



# MENA-Atlas - Comments and Sources

The "Atlas MENA" can be accessed via: [http://www.ecoi.net/atlas\\_mena.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/atlas_mena.pdf)

The comments and sources for the "Atlas MENA" can be accessed via:  
[http://www.ecoi.net/atlas\\_mena\\_sources.pdf](http://www.ecoi.net/atlas_mena_sources.pdf)

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For the overview map the following source was used: 1 : 30 000 000: Natural Earth. For all the topographic and thematic maps 1 : 10 000 000: Collins World Explorer Premium, Natural Earth was used. The maps showing main oil and gas fields are all based on: Petroleum Economist, a division of Euromoney Global Limited, December 2014, designed by K. Fuller and P. Bush, map scale 1 : 23 000 000.

## 1. General information (for all ethnic and religious maps)

The population of the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region is very heterogeneously in terms of religious and sectarian, as well as ethnic and linguistic diversity. Due to this and because of the partly inconsistent sources the maps only indicate where main settlement areas of religious or ethnic groups are. Especially the religious and ethnic composition in urban centers may differ significantly from those in rural surroundings and it is not possible to show this heterogeneity on the maps. Identification by religious or ethnic affiliation might vary within a group and external attributions of religious or ethnic affiliation might differ from self-perception, too.

Not all existing religious and ethnic groups can be shown on the maps (see below). A compromise between clarity and accuracy had to be found, which respects the religious and ethnic diversity of the Middle East and North Africa. The population density has not been taken into account and is therefore not shown on the maps.

When creating these maps, the following methodology was complied with: An ethnic or religious minority group is depicted on the map if it amounts to more than one percent of the total population of the country in question and has a settlement area that can be located. If a group amounts to less than one percent of the total population in country A, but to more than one percent of the population in country B, the minority group is shown in both of the countries. The exceptions made from this methodology were limited to the smallest possible number.

Further information on ethnic/linguistic and religious/sectarian groups can be found in the specific comments provided for each country and map.

## 2. Near East

### Comments

There may be ethnic minorities that are not shown on this map. Further information is provided in the comments concerning each country.

Some of the ethnic minorities are subsumed under the following two groups: The group "Other Turkic Peoples" includes Azeris in Northern Turkey and Turkmens in Central Turkey, Syria and Iraq. Azeris as well as Turkmens speak Turkic languages (Azeri/Azerbaijani language and Turkmen language). The group "Caucasian peoples" refers to Georgians and Laz in Turkey and Circassians in Turkey, Jordan and Syria. Not all Caucasian peoples can be shown on this map; especially in Turkey there are various ethnic minorities of Caucasian origin. From a linguistic point of view, there is no Caucasian language family. There are Northwest Caucasian, Northeast Caucasian and South Caucasian (Kartvelian) Languages; Indo-European and Turkic languages like Armenian and Azerbaijani are not included. All non-Arabic speaking Christians (Assyrians, Chaldeans, etc.) are depicted as one group.

There may be religious minorities that are not shown on this map. Further information is provided in the comments concerning each country.

On the religious and sectarian map, the different branches of Shia Islam (e.g. Twelver Shia Muslims, Ismailis) were depicted individually. In some sources, Alevis and Alawites are mentioned to be part of Shia Islam, in other sources they are considered not to be part of Islam, in further sources they are listed as Islamic branches separate from Shia Islam. For the sake of clarity, on the religious map Christians are depicted as one group, regardless of their ethnic origin. Yezidi and Kaka'i are depicted as religious minorities and therefore not shown on the ethnic map.

## 2.1. Turkey

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## Turkey – Ethnic and linguistic groups

### Comments

There are no recent official figures concerning ethnic groups in Turkey. The last official census that asked for ethnic affiliation was conducted in 1965. Recent data are based on estimates. According to CIA-factbook, the total population of Turkey is 79,414,269 (2015 estimates); Turks amount to 70-75 percent and 18 percent of the population are Kurds. The remaining 7-12 percent includes various minorities. Some minorities are not depicted on the map: Muhacir (people from the territory of the Balkans that emigrated in 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century from the Ottoman Empire to modern Turkey, e.g. Albanians, Bulgarians, Bosnians) in the northwest of Turkey, Greeks, Armenians, Yews, Roma, Yoruks (Turkic nomads that largely settled down). Zaza living in Eastern Anatolia are not depicted separately because in many sources they are seen as Kurds.

Turkish is the only official language in Turkey, although there is a vast amount of minority languages such as Kurdish languages, Azeri, Circassian languages, Georgian and others.

### Turks

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## Turkey – Religious and sectarian groups

### Comments

There are no recent official figures concerning religious groups in Turkey. According to CIA-factbook, 99.8 percent of the population are Muslims, mostly Sunni, and the remaining 0.2 percent are mostly Christians and Jews. Michael Izady presents very similar numbers: 80.1 percent Sunni Muslims, 19.6 percent Shia Muslims, less than 0.1 percent others. A few sources depict Caferis as a distinct ethno-religious group, whereas other sources clarify that Caferis are ethnic Azeris and Shia Muslims. Although Christians and Yezidi amount to less than one percent of Turkey's total population, they are shown on this map because of their significant number in Syria and Iraq.

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### Syria – Ethnic and linguistic groups

## Comments

There are no official figures concerning ethnic groups in Syria. According to CIA-factbook 90.3 percent of the Syrian population are ethnic Arabs. The remaining 9.7 percent are mainly Kurds and Armenians. Michael Martens estimates that about 10 percent of the Syrian population is Kurdish. According to Michael Izady, 8.9 percent of the Syrian population are Kurds, 1.9 percent are Armenians, 0.7 percent are Turkmen and 0.5 percent are Circassians. It follows from this source that about 89 percent are ethnic Arabs. Furthermore, there are Aramaic, and Assyrian groups as well as Palestinian refugees.

The Syrian population is very heterogeneously in terms of ethnic and linguistic diversity. Due to this and because of partly inconsistent sources this map shows only approximately where main settlement areas of ethnic and linguistic groups are/used to be prior to March 2011. Especially in urban centers the ethnic / linguistic composition may differ significantly from the rural surroundings and it is not possible to show this heterogeneity on this type of map.

Arabic is the only official language in Syria. In part, the various minorities have adapted linguistically and are speaking Arabic as a second language.

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## Syria – Religious and sectarian groups

### Comments

There are few official figures concerning religious groups in Syria. According to CIA-factbook the official figure of the Muslim population is 87 percent of the total Syrian population. These 87 percent include Sunni Muslims, Alawites, Ismailis and Shia Muslims. According to CIA-factbook there are 74 percent Sunni Muslims, the remaining 13 percent include Alawites, Ismailis and Shia Muslims. Christians amount to 10 percent and Druze to 3 percent. According to Fritz Edlinger/Tyma Kraitt (2013) the Alawites amount to 10-13 percent, the Druze to 2 percent and the Ismailis to one percent. Germany's Auswärtiges Amt states slightly different figures: 71 percent Sunni Muslims, 12 percent Alawites, 10 percent Christians, 4 percent Druze, 2 percent Shia Muslims, one percent Ismailis and some Jews.

The Syrian population is very heterogeneously in terms of religious and sectarian diversity. Due to this and because of the partly inconsistent sources this map shows only approximately where main settlement areas of religious groups are/used to be prior to March 2011. Especially in urban centers the religious composition may differ significantly from the religious composition in rural surroundings and it is not possible to show this heterogeneity on this type of map.

### Alawites

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### Iraq – Ethnic and linguistic groups

#### Comments

*The Iraqi population is very diverse in terms of ethnicity and language and both have been politicized for decades. At times during the past few decades various minorities have been facing pressure or even force to adopt a certain ethnic label. Due to this and because of the partly inconsistent sources this map shows only approximately where main settlement areas of ethnic and linguistic groups are/used to be prior to Spring 2014. Especially in urban centers the ethnic / linguistic composition may differ significantly from composition in rural surroundings and it is not possible to show this heterogeneity on this type of map.*

*Due to the advance of radical Islamist groups like the “Islamic State” in summer 2014 and the subsequent armed conflict, the ethnic / linguistic composition of the Iraqi society is subjected to drastic changes at the time of creating this map. But even prior to summer 2014 the figures of various sources concerning the religious and sectarian makeup of Iraq differ significantly. This is due to the shifts in the religious and sectarian composition of various Iraqi regions since 2003 (accelerating since 2006). Moreover, during Baath rule an Arabisation campaign and later the notorious Anfal campaign changed the ethnic set-up of Northern Iraq. Later there have been Kurdish efforts to roll back Baathist settlement policies and strengthen their claim on territory.*

*According to CIA-factbook the official figure of the Arab population is 75-80 percent of the total Iraqi population, Kurds amount to 15-20 percent and all other ethnic groups together to 5 percent. According to Izady there are/were 73.5 percent Arabs, 21 percent Kurds, 3.1 percent Assyrians, Armenians, Chaldeans and other Christian*

groups, 2 percent Turkmens and 0.6 percent others (e.g. Lurs, Circassians, Alawites, Bahais, etc.). Due to the methodological challenges posed by the dispersion of Assyrians, Armenians, Chaldeans and other Christian groups in Northern Iraq not all of their main settlements could be shown in this map. While a considerable number of them lives in cities, smaller communities live in rural areas. The Yezidi and Kaka'i/Yarsan/Ahl-e Haqq are mostly speaking Kurdish dialects, whereas the Shabaks are speaking various languages/dialects like Shabaki, Arabic and Kurdish dialects. The so called "Black Iraqis", descendants of sailors, traders and slaves (approximately 1.5-2 million people) are mainly living in southern Iraq, particularly in the city of Basra. They are predominantly Arabic speaking Muslims. It was not possible to include this group into this map as the ethnic and religious makeup of cities cannot be shown on this type of map.

Arabic and Kurdish are the only official languages in Iraq. Some of the various minorities have adapted linguistically and are speaking Arabic as a second language.

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## Iraq – Religious and sectarian groups

### Comments

The Iraqi population is very heterogeneous in terms of religious and sectarian affiliation. Due to this and because of partly inconsistent sources this map shows only approximately where main settlement areas of religious groups are/used to be prior to spring 2014. Especially in urban centers the religious composition may differ significantly from the religious composition of the rural surroundings and it is not possible to show this heterogeneity on this type of map.

Due to the advance of extremist Islamist groups such as the “Islamic State” in summer 2014 and the subsequent armed conflict, the religious and sectarian composition of the Iraqi society has been subjected to drastic changes at the time of creating this map. But even prior to summer 2014 the figures of various sources concerning the religious and sectarian makeup of Iraq differ significantly. This is due to the shifts in the religious and sectarian composition of various Iraqi regions since 2003 (accelerating since 2006). E.g. according to CIA-factbook the official figure of the Muslim population (as of year 2010) is 99 percent of the total Iraqi population – Shia Muslims: 60-65 percent, Sunni Muslims (including Kurdish Sunnis): 32-37 percent. According to CIA-factbook there are only 0.8 percent Christians, whereas according to Izady’s figures (from 2014) there are around 4 percent Christians in Iraq. Following Izady’s figures there are about 2 percent Yezidi, Shabak and Kaka’i (shown as one group in the map for better overview), the rest (around 94 percent) are Muslims – 61 percent Shia Muslims, 33 percent Sunni Muslims. Due to the methodological challenges posed by the dispersion of Christian communities in Northern Iraq (highly dispersed with concentrations in cities), not all of the main Christian settlements could be shown in this map.

Identification by religious or ethnic affiliation might vary within a group and external attributions of religious or ethnic affiliation might differ from self-perception, too. For example, external perception might regard Yezidi religion as a “heretic” sect of Islam while Yezidi regard themselves as members of a religion in its own right - not as a former Islamic sect. Moreover, members of the Yezidi community regard themselves either as Kurds or just as a distinct ethno-religious minority and some might regard themselves as Arabs as there is a small Arabic speaking Yezidi community.

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### Jordan – Ethnic and linguistic groups

#### Comments

According to CIA-factbook, the total population of Jordan is 8,117,564. It consists of 98 percent Arabs, one percent Circassians and one percent Armenians. Michael Izady presents different figures based on 2008/2009 estimates. According to him, there are 87.9 percent Arabs, 6.3 percent Arabic-speaking Christians, 1.3 percent Druze, 0.5 percent Twelver Shia Muslims, 2.2 percent Circassians, 1.8 percent others and 0.1 percent Ismailis. Because they speak Arabic, the Druze are not depicted on the ethnic map. It has to be mentioned that a huge amount of the Arab population in Jordan consists of Palestinian refugees. According to the GIZ Länderinformationsportal, Palestinians account for up to 50 percent of the population. Other minorities not depicted on the map are Armenians, Kurds and Chechens. Due to the lack of alternative sources, Circassians (shown as Caucasian peoples) were depicted according to Michael Izady's map.

The official language of Jordan is Arabic. In some fields English is relevant, too.

#### Maps (all ethnic and linguistic groups)

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## **Jordan – Religious and sectarian groups**

### Comments

According to CIA-factbook, there are 97.2 percent Muslims (predominantly Sunni Muslims) and 2.2 percent Christians in Jordan. Furthermore, there are very small numbers of Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, folk religions and others (e.g. Bahais). Christians are not shown on this map because they live mainly in Amman and other cities and do not inhabit a well-defined territory.

### Maps (all religious and sectarian groups)

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## **Lebanon – Ethnic and linguistic groups**

### Comments

There are no recent official figures concerning ethnic groups in Lebanon. According to CIA-factbook, the total population of Lebanon is 6,184,701 (2015 estimates) and consists of 95 percent Arabs, 4 percent Armenians and one percent others. Armenians usually live in urban centers and Anjar and therefore cannot be shown on this map.

The official language of Lebanon is Arabic. English and French are important within the education system. The Armenian minority has adapted linguistically and speaks Arabic as a second language.

### Maps (all ethnic and linguistic groups)

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## **Lebanon – Religious and sectarian groups**

### Comments

There are no recent official figures concerning religious groups in Lebanon. The last official census that asked for religious affiliation was conducted in 1932. The Lebanese political system is based on the results of the census of 1932 and has not been adapted since then. According to CIA-factbook, 54 percent of the population are Muslims,



mainly Sunni and Shia Muslims (each 27 percent), 40.5 percent are Christians (includes 21 percent Maronite Catholic, 8 percent Greek Orthodox, 5 percent Greek Catholic, 6.5 percent other Christians) and 5.6 percent are Druze. Additionally, there are very small numbers of Jews, Bahais, Buddhists, Hindus and Mormons. Michael Izady presents different figures. According to him, in 2010 the ethnic and religious composition of Lebanon was as follows: 42.2 percent Arab-speaking Shia Muslims, 21.6 percent Arab-speaking Sunni Muslims, 18.7 percent Arab-speaking Christians, 7 percent Druze, 3.4 percent Alawites, 3 percent Armenian Christians, 1.4 percent Ismailis, 2.6 percent Kurds and 0.1 percent others.

Due to its complexity and its relative size on this map, the religious map of Lebanon is presented in a particularly simplified form. In total there are 18 religious groups recognized by the state: Sunni Muslims, Shia Muslims, Ismailis, Alawites, Maronite Christians, Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholics, Armenian Orthodox, Armenian Catholics, Syriac Orthodox (Jacobites), Syriac Catholics, Assyrians, Chaldeans, Copts, Evangelicals (including Protestant groups), Roman Catholics, Druze and Jews. Some other religious minority groups such as Bahais, Buddhists and Hindus are not officially recognized.

#### Maps (all religious and sectarian groups)

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## 3. Middle East

### Comments

*Some ethnic minorities are not depicted on this map, e.g. Tat in Iran. Further information is provided in the comments concerning each country. Especially in urban centers the religious composition may differ significantly from the religious composition of the rural surroundings and it is not possible to show this heterogeneity on this type of map.*

*Some of the ethnic minorities are subsumed under the following groups: The ethnic groups of Talysh, Gilaki and Mazandarani are shown as one group, because they speak Northwestern Iranian languages which are closely related to each other. Gilaki and Mazandarani belong to the Caucasian language branch (which is a sub-group of Northwestern Iranian languages).*

*Some religious minorities are not depicted on this map. Further information is provided in the comments concerning each country. Especially in urban centers the religious composition may differ significantly from the religious composition of the rural surroundings and it is not possible to show this heterogeneity on this type of map.*

*The different branches of Shia Islam (Twelver Shia Muslims, Ismailis) are depicted individually. Religious minorities like Christians, Jews, Bahais and others cannot be shown on the map, because they are mainly concentrated in the cities and/or their number is too small.*

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## **Afghanistan – Ethnic and linguistic groups**

### Comments

According to CIA-factbook, the total population of Afghanistan is 32,564,342 (2015 estimates). CIA-factbook states, that there is no current statistical data on ethnicity in Afghanistan available and ethnicity data from small samples of respondents to opinion polls are not a reliable alternative. The last census was done in the 1970s. CIA-factbook enlists the following ethnic groups: Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Baloch, Turkmens, Nuristani, Pamiri, Arab, Gujar, Brahui, Qizilbash, Aimaq, Pashai and Kyrgyz. Except for Kyrgyz, the Afghan constitution of 2004 recognizes all the mentioned ethnic groups. Not all of them are depicted on this map. Brahui, Gujar, Qizilbash, Arabs and Kyrgyz are not shown on this map, either because their number is too small or because they mainly live in urban areas that are not included in this map.

According to GIZ – Länderinformationsportal, Pashtuns amount to 40 percent, Tajiks to 30 percent, Hazara to 10 percent and Uzbek to 9 percent. The Institute for the Study of War reports that 3 percent of the population are Turkmens. Minority Rights Group International says that Baloch make up to 2 percent of the Afghan population. Especially the Northern part of Afghanistan is extremely diverse regarding ethnicity and can only be shown in a simplified way. In the Northern provinces of Afghanistan settle Uzbeks, Tajiks, Pashtuns, Hazara, Turkmens and others.

In some sources Tajiks, Pamiri and Farsiwan are depicted/referred to as individual groups, whereas for a better overview they are depicted as Tajiks on this map. Recent scientific literature separates Pamiris from Tajiks because the language they speak is only distantly related to Tajik Persian. The term “Farsiwan” refers to the inhabitants of Northwestern Afghanistan (especially around the city of Herat), who speak Persian. The majority of maps show them as Tajiks, although their life situation is very different from the one of Tajiks living in the mountains.

The term “Aimaq” is an umbrella term for various Sunni tribes, e.g. Firuzkuhi, Jamshidi, Taimani, Timuri, Zuri, etc. In many sources Sunni Hazara living around the city of Herat are referred to as Aimaq. They are depicted as Hazara, because Shia Hazara in Central Afghanistan are also shown individually. Hazara speak Hazaragi, which in some sources is described as being an own language, in other sources it is called a dialect of Persian.

The two official languages of Afghanistan are Afghan Persian (Dari) and Pashto. According to CIA – factbook, Dari functions as the lingua franca. Furthermore, the Turkic languages Uzbek and Turkmen and Balochi, Pashai, Nuristani and Pamiri are the third official languages in areas where the majority speaks them. CIA – factbook presents some numbers regarding the use of languages in Afghanistan: 50 percent of the population speak Afghan Persian, 35 percent speak Pashto, 11 percent speak Turkic languages like Uzbek and Turkmen and 4 percent of the population speak a language like Balochi or Pashai.

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## **Afghanistan – Religious and sectarian groups**

### Comments

According to CIA – factbook, 99.7 percent of the Afghan population are Muslims. 84.7 to 89.7 percent are Sunni Muslims, whereas 10 to 15 percent belong to the Shia branch of Islam. Only 0.3 percent are non-Muslims. There are practically no Jews in Afghanistan. Sikh and Hindu minorities mainly live in bigger cities like Kandahar and Kabul. In general, Hazara living in Central Afghanistan and some Tajiks (not all) are Shia; almost all of them belong to Twelver Shia. Additionally, there are some Ismaili Hazara and some Ismaili Tajiks (Pamiris or Mountain-Tajiks). The Qizilbash are also Shiites.

In Afghanistan Shiites can only be depicted in a simplified manner. In each of the bigger cities there are significant Shiite neighborhoods, e.g. Chindawul, Muradkhani, Kart-e Seh, Kart-e Sakhi and Dehmazang in Kabul, parts of Aliabad, parts of Herat (especially the township Jabraeel), parts of Mazar-i Sharif (especially Kart-e Bokhdi), parts of Kandahar city and in Farah.

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## **Pakistan – Ethnic and linguistic groups**

### Comments

According to CIA – factbook, the total population of Pakistan is 199,085,847 (2015 estimates). CIA – factbook reports that Punjabis amount to 44.68 percent of the total population, Pashtuns/Pathans to 15.42 percent, Sindhis to 14.1 percent, Saraiki to 8.38 percent, Mohajir to 7.57 percent and Baloch to 3.57 percent. The remaining 6.28 percent of the population are made up by other ethnic groups. The term “Pathans” refers to the Pashtun ethnic group; it comes from Hindi language and was adopted by the British.

There is an ongoing territorial dispute between India and Pakistan regarding the region of Kashmir since both countries claim Kashmir. There is a ceasefire line that divides Kashmir into two parts; one is controlled by Pakistan, the other one by India. The territories of Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir are under Pakistani control and are therefore shown on this map. India claims both territories; at the same time Pakistan claims the territories kept under Indian control.

Not all ethnic minorities are shown on the map, either because they are too small or because they mainly live in urban areas, e.g. Mohajir, Hazara, Brahui and Kihals. Furthermore, more than one million of Afghan refugees live in Pakistan.

Mohajir are Muslims who emigrated from India to Pakistan after the partition of India in 1947. They are an important minority group (about 7 percent of the total population), but since they have no contiguous settlement area they cannot be shown on this map. Mohajir live mainly in urban areas; in the metropolis of Karachi they are a significant population group. Saraikis are not depicted as an individual ethnic group, because in most sources they are shown as Punjabis. The status of Saraiki language is disputed. Some sources call it an own language, but most of them state that it is a dialect of Punjabi. Saraiki is spoken in Bhakkar, D.I. Khan, Muzaffar Garh, Rajan Pur and other regions. It has to be mentioned that the dispute on the status of Saraiki language does not only have to do with linguistic factors, but with cultural, historical and political ones. There are also some other cases in which the status of Punjabi dialects is disputed, e.g. Hindko speakers living in the Hazara division in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Potowhari speakers.

The Northern part of Pakistan is extremely diverse regarding ethnicity and can only be shown in a simplified way. Therefore, all ethnic minorities, including Shina, Balti, Kalasha, Wakhi, Burusho/Hunza, Kho/Chitralis and others, are subsumed under one group.

Additional attention should be paid to Pakistan's population density, which varies considerably from region to region. For example, Baluchistan accounts for approximately 40 percent of Pakistan's territory, but has only 5 percent of the population. More than half of the population lives in the province of Punjab.

The official languages of Pakistan are Urdu and English, although the majority of the population does not speak these languages as their mother tongue. In 2015, the Supreme Court ordered the government to adopt only Urdu as official language. According to CIA-factbook, the main languages being spoken in Pakistan are the following: 48 percent Punjabi, 12 percent Sindhi, 10 percent Saraiki (Punjabi variant), 8 percent Pashto, 8 percent Urdu, 3 percent Balochi, 2 percent Hindko and one percent Brahui. English is used as a lingua franca. The remaining 8 percent refer to other languages.

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## **Pakistan – Religious and sectarian groups**

### Comments

The official religion of Pakistan is Islam. According to CIA-factbook, 96.4 percent of the population are Muslims; 85 to 90 percent are Sunni Muslims, 10 to 15 percent are Shia Muslims. The remaining 3.6 percent include Christians, Hindus and other non-Muslim religions.

Not all religious minorities can be shown on the map, e.g. Zoroastrians, Christians, Ahmadis, Buddhists, Sikhs, Kalashas (animists), Kihals, Jains and people practicing Sufism. Christians mainly live in Central Punjab and in all big cities (especially Lahore). Ahmadis amount to less than one million and have no contiguous settlement area. They live mainly in urban areas.

In the sources used, the areas inhabited by both Sunni and Shia Muslims were depicted in very different ways. Additionally, there were only few sources available. It was decided to depict the Sunni-Shia mixed areas according to the source with the most current date (Izady, 2016).

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## **Iran – Ethnic and linguistic groups**

### Comments

According to GIZ – Länderinformationsportal, the total population of Iran is 78,800,000. In July 2015, the U.S. government estimated the population at 81,824,270. GIZ – Länderinformationsportal reports that Persians amount to 51 percent and 24 percent of the population are Azeris (Azerbaijanis). Furthermore, 8 percent of the population are Gilakis and Mazandarani, 7 percent are Kurds and 3 percent are Arabs. Turkmens, Lurs and Baloch amount to 2 percent respectively. Originally, the term Qashqai refers to various clans of different ethnic origins, but almost all of them are of Turkic origin and speak a Turkic dialect. In some sources Kugiluyeh and Bakhtiari are depicted/referred to as individual groups, whereas they are shown as Lurs on this map. Bakhtiari language can be seen as a Lurish dialect.

Some minorities are not depicted on this map, e.g. Brahui in the Southeast of Iran, Afshars and Tats. Additionally, according to some sources, there are more than one million Afghan refugees living in Iran.

Persian is the only official language in Iran, although there is a vast amount of minority languages such as Azeri Turkic, Kurdish, Gilaki, Mazandarani, Luri, Balochi, and Arabic.

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## **Iran – Religious and sectarian groups**

## Comments

Twelver Shiism is the official religion in Iran. There are only three officially recognized religious minorities: Christians, Jews and Zoroastrians. All the other religious minorities are not officially recognized. According to USDOS (Report on Religious Freedom 2015), Muslims constitute 99 percent of the Iranian population. 90 to 95 percent are Shia Muslims and 5 to 10 percent Sunni Muslims (especially Turkmens, Baloch, some Arabs and most of the Kurds). Furthermore, there are Iranians who practice Sufism, but there are no official statistics on their number. Several thousand of Iranians belong to the Ismaili sect of Shia Islam, especially in the Northeast. The remaining one percent of the population are Bahais, Christians, Jews, Zoroastrians and Yarsan (all numbers from USDOS). According to USDOS, the number of Yarsan in Iran is up to one million. Other sources state that Yarsan amount to up to 2- 4 million. In other countries, Yarsan are also known as Ahl-e Haqq or Kaka'i.

Bahais, Jews and Zoroastrians are not shown on the map because they mainly live in urban areas (e.g. Zoroastrians around Yazd). According to USDOS (Report on Religious Freedom 2015), the majority of Christians are ethnic Armenians and live in Teheran and Isfahan. Smaller Christian communities live in the Northwest of Iran. Christians living in urban areas cannot be depicted on the map, whereas Christians living in Northwestern Iran are depicted. There is a difference between "ethnic" Christians like Armenians and Assyrians (officially recognized) and converts (not officially recognized). Sources suggest that there are very few, if any, Yezidis in Iran.

## Maps (all religious and sectarian groups)

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## 4. Arabian Peninsula

### Comments

*There may be ethnic minorities that are not shown on this map. Further information is provided in the comments concerning each country.*

*Some of the ethnic minorities are subsumed under the following group: “Mehri and Others” refers to various non-Arabic speaking ethnic groups. They are all speakers of Modern South Arabian languages (e.g. Mehri, Bathari, Socotri, Harsusi, Jibbali, Hobyot). Modern South Arabian languages are spoken in the South of Saudi Arabia and in the border area between Yemen and Oman. In Saudi Arabia and Yemen these groups amount to less than one percent of the total population, whereas in Oman they represent more than one percent. Nevertheless, they were depicted in Yemen and Oman. Estimates state a total of approximately 200.000 speakers of Modern South Arabian languages. Most of them are bilingual and also speak Arabic. Modern South Arabian languages usually are restricted to oral use.*

*In the Gulf States expatriate workers and immigrants account for a significant percentage of the total population, e.g. Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Indonesians, Sudanese, Jordanians, Egyptians, Filipinos and Westerners. Those minority groups cannot be shown on this map, because they have no main settlement area and live mainly in the cities.*

*There may be religious minorities that are not shown on this map. Further information is provided in the comments concerning each country.*



The different branches of Shia Islam (Twelver Shia Muslims, Ismailis, Zaydi Shia Muslims) were depicted individually. Wahhabism is not shown separately from Sunni Islam.

Although Zaydi Shia Muslims number less than one percent of the total population in Saudi Arabia, they are depicted on this map, because in Yemen they represent a considerable part of the population. Due to the lack of alternative sources showing main settlement areas of ethnic or religious groups on maps Michael Izady's maps are the main source.

## 4.1. Saudi Arabia

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## **Saudi Arabia – Ethnic and linguistic groups**

### Comments

There are no recent official figures concerning ethnic groups in Saudi Arabia. Recent data are based on estimates. According to CIA-Factbook, the total population of Saudi Arabia is 27,752,316 (2015 estimates). Arabs amount to 90 percent and 10 percent of the population are Afro-Asians. More than 30 percent of the population consist of expatriate workers of various ethnic origins and faiths. Arabic is the only official language in Saudi Arabia, although there are some minority languages.

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## **Saudi Arabia – Religious and sectarian groups**

### Comments

There are no official figures concerning religious groups in Saudi Arabia. According to CIA-factbook, 85 to 90 percent are Sunni Muslims, while Shia Muslims number 10 to 15 percent of the total population. In Saudi Arabia, there are three groups of Shia Muslims: Twelver Shia Muslims, Ismailis and Zaydi Shia Muslims. Around Mekka and Medina there live few Shia Muslims. The Ismailis in the South of Saudi Arabia (around Najran) mainly belong to the branch of Sulaimani Ismailis, a few are Bohra/Dawoodi Ismailis. Additionally, there are other religious minorities like Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs. Wahhabism is not shown separately from Sunni Islam.

### Sunni Muslims, including Wahhabis

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## **Yemen – Ethnic and linguistic groups**

### Comments



There are no official figures concerning ethnic groups in Yemen. According to CIA-factbook, the total population of Yemen is 26,737,317 (2015 estimates). Yemenites are predominantly Arab, but also Afro-Arabs, South Asians and Europeans. Due to the armed conflict in Yemen, the religious and ethnic composition of the population may have been subjected to changes during the creation of this map. According to UN data, in January 2016 there were 2,430,000 IDPs in Yemen. According to February 2016 UN estimates, more than 267.000 refugees live in Yemen and of those 238.000 were from Somalia. Usually they settle in refugee camps or in bigger cities near the coast. Many Yemenites have African or Asian origins, but have adopted Arabic as their language. Therefore, they are depicted as Arabs on this map. Akhdam are descendants of immigrants of African origin, who live very isolated and are often called Afro-Arabs. On this map they are depicted as Arabs because they can be seen as a social group rather than an ethnic one. Akhdam make up to 5 percent of the total Yemeni population.

The official language of Yemen is Arabic. In eastern Yemen the language of Mehri is still fairly widely spoken. On Socotra Island Socotri language, which belongs to the Modern South Arabic languages, is spoken by approximately 50.000 people.

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## Yemen – Religious and sectarian groups

### Comments

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### **Oman – Ethnic and linguistic groups**

#### Comments

There are no official figures concerning ethnic groups in Oman. Due to historical factors, a history of migration and a tradition of maritime trade, the Omani population is very diverse in ethnic and religious terms. Many Omanis have an African, South Asian or Zanzibari ethnic background.

According to CIA-Factbook, the total population of Oman is 3,286,936 (2015 estimates). According to UN data (2015), immigrants make up over 40 percent of the total population, which is less than in other Gulf States. The

main ethnic groups mentioned by CIA-Factbook are Arabs, Baloch, Indians (e.g. Gujarati), Pakistanis, Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and Africans. Additionally, there are smaller ethnic minorities like Zadjalis, Shihuh, Bahrans and Khojas/Lawatiyyah (mostly Indian Shia Muslims). Especially the al-Batina coast is extremely diverse, polyglot and multiethnic.

The official language of Oman is Arabic, but there are many important minority languages like Swahili, Persian, Balochi, Urdu, Indian dialects and others.

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## Oman – Religious and sectarian groups

### Comments

There are no official figures concerning religious groups in Oman. According to CIA-Factbook, 85.9 percent of the population are Muslims, 6.5 percent are Christians, 5.5 percent Hindus and 0.8 percent Buddhists. The remaining 1.2 percent refers to Jews, religiously unaffiliated persons and others. In other sources, Wahhabis, Sikhs and Bahais are also mentioned. CIA-Factbook states that approximately 75 percent of Omani citizens, who compose almost 70 percent of the country's total population, are Ibadi Muslims.

Ibadism is a branch of Islam that is traditionally seen to belong neither to the Sunni Muslims nor to the Shia Muslims. Oman is the only country where Ibadism dominates. Smaller communities of Ibadi Muslims can be found in Algeria (M'zab oasis) and Libya (Nafusa mountains). Ibadi Muslims account for 45 to 75 percent of the population, depending on whether foreign citizens are included in the calculation or not. In Oman there is a small Shiite minority (from 2 to 5 percent of the total population), which lives mainly in East Oman around Muscat and other cities. Despite their small number, Shia Muslims have considerable political and economic influence in Omani society.

### Ibadi Muslims

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Maps:

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Map:

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## 5. North Africa 1

### Comments

*There may be ethnic minorities that are not shown on this map. Further information is provided in the comments concerning each country.*

*Additionally, Beduins are shown as Arabs, because in most of the countries their settlement area is not clearly defined. In order to increase the informative value of this map and because the majority of sources do so, the Tuareg, a nomadic Berber ethnic group with an own independent culture, are depicted separately from other Berbers. All other groups of Berbers (also called Imazighen, speaking various Berber dialects), with the exception of Tuareg, are shown as one group. Although they do not account for one percent of Egypt's population, Berbers are shown both in Egypt and Libya.*

*When creating the maps showing ethnic and religious minorities in North Africa, the methodology was slightly changed. On the other maps, a minority was depicted if it accounted for more than one percent of the country's total population or if it accounted for more than one percent of the total population in a neighboring country that is also shown on the map. Due to the specific demographic situation in North African countries, the methodology was adapted and the one-percent-limit was abandoned. In order to increase the informative value the maps concerning North African countries also depict relevant ethnic and religious minorities if their settlement area can be defined and even if they constitute less than one percent of the population.*

*Due to large nomadic populations, the settlement areas of some ethnic groups can be shown only in a simplified way. The number of nomadic peoples living in a specific country at a given moment is, due to their nomadic lifestyle, regularly changing places and crossing borders, mostly unknown or based on rough estimates.*

*In North Africa a clear distinction between the groups of Berbers and Arabs is mostly not possible. Many Libyans are descendants of Berbers, but identify as Arabs.*

*There may be religious minorities that are not shown on this map. Further information is provided in the comments concerning each country.*

*In Egypt, all Shia Muslims (mainly Twelver Shia and Ismailis) are depicted as one group.*

*When creating the maps showing ethnic and religious minorities in North Africa, the methodology was slightly changed. On the other maps, a minority was depicted if it accounted for more than one percent of the country's total population or if it accounted for more than one percent of the total population in a neighboring country that is also shown on the map. Due to the specific demographic situation in North African countries, the methodology was adapted and the one-percent-limit was abandoned. In order to increase the informative value of the work, on the maps concerning North African countries relevant ethnic and religious minorities were also depicted if their settlement area can be defined and even if they constitute less than one percent of the population.*

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## **Egypt – Ethnic and linguistic groups**

### Comments

According to CIA-Factbook, the total population of Egypt is 88,487,396 (2015 estimates). Egyptians amount to 99.6 percent of the population, the remaining 0.4 percent consist of other ethnic groups. Other sources present estimated numbers of Egypt's ethnic minorities (e.g. Nubians, Berbers, Beja).

An estimated 25.000 Berbers live in Western Egypt's Siwa oasis. Nubians live in the South of Egypt; estimates on their number vary between 200.000 and up to 3 million (by advocacy groups). There are no reliable statistics concerning the number of Beja people in Egypt. In total there are an estimated 2 million Beja living in Sudan, Egypt and Eritrea, but there are no exact numbers on Beja in Egypt. (Unqualified) estimates range from 60.000 to 100.000. Beduins, mainly living on the Sinai Peninsula, are not depicted separately from Arabs. Other ethnic minorities not depicted on this map are Greeks and Armenians, who live along the Mediterranean coast of Egypt. Copts are shown as a religious minority (see below). Furthermore, refugees from Libya, Somalia, Iraq, Sudan, South Sudan and Gaza are living in Egypt.

Egypt consists of large areas that are only sparsely populated. Approximately 97 percent of the population lives along the Nile River, an area with one of the highest population densities in the world. Less than 10 percent of Egyptian territory are inhabited or cultivated. The Hala'ib triangle in the Southeast of Egypt is a contested territory, claimed both by Egypt and Sudan. Today the territory is controlled by Egypt.

Arabic is the only official language in Egypt, although there are some minority languages such as Berber, Nubian and Beja languages. English and, to a lesser extent, French are widely spoken and understood by educated Egyptians.

### Arabs

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## **Egypt – Religious and sectarian groups**

### Comments

According to CIA-Factbook, 90 percent of the population are Muslims (predominantly Sunni) and 10 percent are Christians. The majority of Christians is Coptic Orthodox; other Christians include Armenian Apostolic, Catholic, Maronites, Orthodox and Anglicans). On the map, Copts are depicted separately from other Christians in Egypt, because the majority of Christians in Egypt are Copts. According to the USDOS 2015 Report on Religious Freedom, the estimates concerning Christians in Egypt range from 5 percent to 15 percent of the total population. Non-Coptic Christian communities like Armenians, Apostolic, Catholics, Orthodox, Anglicans and Protestants, account for less than 2 percent of the population. USDOS states, that Christians reside throughout the country, but their percentage is higher in Upper Egypt and in the cities of Cairo and Alexandria. There is also a small Shia Muslim minority in Egypt. Estimates on their number vary between 800.000 to two million; other sources state that they account for about one percent of Egypt's total population. According to Michael Izady, Shiites (both Ismailis and Twelver Shia) live mainly in the South of Egypt. Other religious minorities not depicted on this map are Ahmadis, Sufis, Atheists, Bahais, Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons.



The Copts are depicted as a religious minority, although they are sometimes considered an ethnic (or ethno-religious) minority, too. In the past, Copts had their own language different from Arabic. Nowadays Coptic language is only used in religious liturgy; Copts speak Arabic. Considering these linguistic factors, Copts are depicted as Arabs. It is worth mentioning that this decision would not be supported by all Egyptian Copts, because Arab identity is frequently linked to Islam. The opinion that Copts are also an ethnic minority is linked to the questions of Egyptian identity and the relation between Egyptian identity and Islam.

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## 5.2. Libya

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### Libya – Ethnic and linguistic groups

#### Comments

According to CIA-factbook, the total population of Libya is 6,411,776 (2015 estimates). According to UN data, immigrants make up over 12 percent of the population. 97 percent of the population are Berber and Arab, the remaining 3 percent consist of Greeks, Maltese, Italians, Egyptians, Pakistanis, Turks, Indians and Tunisians. Like in other North African countries (especially Morocco and Algeria), the distinction between Arabs and Berbers is often not clearly possible (see above).

Considering Berbers and Arabs separately, according to unofficial estimates, Berbers amount to up to 10 percent of the Libyan population. Official figures state significantly smaller numbers. Furthermore, Tuareg and Tebu/Toubou minorities live in Libya, whose exact number is not known because of their nomadic lifestyle. Tuareg live in the Sahara desert across Mali, Niger, Algeria, Libya and Burkina Faso. Estimates concerning their

number in Libya range from 10.000 to several hundred thousand (which is not a very realistic number according to an expert). The Tebu, also commonly written as Toubou or Tabu, inhabit the border area of Libya, Chad and Niger (especially Tibesti mountains). Estimates on their numbers range from 120.000 to several hundred thousand in all three countries, in Libya there live an estimated 50.000 Tebu/Toubou.

Furthermore, there are an estimated 700.000 to one million migrants living in Libya (IOM 2016), mainly originating from Egypt, Niger, Sudan, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Syria and Mali. Tebu/Toubou and migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa are often called "Black Libyans". Black African migrants are called "Tawerghans". Not only the division of society into ethnic groups, but also the tribal structure is very important in Libya.

The official language of Libya is Arabic. Italian and English are widely understood in the cities. Additionally, various Berber dialects (like Nafusi, Ghadamis, Awjilah and Tamasheq) and Tebu language are spoken in Libya. Many Libyan Berbers are bilingual and speak both Berber language and Arabic, few people speak only Berber.

### Arabs/Arabized Berbers

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## Tuareg

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## **Libya – Religious and sectarian groups**

### Comments

According to CIA-factbook, 96.6 percent of the Libyan population are Muslims, virtually all are Sunni Muslims. Ibadi Muslims account for less than one percent of the population and belong mainly to the Berber ethnic minority. Christians amount to 2.7 percent of the population, Buddhists to 0.3 percent and Hindus, Jews, adherents of folk religions and others amount to less than 0.1 percent respectively. 0.2 percent of the population is religiously unaffiliated. According to the USDOS 2015 Report on Religious Freedom, there are also very small numbers of Bahais and Ahmadi Muslims in Libya. The small Christian communities consist of sub-Saharan African and Egyptian migrants (Copts, approximately 50.000) and a small number of U.S. and European residents. Due to the

fact that western diplomatic missions were evacuated from Tripoli in July 2014, there are no reliable sources on the number of foreign workers remaining in Libya.

Although Ibadi Muslims account for less than one percent of the total Libyan population, they are depicted on this map in order to enhance the informative value. Furthermore, the settlement area of Ibadi Muslims in Libya is precisely known (Nafusa Mountains). The Christian minority, despite numbering up to 3 percent of the population, does not have a precise settlement area; they live mainly in the cities along the coast. The faith of some Sunni Muslims (e.g. Tebu/Toubou) may also contain other elements (e.g. pre-Islamic, Sudanese or West African). In Libya, Islam is the official religion.

### Sunni Muslims

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## 6. North Africa 2

### Comments

*There may be ethnic minorities that are not shown on this map. Further information is provided in the comments concerning each country.*

*Beduins are depicted as Arabs, because their settlement area is not defined in the respective countries. To increase the informative value of the map and because the majority of sources do so, the Tuareg, a nomadic Berber ethnic group with an own independent culture, are depicted separately from other Berbers. All groups of Berbers (also called Imazighen, speaking various Berber dialects), with the exception of Tuareg, are shown as one group. Some of the Berbers living in Algeria and Morocco are the Kabyle in the North of Algeria, Chaouia in the Aurés Mountains, the Chenoua, and the Rif in Morocco and the Ishelhiyen in the Atlas Mountains. Other Berber languages are Tachawit, Tumzabt, Tagargrent and Taznatit. The Tuareg speak Tamasheq. Although they do not account for one percent of Tunisia's population, Berbers are shown in all three countries (Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco).*

*When creating the maps showing ethnic and religious minorities in North Africa, the methodology was slightly changed. On the other maps, a minority was depicted if it accounted for more than one percent of the country's total population or if it accounted for more than one percent of the total population in a neighboring country that is*

also shown on the map. Due to the specific demographic situation in North African countries, the methodology was adapted and the one-percent-limit was abandoned. In order to increase the informative value of the work, on the maps concerning North African countries relevant ethnic and religious minorities are also shown if their settlement area can be defined and even if they constitute less than one percent of the population.

Due to large nomadic populations, the settlement areas of some ethnic groups can be shown only in a simplified way. The number of nomadic peoples living in a specific country at a given moment is, due to their nomadic lifestyle, regularly changing places and crossing borders, mostly unknown or based on rough estimates.

In North Africa a clear distinction between the groups of Berbers and Arabs is mostly not possible. Many Tunisians, Algerians and Moroccans are descendants of Berbers, but identify as Arabs. The majority of the populations have been Arabized and Islamized and thus the category "Arabs, arabized Berbers and Arab-Berbers" has been named as such. It can be assumed that the population of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia consists of a mixture of Arab, Berber, European and sub-Saharan African elements.

There may be religious minorities that are not shown on this map. Further information is provided in the comments concerning each country.

Almost the entire population of Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia are Sunni Muslims. In the past, Berbers had their own pre-Islamic religion; nowadays they adhere to Islam. The sparsely populated areas are based on Michael Izadys maps.

When creating the maps showing ethnic and religious minorities in North Africa, the methodology was slightly changed. On the other maps, a minority was depicted if it accounted for more than one percent of the country's total population or if it accounted for more than one percent of the total population in a neighboring country that is also shown on the map. Due to the specific demographic situation in North African countries, the methodology was adapted and the one-percent-limit was abandoned. In order to increase the informative value of the work, on the maps concerning North African countries relevant ethnic and religious minorities are also shown if their settlement area can be defined and even if they constitute less than one percent of the population.

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## **Algeria – Ethnic and linguistic groups**

### Comments

According to CIA-factbook, the total population of Algeria is 39,542,166 (2015 estimates). 99 percent of the Algerian population are Arab-Berbers. Europeans (like French, Italians, Maltese) account for less than one percent of the population. Almost all Algerians are Berber in origin, but only few of them (15 percent) identify themselves as Berber. The main Berber groups in Algeria are Kabyle (in the Northern Mountains), Tuareg (nomads living in the South in Ahaggar and Ajjer Mountains), Chaouia (in the North) and Mzab (in Mzab Valley). For the sake of clarity, the small Berber settlement areas in the North (mountainous coastal regions) are not depicted on this map. There may be a Berber minority around In Salah; unambiguous information could not be found.

There live an estimated 160.000 Sahrawi refugees from Western Sahara around the Western Algerian town of Tindouf. On this map Sahrawi people are depicted as Arabs/Arab-Berbers/Arabized Berbers because they combine Arab, Berber and sub-Saharan African elements. In the midst of the Algerian Sahara there is a linguistic enclave where Korandje, a Nilo-Saharan Songhay language, is spoken by an estimated 8.000 people.

The official languages of Algeria are Arabic and Berber/Tamazight. French serves as lingua franca.

### Arabs/ Arab-Berbers /Arabized Berbers

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## Algeria – Religious and sectarian groups

### Comments

According to CIA-factbook, 99 percent of Algerians are Muslims, predominantly Sunni Muslims. Others, like Christians and Jews, account for less than one percent of the population. Additionally, according to the USDOS 2015 Report on Religious Freedom, there are also some Shia Muslims, Ahmadis and Ibadi Muslims in Algeria. Many Christians are foreign residents from Western Africa, converts or descendants of the colonial population. Christians mainly reside in the cities of Algiers, Annaba and Oran. Unofficial estimates on their number range from 20.000 to 100.000. Algerian Ibadi Muslims reside in the M'zab Valley (province of Ghardaia), are also called Mozabites and are mainly ethnic Berbers. Berber Islam can be different from mainstream Arab Sunni Islam. Due to the lack of alternative sources the depiction of the religious composition of Morocco is based on Michael Izady's map.

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21. März 2016

## Morocco – Ethnic and linguistic groups

### Comments

According to CIA-factbook, the total population of Morocco is 33,322,699 (2015 estimates). 99 percent of the population are Arab-Berbers, one percent are other ethnic groups. In North Africa, Morocco has the biggest amount of Berber speaking peoples. When depicting the Berbers in Morocco, two main sources were relied upon (Michael Izady, Fanack). Whenever both maps showed different areas of settlement, a compromise had to be found: areas that in both sources were depicted as inhabited by Berbers are shown as Berber settlement area. Areas that in one source were shown as inhabited by Berbers and in the other source as Arab-Berber mixed territory or non-Berber, are shown as Arab-Berber mixed territory.

The territory of Western Sahara (also referred to as Southern Province by Morocco) is contested by Morocco and the Polisario Front (Popular Front for the Liberation of the Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro). The legal status of the territory and the issue of sovereignty are unresolved. A cease fire was implemented in 1991 by the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). Today, the Western part of the territory is controlled by Morocco. A narrow strip of land in the East, called "liberated zone" by the Polisario Front, is subject to the control of Polisario Front. Western Sahara is sparsely populated (estimated 600.000 inhabitants, mostly Moroccans). More than 90 percent of the population lives in the province of Laayoune. Sahrawi are the indigenous people of Western Sahara and combine Arab, Berber and sub-Saharan African elements. They speak the Arabic Hassaniya dialect and are therefore depicted as Arabs/Arabized Berbers/Arab-Berbers. Approximately 160.000 Sahrawi people live in refugee camps near the Algerian town of Tindouf.

The official languages of Morocco are Arabic and Tamazight (one of the Berber languages). French is widely spoken in the areas of business, government and diplomacy. The linguistic situation in Morocco is complex: The majority of Moroccans speaks at least 3 languages (Modern Standard Arabic, French, Moroccan Arabic dialect). It can be assumed that approximately 40 percent of the population are native speakers of Berber language.

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#### Maps:

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## Morocco – Religious and sectarian groups

### Comments

According to CIA-factbook, 99 percent of the Moroccan population are Muslims, virtually all Sunni Muslims. Shia Muslims amount to less than 0.1 percent of the population. The remaining one percent includes Christians (estimates vary between 2.000 and 50.000, many of them foreign residents coming from Europe or Sub-Saharan Africa), Jews (3.000-4.000, many of them in Casablanca) and Bahai. Due to the lack of alternative sources the religious composition of Morocco was depicted based on Michael Izadys map.

### Sunni Muslims

Map:

Columbia University/Gulf 2000 Project/Michael Izady (2014-2016): Islam: Branches and Denominations, map: [http://gulf2000.columbia.edu/images/maps/Islam\\_Branches\\_Denom\\_lq.png](http://gulf2000.columbia.edu/images/maps/Islam_Branches_Denom_lq.png), access 4.10.2016

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## **Tunisia – Ethnic and linguistic groups**

### Comments

According to CIA-factbook, the total population of Tunisia is 11,037,225 (2015 estimates). 98 percent of the population are Arabs, one percent is European; Jews and others account for the remaining percent. In comparison with other North African countries, in ethnic and religious terms Tunisia is quite homogenous. The majority of sources estimates that the Tunisian Berber population amount to approximately one percent of the total population. Other sources (e.g. Congres Mondial Amazigh) state that Berbers account for up to 10 percent of the population. There is a difference between Berbers and arabized Berbers/Arab-Berbers. Like in other North African countries, many Tunisian have Berber origins but identify themselves as Arabs (and also speak Arabic). Only two main areas that are inhabited by Berbers (Island Djerba and territory around Tataouine) are depicted on this map.

The official language of Tunisia is Arabic; Berber/Tamazight is a minority language. The languages of commerce are Arabic and French. Although French lacks official status it is spoken by more than 60 percent of the Tunisian population.

### Arabs/Arab-Berbers/Arabized Berbers

Maps:

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## Berbers

Map:

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## **Tunisia – Religious and sectarian groups**

### Comments

According to CIA-factbook, 99.1 percent of the population are Sunni Muslims. The remaining 0.9 percent refer to Jews, Shia Muslims, Bahai and Christians (Roman Catholics, Protestants, Russian Orthodox, French Reformists, Anglicans, Seventh-day Adventists, Greek Orthodox and Jehovah's Witnesses).

### Sunni Muslims

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### Ibadis

Map:

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