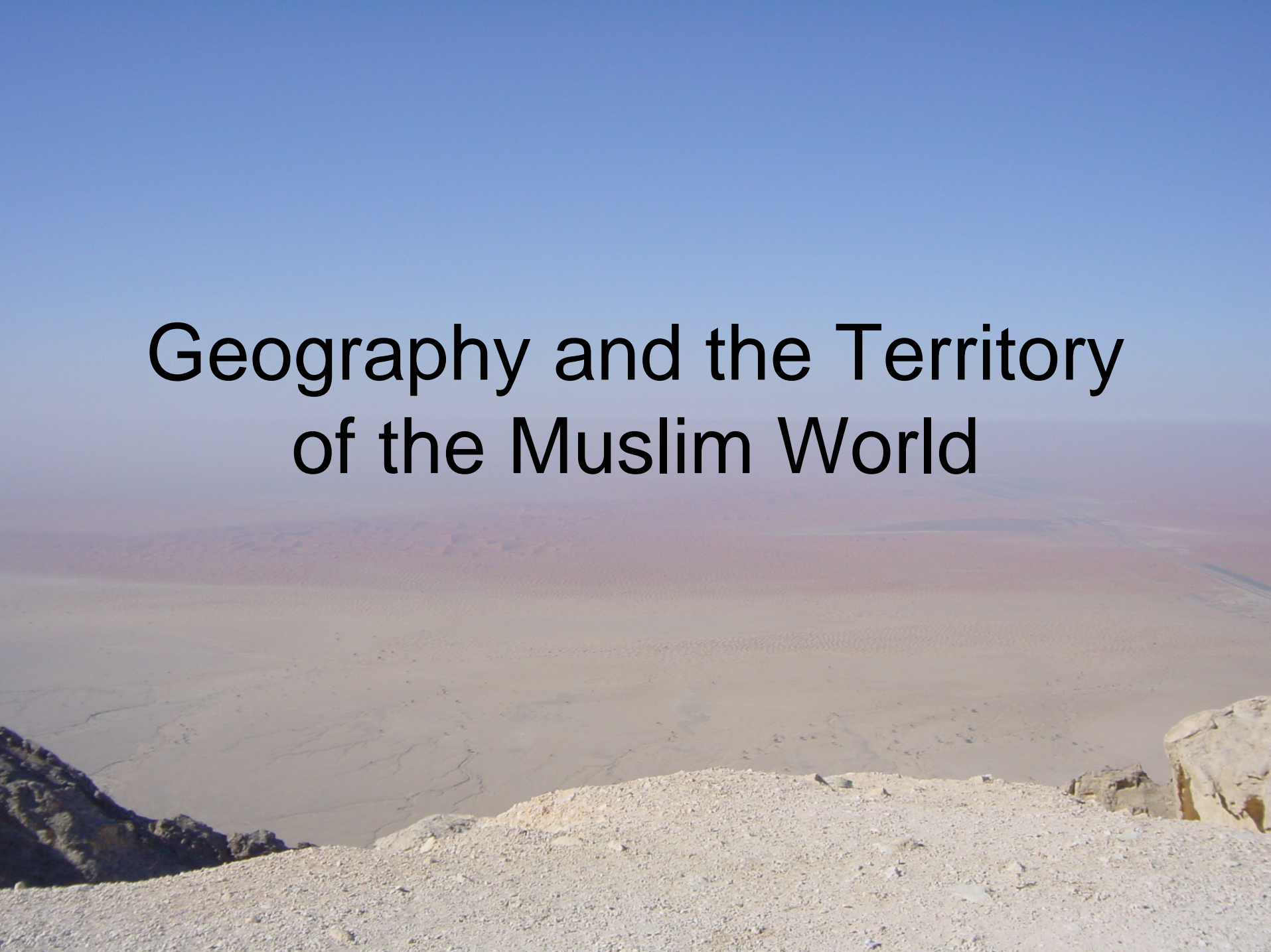
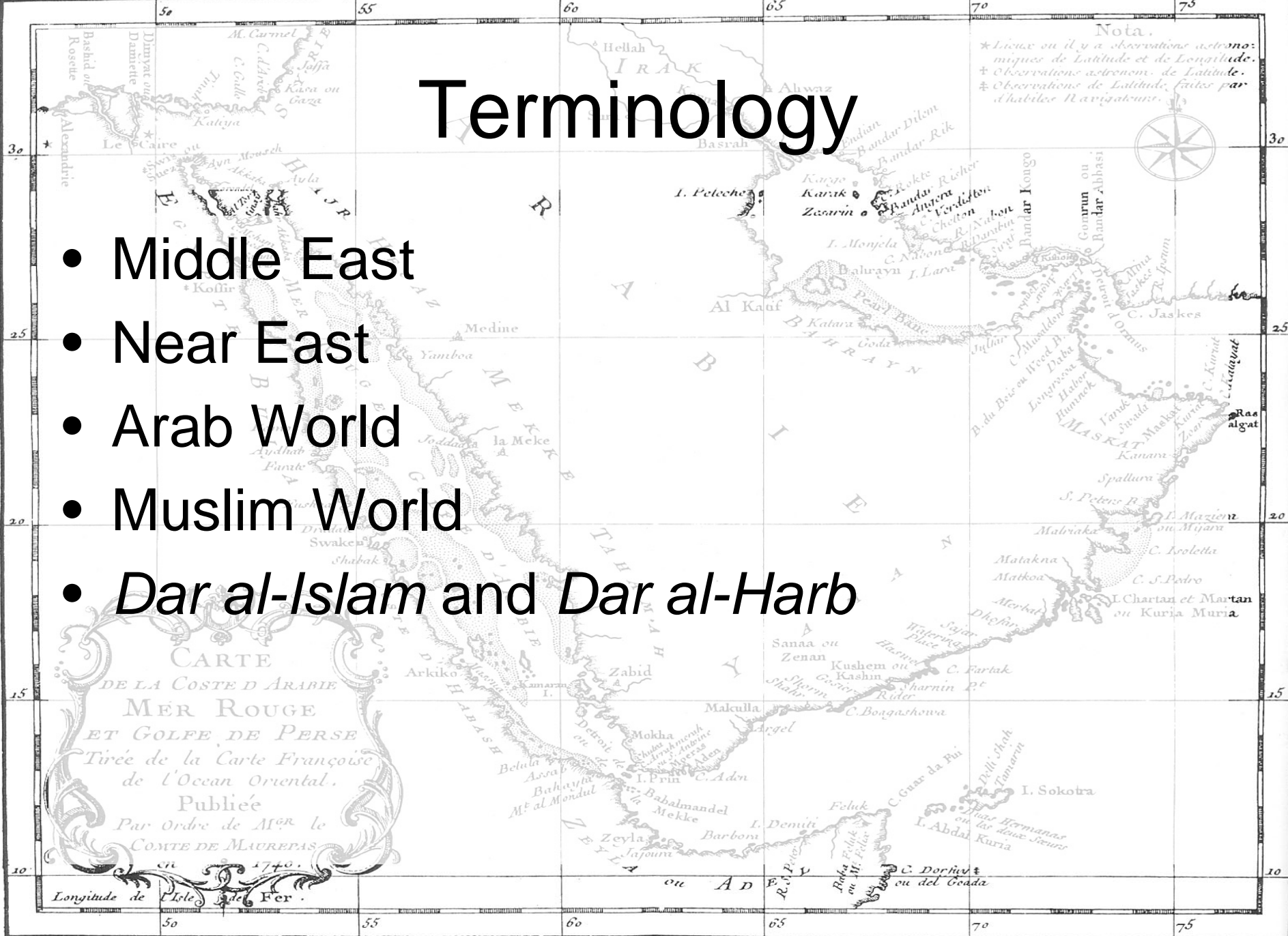


Geography and the Territory of the Muslim World



Terminology

- Middle East
- Near East
- Arab World
- Muslim World
- *Dar al-Islam* and *Dar al-Harb*





A map of the world

Al-Istakhri 977

Why should geography matter?

A wide-angle photograph of terraced rice paddies in the Indus Valley. The terraces are built into a steep hillside, creating a series of horizontal steps. The paddies are filled with water, reflecting the sky and the surrounding greenery. The terraces are separated by low stone walls. The overall scene is lush and green, with a clear sky in the background. The terraces are arranged in a regular, repeating pattern, showing the skill and labor involved in their construction. The water in the paddies is a vibrant blue-green color, contrasting with the darker green of the surrounding vegetation. The terraces extend far up the hillside, creating a sense of depth and scale. The overall impression is one of a well-maintained and productive agricultural landscape.

Terraced Rice Paddies –
Indus Valley

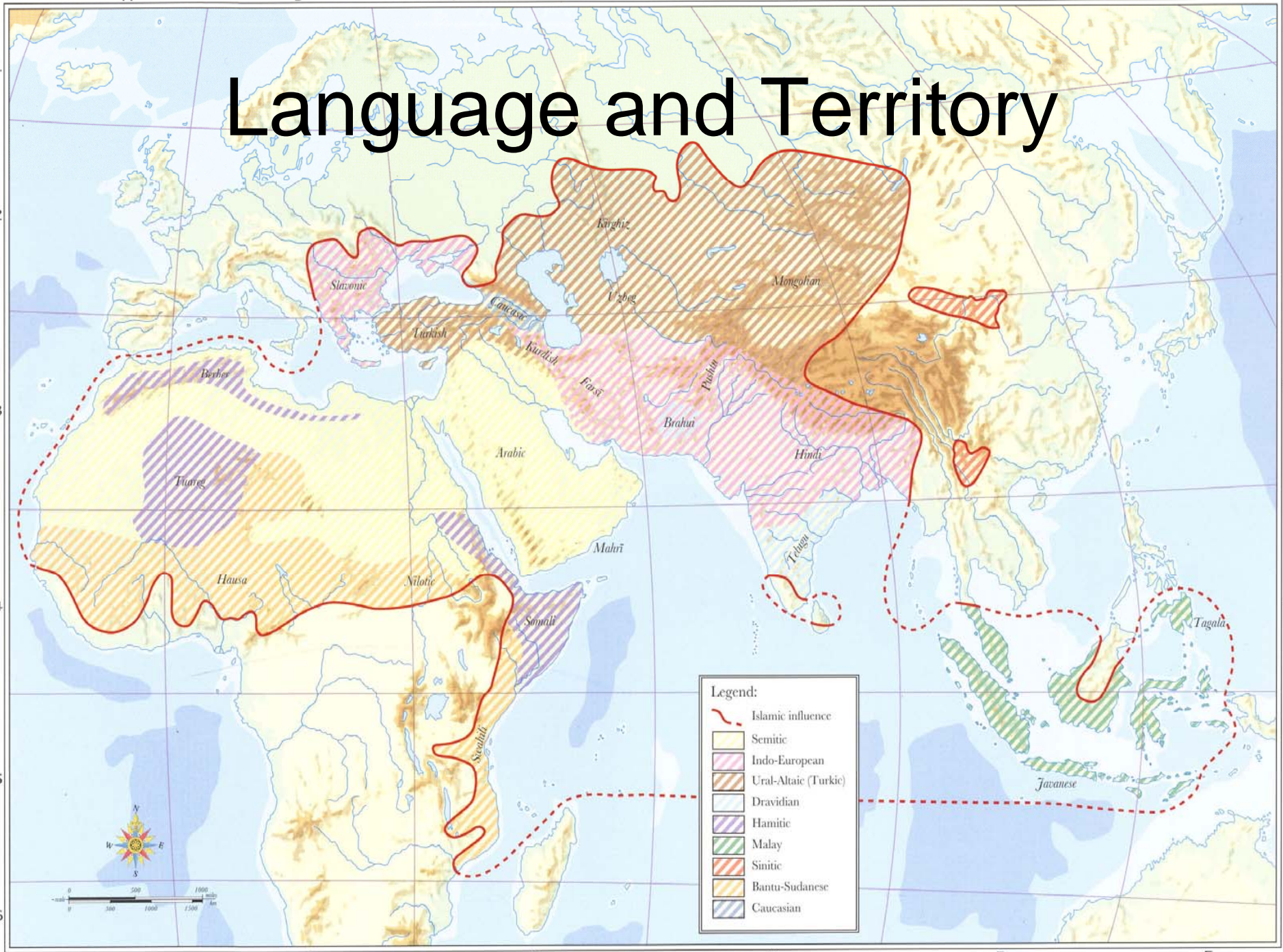
The politics of place

A photograph of the marshes of Southern Iraq. The scene is dominated by tall, slender palm trees with dense, feathery fronds. In the background, a traditional reed structure, known as a mudhif, is visible. The structure is built from woven reeds and has a thatched roof. The entire scene is reflected in the calm water of the marshes. A small, dark boat is visible in the foreground, partially obscured by the reflections. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

The marshes of Southern Iraq

Note the particular reed structure called the *mudhif*, a vernacular form known since the Bronze Age.

Language and Territory



Adapting to the terrain



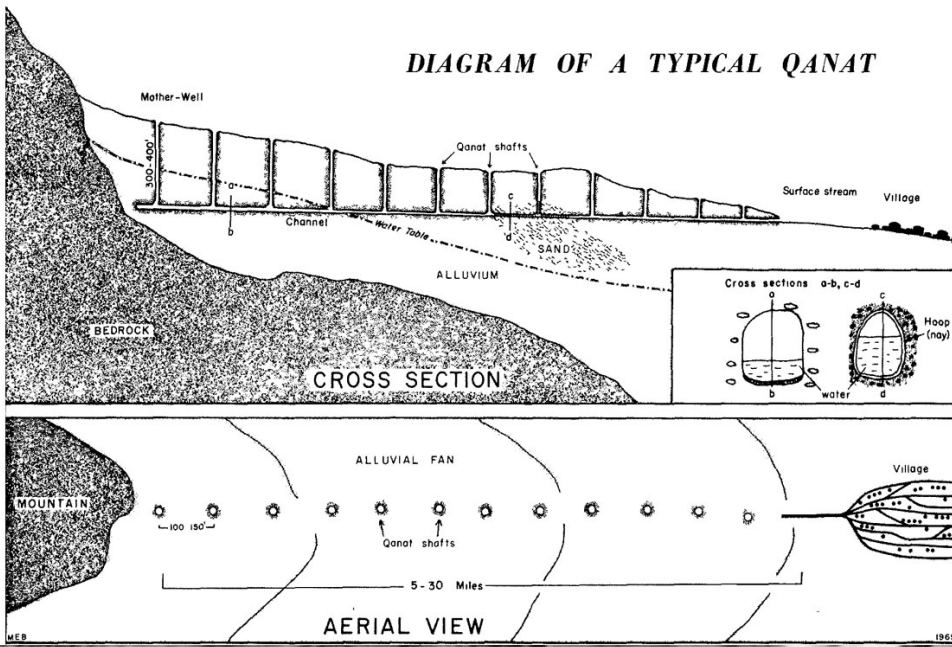
The Yemeni Highlands

The Importance of Water



Noria or waterwheels of Hama,
Syria

DIAGRAM OF A TYPICAL QANAT



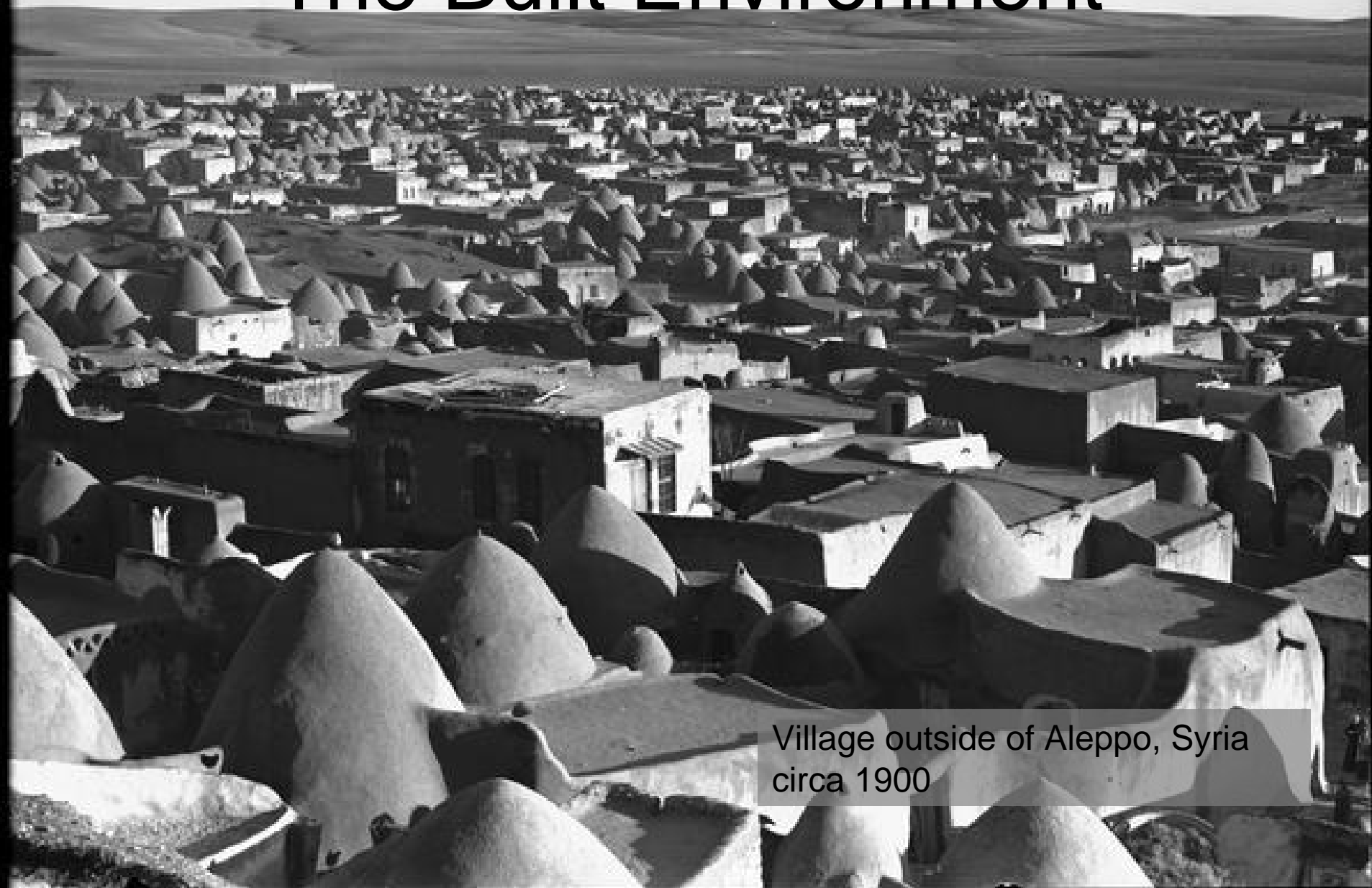
Qanat System -- Iran

Natural Resources

An aerial photograph of an oil field, showing a complex network of roads, pipelines, and industrial structures. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid at the top of the image, containing the title 'Natural Resources' in a large, black, sans-serif font. The terrain is a mix of brown and tan, with some green patches. The overall scene is a detailed view of an industrial site in a desert environment.

Section of Wafra Oil Field
Kuwait/Saudi Arabia

The Built Environment



Village outside of Aleppo, Syria
circa 1900



Urban Sprawl, Aleppo, Syria
circa 2000

Conquering the Landscape or The Landscape as Conqueror

