

# Promotion of reading in the **Arab** **world**

A world map with a light purple background. The countries of the Arab world, including North Africa, the Middle East, and parts of Central and West Africa, are highlighted in a solid blue color. The rest of the world's landmasses are shown in a light purple tone.

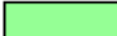
**Ahmed Ksibi/** Institut Supérieur de  
Documentation/ Tunis

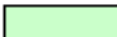
<http://ksibi.wordpress.com/>

# Le monde musulman au VIII<sup>e</sup> siècle



 Territoires musulmans à la mort de Mahomet


 Conquêtes arabes de 632 à 661

 Conquêtes arabes de 661 à 750

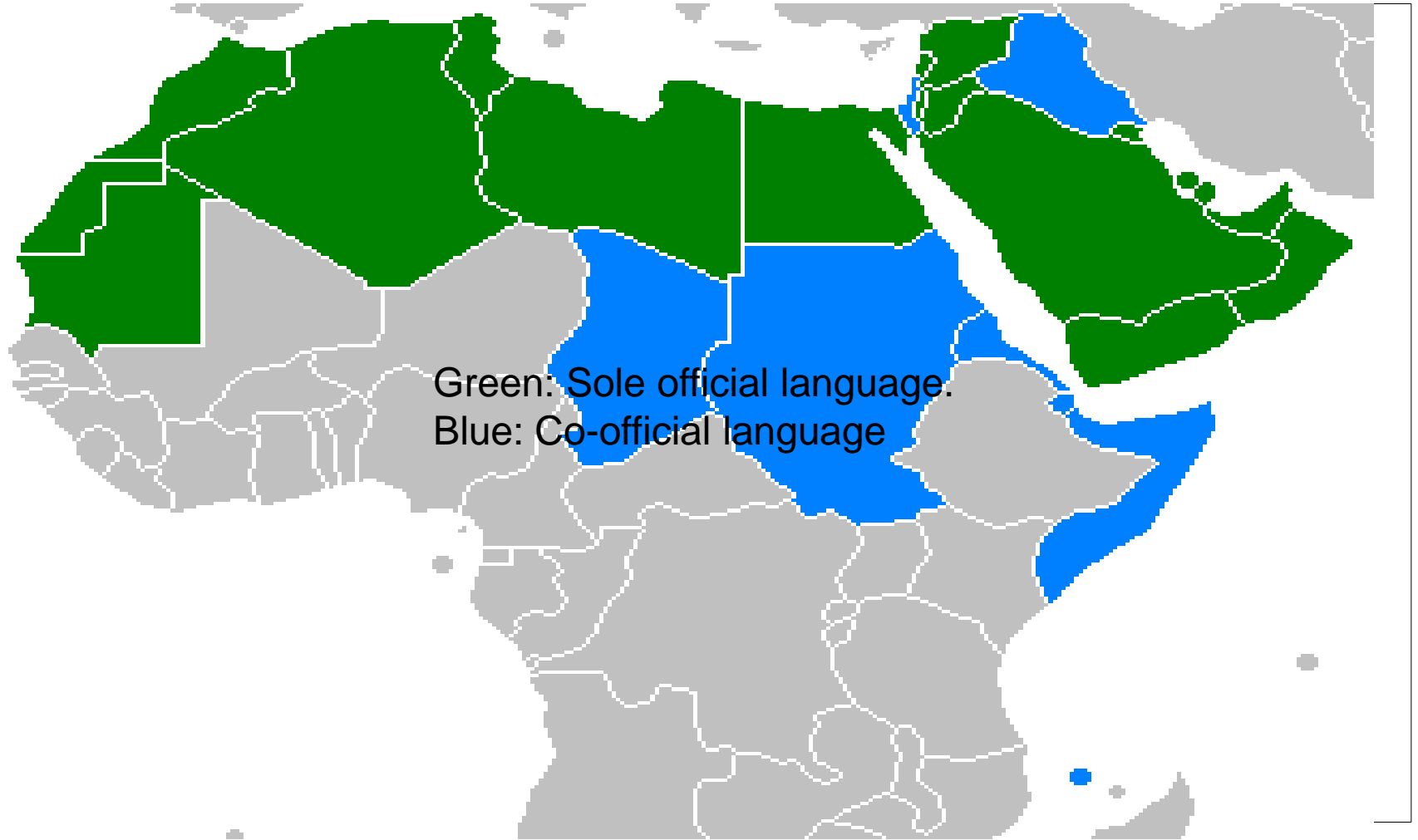
 Capitales arabes successives

 Villes fondées par les arabes










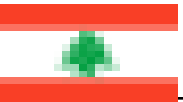

 Villes saintes de l'Islam








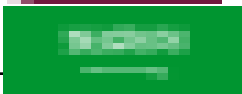






 Arrêts de l'expansion arabe

# the Arabic speaking world



# Arab Countries population to area and GDP

Country	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (est. 2007)	GDP PPP (in million \$)
<b>All Arab</b> 	<b>13,676,641</b>	<b>340,043,965</b>	<b>1,860,193</b>
<b>Algeria</b> 	<b>2,381,740</b>	<b>33,333,216</b>	<b>250,000</b>
<b>Bahrain</b> 	<b>665</b>	<b>708,573</b>	<b>18,000</b>
<b>Comoros</b> 	<b>2,170</b>	<b>711,417</b>	<b>1,275</b>
<b>Djibouti</b> 	<b>23,000</b>	<b>496,374</b>	<b>1,878</b>
<b>Egypt</b> 	<b>1,001,450</b>	<b>80,335,036</b>	<b>334,400</b>
<b>Iraq</b> 	<b>437,072</b>	<b>27,499,638</b>	<b>50,720</b>
<b>Jordan</b> 	<b>92,300</b>	<b>6,053,193</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Kuwait</b> 	<b>17,820</b>	<b>2,505,559</b>	<b>55,910</b>
<b>Lebanon</b> 	<b>10,400</b>	<b>3,925,502</b>	<b>42.306</b>
<b>Libya</b> 	<b>1,759,540</b>	<b>6,036,914</b>	<b>72,680</b>

 Country		Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population	GDP PPP (in million \$)
<a href="#">Mauritania</a>		1,030,700	3,270,065	8,124
<a href="#">Morocco</a>		446,550	33,757,175	152,500
<a href="#">Oman</a>		212,460	3,204,897	44,530
<a href="#">Palestinian Authority</a>		6,220	4,018,332	5,327
<a href="#">Qatar</a>		11,437	907,229	26,370
 <a href="#">Saudi Arabia</a>		<b>2,149,690</b>	27,601,038	<b>366,200</b>
<a href="#">Somalia</a>		637,657	9,118,773	5,575
<a href="#">Sudan</a>		<b>2,505,810</b>	<b>39,379,358</b>	97,470
<a href="#">Syria</a>		185,180	19,314,747	77,660
<a href="#">Tunisia</a>		163,610	10,276,158	89,740
<a href="#">United Arab Emirates</a>		83,600	4,444,011	129,500
<a href="#">Yemen</a>		527,970	22,230,531	20,630

## Anthropological diversity Ethnicity

- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Arabs</u> 295,921,955          | 1. <u>Han Chinese</u> 105,590     |
| 2. <u>Afars</u> 456,000              | 2. <u>Hindi</u> 228,900           |
| 3. <u>Amhara</u> 191,000             | <b>3. <u>Somalis</u>8,882,500</b> |
| 4. <u>Arameans</u> 75,300            | 4. <u>Jews</u> 9,940              |
| 5. <u>Armenians</u> 260,500          | <b>5. <u>Kurds</u>6,216,500</b>   |
| 6. <u>Assyrians</u> 222,900          | 6. <u>Malays</u> 516,100          |
| 7. <u>Beja</u> 2,779,000             | 7. <u>Nubians</u> 1,132,000       |
| <b>8. <u>Berbers</u>16,364,100</b>   | 8. <u>Persians</u> 1,192,000      |
| 9. <u>Chaldeans</u> 161,500          | 9. <u>Swahili</u> 497,200         |
| 10. <u>Cherkes</u> 229,600           | 10. <u>Tigrinya</u> 47,800        |
| 11. <u>Western Europeans</u> 853,950 | 11. <u>Tuareg</u> 242,000         |
| <b>12. <u>Filipino</u>2,000,000</b>  | 12. <u>Turkish</u> 152,400        |
| 13. <u>Greeks</u> 89,100             | 13. <u>Turkmens</u> 458,900       |
| 14. <u>Gypsies</u> 1,260,500         | 14. <u>Urdu</u> <b>963,300</b>    |
- “mosaic” cultures

# The hurried modernization in the Arab world

- **modernization** has been condensed into a few decades that had lasted for centuries in the West countries,
- which put a strain on traditional societies and has been harsh social and economic failure and cultural and intellectual regression.

# Education reform, basis of reading development

- Since the independence, education reform, basis of reading development, has many impressive achievements.
- Arab states have allocated a larger proportion of public expenditure on education ( 20%) to reach the Education for All EFA objectives.
- The average net enrolment ratio (NER) in primary education continued to expand reaching 84% in 2006. %.( [www.efareport.unesco.org](http://www.efareport.unesco.org) )



*Table 3 Improvement of women illiteracy in the Arab Countries*

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>1980</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>2000</i>
<i>Illiteracy for women 15-24</i>	<i>44.9%</i>	<i>29.9%</i>	<i>19.4%</i>
<i>Illiteracy for women over 15</i>	<i>64.9%</i>	<i>51.9%</i>	<i>40.2%</i>

*Source: compiled from, Non-formal education for girls, UNESCO, 2000, Rafika Hammoud, p. 20*



# progress has been such that the disparity has been reversed

- More women than men are enrolled in higher education in some countries, the UNDP report cites: Tunisia, Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates.

About 75 percent of students from the **United Arab Emirates** University are women. On average, 62 percent of students enrolled in higher education and 70.4 percent of all graduates are girls.

- In the year 2008, 3 / 4 students who have graduated from **Qatar** University were women.

# **the successful Reading projects**

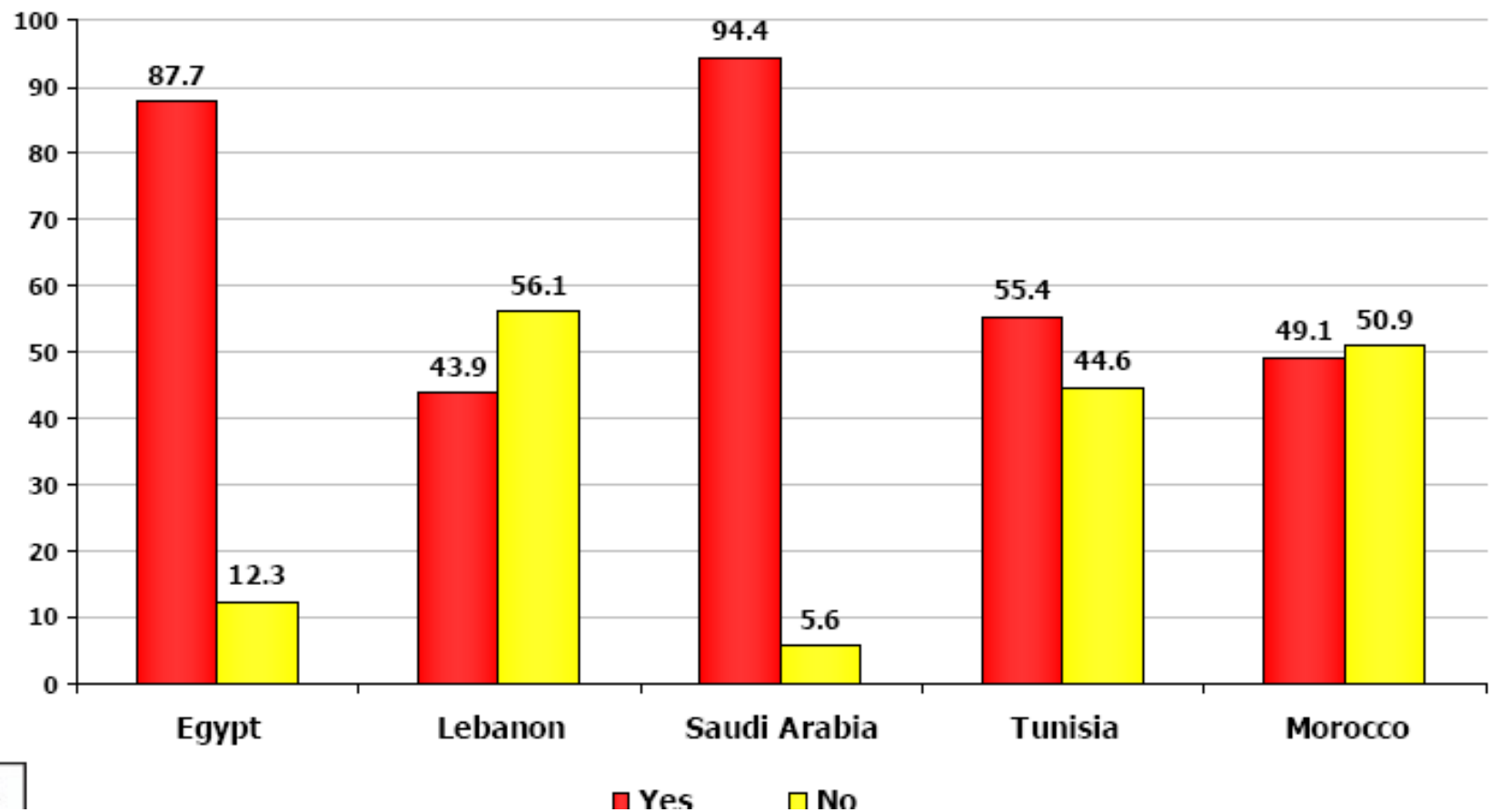
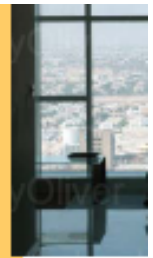
## **for example:**

- the successful Egyptian "Reading for All". projects initiated by Mrs. Mubarak
- promoted the reading habit among children, and distributing inexpensive reading materials in underprivileged rural and urban communities.
- development of reading activities in some Arab countries can occur primarily through strengthening public.

# Reading practices Data from surveys and faithful sources

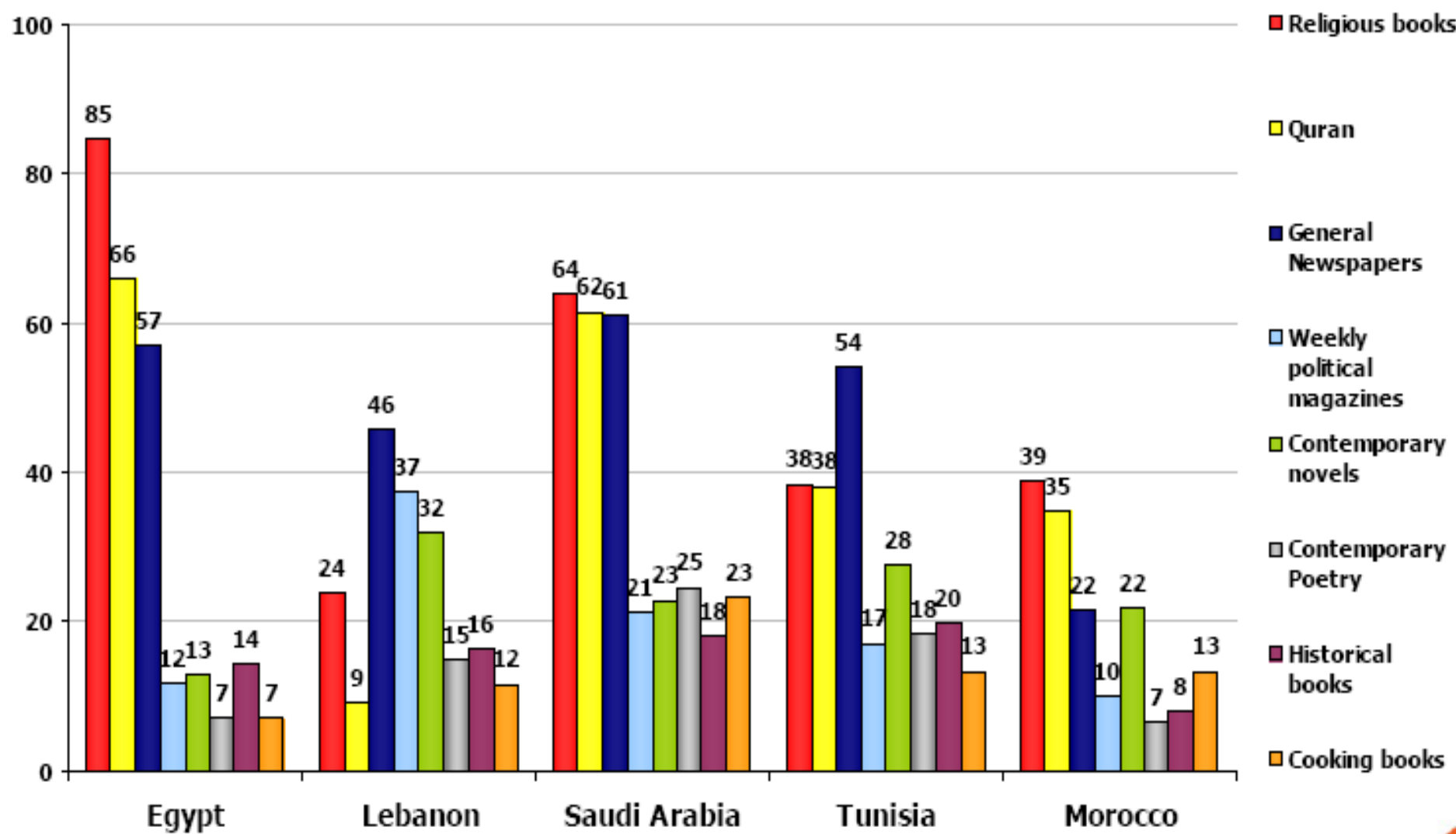
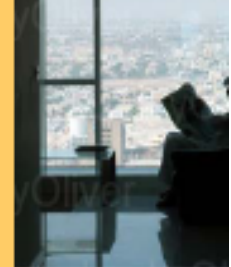
- What Arabs Read: a Pan – Arab **Survey** of readership . Synovate Next Page Foundation 2007
- Among the literate population, the highest incidence of readers were in Egypt & KSA (88% & 94%).
- Across all 9 surveyed countries, 3 out of every 4 literate Arab person reads regularly.
- 90% are regular readers of newspapers & magazines.
- 85% of surveyed literate Arabs have at least read a book in the past 12 months

# Readers vs Non-readers of Literate Population

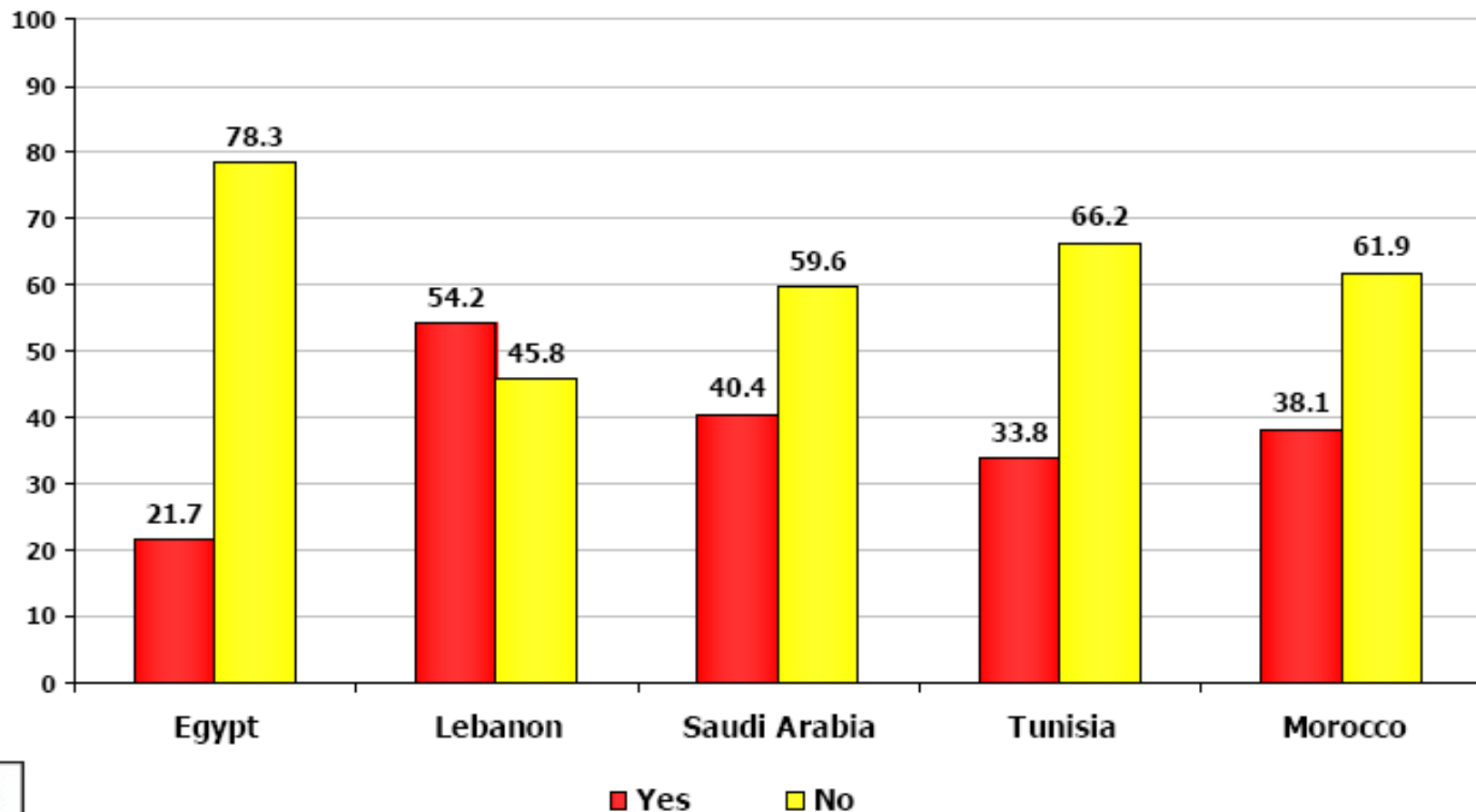


- In addition to the common interest of politics & current affairs, Arab males tend to rank Sports
- Some of the most read types of books in the 5 Arab countries were:
  - Egypt & Saudi Arabia: The Holy Quraan
  - Lebanon: Gobran Khalil Gobran
  - Morocco: Naguib Mahfouz, and other literature (Arabic & French)
  - Tunisia: French books most popular
- As a reading language, Arabic is still the most read-in language in all Arab countries.
- Reading in English came highest in Lebanon (19%), followed by Tunisia (8%), less than 3% in all other Arab countries
- Reading in French came highest in Morocco (28%), Lebanon (27%), & Tunisia (19%).
- **French is becoming a very strong contender to English in the Arabic world!**

# Topics read the most



# Readers who access the Internet

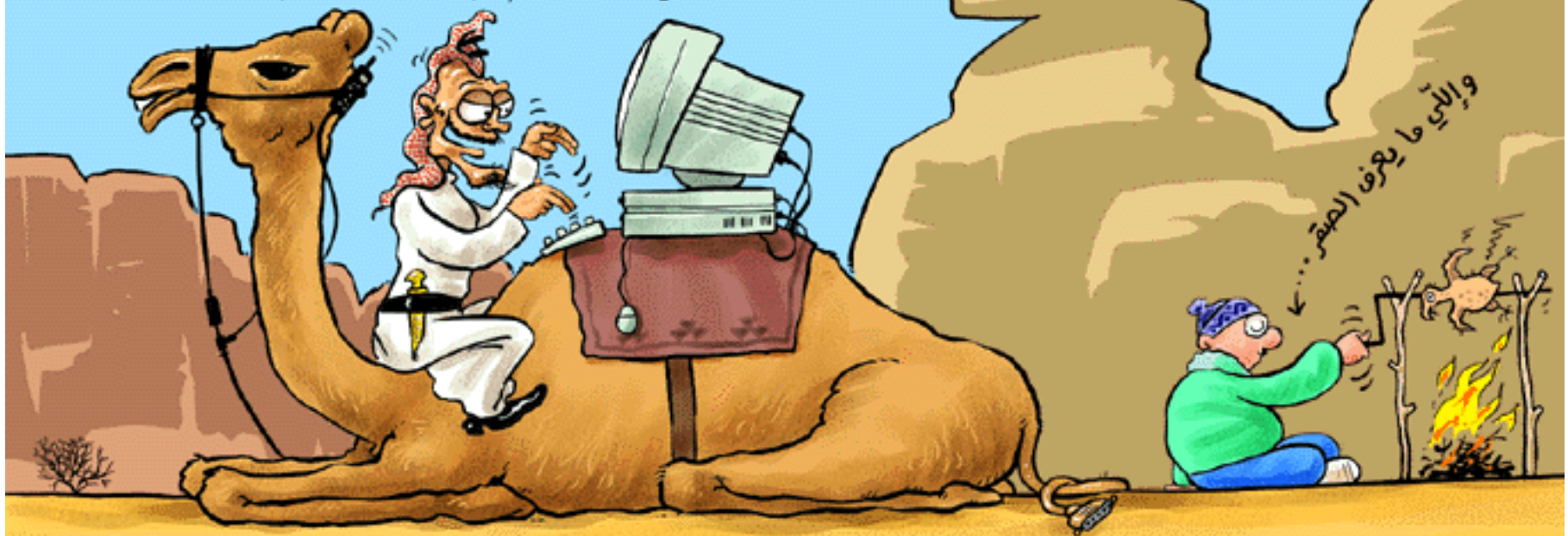




Reading practices are not yet solid among young people

القِدْرُ مَا يُقْعَدُ إِلَّا عَلَى ثَلَاثٍ: ﴿

They spend most of their leisure time with electronic devices, based on the mass media communication. Television and mobile phones are the dominant media used by the young people



# The low level of the family Adult illiteracy remains a challenge

- In 2000–2006 around 58 million adults – 28% of the region’s adult population – were unable to read and/or write, with understanding, a simple statement in a national or official language.
- More than two-thirds of them were women. The rise was more pronounced among women, climbing from 46% to just over 61 %
- In absolute numbers the adult illiteracy was greatest in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Sudan, which together accounted for more than two-thirds of the adult illiterates in the region.

# the most important barriers to the development of reading

- **The low level of the family educational background**, especially when the mother is not literate, is the most important sociological obstacle to the improvement of reading habits among young people.
- **-The contradiction between supply and demand**, between what is available in libraries and information services and what is required by users and beneficiaries; and **a lack of material and human resources**.
- . It's an opportunity to evaluate their past and present national reading promotion activities with the aim of carrying out an assessment of needs in this field.

**the Arab libraries subjected to human tsunamis , not \$ only but also wars and invasions, occupation and other kinds of external hegemony**

**A lot of countries are concerned with incursions and offensives (Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon...)**

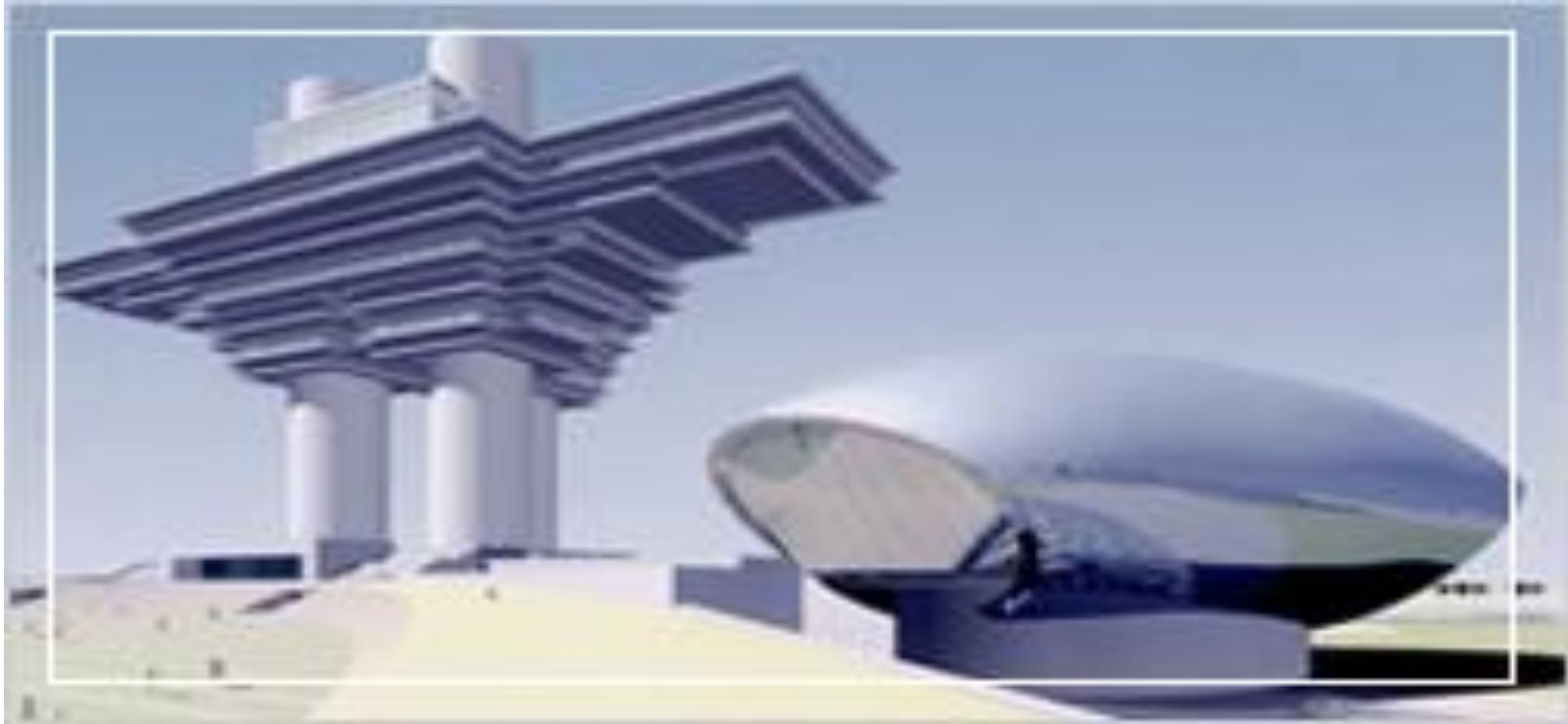
damage to Libraries and Archives in Iraq :  
<http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/admin/iraq0205.htm>

the obstacles the Palestinian libraries face in terms of material production and marketing (censorship, writers' persecution, book confiscation...)

Destruction Lebanese libraries



# Qatar National Library SKYLibrary



**The library's nonpareil architectural shape of 120 m high will be an amazing site for all visitors to Doha.**

# Bibliotheca Alexandrina



*Merci pour votre  
attention*

- **Questions???**