

What is Geography?

Students will able to:

- Define Geography
- Explain the 5 Themes
- Analyze the 5 Themes with an example

What is Geography

- Geography is about spatial thinking
- The questions we want to ask “What is where, Why there, and Why care?”
- This quote comes from By Charles F. Gritzner
South Dakota State University

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South Dakota State University

- Please read the article:
http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/courses/teachers_corner/155012.html
- Dr. Gritzner
- Be able to give the examples (Figure 1)
- What is?
- Where?
- Why there?
- Why care?

5 Themes of Geography

- Location
- Place
- Human – Environment Interaction
- Movement
- Regions

Location

- **Absolute Location** – a specific description of the Where of a place, through the use of coordinates, street address, mile markers, etc.
- **Relative location** – a description of the Where of a place by comparing it to the Where of another place. California University of Pennsylvania is 35 miles southeast of Pittsburgh.

Place

- The Physical Description of a place –
Landscape, Climate, etc.
- The Human Description of a place –
Economics, Politics, Culture, etc.

Human – Environment Interaction

- Humans modify their environment
- Humans depend on their environment
- Humans adapt to their environment

Movement

- Humans
- Goods
- Ideas

Regions

- Formal Region
- Functional Region
- Vernacular Region

Major Tool for Geographers - Maps

- Example of 5 Themes
- Now we are going to examine the 5 Themes using the Persian Gulf War.

Why Did the US go to War in Persian Gulf?

- In March 2017 – Dr. Hal Brands discussed this question at the Foreign Policy Research Institute's Why Does America Go to War? Education Workshop
- <http://www.fpri.org/multimedia/2017/03/tthe-persian-gulf-war-1990-1991/>
- This can be answered by examining smaller questions?

Why Did Saddam Invade Kuwait?

- Aggression
- Opportunity
- Insecurity

Aggression

- Saddam was an contentious leader
- Determined to be boss of “Arab world”
- 10:21, Dr. Brands, Persian Gulf War, FPRI Video

Opportunity

- Iraq had developed quite a powerful military as it fought Iran. Iran had been weakened
- Kuwait was fragile and other Arab countries were not fans
- 11:34, Dr. Brands, Persian Gulf War, FPRI Video
- Let's use Relative Location to examine these issues.

Iraq – Relative Location



Insecurity

- Saddam was in trouble economically due to the Iran Iraq War
- Saddam felt Kuwait produced more oil, which caused oil prices to drop. He has trouble paying back debt
- Circle of Danger – “Israel and United States were working with Kuwait against Iraq”

• 13:20, Dr. Brands, Persian Gulf War, FPRI Video

Border Dispute Between Iraq vs.

Kuwait

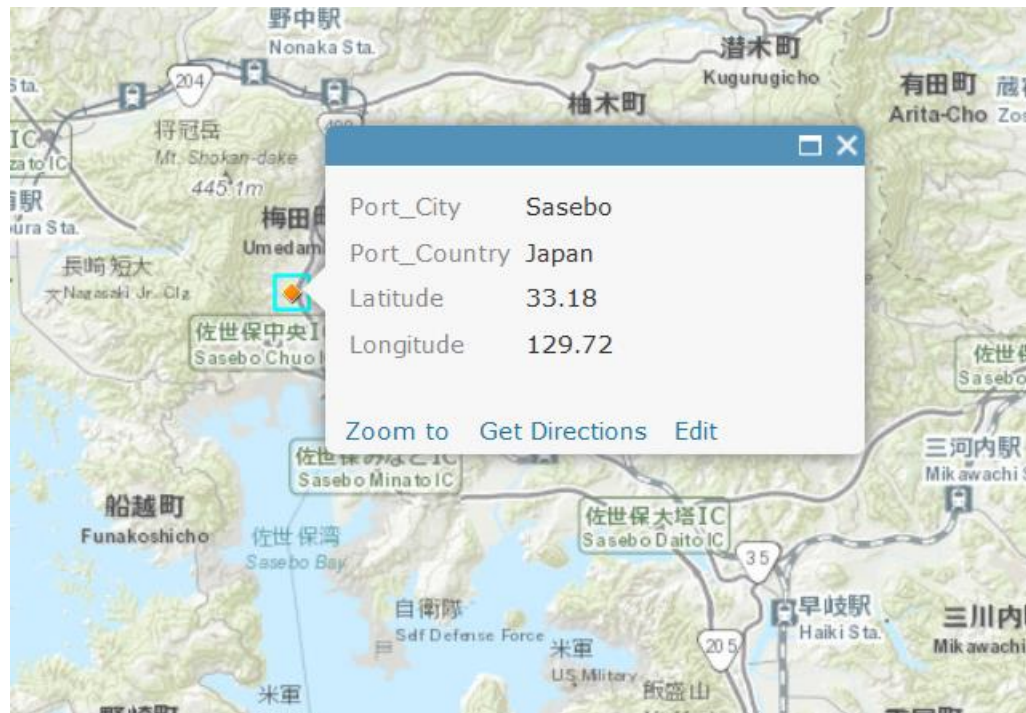
16:20, Dr. Brands, Persian Gulf War, FPRI Video



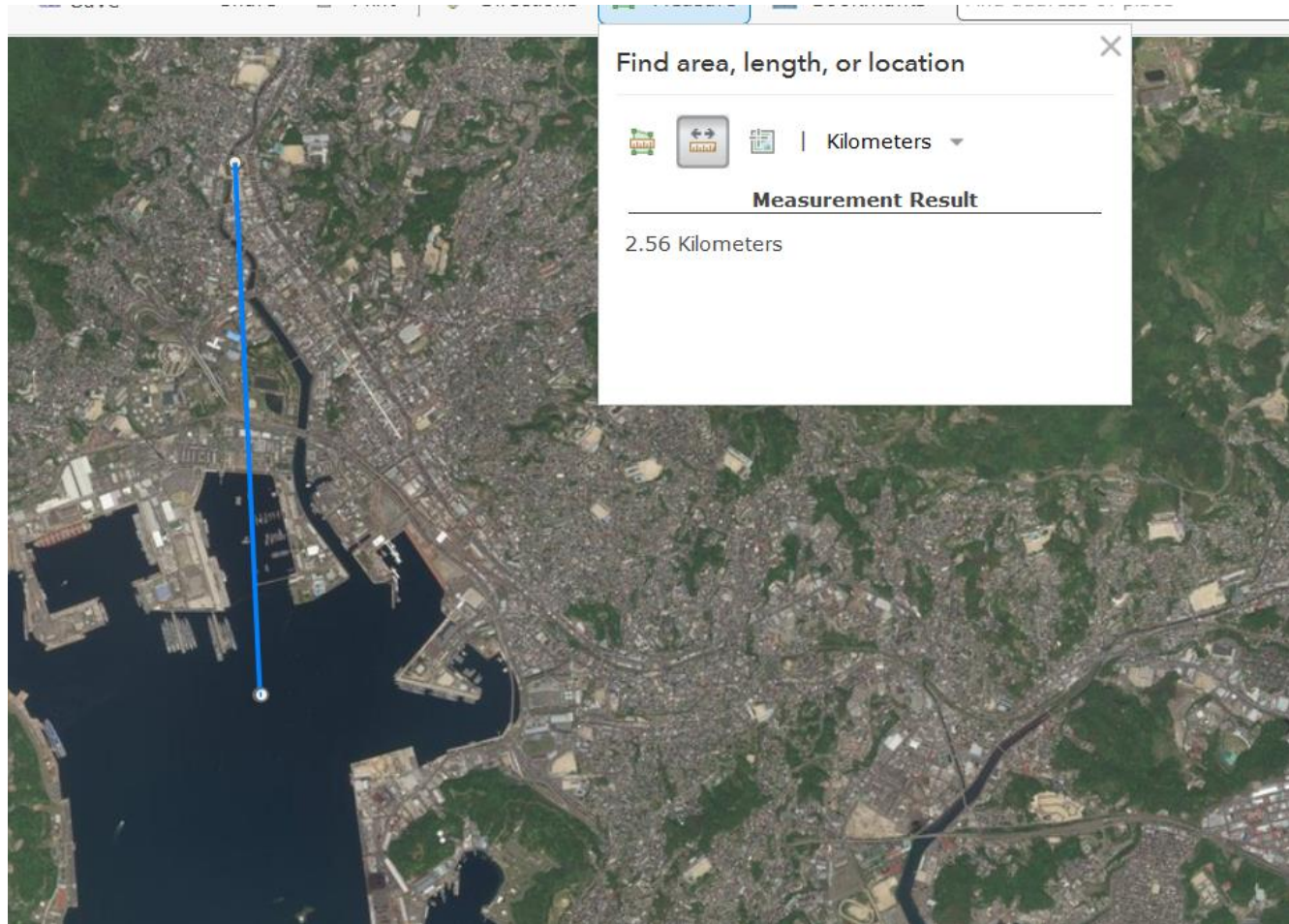
Geopolitical Issues

- Dr. Brands states that the US moved half of their combat power into the Persian Gulf area.
- Dr. Brands discussed the Global Economics involved in this situation.
- Now let us look at that with the 5 themes

Points – Center of City



Imagery and Measure the Distance to the Water



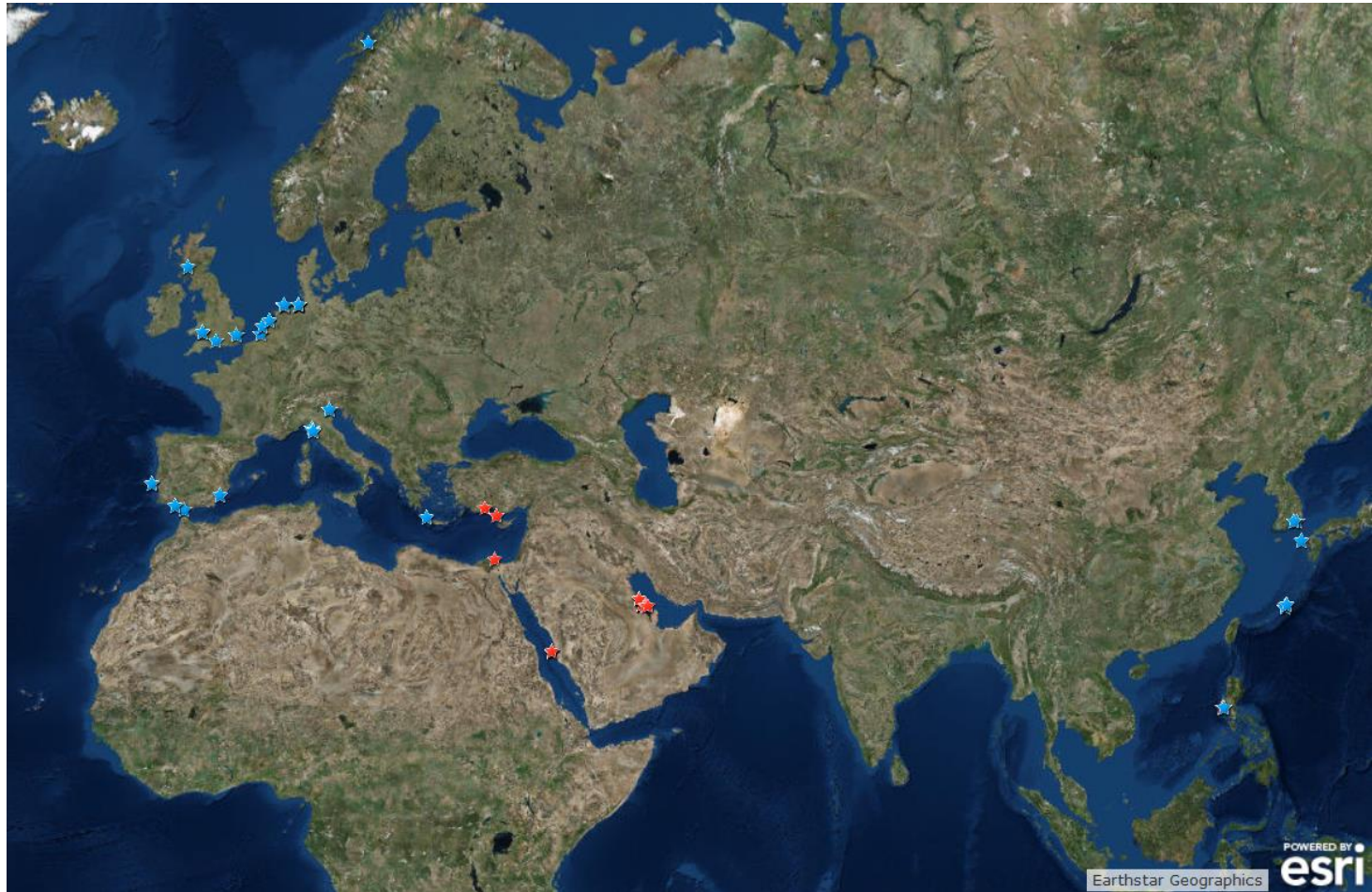
Place



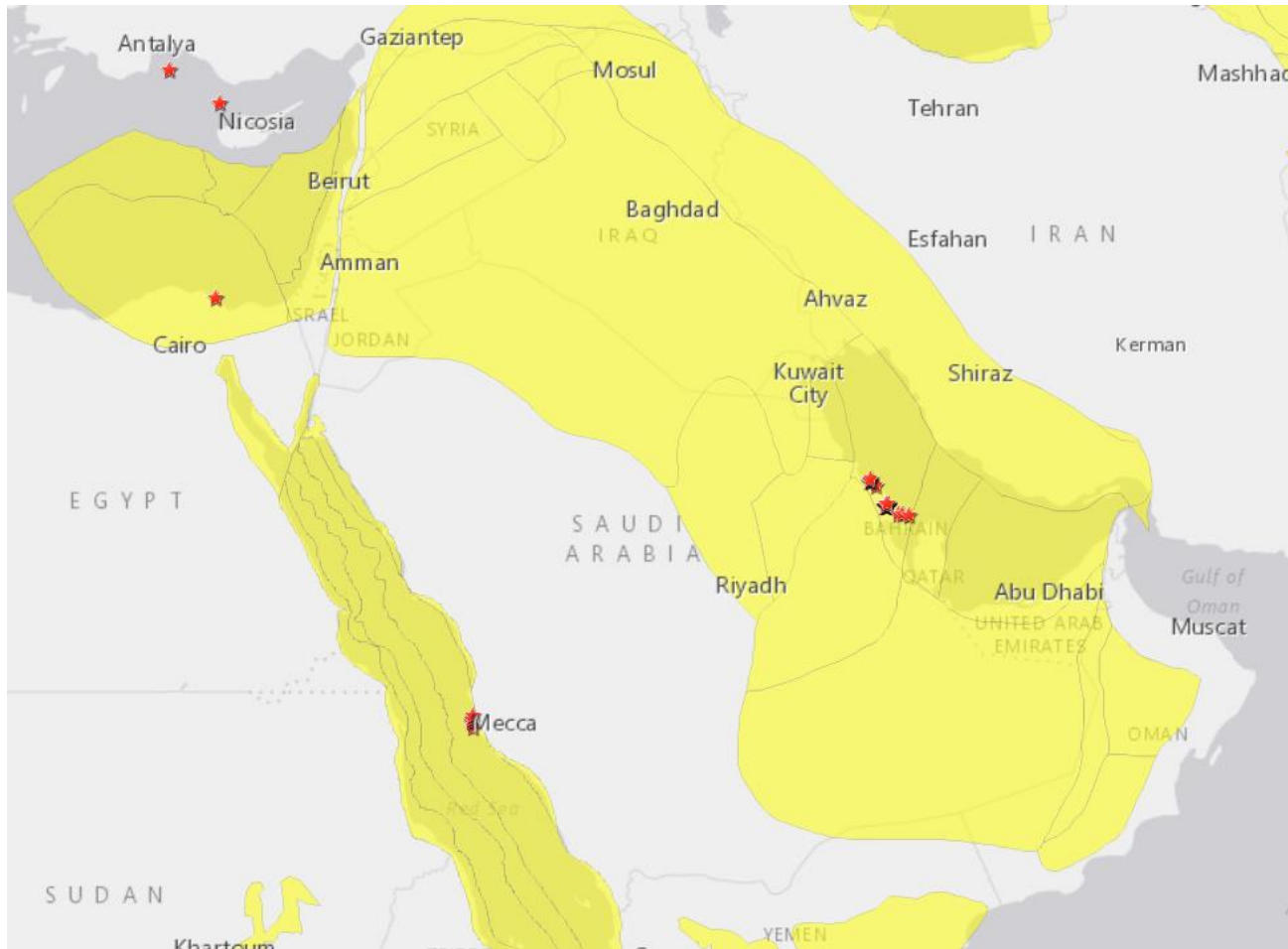
Zoom out – Why were the ships at these locations?



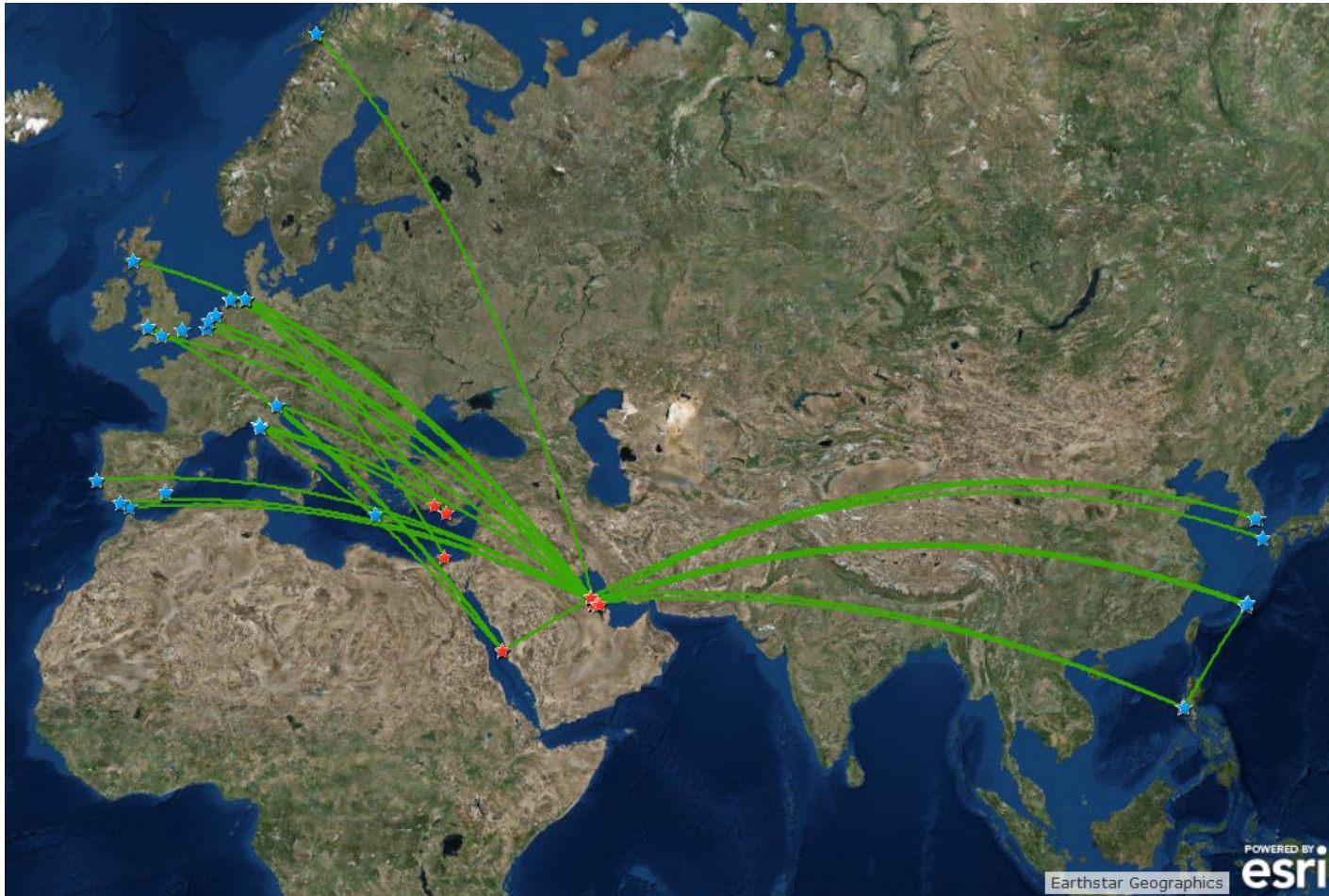
Before and After



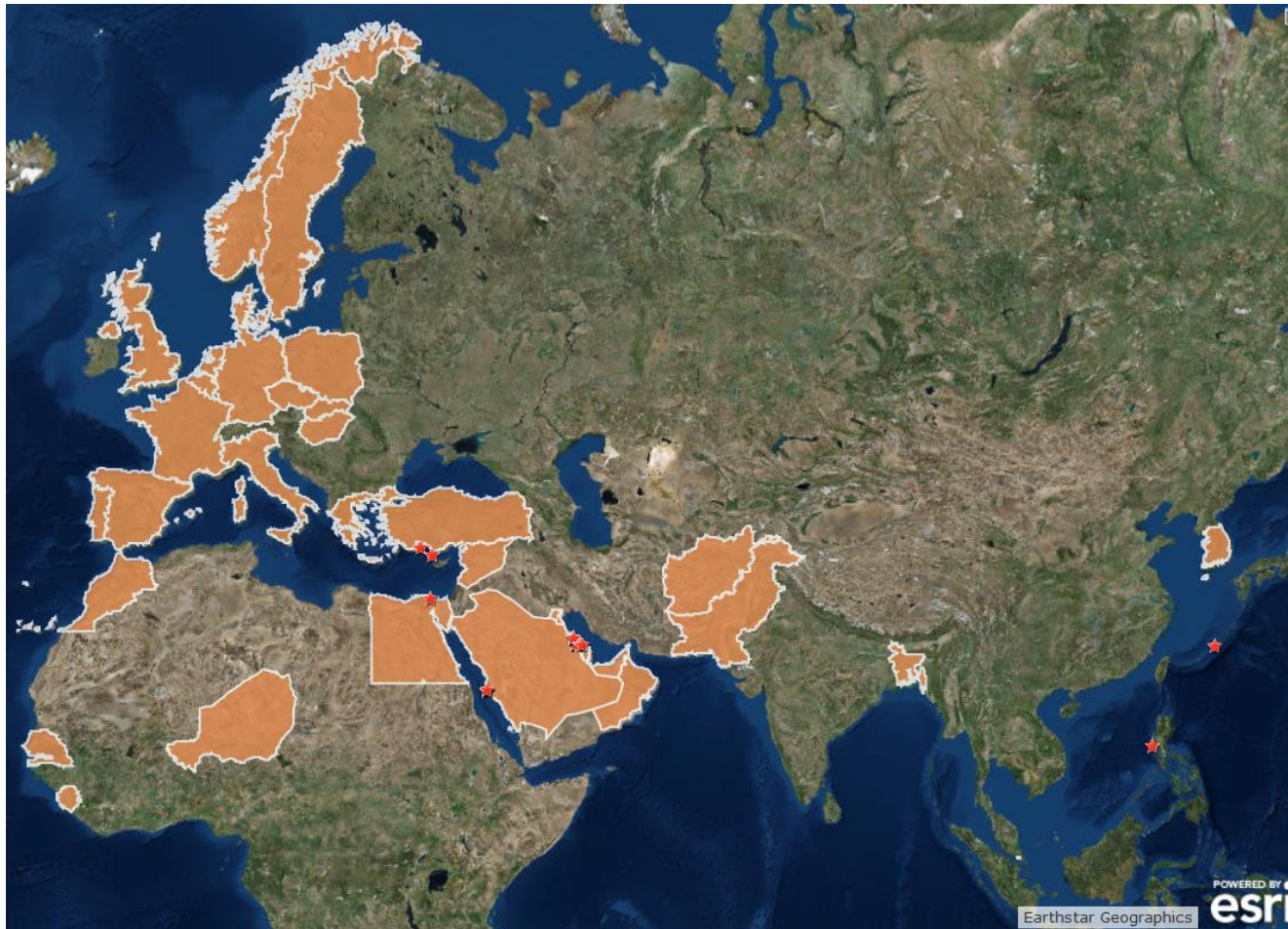
Human Environment Interaction (Yellow Represents Oil Fields)



Movement



What Changed?



Final Step

- Discuss with the students the fall of the USSR and ability to move naval power to assist in the Persian Gulf War
- Discuss Dr. Brands points on the amount of oil that Saddam Hussein would have been able to control.

Bibliography

- Dr. Brands, Persian Gulf War, FPRI Video, <http://www.fpri.org/multimedia/2017/03/tthe-persian-gulf-war-1990-1991/>
- Matthews, James and Cora J. Holt (1991). So Many, So Much, So Far, So Fast: United States Transportation Command and Strategic Deployment for Operation Desert Shield / Desert Storm.
http://www.history.army.mil/html/bookshelves/esmat/dshield_dstorm/somanyso much.pdf

Bibliography

- Gritzner, Charles F. **Defining Geography: What is Where, Why There, and Why Care?**, http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/members/courses/teachers_corner/155012.html
- ArcGIS Online <http://www.arcgis.com>