

Was 1973 a turning point for economic power in the Middle East?

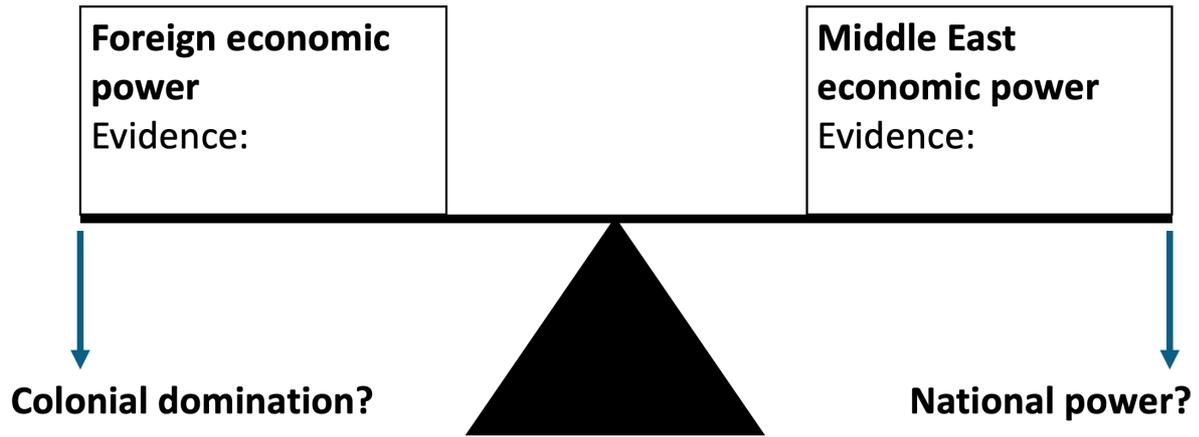
Map of the Middle East:



Timeline:

Date	Event
1908–14	Oil discovered in Persia by a British businessman – the first major oil discovery in the Middle East. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company was created and taken under British government majority ownership.
1920–22	Britain drew the borders of Iraq as part of the League of Nations mandate system, with the aim of securing oil supplies.
1928	Under the Red Line Agreement, major British, American and French oil companies agreed to work together to control the oil industry across the Middle East.
1951–54	Iran nationalised its oil industry, leading to a crisis for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, which ended when the British and American governments coordinated the overthrow of Iranian Prime Minister Mossadegh and the return of the Shah.
1960	The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded to campaign for the increased power of oil-producing countries (mostly from the Middle East).
1973–74	War between Israel, Egypt and Syria led to an oil embargo by Arab oil-producing countries, targeting allies of Israel, including the USA. During this crisis, OPEC took control of setting the price of oil.
1975–76	The nationalisation of the oil industry in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.
1979	The Iranian Revolution led to the complete expulsion of Americans from Iran's oil industry.
1980s	The discovery of new sources of oil worldwide (e.g. in the North Sea) contributed to a decline in oil prices and a less dominant position for Middle Eastern oil.
1990–91	In the Gulf War, a 42-country coalition, led by the United States, forced Iraq, led by Saddam Hussein, to stop its invasion of Kuwait.
2003–11	The USA and Britain invaded Iraq without international support to take down Saddam Hussein.

The changing balance of economic power in the Middle East



Lesson/ time period	Balance of economic power		
	Evidence of foreign economic power	Evidence of Middle East economic power	Your judgement on the balance of power
Lesson 1 1900–50			
Lesson 2 1950–73			

Lesson 3 1973			
Lesson 4 1973–79			
Lesson 5 1979– 2000s			