

# YEMEN

## Smart Book

TRADOC Culture Center

First Edition Feb 2010

## **PURPOSE**

**To ensure that U.S. Army personnel have a relevant, comprehensive guide to help enhance cultural understanding; to use in capacity building and in counterterrorism, security, and stability operations while deployed in the Republic of Yemen**

**“We are experiencing a tectonic change in military operations because of culture.”**

**- MG John M. Custer, III**

## **ON THIS BOOK**

**The Smart Book contains information designed to enhance the Soldier's knowledge of Yemen, including history, politics, country data and statistics, and the military operational environment. The Smart Book concludes with an overview of the culture of Yemen including religion, identity, behavior, communication and negotiation techniques, an overview of ethnic groups, a regional breakdown outlining each province, a language guide, and cultural proverbs.**

## **FOCUS**

**“We all must understand the people...  
Operate in a way that respects their  
culture and religion.”**

**- General Stanley A. McChrystal  
Command, ISAF**

**“COIN Training Guidance,” 10 November 2009**



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# HISTORY

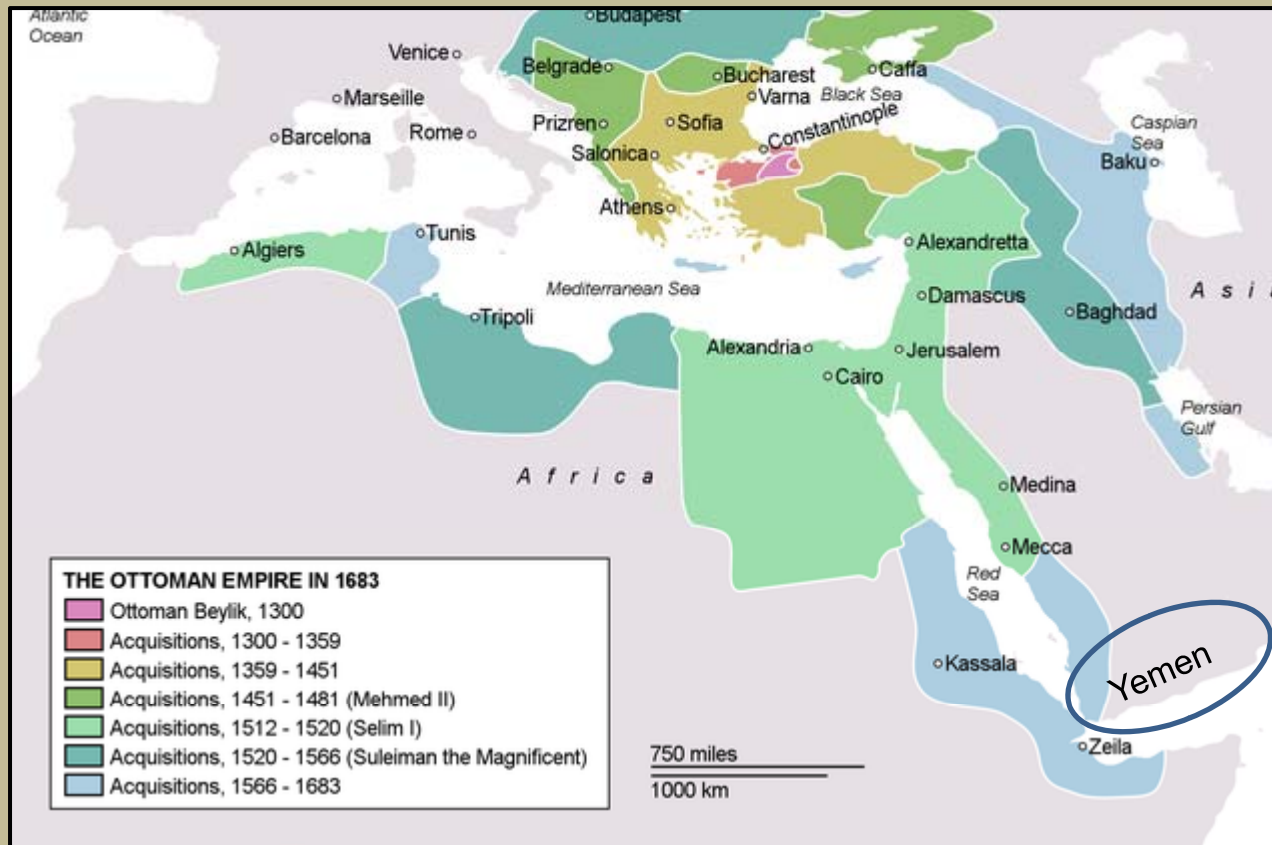
**KEY LOCATION ON THE SILK ROAD, THE ANCIENT NETWORK OF LAND AND SEA TRADE ROUTES LINKING EAST WITH WEST, AND NAMED FOR THE LUCRATIVE SILK TRADE FROM CHINA**



## HISTORY TIMELINE

- **12<sup>th</sup> Century BCE – 6<sup>th</sup> Century CE** - Dominated by 6 successive civilizations controlling the spice trade.
- **630** - Yemen becomes part of the Muslim realm.
- **1500s** - Ottomans absorb part of Yemen into empire but are expelled in the 1600s.
- **1839** - British capture Port of 'Aden as part of British India. Serves as major refuelling port when the Suez Canal opens in 1869.
- **1849** - Ottomans return to north, but later face revolt.
- **1918** - Ottoman empire dissolves, North Yemen gains independence and is ruled by Imam Yahya.

# OTTOMAN TURKISH EMPIRE IN NORTHERN YEMEN





## HISTORY TIMELINE

- **1937** - British Crown Colony of 'Aden formed
- **1948** - Imam Yahya assassinated. Son, Ahmad, succeeds. Ahmad's son succeeds in 1962.
- **1962** - Army officers seize power, set up the Yemen Arab Republic in the north (YAR), sparking civil war between royalists and republicans.
- **1962** - Formation of Federation of South Arabia. Crown colony of 'Aden incorporated in 1963. Others formed the Protectorate of South Arabia.
- **1963** - National Liberation Front (NLF) attack to force British out of South Arabia. Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen forms (FLOSY).



## HISTORY TIMELINE

- **1967** - Riots, skirmishes between NLF and FLOSY, and attacks on British force British from Yemen.
- **November 1967** - Independence. Federation and Protectorates of South Arabia form South Yemen (People's Democratic Republic of Yemen-PDRY). Unrest continues despite unification.
- **1989** - Return of *mujahideen* from Afghanistan.
- **May 22, 1990** - North and South form Republic of Yemen. Ali Abdullah Saleh president.
- **May 1991** - Constitution ratified affirming free elections, multiparty political system, equality under law and human rights.

## HISTORY TIMELINE

- **1994** - Civil War. Relations between leaders deteriorate. Integration fails. Armies form on former North-South borders. Saleh declares state of emergency, dismisses southern government members. South secedes, declares independence. Northern forces control 'Aden after fighting 3 months.
- **1999 September** - First presidential election by popular vote with candidates chosen by legislature. Saleh re-elected.
- **2000 October** - US naval vessel USS Cole damaged in suicide attack in 'Aden. Subsequently blamed on al-Qaeda. Seventeen US personnel killed.

# ALI ABDULLAH SALEH

PRESIDENT NORTH YEMEN 1978 TO 1990

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN 22 MAY 1990 TO PRESENT



## HISTORY TIMELINE

- **2002 November** - US Predator drone kills 6 in northern Yemen. Kills suspected al-Qaeda member and a member of the Lackawanna, NY sleeper cell.
- **2002 October** - French oil tanker attacked near 'Aden
- **2004 June-August** - Government troops battle supporters of dissident Shi'a cleric Hussein al-Houthi in the north; death estimates range from 80 to 600+. Al-Houthi killed in September.
- **2007 January-March** - Scores are injured/killed in clashes between security forces and al-Houthi rebels in the north.

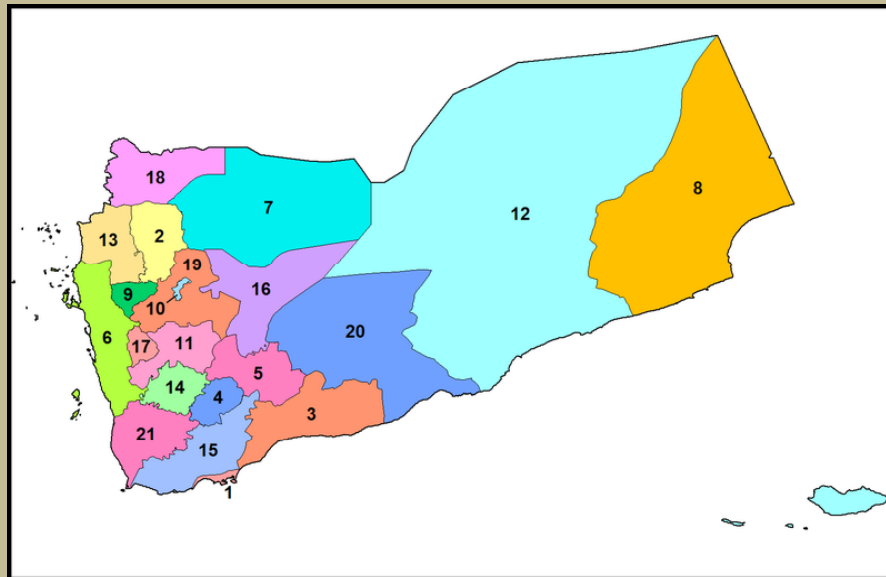
## HISTORY TIMELINE

- **2008 January** - Clashes between security forces and rebels loyal al-Houthi's brother.
- **2008 April** - Southern Yemenis protest alleged northern bias in state job allocation. One man killed.
- **2008** - 2 attacks kill 18 total at US embassy in Sana'a
- **2009 August** - The Yemeni army launches offensive against Shi'a rebels in the northern Sa'dah province. Tens of thousands displaced by the fighting.
- **2009 October** - Clashes break out between Sa'dah rebels and Saudi security forces along border.
- **2009 December** - Yemen-based branch of Al-Qaeda claims it was behind failed attack on US airliner.

**POLITICAL**



# POLITICAL MAP



The 21 Governorates

'Adan	1
'Amran	2
Aryan	3
Ad Dali'	4
Al Bayda'	5
Al Hudaydah	6
Al Jawf	7
Al Mahrah	8
Al Mahwit	9
Amanat Al Asimah	10
Dhamar	11
Hadramaut	12
Hajjah	13
Ibb	14
Lahij	15
Ma'rib	16
Raymah	17
Sa'dah	18
Sana'a	19
Shabwah	20
Ta'izz	21



Flag of the Republic of Yemen

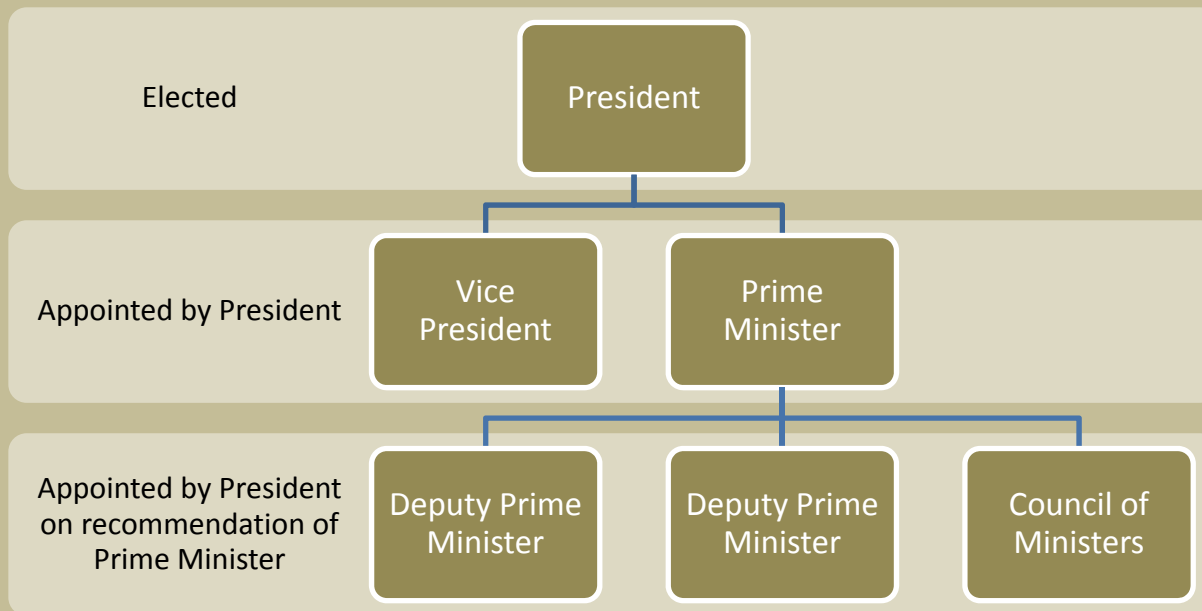
## FLAG OF YEMEN

**Red** represents blood shed in the fight for  
freedom

**White** symbolizes hope

**Black** stands for the dark past of Yemen

# GOVERNMENT OF YEMEN





**President  
Ali Abdullah Saleh**



**Vice President  
Abd Al-Rab Mansur Hadi**



**Prime Minister  
Ali Muhamman Mujawwar**



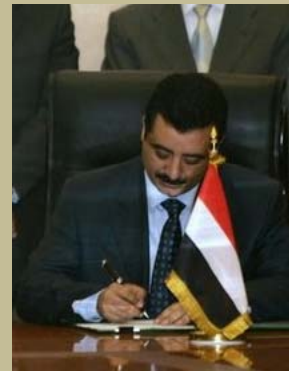
**Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister of the Interior  
Rashad al-Alimi**



**Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister of Planning  
and International Cooperation  
Abdulkarim Ismael Arhabi**



**Minister of Defense  
Mohammed Nasser Ahmad**



**Minister of Finance  
Numan Salih al-Suhaybi**



**Ambassador to the US  
Abdulwahab Abdulla Al-Hajjiri**

# POLITICAL STRUCTURE

## Executive Authority

- ***First Branch: President of the Republic***
  - President is chief of state
    - Elected by party in direct popular vote
    - Presidential candidates approved by House of Representatives
  - President appoints vice president, prime minister, and deputy prime ministers
  - President appoints Consultative Council (111 members) to legislature
  - President is the Supreme Commander of Armed Forces and Head of National Defense Council
- ***Second Branch: Council of Ministers***
  - Prime Minister is the Head, responsible to House of Representatives
  - Is the “government” with executive and administrative authority
  - President appoints Council of Ministers on advice of PM
- ***Third Branch: Bodies of Local Authority***
  - Local and governorate administrative units
  - Members are elected
  - Governors are responsible to President and Council of Ministers

# POLITICAL STRUCTURE

## Legislative Authority

- ***House of Representatives -- Majlis al Nuwwab (lower house)***
  - 301 seats: Members elected by popular vote of districts of equal population to serve six year terms
  - Has “power of purse”
  - Power to vote “no confidence” in government, force new elections
  - Ratifies international treaties and conventions
  - Consultative Body
- ***Consultative Council – Majlis al Shura***
  - 111 seats: Members appointed by President
  - Advisory Capacity
  - Votes on matters of national defense
  - Ratifies legislation, treaties, and agreements in joint meetings

# POLITICAL STRUCTURE

## Judicial Authority

- ***Three levels: District, Appeals, Supreme Court***
  - Courts are administered by the Supreme Judicial Council
  - Judiciary possesses unfettered competence
  - Supreme Court is highest judicial authority

## Constitutional Foundations

- Islam is state religion
- Shari'a is basis for legislations
- Arabic is official language
- Recognizes role for political parties
- Recognizes principle of international law
- States citizens' rights



## SOCIETY: POLITICS

- Yemeni politics are essentially tribal
- Proliferation of parties
  - Each with tribal affiliation
- Central government has little control outside of urban centers

President Ali Abdullah Saleh



## **POLITICS: “SHEIKH OF SHEIKHS”**

**Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar (died 2007)**

**Head of Hashid tribe  
Leader of Islah party  
Speaker of Parliament**

**Succeeded by sons:**

**Sadeq: Hashid tribal leader  
Hamid: Leader in Islah  
Himyar: Deputy speaker of  
parliament  
Hussein: Member of parliament**



## POLITICS: “SHEIKH OF SHEIKHS”

**Succeeded by sons:**

**Sadeq: Hashid tribal leader**

**Hamid: Leader in Islah**

**Himyar: Deputy speaker of parliament**

**Hussein: Member of parliament, Chairman of National Solidarity Council**



Sadeq



Hamid









Himyar (r.)










Hussein









# POLITICAL PARTIES

Logo	Name of the Political Party	Acronym	Creation	President	Political Ideology	Publications
	General People's Congress	GPC	1984 (RAY)	Ali Abdallah Saleh	Liberal-tribal	al-Motamar, al-Mithaq, 22 May, 7 July
	Yemeni Congregation for Reform	Islah	1990	Mohammed Abdullah al-Yadumi	Islamist-conservator-tribal	al-Sahwah, al-Noor
	Yemeni Socialist Party	YSP	1978 (RPDY)	Yasim Said Nooman	Socialist	al-Thawra
	Democratic Nasserite Party	DNP	1995	Abdo Said	Pan-Arabism	al-Uruba
	Democratic National Front	DNF	1995	Naser bin Naser al-Nasery	Progressive-reformism	Sawt al-Jabha
	Nasserite Reform Organization	NRO	1995	Abdelaziz Muqbil	Pan-Arabism	al-Tashih
	League of People of Yemen Party	Ray	1995	Dr. Hasan Bazara	Islamist	al-Ray, al-Haqq




# POLITICAL PARTIES

Logo	Name of the Political Party	Acronym	Created	Acronym	Creation	President	Political Ideology	Publications
	Nasserite Popular Unionist Party	NPUP	1965	Sultan al-Atwani	Liberal	Al-Wahdawi	.	
	al-Haqq Party (Truth Party)	al-Haqq	1990	qadi Ahmad Shami	Zaydi Islamist	Al-Umma	.	.
	Socialist Arab Baath Party	SAP Baath	50 Decade	Abdulwahab Mahmud Abdul Hamid	Pan-Arabism	.	.	.
	Federation of Yemeni Popular Forces	FYPF	1997	Ibrahim al-Wazir	Zaydi Islamist	al-Shura	.	.
	National Arab Socialist Baath Party	NASP Baath	1996	Dr. Qasim Salam Said	Nationalist	al-Jamahir, Ahd al-Arab	.	.
	Yemeni Unionist Congregation	YUC	1992	Jaled Fadel (Omar al-Jawi)	Progressive	al-Tayammu	.	.
	Yemeni Green Socialist Party	YGSP	2000	Abdwali Mohamed Yahya al-Baher	Ecologist	.	.	

# POLITICAL PARTIES

Logo	Name of the Political Party	Acronym	Created	Acronym	Creation	President	Political Ideology	Publications
	Unionist Popular Liberation Party	UPLP	1996	Ahmad Ali Said	Liberal	.	.	
	Yemeni League	YL	1997	Awad al-Batra	Islamist	.	.	
	National Socialist Party	NSP	1997	Abdulaziz Ahmad al-Baqir	Arab Nationalist	.	.	
	Liberation Front Party	LFP	1995	Ali Adullah Sacran	Nationalist	.	.	
	Democratic Union of Popular Forces	UDFP	1999	Abdelkarim Mohamad al-Ashmuri	.	.	.	
	Popular Unity Party	PUP	1996	Radwan Muhamad Abdallah al-Howani	.	.	.	
	People's Democratic Party	PDP	1996	Salah al-Siadi	.	.	.	
	Democratic September Organization Party	DSOP	1992	Ahmad Qarhash	.	.	.	

# POLITICAL COALITIONS

Logo	Members	Description
	General People's Congress	
Multiple Belonging To Each Party	Joint Meeting Parties (JMP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Islah</li> <li>• Yemeni Socialist Party</li> <li>• Nasserite Unionist Party</li> <li>• Socialist Arab Baath Party</li> <li>• al-Haqq Party (Truth Party)</li> <li>• Public Forces Union</li> </ul>	Coalition of the strongest opposition parties created in 1996. From time to time this coalition fails in coordinating and acting as a homogeneous bloc as happened during the 1999 presidential election when the Islah party had individually nominated President Saleh.
Multiple Belonging To Each Party	National Council of Opposition Parties (NCOP) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Democratic Nasserite Party</li> <li>• Democratic National Front</li> <li>• National Social Party</li> <li>• Liberation Front Party</li> <li>• Popular Unity Party</li> <li>• Yemeni League</li> <li>• Democratic Union of Popular Forces</li> </ul>	All of these parties have not representation in the parliament and have not any serious opposition positions in the Yemeni political arena. Till 2006 presidential elections the NCOP has support the ruling party candidature. However in the last elections it supported an official candidate.
	League of People of Yemeni Party (Ray)	
	Yemeni Unionist Congregation	

# GEOPOLITICS

- Somalia ★
  - Free flow of people, arms
- Iraq ★
  - Yemen opposed US, UN actions
- Gulf Neighbors ★
  - Improving relations after Yemen's opposition to action in Iraq
- Israel – Palestine ★
  - Yemen is minor player; follows mainstream Arab positions





# COUNTRY DATA

# LOCATION AND BORDERING COUNTRIES



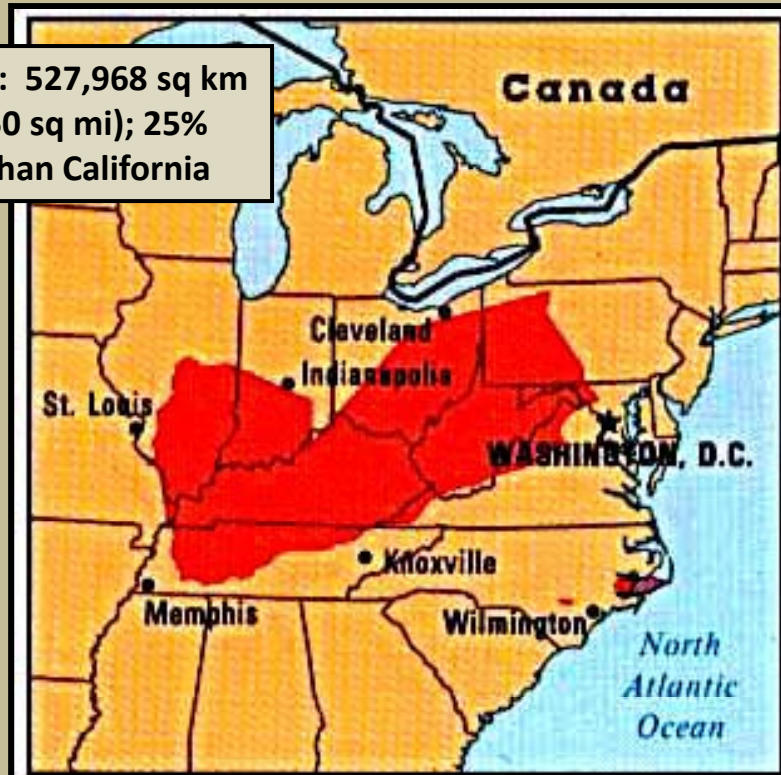
**Location:**  
Middle East, bordering  
the Arabian Sea, Gulf  
of 'Aden, and Red Sea

**Border Countries:**  
Saudi Arabia  
Oman

**Neighboring Countries:**  
Eritrea  
Djibouti  
Somalia

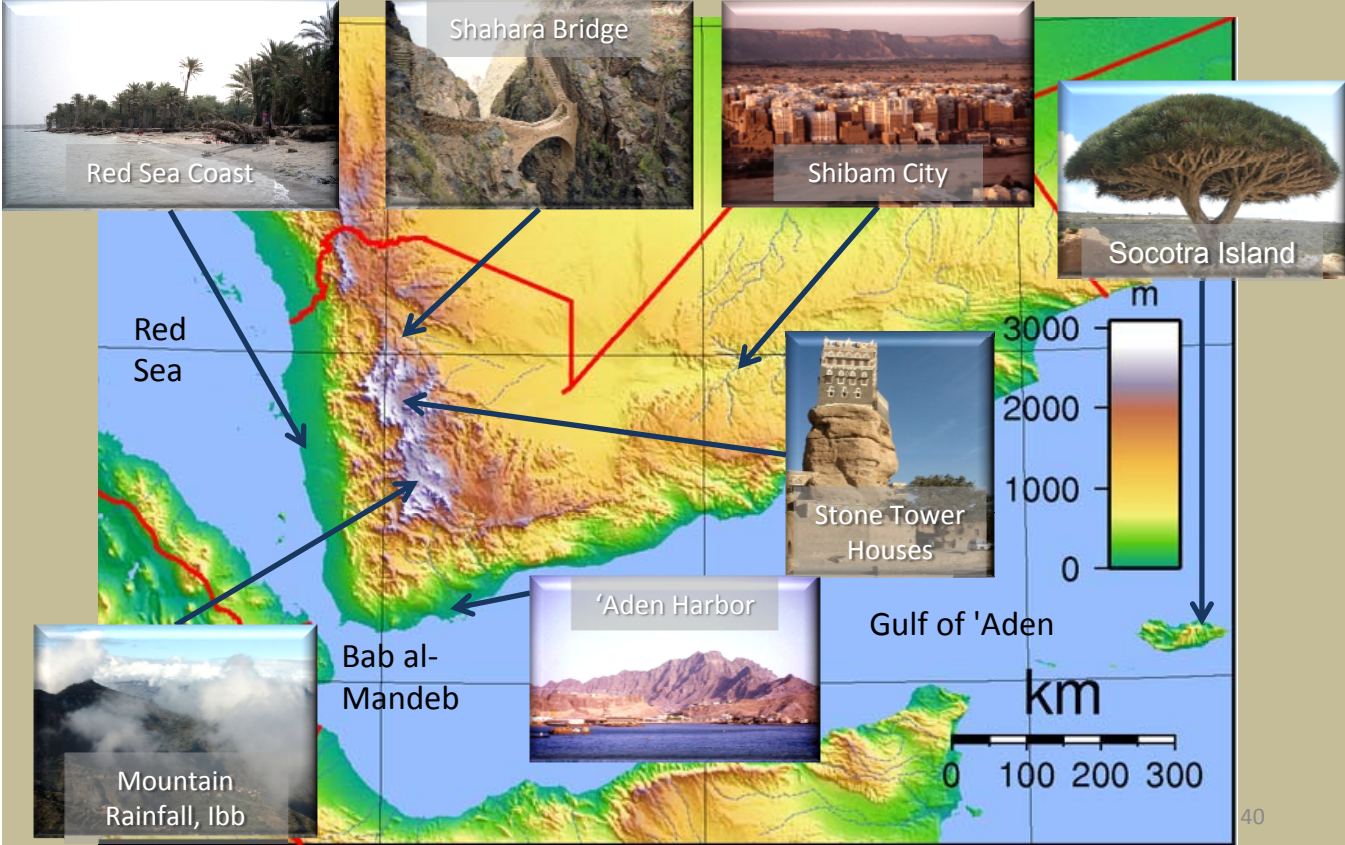
# COMPARATIVE AREA

Land area: 527,968 sq km  
(203 850 sq mi); 25%  
larger than California



**Area Comparison**

# TERRAIN & MAJOR FEATURES



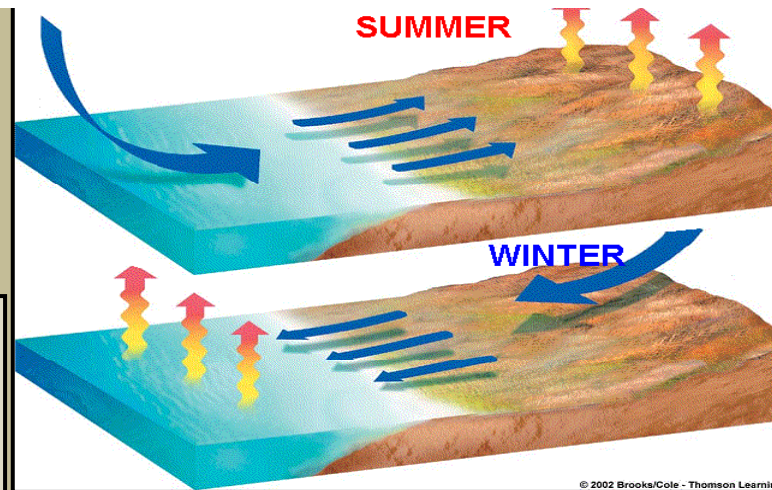
## TERRAIN & MAJOR FEATURES

Clockwise from the top left corner:

- 1) The Tihama coast is hot, humid and tropical. Note the palm trees.
- 2) The famous Shahara Bridge spans a precipitous gap in the northern mountains.
- 3) The eastern deserts, here represented by the ancient city of Shibam, “The Manhattan of the Desert,” are extremely arid, and relatively flat, broken up by escarpments and *wadis*, or dry riverbeds.
- 4) The island of Socotra is part of Yemen. This desert island is home to many unique and unusual species of plants and animals, like the Dragon Tree pictured here.
- 5) The highlands near the capital, Sana’a, are much cooler and drier.
- 6) The port city of 'Aden lies along a rough, arid coast.
- 7) In the highest and rainiest part of the mountains, near the city of Ibb, tropical humidity from the Red Sea and the Tihama form clouds as mountains force the prevailing winds upward. These clouds water Yemen’s most fertile agricultural lands.

# CLIMATE

- During the Southwest Monsoon Season, which runs from June to September, the coastal areas are hot and humid.
- Increased likelihood for thunderstorms with light rain in the vicinity north of 'Aden, most occur after midnight.

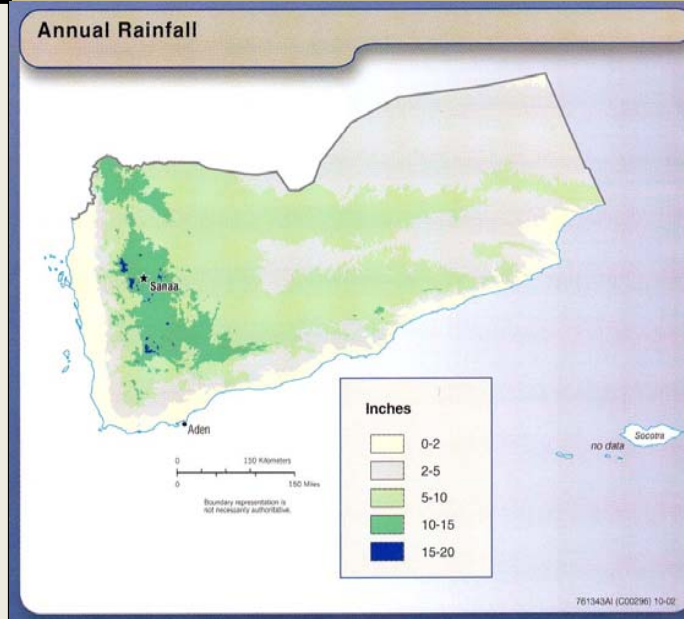


- Extreme humidity combines with high temperatures producing a stiflingly hot climate.
- Winds blowing northwest in summer and southwest in winter bring little rain but cause severe sandstorms.
- During January and February, however, the temperature averages about 20 C (68 F).
- The climate of the highlands is generally considered the best in Arabia.



# CLIMATE

- Wide temperature variations a single day
  - Desert & mountains
  - Min. 2 C (35 F); max. 40 C (104 F)
- Two rainy seasons
  - March & April
  - July & August
- Wettest: Ibb & Yarim
  - 800-1000mm (31-39 in) per year
- Driest: Eastern desert
  - <50 mm (<2 in) per year



Elevation is the determinant

# SOCIAL STATISTICS

## Demographics

- Population: 23.8 million (est. July 2009)
- 0 – 14 years: 46.2% (USA: 20.2%)
- Median age: 16.8 yrs. (USA: 36.7 yrs.)
- Pop. growth rate: 3.5% (USA: 0.98%)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> highest in the world
- Adult literacy: 54.1% combined
  - Second lowest among Arab countries
- Urban population: 27.3%
  - By far, lowest among Arab countries
- More like sub-Saharan Africa than Arabia



Yemeni family of 8 children

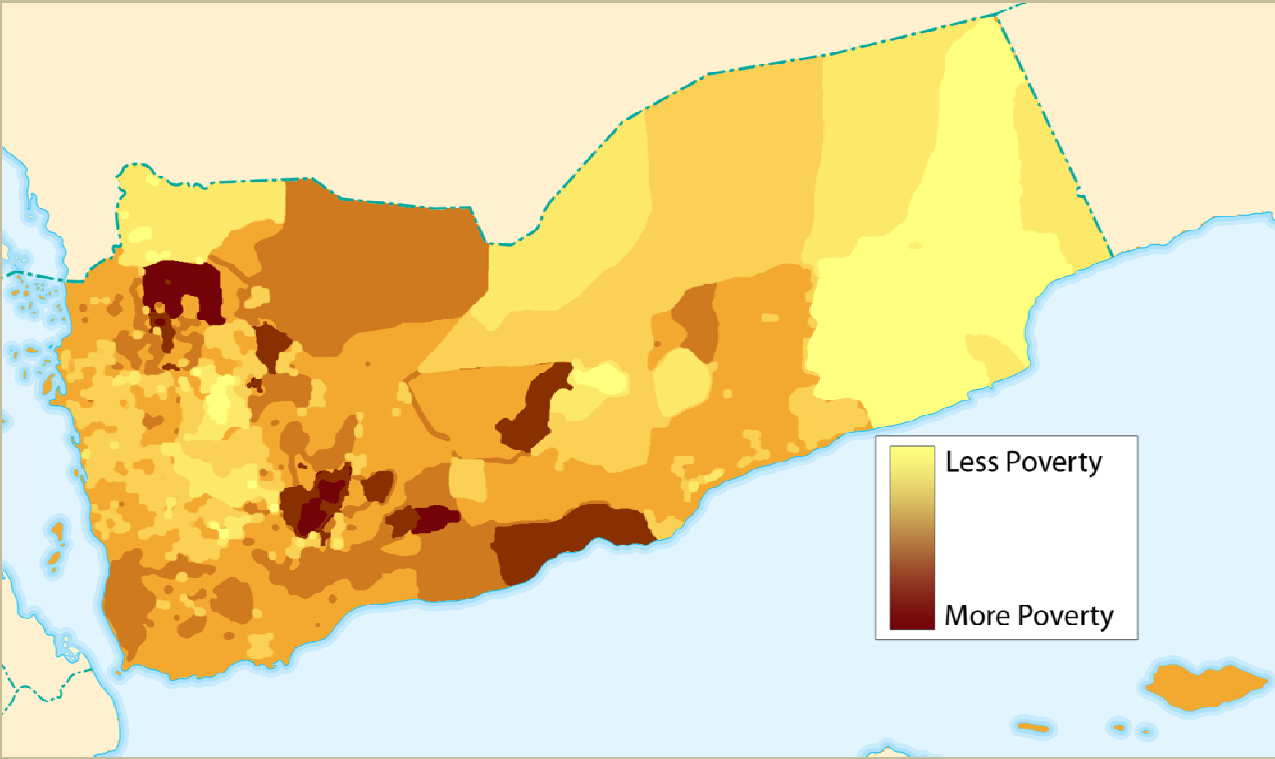
## Economics

- GDP: US\$15.1 billion (2005)
  - 5<sup>th</sup> lowest of 18 reporting Arab countries
- GDP per capita (PPP): US\$930 (2005)
  - By far, lowest of all Arab countries
- Unemployment: 35%; Poverty: 41.8%
- World's 37<sup>th</sup> oil producer, 40<sup>th</sup> exporter
- Oil reserves expected to become exhausted by 2017
- Agriculture: Grains, coffee, qat (mild narcotic)

**Analysis: Yemen's population is overwhelmingly young, and is growing at an unsustainable rate. Its greatest source of income, oil, is about to run out. Yemen is at the brink of becoming a failed state.**



# SOCIAL STATISTICS



Darker colors indicate deeper poverty. Wealth is not evenly shared.

# SOCIAL STATISTICS

## Water & Sanitation

- Population using improved sanitation: 43%
  - Better than only Somalia and Sudan among Arab countries
- Population using improved water sources: 67%
  - Better than only Somalia among Arab countries
- Supply of renewable water: 2500 million m<sup>3</sup>
- Demand of water resources: 3400 million m<sup>3</sup>
- Annual water deficit: 900 million m<sup>3</sup>
- Ground water decline: 1 to 7 m (3 to 23 ft) per year

**Analysis: Yemen's water availability is already in crisis. The cultivation of qat (mild narcotic) drains precious water from other agriculture.**

- Water allotment per capita: 125 m<sup>3</sup>
  - One of the lowest in the world
- Vanishing water resources have only exacerbated rivalries between tribes
- 92% of all water use is for agriculture
  - 17% for domestic uses, 1% for industry
- Violence has already occurred over water
  - 24 August 2009: Protests in 'Aden over shortages turned violent
  - One shot dead, three wounded



Yemeni woman collecting water

# SOCIAL STATISTICS

## Health

- Life expectancy: 61.5 yrs.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> lowest among all Arab countries
- Healthcare spending per capita (PPP): US\$82
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest among Arab countries
- Stunted growth under age 5: 60%
- Infant mortality: 76 per 1000 births
- Under 5 mortality: 102 per 1000 births
  - Together, the worst among Arab countries

**Analysis: Healthcare in Yemen is abysmal. Fully 10% of children don't live past age 5. Life expectancy is shockingly low.**

- Fertility: 6 births per woman
  - Highest among Arab countries, except Somalia
- Births attended by health professionals: 27%
  - Lowest among Arab countries, except Somalia
- Maternal death: 430 per 100,000 births
  - Nearly twice the average among Arab countries



Yemeni doctor treating a child

# SOCIAL STATISTICS

## Status of Women

- School enrollment:  
Male 67%, Female 43%
  - Ratio 1.6:1 worst among all Arab countries
- Adult literacy: Male 73%, Female 35%
  - Both figures at or near lowest of Arab countries
  - Ratio 2.1:1 by far the worst among Arab countries
- Marriage within families common
  - 40% to 49% of all marriages in Yemen



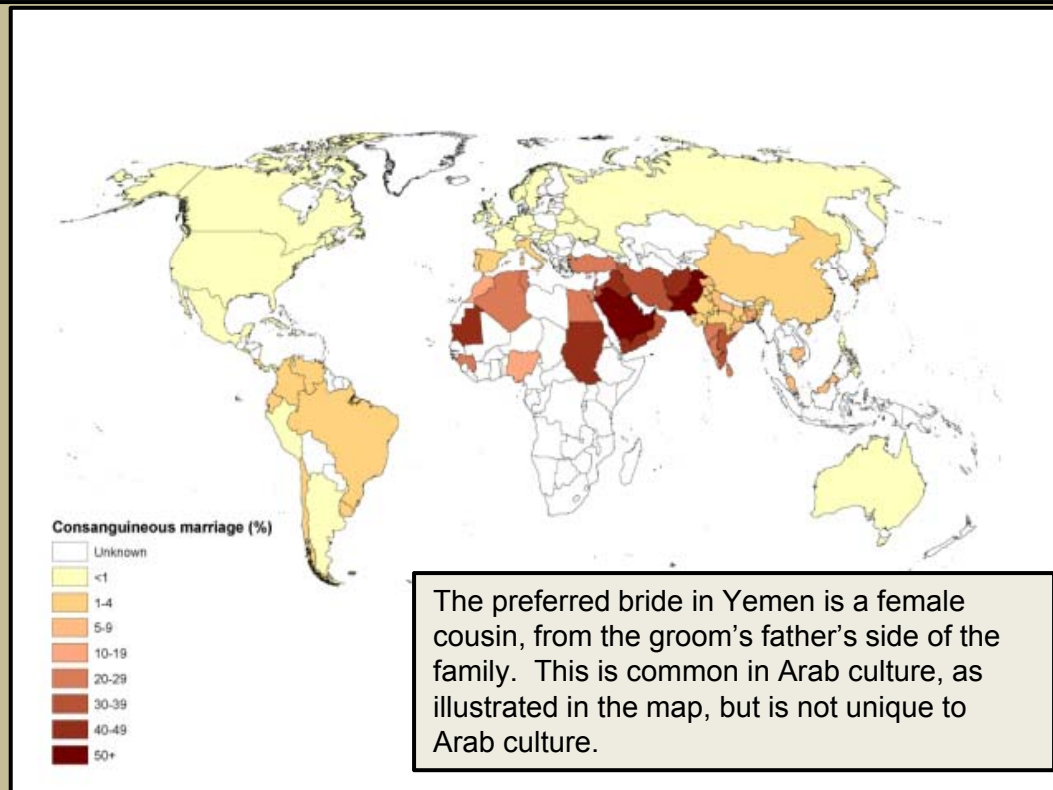
Veiled woman shopping in Sana'a

- Female genital mutilation (FGM) prevalence
  - 23% of all Yemeni women aged 15 to 49
- Involves cutting away the external portion of the female genitalia
  - Sown closed, but for small passage for urine, menses
- Believed to suppress sexual desire, to assure virginity before marriage
  - Also believed to increase man's sexual pleasure in marriage
- Causes horrible medical complications

**Analysis: Yemeni women suffer terrible discrimination by men. They are poorly educated; largely illiterate; are often forced to marry at very young ages, often to their cousins; are subjected to genital mutilation that causes horrible medical complications in adulthood.**

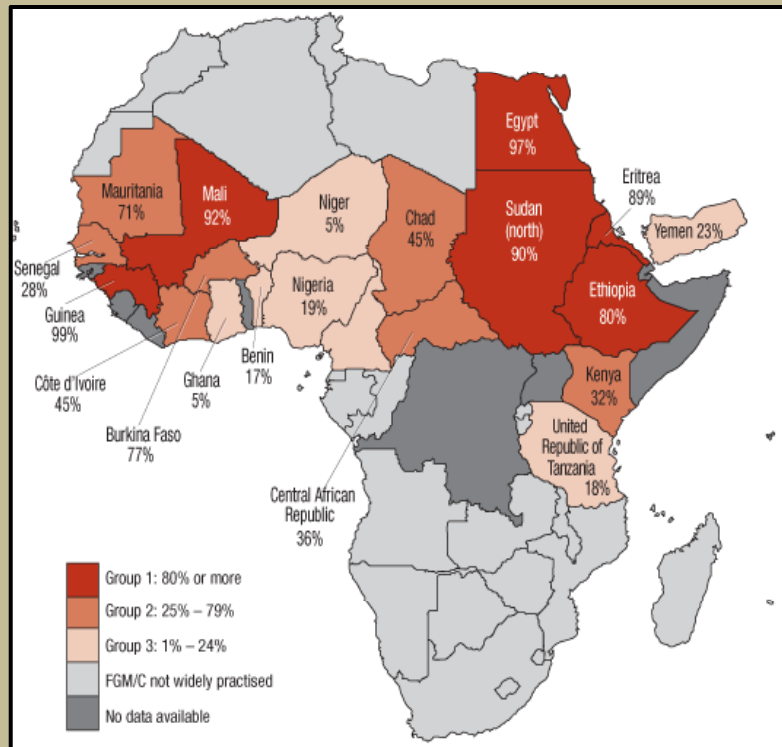
# STATISTICS: STATUS OF WOMEN

Marriage within families is common



# STATISTICS: STATUS OF WOMEN

Female genital mutilation (FGM): 23% of Yemeni women 15 to 49



FGM is sometimes politely called “female circumcision,” but the comparison to male circumcision is misleading. FGM is more traumatic, and it causes debilitating medical complications that do not result from the removal of the foreskin in men and boys. In FGM, the external tissues of the female genitalia are removed to varying degrees, and the opening sown closed, but for a small passage for urine and menses. At marriage and childbirth, undoing this procedure frequently causes debilitating injury.

## ECONOMY

- Yemen is the poorest country on the Arabian Peninsula.
- Has few resources.
- World's 37<sup>th</sup> producer of oil.
- Oil expected to run dry by 2017.
  - Once provided 90% of gov't revenue.
- Yemen looking to gas for future revenue.
- Gas reserves also small: 32<sup>nd</sup> largest in world.
- Other revenue agricultural: Coffee, grain, honey, incense, qat (mild narcotic).

# NATURAL RESOURCES

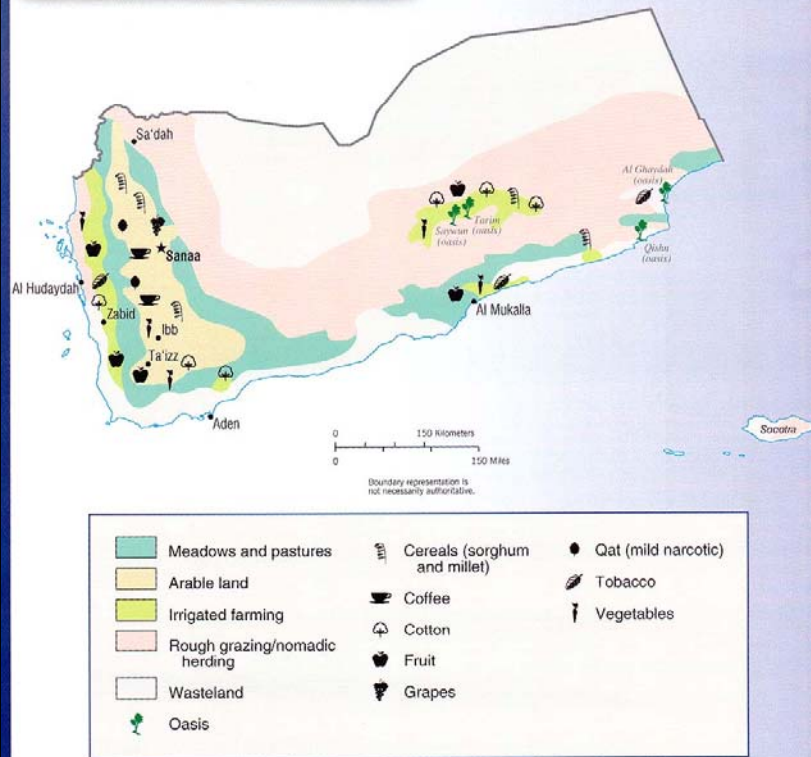


Yemen's oil & gas fields, basins & pipelines.  
Analysis: Yemen's oil reserves will be exhausted by 2017. Its gas reserves are not adequate to support the economy for long.



# LAND USE AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

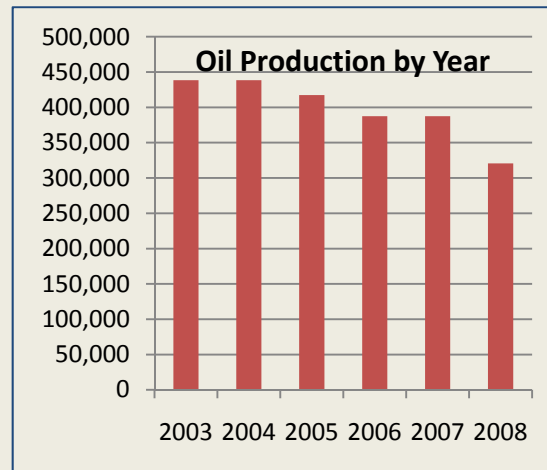
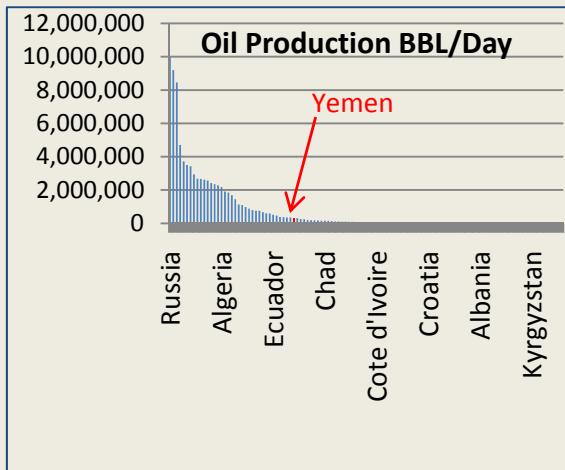
Land Use



Yemen's productive land is limited to the mountainous regions, which receive the greatest rainfall in all the Arabian Peninsula, its coastal plains, and to some of its interior *wadis* (riverbeds that may be dry above, but that contain subterranean moisture). The vast interior of the country is contiguous with Saudi Arabia's Empty Quarter. This land is unproductive, though it once served as a corridor for caravan trade (the Incense Route).

# STATISTICS: OIL

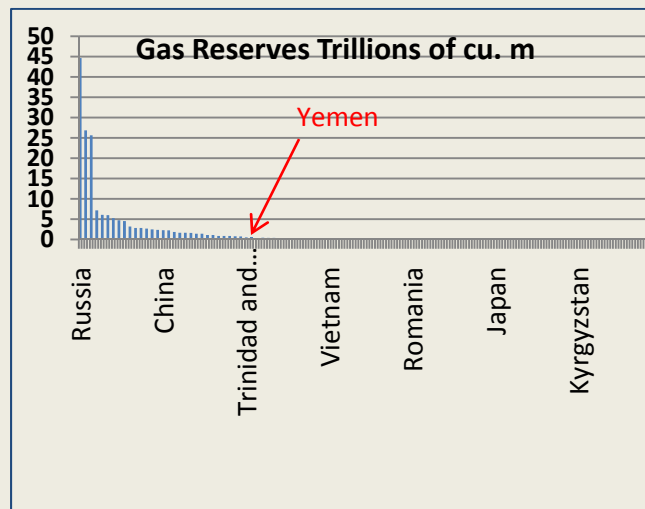
- Yemen's oil production declining, expected to run out by 2017
- 37<sup>th</sup> producer rank is precarious, not a major player
- Oil prices declined 2008 - 2009
  - Had provided 90% of export earnings, now in decline



Yemen is not a member of OPEC

# STATISTICS: GAS

- Oil prices declined 2008 - 2009
  - Had provided 90% of export earnings
- Yemen has yet to produce natural gas



Yemen's gas reserves:  
478,500,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>  
32<sup>nd</sup> largest in the world



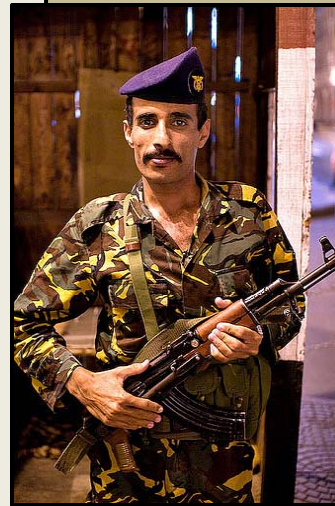
Yemen is not a member of OPEC

# **MILITARY OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

# YEMEN ARMED FORCES

Estimated troop strength:

- Army (including Republican Guard): 66,000
- Navy: 7,000
- Air Force: 5,000



# YEMENI INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS



## Political Security Organization

- Led by military officers
- Reports directly to the president
- Operates its own detention centers
- 150,000 personnel

## Central Security Organization

- Part of the Ministry of Interior
- Maintains a paramilitary force
- Also has its own detention facilities
- Serves as counterterrorism unit

## Criminal Investigative Dept.

- Also attached to the Ministry of Interior,
- Conducts most criminal investigations and arrests
- 13,000 strong

# UNGOVERNED AREAS

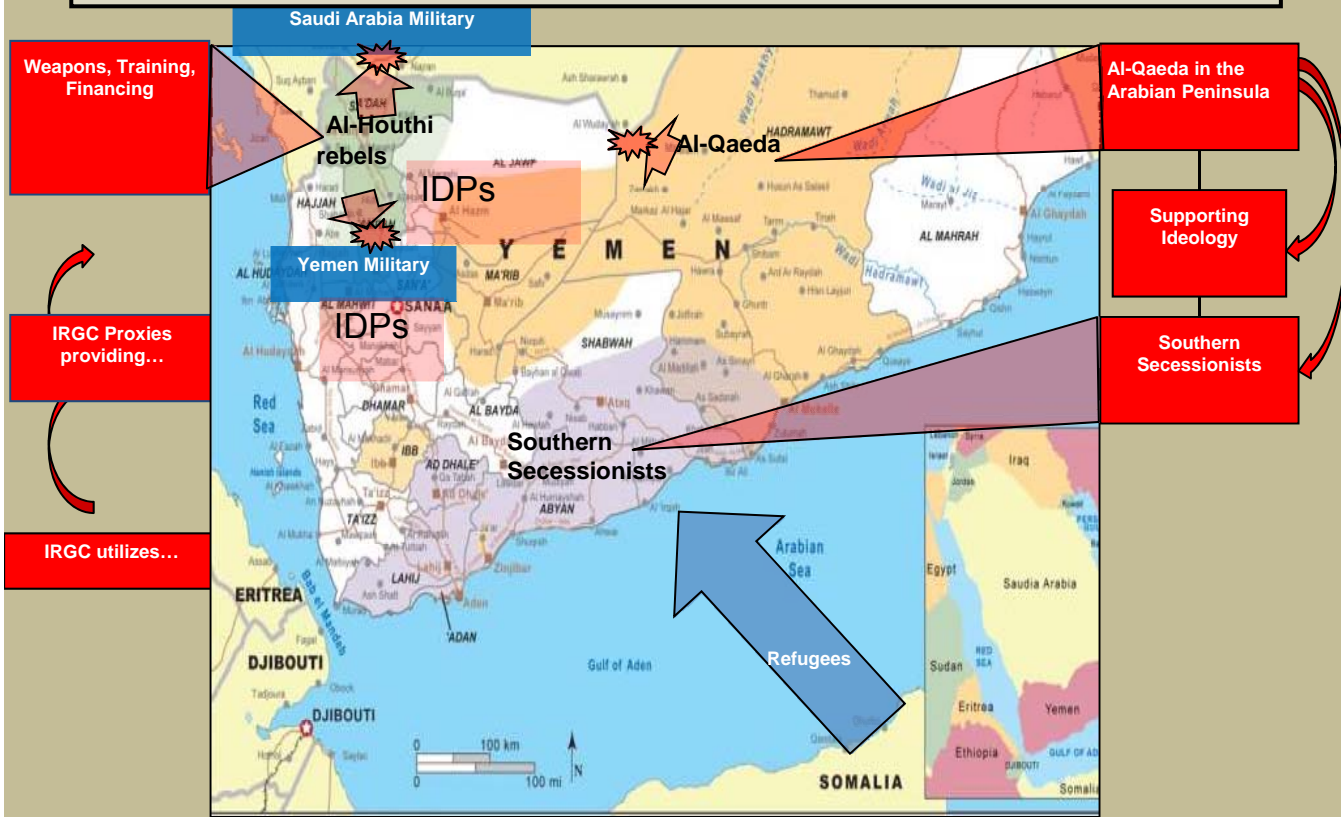


Al-Qaeda exploits instability resulting from government's inability to exercise control over Houthi and Southern insurgency areas. These are both sectarian conflicts unrelated to tribal issues.

# THREATS



# MULTIPLE THREATS



Publication Date: 15 Dec 09  
 Information Cut-Off Date: 17Nov09

US Army TRADOC G2  
 TRADOC Intelligence Support Activity (TRISA) – Threats

## THREE INSURGENCIES

The government in Sana'a faces three separate insurgencies:

- The "Al-Houthi" Zaidi (5-er) Shiite separatist movement in the north
- The "Southern Movement" separatists in the South
- Al-Qaeda, blending with and supporting the southern insurgency

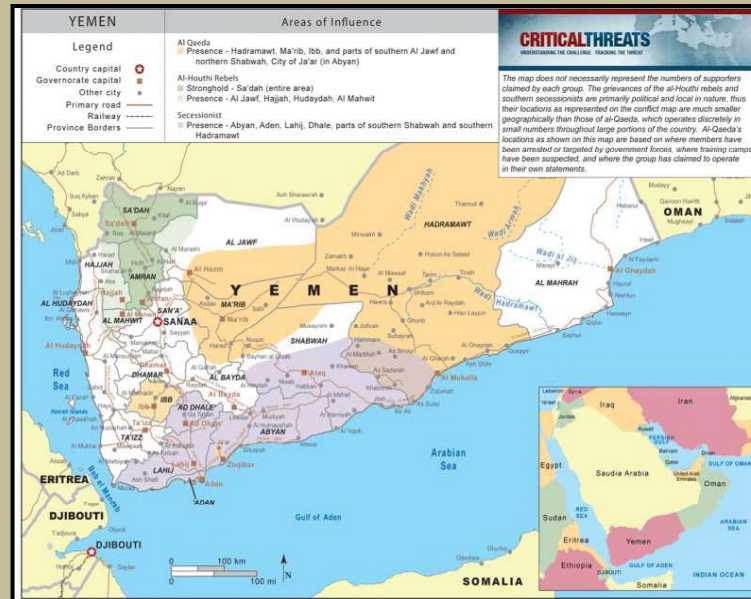
# INSURGENCIES:

## Al-Qaeda:

- **Location:** Large and very fluid presence throughout the country
- **Structure:** Operates in small cells
- **Current tactics:** bombing government structures, kidnapping and murder of foreign nationals
- **Endstate:** create an Islamic Caliphate and disrupt US interests

## Houthis:

- **Location:** Northern Yemen
- **Structure:** operate in small units with decentralized command and control (supported by Iran)
- **Current tactics:** Cross border squad/PLT sized attacks, ambushes, anti-tank traps (IEDS, explosive pits)
- **Endstate:** Seize power from Yemeni government or gain more autonomy



## Southern Secessionists:

- **Location:** Most likely center of gravity is 'Aden.
- **Structure:** Unknown; supported publicly by Al-Qaeda
- **Current tactics:** protests and demonstrations (that may turn violent)

## AL-HOUTHİ INSURGENCY



- Hussein Badr al-Din Al-Houthi
- Zaidi leader accused by the government of operating “unlicensed religious centers” and seeking to re-establish the Zaidi Imamate by force.
- Killed in a clash with government forces in 2004

## AL-HOUTHİ INSURGENCY

- Abdul-Malik Al-Houthi
- Leader of Shiite Separatists who are in armed conflict with government forces in the north
- Centered in Sa'dah, the insurgents have recently taken control of territory on the Saudi border



## AL-HOUTHY INSURGENCY



Yahya al-Houthi  
Exiled Member of Parliament and  
brother of Houthi field  
commander Abdel-Malik Al-  
Houthi



Cartoon from *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*  
showing Iranian Shiite figure beating  
"Al-Yemen" with "The Houthis,"  
reflecting official suspicions of Iranian  
backing for the movement 66

## AL-HOUTHİ INSURGENCY

Internally Displaced People (IDPs):  
The Yemeni government estimates that the conflict with the Houthis has resulted in the displacement of 130,000 people.



IDPs in Sa'dah city  
(IDMC, May 2009)

## SOUTHERN INSURGENCY



Several towns in the south have witnessed protest marches organized by the separatist “Southern Movement” (الحراك الجنوبي), shown here flying the flag of the former People’s Democratic Republic of (South) Yemen while repeating their demand for the severing of the ties of unity between north and south. July 2009



## **SOUTHERN INSURGENCY**

### **Yemen Instability after First Gulf War:**

- Expulsion of 850,000 Yemeni workers from Saudi Arabia added to economic woes
- Fear of Islamic militancy led government to postpone elections
- Southern provinces, once ruled by a Marxist-leaning government, were unhappy with perceived Northern domination of economic and political affairs

## SOUTHERN INSURGENCY

- Ali Salim Al-Baydh
- A leader in the secessionist Southern Movement recently adopted al-Baydh's call for an independent South Yemen, declaring Al-Baydh to be "the legitimate President since 1994, when he announced the breaking of ties with the North."



Ali Salim Al-Baydh  
Former South Yemeni Leader

## SOUTHERN INSURGENCY

Following his party's poor showing, Vice President and former South Yemen leader Ali Salim al-Baydh withdrew to 'Aden, boycotting government operations.

- When open hostilities broke out in 1994, he declared the independence of the South as the Democratic Republic of Yemen, which lasted from May to July.
- He fled to Oman after his secessionist movement was defeated by northern forces.

# AL-QAEDA INSURGENCY

- In the 1980's Yemen was one of the principal countries sending mujahidin to Afghanistan to fight the Soviets. When some of them returned to Yemen beginning in the 1990's, the ruling party used them to quash the revolt of the Marxist separatists in the south in 1994. Some even fought against the Houthi Shiite rebellion in the north.
- Unable to find employment, many have now turned to armed insurgent activity in the service of various groups.



## AL-QAEDA INSURGENCY

Al-Qaeda operatives in Yemen have taken advantage of poverty, extremist religious rhetoric to recruit youth to fight for obscure goals in a country which is trying to deal with southern separatists, a northern insurgency, and falling oil revenues.



Abu Huraira Al-San'ani, commander of Al-Qaeda in Yemen, at a training camp for recruits.

## AL-QAEDA INSURGENCY



A checkpoint near 'Aden

Al-Qaeda leaders hide among the residents and in the mountains; they are mostly in their 30s and use 4-wheel drive vehicles, laptop computers, and cell phones.

They have recruited and armed groups of youths who have fled homes, schools, and tribes for “Jihad for the sake of Allah.”

# AL-QAEDA PRESENCE

- Al-Qaeda works closely with Somalia's al-Shabab Islamic extremist militia
- Anwar al-Awlaki, an American-born Imam living in Yemen, suspected Al-Qaeda recruiter
  - Sermons attended by three 9-11 bombers
  - Linked to the USS Cole attackers
  - MAJ Nidal Malik Hasan Ft Hood Shootings
    - Exchanged e-mail
  - Christmas "Underwear Bomber"
    - Might have attended sermons



"Underwear Bomber"  
Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab

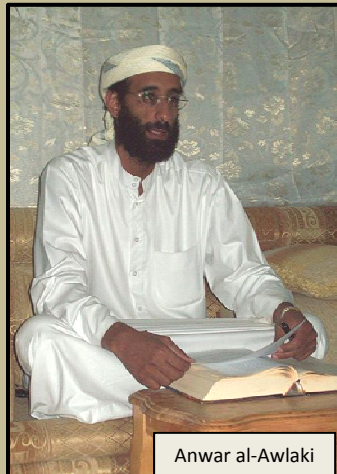


# AL-QAEDA PRESENCE

- Al-Qaeda recruiting the disenfranchised
  - Actively recruits Somali refugees in Yemen through Salafist (Wahhabi-influenced) schools, which teach a puritanical brand of Islam
  - Hungry and un-employed Yemenis and refugees are offered free food and education for joining the anti-American schools



USS Cole Attack  
'Aden, October 2000



Anwar al-Awlaki



MAJ Hasan



## ABDUL-MAJEED AL-ZINDANI: “TERRORIST” CLERIC?

- Most prominent Sunni religious scholar in Yemen
- Heads “Al-Iman” (“Faith”) University in Sana’a
- Leading member of Al-Islaah (Reform) political movement, the largest official opposition group in Yemen
- Classified as “Global Terrorist” by US government for alleged ties to Bin Laden
- Possible mentor to Anwar al-Awlaki, who was in contact with Ft Hood killer Nidal Malik Hasan.



## REACTION TO INSURGENCIES

Taxi window displaying pictures of two soldiers killed in fighting with Shiite insurgents in the northern mountains. The owner is the father of one of the soldiers, and when customers ask if his son was killed in the north or the south, the father answers, "He died for Yemen."



## REACTION TO INSURGENCIES



“No to Terrorism,” is a common refrain of graffiti artists in Yemen, many of whom hold the Shiite insurgents, southern separatists, and the Muslim Brotherhood responsible for the unrest which, “Threatens the unity of the county.”

## REACTION TO INSURGENCIES

Ahmad Bamjabur, the “Poet of Yemeni Unity,” travels throughout the country on foot, composing and reciting poetry extolling the virtues of a united Yemen. He is joined by citizens’ groups such as the “Sons of the Martyrs of Unity,” who have pledged to be “the front line of defense against the rabble of darkness who live only for the scent of blood.”



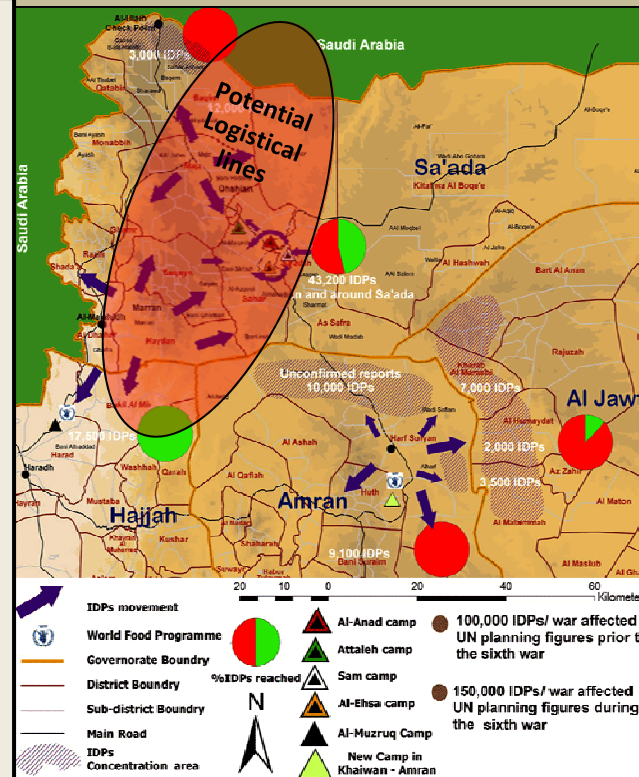
# INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) may play a critical role on the battlefield landscape and may determine who is the final victor

- Houthi clan is likely to utilize the confusion created by IDPs to enhance their logistical lines (to smuggle weapons and supplies) as well as using IDPs to create anti-Yemeni Government propaganda. They can use IDPs as human shields and then transfer blame to Yemeni or Saudi military forces when civilian casualties occur

- Houthi fighters and AQ will likely exploit NGOs. Both AQ and the Houthis can claim delivery of NGO aid as their own and replenish their ranks from the disenfranchised in IDP camps

- NGO personnel are at considerable risk to be kidnapped or killed by AQ and common criminals



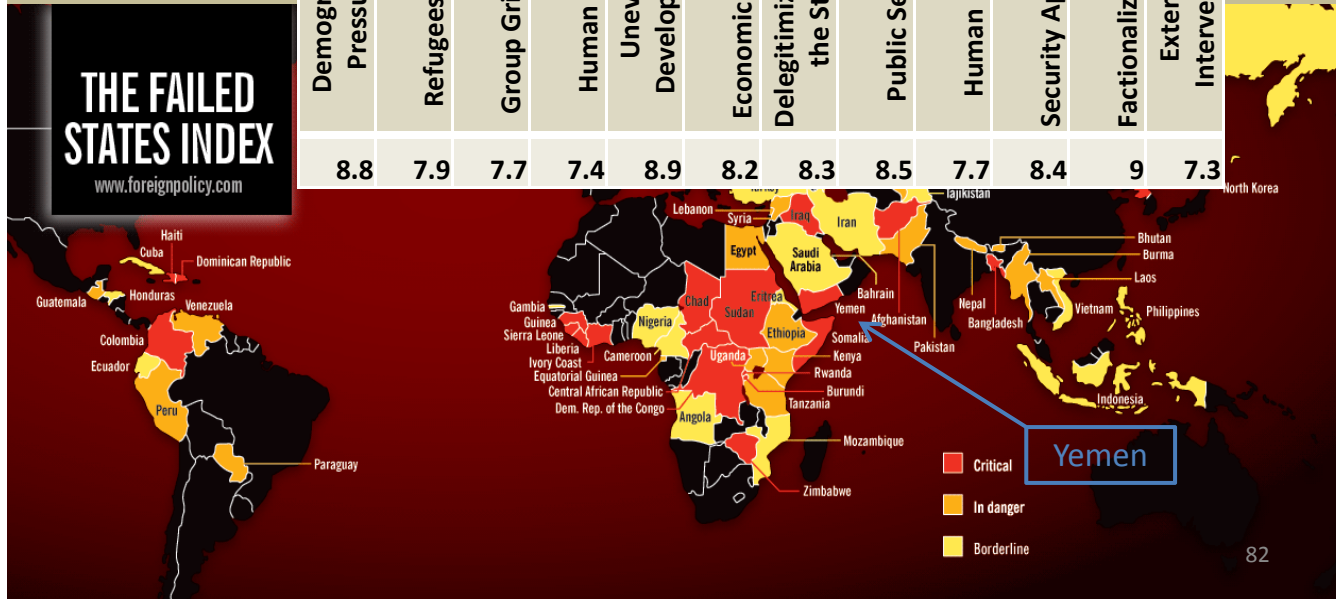
# STATE AT RISK OF FAILURE

- Yemen ranks 18<sup>th</sup> on *Foreign Policy's* world list of failed or failing states (2009)

Yemen:

Demographic Pressures	Refugees / IDPs	Group Grievance	Human Flight	Uneven Development	Economic Decline	Delegitimization of the State	Public Services	Human Rights	Security Apparatus	Factionalized Elites	External Intervention
8.8	7.9	7.7	7.4	8.9	8.2	8.3	8.5	7.7	8.4	9	7.3

**THE FAILED STATES INDEX**  
www.foreignpolicy.com



## STATE AT RISK OF FAILURE

- *Foreign Policy* magazine bases its ranking of failed states on 12 criteria on the basis of 0 to 10, 10 being the worst. Yemen's score has wavered in the very unstable range. Its rank from year to year depends as much on conditions in other countries as on conditions in Yemen.

Year	Rank	Failed State Index
2009	18	98.1
2008	21	95.4
2007	24	93.2
2006	16	96.6

- Yemen's greatest weakness (9.0 on *Foreign Policy's* scale) is its factional elites, i.e., the intense rivalries between its many political parties, its tribes and sheikhs, its main religious factions, as well as between the former North and South Yemeni states.
- Its second greatest weakness (8.9) is uneven development. This divisive factor sorts out between Yemen's various tribes, regions and factions.
- Third among Yemen's weaknesses is demographic pressure (8.8). This is the result of Yemen's extraordinarily high fertility and population growth rates, the latter ranking fourth highest in the world. These factors, combined with declining resources, an influx of refugees from Somalia, and infiltration of al-Qaeda put the Yemeni state in a precarious situation in 2009.

# **CONTEMPORARY CONCERNS**



## YEMENI - AMERICANS

- 40,000 to 80,000 American citizens living in Yemen
  - Evacuation during civil disturbances virtually impossible
- Many Yemeni-American men have multiple wives in Yemen
  - Illegal in the US
- Many Yemeni-American men “die” en route to DNA paternity tests when seeking to bring children to the U.S.
  - Claim is false, better to “die” than to be exposed in a lie

## KIDNAPPING

- Yemeni hospitality has traditionally extended to include captives held for ransom
  - Tribes kidnapped foreigners as means to raise grievances to the government
- Involvement of Al-Qaeda and other extremists has led to violence and death
  - 15 June 2009, Two kidnapped German nurses and a South Korean teacher found dead and mutilated in Al-Qaeda area

## KIDNAPPING BEFORE AL-QAEDA

- **January 26, 1996:** Seventeen French tourists kidnapped in Marib province by al-Duman tribe
- Released after five days
- Captors entertained them with folk dances, gave presents of traditional daggers and antique firearms
- Tribe was seeking the release of Zubain Duman, who was awaiting trial on charges connected with the kidnapping of an American in September 1995

## AL-QAEDA KIDNAPPINGS

- Abductions by al-Qaeda have ended with hostages' deaths
- In 2008, the group carried out a string of attacks, including a brazen assault on the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a in broad daylight in September, as well as two attacks against South Koreans in March
- January 2009, militants announced the creation of *Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula*
  - Merger between Yemeni and Saudi branches

## KIDNAPPINGS SINCE AL-QAEDA

- “SANA’A: An Al-Qaeda wing in Yemen yesterday claimed responsibility for the attack that killed four South Korean tourists in southeastern Yemen this month, saying it was in retaliation for the killing of two militant leaders in a police raid.”
- In a statement posted on the Internet, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula said the March 15 attack in Hadramaut province was intended to avenge the killing of 2 Al-Qaeda members in Yemen in a police sting operation last August.

**Arab News (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia), March 30, 2009**

# SOMALI REFUGEES



The ease with which Somali refugees enter Yemen illustrates how porous its borders and coasts are.

- Most leave Port of Bossaso in Somalia for a dangerous four day journey to Yemeni shores via fishing boat.
- Refugees are taken to Al Kharaz refugee camp 100 km west of 'Aden.
- There are about 150,000 registered Somalis in Yemen, but the Yemeni government claims there are more than 800,000, including the unregistered.
- Somali refugees have placed a tremendous strain on Yemen's already 35% unemployment rate.
- Yemen struggles with its own Internally Displaced Person (IDP) problem of over 100,000. Mostly due to internal strife and religious issues.

Somali Refugees are Major Challenge for Yemen

# **CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION**

## **HOLIDAYS (DATES FOR 2010)**

- **1 Jan: New Year's Day**
- **26 Feb: Mouloud (Birth of the Prophet Muhammad)**
- **01 May: Labor Day**
- **22 May: National Unity Day**
- **11 Sep: 'Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan, month of fasting)**
- **26 Sep: Revolution Day**
- **14 Oct: National Day**
- **17 Nov: 'Eid-al-Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice — commemorates the Prophet Abraham's devotion to God)**
- **30 Nov: Independence Day**
- **7 Dec: Muharram (Islamic New Year)**

**Note: The week prior to 'Eid al-Fitr is an appropriate time to provide performance or other types of bonuses to Yemeni national employees such as interpreters & translators. Dates for religious holidays are approximate; each year the holidays are adjusted to the lunar calendar.**



## CULTURE IS...

- Adaptive behavior in response to:
  - Physical environment
  - Social environment
- Passed from generation to generation

**If the physical or social environment changes, the culture *must* change, fast enough, or it will die.**



## CULTURE IS:



- Values: right or wrong; important  
**(unobserved-inferred)**
- Beliefs: Truth  
**(unobserved-inferred)**
- Behaviors: patterns of action  
**(observed-predictable)**
- Norms: acceptable behaviors  
**(observed-predictable)**

## ARAB CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

- **Centrality of Religion**
  - Islam sets the pace and tone of daily life
  - Religion is the guide for every decision, act, explanation, etc.
- **Collectivism**
  - Decisions based on group consensus
  - Group conformity valued over individuality
  - Maintaining honor of extended family priority
  - Loyalty is to family, then clan, then tribe
- **Relationship-focused**
  - People are more important than tasks
  - Significant time must be spent on personal relationships before business can begin

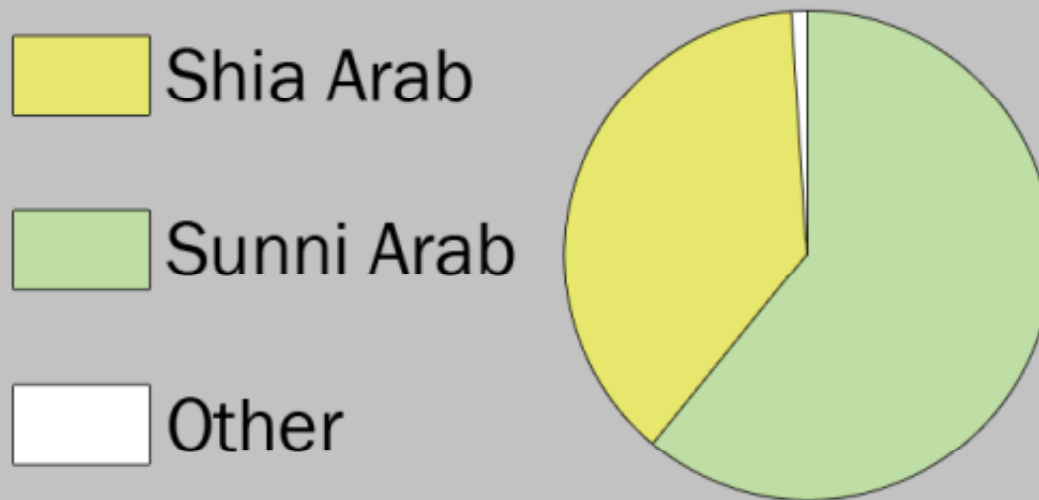
## ARAB CULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Oral traditions
  - Eloquence valued over brevity or clarity
  - Use stories, metaphors, poetic language to express ideas
- Pride, Honor, and Shame
  - Indirect speech, expect to be misunderstood and be prepared to explain same concept many different ways
  - Pride and honor are to be protected and shame avoided at all costs – saying what is expected or desired is more important than telling the truth to one's face
  - Try to find the “win-win” scenario or provide a safe “out” for your counterpart to prevent damage to honor
- Time is relative

## ISLAM IN YEMEN

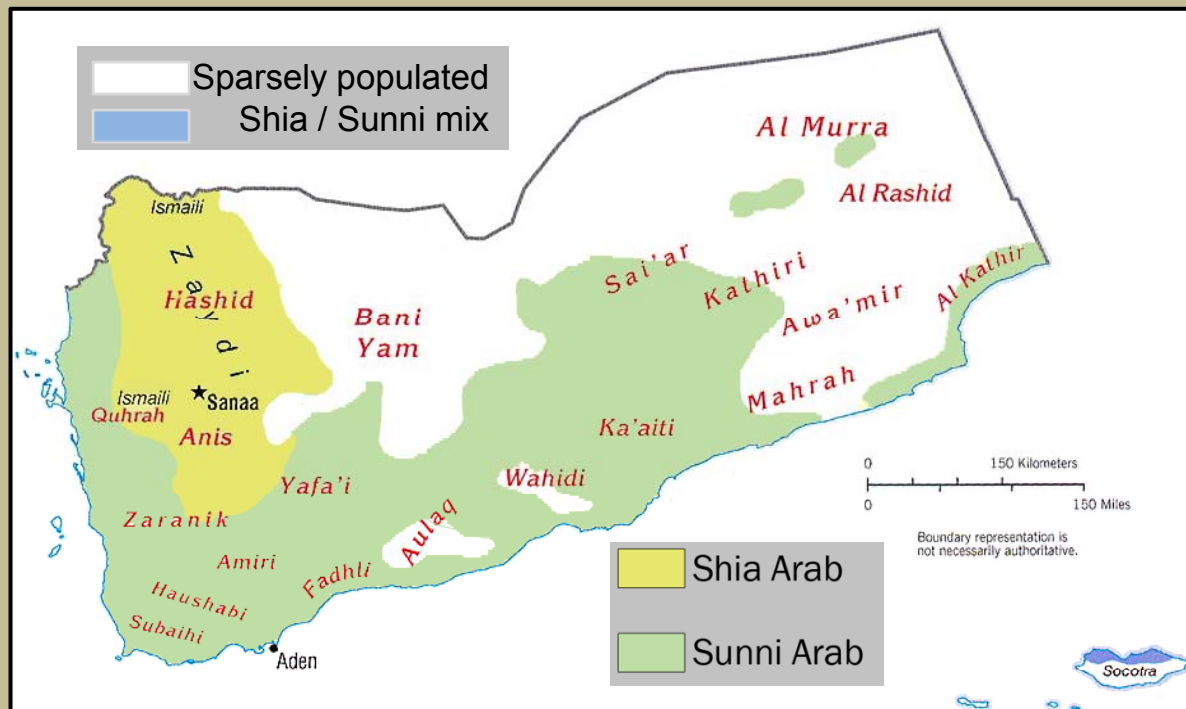
- Abrahamic religion-shares roots with Judaism and Christianity
- Qur'an holy book – infallible authority
- Five Pillars: Testimony of faith (*Shahada*), Prayer (*Salat*), Charity (*Zakat*), Pilgrimage to Mecca (*Hajj*), Fasting during month of Ramadan (*Sawm*)
- Other Beliefs: Faith (*Iman*), Oneness of God (*Tawhid*), Prophets and Messengers, Angels, Judgment Day, the Books (Qur'an – final; Bible, Torah – corrupted), Fate, and Predestination
- Division between Sunni and Shi'a in Yemen not as important as ethnic & tribal differences
- Pervasive part of daily life – Prayer 5 times per day, education, Friday mosque gatherings
- Religious figures (*imams*) respected and influential
- Zaydi Shi'a differ from other Shi'a in rejecting infallibility, occultation of Imam; more like Sunnis in rituals and observances<sup>7</sup>

## Yemen's Population by Religion



- The majority (c. 60%) of Yemeni Muslims are generally moderate Sunnis, though some have connections with the Muslim Brotherhood, Wahhabis, and Al-Qaeda
- Shi'as in Yemen are "Fivers" (Zaydi), relatively moderate
- A very small minority practice Judaism, Christianity, or Hinduism

# DISTRIBUTION OF SHI'A AND SUNNI



## BELIEFS: RELIGION

### Sunni Islam

- Approximately 60% of Yemeni Muslims, generally moderate in attitude and practice.
- Reform or “Islah” Party (حزب الإصلاح) joined government in 1993; includes Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamist groups, some with known connections to Wahhabi and Al-Qaeda extremists.



President's Mosque, Sana'a



## BELIEFS: RELIGION



Tomb of Zayd ibn Ali, 5<sup>th</sup>  
Imam, Kerak Jordan

### Shi'a Islam

- Zaydis (5-er Shiites) settled in the North, established a dynasty that ruled the region from 893 to 1962.
- Composing approximately 40% of Yemeni Muslims, they differ from other Shi'a in rejecting infallibility, occultation of Imam; relatively moderate, more like Sunni in most issues of ritual and observance.

## BELIEFS: RELIGION



Yemeni Jews

### Judaism

- Yemen became Jewish kingdom 115 BCE
- Last Yemeni Jewish Himyarite king, Yusuf Asar Yathar (also known as Dhu Nuwas) defeated by Ethiopian Christian Emperor Kaleb in 520 CE
- Many Yemeni Jews emigrated to Israel after that country's founding in 1948
- Remaining Jewish community quite small
  - Perhaps no more than 400
- Severely discriminated against – restricted professions
- Considered as *dhimi* under Muslim rule, “protected”
  - Required by Islamic law to pay a special tax, *jizya*

## BELIEFS: RELIGION



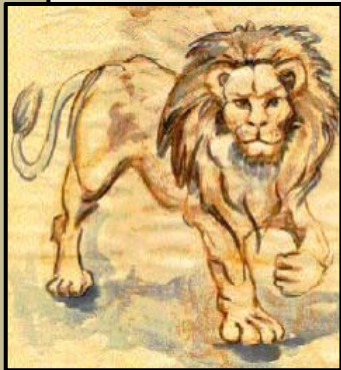
Derelict Church, 'Aden

### Christianity

- Early introduction of Ethiopian Orthodox Christianity
  - Brief influence, 520 – 628 CE
- Reintroduced under British colonization of 'Aden
- Remnant community is tiny
- Christianity in Yemen is largely moribund

## BELIEFS: SUPERSTITIONS

- Yemenis maintain superstitions along with mainstream religion
- Many involve animal spirits, shape-shifters, secret treasures
- Some indicate mistrust of women, viewed as witches, temptresses
- Belief in Islamic djinns and genies



## BELIEFS: SUPERSTITIONS

- **The Ram (Al-Hamal)**

Al-Hamal is a superstitious animal which is also called the graveyard's monster. It is believed that it disinters buried bodies in the first week of burial. Al-Hamal is interested in only those whose horoscope is the ram. During the first week of burial in which the ram is believed to appear, relatives of the dead keep on the watch.
- **(Al-Bodda)**

Beliefs in this superstitious creature is spread in Tihama and its surroundings. Al-Bodda is a witch that can change her appearance into many different shapes. Recently, it has been said that a great number of them were burnt when people's awareness about the spread of immorality increased. It is more interesting to know that young people who are not able to afford marrying expensive, beautiful brides go to Boddas requesting them to change themselves into their beloveds and make love to them on sand.
- **(At-Tahesh)**

It is a lion-like beast with a smooth body. Its speed is compared to that of a bullet. That is why nobody has so far been able to capture or kill it. Al-Hawban Tahesh in Ta'iz has been most famous through Yemeni history and on which many stories have been told and written.
- **Quest for Treasures**

In many villages, especially the remote ones, people believe in the existence of buried treasures. Stories of such treasures are told by old people. People leave homes for mountains in quest of treasures believed to had been left by their grandfathers in stores dug in the earth. Some people succeed to find such stores but all they find is invaluable items or coal. The failure to find treasures is always attributed to the fact that they did not slaughter sheep before searching the store.

## BELIEFS: SUPERSTITIONS

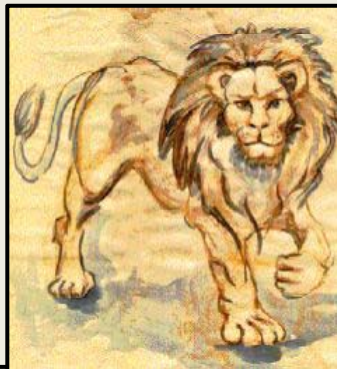
- **Jinns' Courts**  
Throwing hot substances and other material in bathrooms and deserted places is believed to be harmful. Doers may be paralyzed or run mad if they hit the invisible creatures. If a jinn is hit a court session is bound to be held soon inside the doer's mind until they decide to forgive. During the period of holding those sessions the host is mad.
- **(Sayad)**  
Sayad is a devil in the shape of a woman that often exists in inhabited areas. She is amazingly beautiful but with donkey legs! As soon as one discovers the reality about her legs she vanishes.
- **(Al-Odroot)**  
Al-Odroot is a devil that is believed to inhabit houses. It is a noisy creature that tends to move housewares tools or hide them for some time but return them to their places when house members have lost hope of finding them. They sometimes make strange sounds as well.
- **Do You Want to Send a Letter to Your Dead Relatives?**  
Some people claim that their souls visit the dead in their graves when they are asleep. In their tours, souls gather information and messages to be delivered to those alive. When those people wake up, the first thing they do is deliver the messages of the dead to the intended targets.
- **(Al-Wali)**  
The Al-wali is a faithful Muslim man who made good deeds and virtuous all his life. People seeking recovery, penance, etc. visit their graves to be blessed. When one has a problem he vows to slaughter a sheep or a cow for the Al-Wali, resulting in solving his problem. But if he doesn't meet his vows, the Al-Wali's spirit comes to him at night threatening. In their pursuit of recovery, blessing, etc. visitors may eat soil covering the graves, lit candles, etc.

## BELIEFS: SUPERSTITIONS

- **(Al-Hilteet)**  
It is a sour Arabian herb with a disgusting smell. It is used to rub the skin of patients of epilepsy because it is believed to drive the bad spirits outside the sick body.
- **Charms (Al-Hirz)**  
Charms are small pieces of papers bearing meaningless words and signs with some verses from the Holy Quran. Those pieces are tied on patients and hands of children.
- **Eggs Are Sometimes Cheap to Break**  
Before the bride steps out of her father's house, eggs are broken in front of her to protect her from devils and evil spirits. The same is done when a baby is taken outside the house for the first time.
- **Burning the Aloe**  
When women give birth to babies they burn the aloe in their rooms from sunset until they sleep. This goes on for almost a month so that the new born babies would grow up safely away from the evil influence of devils.
- **Changing Names**  
If astrologers tell parents that the name they have chosen for their baby does not agree with its horoscopes they change it. Sometimes it is the astrologer who chooses the new name.
- **Anointing Children's Tongues with Oil**  
Some parents anoint their children's tongues with oil or honey when they are 2 years or older in order to be eloquent.
- **Palmistry**  
Many people pretend to be palmists. They claim that they can foretell the future of people through the lines on palms.

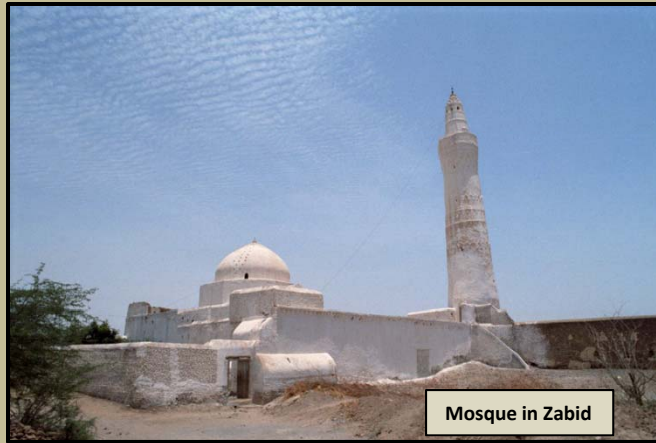
## BELIEFS: SUPERSTITIONS

- **The Tar (Qatran)**  
This black substance is used to anoint people's foreheads so as to be protected from evil. Before the Yemeni revolution in North Yemen, when the Imam wanted to test the mentality of his people he would claim that his jinns had run away and that people who did not cover their foreheads with tar would be harmed by jinns.
- **Swimming for Recovery**  
A swimming pool located inside the Ahmad ben Alwan Mosque is said to cure a lot of diseases.
- **Sell Your Fever and Malaria to Ants!**  
It is said that there were people who believed that they could sell their fever and malaria to ants. When these people caught fever or malaria, they used to go to ant nests. There they tie themselves with a thread and say: "We sell you the fever, ants."
- **Cauterizing (Al-Wasm)**  
Some patients are cauterized in different parts of their bodies to be healed spiritually and physically.





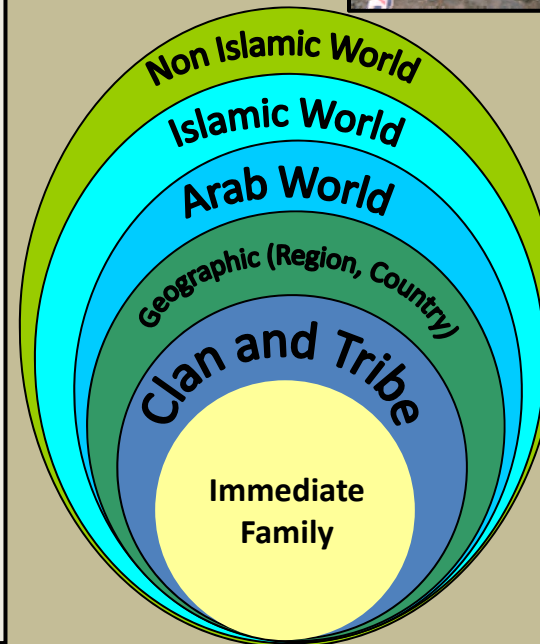
## Mosques in Yemen



# YEMENI IDENTITY

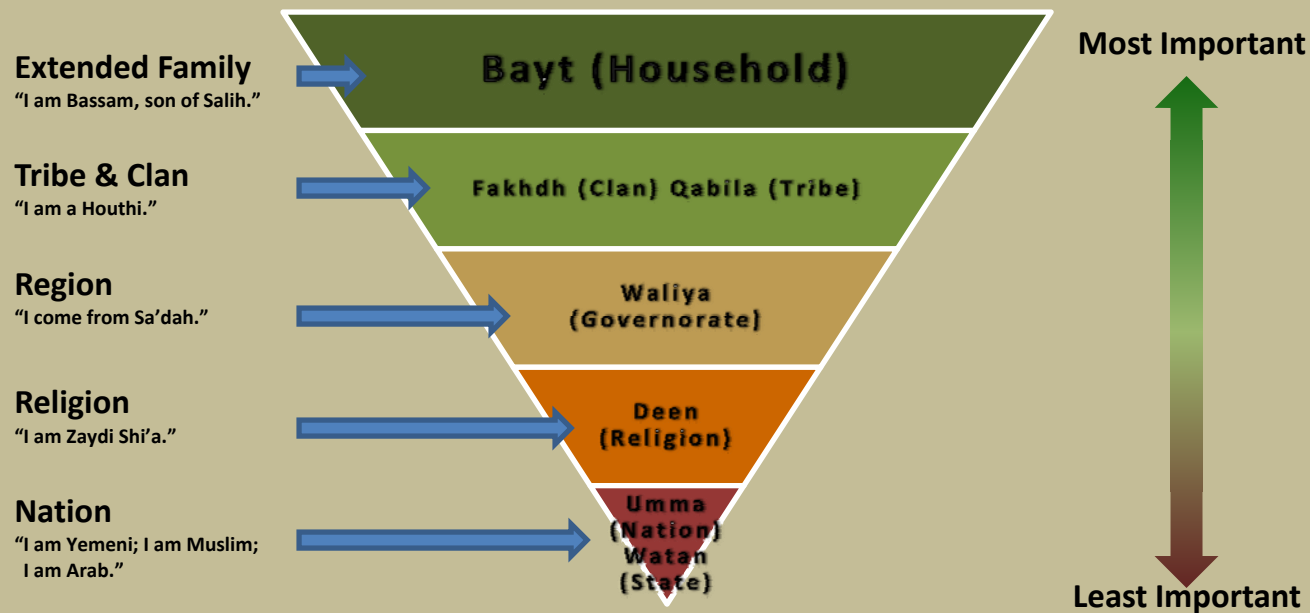


- **Family First**
  - This includes clan & tribe
  - The group before the individual
- **Region over State**
  - Geographic loyalty may be to one's region (N. or S. Yemen), more than to the state
- **Yemenis have a proud sense of Arab identity**
  - Claim to be the original Arabs
- **Strong loyalty to other Muslims**
  - Sunni – Shi'a divisions remain
- **The least sense of loyalty is shared with non-Muslims**



Lack of "self" at center reflects collectivist outlook

# YEMENI IDENTITY LOYALTY AND DECISION-MAKING

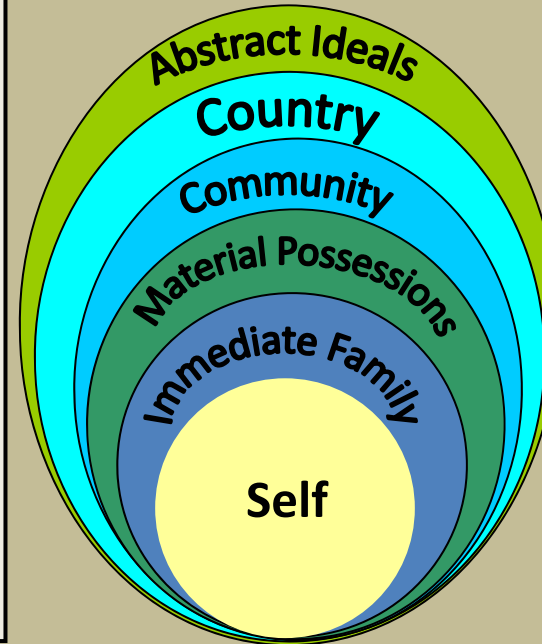


Allegiance is given to family above all other social groupings; family is also the main source of a Yemeni's identity and is the primary factor in decision-making. Ethnic groups, tribes, and community define one's loyalty. Self is the least important consideration in such a collective society.

# AMERICAN IDENTITY



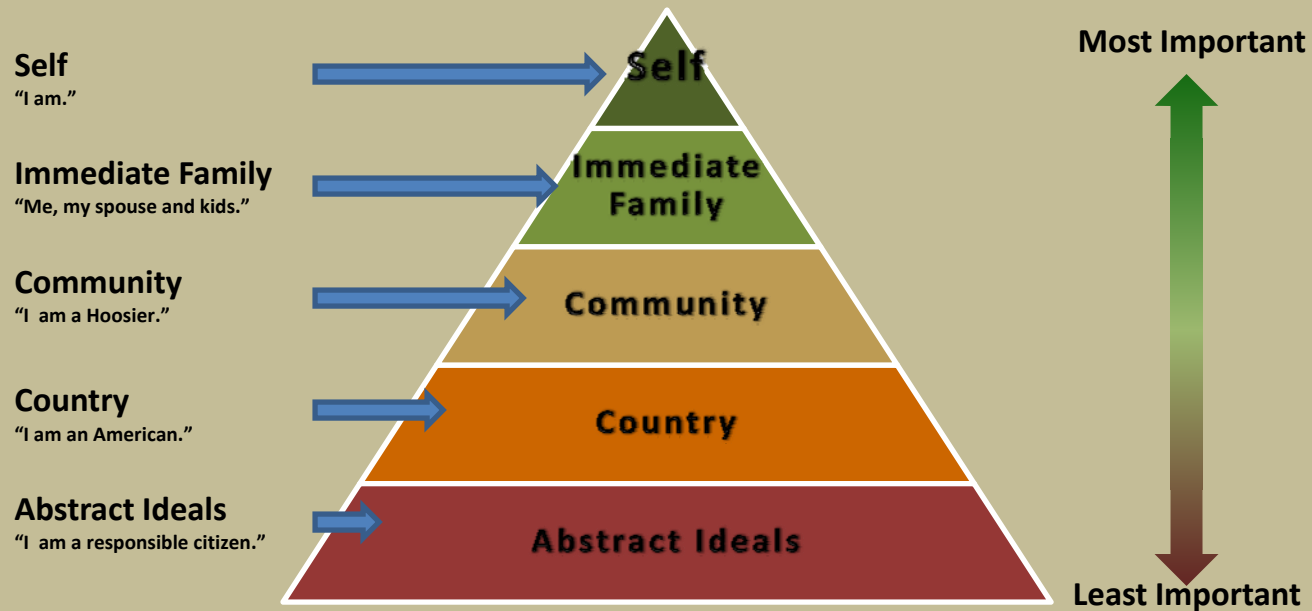
- **Self First**
  - Among the strongest senses of individualism in the world
- **Immediate Family**
  - Typically the nuclear family
  - Identity as member of extended family may vary from family to family
- **Material Possessions**
  - Among the most materialistic people in the world
  - Identity and sense of success tied to salary, wealth, house, car, etc.
    - Externalized self-esteem
- **Community**
  - Town, city, state, region, religion, political party, ethnic group; Many identities possible
  - Interests of the community sometimes come before those of the country
- **Country**
- **Abstract Ideals**
  - Democracy, environmentalism, humanism, capitalism
  - Will sometimes sacrifice ideals for country



Self at center reflects individualist outlook

# AMERICAN IDENTITY

## LOYALTY AND DECISION-MAKING



American identity favors "enlightened self-interest." This is the basis for democratic government, free-market capitalist economics, etc. Americans are not purely selfish: They will make decisions in the interests of their nuclear family and community or communities, since multiple identities are common among Americans. Americans are very idealistic, but are sometimes willing to compromise their ideals for the sake of their country.

# YEMENI CULTURE

- **Identity connected with weaponry**
  - Jambiya essential to a man's attire
  - Gun ownership cherished symbol of power and manhood
- **Conflicts resolved with violence**
- **Drink of choice: Coffee**
- **Daily qat sessions**
  - Everything revolves around Qat time
  - Qat sets the pace of the day
- **Male-dominated society**
  - Women subordinate to men (her father, husband, brother, or son)
- **Fatalistic**
- **Superstitious**



Jambiya



## VALUES



- Traditional products, sources of pride
- Honey
  - Yemeni Sidr honey considered among the finest in the world
  - Supposed medicinal properties
- Frankincense, myrrh
  - Resins of trees that grow in Arabia, Horn of Africa
  - Burned as incense; sweet aroma
  - Produced in the region for millennia
- Music and poetry sources of pride, too

## NORMS



- Man's clothing:
- Long shirt over baggy trousers
- Vest – cool in the high mountains
- Jacket – western style, sometimes very long
- Turban, shawl
- *Jambiya* (curved dagger) – man is “naked” without one
  - Status symbol; scabbard often of silver filigree
  - Yemen consumes illegal rhinoceros horn to make handles
    - This is exceedingly rare; most are made of wood
  - So important that reportedly Yemeni judges have sentenced men for minor offenses to wear their scabbard without their dagger for weeks or months
    - This is considered shameful, a great disgrace



## NORMS

- Woman's clothing:
- *Lithma*
  - Long, loose-fitting dress that hides the form of the body, in accordance with Islamic requirements for modesty
- *Niqab*
  - A veil, usually in two parts
  - One over the head and hair
  - The other across the face, exposing the eyes
- Several regional variations in Yemen
  - Different colors, patterns



## NORMS: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

- 23 March 2009: Yemen court hands death sentence in Israel spy case
- 19 April 2009: 'Aisha Ghalib was sentenced to death for the murder of her husband
- 21 June 2009: Yemeni Jew-killer gets death sentence
- 7 July 2009: Child rapist, murderer executed
- 13 July 2009: Six Al-Qaeda operatives receive death sentence



## NORMS: WEAPONS CULTURE

The governor of Sana'a Province, Nu'man Dawaid, is among Yemeni public figures calling for Yemenis to exercise restraint in resorting to weapons in settling disputes. He blames "hateful tribal fanaticism" for much of the gun-related violence, and considers it a duty of city leaders to combat this "bad tribal characteristic."



## NORMS: WEAPONS CULTURE



The "House of Peace" organization, Sana'a. One sign reads, "Let knowledge and work be our weapon."



A child marches in another anti-gun demonstration in Sana'a

## NORMS: WEAPONS CULTURE

Yemeni law gives citizens the right to own rifles, machine guns, pistols, shotguns, and ammunition for their personal use, and gun ownership has long been a cherished symbol of power and manhood. Recently, however, attitudes have begun to change.



Yemeni Gun Dealer

## JAMBIYA VENDOR IN TA'IZ





# QAT CULTURE

- **Drug of choice: Qat**
  - Green shrub grown in highlands, requires significant water consumption
  - Intoxicating effect produced by chewing great quantities
  - Must be consumed within 48 hours of harvesting
  - Vast, efficient system to harvest, bring to market, sell, and consume
- **Afternoon Qat sessions**
  - Qat sales begin daily around noon
  - Most men and some women spend afternoon chewing Qat and socializing
  - Many Yemeni homes have a “majlis takhziin,” a room specifically reserved for qat-chewing sessions with friends and acquaintances (each person brings his own supply of leaves)



Bundles of qat



Man chewing qat

Use of qat (mild narcotic) is pervasive

## QAT FARMERS



“Qat trees are not expensive to cultivate, needing water only once or twice a week. In more fertile areas, it is cheaper to grow qat than almost any other crop.”

- Yemeni qat farmer



## QAT SELLERS



Some towns have taken the step of moving qat markets out of residential areas, deeming them “undesirable” not only in promoting a “bad habit,” but also in terms of the crop’s water consumption in a drought-plagued land with shortages of grains and other vital food crops.

# AFTERNOON QAT SESSION



# COMMUNICATING WITH YEMENIS: GUIDELINES

## Greeting:

- Handshake or right hand over heart with slight nod
- Greeting in Arabic is appreciated
- Men should not attempt to greet a woman unless the woman initiates the greeting
- It is preferable to greet the eldest or most senior first



## Small Talk:

- Casual conversation is a must at the beginning of every encounter
- Consists of repeated inquiries about health, family, weather, crops
- Do not make specific inquiries about female family members
- Build rapport by sharing personal information (within the limits of your comfort and security)
- Accept offerings of food or tea (if you must decline, do so gracefully)

## DINING WITH YEMENIS

- “Table” is a cloth spread on carpet in main room; do not put feet on table or point them towards a person
- Hands are washed immediately before and after the meal, usually with pitcher and bowl before being seated at table
- Let host direct the seating
- Men eat first; women and children eat later in separate room
- Most conversation waits until after the meal
- Expect meal and after-dinner socializing to be time-consuming



- Food is served and consumed from common pots, platters, or bowls and eaten with fingers of right hand
- Conversation takes place when coffee is served in sitting room after meal, sometimes with qat or water pipe



## DINING WITH YEMENIS



## YEMENI HOME STRUCTURE



- Top floor: *Mafrej*, decorated with stained glass, furnished with cushions & pillows
  - Gathering place for receiving guests, daily chewing of qat, eating, conversation, and prayer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> floor(s): Men's rooms
- 2<sup>nd</sup> floor(s): Kitchen, women's and children's rooms
- 1<sup>st</sup> floor(s): Warehouse, store, stable or shop

Ancient districts are surrounded by modern cities



## YEMENI FAMILY LIFE

### **Yemeni home construction reinforces Yemeni values:**

- Privacy of the family from strangers and non-family members
- Subordination of women
- Preservation of traditions
- Security derived from extended family and communal ties
- Importance of commerce and private ownership
- Importance of social interaction and community
- Tolerance of and reliance on intoxicating drugs

# MEETINGS AND NEGOTIATIONS

## To foster rapport and willingness to cooperate:

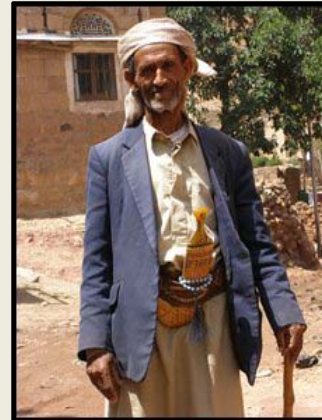
- Do not expect to address your goals during the initial meetings
- The first few meetings should focus on the goals and interests of the Yemenis
- Never make a promise that you cannot keep
- Try to compliment the leader and avoid negatively affecting his honor
- Try not to openly disagree with their goals in public; instead, suggest further discussion may be needed
- Do not openly express anger or shout, as such behavior is viewed as disrespectful and shows a lack of self control
- Greet in Arabic at the start and end of meetings
- In negotiations, allow your counterpart to ask about your agenda; reveal only small pieces (enough for your counterpart to feel comfortable and build his trust in you)



# **TRIBAL ORGANIZATION**

## SOCIETY: MAJOR TRIBES

- Tribes have ancient histories
- May loosely organize into confederacies of related tribes
- Primary purpose is to protect member's interests, control territory, resist others
- Have a range of size and power
- Represented by sheikhs
- Some are more powerful than others
- Have external connections
  - Other governments, Al-Qaeda
  - Fellow tribesmen across borders



The tribe is the basic unit of Yemeni society

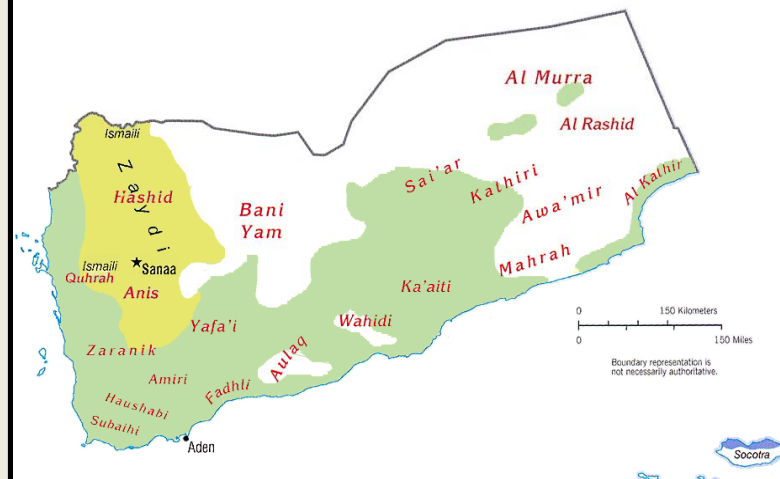
# TRIBES IN SOCIETY

- Primary social unit
  - Primary purpose is to protect member's interests, control territory, resist others
  - Represented by sheikhs
- Tribes have ancient histories, tracing lineage to common ancestor
  - Tribal identity a strong cultural value – wide range of size and power
  - Tribe substitutes for social role of state
  - Tribal interests have priority
- Many tribes form loose confederations (Banu = “sons of” or “clan”)
  - Fragile alliances
  - Functional differences between North and South
- Political parties and tribal loyalties intersect
  - Yemeni politics are essentially tribal
  - Struggle for power and control over resources

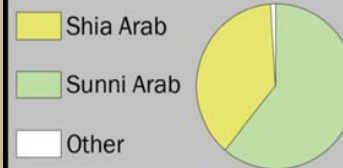
Tribes, like religions, have no fixed boundaries; mixing occurs everywhere

# SOCIETY: TRIBAL ORGANIZATION

- Basic to social organization
- Integral to state legitimacy
- Substitutes for social role of state
- Possess regional identities
- Susceptible to external influences
- Fragile alliances
- Functional differences between North and South
- Tribal interests have priority
- Political parties and tribal loyalties intersect



**Yemen's Population by Religion**

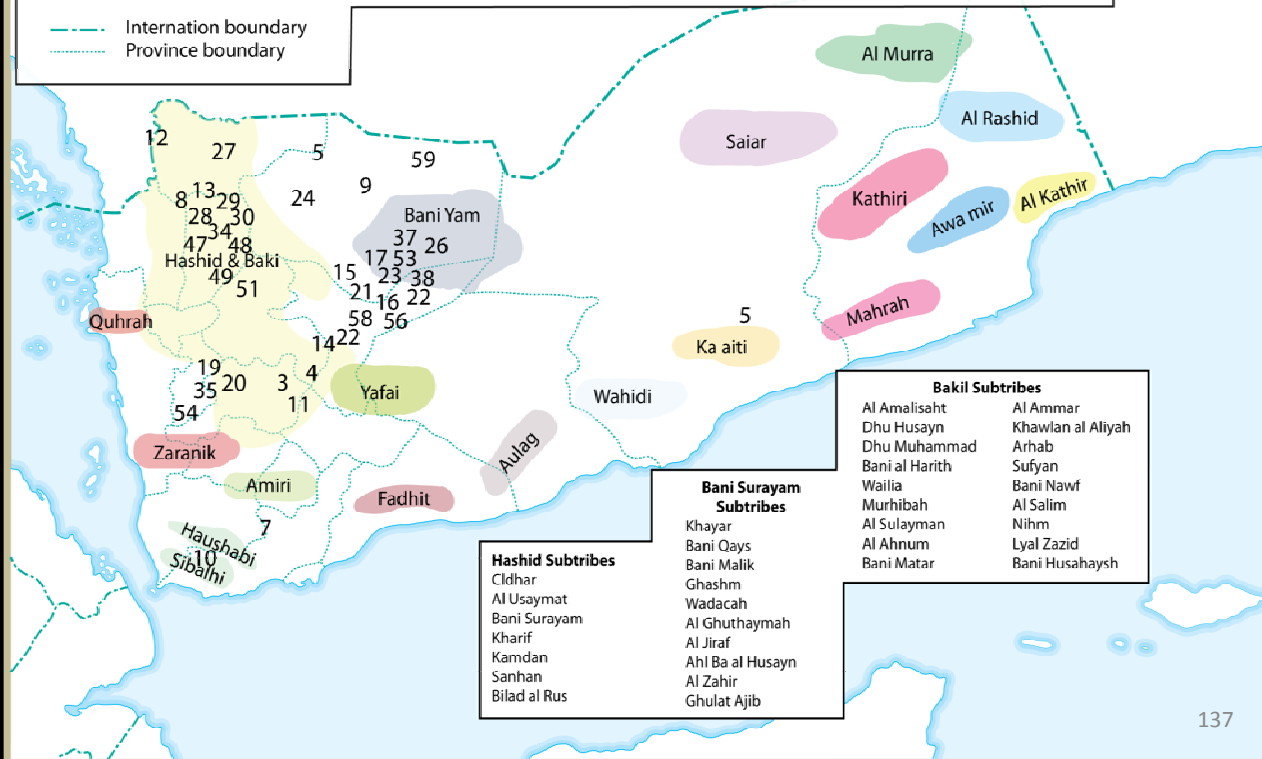


Tribes and religions have no fixed boundaries; mixing occurs everywhere

# MAP OF KEY TRIBAL AREAS

- |               |               |                    |                |                |                |                   |                 |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Mehri      | 7. Abdel-Nabi | 12. Al Bahm        | 17. Al Hareth  | 26. Al Teiman  | 32. Bani Wahib | 47. Soudah        | 58. Al Jalal    |
| 2. Nahd       | 8. Abu Qashah | 13. Al Faizi       | 19. Al Jamal   | 27. Al Tweiiti | 34. Hashid     | 48. Thu al Usail  | 59. Al Marazeek |
| 3. A'al Aiash | 9. Al Saida   | 14. Al Hamad       | 20. Al Jaradi  | 28. Al Usaimat | 35. Hodeibah   | 49. Thu al Usaali |                 |
| 4. A'al Riam  | 10. Al Aamas  | 15. Al Hamad       | 21. Al Jeda'an | 29. Bait Soor  | 37. Jahm       | 51. Thu Ubadi     |                 |
| 5. Aal Saidah | 11. Al Absi   | 16. Al Hamajereyah | 24. Al Marazig | 30. Bait Soor  | 38. Jahm       | 53. Zayidi        |                 |

--- Internation boundary  
--- Province boundary



# MAJOR GROUPS

- **Tribal Federations**

- Hashid (largest, controls government)
- Bakil
- Zaraniq

- **Sayyid**

- Direct descendants of Prophet
- Past ruling elite now intellectuals and professional (lawyers, doctors)

- **Qadhi**

- Current political elite
- Islamic legal specialists
- Wealthier

- **Qabili (Tribespeople)**

- Farmers & landowners
- Bulk of the military

## TRIBAL STRUCTURE

- **Northern Yemen: more tribal, less likely to have a national Yemeni identity**
  - **Southern Yemen: more metropolitan, less likely to identify primarily by tribe**
  - **An important distinction among the tribes is whether the tribe is northern or southern. Many existing feuds among the tribes are traced to this difference.**
- 
- **Ayla = Family**
  - **Bayt = House**
  - **Fakhdh = Clan**
  - **Qabila = Tribe**
    - **Bani = “Sons of ...”**

# BANI HASHID FEDERATION



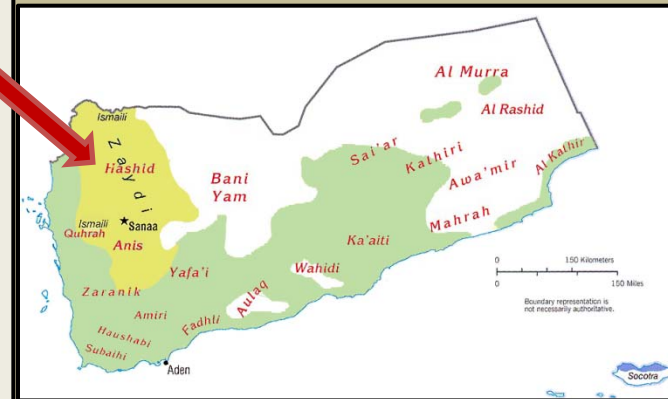
- “Sons of Hashid” trace ancestry to Hamdan (1<sup>st</sup> century tribal leader)
- Largest tribal federation
- 7 subtribes
- Located in northwestern Yemen
- President Ali Abdullah Salih and his brothers belong to the Hashid federation
- Influence permeates the government





# BANI SURAYM SUBTRIBES

- Part of Hashid Federation
  - Maintain very close relations to Kharif and al-Usaymat tribes
  - Has 9 sections or subtribes, which act independently of each other
- Shi'a



## BAKIL FEDERATION

- Part of the Hamdan Tribal confederation
  - Dates back to the first millennium BCE
- “Brothers” with Bani Hashid
  - Share an ancient common ancestor
- Located primarily in the mountains of the west, northwest, and far north of the country
  - 18 subtribes
- Leaders today are of the Nihm tribe
  - Territories northeast of Sana’a

# ZURANIQ TRIBAL FEDERATION

- Located in the Tihama coastal plains
- One of the major Shafī'i tribes
  - Sunni Muslim
- Defeated by Zaydi Imam Yahya in late 1920s after two years of battle
- Opposed imamic rule
- Known in the past as Ma'aziba tribe
- Claim descent from the Akk tribe



## SOCIETY: CLASS STRUCTURE

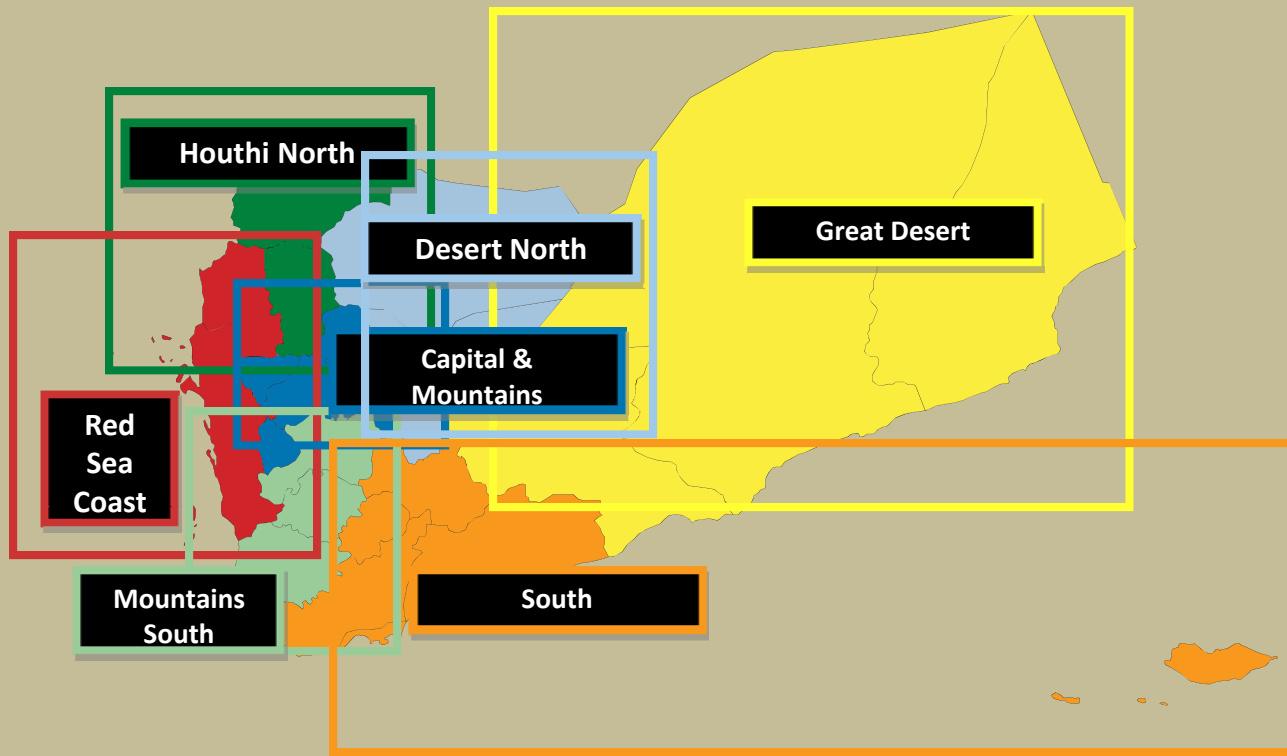
- *Al-akhdam*, the servants
  - Of African origin: Ethiopian, Somali
  - May be mixed with Arab, but dark-skinned
  - Relegated to Yemen's lowest class



*Akhdam* and Arab men in a *souq*, or marketplace, outside of the capital Sana'a

# **REGIONAL BREAKDOWN**

# GOVERNORATES BY REGION



# GOVERNORATES BY REGION

**The Houthi North:** Sa'dah, 'Amran

**Red Sea Coast:** Al Hudaydah, Hajjah

**The Capital and Mountains:** Al Mahwit, Amanat Al Asimah, Sana'a, Raymah

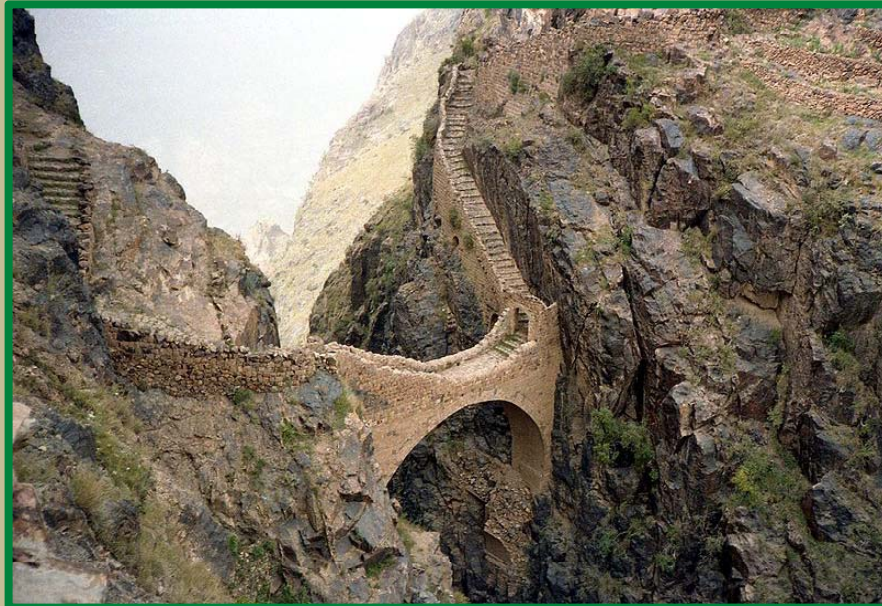
**Mountains South of the Capital:** Dhamar, Ibb, Ta'iz

**The Desert North:** Al Jawf, Ma'rib

**South Beyond the Mountains:** 'Adan, Lahij, Ad Dali', Abyan, Al Bayda'

**The Great Desert:** Shabwah, Hadramaut, Al Mahrah

## THE HOUTHY NORTH: SA'DAH, 'AMRAN

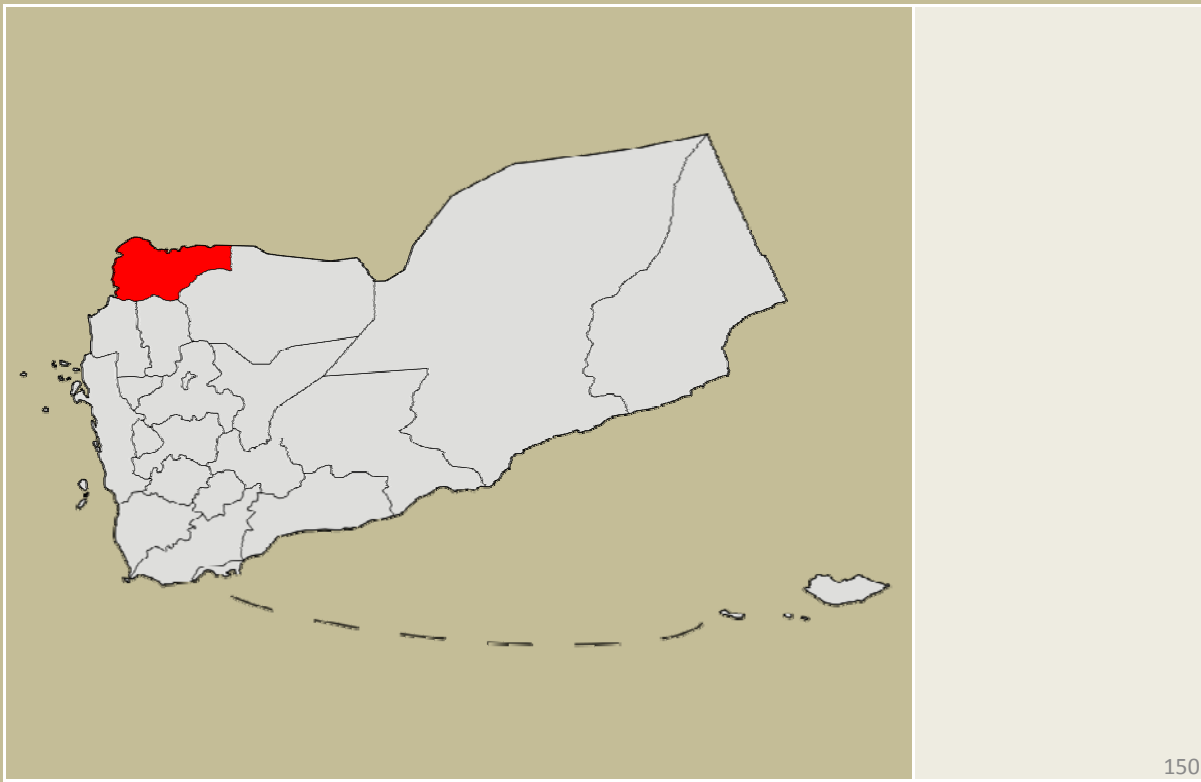




## THE HOUTHY NORTH

The Houthi North occupies the area known as North Yemen. This term is used to designate the former Yemen Arab Republic. The merger of the two Yemens in 1990 ended the term's association with an independent state, but "North Yemen" continues to be used to refer to this area. For five years, fighters from the powerful Houthi clan have led an armed rebellion against the Yemeni government in Sana'a. Dug into tunnels and bases in the mountainous north, estimated at between 5,000 to 10,000, the rebels have been waging effective guerilla warfare. The UN established the al Mazraq refugee camp to assist displaced families. There is very limited natural fresh water and inadequate supplies of potable water. Qat is probably the most valuable cash crop grown in the area, but significantly draws on the area's water supplies.

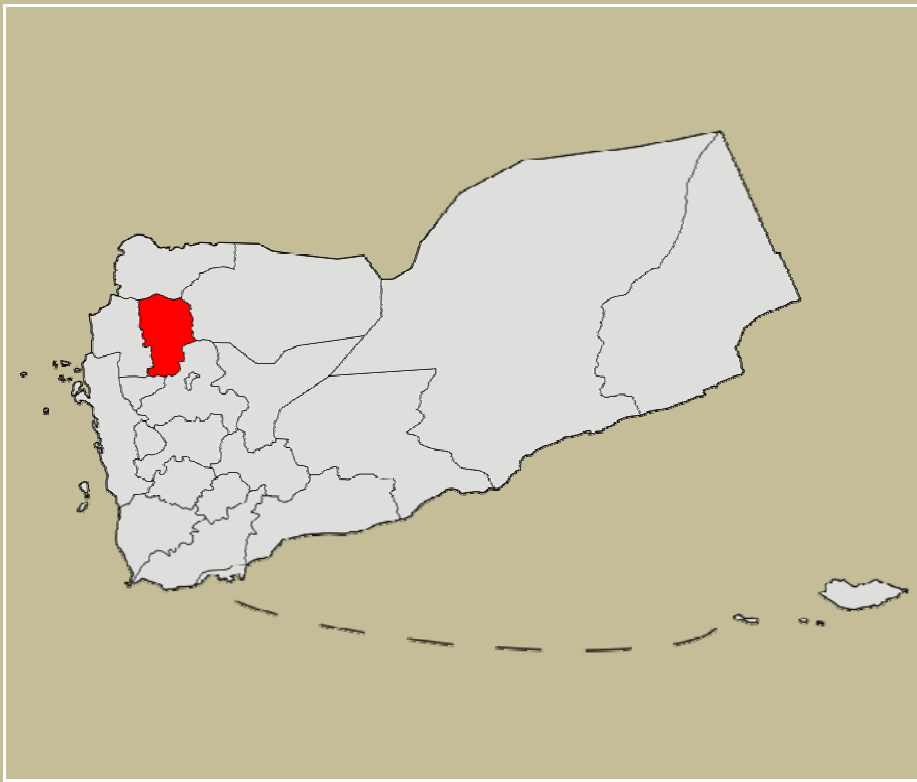
## HOUTHİ NORTH – SA'DAH



## SA'DAH GOVERNORATE - CAPITAL: SA'DAH

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	<b>Borders Saudi Arabia. One of the most inaccessible areas of Yemen. Temperate rainy summer and cool dry winter.</b>
<b>Economy:</b>	<b>Among the poorest governorates in Yemen. Qat is one of the key cash crops.</b>
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	<b>Tribal area for Hashid &amp; Bakil; also al Bahm, al Tweiti, and al Faizi</b>
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	<b>Violent conflict since 2004, killing hundreds and causing displacement. Insurgency pitting Zaydi rebels against the government.</b>
<b>Significance</b>	<b>Continued conflict will impact humanitarian situation in the region. 77,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs).</b>

## HOUTHY NORTH – 'AMRAN



## 'AMRAN GOVERNORATE - CAPITAL: 'AMRAN

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	<b>Mountainous with upland deserts. Temperate rainy summer and cool dry winter. Area prone to flooding.</b>
<b>Economy:</b>	<b>Experiences some of the deepest poverty in Yemen, especially in the northern governorate.</b>
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	<b>Hashid &amp; Bakil</b>
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	<b>Houthi rebels continue fighting. inhabitants are being displaced to refugee camps. Yemeni Jews and Yemeni Muslims conflict over events on Gaza.</b>
<b>Significance:</b>	<b>Wadi Khaiwan is a UN and Red Crescent distribution point.</b>

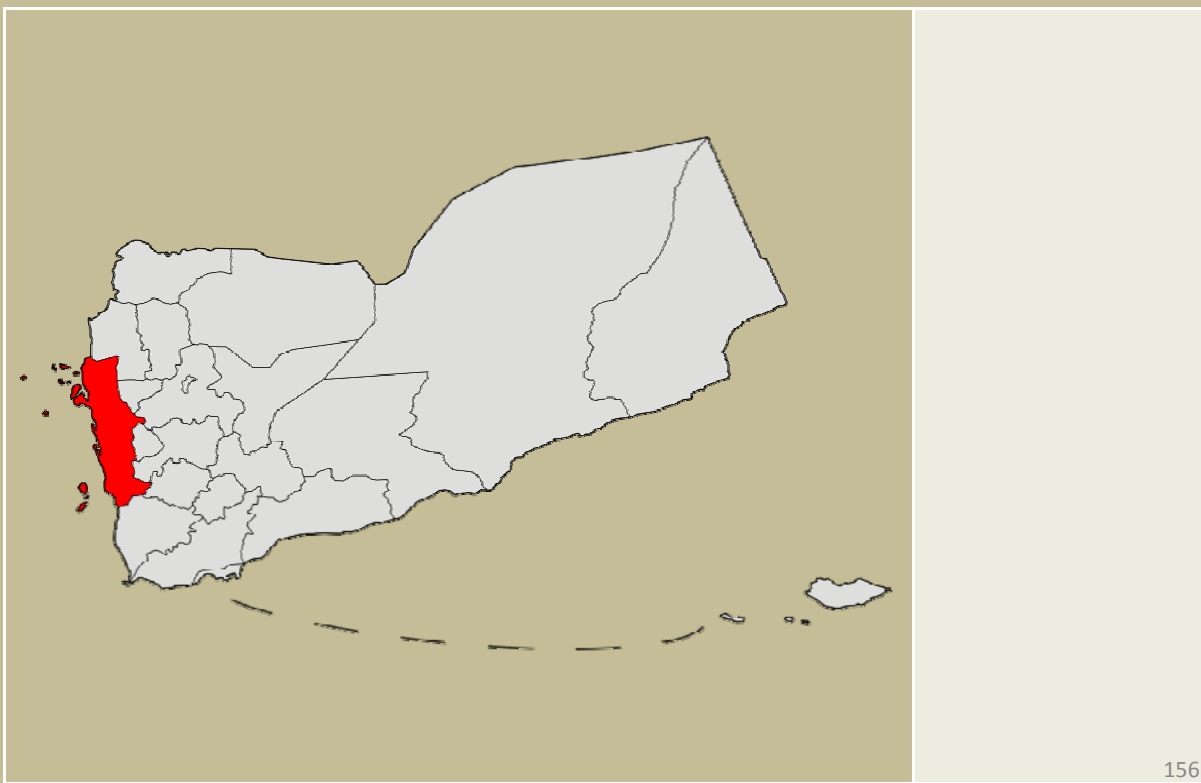
**RED SEA COAST:  
AL HUDAYDAH, HAJJAH**



## RED SEA COAST

The western coastal plain bordering the Red Sea to the west is tropical and humid. The desert interior contains plateaus and rugged mountains. Al Hudayda, an important Yemeni seaport, is located in this region. This is also a popular shipping port. The coastal plain of Hajjah province is one of the most beautiful areas in the country. The beaches, villages of thatched huts, and the handicraft products make this an important tourist area. The customs between the urban and rural areas show the diversity between modern and traditional lifestyles. This diversity can be seen in the weekly souqs or markets in the area. Al-Qaeda is suspected to have various strongholds in the region.

## RED SEA COAST – AL HUDAYDAH

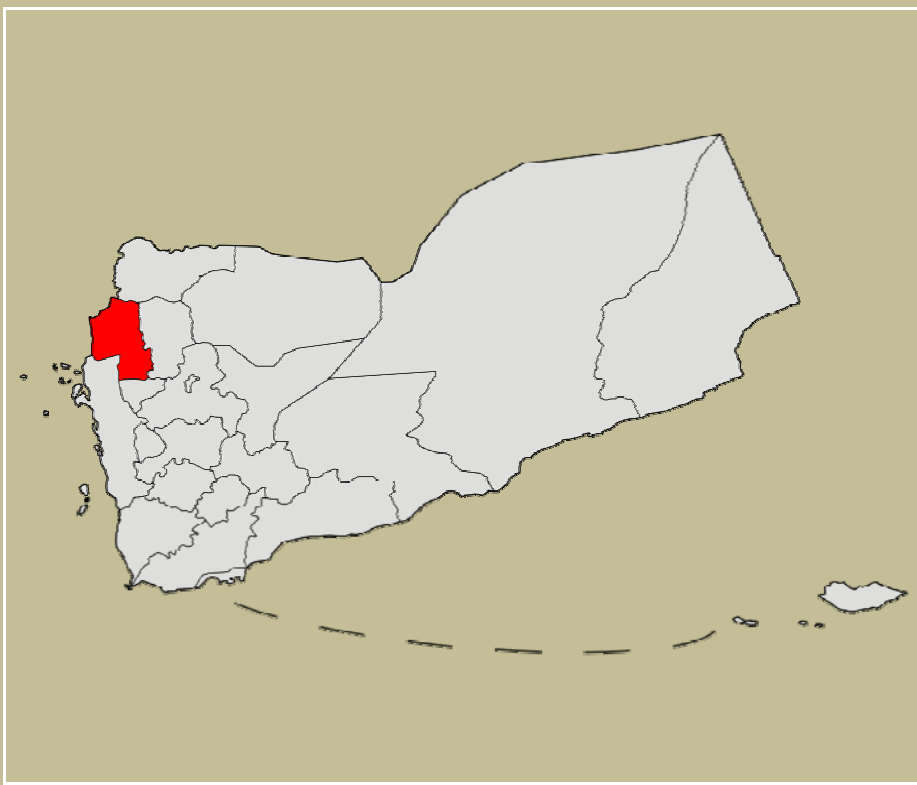




## **AL HUDAYDAH GOVERNORATE – CAPITAL: AL HUDAYDAH**

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Borders the Red Sea. Coastal plain is tropical and humid; mountainous interior is hot and dry during summer, and cold in winter.
<b>Economy:</b>	Exports include coffee, cotton, dates, and hides. The historical significance of the city brings in tourists.
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	Hashid, Bakil, Bani Syrayam, & Quhrah
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	The province is known as one of the home to many suspected Al-Qaeda members.
<b>Significance:</b>	Al Hudaydah is the fourth largest city in Yemen. It is also an important port. Zabid, located in the capital, is one of the most important Islamic towns in the world.

## RED SEA COAST – HAJJAH



## HAJJAH GOVERNORATE - CAPITAL: HAJJAH

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	<b>Tropical and humid coastal plain borders the Red Sea. Mountainous interior maintains temperate climate in the summer, extremely cold in the winter.</b>
<b>Economy:</b>	<b>Being one of the most beautiful areas of the country, tourism is an important industry.</b>
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	<b>Bani Suraym, Hasid, &amp; Bakil</b>
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	<b>Suspected Al-Qaeda links threaten the area.</b>
<b>Significance:</b>	<b>The town of Hajjah is the center of the governance and is among the most fortified strongholds in Yemen. Many famous mountains and forts are in this region.</b>

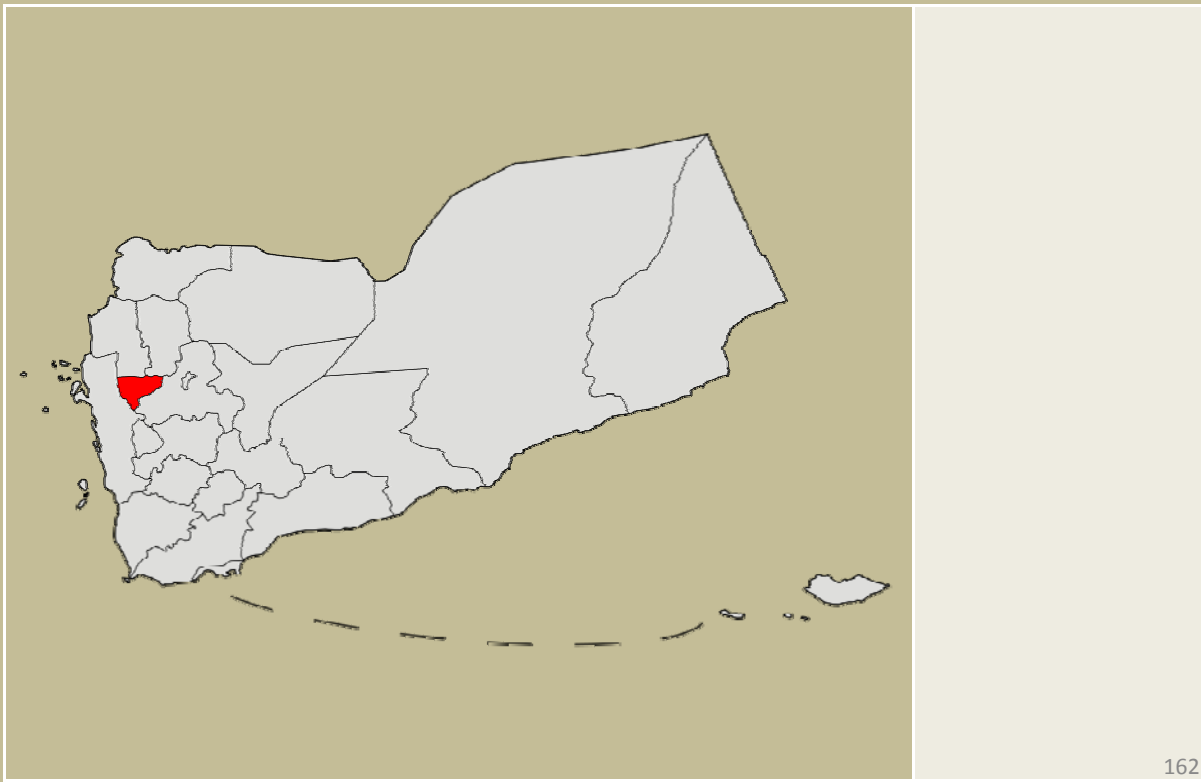
**THE CAPITAL AND MOUNTAINS:  
AL MAHWIT, AMANAT AL ASIMAH, SANA'A, RAYMAH**



## THE CAPITAL AND MOUNTAINS

This region is one of the most beautiful areas of Yemen with its rugged terraced cities, mountains, and wadis. The al Mahwit province is one of the most fertile regions in Yemen. This area is home to Yemen's capital, Sanaa which features a very rare mild version of a desert climate. The capital is filled with many unique architectural structures which draws millions of tourists from around the world. The area is filled lush mountainous regions which are famous to hikers. The provinces around the capital tend to be some of the poorest in Yemen. One of the poorest regions in Yemen, Raymah is located in this region. Many Yemeni and UN support efforts have been launched to rebuild the infrastructures in these areas. Many suspected Al-Qaeda strongholds are purported to be in this region.

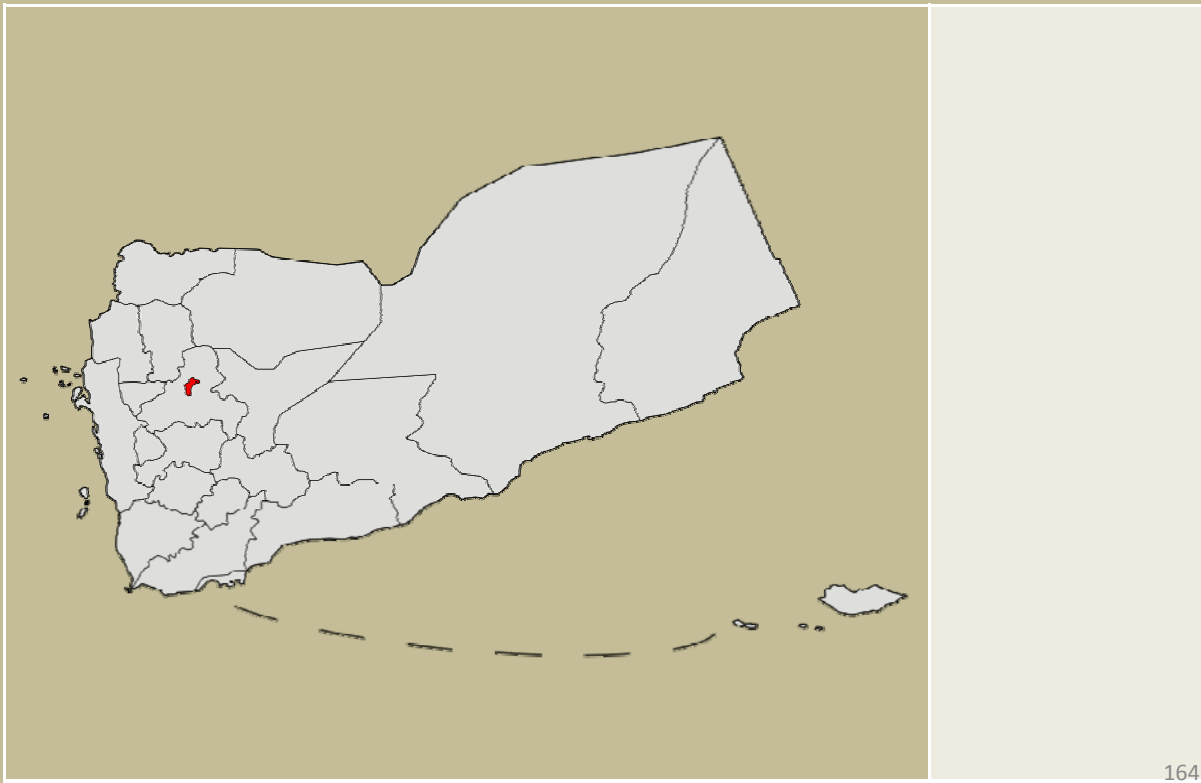
## CAPITAL & MOUNTAINS – AL MAHWIT



## **AL MAHWIT GOVERNORATE - CAPITAL: AL MAHWIT**

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	<b>Mountainous with upland deserts. Temperate rainy summer and cool dry winter. Al Mahwit contains many wadis and mountains.</b>
<b>Economy:</b>	<b>Coffee beans, tobacco, and fruits grow in this very fertile region.</b>
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	<b>Hashid, Bakil, and Bani Suraym</b>
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	<b>Area prone to flooding due to the high numbers of wadis in the region.</b>
<b>Significance:</b>	<b>Al Mahwit is a very appealing city in terms of its history, location, and landscape.</b>

# AMANAT AL ASIMAH - SANA'A

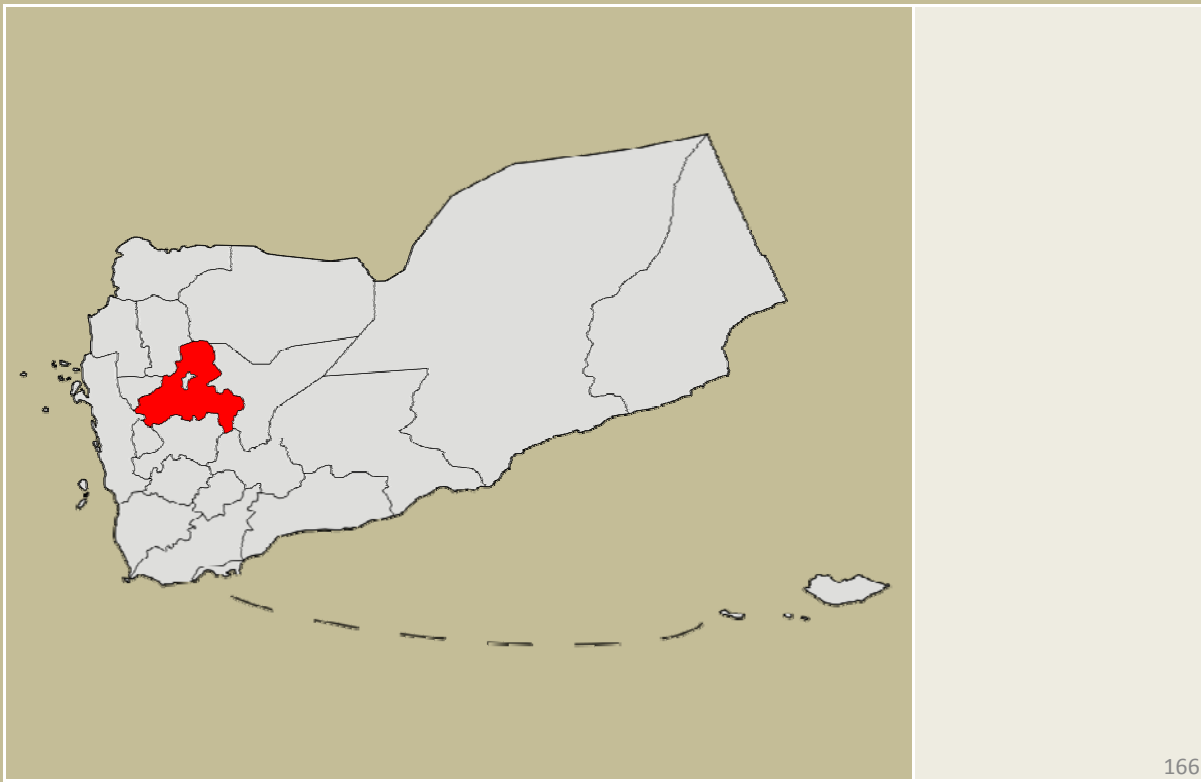




## AMANAT AL ASIMAH GOVERNORATE - CAPITAL: SANA'A

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Mountainous with upland deserts. Temperate rainy summer and cool dry winter.
<b>Economy:</b>	Yemenia, the national airline of Yemen is located in Sana'a. Sana'a is the capital of Yemen and its largest city providing citizens with an abundance of jobs. One of the most popular attractions is Suq al Mihl where it is possible to buy just about anything.
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	Hashid, Bakil, & Bani Suraym
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	Al-Qaeda links in Sana'a. US closed its embassy.
<b>Significance:</b>	Sana'a is one of four World Heritage sites in Yemen- a testimony to its mosques, minarets, schools, suqs, samsarabs, palaces, hammams, and tower houses.

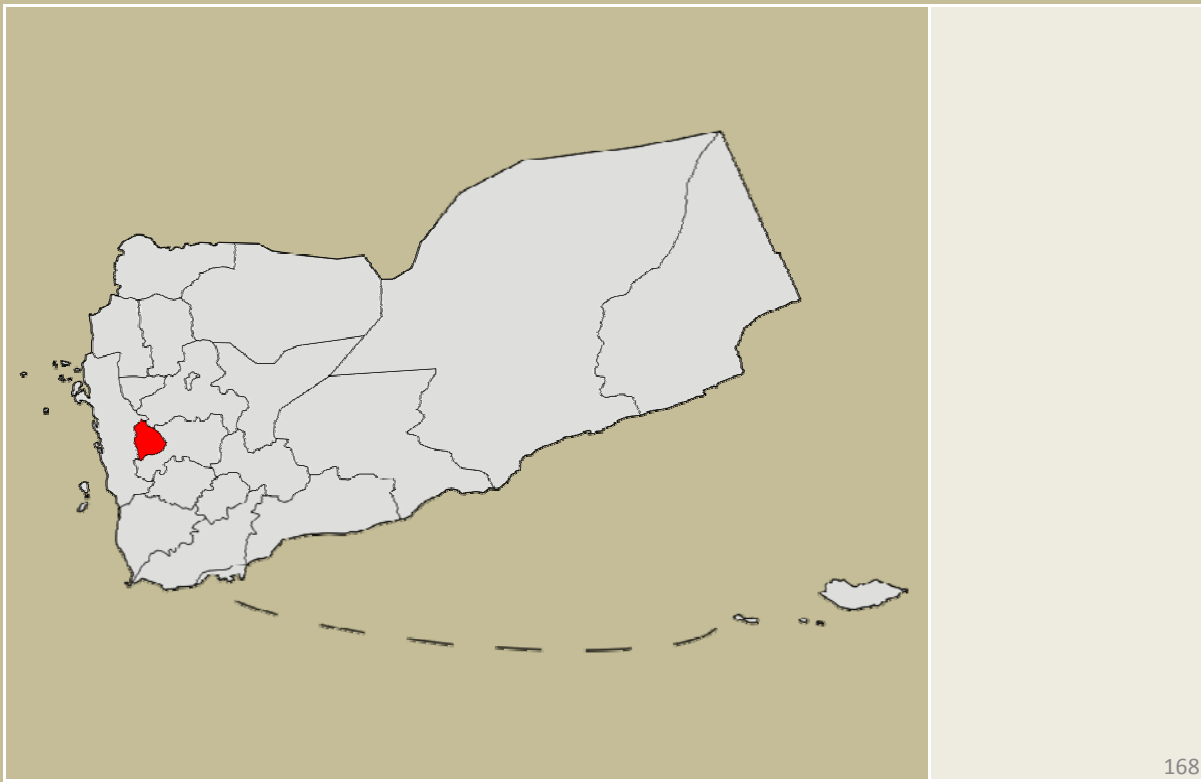
## CAPITAL & MOUNTAINS – SANA'A



## **SANA'A GOVERNORATE - CAPITAL: SANA'A**

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	<b>Mountainous with upland deserts. Temperate rainy summer and cool dry winter.</b>
<b>Economy:</b>	<b>This province surrounds the capital and benefits from trade between Sana'a and other provinces.</b>
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	<b>Hashid, Bakil, &amp; Bani Suraym</b>
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	<b>Suspected Al-Qaeda links. Yemeni military checkpoints throughout the region.</b>
<b>Significance:</b>	<b>The Yemeni government deployed several hundred extra troops to this mountainous region which is reported to be Al-Qaeda's main stronghold in the country.</b>

## CAPITAL & MOUNTAINS – RAYMAH



## RAYMAH GOVERNORATE - CAPITAL: RAYMAH

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Mountainous with upland deserts. Temperate rainy summer and cool dry winter.
<b>Economy:</b>	Herding and some farming. Inadequate rural infrastructure. Ministry of Tourism currently working on a project to promote this area.
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	Hashid, Bakil, Zaranik, & Quhrah
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	Inhabitants of Raymah are among the most vulnerable, poorest, and marginalized people in Yemen.
<b>Significance:</b>	Rayman Area Development Project assists the government in developing rainfed agriculture. This supports improvements in rural road networks and safe water.

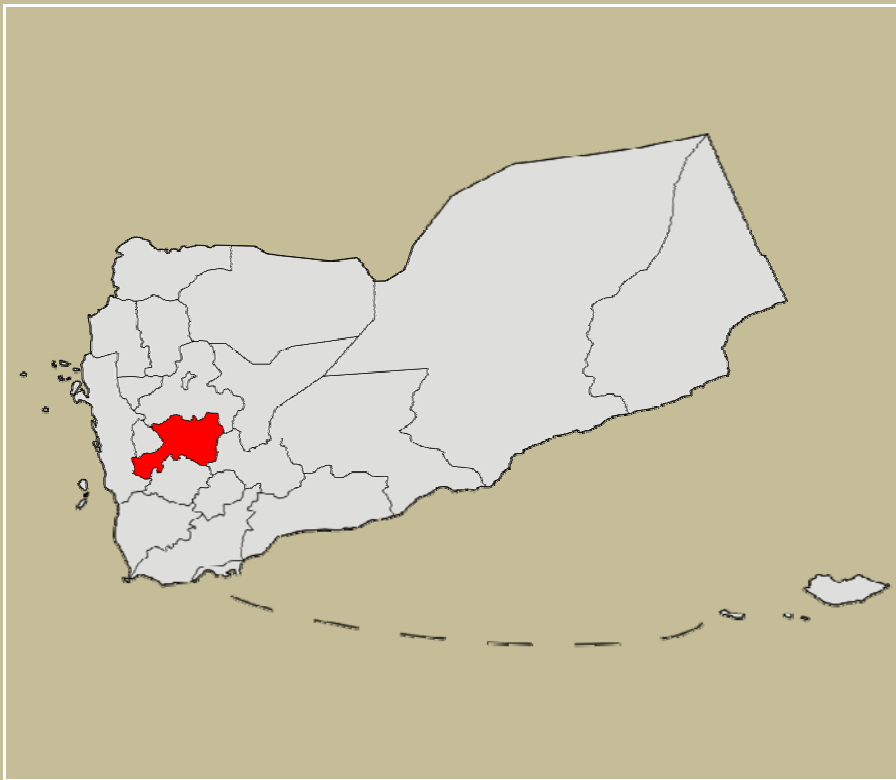
**MOUNTAINS SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL:  
DHAMAR, IBB, TA'IZ**



## **MOUNTAINS SOUTH OF THE CAPITAL**

The high mountains of this region, reaching above 10,000 ft., extract moisture from the humid air blown in from the Red Sea. This is Yemen's rainiest region, with as much as 39 in. per year at Ibb. Indeed, this is the rainiest area of the entire Arabian Peninsula. Fertile soil in valleys, plains and plateaus make this region an important for agriculture. Beside producing food, this region also produces coffee, among Yemen's finest.

# MOUNTAINS SOUTH – DHAMAR



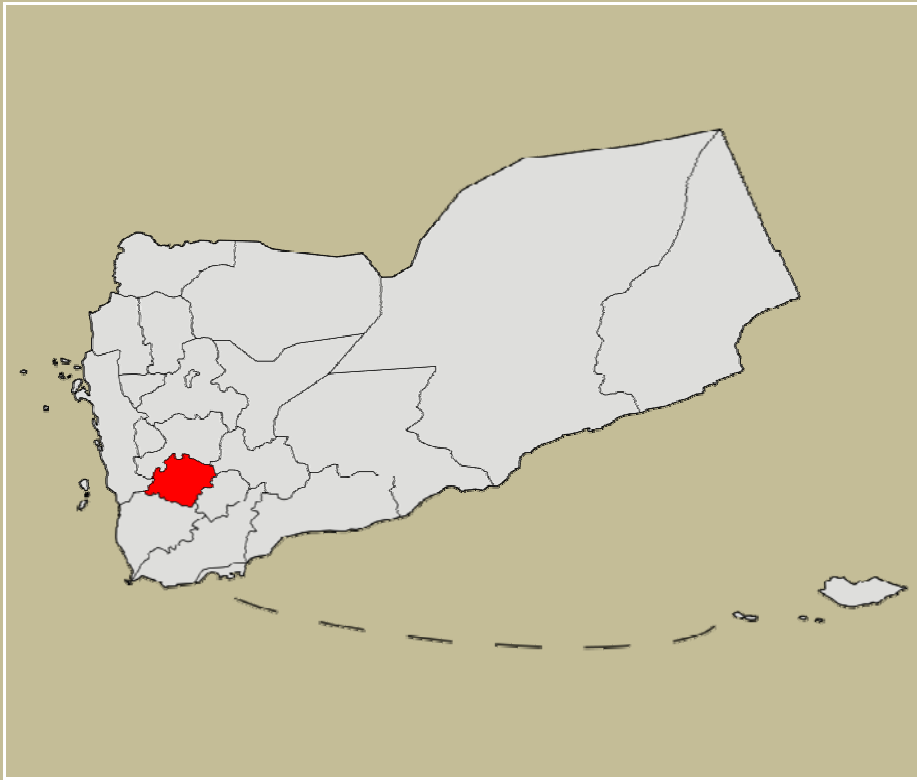
Terraced Farms



## DHAMAR GOVERNORATE - CAPITAL: DHAMAR CITY

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Mountains, high plains, plateaus; temperate, though central & eastern regions can be cold in winter
<b>Economy:</b>	Agriculture: Corn, wheat, fruit and vegetables; coffee ( <i>al-fadli</i> , among Yemen's best); livestock. Cottage industry (weaving, metal work). Mining: Onyx, limestone, gypsum.
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	Seat of the Zaydi religious sect.
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	Relatively calm.
<b>Significance:</b>	Most elevated governorate (5200 – 10,000 ft). Numerous archeological sites. Highly productive agricultural area.

# MOUNTAINS SOUTH – IBB

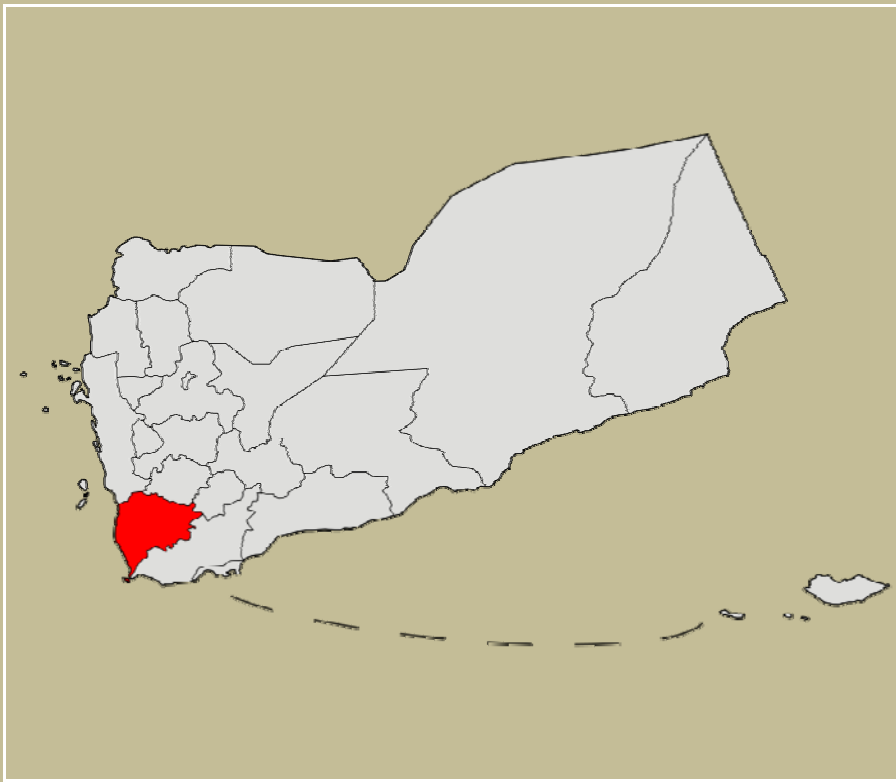


Mosque in Ibb

## IBB GOVERNORATE - CAPITAL: IBB CITY

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Mountains. Much rain (up to 39 in. per year), the rainiest area in the Arabian Peninsula.
<b>Economy:</b>	Agriculture: Wheat, barley, sesame and sorghum; also qat.
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	Ibb governorate has been the scene of numerous anti-government protests.
<b>Significance:</b>	The most densely populated governorate in Yemen outside of Sana'a City.

# MOUNTAINS SOUTH – TA'IZ



Ta'iz City

## TA'IZ GOVERNORATE - CAPITAL: TA'IZ CITY

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Diverse geography. West: Hot, humid Tihama plains along Red Sea. East: High, cool rainy mountains up to 10,000 ft.
<b>Economy:</b>	Tihama region: Only irrigated agriculture; cotton, sorghum and sesame. Western escarpment: Mangoes, papayas and bananas fed by rainfall and stored water. Grapes (raisins) also grown. Mountains: Coffee, qat.
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	
<b>Significance:</b>	The Red Sea port of Al-Mokha' was a major exporter of Yemeni coffee through the centuries. It lent its name to the drink, "Mocha." Ta'iz City important center of commerce & learning.

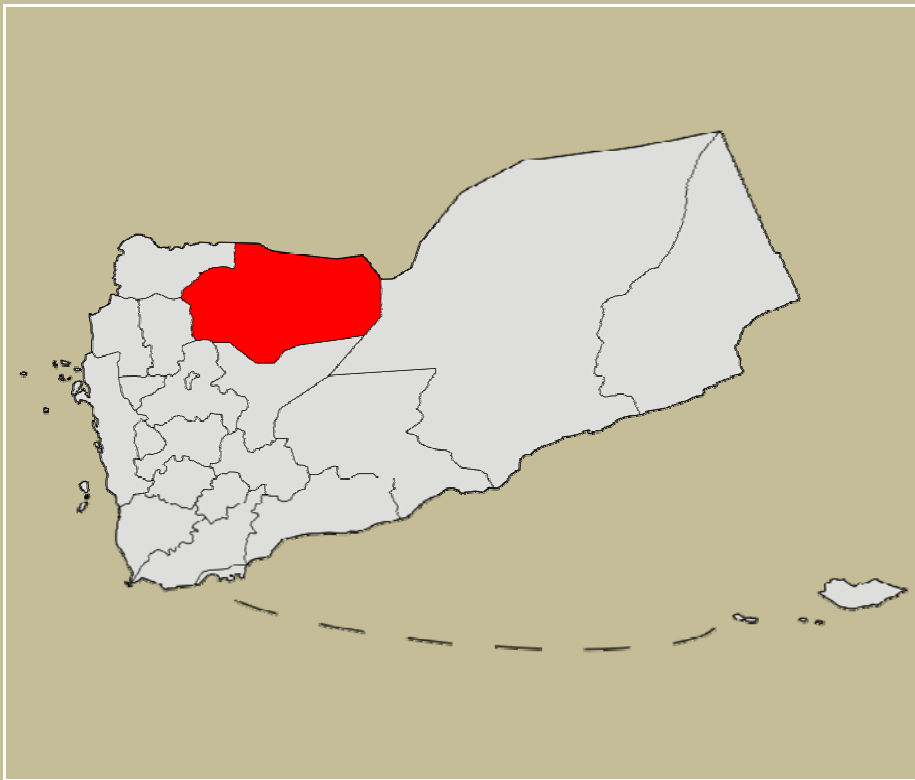
**DESERT NORTH:  
AL JAWF, MA'RIB**



## DESERT NORTH REGION

Hot, dry and isolated, the desert regions of the former North Yemen are poor and prone to tribal rivalries. The Al-Houthi rebellion continues to affect Al-Jawf Governorate. The discovery of petroleum under the sands of Ma'rib Governorate brought the modern city of Ma'rib into being in 1984 near the 3000-year old ruins of the Sabaean state, once led by the Queen of Sheba.

## DESERT NORTH – AL JAWF



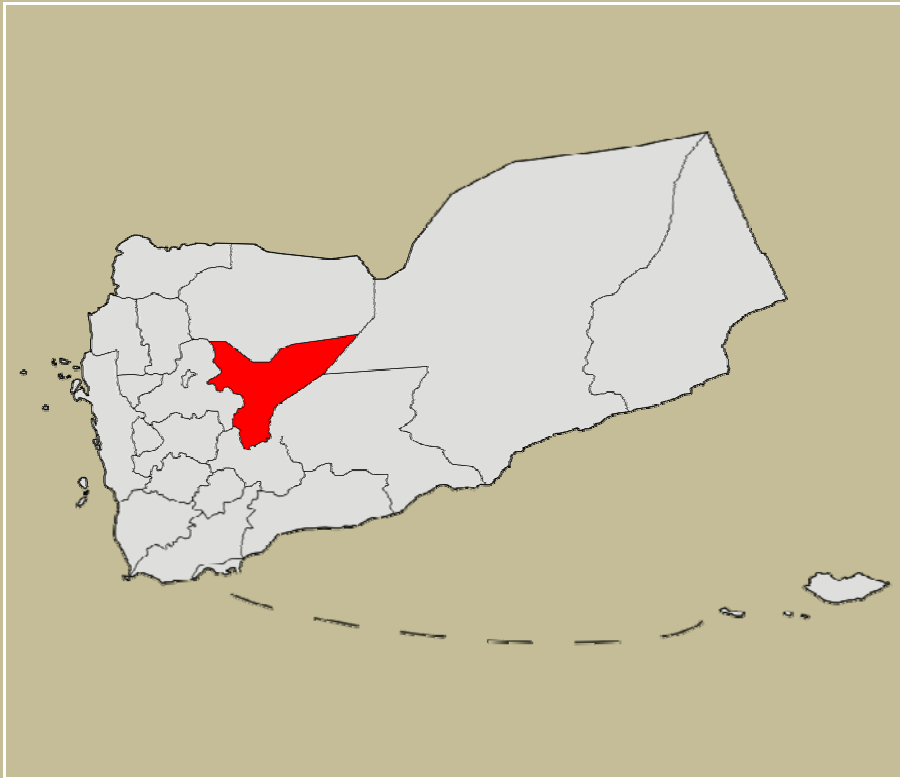
Houthi Rebel  
Checkpoint, Al-  
Jawf Governorate



## AL-JAWF GOVERNORATE - CAPITAL: AL-HAZM AL-JAWF

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Desert
<b>Economy:</b>	Poor neglected corner of Yemen. Only 4% of the population has access to electricity. School enrollment low, schools inadequate, illiteracy high.
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	Divided between Shi'a (Al-Houthi) and Sunni (supporters of Islah political party). Frequent clashes.
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	Ongoing Al-Houthi rebellion. Sunni – Shi'a rivalries. Inter-tribal vengeance.
<b>Significance:</b>	

## DESERT NORTH – MA'RIB



Sun Temple  
Ruins, Ma'rib

## MA'RIB GOVERNORATE - CAPITAL: MA'RIB CITY

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Desert. Hot and dry.
<b>Economy:</b>	Modern Ma'rib City was established after the discovery of oil deposits in 1984.
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	2 July 2007: Suicide bomber crashed car packed with explosives into a tourists' convoy at Ma'rib ruins killing 7 Spanish tourists. Yemeni officials blamed the attack on al-Qaeda.
<b>Significance:</b>	Capital of the Sabaean kingdom (Queen of Sheba, "Bilqis" to Yemenis) c. 1000 BC. Numerous ancient ruins. On the old Incense Route (frankincense and myrrh).

**SOUTH BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS:  
'ADAN, LAHIJ, AD DALI', ABYAN, AL BAYDA'**



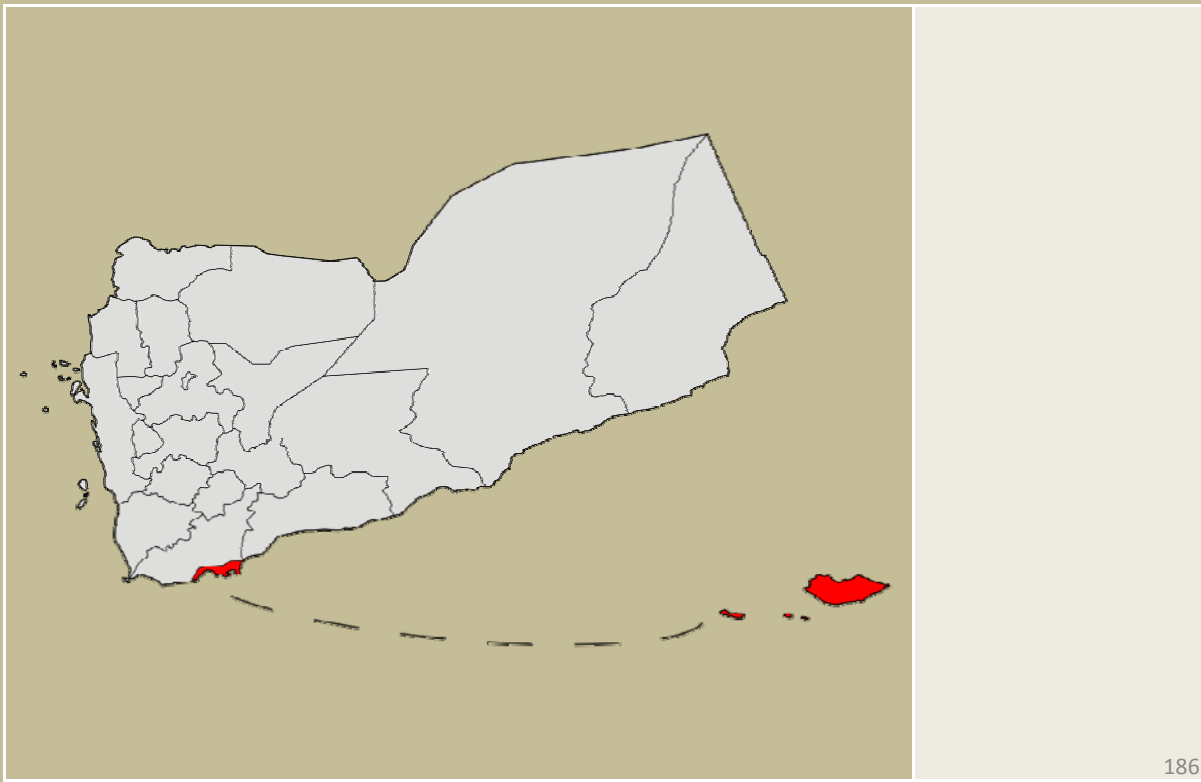
## SOUTH BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS

This region was once part of the Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen), and 'Aden was the capital city. 'Aden is now the commercial capital of the unified Republic of Yemen. The region is dry, much like the rest of the country, and temperatures are generally high. Mountainous areas do receive some rainfall in the summer. There are some meadows and pastures as well as a small amount of arable land, but the remainder of land along the coast is wasteland.

The majority of Yemenis in this area are Sunni Muslim. There are pockets of tribal areas in this region, but the roles of tribes are less significant than in the north. 'Aden specifically has long lost its tribal nature as a result of being under control of the British. The region does include the tribal areas of Sibalhi, Haushabi, Amiri, Fadhit, Yafai, and Aulaq (Awlak).

It is an area that is currently not under the control of the Yemeni government and thus poses a security threat for the country and surrounding regions.

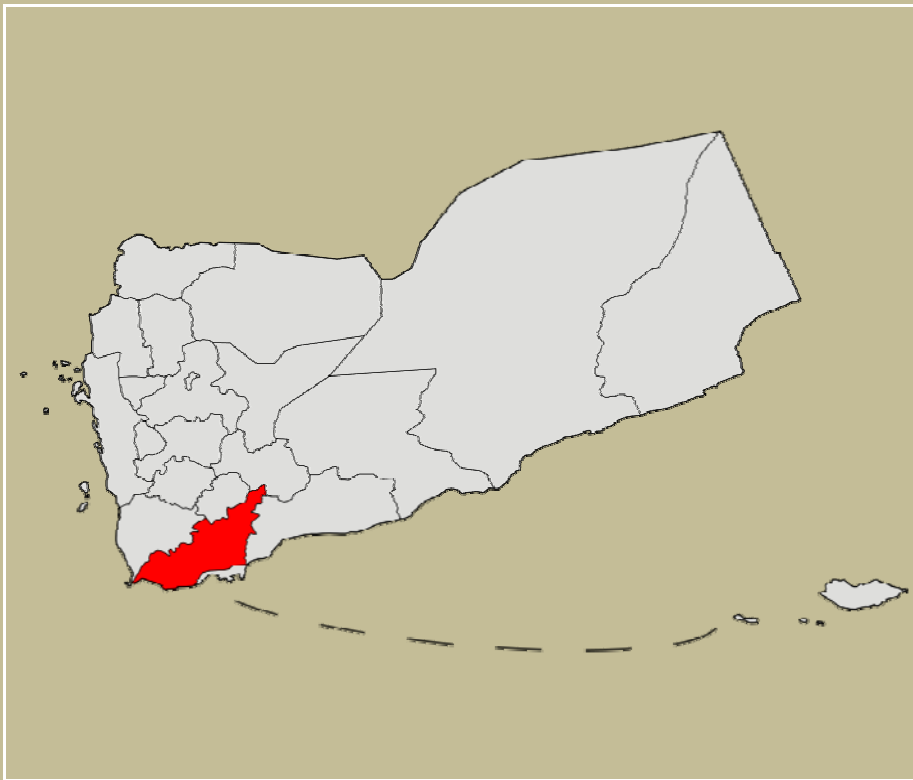
## SOUTH – 'ADEN



## 'ADEN PROVINCE - CAPITAL: 'ADEN CITY

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Coastal plain; high temperatures; humid; little rainfall
<b>Economy:</b>	Main sea port of country; free trade zone; oil refinery; some tourism
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	N/A
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	Rebel groups; anti-government sentiment; Al-Qaeda presence – all of paramount concern given the strategic position of the port area; large number of Somali refugees a potential factor of instability
<b>Significance:</b>	Believed to be one of the oldest cities/ports; several historical sites; 'Aden serves as the country's winter capital and as the economic capital

## SOUTH – LAHIJ

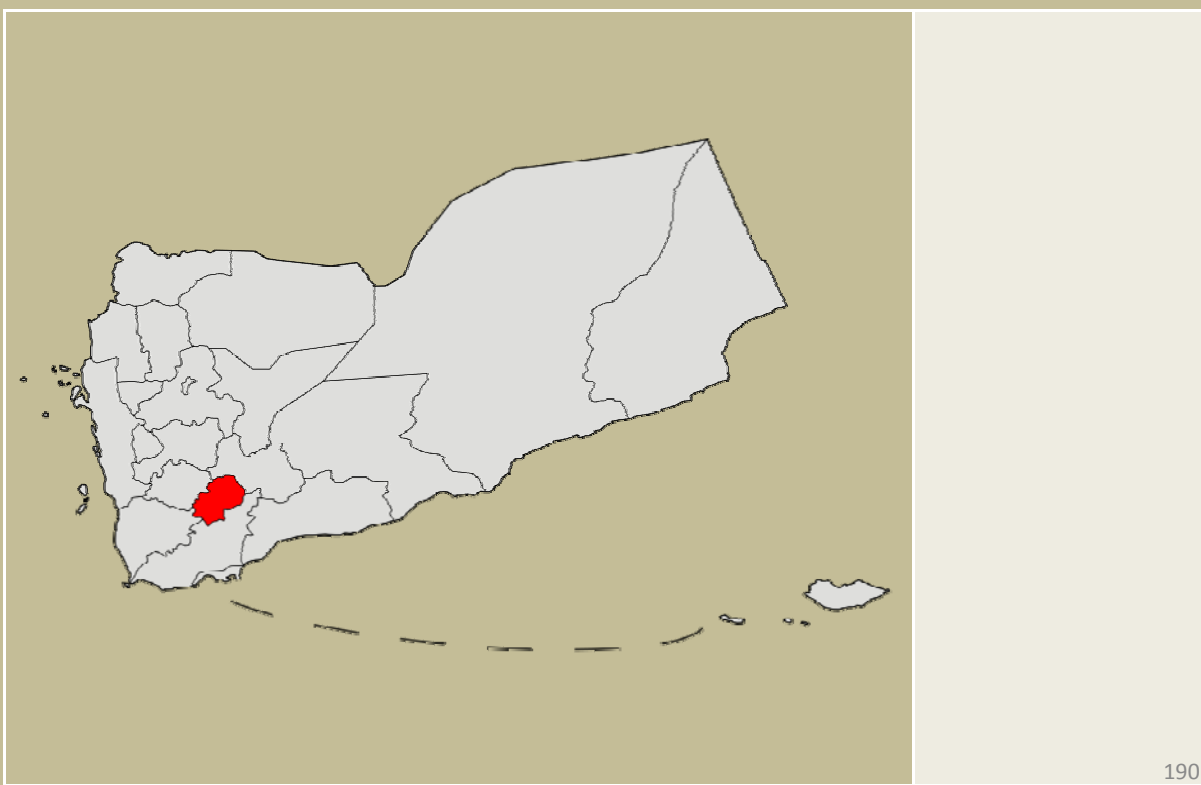




## LAHIJ PROVINCE - CAPITAL: LAHIJ

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Semi-mountainous; coastal wasteland; humid; high temperatures; sparse rainfall
<b>Economy:</b>	Agricultural area
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	Haushabi, Sibalhi – tribal areas al Aamas, Abdel Nabi - tribes
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	Anti-government elements and southern secessionists threaten stability
<b>Significance:</b>	Lahij was the capital of the 'Abdali Sultanate, abolished when 'Aden became independent in 1967 (from British)

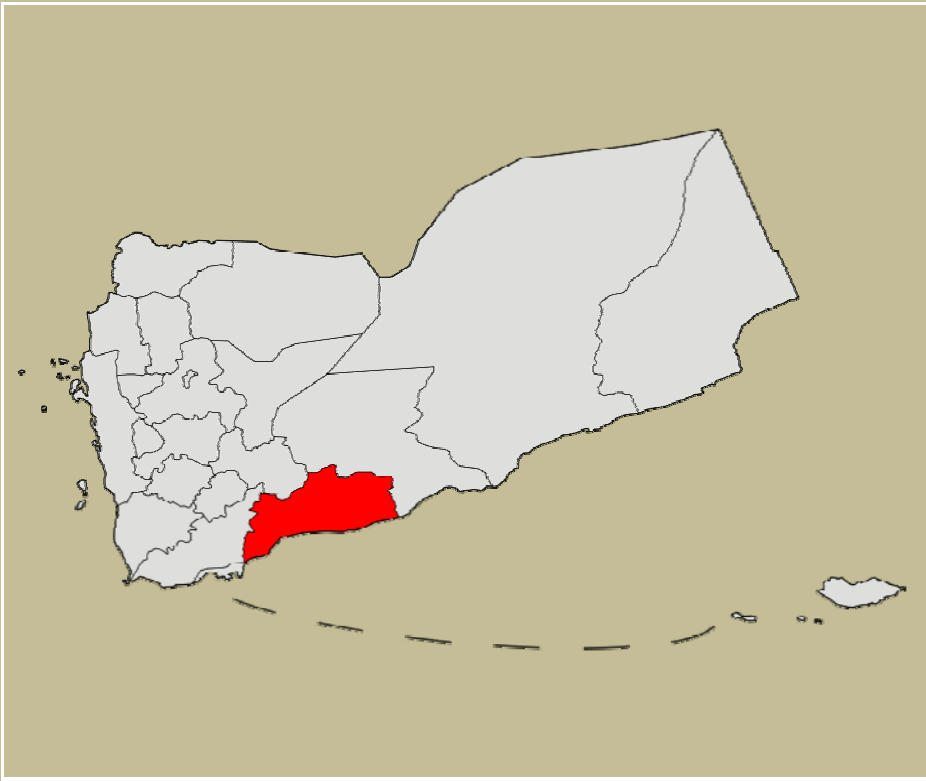
## SOUTH – AL DALI'



## AL DALI' PROVINCE - CAPITAL: AL DALI'

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Mountainous; some arable land; receives some rainfall; high diurnal temperature ranges (difference between day and night temperatures)
<b>Economy:</b>	Agriculture
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	Amiri tribal area
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	Province currently not under control of central government; recent demonstrations concerning Middle East issues have resulted in some violence
<b>Significance:</b>	Located on route between two largest cities of Yemen - Sanaa and 'Aden

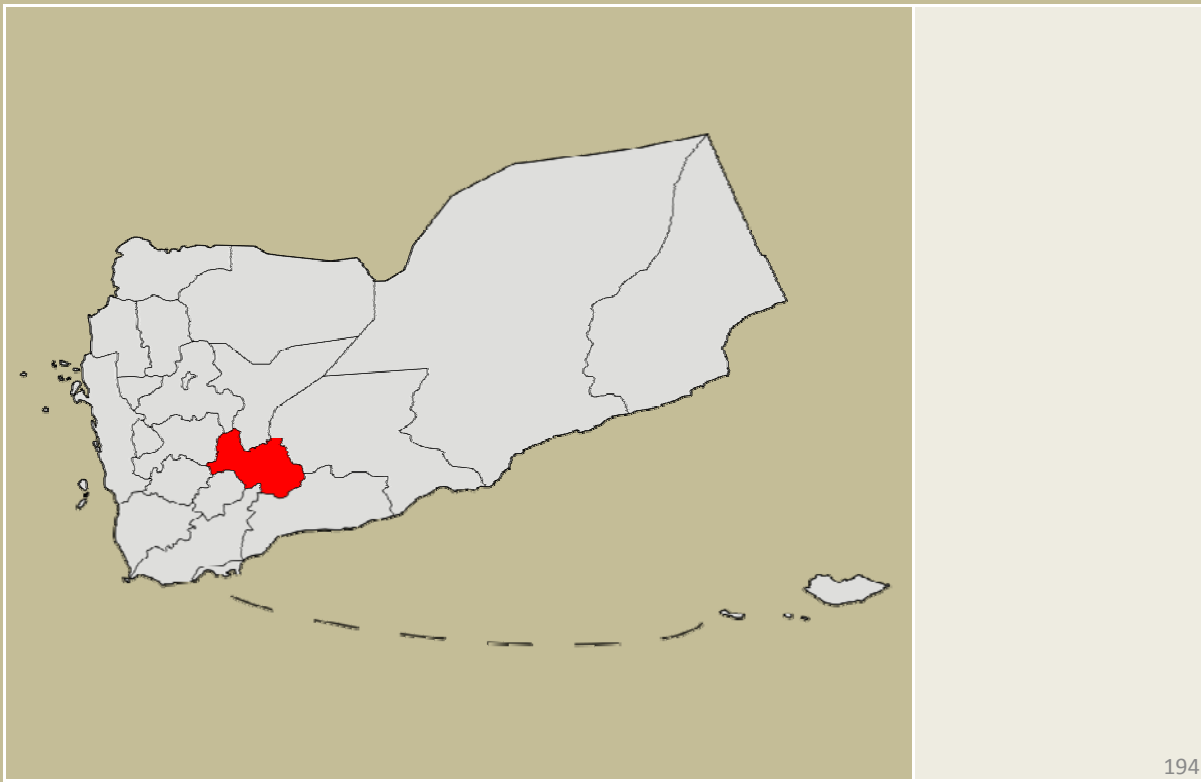
# SOUTH – ABYAN



## ABYAN PROVINCE - CAPITAL: ZINJIBAR

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Coastal plain; high temperatures; humidity; some parts semi-mountainous
<b>Economy:</b>	Cotton; irrigated farming
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	Fadhiti tribal area
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	Was base to 'Aden-Abyan Islamic Army terrorist group; strong Al-Qaeda presence; government airstrikes against Al-Qaeda in Dec 2009; currently not under government control
<b>Significance:</b>	Historically part of Fadhli Sultanate with Zinjibar as its capital

## SOUTH – AL BAYDA'



## AL BAYDA' PROVINCE - CAPITAL: AL BAYDA

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Semi-mountainous; plateau; some arable land; some meadows and pastures; some rainfall; high temperatures
<b>Economy:</b>	Agriculture
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	Yafai and Hashid & Bakil Bani Suraym tribal groups Bani Wahab, A'al Riam, and al Absi tribes
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	Some areas not under government control; potential site of conflict due to its geographical position between North and South movements
<b>Significance:</b>	Was once the capital of Sultanate of Bayhan; was part of North Yemen, but lay near the disputed border with South Yemen

**THE GREAT DESERT:  
SHABWAH, HADRAMAUT, AL MAHRAH**





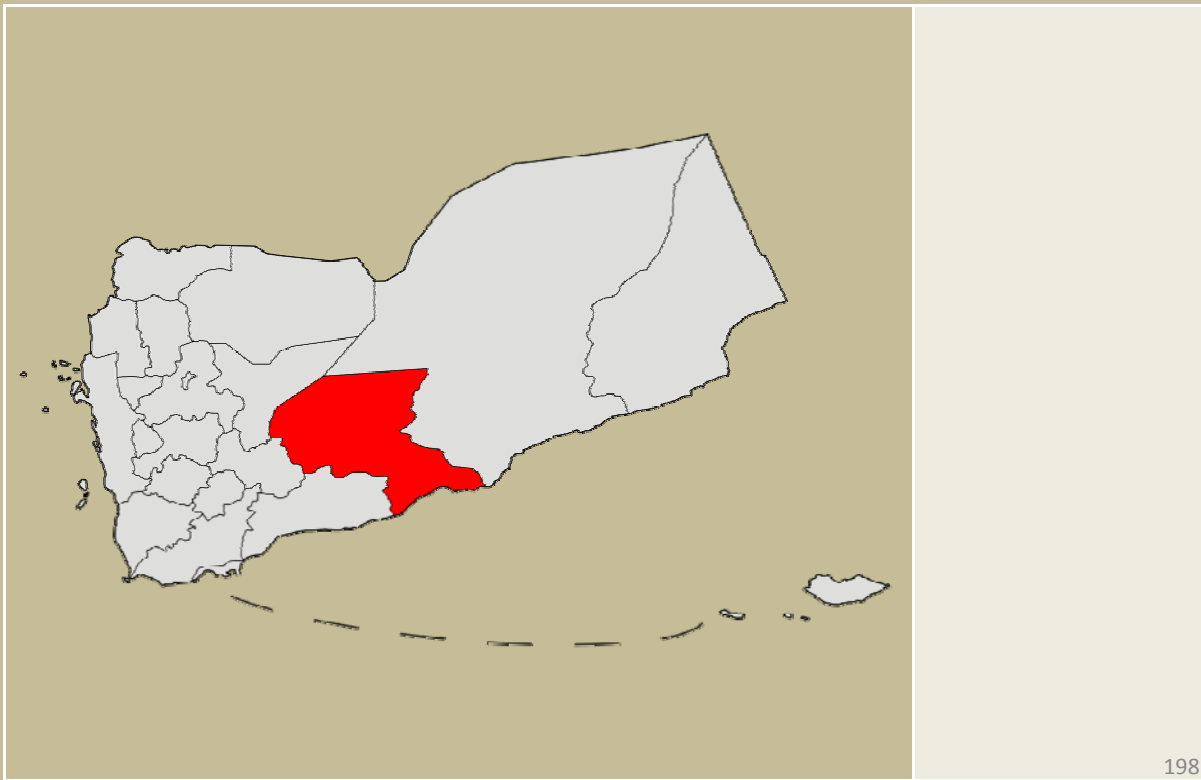
## THE GREAT DESERT

This region is characterized by its harsh desert, high temperatures, and rough terrain. The region generally receives little to no rainfall every year, and thus inhabitants live near the few oases and the coastal cities. The Empty Quarter Desert is virtually uninhabitable, and the population density in general is much less than that found towards the West in Sana'a and other major cities.

The majority of Yemenis in this region are Sunni Muslim. Many of the people in this region continue to practice a traditional, nomadic lifestyle. Tribal affiliation is still of significance in leading such a lifestyle. The eastern province of al Mahra is known as the home of the original south Arabians, and many inhabitants still speak the ancient language of Mahric, a Semitic language that predates Islam. The camel was originally domesticated in this region.

The region is potentially subject to growing Al-Qaeda influence and presence.

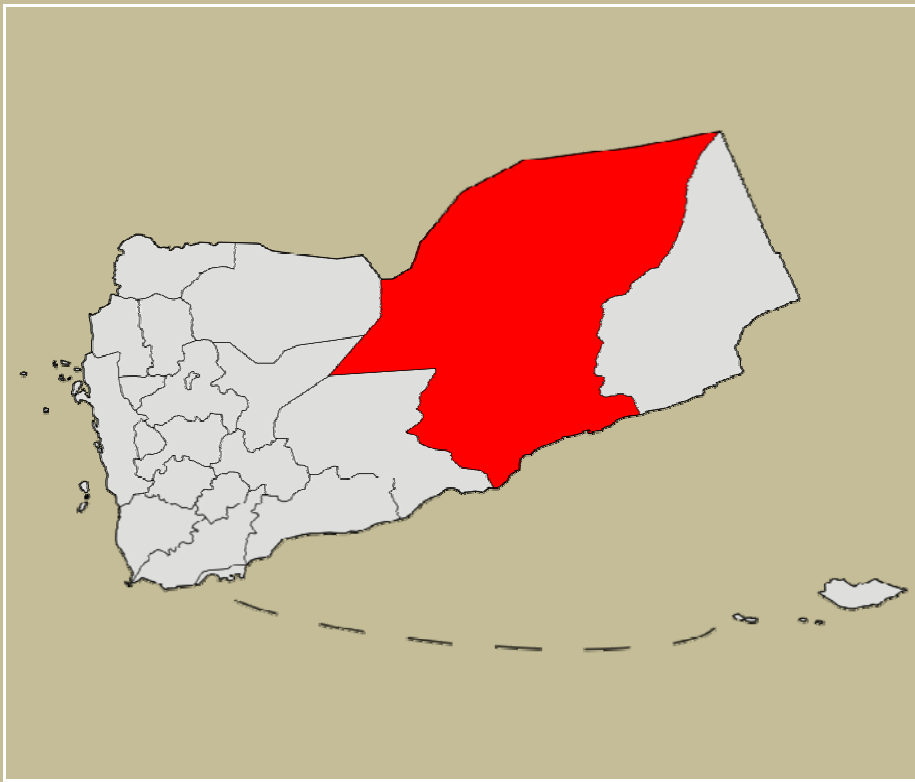
# GREAT DESERT – SHABWAH



## SHABWAH GOVERNORATE--CAPITAL: ATAQ

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	<b>Foothills of Hadramaut Plateau to Gulf of 'Aden; 3,400 ft to sea level; hot humid coast; little rainfall</b>
<b>Economy:</b>	<b>Poor; pastoral; oil production; cultivated land 22,239 ac (all irrigated)</b>
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	<b>Parts of Aulaq (Awlak), Wahidi, and Yafai tribal areas</b>
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	<b>Institutionalized kidnapping; Al-Qaeda presence; government airstrikes against Al-Qaeda; weak government; secessionist sentiment</b>
<b>Significance:</b>	<b>Residence of the kings of Hadramaut</b>

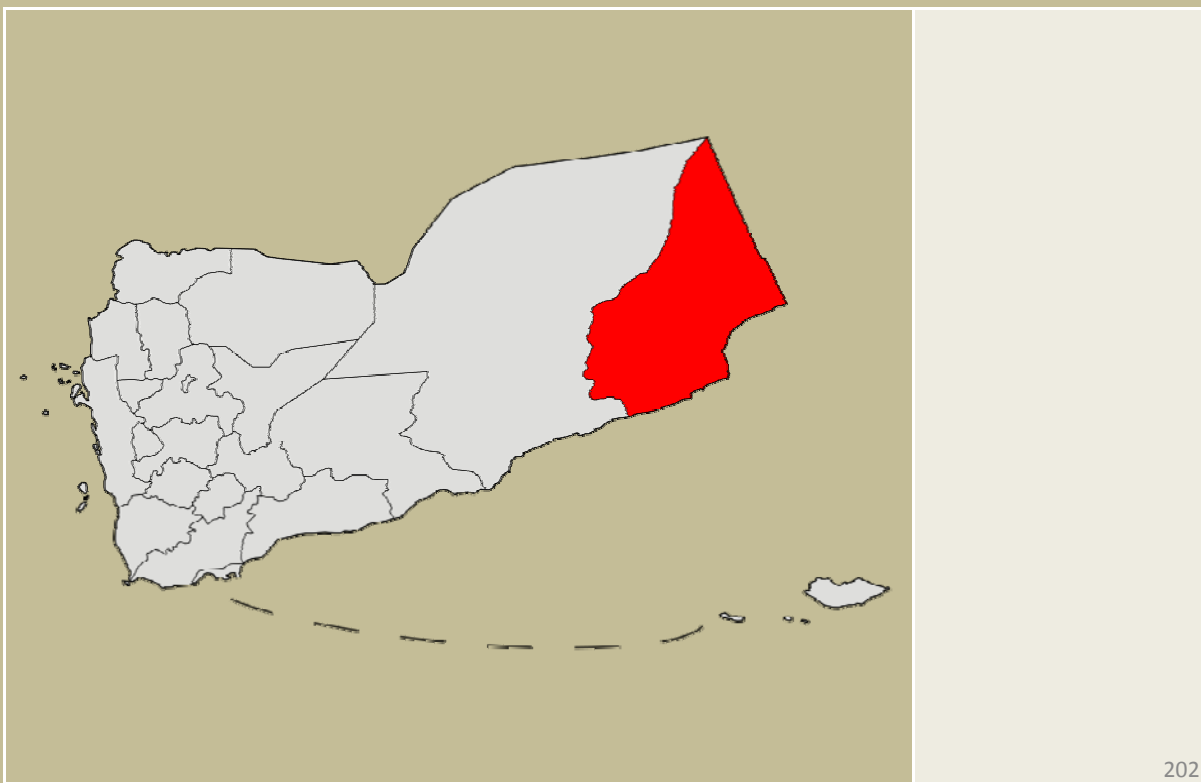
# GREAT DESERT – HADRAMAUT



## HADRAMAUT GOVERNORATE— CAPITAL: AL MUKALLA

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Hot, dry, arid desert (Empty Quarter); arid coastal plain; broad plateau; sparse network of wadis (seasonal watercourses); Socotra archipelago part of governorate
<b>Economy:</b>	Poor; irrigated farming; port business; rough grazing/nomadic herding
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	Sai'ar, Ka'aiti and parts of al Murra and Wahidi tribal areas Al Saidah tribe
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	Possible Al-Qaeda influence and presence; crowded cities; harsh climate
<b>Significance:</b>	Rich history

# GREAT DESERT – AL MAHRAH



## AL MAHRAH PROVINCE – CAPITAL: AL GHAYDAH

<b>Geography and Climate:</b>	Rough, remote terrain; hot, dry, arid desert (Empty Quarter); arid coastal plain; sparse network of wadis (seasonal watercourses); oases close to coast
<b>Economy:</b>	Poor; some agriculture (tobacco); rough grazing/nomadic herding; port business
<b>Major Tribes:</b>	Al Kathir, Al Rashid, Al Kathiri, Al Murra, Awa'mir, and Mahrah tribal areas
<b>Dangers &amp; Concerns:</b>	Possible Al-Qaeda influence and presence
<b>Significance:</b>	Tribes of this area are the original south Arabians; some inhabitants still speak Mahric, a Semitic language that predates Arabic; camel originally domesticated in this region

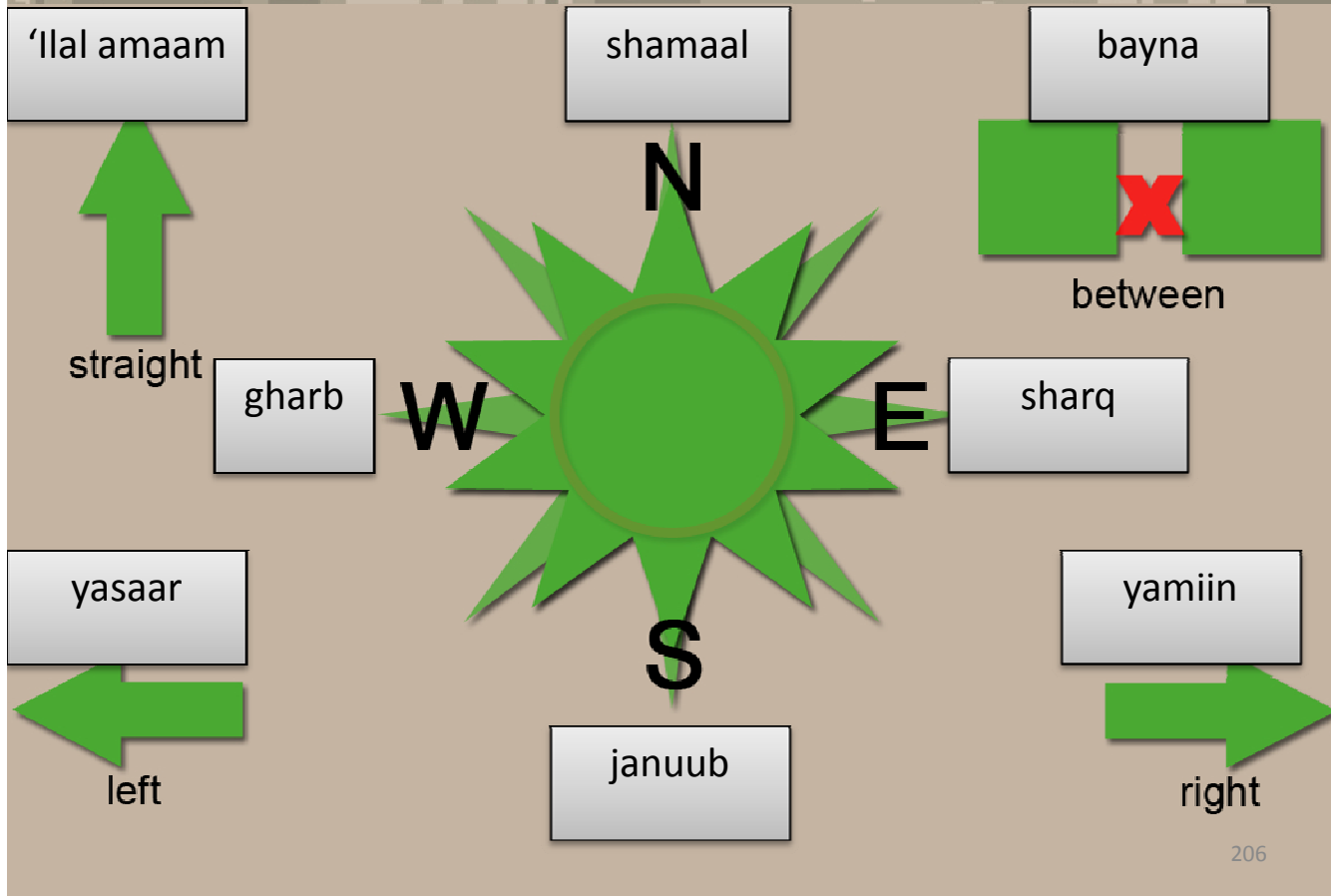
# LANGUAGE GUIDE



## LANGUAGE GUIDE

- More than nine-tenths of Yemenis speak some dialect of Arabic as their first language
- Modern Standard Arabic—the literary and cultural language of the broader Arab world—is taught in schools.
- There are several main dialects, but minor differences often occur within smaller geographic areas.

# Directions



## HELPFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

### English

### Arabic

Hello

Assalaamu alaykum

Excuse me \ I'm sorry

Afwan \ Aasif

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

Ismii \_\_\_\_\_

What is your name?

Maasmuka?

How are you?

Kayfa haaluka?

Good morning.

Sabaahal khayr.

Good night.

Masaa'al khayr.

## HELPFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

English	Arabic
Yesterday	Ams
Tomorrow	Ghadan
Yes	Na'am
No	Laa
Please	Min fadlik
Thank you	Shukran
You're welcome	Afwan

## HELPFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

English	Arabic
What?	Maadhaa?
Why?	Li-maadhaa?
Where?	Ayna?
When?	Mataa?
Who?	Man?
How many	Kam adad?
How much	Kam?
Correct	Sahiih
Incorrect	Ghalat
Good-bye.	Ila-lliqaa'

## NUMBERS

English	Arabic
0	Sifr
1	Wahid
2	Ithnayn
3	Thalaatha
4	Arba'a
5	Khamsa
6	Sitta
7	Sab'a
8	Thamaaniya
9	Tis'a
10	Ashra

## NUMBERS

English	Arabic
11	Hida'ashar
12	Ithna'ashar
13	Thalatta'ashar
14	Arba'atta'ashar
15	Khamista'ashar
16	Sitta'ashar
17	Sab'atta'ashar
18	Thamanta'ashar
19	Tis'atta'ashar
20	Ishriin

## NUMBERS

English	Arabic
21	Waahid wa ishriin
22	Ithnayn wa ishriin
30	Thalaathiin
31	Waahid wa thalaathiin
40	Arba'iin
50	Khamsiin
60	Sittiin
70	Sab'iin
80	Thamaaniin
90	Tis'iin
100	Mi'a



## SURVIVAL LANGUAGE

English	Arabic
Do you speak English?	Hal tatakallamul ingliiziyya
Slow down	Bi but'in
Calm down	Ihda'
You are safe	Anta fii amaan.
Do you understand?	Hal tafham?
Where is _____?	Ayna _____?
Help me	Saa'idnii

## SURVIVAL LANGUAGE

English	Arabic
Do you need help?	Hal tahtaaj ila musaa'ada?
Water	Maa'
Food	Ta'aam
Shelter	Ma'wan
Medicine	Dawaa'
Weapons	Asliha
Minefield	Haql alghaam
Danger area	Mintaqat khatar
Which direction?	Fii ayy ittijaah?

## COMMAND AND CONTROL

English	Arabic
Stop	Qif
Move	Taharrak
No talking	Laa tatakallam
Hands up	Irfa'ul aydii
Lower your hands	Ikhfidul aydii
Lie on your stomach	Urqud ala batnik
Get up	Qum
Come here	Ta'aala

## COMMAND AND CONTROL

English	Arabic
Turn around	Dur
Do not move	Laa tataharrak
Stay where you are	Ibqa fii makaanik
Walk forward	Imshi ilal amaam
One at a time	Waahid waahid
Form a line	Istaffuu
Surrender	Istaslim
Who is in charge?	Manil mas'uul?

## CULTURAL PROVERBS, EXPRESSIONS, AND IDIOMS

- Sana'a is a "must," however long the journey takes.
- From a pound of talk, an ounce of understanding.
- A foreigner should be well-behaved.
- Look to your near neighbor rather than to your distant brother.
- Work like an ant and you'll eat sugar.
- Who dies today is safe from tomorrow's sin.
- My fist is in his mouth, his fist is in my eye (i.e. "six of one, half-dozen of the other").
- A monkey in its mother's eye is like a gazelle (i.e. love is blind).
- If speech is of silver, silence is golden.
- You play with a snake and call it a worm.
- The master of the people is their servant.
- He who has no job should search for a camel.
- A destroyer can defeat thousands of earthenware makers.
- My daughter, as long as you keep quiet, much money will be paid for your marriage.
- The unluckiest man is he who rides the lion or rules Yemen.
- Pity the stranger, even if he is rich.

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- Provide mission-focused culture education and training
- Build and enhance cross-cultural competency and regional expertise
- Increase effectiveness of US Soldiers in coalition and joint environment; stability, security, and humanitarian operations

**In its effort to support US Soldiers, the TRADOC Culture Center offers the following training and products for initial military training through the Captain Career Course:**

**Region-Specific Training Support Packages Covering Countries in:**

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**Notes:**

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