History essay

Institutional affiliation:

Date:

**The most important changes which have taken place between 1950 and 2014**

Between 1950 and 2014 significant changes have occurred not only in Middle East but also in different parts of the world such as in the North Africa. The Period of between 1950 and 1980 saw the Struggles or independence and new reforms of political community in the Middle East and in North Africa. Over the past years Islam has played a major role in the ensuring there is liberation of the Sub-Saharan African countries and South and Eastern Middle East from the colonialists.The Islamic uprisings played critical role in ensuring that liberation was achieved. The 1950’s period saw and marked the end of colonization of most of the Arab states in which most of the Middle East states and the North African countriesacquired independence. Even after the colonialist left the region, there was huge impact on the relationship of these nations and their masters. The Arab nations then formed their own nation states but as of today the concept of territorial states is still new to the Arab world. The emergence of the territorial states in the Arab world has been due to the colonialization. In the past such boundaries did not exist. More to that, the struggle for independence has seen the contest of the borders of the current nation states.

Just after the colonization, the rulers who took power wanted to train and lead their nations in the European languages so as to create the machinery governments but a division of Muslim territories took over. There was formation of ethnic identities among the Arab communities while insome cases some nations were under others but this was abolished. Over the years the territorial divisions have been sources of conflicts and tension within the various Muslim states which claim ownership of the same state.

1Smith, J.C, & Smith, C.,(2013). *The Modern Middle East and North Africa*. Oxford University Press.

As of today there are still unresolved tensions which exist between the people and the regions which have never been consolidated such as Israel and Palestine and the Pakistan and Bangladesh.The conflicts and wars which are being witnessed in countries suchas Nigeria,Pakistan and Lebanon on the basis of ethnicity and religion are a firm indication that the many problems were left with the creation of the artificial demarcation.

In the 1980’s the common thing in the Middle East and North Africa was the war which depicted the Arabs as bad people and as a result, there was production of many films on the matter.This even worsened in the following decade and later in 2011, there was the bombing of the twin towers in the US which proved that the Middle East was a terror zone.Over the years these places have been seen as rogue states for the terrorists. The US therefore launched a war on terror on the Middle East nations. The past years also saw the stereotyping and division of the people in the Middle East and North Africa. The stereotyping was mainly by the British colonialists who spread propaganda about the Arabs and the religion of Islam. This was mainly spread by Edward Said in his book titled ‘Orientalism’.

The stereotyping technique was used by the western nations to secure territories in the region and up to date the western powers use the tactics of placing the corrupt leaders in power so as to acquire resources from these countries. The western nations purport to be fighting communism in the Middle East while in the actual sense they are trying to get control of the resources. The Middle East and the North Africa are some of the most militarized regions.

1Smith, J.C, & Smith, C.,(2013). *The Modern Middle East and North Africa*. Oxford University Press.

After 2010,there was awave ofprotests and unrest in the Middle East and the North Africa. This was due to the financial crisis around the world, the high rates of unemployment among the youths and the rising costs of livingunder dictatorial regimes which were oppressive. Some protests ended up as revolutions as governments were overthrown. This was in Egypt and Tunisia. The crisis first began in Iraq and then In Libya. This followed with unrests in Iran and Syria to mention but a few.In most cases these protests were against the oppressive regimes such as those by Gadhafi and Sadam Hussein.

Often when there is the mention of Islam there are many negative impressions which are acquired by different people.Most of people have the impression of people who are intolerant to others and are caught up in terror activities. The Islamic movements are always linked with terrorism and this has been the sole reason whythere has been slow progress in the regions(Middle East and North Africa).The religion is seen as a threat to democracy and has been made even worse by its leaders who are the most corrupt.

Generally, in both Middle East and in Africa there was development of the social movements after colonialization. These social movements functioned as pressure groups which enabled the leader who ascended into power after the colonialists to be held accountable. Broadly the social groups act as liberal movements in the society which enable the leader to be accountable for their actions.

1Smith, J.C, & Smith, C.,(2013). *The Modern Middle East and North Africa*. Oxford University Press.

**References**

Smith, J.C, & Smith, C., (2013). *The Modern Middle East and North Africa*. Oxford University Press.