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?

Terraced Rice Paddies – Indus Valley
The politics of place

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
Qanat System -- Iran
Natural Resources

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