Global Challenges in Jordan: A Case Study

All text below appears on the Moodle page for the course as part of the topic in bold’s readings/course content in a folder titled, “[Topic for that module] in Jordan; A case study,” for example, “Resources in Jordan: A case study.” The information from the Introduction section is not Jordan specific but is included as it is foundational to the rest of the content. The in-class content related to each section, including small group exercises/discussions, is in the separately attached PowerPoint.

Introduction:

Please explore the resources on The Foundation for Critical Thinking website with special attention to "Critical Thinking: Where to Begin" and "College and University Students." Also learn the "Universal Intellectual Standards" as you will be asked to apply them throughout the course.

Population:

Review the basic demographics of Jordan on its CIA world factbook page by clicking on and reading the Introduction, Geography and People and Society tabs.

Jordan has recently had a mass increase in population due to refugees from across the Middle East including those from Israel/Palestine, Iraq and Syria among others. Unlike many of its neighbors, Jordan enjoys relative political stability making it a primary place of refuge now and in the past in the region. However, as we will discuss in the next section, Jordan does not have the resources to support its rapidly expanding population, the most notable problem being with its water supply.

Read this article title, "Syrian Refugees in Jordan: A Reality Check" linked below and consider what you think Jordan and other countries should and should not do to support refugees like the ones fleeing Syria. Note since this article was written, Jordan has greatly restricted the influx of refugees. Read this NYT piece about the latest call to admit more Syrian refugees to Jordan, despite a crisis of resources in the region. Finally, think about the issues of urbanization and migration as they relate to Jordan when reading the Ward article linked below.


Resources:

Like most countries, Jordan struggles with resource access and management. However, its most acute current challenge surrounds its water supply and management. With an ever-increasing population due to refugees and immigration and a rapidly dwindling water
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supply, Jordan is needing to consider drastic action to ensure adequate water access moving forward.

Read the article linked below about the unique challenges related to water management in Jordan, 'Water Insecurity, Climate Change and Governance in the Arab World.' Then, read this short article about one controversial solution currently underway to address the issue, The Red Sea Dead Sea Project.


Technology and Information:

Read the basics of Jordan’s information access using the CIA World Factbook for Jordan and clicking on the Communications tab. Explore the internet access in the global community overall and Jordan specifically using this New York Times Interactive on access. Next, look at the actual statistics regarding internet access in Jordan and compare those to the data for your global villager and the United States. Be prepared to discuss your findings in class.

Economics:

Jordan has had significant challenges in its economy due to a myriad of issues including global conflict, resource management and the refugee crisis. Read the basics of Jordan’s system of economics using the CIA World Factbook for Jordan and clicking on the economy tab and this basic information about Jordan’s economy. Further, read this article about the economic challenges in Jordan and consider where we see overlap with our other global issues. Be prepared to discuss your findings in class. Also, read the article by Schwedler linked below.


Conflict:

Review the level of terrorist activity in Jordan via the Global Terrorism Index and its peace ranking on the Global Peace Index. Compare and contrast Jordan’s rankings with those of the United States and the country of your global villager. Does anything surprise you in these rankings?

As we saw in our economics section, regional conflict has significantly affected the population in Jordan and Jordan’s ability to address the other global challenges. Read the two articles linked below by Kelleya et al. and Buda to see specific discussions of these intersections. Consider specifically how governance, our next section, intersects with
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conflict in Jordan and the complex role tourism might play in issues of economics, governance and the promotion of peace.


**Governance:**

Jordan’s system of government is a parliamentary constitutional monarchy currently lead by chief of state King Abdallah II. Read the basics of Jordan’s system of governance using the [CIA World Factbook](https://www.cia.gov/library/hamid/) for Jordan and clicking on the government tab. Revisit the Greenwood article from our resources section as it relates to governance Jordan.

As discussed in the lesson, modern governance is not just the business of state actors but also of mezzanine rulers, international organizations, transnational corporations, non-government organizations and citizens of the global community. To solve any global challenge, strategic, multidisciplinary coalitions of both state and non-state actors must be mobilized. Considering what you know about the major global challenges in Jordan, be prepared to articulate what strategic coalitions might be necessary to solve those issues ethically and effectively, i.e. in a way that best meets the needs of all key stakeholders.