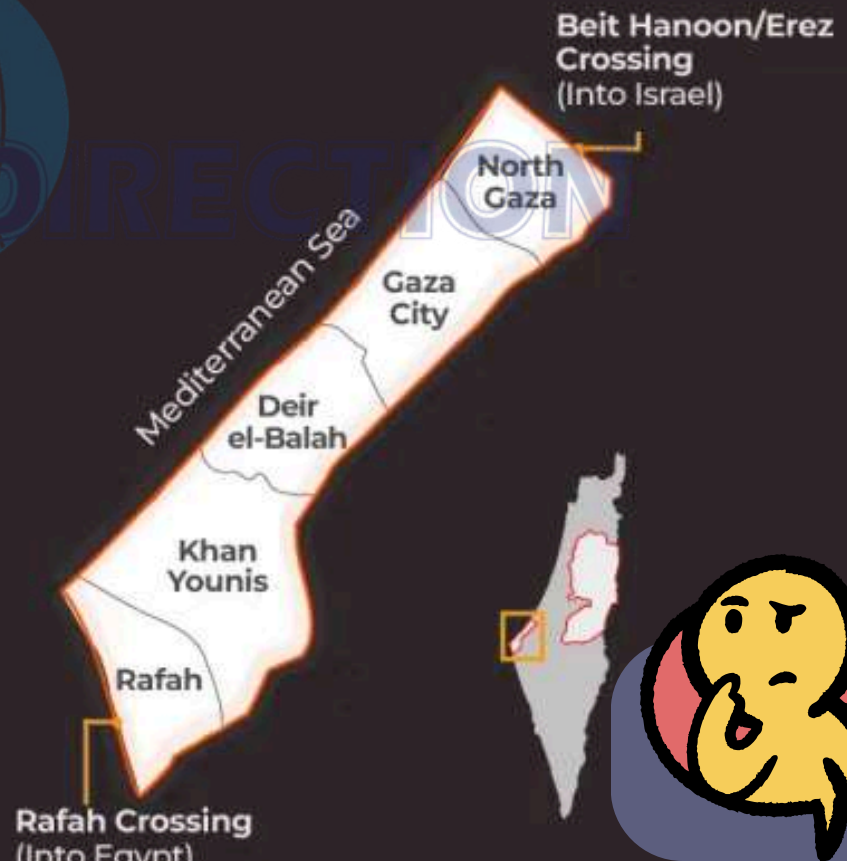
Especially affecting rural households

Israel has launched five military assaults on Gaza

- 1 **2008-09**
Lasted 23 days
- 2 **2012**
Lasted 8 days
- 3 **2014**
Lasted 50 days
- 4 **2021**
Lasted 11 days
- 5 **2023**
October 7 - ongoing



DIRECTION



The 'Philadelphi Corridor': A goal for Netanyahu, a red line for Egypt



Exit and entry into Gaza by sea or air is prohibited. There are only three crossings in and out of Gaza, two of them controlled by Israel and one by Egypt.

THE PHILADELPHI CORRIDOR



A narrow buffer zone between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, the "Philadelphi Corridor" has come under increasing scrutiny as Israel plans a full-scale military offensive on Rafah, Gaza's crammed, southernmost city near the border.

Israeli has repeatedly declared country's intention to take control of the strategic sliver of land. Israel considers control of this corridor essential to its national security, citing it as a "lifeline" used by Hamas to smuggle weapons, ammunition, and dual-use materials through underground tunnels from the Sinai Peninsula into Gaza. That has Egypt worried amid fears of a breakdown of the decades-old Egypt-Israel peace accords.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

How big are the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel?

GAZA



365km²

SIMILAR IN SIZE TO:

Cape Town, South Africa

400km²

Detroit, United States

370 km²

WEST BANK
and EAST JERUSALEM



5,655km²

SIMILAR IN SIZE TO:

Delaware, United States

6,446km²

Perth, Australia

6,418km²

ISRAEL



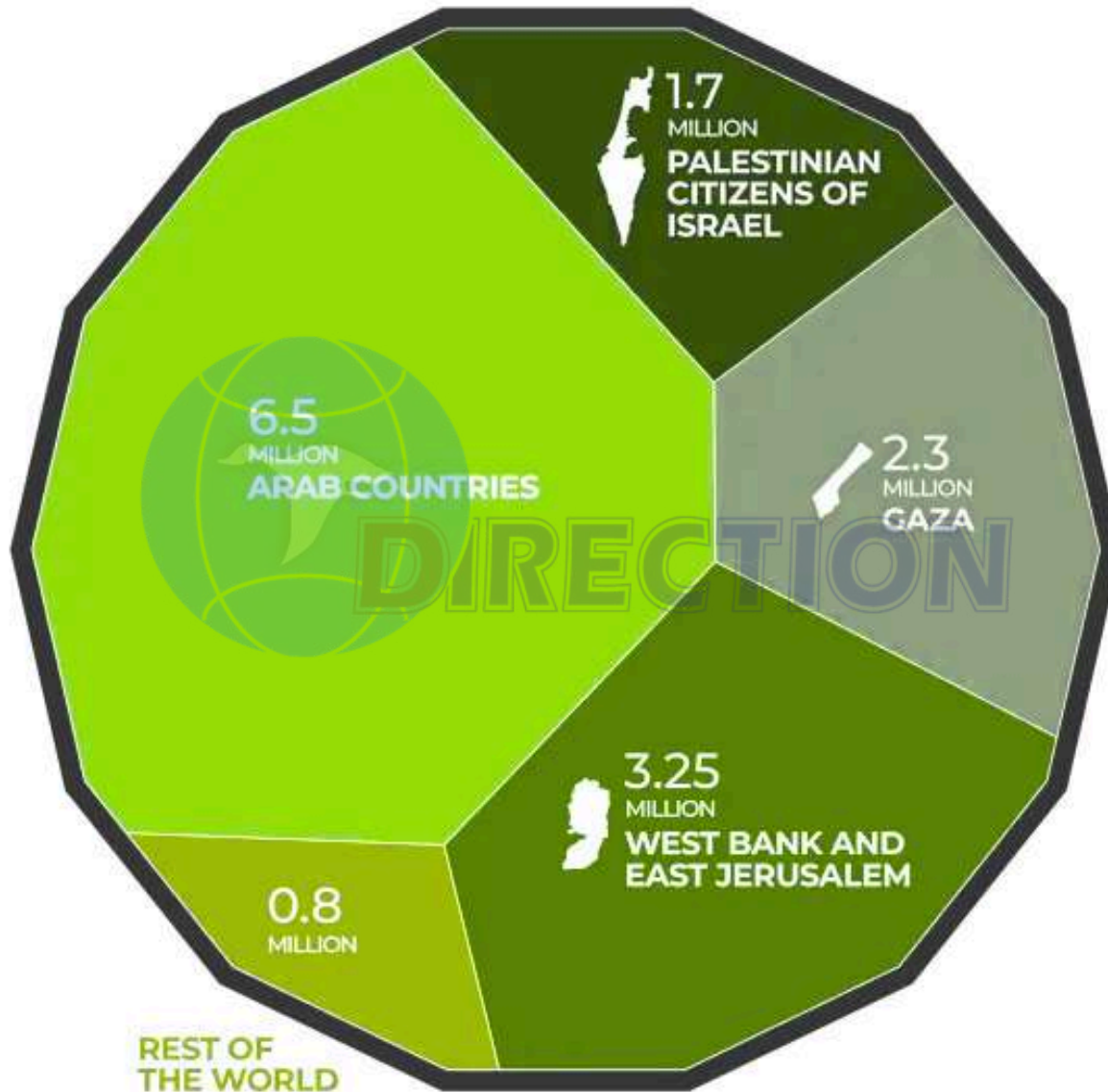
20,770km²

DIRECTION

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

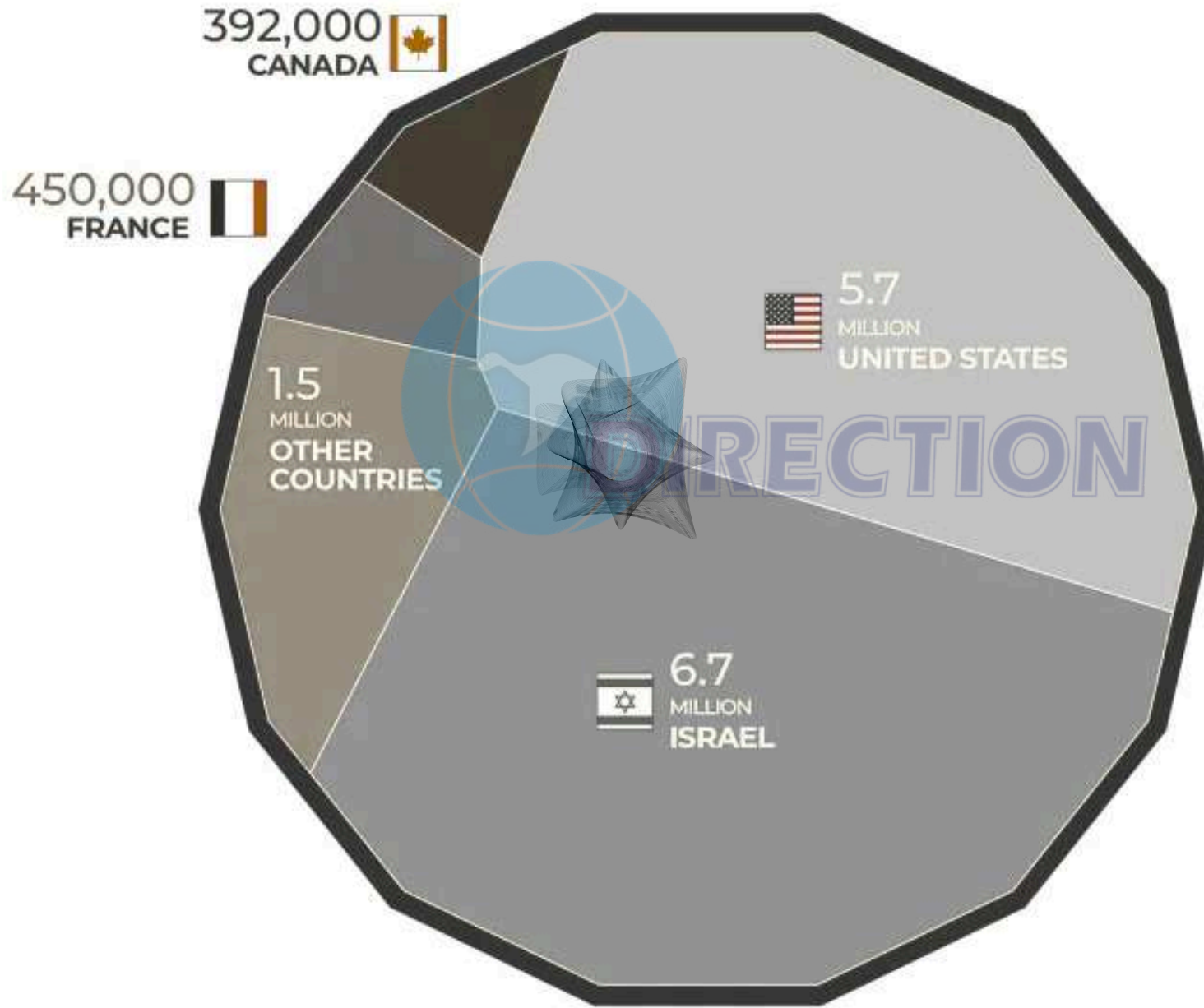
Where are the Palestinians today?

There are about **14.5 million Palestinians around the world today**. Half of them live in historic Palestine, while the rest are distributed around the world.



Where are the Jews today?

There are about **14.7 million Jews around the world today**, 85 percent of whom live in either Israel or the United States.



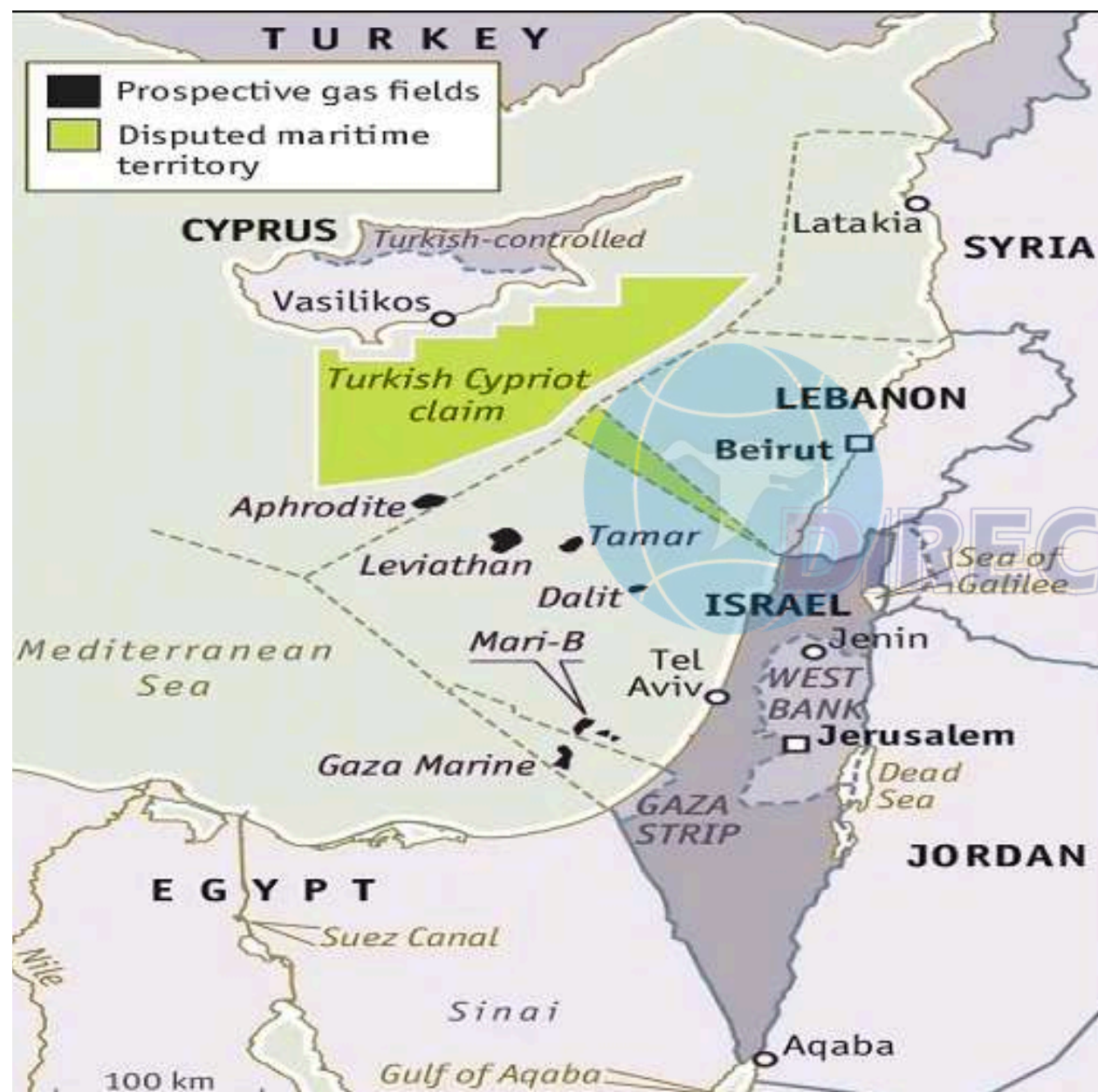
Israel nuclear facilities



Israel is widely believed to possess a nuclear arsenal, estimated at around 90 warheads, maintained through a policy of "nuclear opacity" (neither confirming nor denying existence).

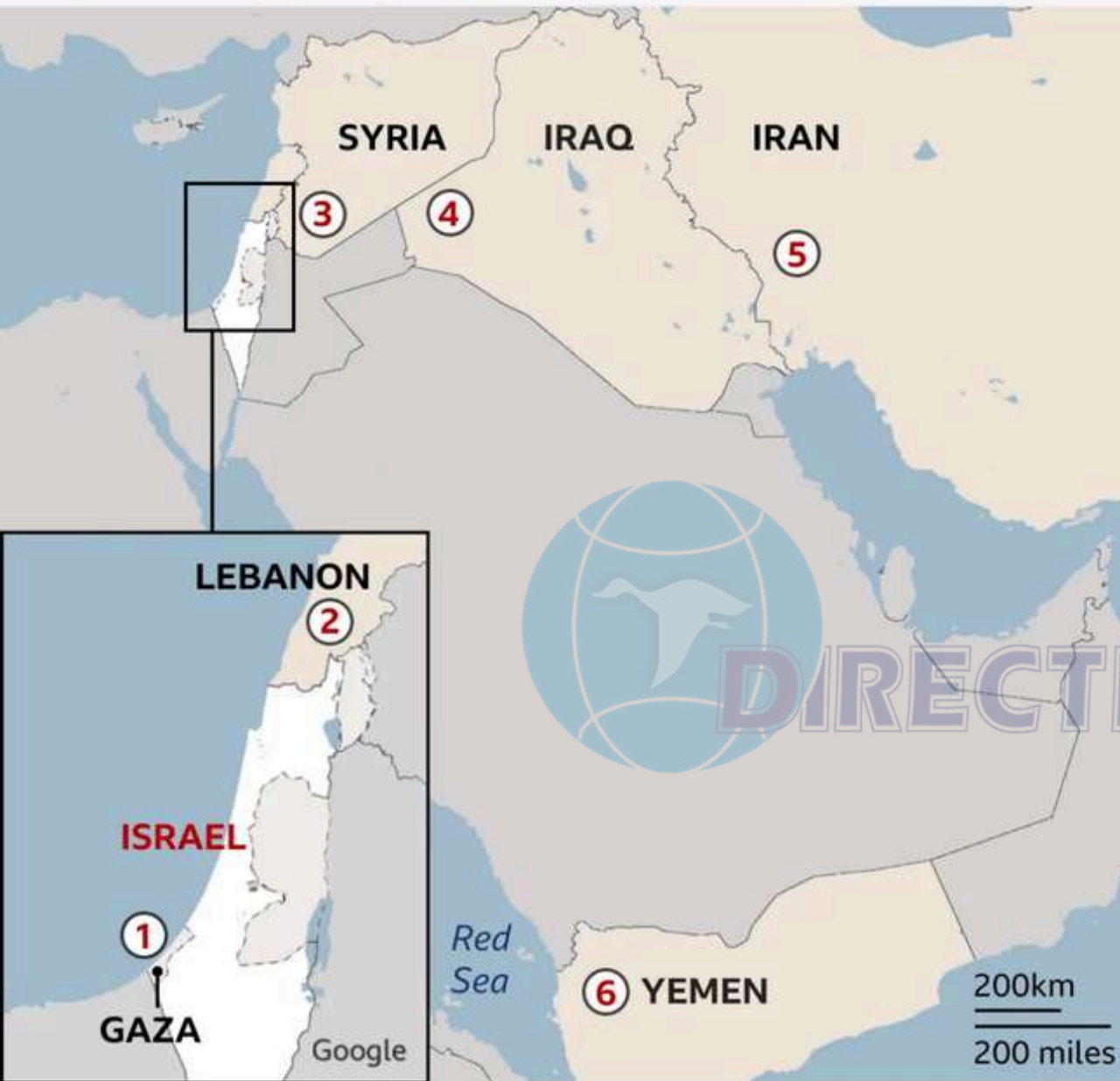
The primary, publicly known facility is the Shimon Peres Negev Nuclear Research Center near Dimona, which houses a research reactor and plutonium separation plant.

Israel has limited natural resources but is a major producer of Dead Sea minerals bromine (48% of global output), potash, magnesium.



Leviathan and Tamar are massive offshore natural gas fields in the Levantine Basin of the Eastern Mediterranean, fundamentally transforming Israel into a regional energy exporter. Discovered in 2009-2010, they provide energy security for Israel and supply Jordan and Egypt

Israel is fighting on multiple fronts



Israel has a decades-long history of conflict with Hezbollah in Lebanon but it is just one of the fronts that it is currently engaged in hostilities.


The others include armed forces and non-state armed groups in several countries in the Middle East, including Iran, Syria and Iran-backed groups operating in Gaza, Iraq, Syria and Yemen.

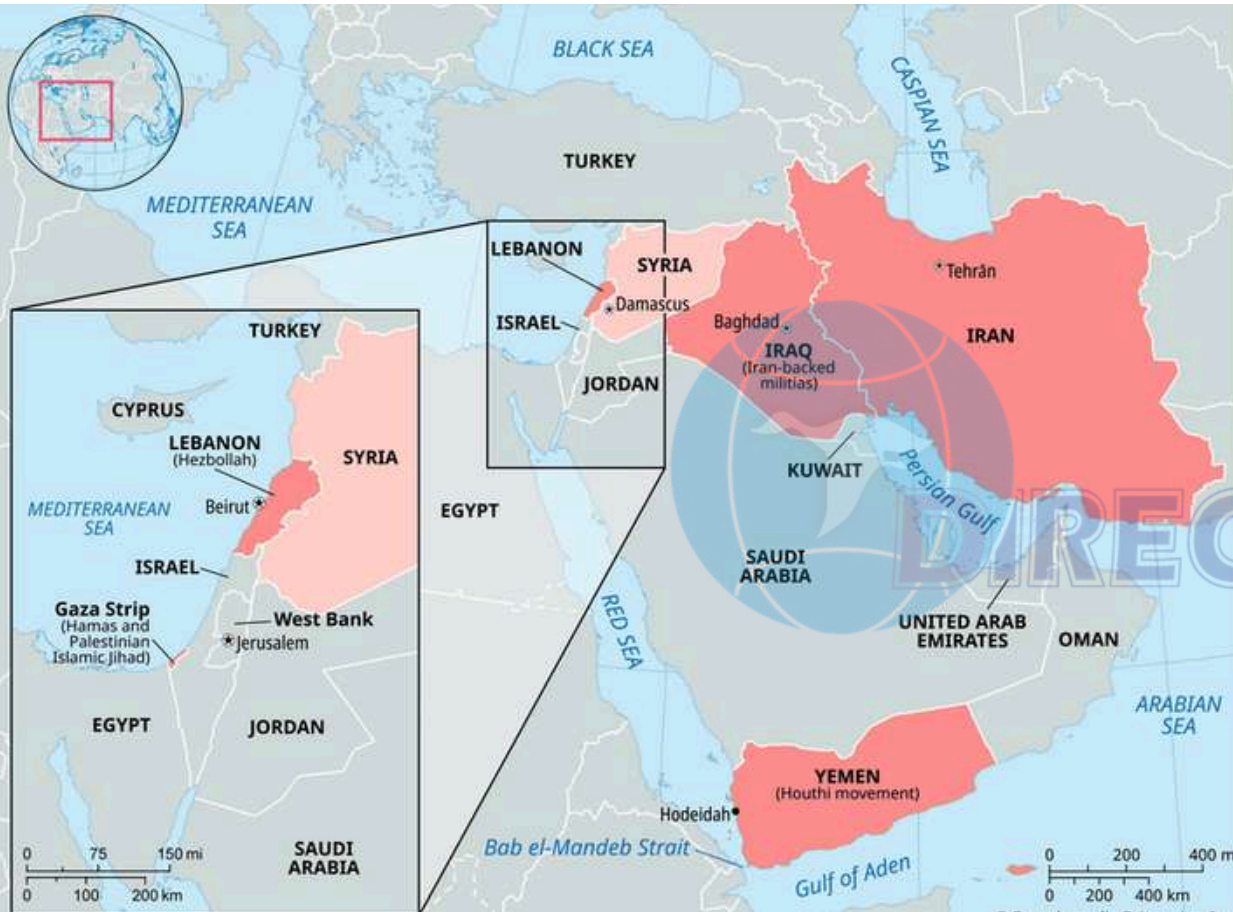
- 1 Hamas in Gaza
- 2 Hezbollah in Lebanon
- 3 Syria and Shia militia
- 4 Shia militia in Iraq
- 5 Iran
- 6 Houthis in Yemen

AXIS OF RESISTANCE

The Axis of Resistance is a loose network of both militant groups and state-controlled armed forces in the Middle East supported by Iran. Until December 2024, when the government of Bashar al-Assad was toppled, Syria was also a key component of the Axis of Resistance.

 Iran-backed Axis of Resistance


 Formerly part of the Axis of Resistance




Hamas is a Palestinian Sunni-Islamic organization primarily based in the Gaza Strip, governing the territory since 2006.

Hezbollah is a Lebanese Shiite political party and militant group based in Lebanon, with a significant presence in Southern Lebanon and deep ties to Iran.

Both are part of the Iran-aligned "Axis of Resistance"- countering the influence of the United States and Israel in the region.

 **Under Iranian influence/control**
Syria, Lebanon, Iraq

 **Iran plays destabilizing role**
Kuwait, Bahrain, Gaza strip, Yemen

IRAQ
· Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq
· Kata'ib Hezbollah
· Badr Organization

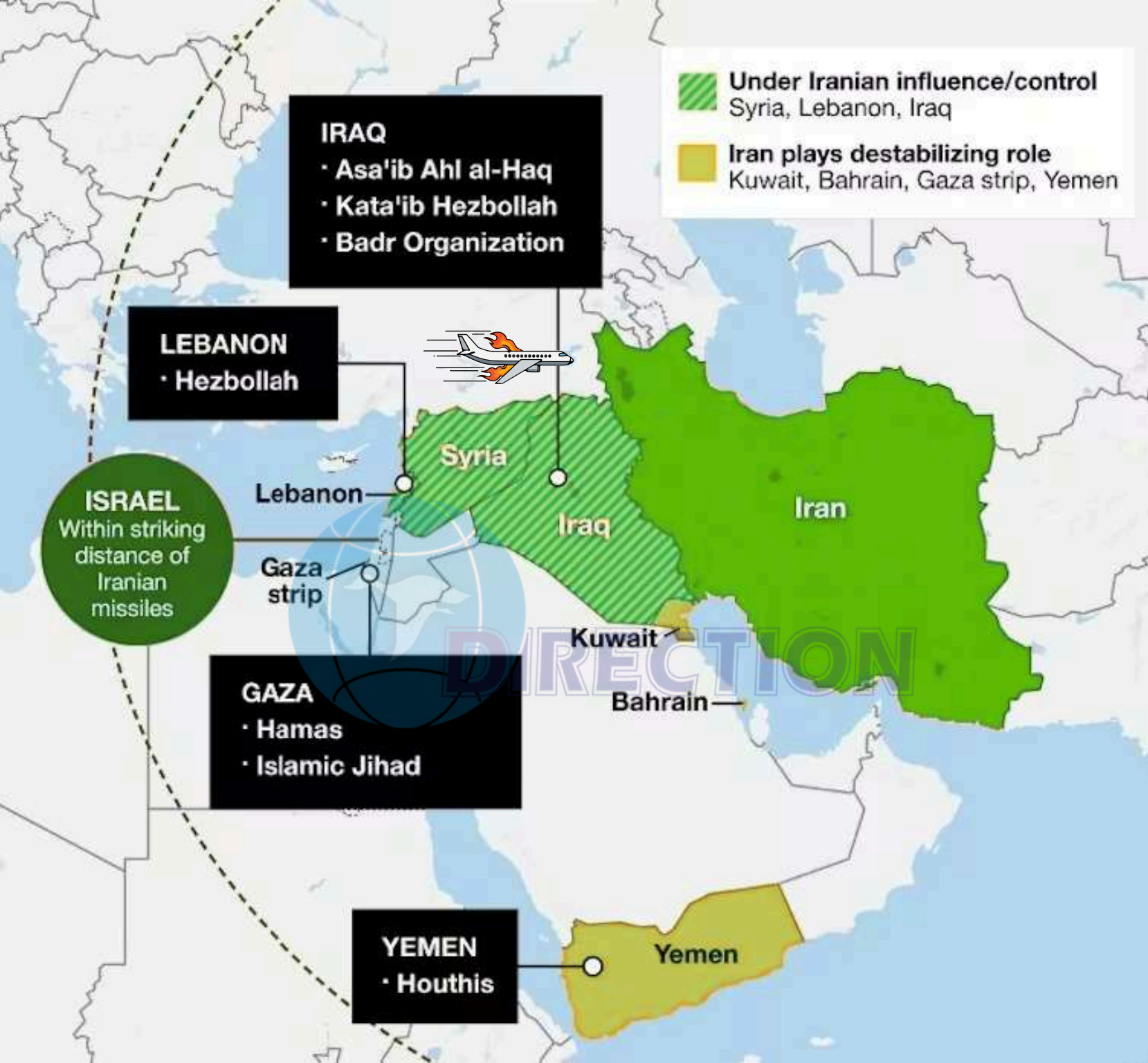
LEBANON
· Hezbollah



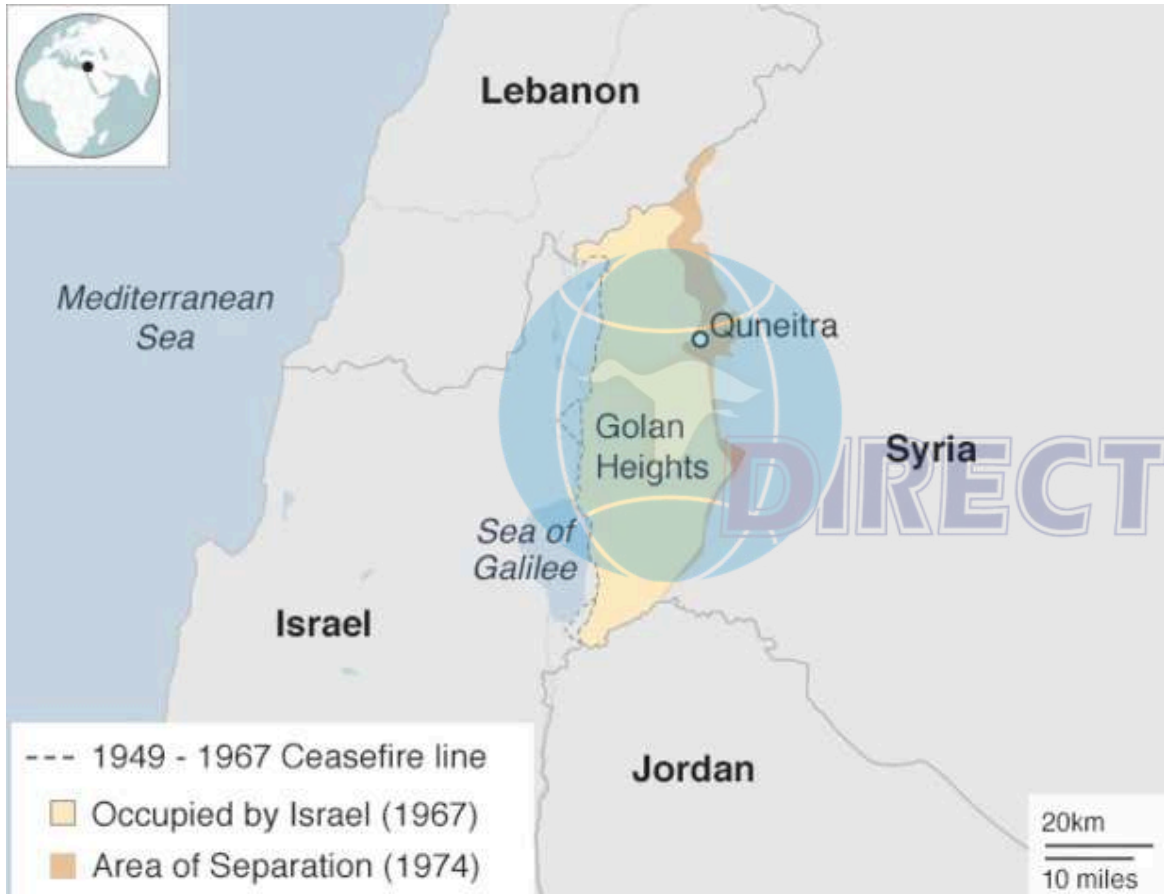
ISRAEL
Within striking distance of Iranian missiles

GAZA
· Hamas
· Islamic Jihad

YEMEN
· Houthis



Golan Heights

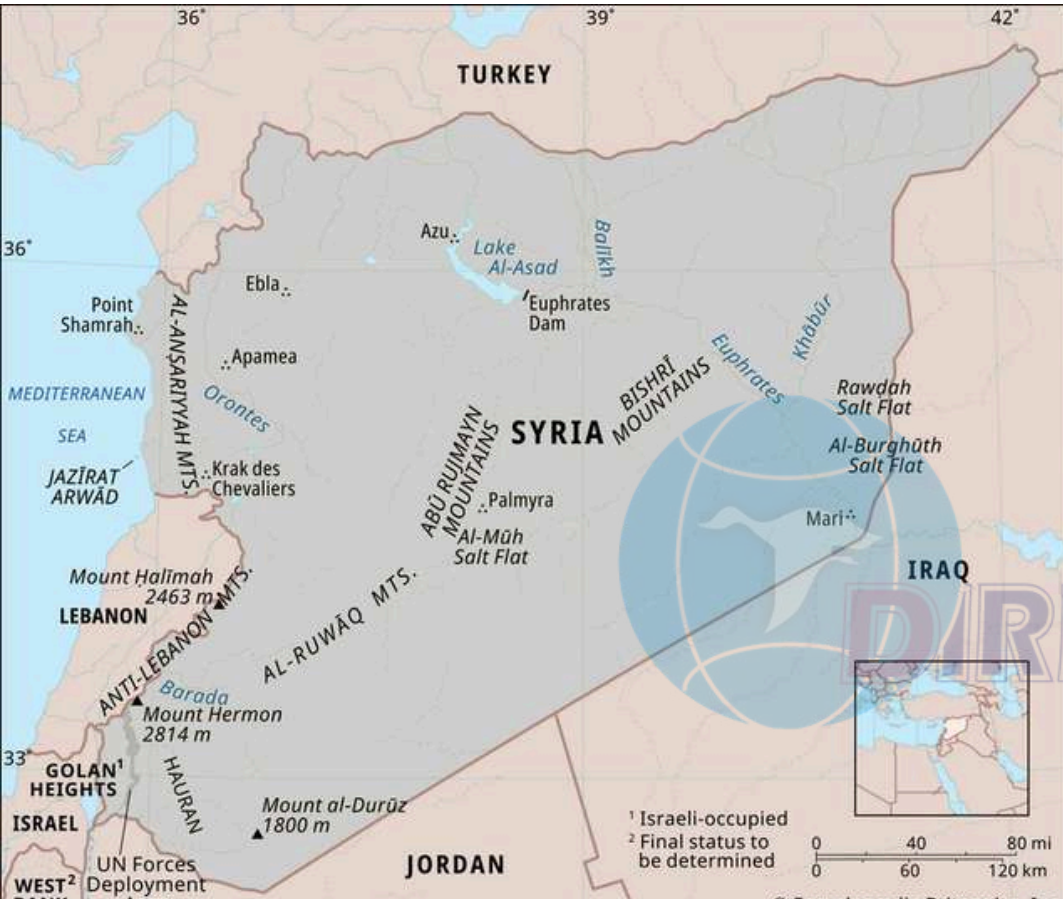


The Golan Heights is a rocky plateau in south-western Syria, about 60km (40 miles) south-west of Damascus and covers about 1,000 sq km. It has a political and strategic significance which belies its size.

Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria in the closing stages of the 1967 Six-Day War. Most of the Syrian Arab inhabitants fled the area during the conflict.

An armistice line was established and the region came under Israeli military control. Almost immediately Israel began to settle the Golan.

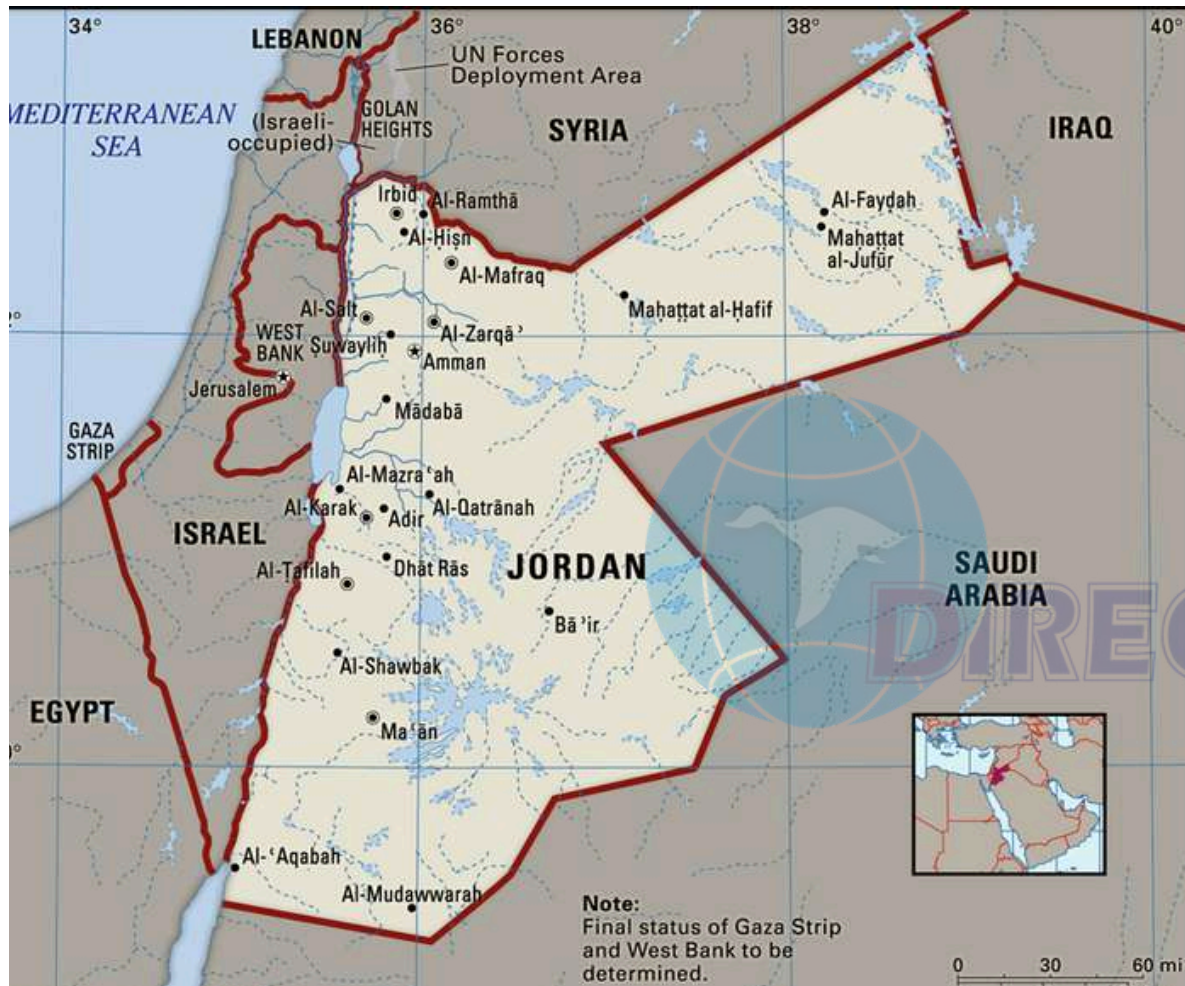
The Syrian crisis-2011 -2024



Humanitarian Catastrophe: As of 2026, the crisis is considered one of the worst of the 21st century, with over 13 million people displaced, including 6.7 million refugees. Over 90% of the population lives in poverty.

As international proxy war, with Russia and Iran supporting the Assad regime, while the U.S., Turkey, and several Arab nations supported various opposition forces

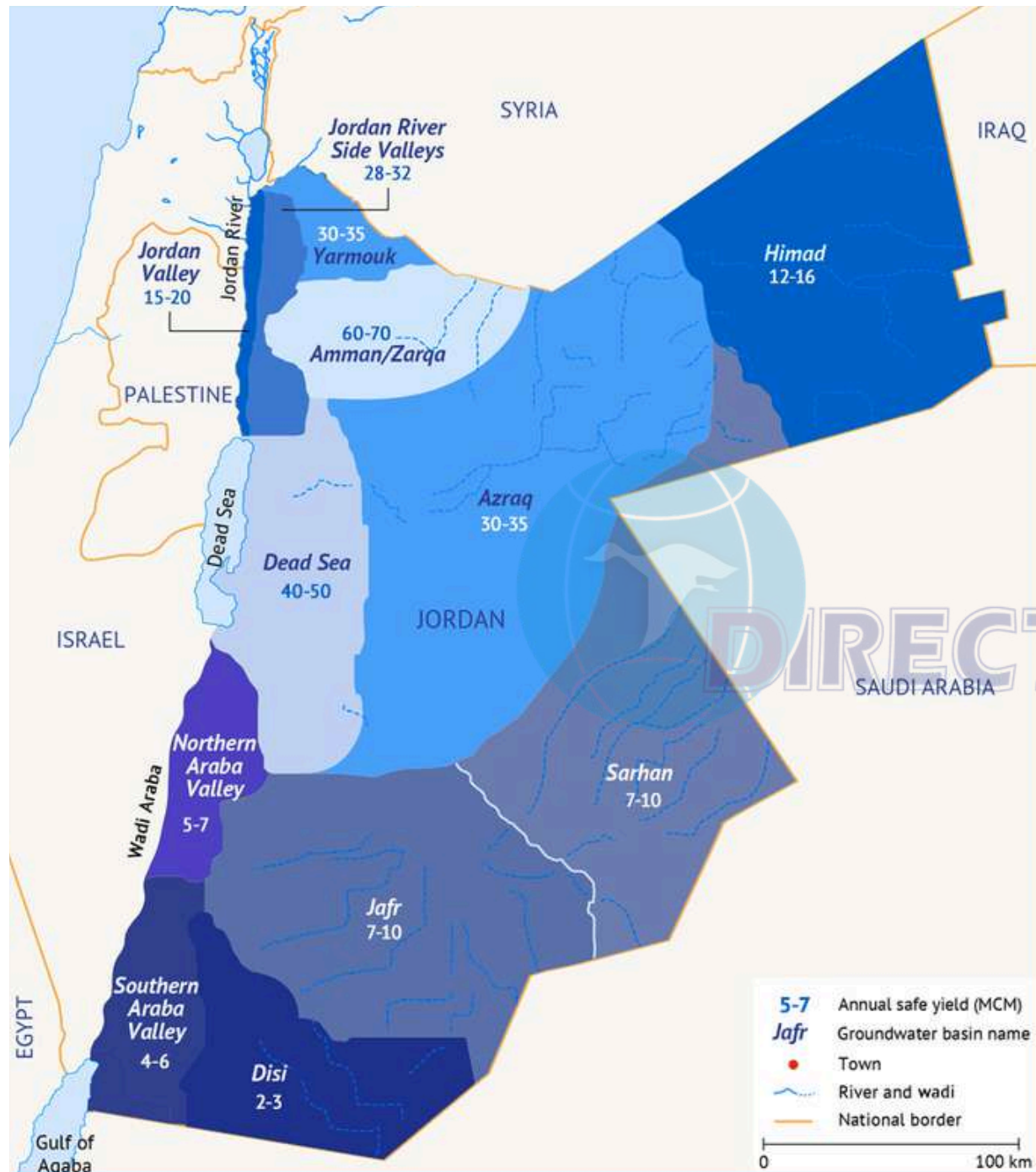
Jordan - liberal state



Israel's Feb 2026 plan to register large West Bank areas as "state property" constitutes de facto annexation, alarming Jordan over potential forced Palestinian displacement. This "land grab" risks igniting the "alternative homeland" scenario, potentially forcing a new refugee wave into Jordan, destabilizing its internal security, and destroying two-state solution prospects.

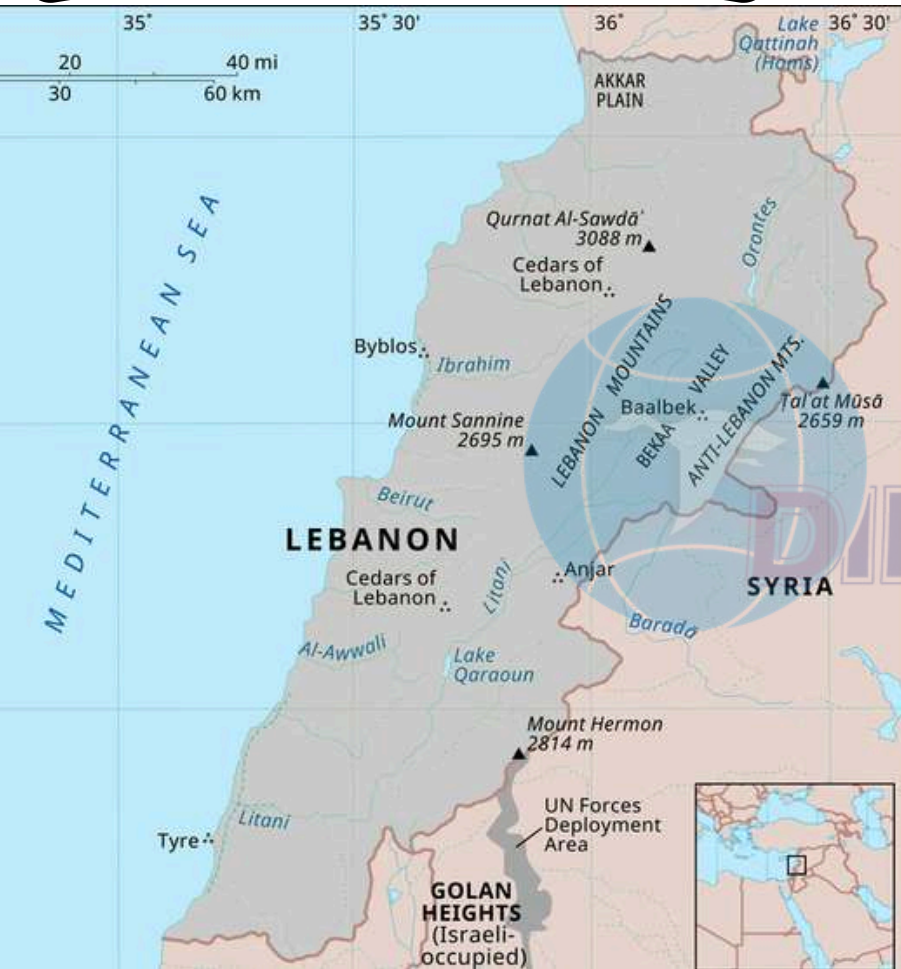
Jordan has 26 km of coastline on the Gulf of Aqaba in the southwest, where Al-'Aqabah, its only port, is located.

Jordan- water poor country



Jordan faces extreme water scarcity, with renewable resources below 100 cubic meters per capita annually, far below the international water poverty threshold. Key sources include the Jordan and Yarmouk Rivers and overexploited groundwater (e.g., Disi aquifer)

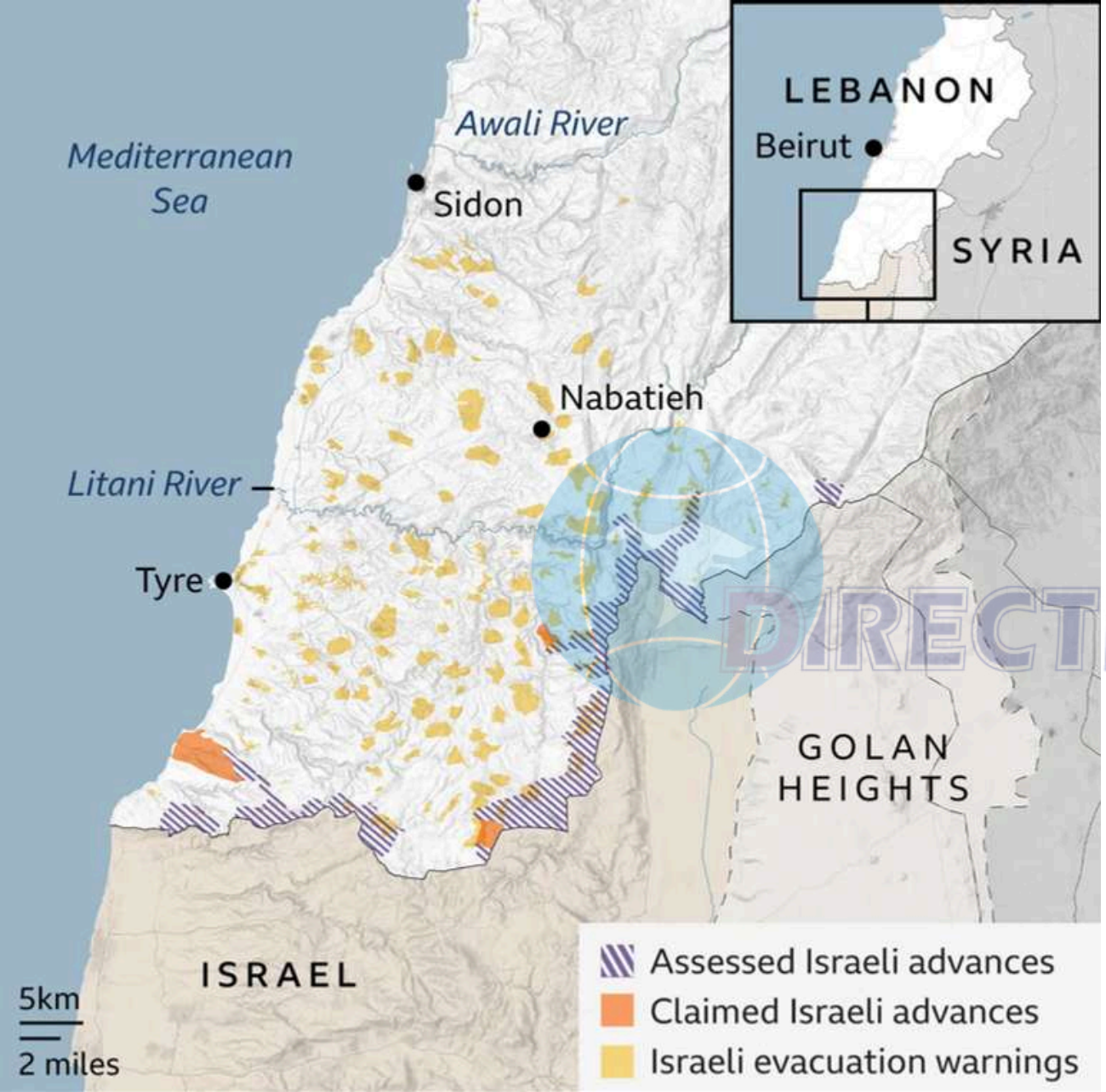
Lebanon



Arable land is scarce- The production of hemp, the source of hashish, has flourished in **Bekaa valley**, however, and the **hashish** is exported illegally through ports along the coast. Already the third largest producer of **cannabis** in the world, Lebanon in 2020 legalized cannabis production in order to boost its economy.

Lebanon was pulled deeper into the war in the Middle East on Tuesday as the Iran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah launched missiles at Israel for a second consecutive day and Israel sent troops into the south and carried out waves of air strikes

The IDF on Tuesday announced that it has slightly expanded its security zone in southern Lebanon, adding to the five positions that it has held there since the November 2024 ceasefire.



What has been agreed in the ceasefire?

Under the terms of the ceasefire, Hezbollah must end its armed presence in the area of southern Lebanon between the Blue Line - the unofficial border between Lebanon and Israel - and the Litani River, about 30km (20 miles) to the north.



Yemen

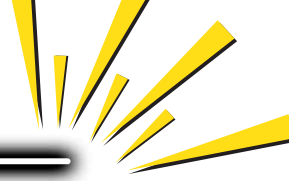


Most of Yemen's northern frontier with Saudi Arabia traverses the great desert of the peninsula, the Rub' al-Khali ("Empty Quarter")

Following a decade of conflict, the country is fractured, with the Iran-aligned **Houthi movement** controlling the north, while UAE-backed separatist forces and the Saudi-backed government fight over southern areas.

The Yemen crisis remains **one of the world's largest humanitarian disasters**, with over 18 million people facing acute food insecurity and a collapsing health system in early 2026.

Operation Truthful Promise



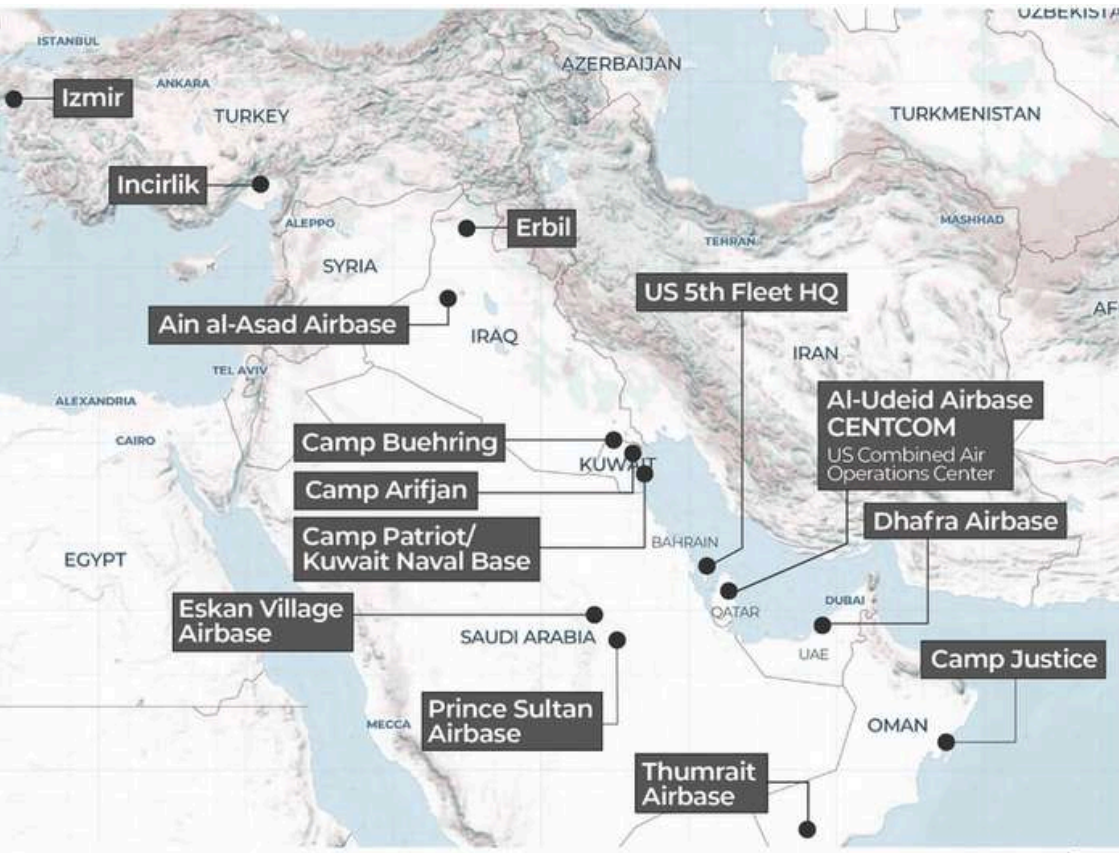
The name True Promise (Persian: Va'de-ye Sadeq) is rooted in the ideological foundations of the Islamic Republic, that Iran will always answer an attack on its soil.

- **Operation True Promise 1 (April 2024)** saw Iran's first direct strike on Israel using about 300 drones and missiles after the Damascus consulate attack. **True Promise 2 (October 2024)** escalated to nearly 200 ballistic missiles following the deaths of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and Hamas political bureau chairman Ismail Haniyeh.
- By **True Promise 3 (June 2025)**, Iran utilised electronic warfare during a twelve-day conflict in response to joint US-Israel strikes, under Operation Midnight Hammer.
- **True Promise 4 (February 2026)** marks a major regional expansion, targeting both Israel and US bases in Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE.



The military strikes, named Operation Roaring Lion by Israel and Operation Epic Fury by the United States, hit over 30 sites across Iran

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has launched "Operation Truthful Promise 4",



- **Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates:** This U.S. air base in Abu Dhabi accounts an attendance of approximately 5,000 U.S. personnel and advanced military equipment.
- **Ali Al-Salem Air Base, Kuwait:** This military base, also known as “The Rock,” consolidates U.S. Air Force operations and is closer to the Iraqi border. Explosions and air-raid sirens were reported in the vicinity, mentioned witnesses.
- **NSA Bahrain:** Also a naval facility, NSA Bahrain has been a critical command centre for regional operations. Several videos made rounds in the internet showing smoke pouring from the base in Manama after a missile strike.
- **Muwaffaq Al-Salti Air Base, Jordan:** Several Iranian missiles struck this military base earlier today. Jordan’s air defences reportedly brought down two missiles in a dogfight.
- **Ain Al-Asad Air Base, Iraq:** Local reports suggested smoke and explosions were witnessed near this base in western Iraq.
- **Erbil Air Base, Iraq:** Considered to be under high alert, it has received several missile strikes by Iran’s army.

Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar: This is the largest U.S. military base in the region, serving as an crucial military headquarter for for U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM). Qatari authorities told they intercepted incoming missiles using anti-missile systems.

Israeli air defenses



Israel's air defence systems

Missile distance range



Missile altitude



WHY TRUMP WANTS TO DESTROY IRAN'S NAVY

While Iran's nuclear and missile programmes have dominated conversations about its military capabilities, the US and its allies in the region have also long considered its naval forces a serious threat because of their ability to disrupt trade and energy supplies from the Persian Gulf region

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT IRAN'S NAVAL FORCES

Iran has two navies

1 Islamic Republic of Iran Navy

Mainly armed with conventional warships. Before Iran was attacked, it had **3 submarines, 8 frigates, 2 corvettes and 22 small submarines**, according to data from the defence intelligence firm Janes. These are designed specifically for operating in the shallow waters of the Persian Gulf

2 Revolutionary Guards

has its own navy focused on operations in the Gulf and along Iran's coastline. **It is equipped with hundreds of smaller, fast vessels**, according to Janes

Core Strategy | Having the ability to lay mines in regional waters. US intelligence assessment released last year says Iran's naval services acquired vessels, including submarines and small boats, that are capable of laying mines and disrupting shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz

Source: NYT, Bloomberg



Iranian warship IRIS Dena on Feb 18, 2026

Drones
Iran possessed at least one drone carrier ship, the **IRIS Shahid Bagheri**

Where ships and energy facilities have been damaged

- Oil or gas tanker
- Energy infrastructure



The **Kurdish issue** is a complex, century-old geopolitical conflict centered on the demand for self-determination, rights, and potential statehood for Kurds, the largest ethnic group without a sovereign state. Fragmented across Turkey, Iraq, Syria, and Iran after World War I, Kurds have faced marginalization and persecution, leading to persistent armed conflicts.



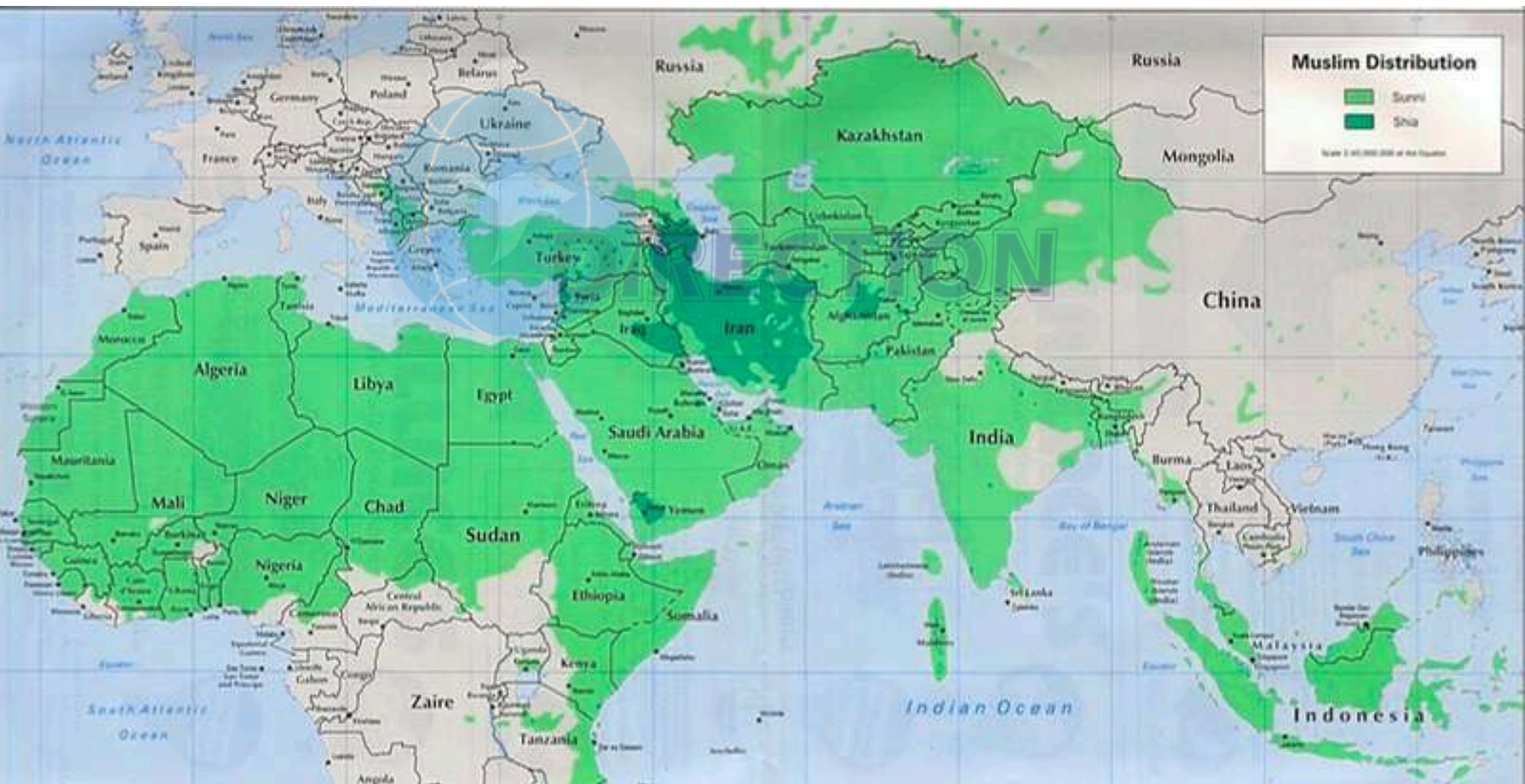
Turkey: The conflict is primarily between the Turkish state and the PKK (Kurdistan Workers' Party), which has waged a campaign for autonomy since 1984. It is a major source of instability

Iraq: Following the 2003 invasion, Iraqi Kurds established an autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), but face ongoing disputes over territory and oil revenue with the central Baghdad government

Syria: The Syrian Civil War allowed Kurdish forces (YPG/SDF) to establish de facto autonomy in northern Syria, which has fueled security concerns for Turkey.

Iran: Kurdish groups in Iran have historically demanded rights and autonomy, resulting in periodic revolts and repression.

Two countries that compete for the leadership of Islam, **Sunni- Saudi Arabia** and **Shia- Iran**, have used the sectarian divide to further their ambitions



1.6 BILLION MUSLIMS IN THE WORLD

Followers of the 2nd largest religion

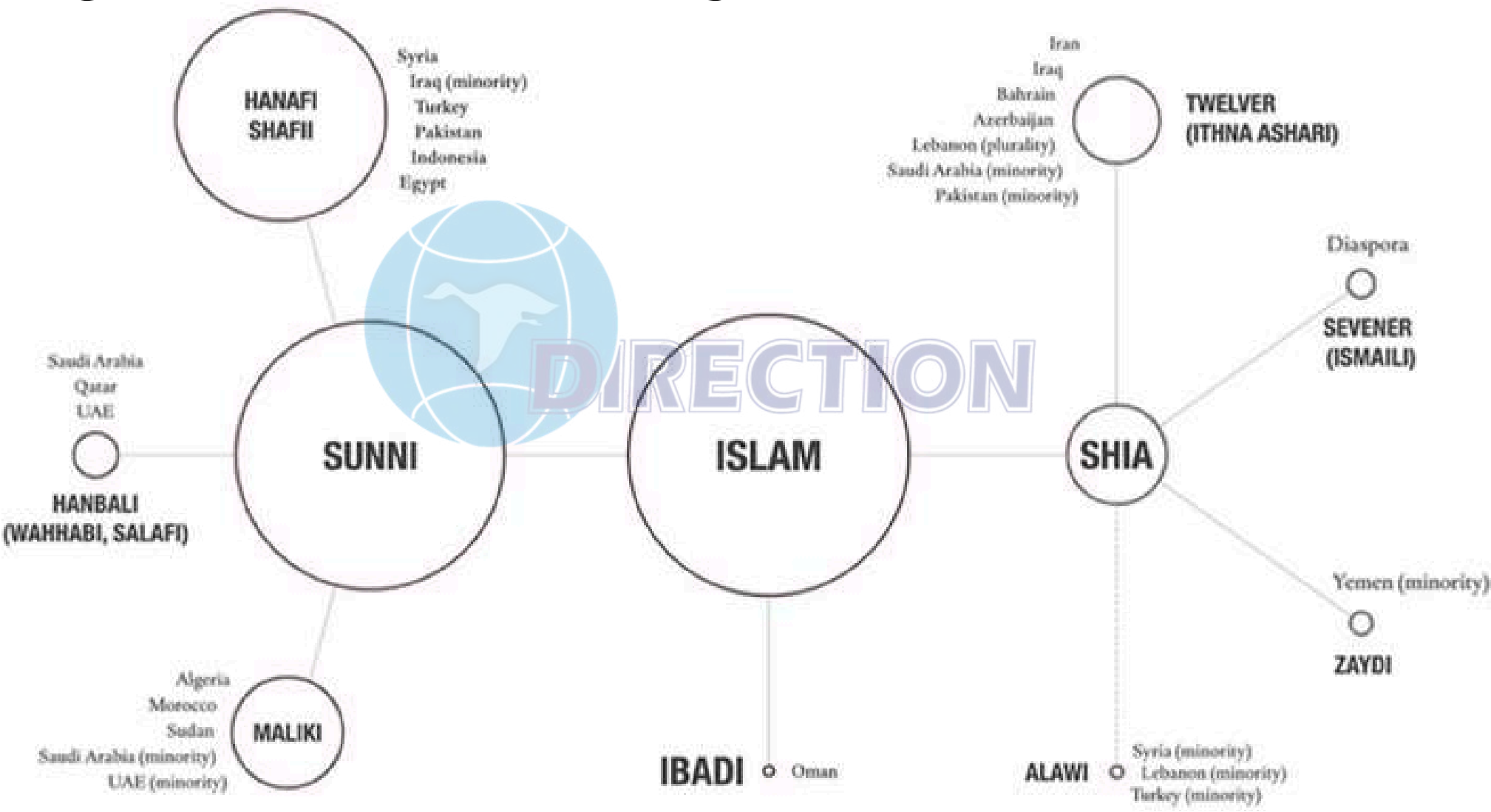
85% SUNNI



15% SHIA

Sunnis favored elected leadership (caliphs), while Shias believed in leadership via his bloodline, starting with Ali. Both share core beliefs in the Quran and the five pillars, but differ in jurisprudence, religious authority, and some practices

Branches of Islam



Iran

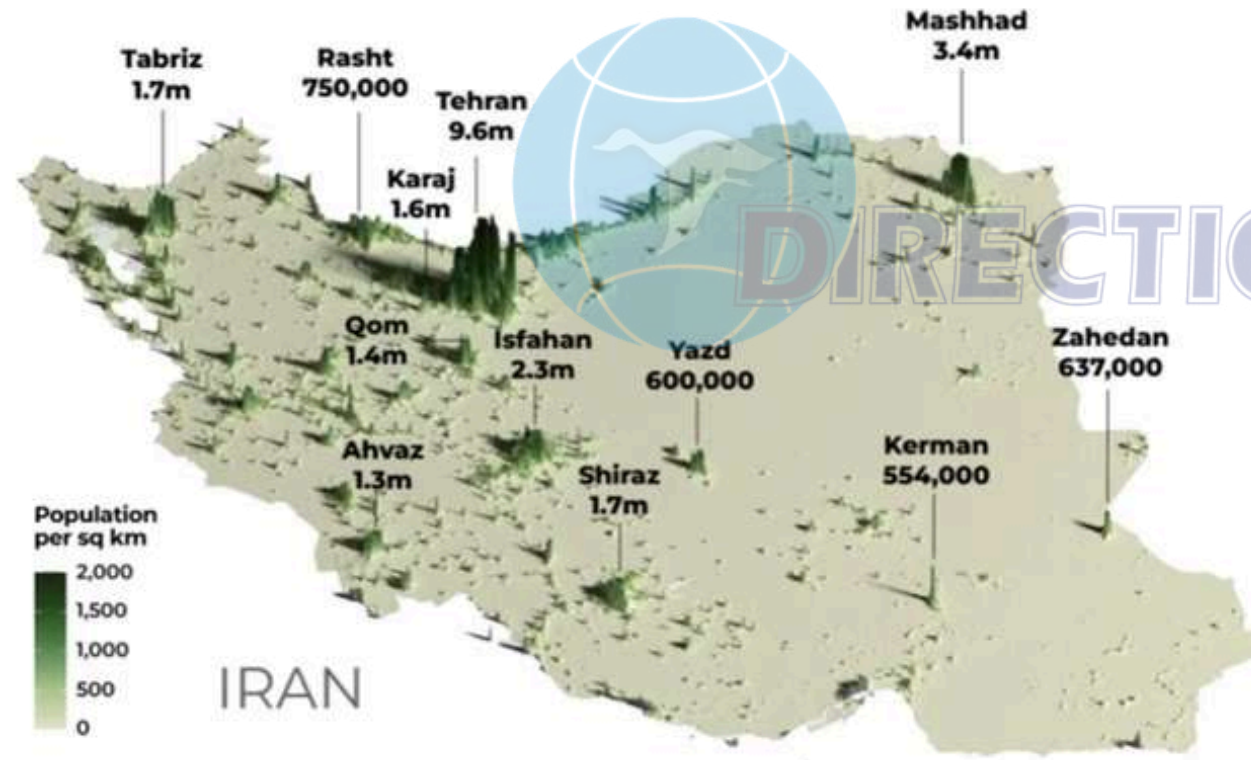


Iran is bounded to the north by Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, and the Caspian Sea, to the east by Pakistan and Afghanistan, to the south by the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, and to the west by Turkey and Iraq. Iran also controls about a dozen islands in the Persian Gulf. About one-third of its 4,770-mile (7,680-km) boundary is seacoast.

What are Iran's ethnicities?

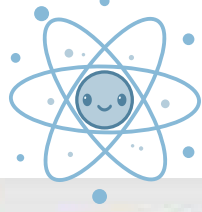
Iran's main population centres

With a population of about 92 million, Iran is the world's 17th-most populous country. Most of its people live in the western half, with Tehran, Mashhad and Isfahan the three largest cities.



Iran is a highly diverse country, both ethnically and culturally. Persians make up approximately 61 percent of the population, while significant minority groups include Azerbaijanis (16 percent), Kurds (10 percent) and others, such as Lurs (6 percent), Arabs (2 percent), Baloch (2 percent) and Turkic groups (2 percent).

Iranian Nuclear Sites



Arak - Heavy water reactor and production plant

Natanz - Uranium enrichment plant

Bushehr - Nuclear power station

Isfahan - Uranium conversion plant

Parchin - Military site

Qom - Uranium enrichment plant

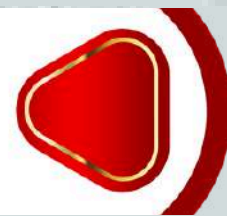
Gachin - Uranium mine

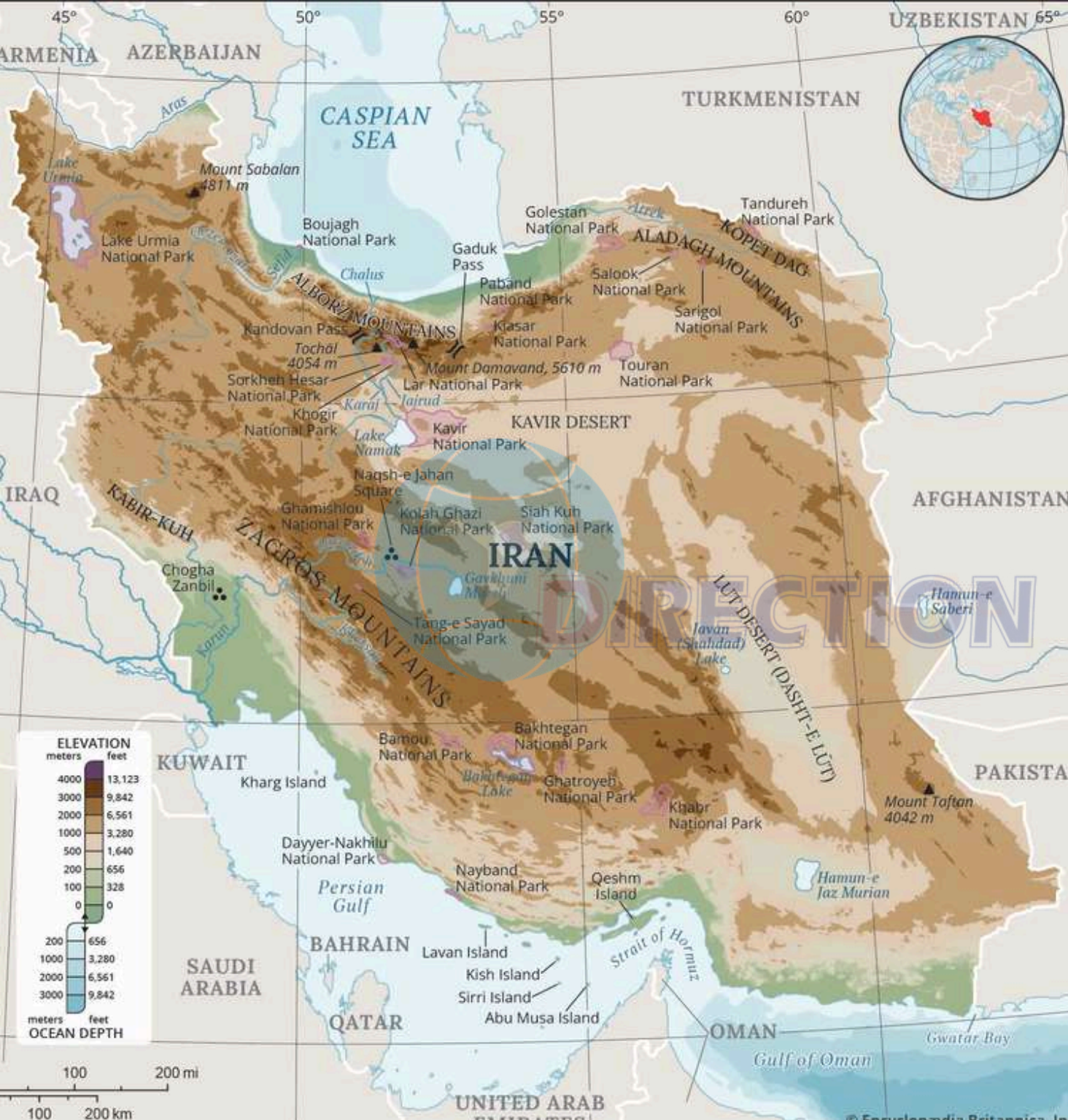
Iranian Military Sites





Iranian Oil Infrastructure

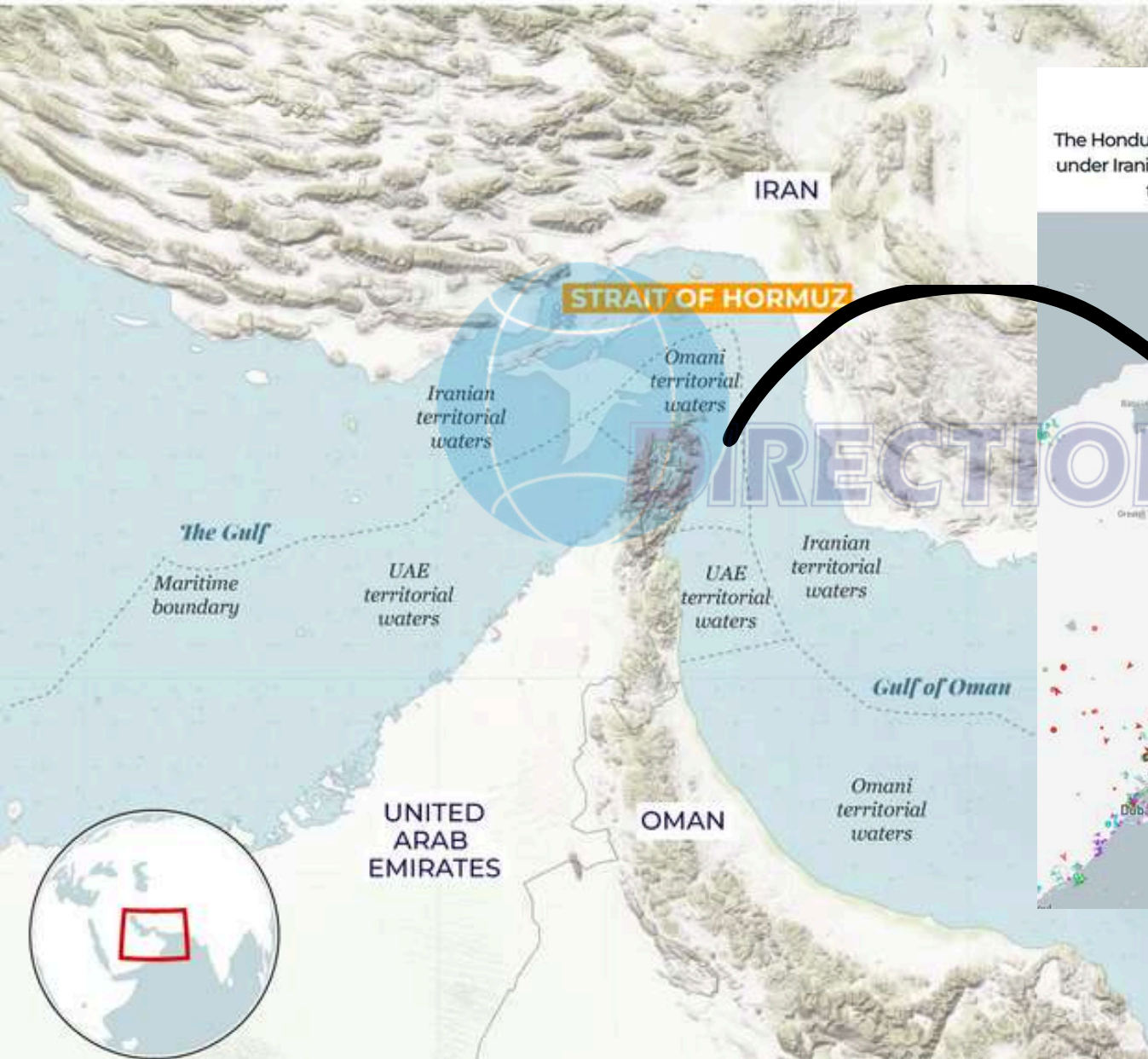




Iran's vast, arid landscape is dominated by two primary, massive deserts—the Dasht-e Lut and Dasht-e Kavir—covering over one-third of the country. These deserts feature extreme temperatures, expansive sand dunes, salt lakes, and unique geological formations like the Kaluts.

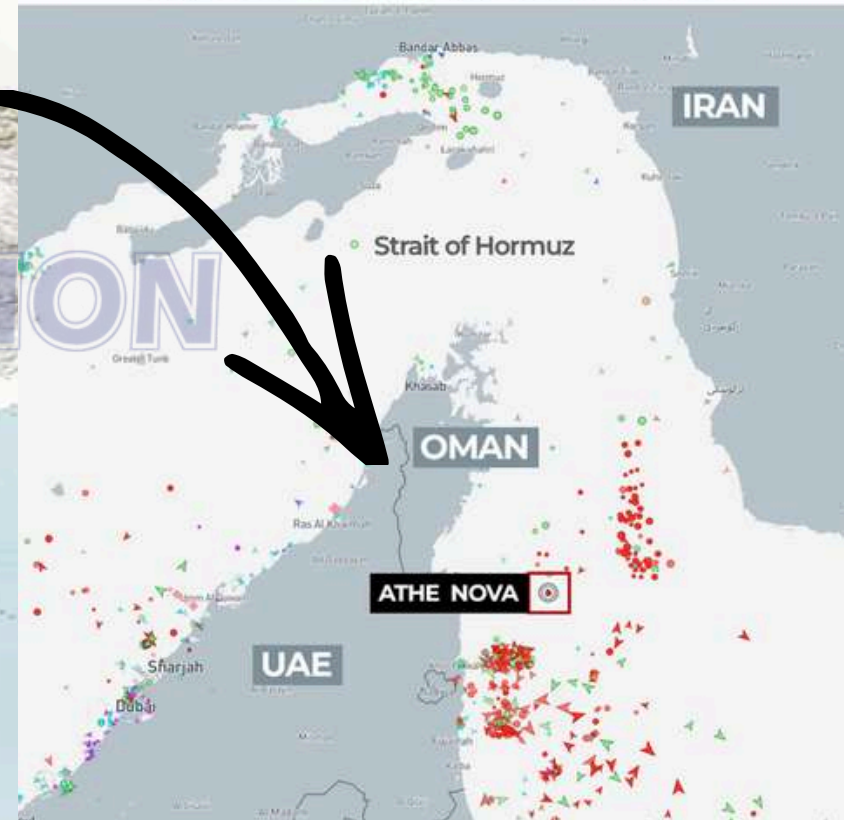
Strait of Hormuz

The 39km (24-mile) Strait of Hormuz is the world's most critical oil chokepoint, linking the Gulf to the Gulf of Oman. It is the only route to the open ocean for Gulf-based exporters and handles about 20 percent of global oil and one-third of the world's LNG.



Iran attacks oil tanker

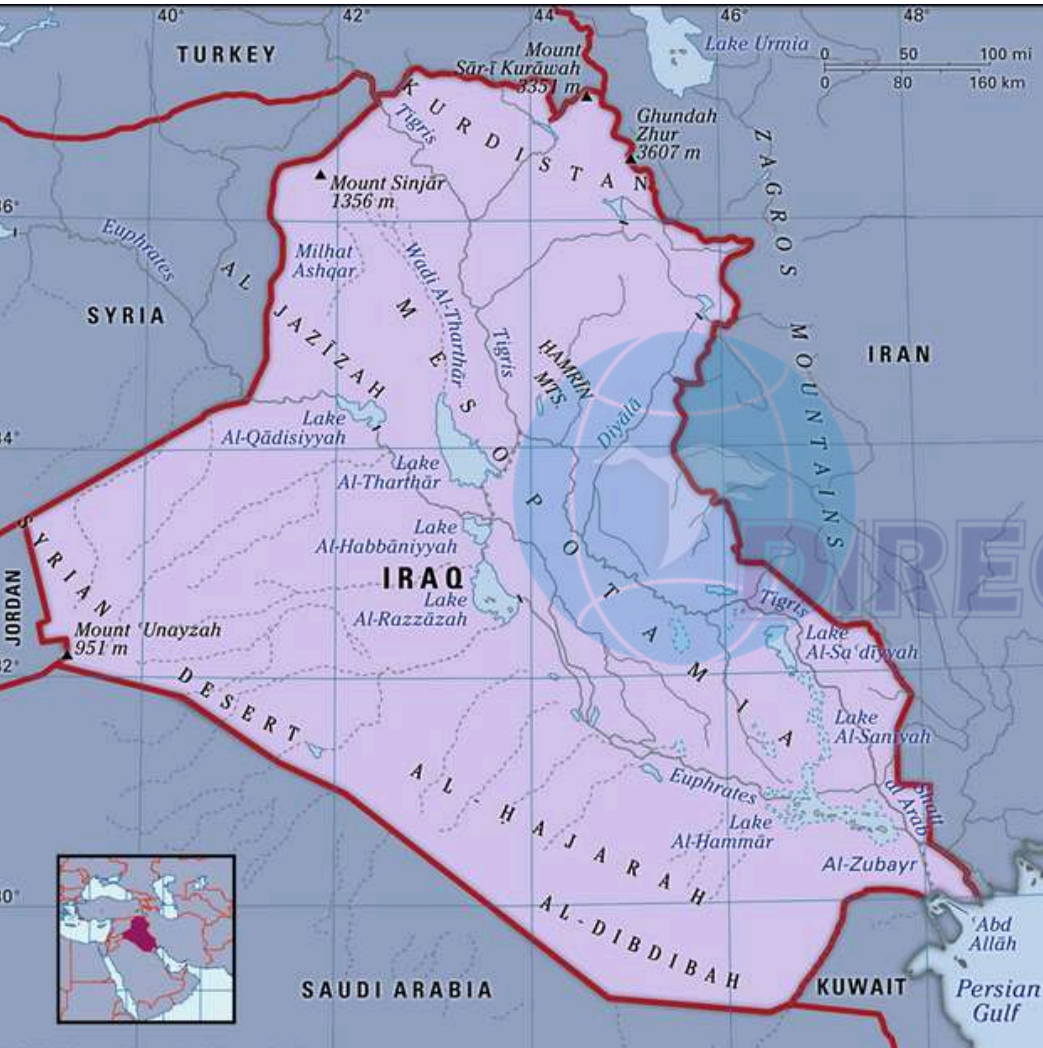
The Honduran-flagged oil tanker *Athe Nova*, headed to Khor Fakkan, UAE, came under Iranian fire in the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, setting it ablaze. This strike targeted fuel transport rather than a stationary land facility.

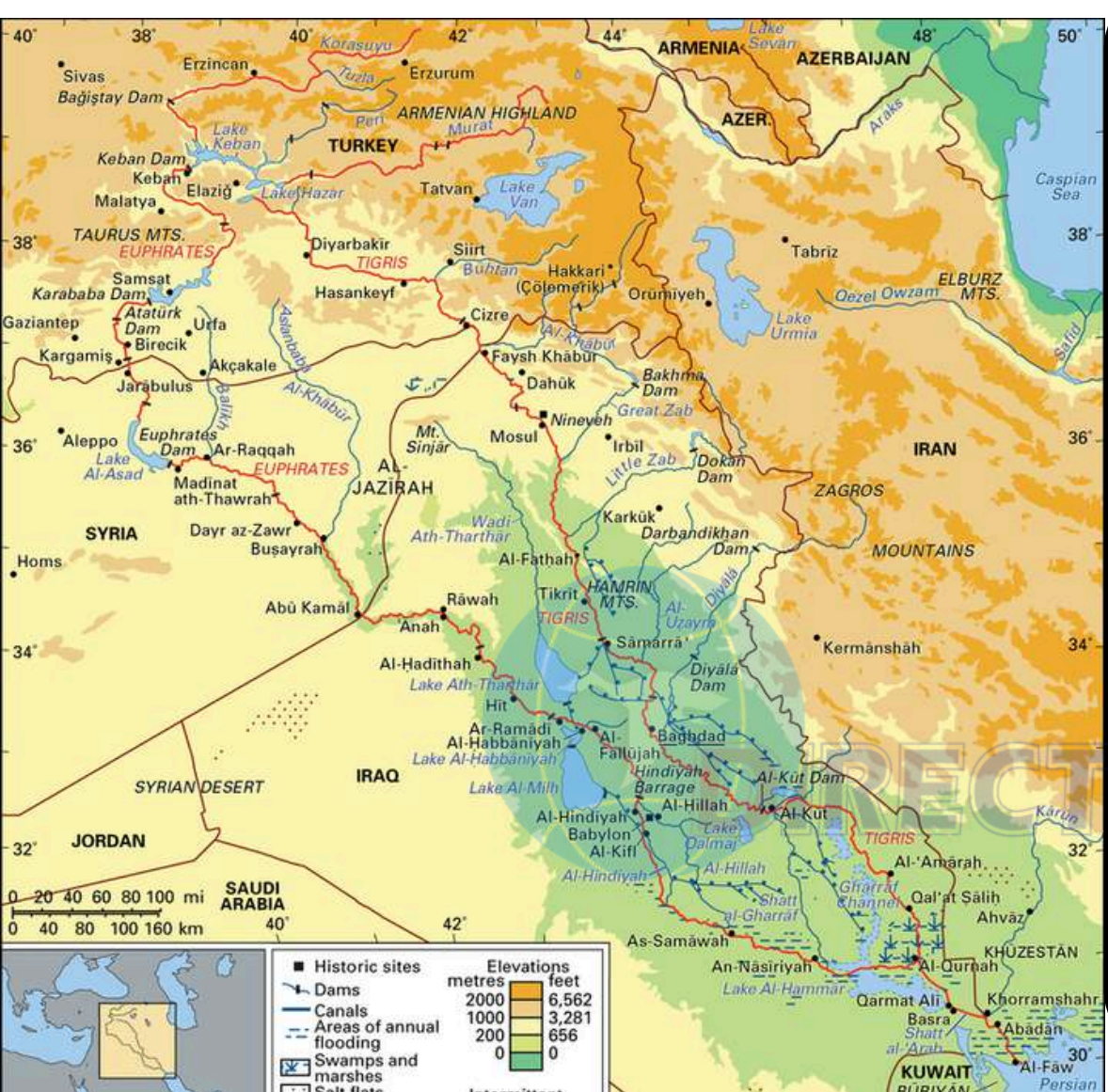


Iraq

Iraq's topography can be divided into four physiographic regions:

- the alluvial plains of the central and southeastern parts of the country
- Al-Jazīrah (Arabic: “the Island”), an upland region in the north between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers
- deserts in the west and south; and
- the highlands in the northeast.





Tigris-Euphrates river system, great river system of southwestern Asia. It comprises the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which follow roughly parallel courses through the heart of the Middle East.

The lower portion of the region that they define, known as Mesopotamia (Greek: “Land Between the Rivers”), was one of the cradles of civilization.

Iraq's resources are underdeveloped



Iraq is an extremely resource-rich nation, holding the world's fifth-largest proved crude oil reserves (approx. 145 billion barrels) and vast natural gas deposits, which dominate its economy, contributing ~90% of government revenue. The country also possesses significant mineral wealth, including sulfur, phosphates, and agricultural potential along the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Oilfields of Arabian-Iranian Basin



Major Oil Fields in Iraq

Rumaila: The largest, producing about one-third of Iraq's total oil.

West Qurna (1 & 2): Massive, multi-phase, high-production fields.

Majnoon: A major, productive field in southern Iraq.

Kirkuk: One of the earliest and largest fields in northern Iraq.

Eridu: A significant recent discovery

Major Oil Fields in Iran

Ahvaz Field: One of the largest onshore fields in the world, producing roughly 700,000–800,000 barrels per day.

Marun Field: Located in Khuzestan, it is a massive field containing approximately 22 billion barrels of recoverable oil.

Gachsaran: A major producer in the Zagros Basin.

Aghajari: Another key, high-producing field.

Esfandiar: A major field with significant reserves.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)



The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a political and economic alliance of six Middle Eastern countries: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman. It was established in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in May 1981 to achieve unity based on common objectives and similar Arab and Islamic political and cultural identities. The council presidency rotates annually.

established in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in May 1981.

UAE



United Arab Emirates, federation of seven emirates along the eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Abu Dhabi, its largest emirate, is known for its oil wealth, and the emirate of Dubai serves as an international hub for business, finance, and travel.

Border Disputes



Border disputes

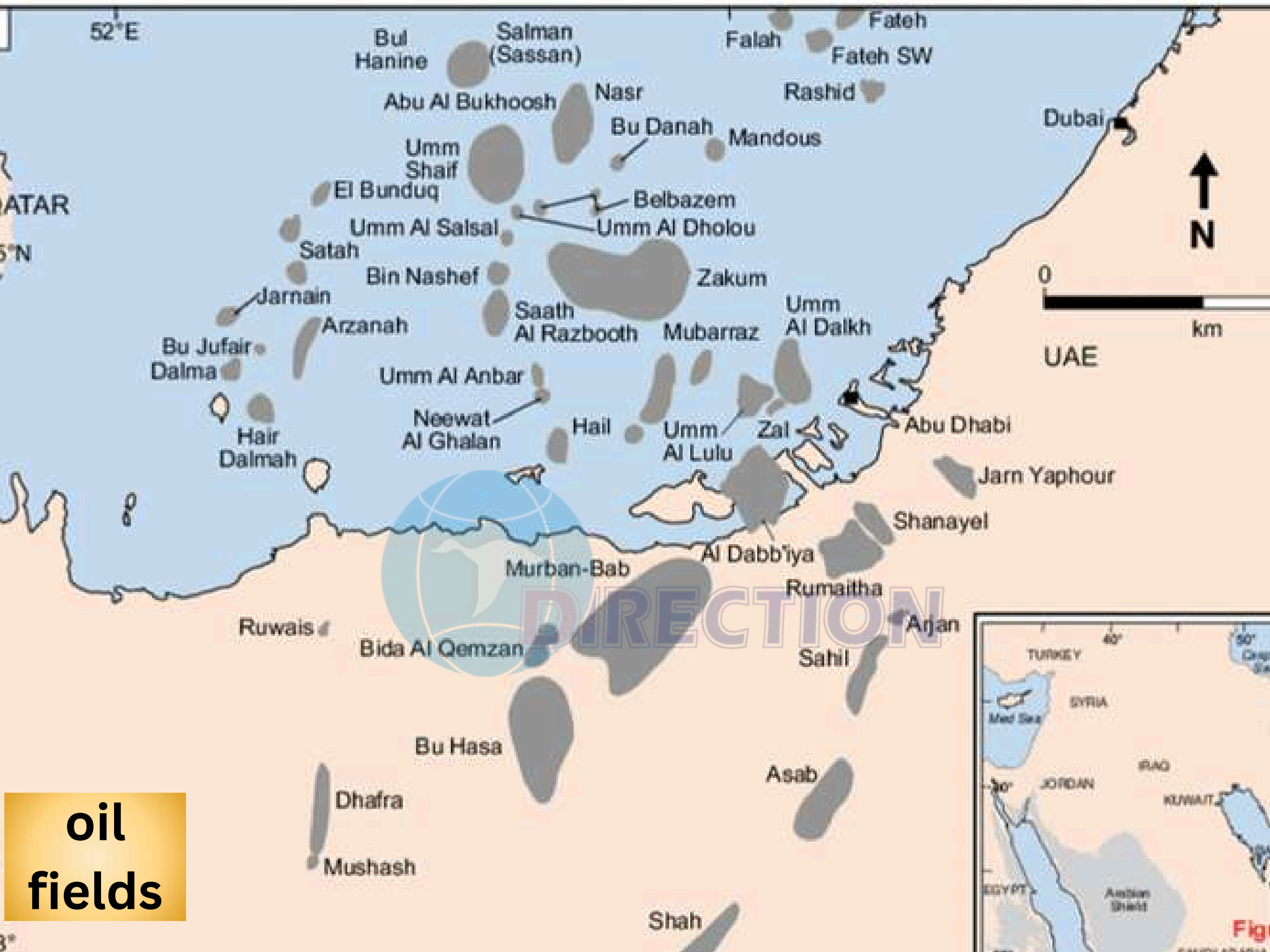
- 1** with Saudi Arabia
- 2** with Oman
- 3** with Iran



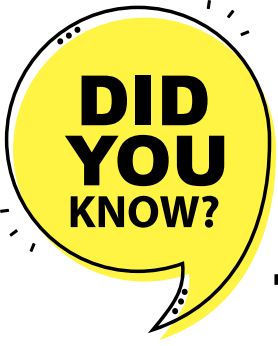
Saudi Arabia dropped its claim to the Buraimi oasis region

The border with Oman Musandam Peninsula also remains officially unsettled

with Iran over three islands in the Persian Gulf – Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunb.



**oil
fields**



The UAE's economy is fundamentally supported by vast oil and natural gas reserves, ranking among the top ten worldwide, with over 90% located in Abu Dhabi. Beyond hydrocarbons, the UAE leverages significant solar energy potential, maritime resources, and mineral deposits like iron and copper, while rapidly diversifying into technology, tourism, and manufacturing.

Saudi Arabia



The country occupies about four-fifths of the Arabian Peninsula. It is bordered by Jordan, Iraq, and Kuwait to the north; by the Persian Gulf, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman to the east; by a portion of Oman to the southeast; by Yemen to the south and southwest; and by the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba to the west.

The **Rub' al-Khali** is the largest area of continuous sand in the world. It occupies more than one-fourth of Saudi Arabia's total area



Najd, region, central Saudi Arabia, comprising a mainly rocky plateau sloping eastward from the mountains of the Hejaz.

The sand plain of **Rakbah** unrolls south of the Kishb Lava Field, which is southeast of Medina. It is the traditional border area between the Hejaz and Najd.

Jabal Al Lawz, located in Saudi Arabia's Tabuk province, is called the "Almond Mountain" because of the numerous wild almond trees that grow on its slopes

In December 2025, Saudi Arabia experienced rare and heavy snowfall, particularly in the northern regions of Tabuk, Al-Jawf, and near the Trojena highlands, where temperatures dropped to -4°C . This unusual event, partly driven by a deep low-pressure system, covered desert landscapes and mountains in white, with, for example, the Al-Jawf region seeing its first-ever, and then recurring, snowfall

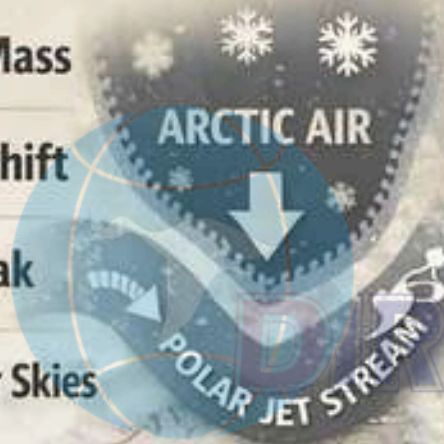


Saudi Arabia Snowfall

Temperatures Drop to -4°C in Desert Regions

What Caused It?

-  Cold Siberian Air Mass
-  Polar Jet Stream Shift
-  Rare Arctic Outbreak
-  Strong Winds & Clear Skies



Where to See It?



Tabuk

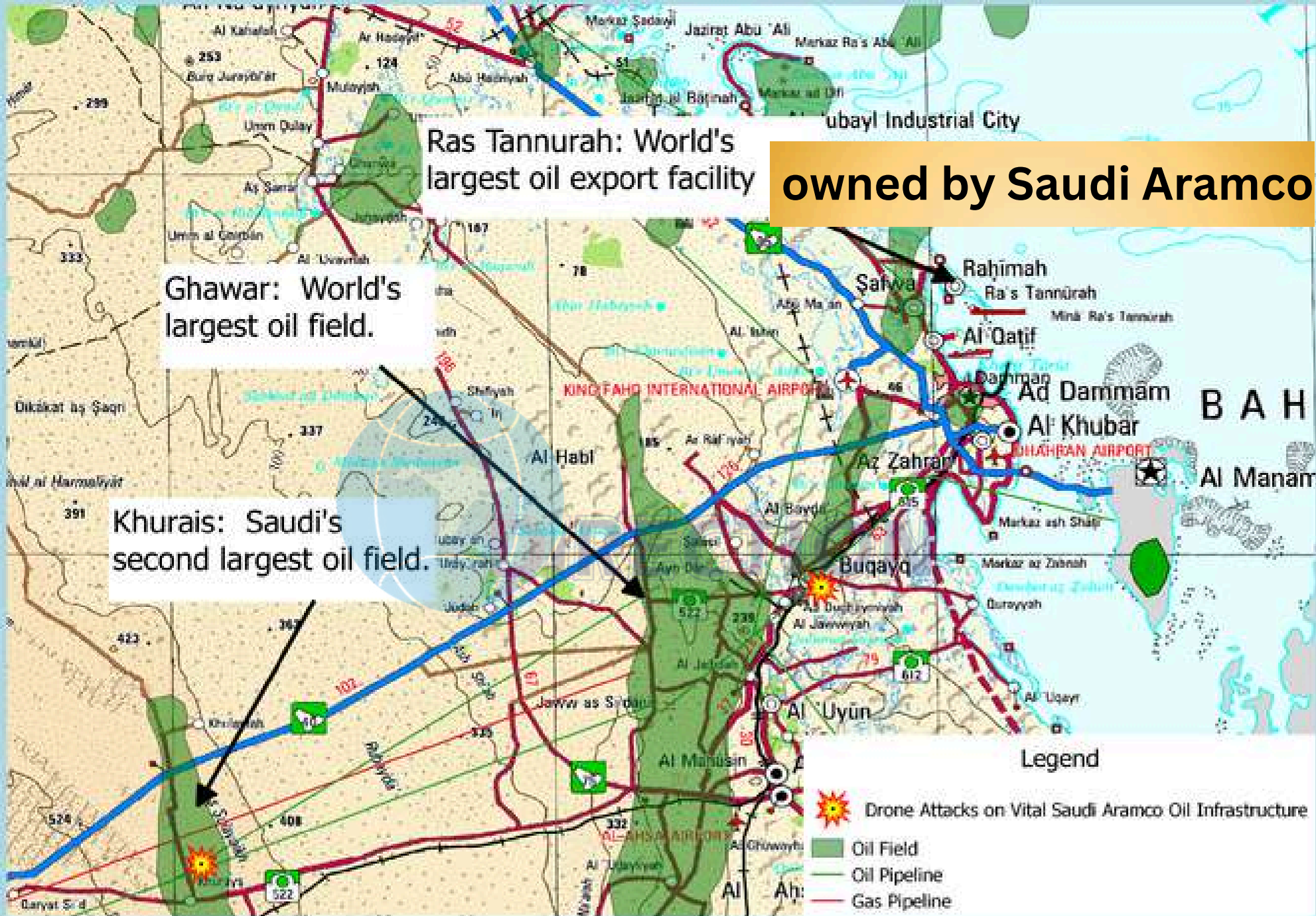


Al-Jawf



Turaif

Rare snowfall has blanketed parts of Saudi Arabia as temperatures fell to -4°C



Ras Tannurah: World's largest oil export facility

owned by Saudi Aramco

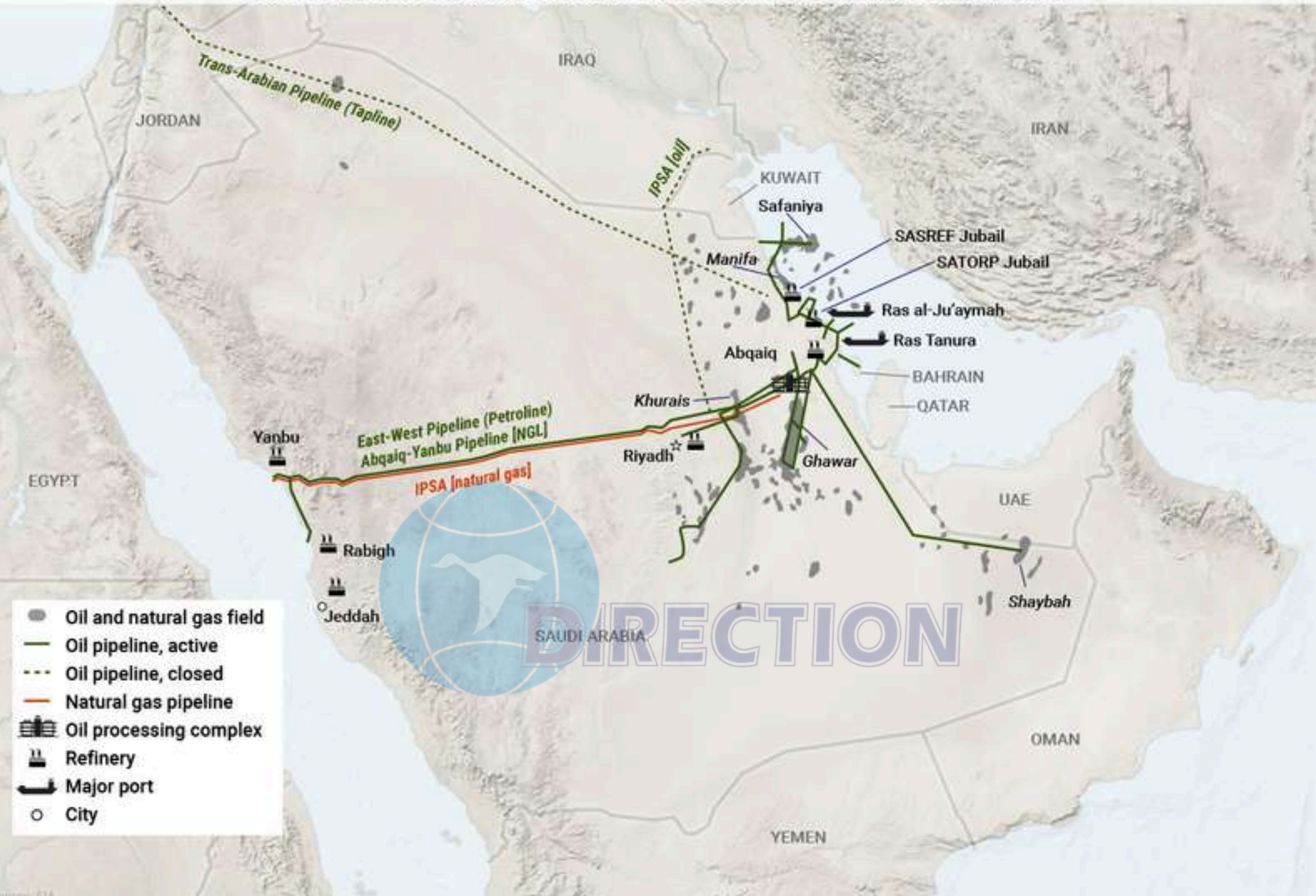
Ghawar: World's largest oil field.

Khurais: Saudi's second largest oil field.

Legend

- Drone Attacks on Vital Saudi Aramco Oil Infrastructure
- Oil Field
- Oil Pipeline
- Gas Pipeline

SAUDI ARABIA MAJOR OIL AND NATURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE



- Oil and natural gas field
- Oil pipeline, active
- - - Oil pipeline, closed
- Natural gas pipeline
- 🏭 Oil processing complex
- 🏭 Refinery
- 🚢 Major port
- City

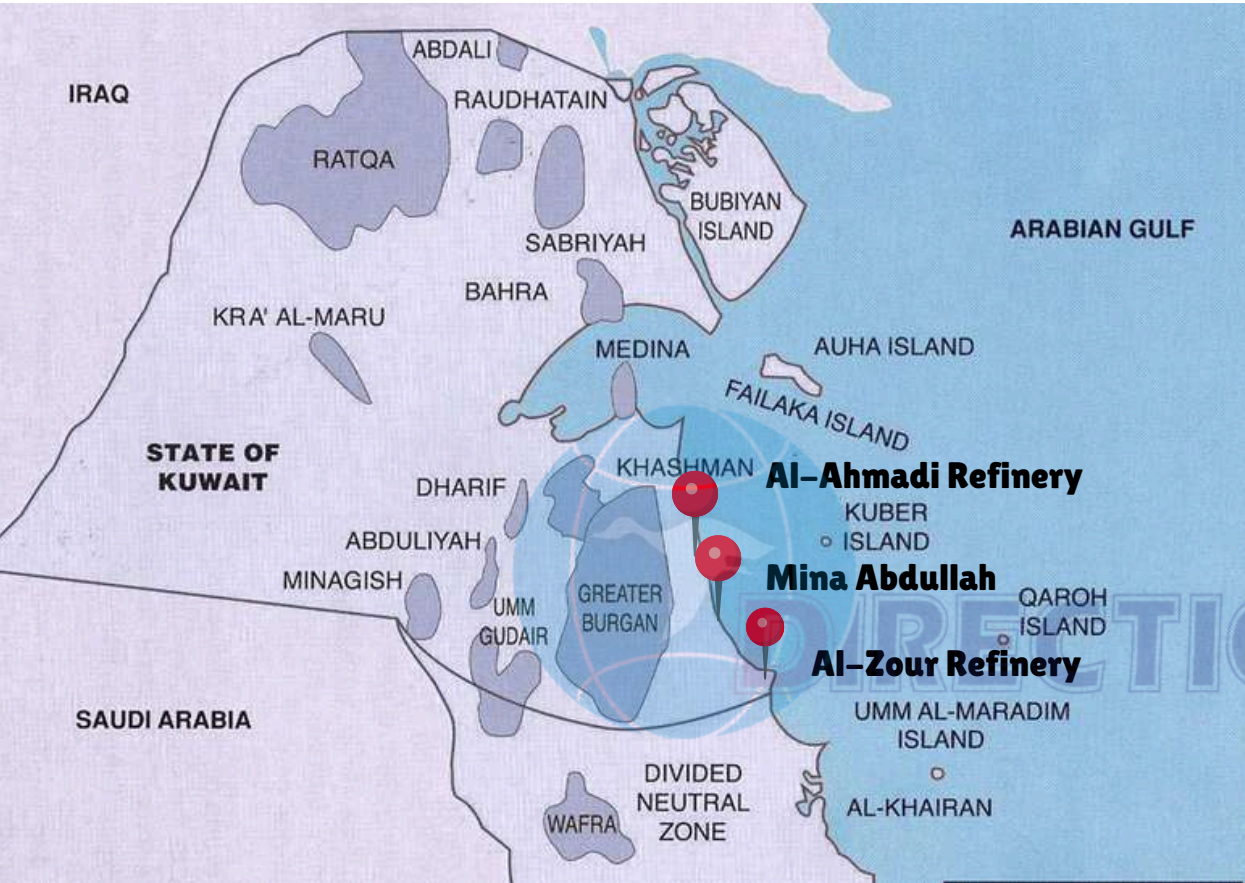
Kuwait



**A drone strike targeted
Kuwait International
Airport & Ali Al-Salem Air
Base**

**A small emirate
nestled between Iraq
and Saudi Arabia,
Kuwait is situated in
a section of one of
the driest, least-
hospitable deserts
on Earth. Its shore,
however, includes
Kuwait Bay, a deep
harbour on the
Persian Gulf.**

Kuwait's oil infrastructure is dominated by the massive Burgan Field (second largest globally)




debris fell at the Al-Ahmadi Refinery early Monday during Iranian missile and drone attacks

three main operational refineries—Mina Al-Ahmadi, Mina Abdullah, and the new Al Zour complex. Together, these facilities, enhanced by the Clean Fuels Project, produce high-quality, low-sulfur products, with Al Zour being one of the largest in the Middle East

Bahrain



small Arab state situated in a bay on the southwestern coast of the Persian Gulf. It is an archipelago consisting of Bahrain Island and some 30 smaller islands.



**DID YOU
KNOW?**



Bahrain is a strategically vital, highly diversified, post-oil economy in the Persian Gulf. As a major, non-NATO ally and home to the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet, it holds significant geopolitical weight. Its economy, centered on financial services, manufacturing (especially aluminum), and tourism, depends heavily on support from Saudi Arabia

U.S. NAVY GLOBAL PRESENCE



U.S. NAVY BATTLE FORCE

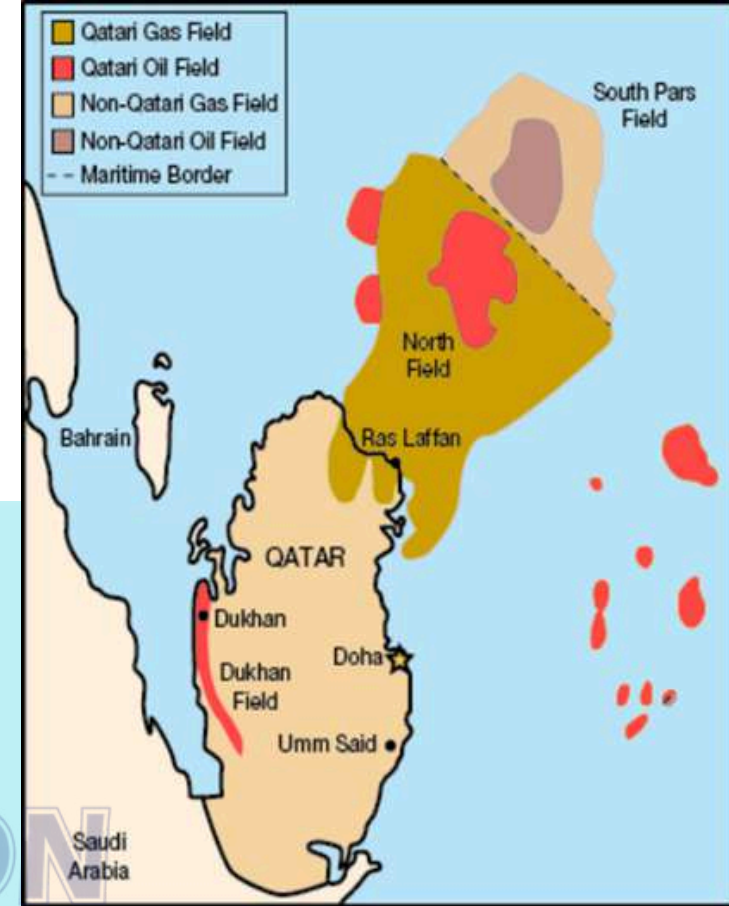
The U.S. Navy includes nearly 300 ships and thousands of aircraft. On any given day, 100 ships and submarines are deployed overseas or sailing oceans far and near as the world's most advanced naval aircraft patrol the skies above.

Qatar- LNG powerhouse



independent emirate on the west coast of the Persian Gulf. The small country has tremendous influence as a trusted mediator between rivals in the region and as one of the world's **largest exporters of natural gas.**

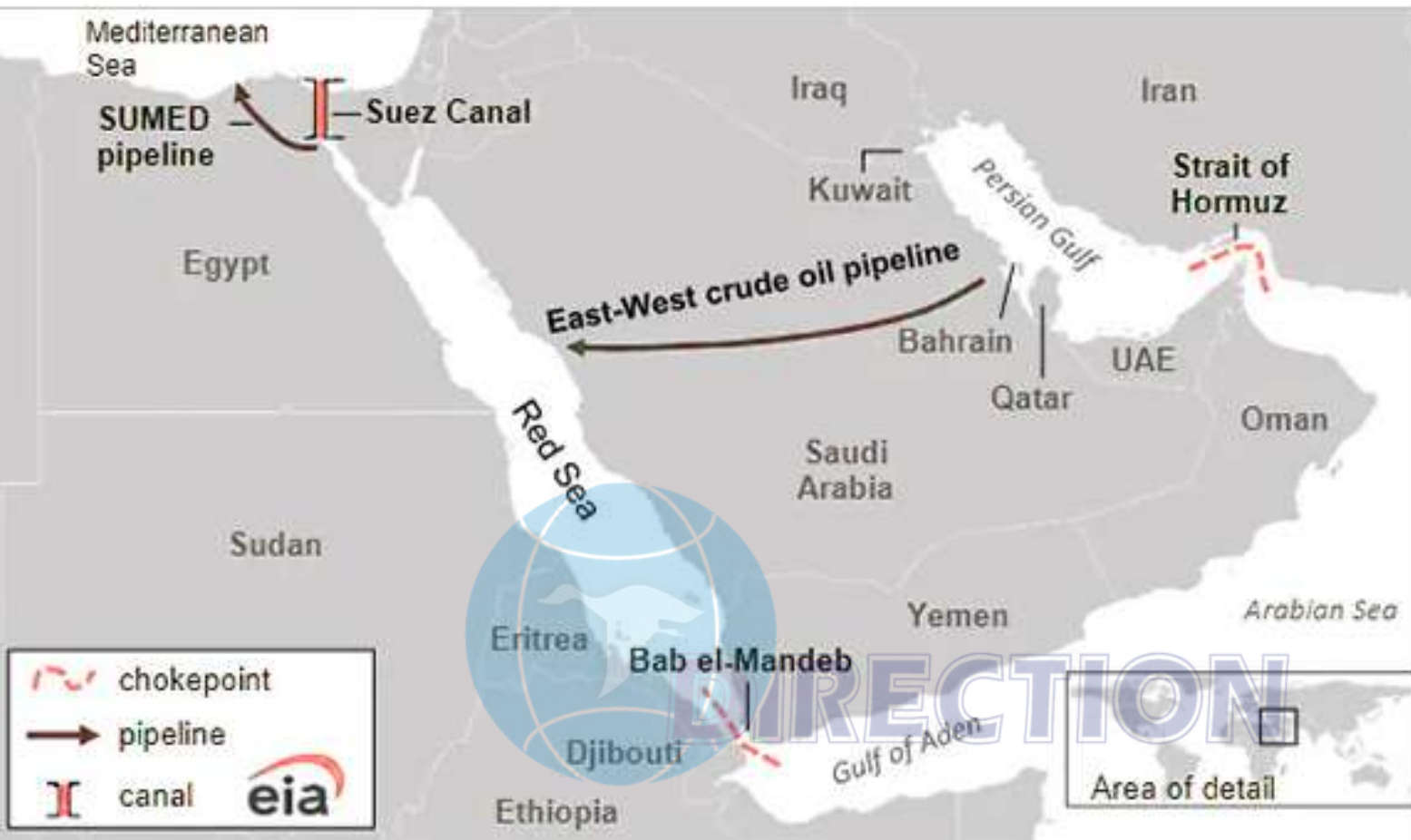
Qatar is a premier global LNG powerhouse, consistently ranking among the top three exporters alongside the US and Australia, controlling roughly 20% of the global market. Centered on the massive North Field and the Ras Laffan industrial city, Qatar holds immense, low-cost production capacity



Qatar Braces for Lengthy Shutdown at Ras Laffan, Begins Leasing Idle LNG Tankers



country would not be able to restart LNG production at its shuttered Ras Laffan Industrial complex until the conflict raging in the Middle East ends completely.



Geopolitical shocks in West Asia align energy markets—which often operate independently based on regional supply-demand fundamentals—by creating simultaneous, high-magnitude risks to critical transit chokepoints and major production hubs

Because a significant portion of global seaborne oil (approx. 30%) and LNG (approx. 20%) originates in or passes through the Persian Gulf, shocks in this region force a rapid, synchronized price surge across global energy markets, particularly impacting oil, natural gas, and refined products simultaneously.

Oman- absolute monarchy and a neutral mediator



Oman is strategically crucial due to its position on the Strait of Hormuz, controlling 1/3 of the world's seaborne oil. It acts as a neutral diplomatic mediator in the Middle East. Economically, it is transitioning from oil dependency (57.6% of exports) to a diversified economy, focusing on tourism, logistics, and green energy under Vision 2040.

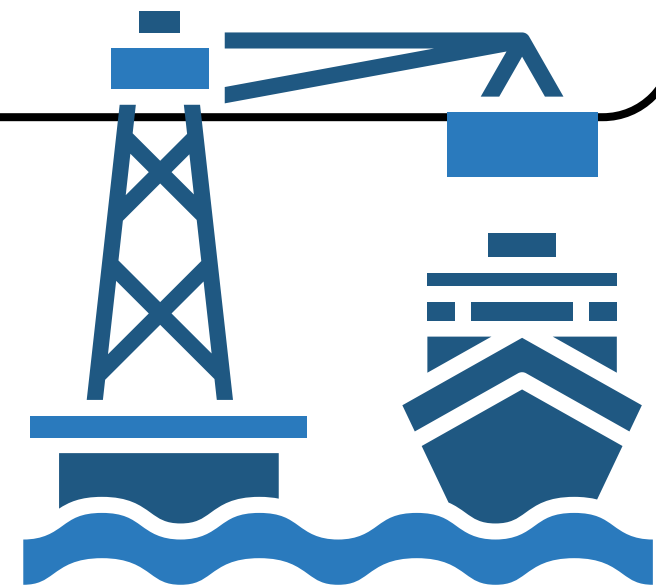
Oman's primary natural resources are centered on hydrocarbon wealth



MORE INFO



- Major/Industrial: Port of Salalah, Port of Sohar, Port of Duqm
- Commercial/Other: Port Sultan Qaboos (Muttrah), Port of Khasab,



Türkiye



Turkey is rich in industrial minerals, holding roughly two-thirds of the world's borate reserves and ranking first in chromium ore and marble production. It has significant lignite coal deposits, large rare earth element reserves, and developing natural gas fields in the Black Sea. The economy is supported by mining, agriculture (cotton, tobacco), and strategic energy transit.

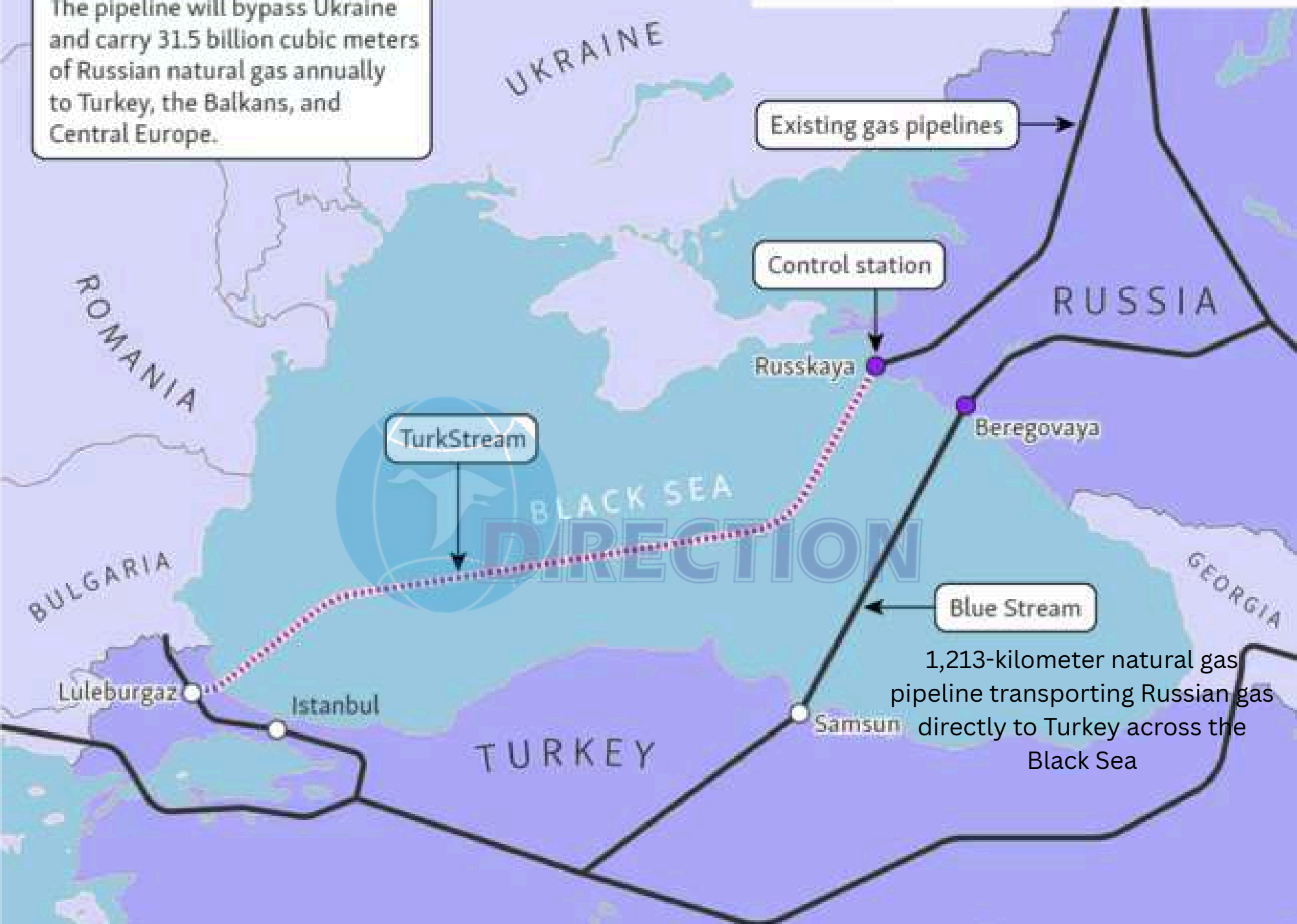
Pipelines



The Trans-Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline 1,850 kilometers-long is a natural gas pipeline in Turkey. It is the central part of the Southern Gas Corridor, which connects the giant Shah Deniz gas field in Azerbaijan to Europe through the South Caucasus Pipeline and the Trans Adriatic Pipeline.

TURKSTREAM GAS PIPELINE

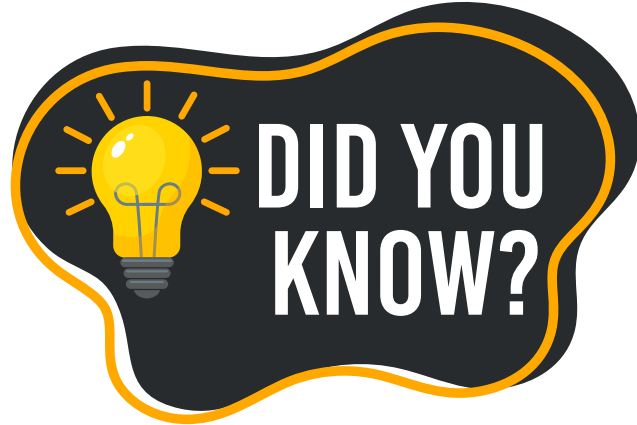
The pipeline will bypass Ukraine and carry 31.5 billion cubic meters of Russian natural gas annually to Turkey, the Balkans, and Central Europe.



PROPOSED ISRAEL-TURKEY SUBSEA PIPELINE

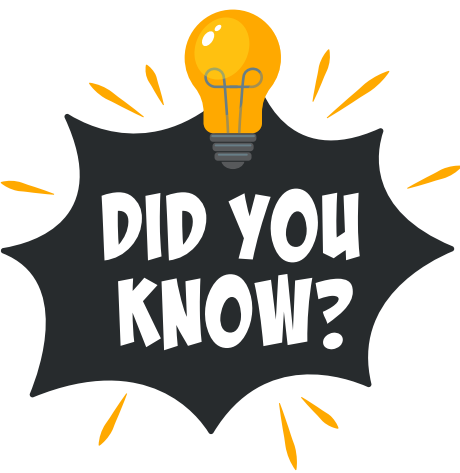


Deteriorating relations between Turkey and Israel, particularly after the Gaza conflict in 2023–2024 and Turkey's subsequent total halt of trade with Israel, have made the project diplomatically unfeasible.



**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Deteriorating relations between Turkey and Israel are primarily driven by **the Gaza war, with Turkey condemning Israel's military actions as "genocide" and implementing a **total trade ban**. Other key factors include President Erdoğan's **support for Hamas**, deep ideological differences, competition for regional influence in **Syria**, and domestic political pressure on Erdoğan to take a **harder stance**.**



Turkey is a highly urbanized country, with over 77% of its population living in cities. The most important, highly populated cities are Istanbul (approx. 15.8 million), the economic hub; Ankara (5.4 million), the capital; and Izmir (3.1 million), a major Aegean port. Other key cities include Bursa (2.1 million), Antalya, and Adana

FACTS



Turkey has been a critical member of NATO since February 18, 1952, and holds the alliance's second-largest army. It hosts NATO's Allied Land Command headquarters and crucial strategic assets, including the Incirlik and Konya Airbases, serving as a key, though sometimes complicated, ally





Mediterranean Sea

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Kyrenia

Nicosia

Famagusta

CYPRUS

Republic of Cyprus

Larnaca

Paphos

Limassol

- UN buffer zone
- British Sovereign Base Areas

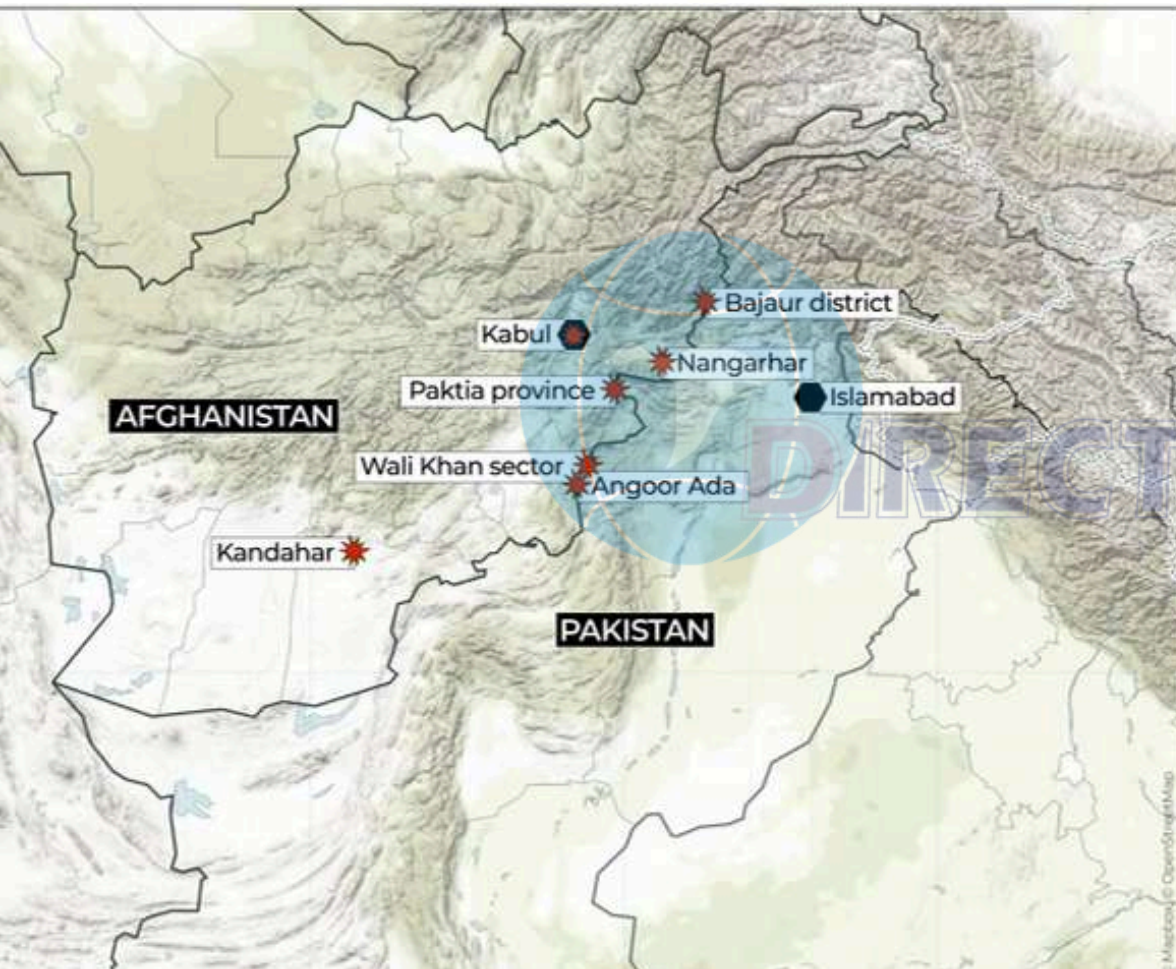
50 km



Afghanistan- heart of south-central Asia

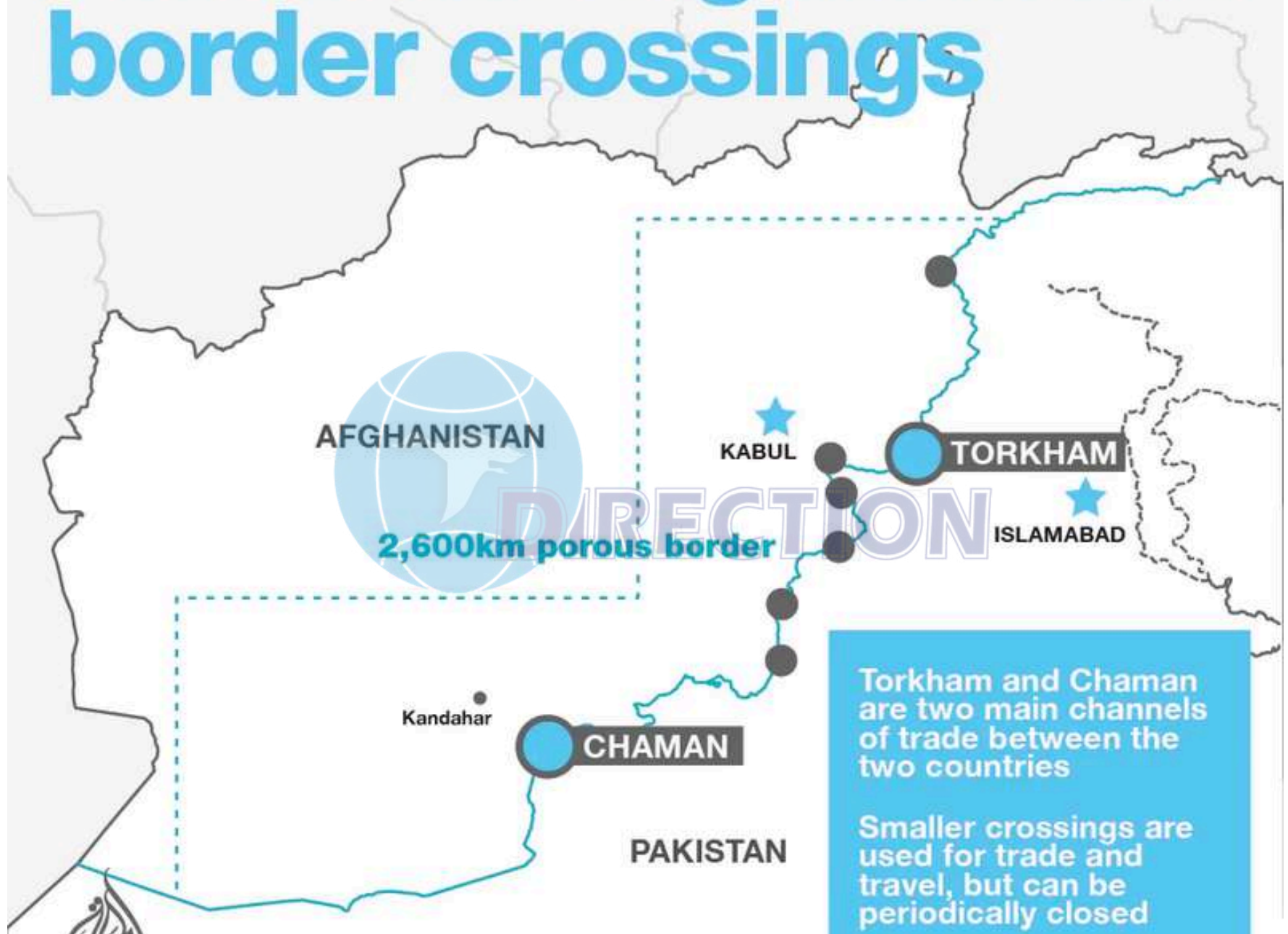
'Open war': Where has Pakistan struck in Afghanistan?

Pakistan has launched a major military offensive, striking several strategic locations in Afghanistan, including the capital, Kabul. This escalation follows weeks of tensions.



The border between Afghanistan and Pakistan is called the Durand Line and spans 2,611km (1,622 miles). Afghanistan does not formally recognise this border, which it argues was an imposed colonial demarcation that illegitimately divided ethnic Pashtun areas between the two countries.

Pakistan-Afghanistan border crossings



MORE INFO

Pakistan wants the Taliban to rein in armed groups such as the Pakistan Taliban, known by its acronym TTP, which it says Afghanistan is harbouring. The TTP emerged in Pakistan in 2007 and is separate from the Taliban in Afghanistan, but shares deep ideological, social and linguistic ties with the group.



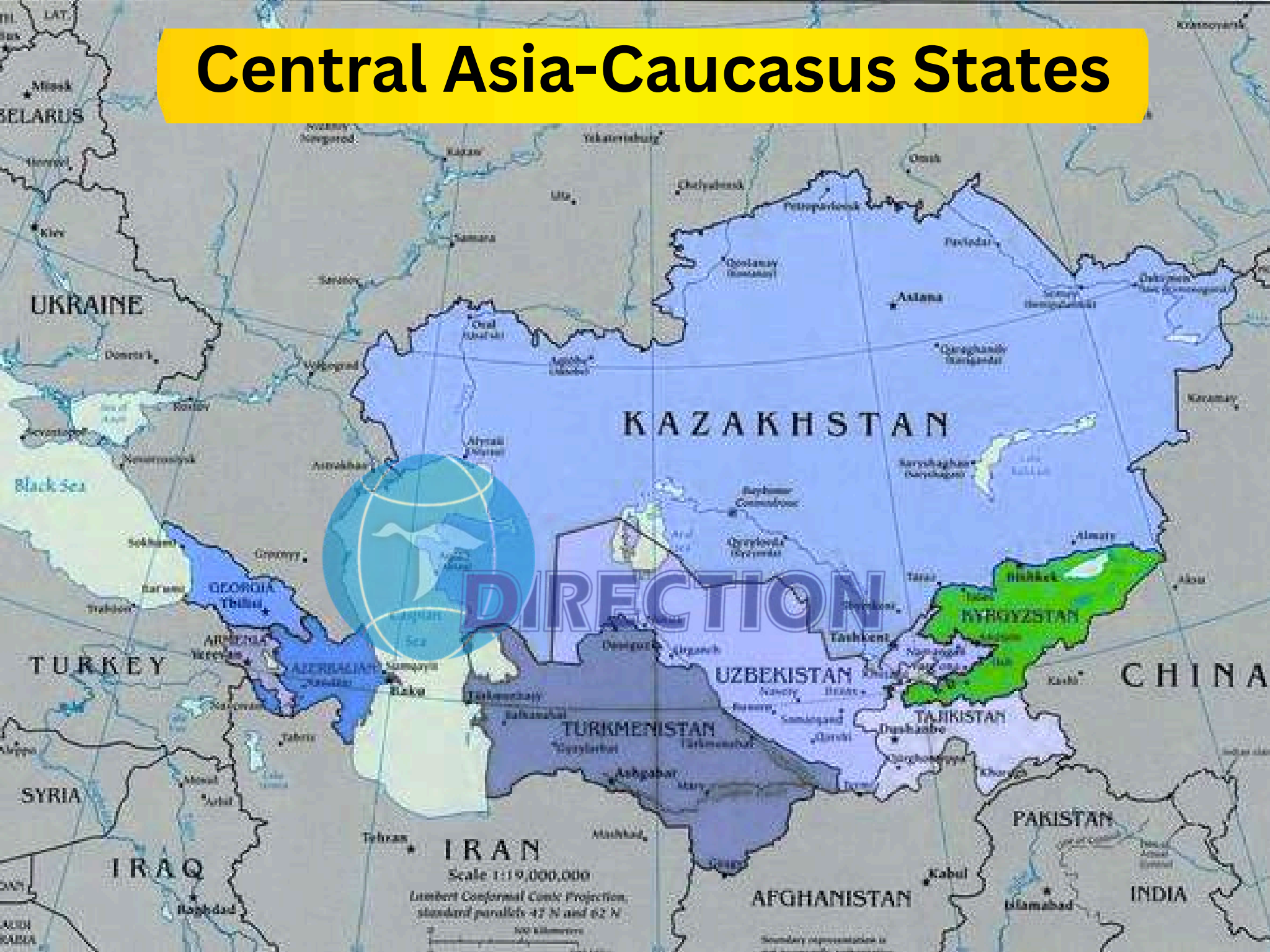
Armed attacks in Pakistan by the TTP and the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), which operates in the resource-rich Balochistan province, have surged in recent years. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, which border Afghanistan, have borne the brunt of the violence

Afghanistan is landlocked and mostly consists of mountains and deserts



- Hindu Kush mountains are the dominant geographic feature and divide the land
- The climate is mostly dry, with hot summers and cold winters
- The West, Southwest, and Northern areas are plains and lowlands
- The East, Northeast, and Central areas are mountainous highlands
- The borders with Pakistan, India, China, and Tajikistan have barrier mountains
- The borders with Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Iran do not have barrier mountains

Central Asia-Caucasus States

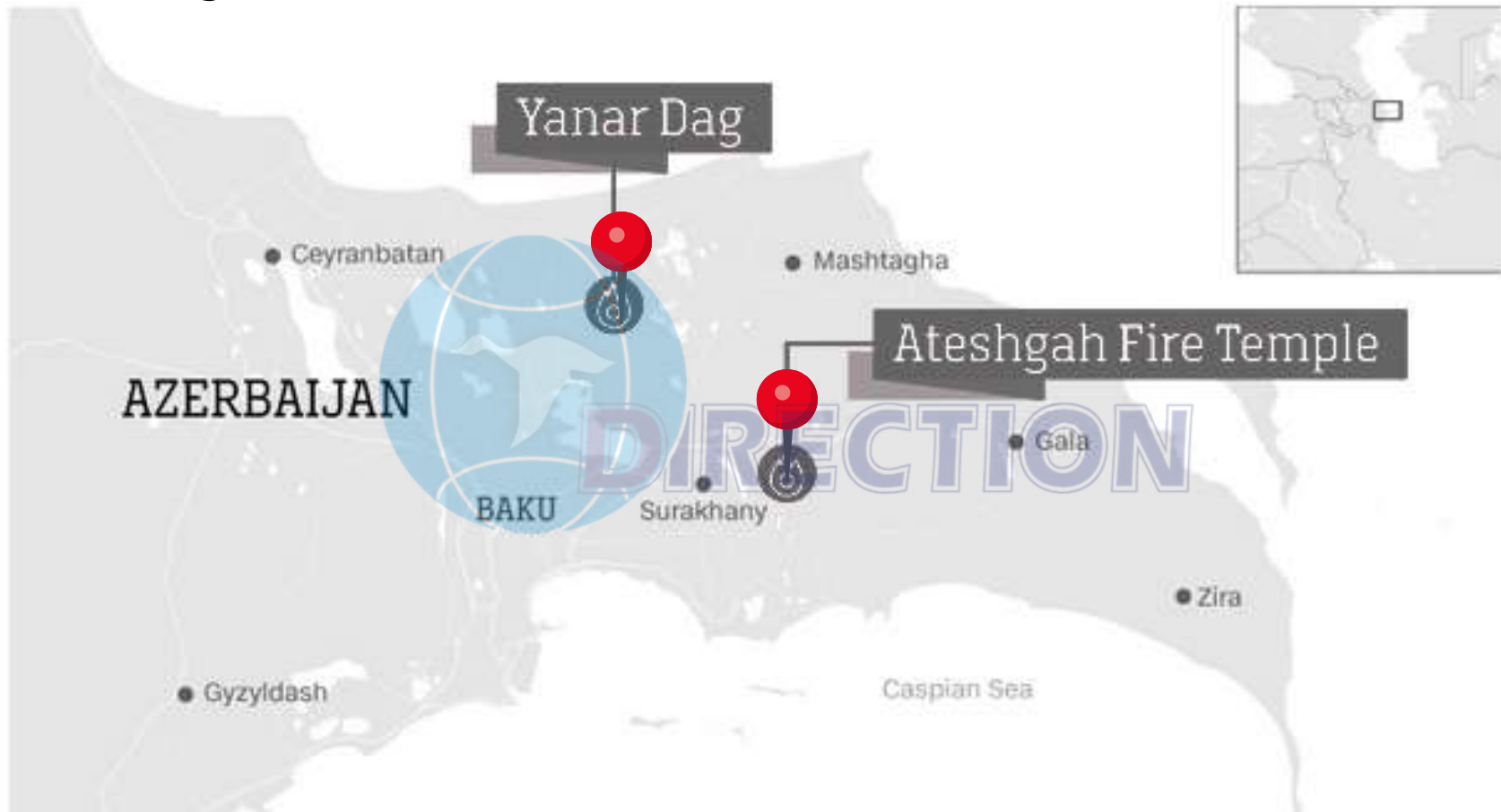


Transcaucasia- Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan



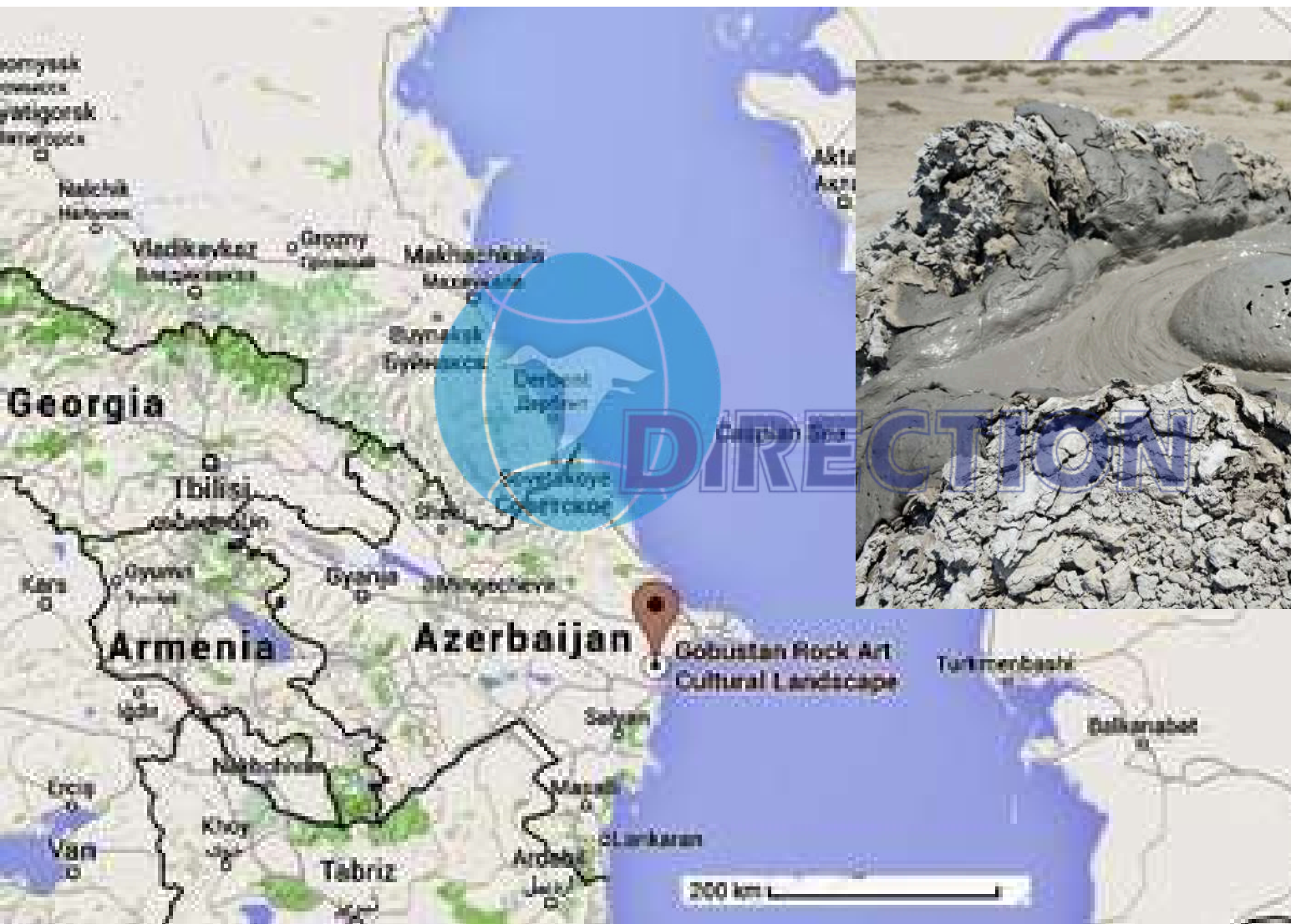
located in the South Caucasus region between Europe and Asia, known for their dramatic mountain landscapes, ancient history, and diverse cultures. While Georgia and Armenia share a long, early Christian tradition, Azerbaijan has a predominantly Muslim, Shia-oriented population.

Azerbaijan - the "Land of Fire"



Yanar Dag, or "Burning Mountain," is a 10-meter-long, continuously burning natural gas fire due to its massive, shallow underground oil and natural gas reserves that cause flames to seep through the earth on a hillside of the Absheron Peninsula near Baku, Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan is home to over 300 of the world's roughly 800 known mud volcanoes, making it a global hotspot for these unique geological formations. Located primarily around the Gobustan National Park near the Caspian Sea, these "sedimentary volcanoes" erupt cold mud, gas, and sometimes fire, creating a lunar-like landscape.



The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water and the world's largest salt lake.



As an endorheic basin with brackish water, it is vital for oil/gas reserves, sturgeon, and trade, but is currently receding rapidly due to climate change.


Central Asia

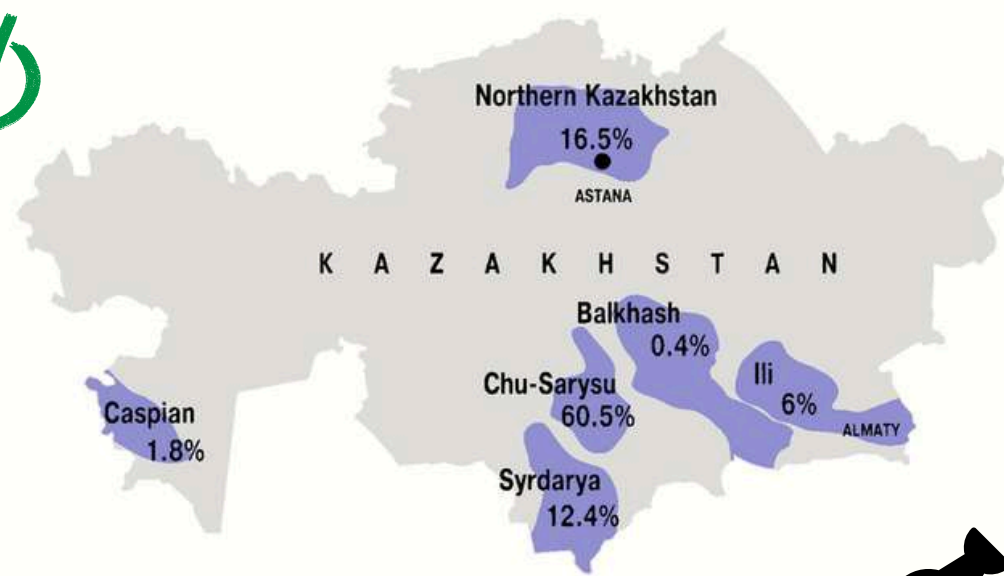



Located between the Caspian Sea, Russia, China, and Afghanistan, the region is characterized by steppe, deserts (Karakum, Kyzylkum), and high mountains.

All five Central Asian countries—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—are landlocked, making it the only region in the world where every country is entirely surrounded by land.

This region, highlighted by the UNCCD faces high trade costs due to this lack of direct access to the sea.

 Kazakhstan is the world's leading producer of uranium, supplying more than two-fifths of the global output by the early 2023.



 A large deposit of rare-earth metals, estimated to be as much as 20 million tons, was discovered in Qarağandy province in 2025



Kazakhstan holds significant natural gas reserves, ranking among the top 15 globally with approximately 3.8 trillion cubic meters

Lake Balkhash is one of the largest lakes in Asia

is both fresh and saline due to its unique geography: it is a long, narrow, and shallow, endorheic (landlocked) lake divided into two parts by a narrow, shallow strait (Uzynaral). The western part is largely fresh because it receives roughly 80–90% of its water from the large Ili River, while the eastern part is saline, receiving little inflow and suffering high evaporation.



DIRECTION

Ili River



Aral sea - once fourth largest lake of world



Located between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, this environmental catastrophe created the Aralkum Desert, which produces toxic dust storms, causing severe health issues and destroying local fishing industries. Beginning about 1960, the Aral Sea's water level was systematically and drastically reduced, because of the diversion of water from the Amu Darya and Syr Darya rivers for purposes of agricultural irrigation

East Asia



Official language

- Mandarin Chinese- China.
- Khalkha Mongolian - Mongolia.
- Korean- South Korea and North Korea

Other language families spoken

include

Altaic, Sino-Tibetan, Austroasiatic, Tai, Hmong-Mien, and Dravidian.

East Asia consists of China, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, North Korea, and Mongolia.

This region, also known as the Far East to Europeans, shares climatic and environmental similarities with Europe and southern North America, as it mainly lies within the temperate zone. While most Asian countries are developing economically, East Asia stands out as one of the continent's most prosperous regions, with most countries considered upper-middle-income, and Japan considered high-income.

China- largest of all Asian countries



China has border with 14 countries (largest number of neighbors)

The country is bounded by **Mongolia** to the north; **Russia** and **North Korea** to the northeast; the Yellow Sea and the East China Sea to the east; the South China Sea to the southeast; **Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), India, Bhutan, and Nepal** to the south; **Pakistan** to the southwest; and **Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan,** and **Kazakhstan** to the west.

autonomous regions



Inner Mongolia (rare earths),
Jiangxi (heavy rare earths),
Sichuan (lithium/light rare earths), and Guangxi/Hunan
(tungsten/antimony)



China dominates the production of at least 15 critical minerals and mineral groups. In addition to being the leading producer, the country also controls much of the refining capacity for many of these minerals. For example, around 90% of rare earths are refined in China.

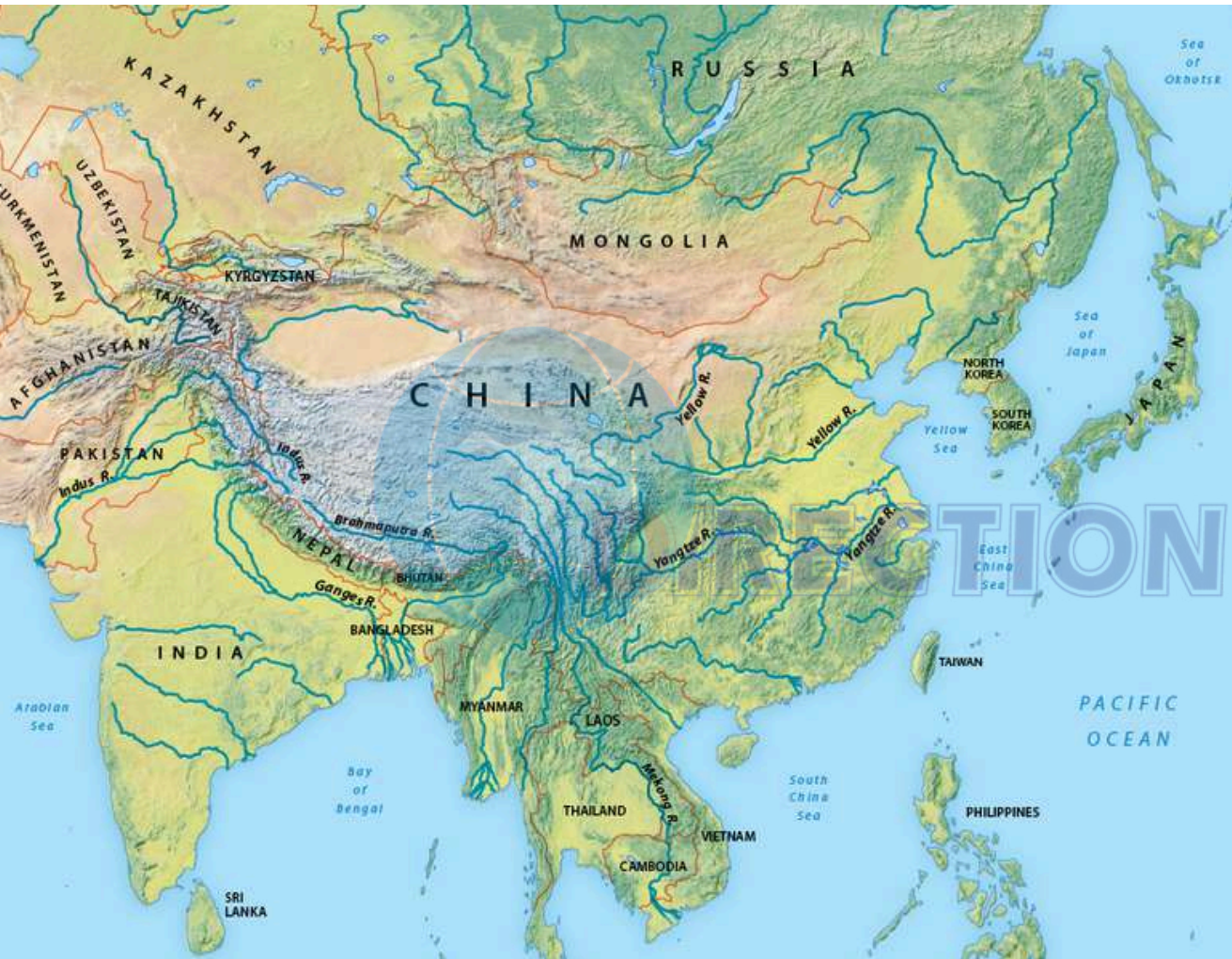
Relief Features



China's terrain descends in three steps from the high-altitude west to the eastern coast, dominated by the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau (the "roof of the world"), vast deserts (Gobi, Taklamakan), and towering mountains like the Himalayas.

Key features include the fertile Yangtze and Yellow River plains in the east, along with extensive mountainous regions covering 65% of the land.

The Tibetan Plateau- Third Pole



The Tibetan Plateau, often called the "Roof of the World," is the world's largest and highest plateau, covering ~2.5 million at an average elevation of over 4,000–4,500 meters. Located in Central Asia, it spans Tibet, western China, and parts of neighboring nations, and was formed by the collision of the Indo-Australian and Eurasian plates

Asia's "Water Tower" -It is the source of major Asian rivers, including the Indus, Brahmaputra, Yangtze, and Mekong.



Escalation in 2024–2025: increased naval activity, including Chinese carriers operating near the Miyako Strait and the placement of buoys in the area

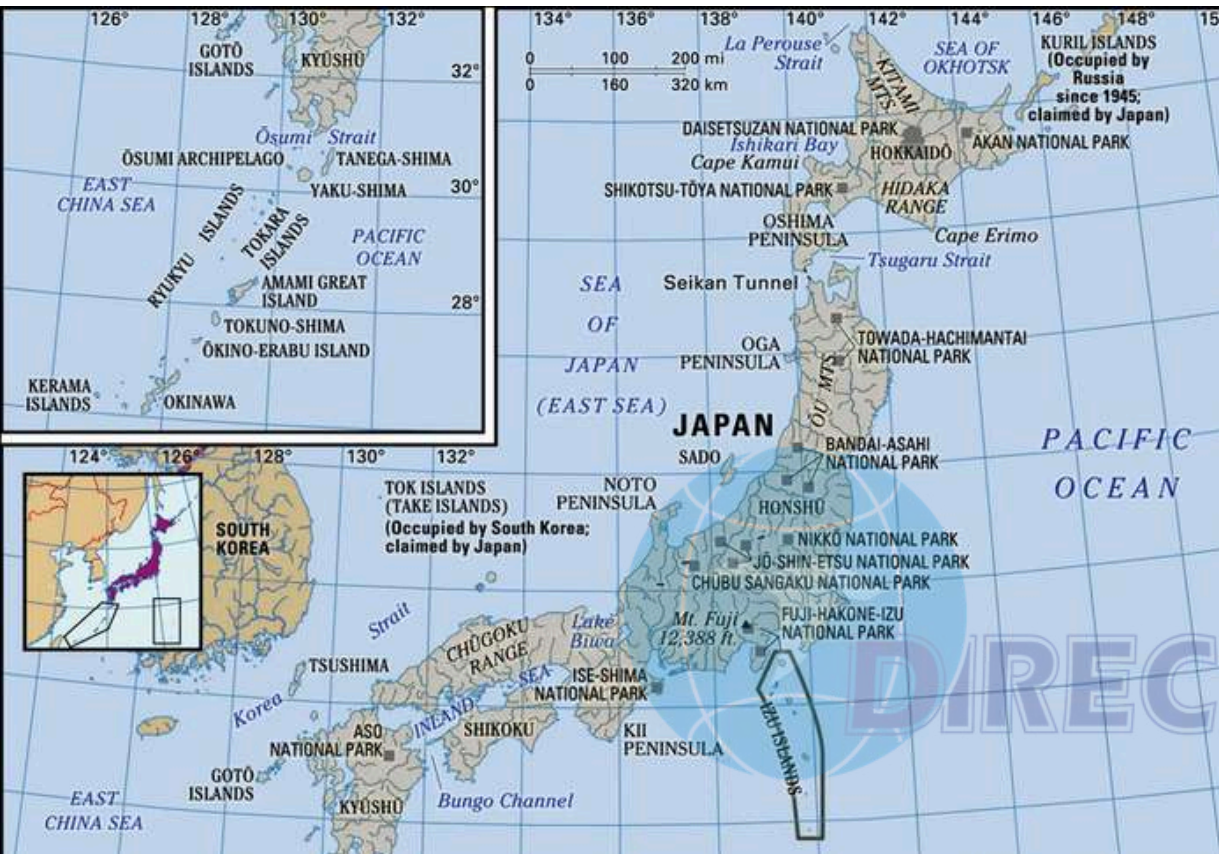
The China-Japan territorial conflict centers on the sovereignty of the uninhabited Senkaku (Japanese) / Diaoyu (Chinese) Islands in the East China Sea. Administered by Japan since 1895, they are claimed by China as part of Taiwan. Tensions have escalated since 2012, involving frequent Chinese coast guard patrols, maritime confrontations, and air incursions, largely driven by competition over resources and strategic positioning



DIRECTION



Japan- land of the rising sun



Japan's land is made up of dense forest and mountainous terrain covering 70 percent of the country, held in place by the Japan Alps —the series of mountain ranges spanning the central area of the main island of Honshu. Japan has many geologically active volcanoes and eruptions are common.

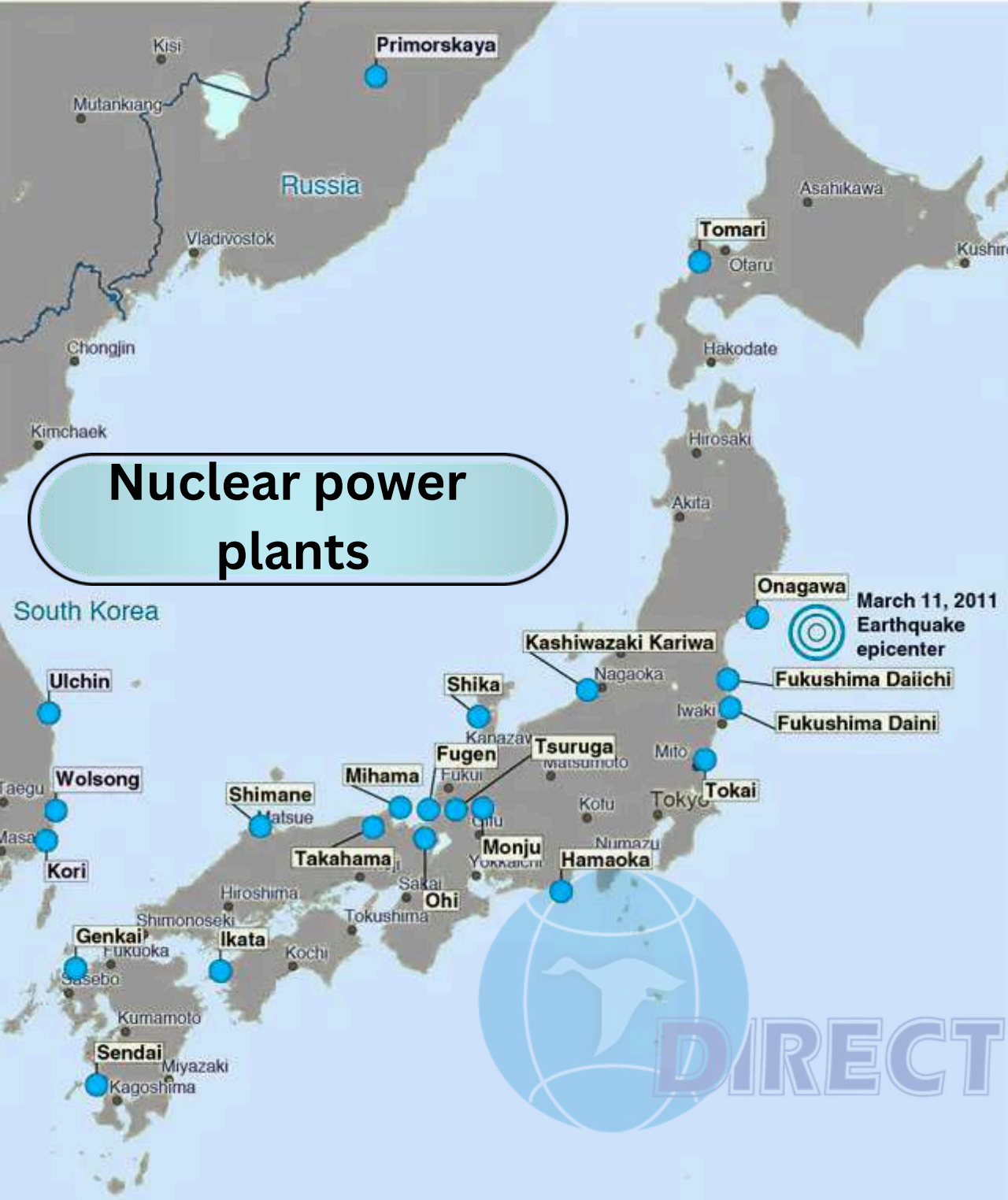
Japan is a cornerstone of global stability as a leading democratic, economic, and technological power, deeply aligned with Western values. As a key U.S. ally and member of the Quad, it plays a vital role in Indo-Pacific security, fostering democratic, free-trade, and peaceful, rule-based international order.



Tectonic Boundaries



Japan is one of the world's most seismically active regions, located on the Pacific Ring of Fire where four major tectonic plates—Pacific, Philippine Sea, Okhotsk, and Eurasian—converge. This complex, high-stress setting drives frequent, powerful earthquakes, devastating tsunamis, and intense volcanic activity



Nuclear power plants

The 2011 Tohoku the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami (March 11) caused a massive, 15-meter wave to strike the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, disabling backup generators and cooling systems. This failure led to core meltdowns in units 1, 2, and 3 within three days, resulting in significant radioactive releases

Japan -territorial disputes



Okinotorishima (Regional): While not a direct sovereignty dispute over land, some countries have challenged Japan's designation of this feature as an island (which would grant a 200-nautical-mile EEZ) rather than a rock.



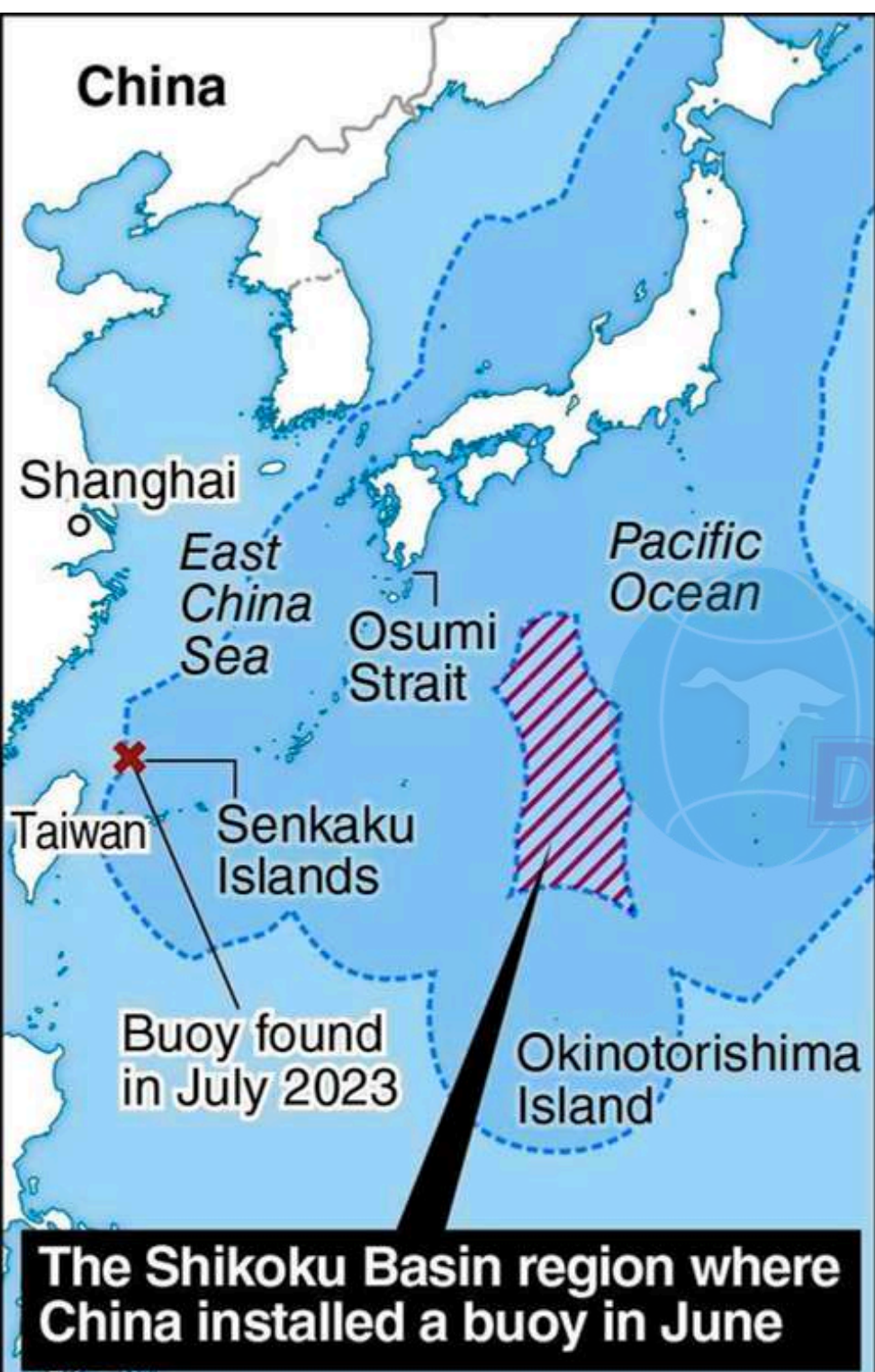
Japanese EEZ

First island chain

Second island chain

Okinotorishima Island

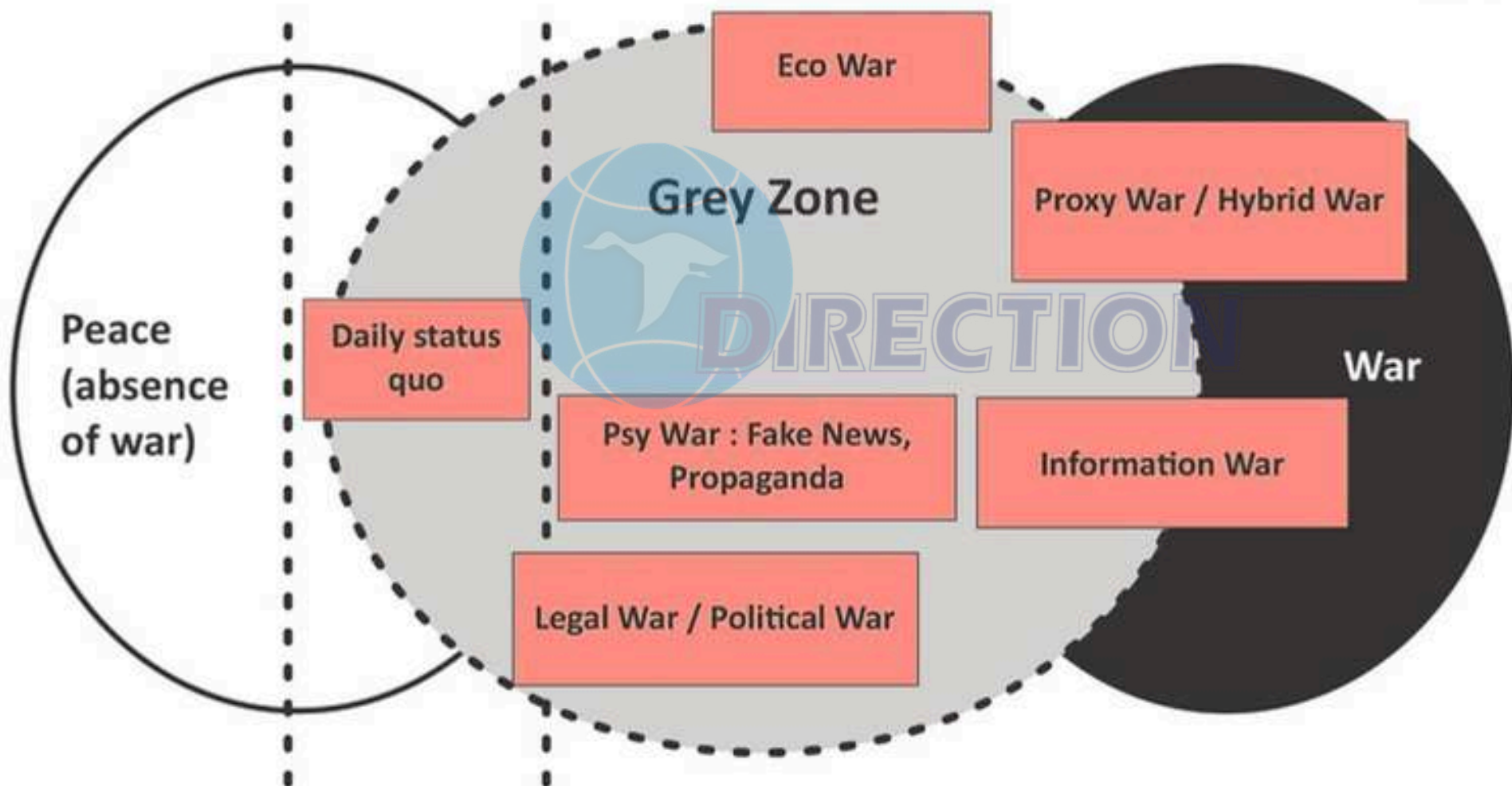
200km



The Shikoku Basin region where China installed a buoy in June

China has repeatedly placed oceanographic buoys in Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) without permission, particularly near the Senkaku Islands (July 2023) and Yonaguni Island (December 2024), prompting strong protests from Tokyo. These actions are viewed as unauthorized marine research and "gray-zone" tactics to assert control, though most were removed by early 2025

Grey zone tactics are coercive, ambiguous, and gradualist actions by state or non-state actors that fall between traditional peace and open armed conflict. These, often non-military, methods—including cyberattacks, disinformation, economic pressure, and maritime coercion—aim to achieve strategic goals without triggering a conventional military response.



Taiwan, officially the Republic of China (ROC)

China has launched its largest military drills in the Taiwan Strait, with the PLA's Shandong aircraft carrier conducting operations east of Taiwan, escalating regional tensions

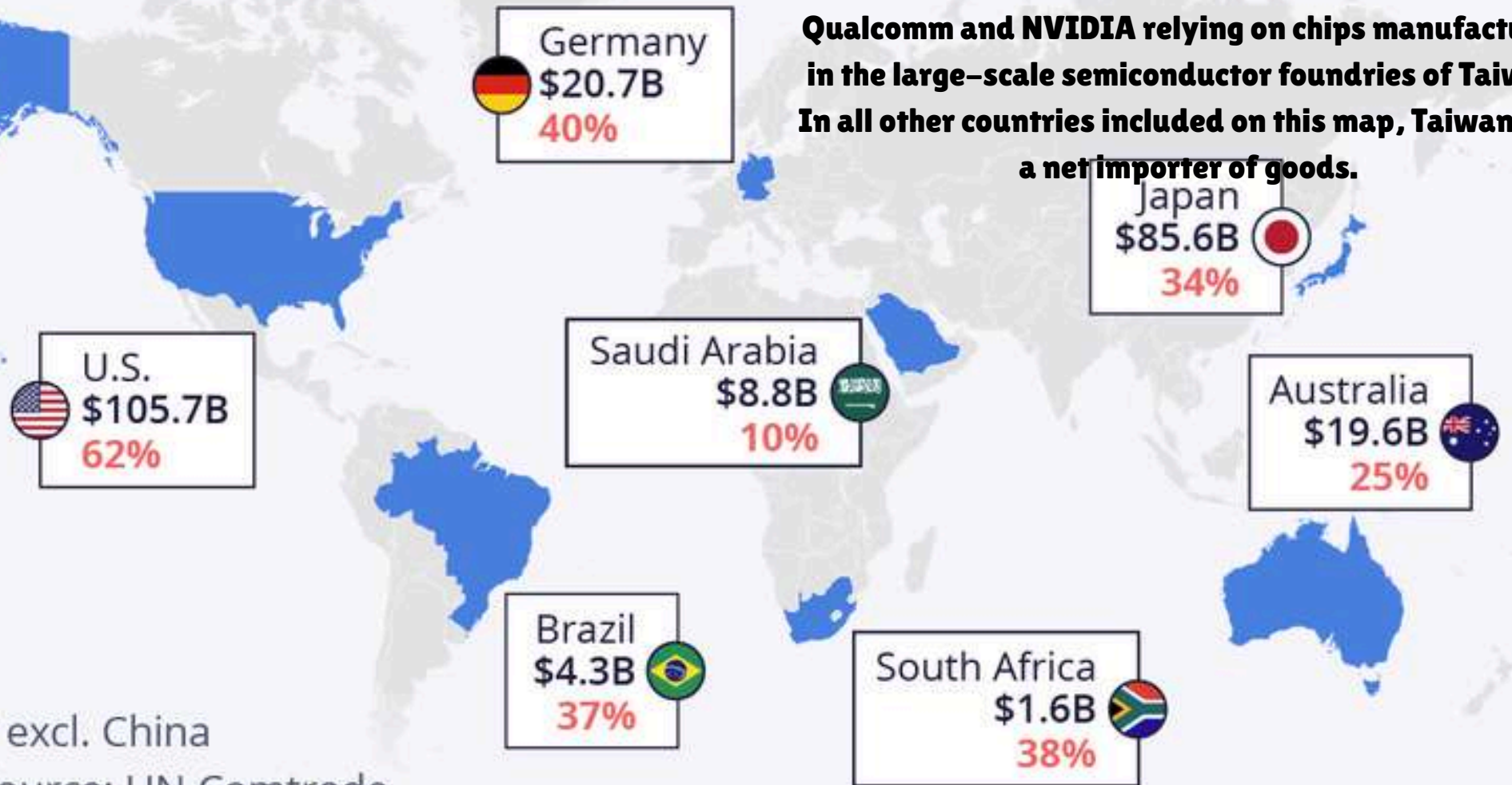


Beijing maintains that it has jurisdiction over Taiwan under its "one-China policy". While Taiwan is self-governing, most countries do not dispute China's position.

Politically, it is a key democratic ally for the US in the Pacific, balancing against China, with a high-income, export-driven economy

■ Share of Taiwanese exports in total bilateral trade

A majority of these goods fell into the IT and electronics sector, with companies like Apple, Qualcomm and NVIDIA relying on chips manufactured in the large-scale semiconductor foundries of Taiwan. In all other countries included on this map, Taiwan was a net importer of goods.



* excl. China

Source: UN Comtrade

Taiwan is a critical global economic powerhouse and a pivotal, democratic political actor, primarily known for producing over 60% of the world's semiconductors and over 90% of the most advanced ones.



South Korea has two volcanic islands—Jeju, off the peninsula's southern tip, and Ulleung, about 85 miles (140 km) east of the mainland in the East Sea

Hasty redeployment of US missiles from South Korea to Middle East leaves Seoul rattled



It has been almost a decade since the sleepy South Korean village of Seongju was transformed overnight into a key location in the country's ability to counter an attack from North Korea. With deployment of terminal high-altitude area defense (THAAD) missile-defence system to make them a target for Pyongyang's ballistic missiles.

Major U.S. bases in South Korea

(USFK troop number: 28,500)



As of early 2026, about 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea under U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), with major installations concentrated at Camp Humphreys (the largest U.S. overseas base) and Osan Air Base. Key facilities include Army bases (Camp Casey, Carroll, Walker), Air Force bases (Kunsan), and the THAAD missile defense system, though some assets are subject to redeployment.



The North-South Korea boundary is defined by the 155-mile (248 km) long Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a 2.5-mile (4 km) wide buffer zone established in 1953 by the Korean Armistice Agreement. Running near the 38th parallel, it features the Military Demarcation Line (MDL) as the actual border, separating the nations since the end of the Korean War

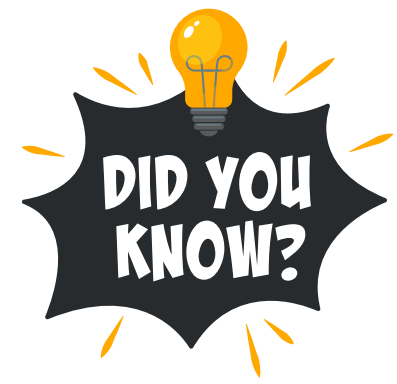
MORE INFO



North Korea holds immense, disproportionate geopolitical importance because its status as a nuclear-armed, highly repressive totalitarian state creates a unique, volatile, and strategic "buffer" between major world powers.

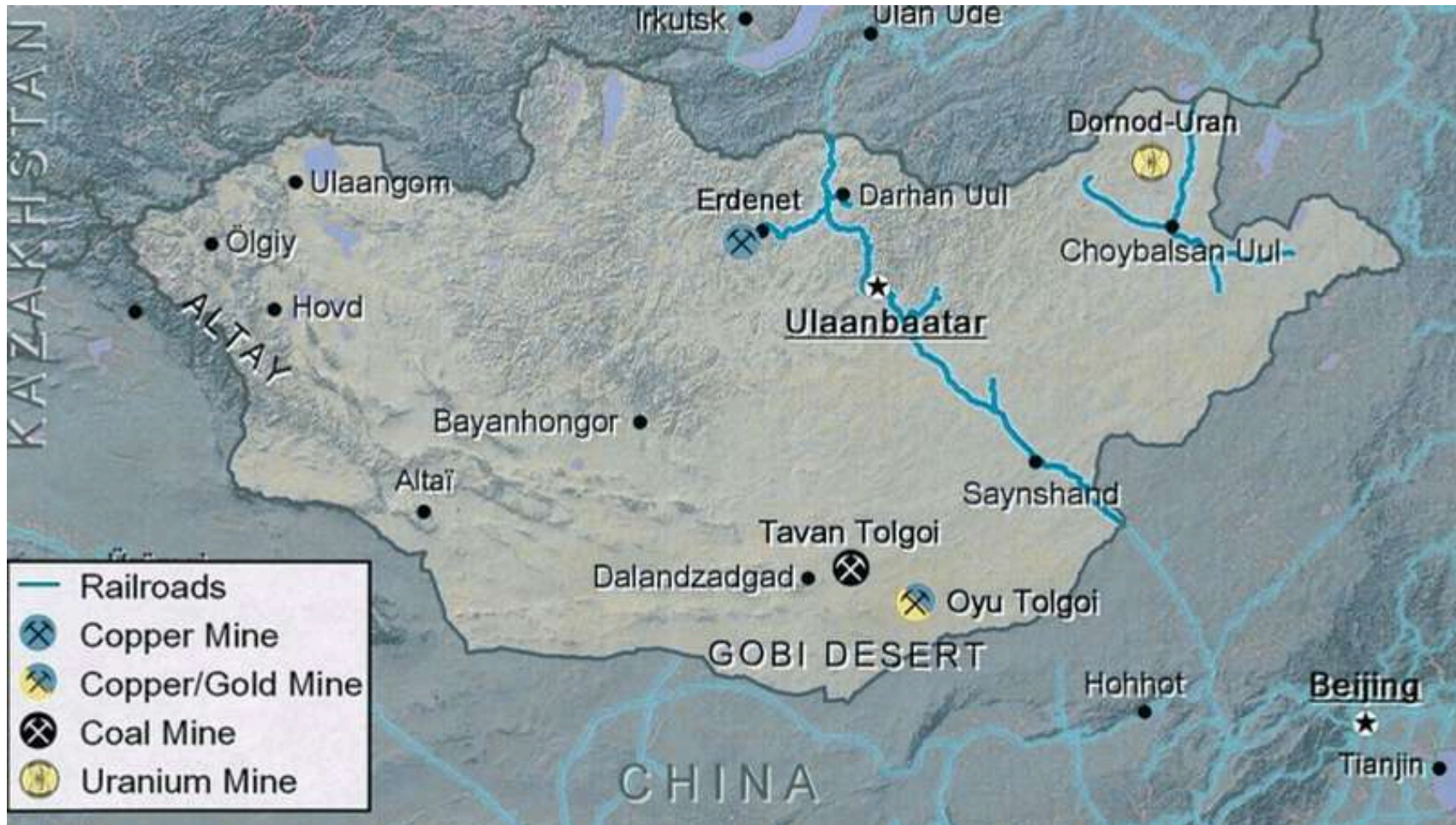
Despite its small economic size, North Korea's capability to disrupt regional stability—and potentially global peace—forces China, Russia, Japan, and the United States to prioritize it in their strategic calculations.

Mongolia -nomadic culture and horses

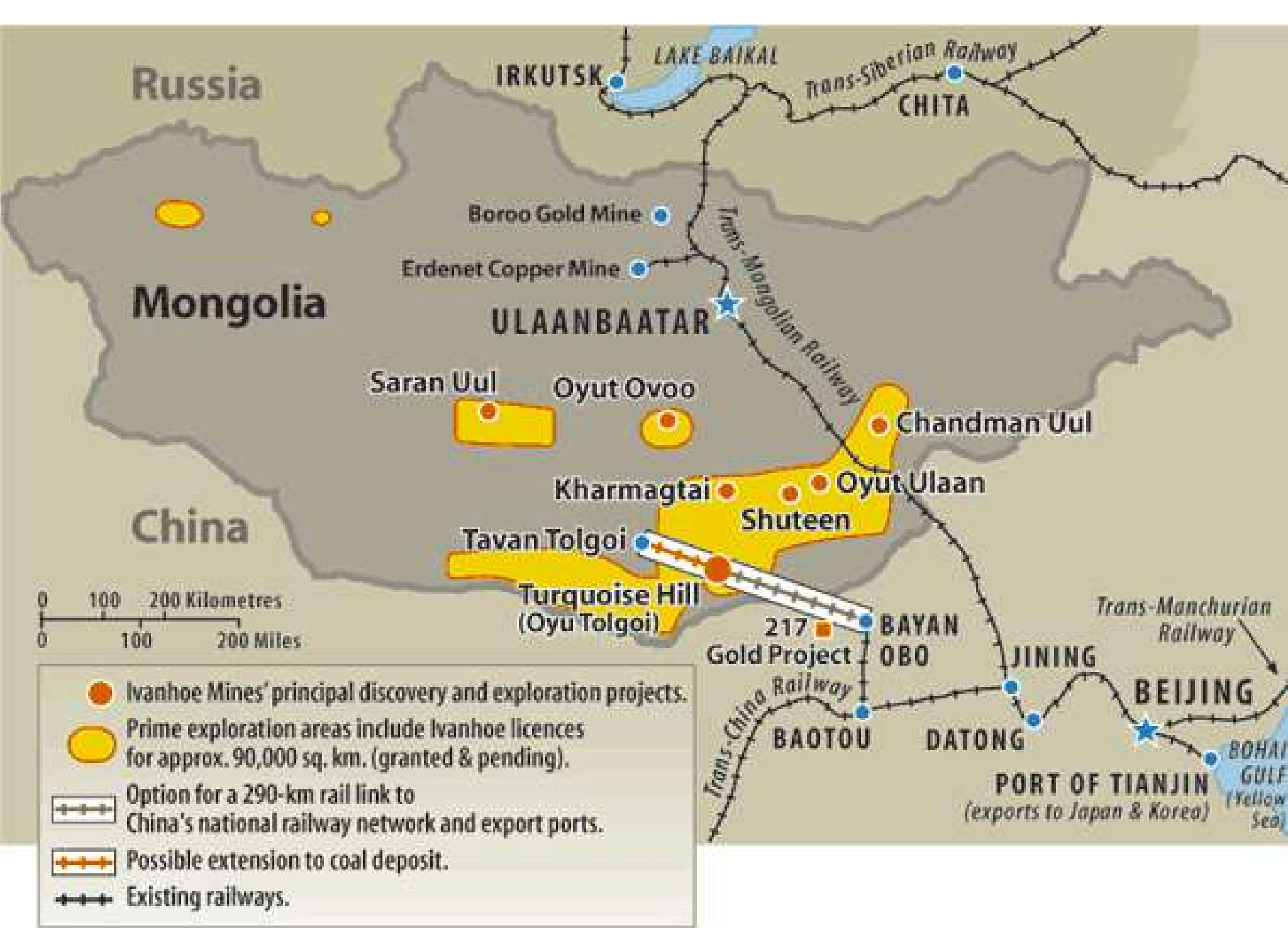


Mongolia is strategically important as a democratic, resource-rich buffer state between Russia and China, offering crucial mineral deposits like copper and coal. The **Third Neighbor Policy** is a Mongolian foreign policy doctrine designed to balance its reliance on neighbors China and Russia by building strong political, economic, and strategic ties with other developed, democratic nations. Key "third neighbors" include the US, Japan, South Korea, India, Canada, and the EU

The vast Oyu Tolgoi copper and gold mine



The Tavantolgoi (Tavan Tolgoi) coal mine, located in Mongolia's Southern Gobi region, is one of the world's largest untapped, high-quality coking and thermal coal deposits. With over 6 to 7.4 billion tonnes of estimated reserves, it is a critical driver for Mongolia's economy and a major supplier to China.



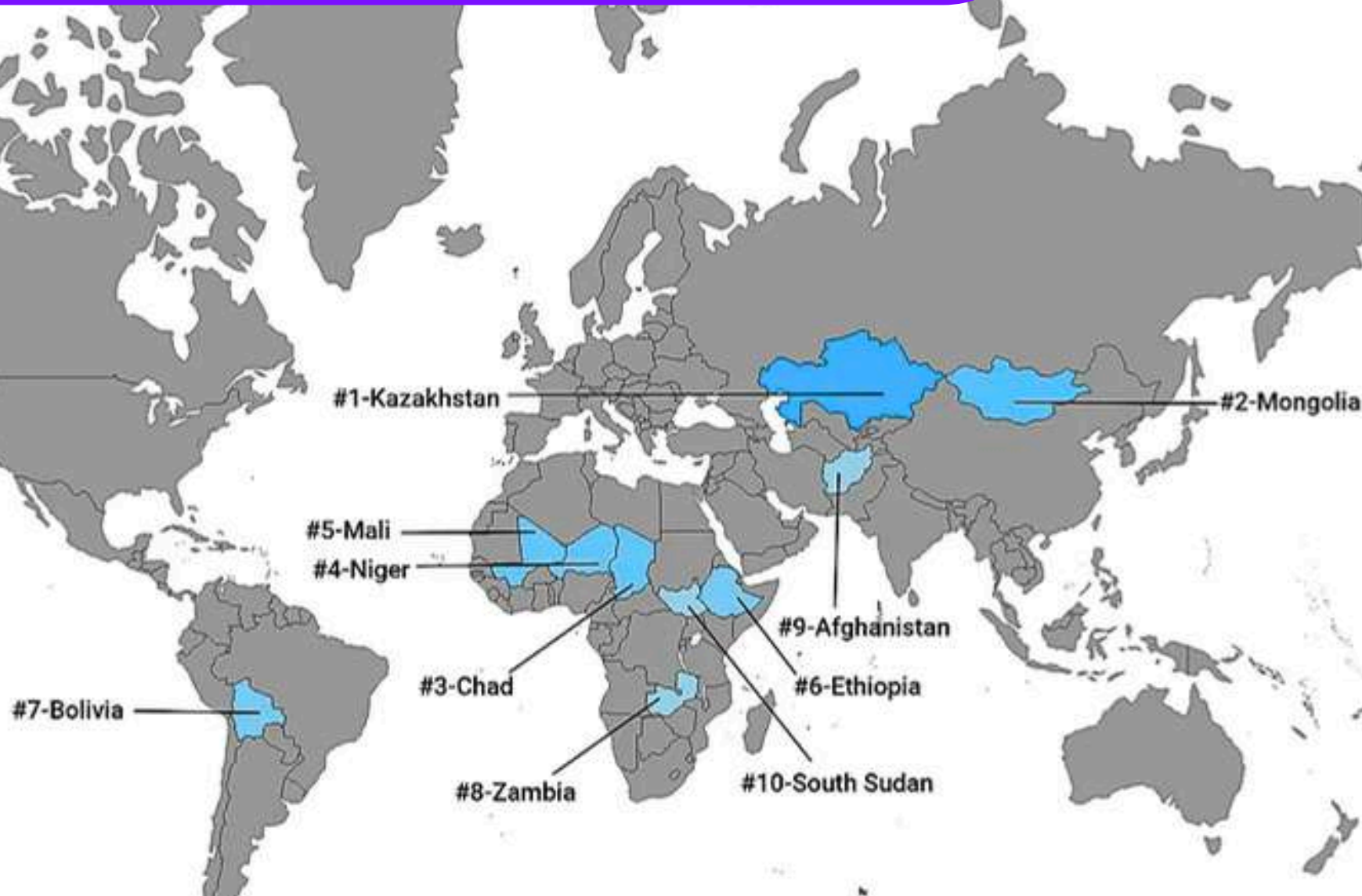
Mongolian herders fear a new coal highway to China



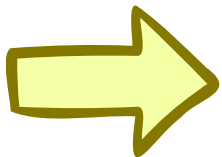
Nearly 85% of Mongolia's exports go to its southern neighbour, China, and must pass through one of eight checkpoints along the two countries' 4,709-kilometre-long border. More than half of it is coal, which forms the backbone of Mongolia's trade with China. In Ömnögovi, a new border checkpoint and a road are being built to connect China to existing and proposed coal mines dotted across this southern Mongolian province.

The checkpoint is close to the Small Gobi Strictly Protected Area, an ecologically important site home to wildlife such as the ibex, argali and long-eared jerboa.

Ethiopia The most populous landlocked country, with over 126 million people.



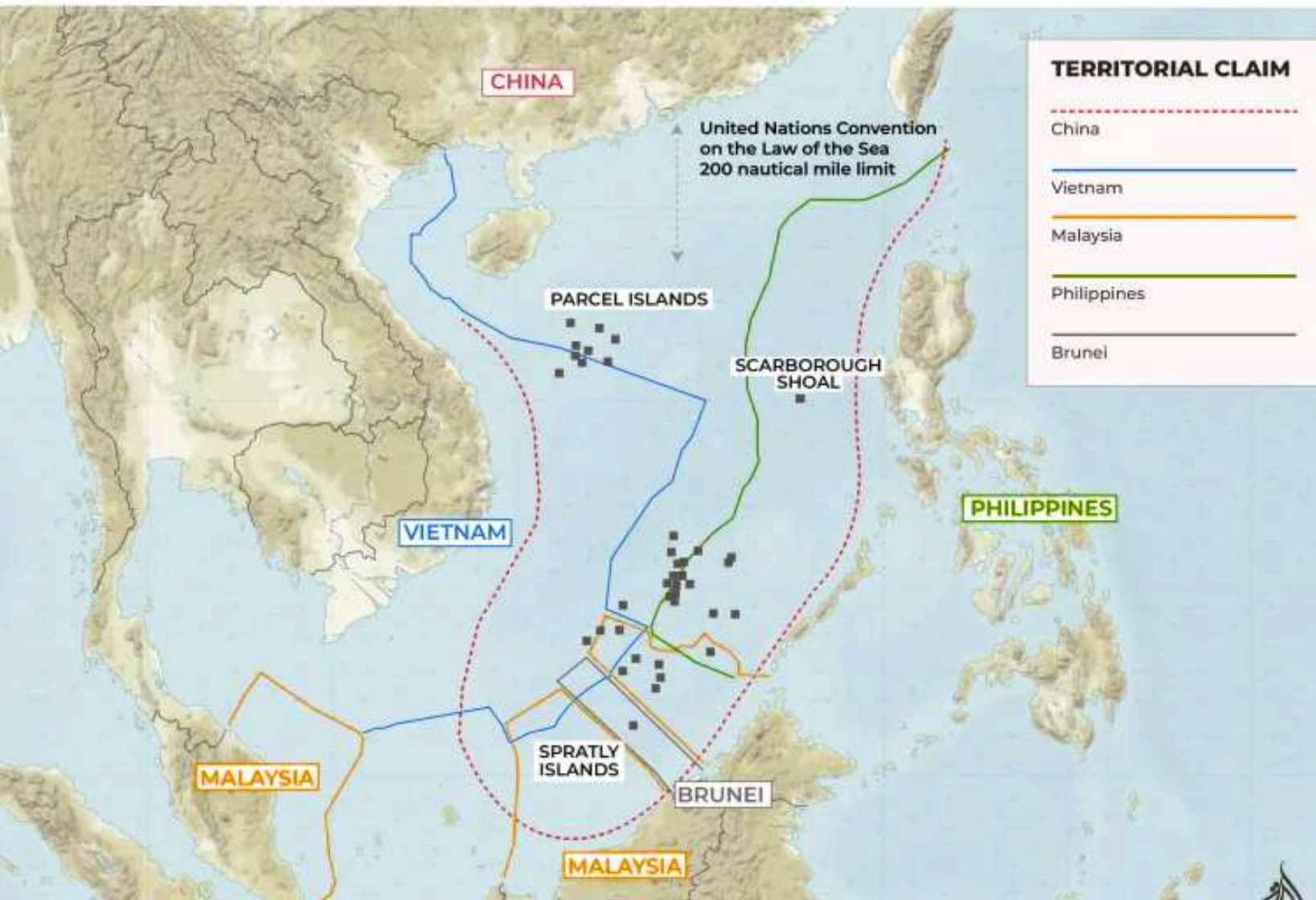
There are 44 such countries, which have no direct access to an ocean.



SOUTH CHINA SEA

Overlapping claims

China claims 90 percent of the South China Sea as its sovereign territory, but is opposed by Southeast Asian states and Taiwan. The sea is strategically vital; it has rich fishing stocks, likely oil and gas deposits, and is where \$3 trillion of trade transits annually.



China announced the creation of a national nature reserve on Huangyan Island (Scarborough Shoal) in the South China Sea.

Southeast Asia is a vast region east of the Indian subcontinent and south of China. It consists of mainland and insular portions.



The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established in 1967 to promote peace, security, and economic growth in the region.

U.S. Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) sites



The United States Navy will construct two military boat repair facilities in Palawan, Philippines, facing the South China Sea, to strengthen maritime security amid rising tensions with China in the contested region.



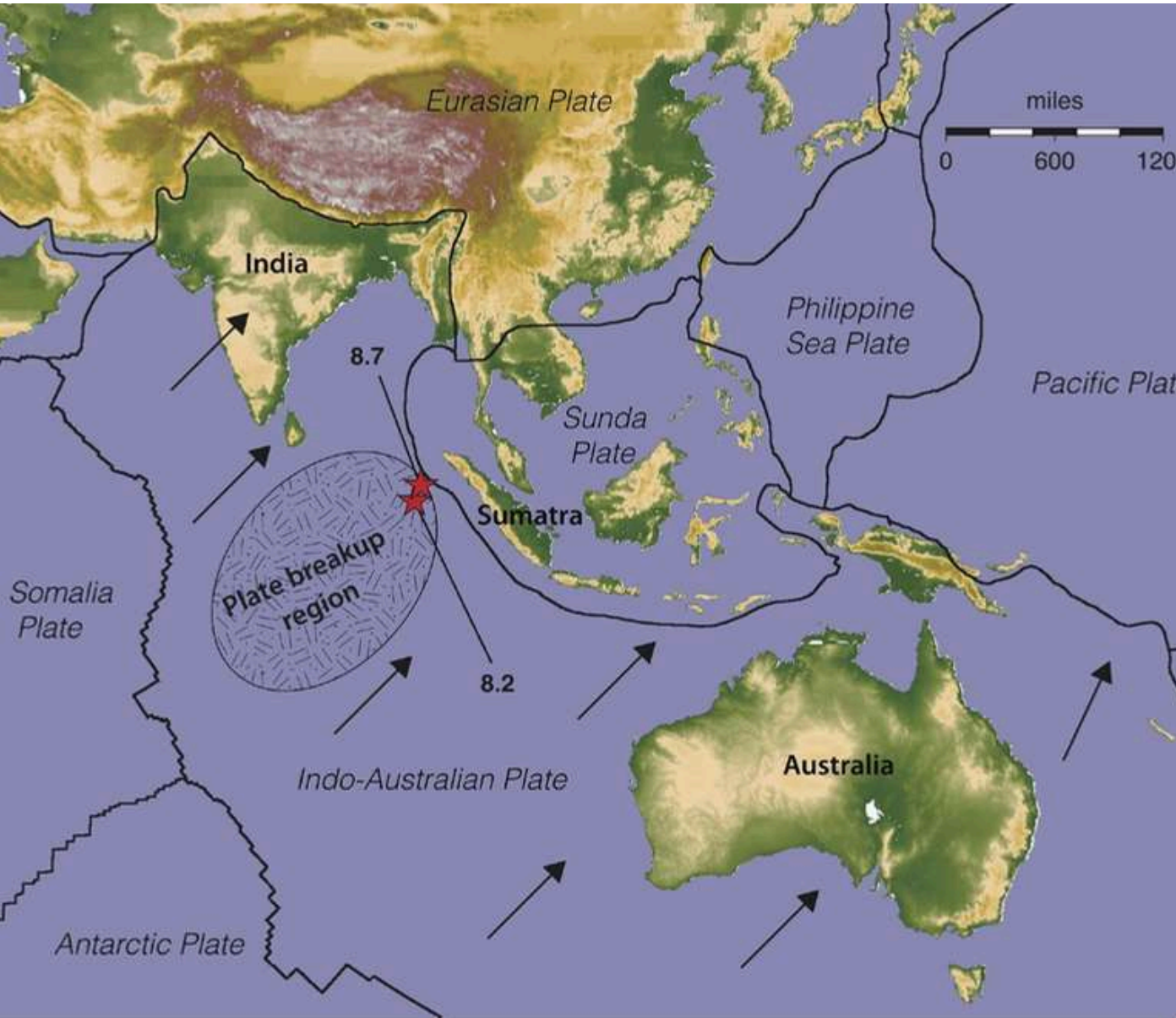
The Philippine Island of Pugad is facing severe land subsidence (up to 11 cm/year) and rising sea levels, putting its 2,500 residents at risk of displacement. Scientists warn that parts of Bulacan province could sink completely, as sea levels in the Philippines are rising three times faster than the global average.

Indonesia - world's largest archipelagic state



Indonesia consists of approximately 17,500 islands, of which more than 7,000 are uninhabited. The country shares a border with Malaysia in Borneo's northern part and with Papua New Guinea in New Guinea's centre. The capital, Jakarta, is near Java's northwestern coast.

Indonesia, located on the Pacific Ring of Fire, is home to more than 120 active volcanoes, making the region particularly vulnerable to volcanic hazards.



Mount Semeru, located in East Java, is the highest peak on the island (3,676 m) and one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes. It has been in a near-continuous state of eruption since 1967, producing frequent ash plumes, dangerous pyroclastic flows, and lava avalanches.

Archaeologists have found that handprints stencilled on limestone caves on the Indonesian island of Muna could be up to 67,800 years old, making them the oldest known paintings in the world.





The Sandy Cay reef dispute (also known as Tiexian Reef) involves escalating sovereignty claims between China and the Philippines in the Spratly Islands of the South China Sea. Located near the Philippine-occupied Thitu Island (Pag-asa), China claims the area, while the Philippines rejects this, leading to competing flag-raising, patrols, and accusations of intimidation.



Key Areas of Border Dispute



The boundary extends for approximately 885 kilometers (550 miles) from the Gulf of Thailand to the tripoint with Laos, following watershed lines for about two-thirds of its length. A ruling by the ICJ in 2013 clarified that Cambodia has sovereignty over the vicinity of the Temple, but further negotiations will be needed to precisely locate the boundary on the ground and completely resolve the dispute.



C H I N A

BHUTAN

Brahmaputra

INDIA

BANGLADESH

Ganges

Man Wan

YUNNAN

Mekong

Known for intensive farming

Hong Kong

major transportation artery

MYANMAR

Luang Prabang

Gulf of Tonkin

Hainan

Chiang Khong

LAOS

Vientiane

Nam Theun II (proposed)

The longest and most crucial waterway

Nong Khai

Bay of Bengal

Rangoon

THAILAND

China Sea

The "rice bowl" of Thailand

Pak Mun

Si Phan Don

VIETNAM

Stung Treng

Bangkok

Angkor

Kratie

Phnom Penh

CAMBODIA

Ho Chi Minh City

Andaman Sea

Gulf of Thailand

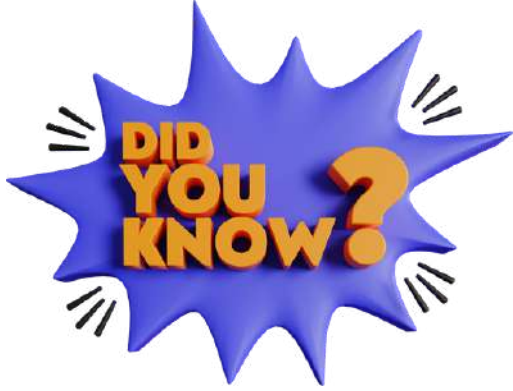
The largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia

1,000 km





Major ports in South-east Asia



In late 2025, Southeast Asia experienced catastrophic, widespread flooding and landslides affecting Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Sri Lanka. Primarily driven by an active northeast monsoon, compounded by La Niña and tropical cyclones (Senyar, Ditwah, and others), the floods killed over 1,350 people and displaced millions, worsened by deforestation and poor urban planning.

Russia extends nearly halfway around the Northern Hemisphere



It is bounded to the north and east by the Arctic and Pacific oceans. Russia has small frontages in the northwest on the Baltic Sea at St. Petersburg . To the south, Russia borders North Korea, China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. To the southwest and west, it borders Ukraine, Belarus, Latvia, Estonia, Finland, and Norway.

Russia holds the world's largest natural gas reserves





RUSSIA'S MILITARIZATION OF THE ARCTIC

