

# Global Britain Briefing Note

## The “Middle East”: Demography & Geography

*The “West” seems likely to be heavily involved in the “Middle East” for years to come.  
This Briefing Note brings together in one place some of that region’s  
basic demographic and geographic data*

In this study, the “Middle East” is considered to comprise countries with all or part of their territories within a 2,000 mile radius of Teheran. It should be noted however that in a number of these countries (e.g. China, India, Russia, Ethiopia), a majority of their populations and land areas lie outside the territory usually thought of as the Middle East.

Forty-three countries so-defined are listed. In addition, to enable European and North American readers to more easily grasp their size and scale, data is provided for eleven European and North American countries and Australia (Tables 3 & 4).

- Of the forty-three countries here defined as being in the “Middle East”, eight have populations greater than that of the UK. *Tables 1 & 3*
- The four most-populous countries of the “Middle East” all have populations in excess of 100 million: China, India, Pakistan & Russia. *Table 1*
- The next four most-populous countries have populations between 70 & 90 million: Ethiopia, Egypt, Turkey & Iran. *Table 1*
- Twenty-seven of the forty-three countries have populations whose median-age\* is under 30. *Table 1*

<b>Table 1: The Twenty Most Populous Countries within a 2000 mile radius of Teheran</b>				
<i>Country</i>	<i>Popul. mn</i>	<i>Area<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Pop. Density<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Median Age yrs</i>
China	1354.1	9604	141	34
India	1214.5	3291	369	25
Pakistan	184.8	797	232	21
Russia	140.4	17550	8	38
Ethiopia	85.0	1103	77	18
Egypt	84.5	1005	84	24
Turkey	75.7	780	97	28
Iran	75.1	1632	46	27
Ukraine	45.4	605	75	40
Sudan	43.8	2541	17	20
Iraq	31.5	437	72	19
Nepal	29.9	147	203	22
Afghanistan	29.1	647	45	17
Uzbekistan	27.8	448	62	25
SaudiArabia	26.2	2183	12	25
Yemen	24.3	528	46	18
Syria	22.5	184	122	23
Romania	21.2	238	89	39
Kazakhstan	15.8	2633	6	29
Greece	11.2	132	85	42
<i>a: thousand km<sup>2</sup></i>				
<i>b: persons per thousand km<sup>2</sup></i>				

<b>Table 2: The Twenty-Three Least Populous Countries within a 2000 mile radius of Teheran</b>				
<i>Country</i>	<i>Popul. mn</i>	<i>Area<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Pop. Density<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Median Age yrs</i>
Serbia	9.9	88	112	38
Somalia	9.4	627	15	18
Azerbaijan	8.9	86	103	28
Bulgaria	7.5	110	68	42
Israel	7.3	22	329	30
Tajikistan	7.1	145	49	21
Jordan	6.5	90	72	23
Libya	6.5	1625	4	26
Turkmenistan	5.2	473	11	25
Eritrea	5.2	118	44	19
UAE	4.7	84	56	32
Palestine	4.4	6	732	18
Lebanon	4.3	11	409	29
Georgia	4.2	69	61	38
Moldova	3.6	34	106	35
Armenia	3.1	30	104	32
Kuwait	3.1	18	171	31
Oman	2.9	322	9	24
Macedonia	2.0	25	79	36
Qatar	1.5	11	137	30
Cyprus	0.9	9	95	37
Djibouti	0.9	24	38	22
Bahrain	0.8	1	1163	28
<i>a: thousand km<sup>2</sup></i>				
<i>b: persons per thousand km<sup>2</sup></i>				

<b>Table 3: Selected European Countries</b>				
<i>Country</i>	<i>Popul. mn</i>	<i>Area<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Pop. Density<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Median Age yrs</i>
Germany	82.1	357	230	44
France	62.6	549	114	40
UK*	61.9	243	255	40
Italy	60.1	302	199	43
Spain	45.3	503	90	40
Poland	38.0	322	118	38
Netherlands	16.6	41	401	41
Belgium	10.7	31	350	41
*England, Wales, NI	56.7	164	346	
*Scotland	5.2	79	114	
*Estimated density for South East England			over 400	
<i>a: thousand km<sup>2</sup></i>				
<i>b: persons per thousand km<sup>2</sup></i>				

<b>Table 4: Selected English-speaking Countries</b>				
<i>Country</i>	<i>Popul. mn</i>	<i>Area<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Pop. Density<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Median Age yrs</i>
USA	317.6	9826	33	37
Canada	33.9	9985	3	40
Australia	21.5	7741	3	38
<i>a: thousand km<sup>2</sup></i>				
<i>b: persons per thousand km<sup>2</sup></i>				

**Data source:** *United Nations Population Projections: World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision: Medium Variant: Projected data for 2010.* [www.esa.un.org/unpp/](http://www.esa.un.org/unpp/)

**\*Definition of “Median Age”:** *The age at which, in the country concerned, there are as many people younger than the median age as there are older than the median age. Taking the UK as an example (see Table 3): in 2010 one half of the population is aged under 40; the other half is aged over 40. Taking Afghanistan as an example (see Table 1): one half of its population is aged under 17; the other half is aged over 17.*

# Global Britain

**Lord Stoddart of Swindon**  
*(Independent Labour)*

**Lord Pearson of Rannoch**  
*(United Kingdom Independence Party)*

**Lord Willoughby de Broke**  
*(United Kingdom Independence Party)*

**Lord Harris of High Cross (1924- 2006)**  
*(Cross-Bencher)*

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