# Chapter 2: Social Change in the Middle East by Valentine M. Moghadam and Tabitha Decker

## **Key Terms**

**Modernization** – In a development context, the process of state formation, industrialization, urbanization, and mass education and corresponding shift away from traditional forms of social organization that relied on kinship.

**Neo-patriarchal state** – An umbrella term for a state based on a social structure in which the patriarchal family, rather than individuals, is the building block of the community.

**Remittances** – Wages earned by foreign nationals that are sent to families back home, especially common among foreign workers in the oil rich Gulf States.

**Patriarchal gender contract** – An implicit agreement that men are the breadwinners and women the caregivers for a family, which persisted in many MENA states even as incomes rose.

**Urbanization** – The process of rural to urban migration that often accompanies modernizing, growing economies.

Wilaya – Male guardianship.

#### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. How were the societies of non-oil economies nonetheless affected by shifts in oil prices during and after the oil boom of the 1970s?
- **2.** What is the relationship(s) between demographic shifts and mass education in the MENA region?
- **3.** How might a dropping fertility rate affect social and economic indicators in the next decade?
- **4.** What are the positive aspects of the development of educational institutions in the MENA region and what challenges remain?
- **5.** What are the areas of tension between change and preservation of traditional family and gender roles in the MENA region?
- **6.** What are the legal and religious dimensions of these tensions?

- **7.** How do civil society organizations shape democratic participation, especially for women in states that are predominantly ruled by males?
- **8.** How have social media altered networks and movements for social change?
- 9. In what ways have these networks and movements remained unaffected by social media?

# **Multiple Choice**

- 1. Which of the following has the most rural population?
  - a. Israel
  - b. Egypt
  - c. Algeria
  - d. Iran
- **2.** Which education level, on average across MENA states, has the highest ratio of female to male enrollment?
  - a. Primary
  - b. Secondary
  - c. Tertiary
- **3.** Fertility in the region dropped between the 1950s and 2010 from 7 children per woman to:
  - a. 1.2
  - b. 2.8
  - c. 4.0
  - d. 5.5
- **4.** What country has the highest percentage of internet users in the region?
  - a. Qatar
  - b. Syria
  - c. Israel
  - d. Iran

### **PPT Ideas**

- Economic structure, growth, and transformation
- Urbanization and demographic shifts
- Health and Human development
- Civil Society
- Tables