

### Activity 1:

Did **national ownership of oil** really mean the end of foreign power in the Middle East after 1973?

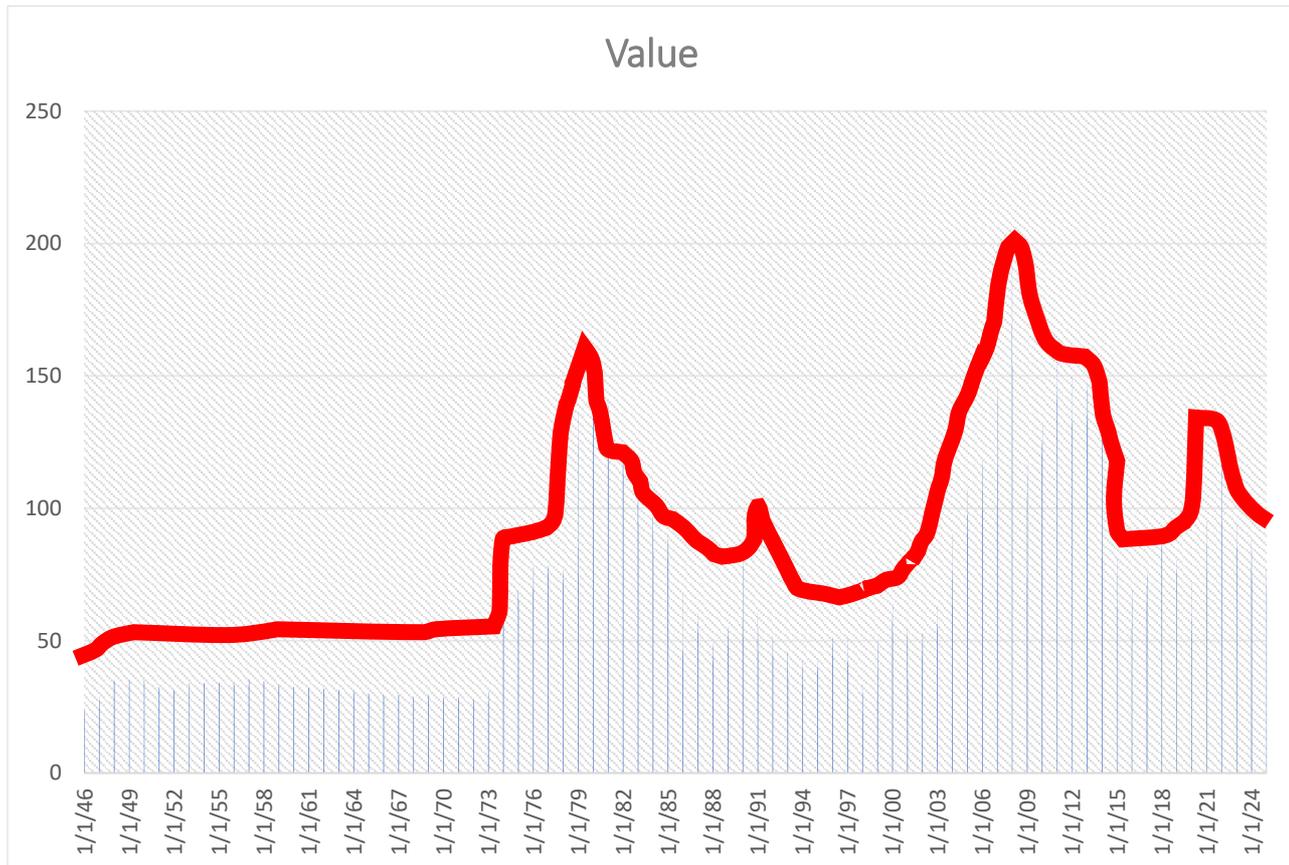
Event	What happened?
Iranian Revolution 1978–79	Discontent at the Shah’s rule exploded into nationwide protests across Iran. As the Shah was associated with the USA (remember, the USA and Britain had helped the Shah to keep power in 1953), much of the protest was also anti-American. Faced with both peaceful and violent protests, both the Shah and American oil managers were forced to flee Iran, never to return. Ayatollah Khomeini, an Islamic religious leader in Iran who opposed the Shah’s modernisation programme, became the new leader of the country.
Gulf War, 1990–91	Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein invaded neighbouring Kuwait to seize control of its oil wealth. Approved by the United Nations, a 42-country coalition, led by the United States, conducted a military campaign that forced the Iraqi military out of Kuwait.
Iraq War, 2003–11	Unsatisfied that the Gulf War had not taken Saddam Hussein down for good, and still seeing him as a threat to their interests in the Middle East, the USA and Britain invaded Iraq, this time without international support. They succeeded in removing Saddam Hussein from power but there was not a clear plan for what should happen next. Iraq descended into chaos, and the USA and Britain became stuck in a long and bloody conflict.

Decreased foreign power	Continued foreign power

## Activity 2:

Did Middle Eastern control over the **high price of oil** last after 1973?

1. Did the price of oil stay high after 1973?
2. How would you describe the pattern of the oil price over this period (1946–2024)?
3. Do you think that this suggests that the Middle Eastern oil producers kept control of the price of oil after 1973 or not?



[Data from: Macrotrends | Crude Oil Prices](#)

### Activity 3:

Did oil always provide a vast and stable source of **wealth** for countries in the Middle East after 1973?

1. Which of the countries do you recognise as major oil-producing countries?
2. What happened to their GDP per capita (amount of money they earned per person) between 1950 and 1973?
3. What happened to their GDP per capita between 1973 and 2000?
4. Why might this have happened?

	GDP Per Capita (1990 PPP dollars)					
	1820	1870	1913	1950	1973	2000
Turkey	680	880	1,200	1,600	3,477	6,597
Syria	680	880	1,300	1,400	2,345	4,364
Lebanon	680	950	1,450	2,429	3,155	3,409
Jordan	550	700	1,000	1,663	2,389	4,059
Palestine-Israel	650	850	1,200	1,992	7,704	12,292
Israel				2,817	9,645	16,159
West Bank and Gaza				949	2,184	5,124
Egypt	600	750	1,050	1,050	1,294	2,920
Saudi Arabia	500	520	600	2,231	11,040	8,002
Gulf	600	700	900	17,730	24,533	11,974
Iraq	550	600	800	1,364	3,753	1,221
Iran	550	600	800	1,720	5,445	4,742
Middle East	611	744	1,023	1,592	4,057	5,023
United States	1,257	2,445	5,301	9,561	16,689	28,129
Western Europe	1,245	2,086	3,688	5,013	12,159	19,806
U.S. and W. Europe	1,246	2,159	4,172	6,711	14,029	23,680

Table from: [Pamuk Ş. \(2006\) 'Estimating Economic Growth in the Middle East since 1820' in \*Journal of Economic History\*, 66, no. 3, pp. 809-828](#)