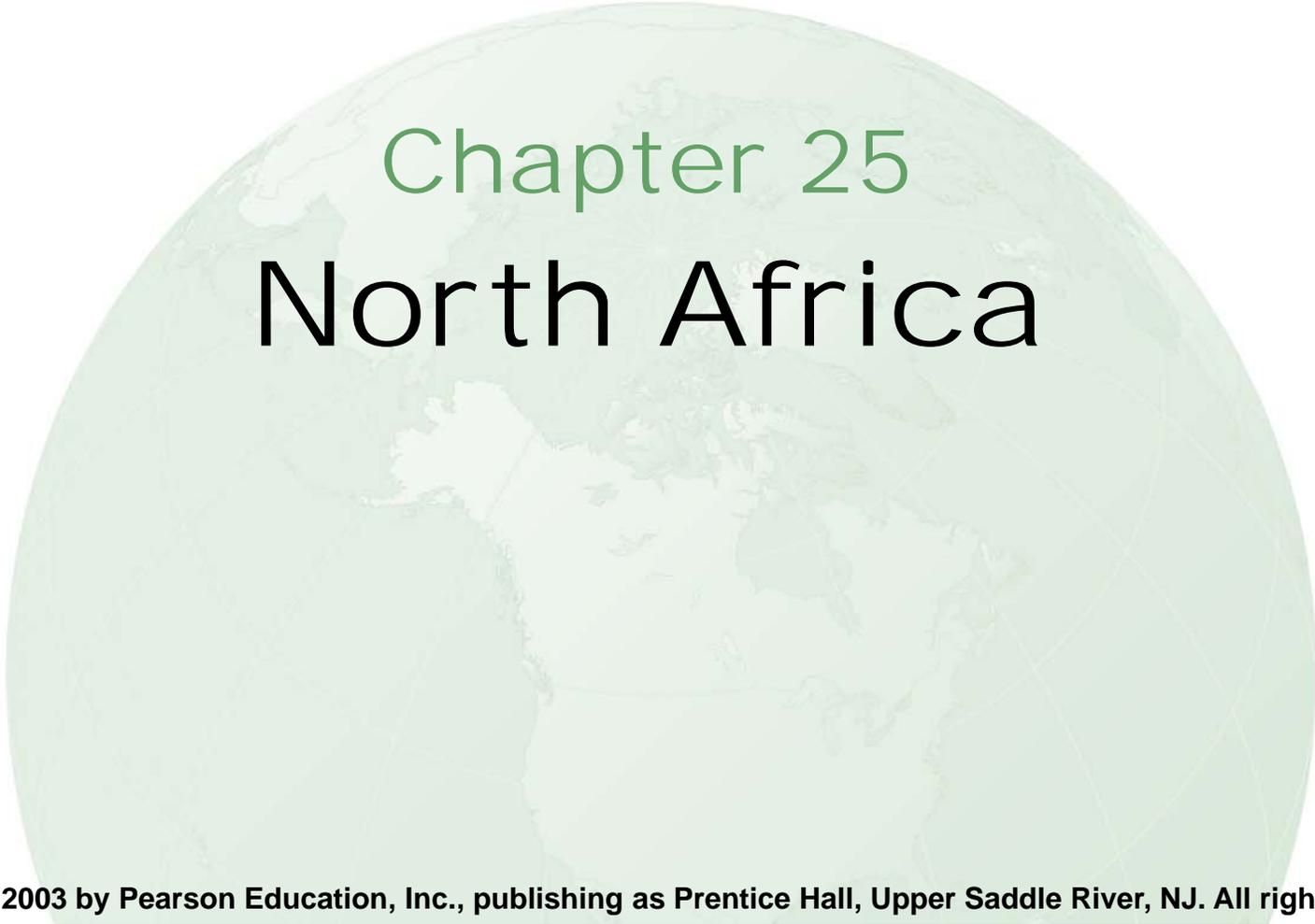


World Geography



Chapter 25 North Africa

World Geography

Chapter 25: North Africa

Section 1: Egypt

Section 2: Libya and the Maghreb



Egypt



- **How do physical characteristics influence patterns of settlement in Egypt?**
- **How has Egypt's past influenced its culture?**
- **How have efforts to control the Nile River affected agriculture in Egypt?**
- **What factors influence economic activities in Egypt?**



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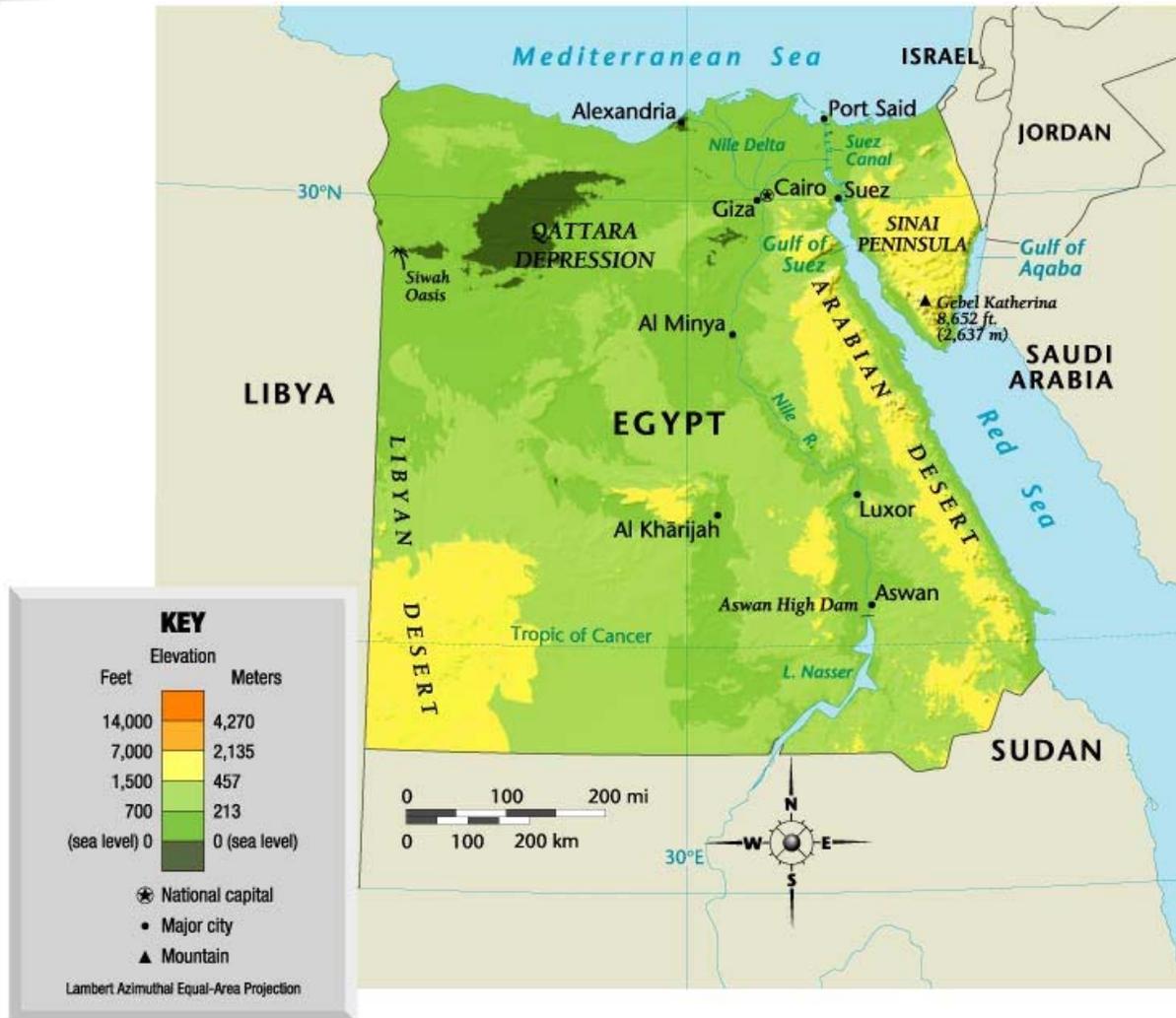
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Physical Characteristics



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Physical Characteristics



- The **delta** of the Nile is land formed by soil in the water that is dropped as the river enters the sea.
- The **fellaheen**, or Egyptian peasants, grow impressive crops without modern machinery.
- About 99 percent of Egypt's population lives along the Nile.
- The deserts to the sides of the Nile are harsh wastelands.
- Oases are the only arable land in the desert, and the desert also holds some mineral resources.



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Understanding the Past



- **Civilization arose in Egypt over 5,000 years ago, and the ancient Egyptians built impressive tombs, called pyramids, for their rulers.**
- **Egypt has been conquered many times, and after the Arabs invaded in A.D. 642, Arabic became the official language and Islam the official religion.**
- **European nations began to intervene in Egypt as the Ottoman Empire declined, and the British bought the Suez Canal in 1875 when Egypt faced heavy debts.**
- **Egyptian nationalists revolted in 1879, but the British defeated the new government, and the British remained in control of Egypt for decades.**
- **Army officers overthrew the government in 1952, determined to end Western domination of Egypt, and in 1956 seized control of the Suez Canal.**
- **After World War II Egypt developed closer ties with the Arab Middle East, fighting in three wars against Israel, but also was the first Arab nation to recognize Israel.**



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Controlling the Nile



- Until recently, the Nile flooded every year, refreshing the soil with water and silt that formed a rich, fertile soil.
- Egyptian farmers built walls around their fields to trap the water and silt in a method called **basin irrigation**, which was good for crops but could not control flooding.
- During the 1960s, a dam was built that would store Nile floodwaters in a vast **reservoir** called Lake Nasser, providing hydroelectricity and water for a **perennial irrigation** system.
- The Aswan High Dam was completed in 1970 and stopped the flood waters.
- Farmers on the Nile can no longer rely on silt to fertilize their land, and perennial irrigation causes salt to build up in the soil.



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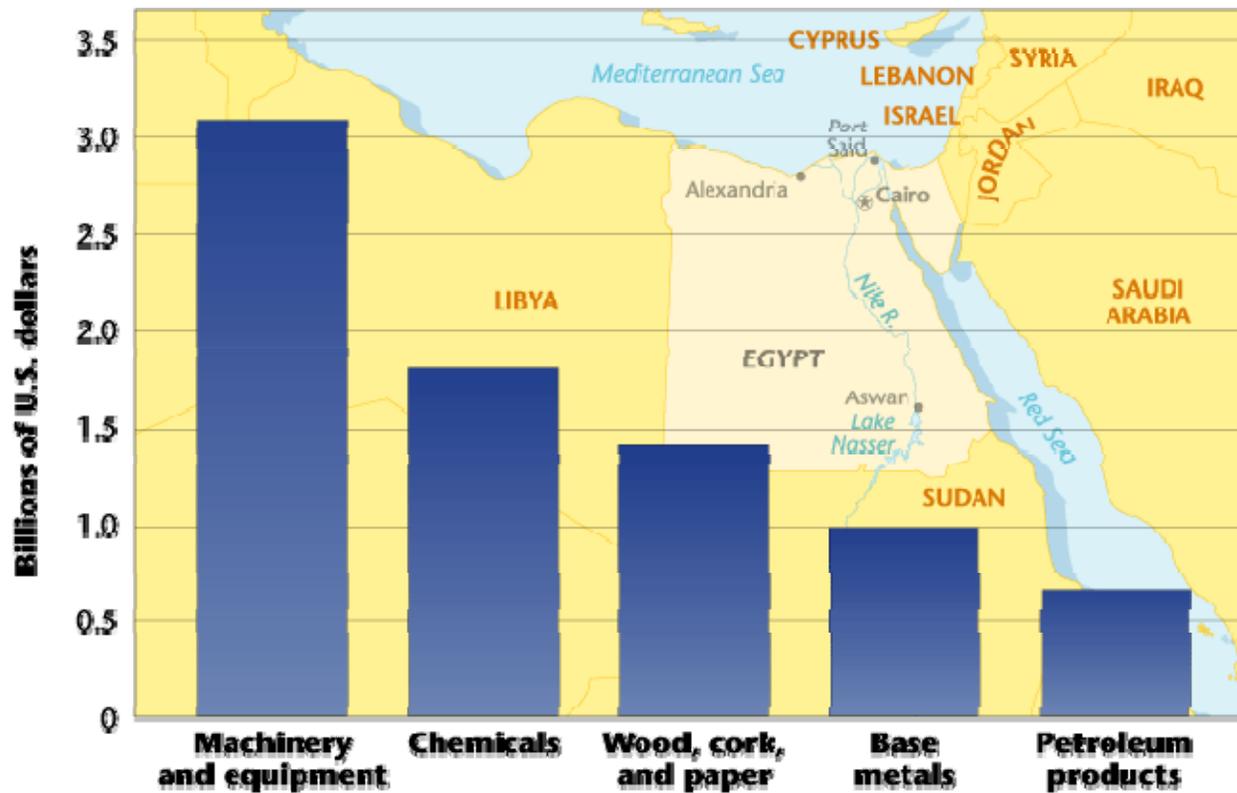
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Economic Activities



Source: Egypt State Information Service



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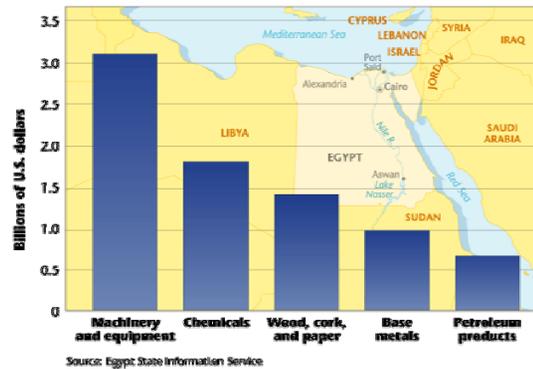
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Economic Activities



- **Egypt's rapid urbanization and population growth are straining the economy and outstripping the food supply, but the government is planning to irrigate further into the desert to provide more arable land.**
- **Egypt is dependent on the export of cotton and petroleum products, but needs an industrial base to provide jobs and produce goods to sell abroad.**
- **Industrial growth in Egypt has been limited by the lack of skilled workers and capital, or money invested in building and supporting new industries.**



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Section 1 Review



Why do most Egyptians live in the Nile River valley and delta?

- a) The coastal regions are prone to flooding.**
- b) Most of the country is too mountainous.**
- c) Dense rain forests cover most of Egypt.**
- d) Most of the country is a harsh desert.**

Why are farmers along the Nile no longer able to benefit from silt?

- a) The dam prevents floodwaters from carrying silt downriver.**
- b) The soil along the Nile suffers from high salt content.**
- c) Too many minerals have been leached from the soil.**
- d) Sprawling cities cover much of the arable land.**

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Section 1 Review



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Libya and the Maghreb



- **How have physical characteristics and changing perceptions of geography affected cultures in Libya and the Maghreb?**
- **How have cooperation and conflict led to cultural change in North Africa?**
- **What are the main settlement patterns in North Africa?**
- **How do ideas of government and citizenship vary among North African nations?**



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Physical Characteristics of North Africa



Main

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Physical Characteristics of North Africa



- **Maghreb** comes from an Arabic word meaning “the land furthest west,” and the majority of people in the region are Arabic-speaking Muslims.
- The coastal areas have a Mediterranean climate, but inland areas are arid.
- People who lived along the coast found it easier to have contact with other countries than the interior regions of their own countries.
- During the Roman period, camels were introduced to the region, and allowed **caravans** to cross the desert for trade.



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Cooperation and Conflict



- In the mid-600s, invading Arab armies brought with them Islam and the Arabic language.
- The Arab conquest made North Africa a vital center of trade between Europe, Africa, and Asia, as well as an important center of learning and scholarship.
- Arabs form the majority of the population of the region, while Berbers are a substantial minority.
- In the nineteenth century, European powers sought to control North Africa, and by 1912 France controlled Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco, while Italy controlled Libya.
- After World War II, Libya was granted independence, but Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia had to fight to gain independence.



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Patterns of Settlement



- **Farmers living in the region still live in small rural villages, in houses of mud or stone, and water must be carried from the village well each day.**
- **People work from dawn to dusk, with a three-hour break at midday, the hottest time of the day, and use traditional tools to work the land.**
- **Some North Africans still follow a nomadic way of life, the most distinctive of whom are the Tuareg, who speak their own language.**
- **North Africa is undergoing rapid urbanization, and more than half of the population of the region lives in cities.**
- **Older Arab sections of the cities, called **medinas**, are usually centered around the mosque, and **souks**, or market areas, wind out from the mosque in a maze of narrow streets.**
- **With the new oil wealth, modern parts of the cities have grown quickly.**



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North Africa Today



- **Oil accounts for 99 percent of Libya's exports, and oil money has been used to modernize the country.**
- **Muammar Qaddafi overthrew the monarchy and introduced some reforms, but opposed Western influence and clashed with many nations.**
- **Oil and natural gas account for most Algerian exports, and revenues have raised the standard of living.**
- **The Algerian government is trying to encourage rural Algerians to remain farmers rather than flock to the cities.**
- **Fear of an Islamist victory in free elections prompted the army to take over Algeria in 1992, sparking a new wave of violence.**
- **Tunisia and Morocco lack oil reserves, but have spent heavily on education and have begun to develop their manufacturing.**



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Section 2 Review



How did the introduction of the camel alter North Africa?

- a) People began to settle along the coast.
- b) The desert was no longer a barrier to trade.
- c) People were able to settle at oases.
- d) Travel and communication were limited to coastal areas.

Which two European countries controlled the region in the early 1900s?

- a) Spain and Greece
- b) Portugal and France
- c) Spain and Italy
- d) Italy and France

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Section 2 Review



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