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SKU: 9781506329284-TEST-BANK

Chapter 2: Social Change in the Middle East by Valentine M. Moghadam and Tabitha Decker

Key Terms

Modernization – In a development context, the process of state formation, industrialization, urbanization, and mass education and corresponding shift away from traditional forms of social organization that relied on kinship.

Neo-patriarchal state – An umbrella term for a state based on a social structure in which the patriarchal family, rather than individuals, is the building block of the community.

Remittances – Wages earned by foreign nationals that are sent to families back home, especially common among foreign workers in the oil rich Gulf States.

Patriarchal gender contract – An implicit agreement that men are the breadwinners and women the caregivers for a family, which persisted in many MENA states even as incomes rose.

Urbanization – The process of rural to urban migration that often accompanies modernizing, growing economies.

Wilaya – Male guardianship.

Discussion Questions

1. How were the societies of non-oil economies nonetheless affected by shifts in oil prices during and after the oil boom of the 1970s?

2. What is the relationship(s) between demographic shifts and mass education in the MENA region?

3. How might a dropping fertility rate affect social and economic indicators in the next decade?

4. What are the positive aspects of the development of educational institutions in the MENA region and what challenges remain?

5. What are the areas of tension between change and preservation of traditional family and gender roles in the MENA region?

6. What are the legal and religious dimensions of these tensions?

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7. How do civil society organizations shape democratic participation, especially for women in states that are predominantly ruled by males?

8. How have social media altered networks and movements for social change?

9. In what ways have these networks and movements remained unaffected by social media?

Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following has the most rural population?
   a. Israel
   b. Egypt
   c. Algeria
   d. Iran

2. Which education level, on average across MENA states, has the highest ratio of female to male enrollment?
   a. Primary
   b. Secondary
   c. Tertiary

3. Fertility in the region dropped between the 1950s and 2010 from 7 children per woman to:
   a. 1.2
   b. 2.8
   c. 4.0
   d. 5.5

4. What country has the highest percentage of internet users in the region?
   a. Qatar
   b. Syria
   c. Israel
   d. Iran

PPT Ideas

- Economic structure, growth, and transformation
- Urbanization and demographic shifts
- Health and Human development
- Civil Society
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