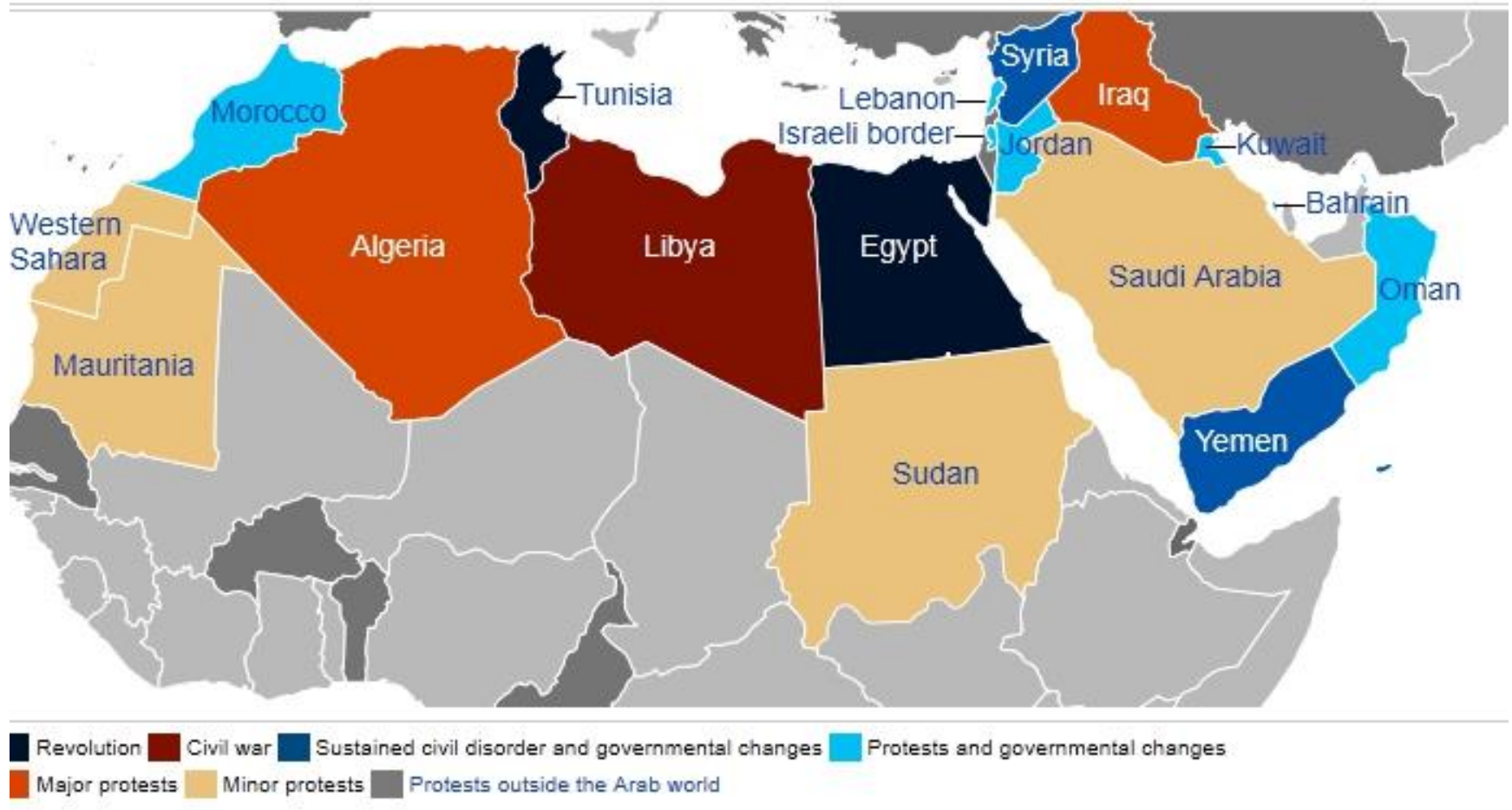




**Arab Spring**

# Geography of the Arab Spring



# Video

# “The Tragic Life of a Street Vendor”

- What do you think Tunisia was like before the revolution?
- Do you think it would be fair to call the President of Tunisia and the military/ police officers “bullies”?
- Do you think Bouazizi is a martyr?

# Characteristics

- Lower classes, Students, Laborers, Military
- Social Media – Facebook and Twitter
- Civil Resistance (strikes, protests, and demonstrations)

# Causes

- Dictatorship & authoritarian regimes: **Want democracy**
- Human **rights violations**
- Government **corruption**
- **Economic problems**
- **A young, educated population**

# Iran 2009

- Protests about the 2009 Iranian Presidential Election
- Re-election of President President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
- Ahmadinejad: “divine assessment”

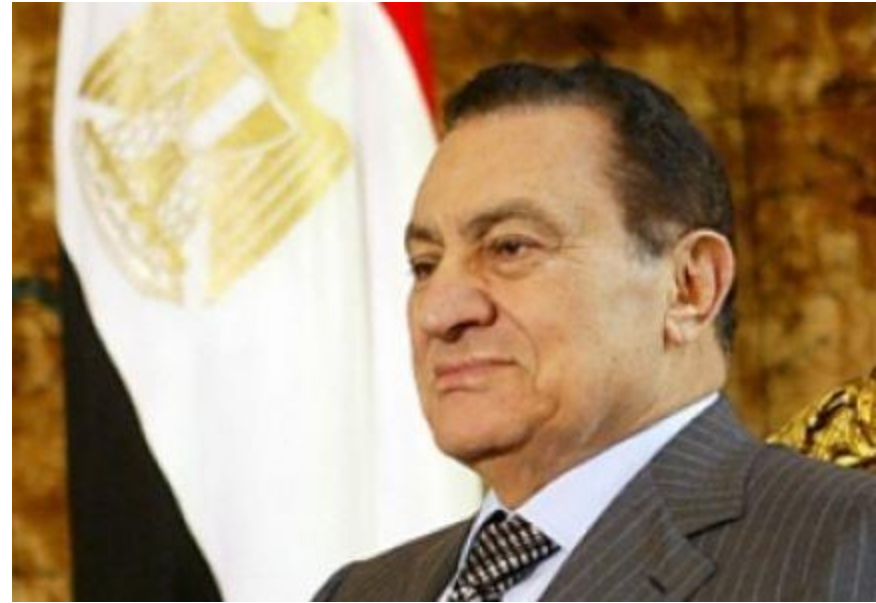
# Iran cont'd

- Foreign Intervention
- Green Revolution: protests in Iran and around the world protest the election
- “Twitter Revolution”



# Egyptian Revolution

- President Mubarak-  
ruled Egypt for 30 years
  - Resigned Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- governed by the military
- Revolution
  - 18 days of protest
  - High poverty rate
  - Low literacy of population
  - High unemployment



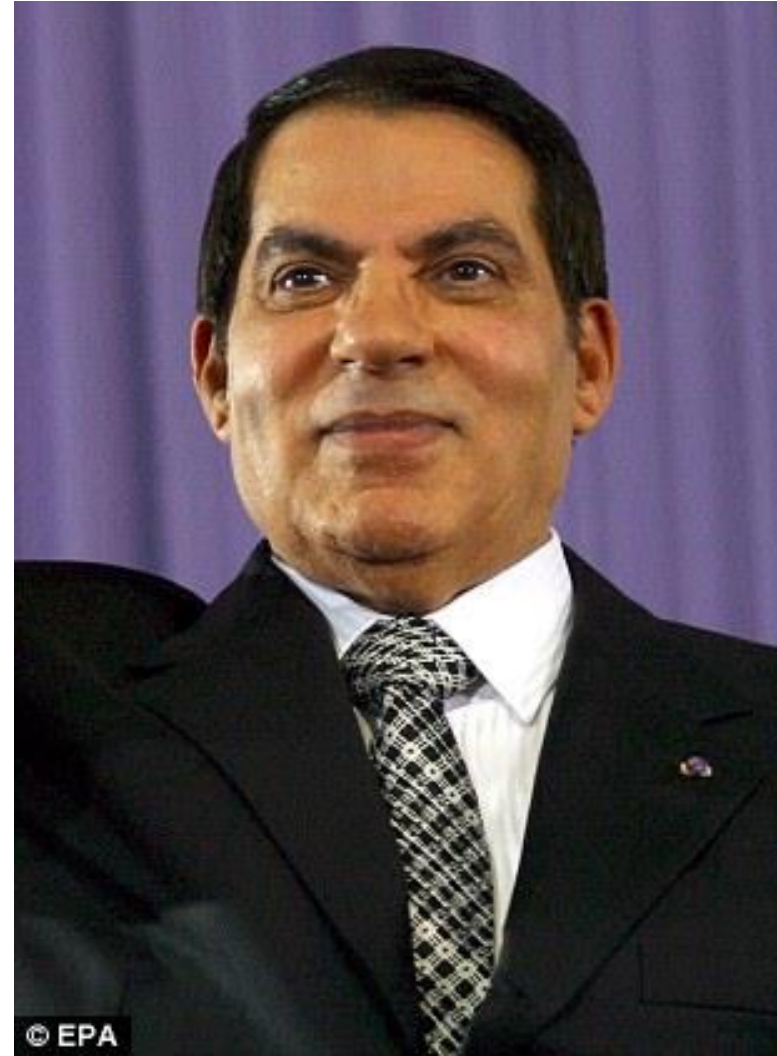
# Libyan Revolution

- 1969- overthrow of the monarchy
  - Led by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, in power for 40 years
- Dictatorship
- August 2011- Gaddafi fled Tripoli
  - Captured in October and killed
- Revolution
  - Most people live in overcrowded cities
    - 1 in 5 people are farmers, but only 1% of the land is farmable
  - Government very controlling- little freedom



# Tunisia

- President of Tunisia- Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali, **ruled Tunisia for over 25 years** and forced from power
- Revolution
  - **Protestor's suicide** (angry with the governments neglect for human welfare)
  - **Over 300 citizens died** during the revolution
  - **Revolution goals-** to end poverty, unfair treatment of citizens, gain human rights and political power for the people
- **President** and wife sentenced to **35 years in jail**



# Social Media

- What is social media?
- What role did social media play?
- Could this have happened without social media?
  - 1990s, 1980s, 1970s, etc.?
- Government control
- Iran and China's experience with control

# U.S. Responses

- Should the U.S. support democratic elections in historically autocratic states?
- Should the U.S. support autocratic leaders in order to maintain stability?
- Should the U.S. support the protestors by offering moral support against the use of violence by the regimes?
- Encourage Arab leaders to cancel emergency laws
- Encourage control of the security forces to end corruption w/little violence Encourage the development of civic advocacy
- Economic aid
- Trade

# U.S. Responses cont'd

- U.S. supported the Tunisian and Egyptian people Sec. of State Hilary Clinton pledged \$150 million in emergency aid to Egypt
- U.S. Export-Import Bank \$80 billion in letters of credit to Egypt
- US AID \$50,000 to Tunisia for disaster relief
- Recently, UN Security Council drafted a resolution calling on Assad to step-down or face “harsher” measures in 15 days

# Impact of the Arab Spring

- Do you recognize the impact of these events globally?
  - Europe
  - Central Asia
  - East Asia
  - Africa
  - America
- Roles of the Western powers?
- Economic effects?



# Questions?

A background image showing a crowd of people with their hands raised in a gesture of protest or solidarity. The hands are in various positions, some clenched in fists, some open, and some with fingers spread. The background is blurred, suggesting a large gathering.

- Why now?
- Why this region?
- Is it over and/or was it successful?
- How does this affect you?
- What was/is the significance?



# Cartoon #1



# Cartoon #2



# Cartoon #3



# Cartoon #4

