The Political Culture of the Middle East

A. New Role for the State
   1. Although Liberal democracy did not take hold, Middle Eastern states followed the global pattern of the increase of government responsibility for the welfare of the population.
   2. Some of the new Arabs states promoted traditional ways, while others opted for secular reform. However, all promoted economic development.

B. The Rise of Fundamentalism
   1. The rapid political and economic changes produced a backlash by the 1970s.
   2. Islamic fundamentalism sought a return to Islamic political ideals and values.
   3. It attacked Western cultural influence as immoral. Islamic fundamentalists pressured governments throughout the Muslim world to follow Islamic Law.
   4. In Iran, they brought about the overthrow of the shah and set out to create a holy Shiite state, rejecting Western godless, materialistic, and immoral influences and requiring women to wear the veil.

Islamic resurgence in southwest Asia and north Africa
A. Islamism: revival of Muslim traditions
   1. Reasserting Islamic values in Muslim politics
   2. Resentment at European and American societies
   3. Extremists embraced jihad, or duty to defend Islam from attack; justified terrorism

B. The Iranian revolution, 1979
   1. CIA helped anti-communist Shah Mohammed Pahlavi gain power, 1953
   2. Repressive rule overthrown by Islamist followers of Ayatollah Khomeini, 1979
   3. Khomeini attacked United States for support of the shah
   4. Militants held sixty-nine Americans hostage for 444 days; shut down U.S. military bases
   5. Movement encouraged other Muslims to undertake terrorist actions

C. Iran-Iraq war, 1980-1988
   1. Iraqi president Saddam Hussein launched attack on Iran in 1980
   2. War dragged on till 1988; killed one million soldiers

Global terrorism
A. The weapon of those out of power, of anti-colonial and revolutionary movements
B. Difficult to define terrorism
   1. Deliberate violence against civilians to advance political or ideological cause
   2. Rarely successful; often discredits potentially worthy causes
C. 11 September 2001 focused international attention on terrorism
   1. Coordinated attack on World Trade Tower and Pentagon
   2. Source identified as Islamic militant Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda network
   3. Angered by U.S. presence in Saudi Arabia; proclaimed jihad, holy war
D. Islamic State of Afghanistan was established 1996 by Taliban
   1. Imposed strict Islamic law: regulated dress, entertainment, media
   2. Women barred from education, work, health services