



Christianity in the Middle East

A Demographic Perspective

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Costas Consultation

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The Middle East



Bahrain

Cyprus

Egypt

Iran

Iraq

Israel

Jordan

Kuwait

Lebanon

Oman

Palestine

Qatar

Saudi Arabia

Syria

Turkey

United Arab Emirates

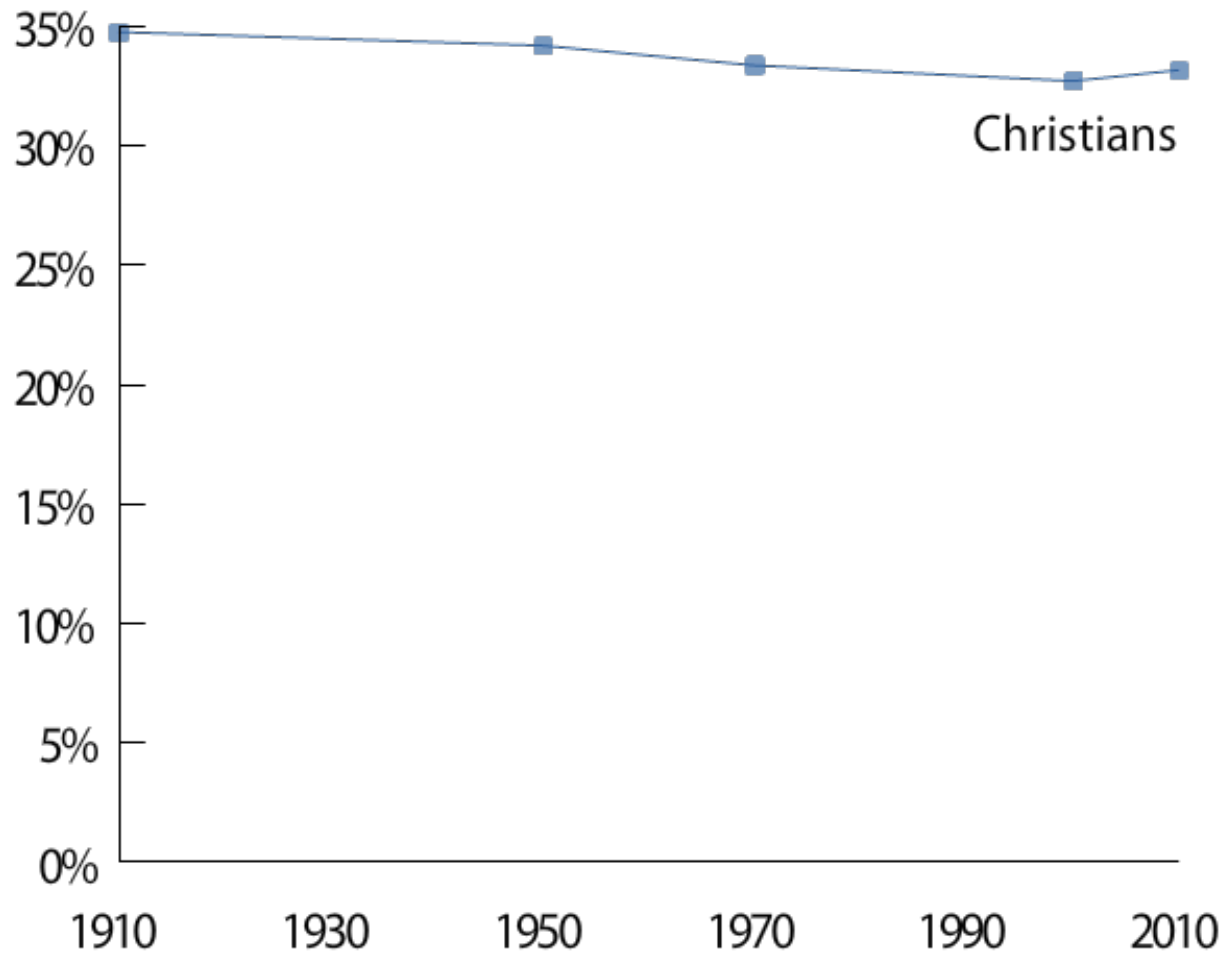
Yemen

1500–1900: The Middle East was approximately 15% Christian

2010: The Middle East was 4.2% Christian

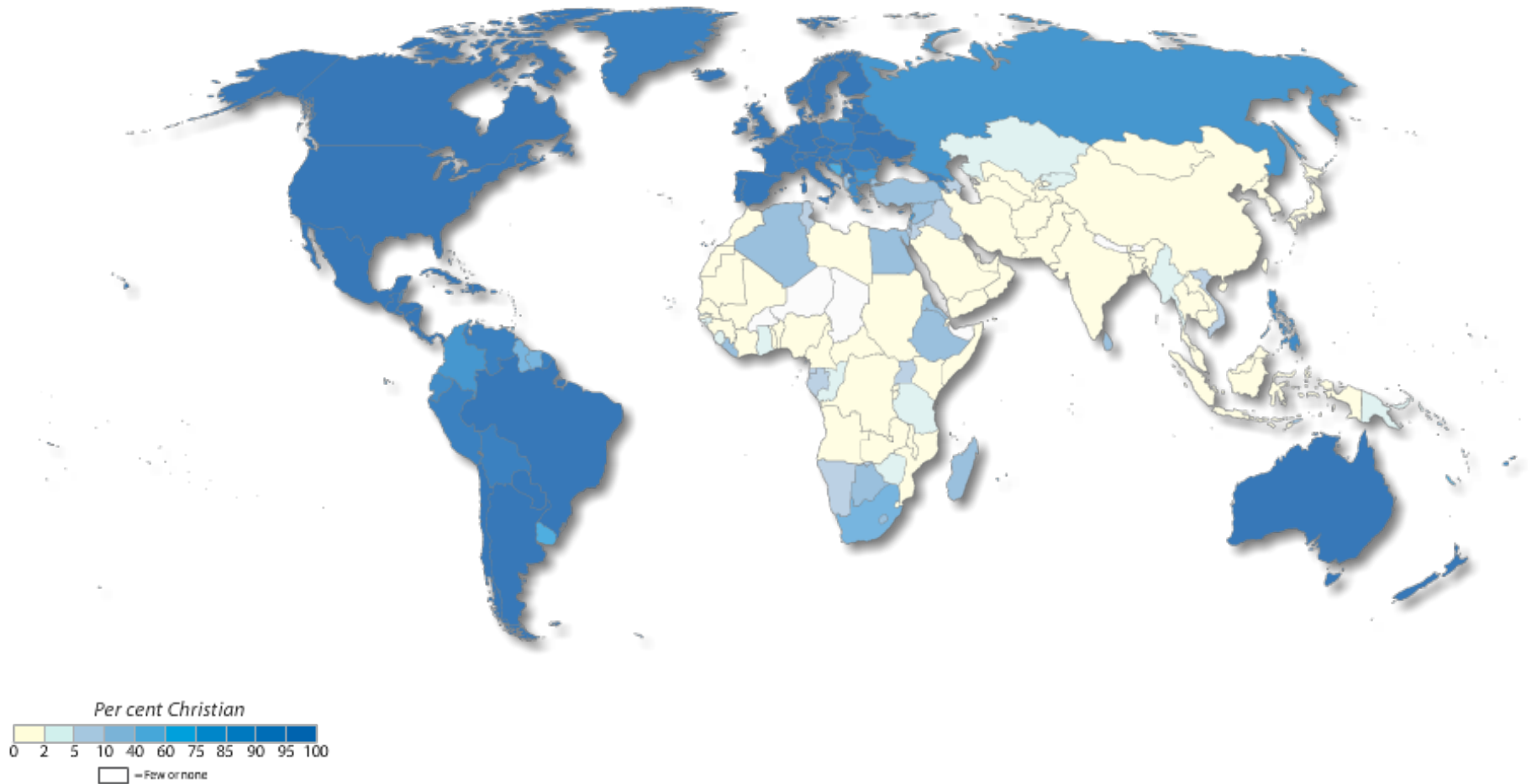
Christianity 1910–2010

Christians around 1/3 of the world's population



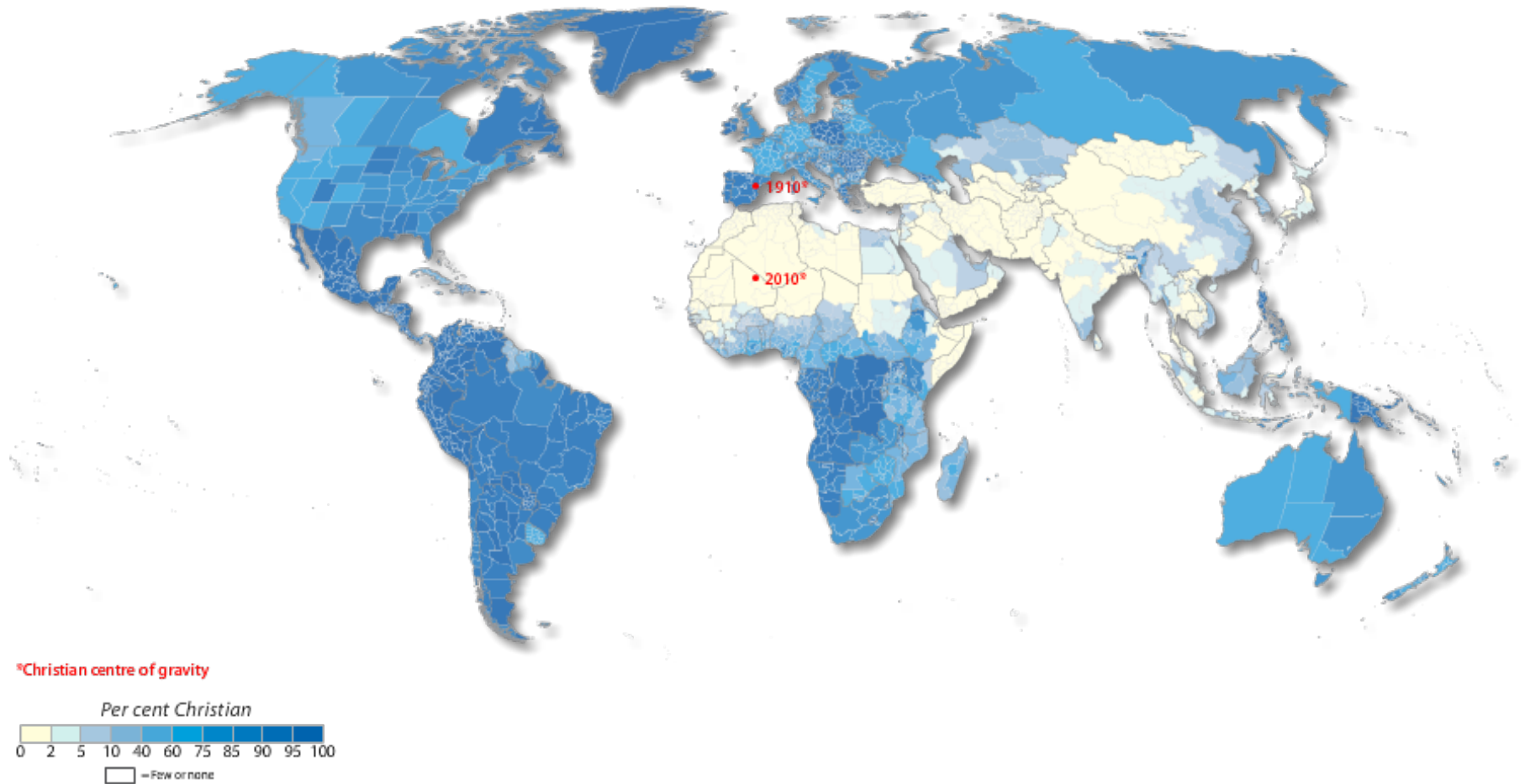
Global Christianity: 1910

80% of all Christians lived in the global North



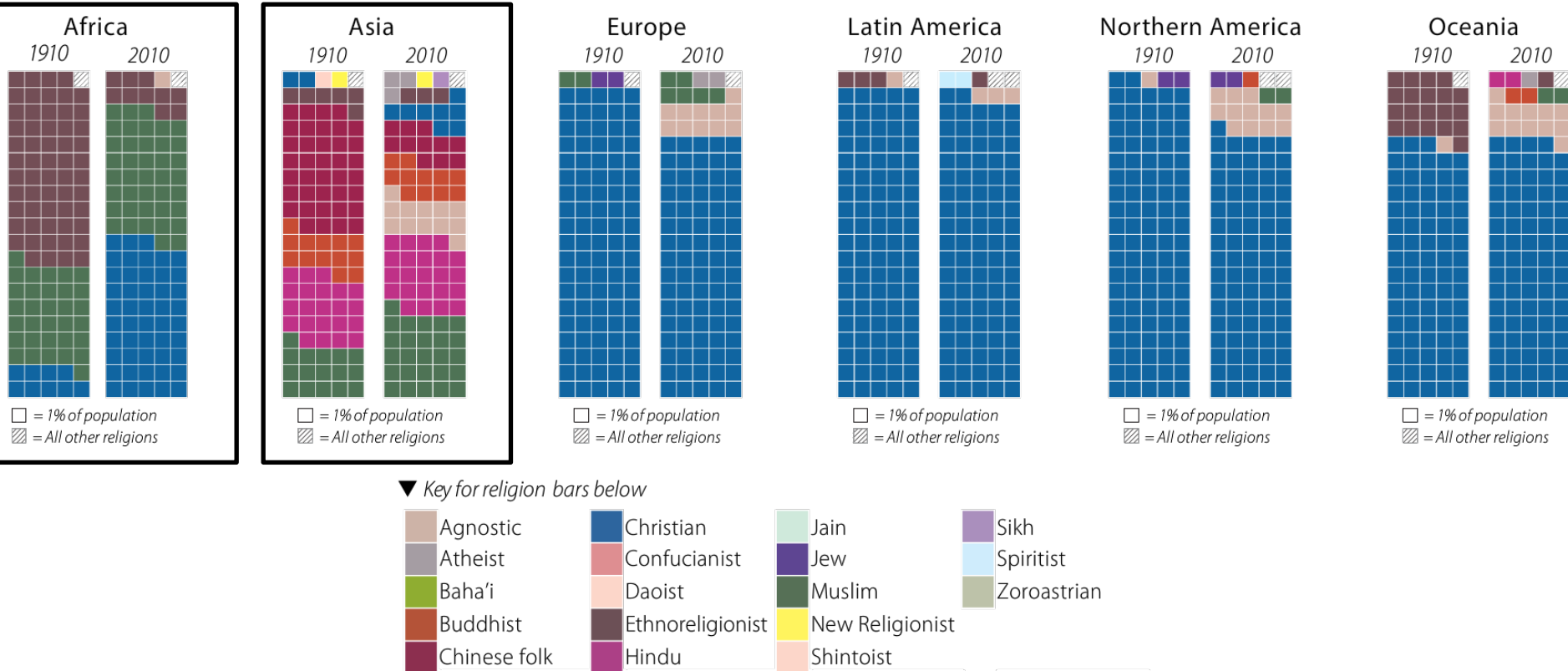
Global Christianity: 2010

40% of all Christians live in the global North

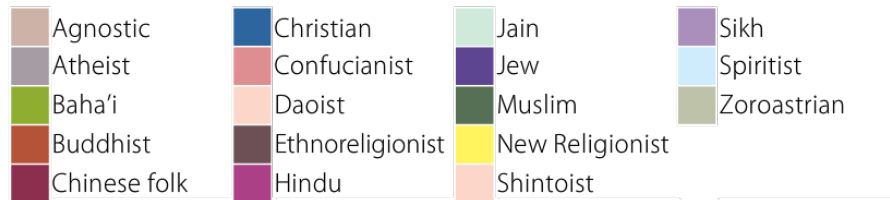


World Religions: 1910 & 2010

Religions by continent, 1910 & 2010



▼ Key for religion bars below



Christian Traditions: 1910 & 2010

Percentage of all Christians worldwide

Roman Catholics

1910: 47.6%

2010: 51.6%



Orthodox

1910: 7.1%

2010: 4.0%



Protestant

1910: 24.4%

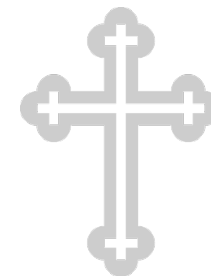
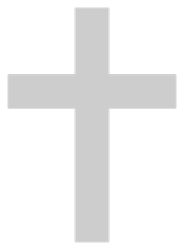
2010: 22.2%



Independent

1910: 1.7%

2010: 16.6%





Middle Eastern Christianity: A Story of Migration

1910
13.6% Christian




2010
4.2% Christian



2025
3.6% Christian



Middle Eastern Christianity: Emigration



Country	C 1910	%	C 1970	%	C 2010	%	C 2025	%
Bahrain	220	0.3%	8,200	3.9%	163,000	13.0%	211,000	13.4%
Cyprus	214,000	77.9%	469,000	76.4%	793,000	71.8%	905,000	71.5%
Egypt	2,263,000	18.7%	5,778,000	15.9%	7,876,000	10.1%	8,208,000	8.5%
Iran	130,000	1.2%	268,000	0.9%	272,000	0.4%	317,000	0.4%
Iraq	171,000	6.3%	369,000	3.7%	448,000	1.4%	295,000	0.6%
Israel	38,000	8.0%	79,000	2.8%	180,000	2.4%	160,000	1.8%
Jordan	16,600	5.8%	83,400	5.0%	172,000	2.7%	163,000	1.9%
Kuwait	240	0.3%	38,600	5.1%	264,000	8.8%	362,000	8.2%
Lebanon	408,000	77.5%	1,436,000	62.5%	1,487,000	34.3%	1,534,000	30.4%
Oman	20	0.0%	3,900	0.5%	121,000	4.3%	188,000	3.9%
Palestine	39,600	11.6%	53,200	4.7%	74,600	1.9%	60,600	1.0%
Qatar	75	0.4%	4,900	4.4%	168,000	9.6%	224,000	8.4%
Saudi Arabia	50	0.0%	18,300	0.3%	1,193,000	4.4%	1,525,000	4.5%
Syria	314,000	15.6%	617,000	9.7%	1,119,000	5.2%	758,000	2.7%
Turkey	3,354,000	21.7%	290,000	0.8%	194,000	0.3%	165,000	0.2%
UAE	80	0.1%	13,600	5.9%	1,061,000	12.6%	1,449,000	12.6%
Yemen	5,000	0.2%	1,700	0.0%	39,200	0.2%	54,800	0.2%

Data source: Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, eds., World Religion Database (Leiden/Boston: Brill, accessed February 2014).

Middle Eastern Christianity: Immigration

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Middle Eastern Christianity: 1910



Middle Eastern Christianity: 2010



Middle Eastern Christianity: Traditions

Three main communities of Christians in the Middle East

1. Historic churches (Orthodox & Roman Catholic)
2. Modern missionary churches (Protestant & Independent)
3. Newer immigrant churches

Tradition	Pop. 1910	% of pop.	Pop. 1970	% of pop.	Pop. 2010	% of pop.	Pop. 2025	% of pop.
Orthodox	6,048,000	11.8%	7,312,000	5.3%	10,072,000	2.7%	10,020,000	2.2%
Roman Catholics	751,000	1.5%	1,767,000	1.3%	4,888,000	1.3%	5,659,000	1.2%
Protestants	134,000	0.2%	292,000	0.2%	811,000	0.2%	993,000	0.2%
Independents	2,400	0.0%	99,600	0.1%	472,000	0.1%	631,000	0.1%

Things to consider

- More Christians worldwide live in Africa, Asia, and Latin America
- Possibility for renewed interest in the Middle East
- Plight of religious minorities
 - Increases in social hostilities & high governmental restrictions on religion
- Diaspora of Christians from the Middle East
- Interfaith dialogue



Remembering the Middle East

“The entire international community should insist that Christians remain in the Middle East, not simply as minorities, but as citizens enjoying full equality under the law, and therefore in a position to continue to contribute to peace, justice, and stability.”

Patriarch Louis Sako, Iraq

