Jordan Powerpoint Slides

Slides used as backdrop or framing of the global challenges as they relate to Jordan, note they are part of longer lectures on the overarching issues of the class that have much more detail on main concepts.
Syrian Refugees in Jordan

Some reflections from Susie...
Migration Discussion

• Consider these quotes in light of the highly divisive immigration debates here and in other countries...
  – “While there is growing recognition that migrants can build cross-border social capital, that increasing cultural diversity can provide impetus for the stimulation of entrepreneurship, or that culturally diverse work forces are among the most profitable, the overall perception of migrants in many societies tends to be negative.”
  – “We do have special obligations to our neighbors, as opposed to moral obligations to humanity at large, if, for example, our economy has devastated theirs; if our industrial output has led to environmental harm or if our drug dependency has encouraged the formation of transnational drug cartels.”

• Why do people tend to have such a negative view of immigrants and immigration?

• Do we have a moral obligation to support immigration? If so, to what extent? Would you answer that question differently if you were living in Jordan or the country of your global villager? How so?
Water and Jordan

• Jordan ever dwindling water supply due to overconsumption of finite resources
• Massive immigration is further pressuring the already tenuous water supply
• Massive use of bottled water and waste
• New project connecting the Red to the Dead Sea in the works, but fraught with environmental consequences and not clear how much of the water will go to areas in need
• Azraq Wetland nearly gone in just 20 years
A Disappearing Oasis

If you stood on this spot twenty years ago, you would be submerged to your neck in water. Unfortunately, overpumping of water caused a devastating decrease in groundwater. The lack of groundwater, combined with other drought-like effects, has drastically increased dust levels in the area and caused wildfires throughout the Reserve, resulting in the death of many plants and animals.
A Disappearing Oasis

If you stood on this spot twenty years ago, you would be submerged to your waist in water. Unfortunately, overpumping of water caused a devastating decline in groundwater. The lack of groundwater, combined with other droughts, has drastically increased dust levels in the area and caused wildlife throughout the region, resulting in the death of many plants and animals.
Water Discussion

• In your small groups, list the pros and cons of the Red Sea Dead Sea project.

• Discuss and debate your lists and whether or not this is an appropriate way to address the water crisis in Jordan.

• Come to a consensus on whether or not you would move forward on the project.

• Designate a speaker to present your decision and arguments back to the rest of the class.
Back to Jordan... Economics

• VERY limited natural resources
• High dependency on foreign aid
• Regional turmoil and economic slowdown globally hurt main industries (e.g. exports, construction, tourism)
• Current fiscal reform helping reduce budget deficits and boost revenue BUT
• Getting help from IMF leads to potential inequalities inherent in interventions
• What other intersections do we see between Jordan’s economic issues and the other global challenges per the readings for this section?
Jordan and Tourism

- Jordan home to many key archeological and historic sites
  - Petra
  - Church of the Map
  - Baptismal site of Jesus
- Tourism a key source of revenue BUT
- Reduced up to 75% due to conflict and economic issues
Conflicts Across the Globe

• In “Why We Fight, focused on the US conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan
• For Jordan, focused on key Middle East conflicts (e.g. Syria, Israeli/Palestinian) affecting its economic, resource and population stability
• But conflicts exist across the globe, with most all touched by conflict in one way or another and experiencing variable levels of peace as a result
• As explained in the readings, many of these related to our other revolutions and potential for more based on issues like shortages of resources
With these issues in mind...

- What did Eisenhower warn against? Should we have followed his lead?
- To what degree should we be militarized? Why?
- Should we fight in our interest, for human rights, neither or both?
- Should we mount preemptive strikes? If no, why not? If yes, under what circumstances?
- Consider, the reading, “Give Peaceful Resistance a Chance,” and the current fights for democracy and human rights across the globe, could peaceful resistance be effective?
- “The road to peace runs via justice.” Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Why? Could it be problematic? How might it relate to what we saw in Toam’s presentation about Israel and Palestine?
- How do you think conflict affects your villagers, the people of Jordan and those of us in the United States? Similarities and differences?
Back to Jordan...Governance

• Constitutional monarchy
  – Monarch’s power limited by the legislative branch
  – Monarch appoints all judges, declares war, leads armed forces and approves amendments
• Prime Minister appointed by the king
• Cabinet now elected
Jordan and Governance

• Legislative branch is bicameral national assembly
  – Chamber of Deputies (elected)
  – Assembly of Senators (appointed by King)
• Judicial branch all serve at the pleasure of the king
• High incidents of corruption due to cronyism
  – Compromises integrity of democratic process
  – Makes it difficult to enforce policies like water management
• What do we know about how Jordan’s system of governance might affect its ability to address resource and population issues?
Strategic Coalitions

• Given the complex nature of today’s most pressing global challenges, strategic, interdisciplinary coalitions between corporations, civil society, national governments, and international organizations are vital to arriving at comprehensive, durable, and effective solutions.

• Actors in each of these spheres will need to look past short-term self-interest and think strategically for long-term gains.

• Visionary leadership that can bridge gaps through innovative partnerships is an indispensable piece of this puzzle.
In your small group...

• Pick an issue we have covered as it relates to Jordan.
• Assess the major contributors to the problem.
• Suggest how a strategic coalition might address the issue including:
  – Who will be in the coalition?
    • What areas of expertise must be represented?
    • Who are all the key stakeholders and how will they be represented?
    • Include what role each member of your group could play in the coalition relevant to their expertise
  – What will each player contribute and do?
  – What outcomes might they be able to achieve?