MENA Historic Shapefiles

Sawsene Nejjar and Neil Ketchley*

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NB: This is a live document that is updated when new shapefiles are uploaded. For the latest version, click here. For corrections, please contact the authors.

When using a shapefile, please cite:

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  title = {MENA Historic Shapefiles},
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```

1 Background

This document provides background information for shapefiles produced by the authors. All shapefiles described in this document are available via the the Arab Council for Social Sciences Dataverse (https://dataverse.theacss.org) and the Harvard Dataverse (https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/oxfordmiddleeastcentre). These shapefiles capture spatial information for key social, political, and economic phenomena, recorded in publicly-available maps of the Arabic-speaking Middle East and North Africa (MENA). For each shapefile, we record map metadata, a URL to the original raster file, the ISO Topic Code for spatial features, as well as relevant background information and issues arising from the geo-referencing process. All map features,

*Sawsene Nejjar (sawsene.nejjar@area.ox.ac.uk) is a Researcher in Middle East Politics at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, University of Oxford. Neil Ketchley (neil.ketchley@politics.ox.ac.uk) is Associate Professor in Politics and Fellow of St Antony's College, University of Oxford. This research was funded as part of the Arab Public Data Initiative by the Carnegie Corportation of New York.

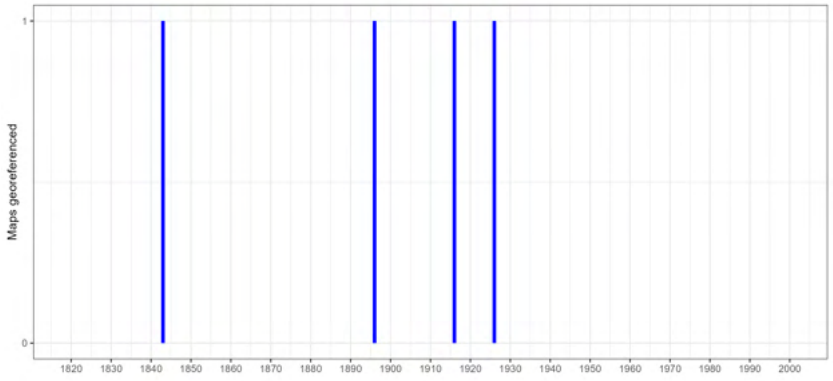
e.g., label names, follow the spelling and transliteration systems used in the underlying raster or source file.

This document contains information on **4** maps and **18** shapefiles. Country and temporal coverage is reported in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Table 1: Coverage by country

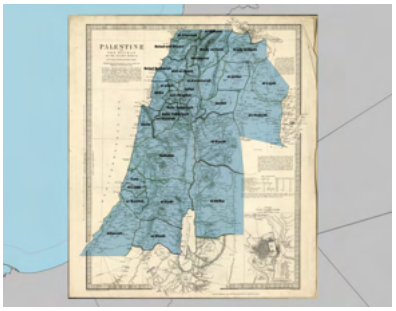
Country	Maps
Algeria	0
Bahrain	0
Djibouti	0
Egypt	0
Iraq	0
Jordan	0
Kuwait	0
Lebanon	1
Libya	0
Mauritania	0
Morocco	0
Oman	0
Palestine	3
Qatar	0
Saudi Arabia	0
Sudan	0
Syria	2
Tunisia	0
United Arab Emirates	0
Yemen	0

Figure 1: Map coverage by year



2 Palestine

2.1 Palestine administrative boundaries 1843



- ISO Topic Category: Boundaries.
- Georeferenced map title: "Palestine with the Huran and the Adjacent Districts"
- Georeferenced map author/creator: W. Hughes
- Year: 1843
- Language: English
- The original raster file can be accessed here https://www.loc.gov/item/2014592610/
- Total Number of shapefiles: 1
- Categories: Ottoman administrative divisions in Palestine and the Hauran region

Notes:

- Some eastern, northern and southern borders are arbitrary and show the extent of the raster file.

2.2 Palestine administrative boundaries 1896

- ISO Topic Category: Boundaries.
- Georeferenced map title: "Syrie, Liban et Palestine. Géographie administrative, statistique, descriptive et raisonnée"
- Georeferenced map author/creator: Cuinet, Vital
- Year: 1896
- Language: French
- The original raster file can be accessed here https://britishlibrary.oldmapsonline.org/maps/32c07b88-9588-5911-ad53-7d1d64e18f89/
- Total Number of shapefiles: 3
- Categories: Vilayet of Syria, Beirut, Province of Lebanon, Mutasarrifate of Jerusalem 1896

Notes:

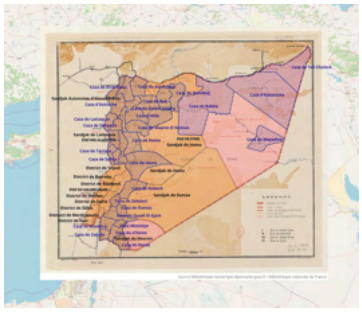
- Eastern borders show the extent of the underlying raster file and are arbitrary.
- Some labels are ambiguous and are left undefined.

2.3 Palestine and Syria geopolitical boundaries Sykes-Picot 1916

- ISO Topic Category: Boundaries.
- Georeferenced map title: "Map to illustrate agreements in regard to Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, etc.: including the Sykes-Picot arrangement of 1916 in regard to Syria and Palestine."
- Georeferenced map author/creator: Great Britain, Foreign Office, Research Department
- Year: 1916
- Language: English
- The original raster file can be accessed here https://www.loc.gov/resource/g7421s.ct011955/
- Total Number of shapefiles: 10
- Categories: Russian, Italian, French, and British Spheres of Influence; International Sphere and Frontiers; Independent Arab States within French and British Spheres; Boundary of Mandate Palestine

3 Syria

3.1 Syria and Lebanon administrative boundaries 1926



- ISO Topic Category: Boundaries.
- Georeferenced map title: [Carte de Syrie et du Liban 1926] / B.T [Bureau Topographique] de l'A.F.L. [Armée française du Levant]
- Georeferenced map author/creator: France, Bureau Topographique de l'Armée Française du Levant.
- Year: 1926
- Language: French
- The original raster file can be accessed here https://bibliotheque-numerique.diplomatie.gouv.fr/ark:/12148/btv1b530794129?rk=42918;4
- Total Number of shapefiles: 4
- Categories: Kaza Boundaries, Sandjak and District Boundaries, State Borders, Western Limit of the Nomadic Zone