

The background image is a photograph of an ancient Egyptian rock temple, likely the Temple of Abn-Mehrez in the Valley of the Kings. The temple is carved into a massive sandstone cliff face. It features a prominent facade with a triangular pediment supported by columns, and a larger entrance below with several columns. A small figure of a person stands near the base of the temple, providing a sense of scale. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows and highlights on the rock surfaces.

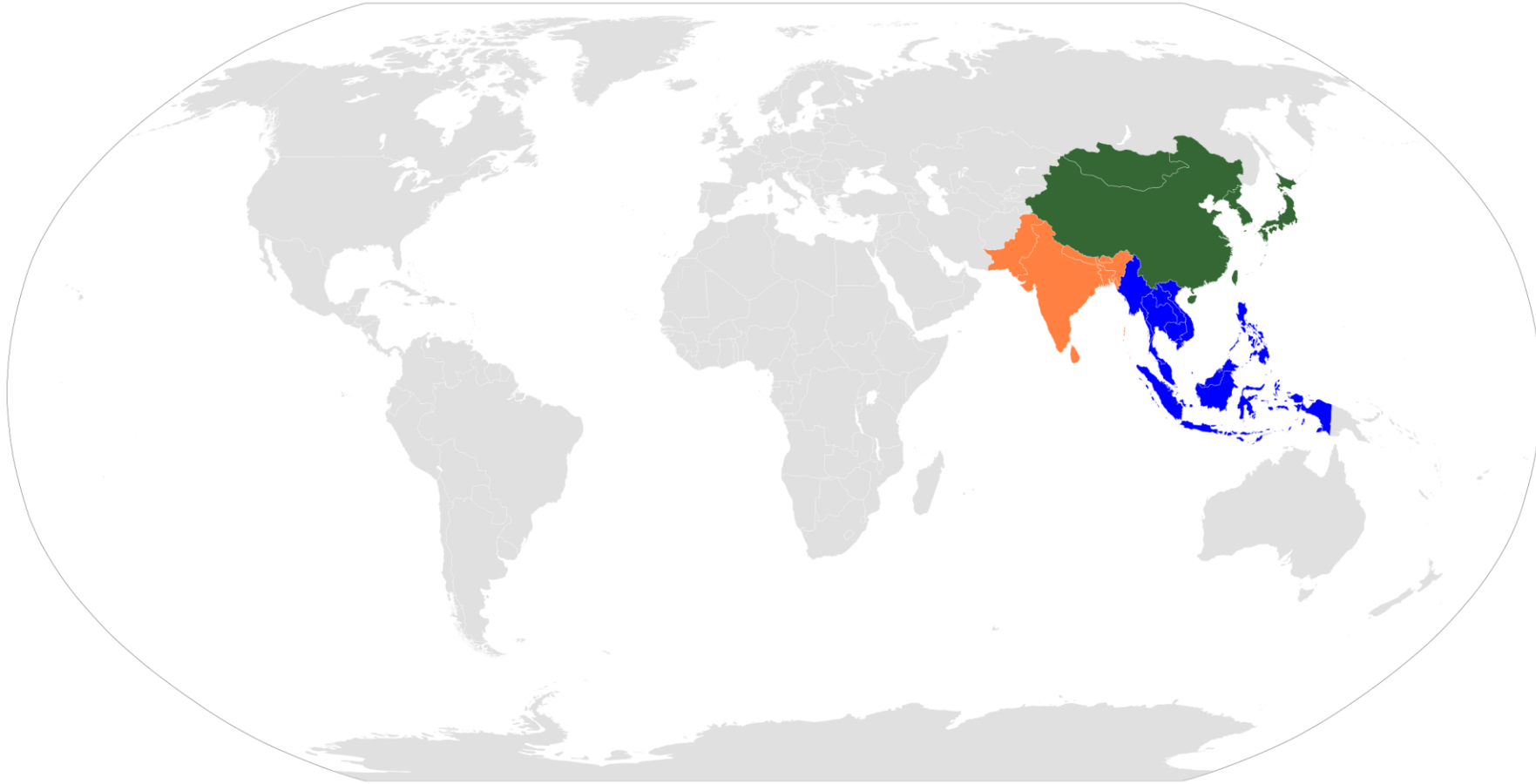
The Making and Unmaking of the Middle East

Setting the Stage

Orientalism: What is that??

Orientalism = Orient [al] + ism

The Orient



*This is the Middle East, but **who are YOU?***



Let's go back to talking about directions...

East, West

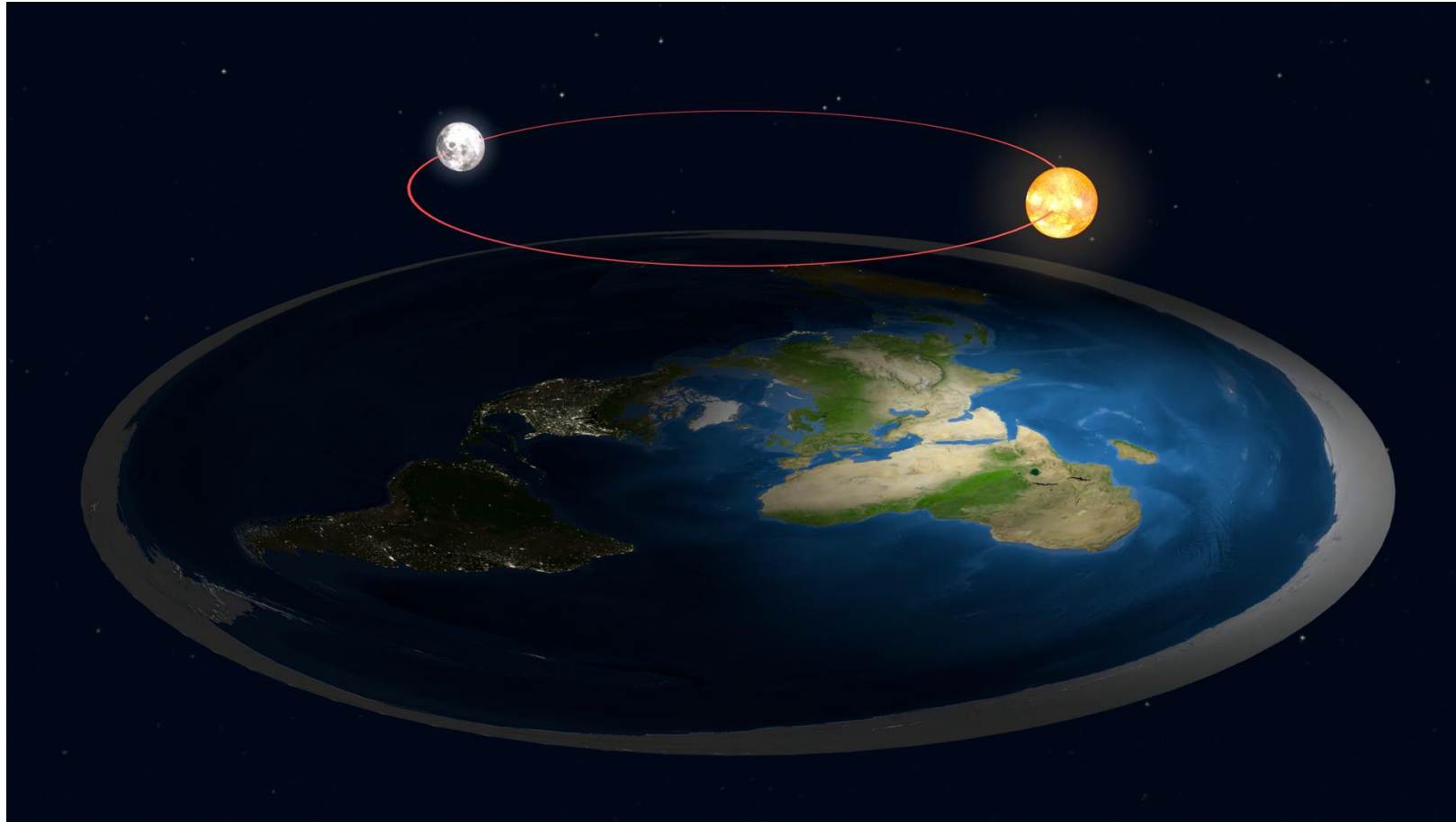
West, East...

What is all that??

This is the Earth...



For life, think of Earth like this though...



Better still...



Zoom into the Middle East



And...What is the Middle East?!



Near

East

Middle

East

Black Sea

Mediterranean

Indian Ocean









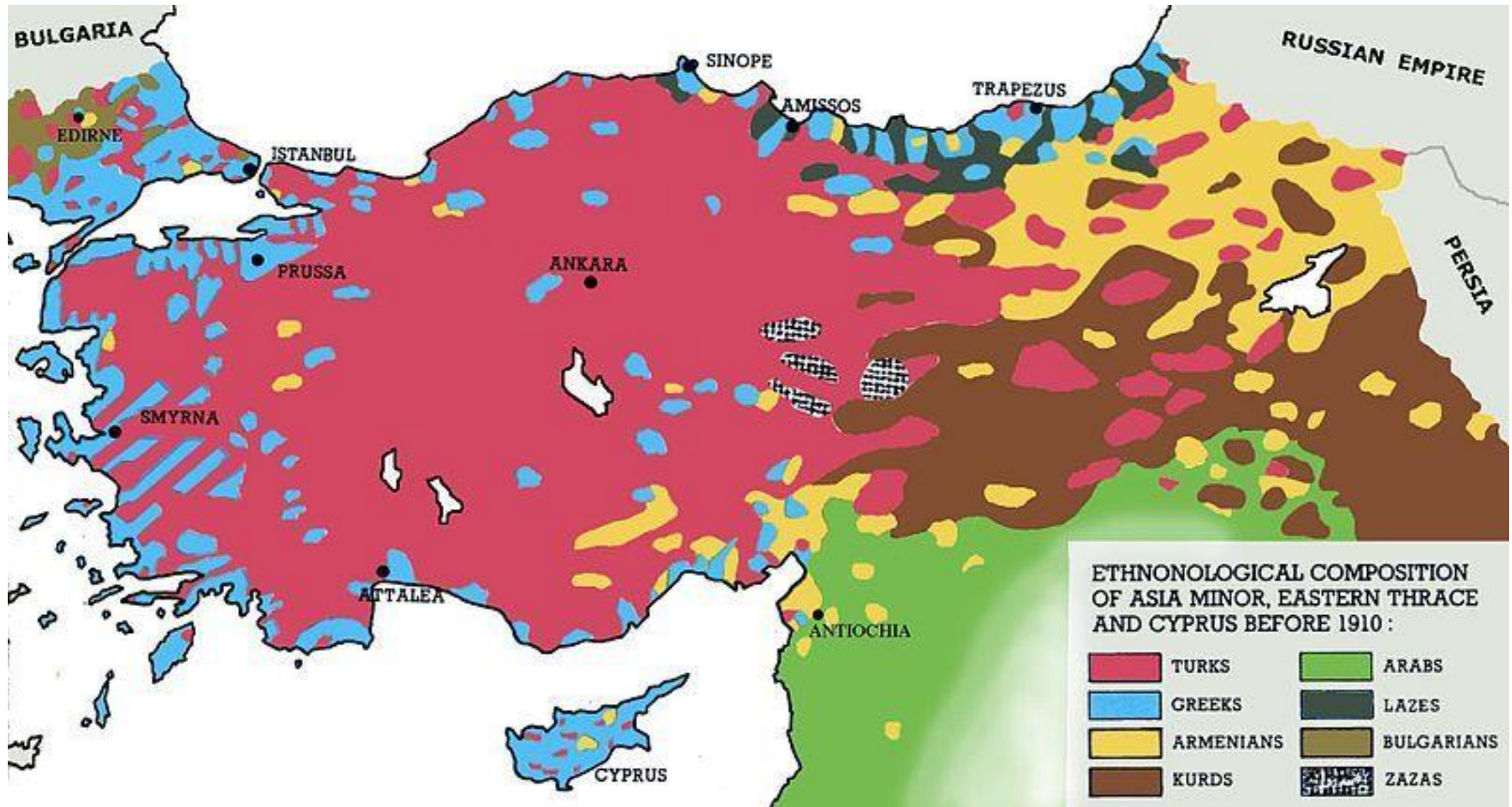
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MAP SHOWING THE THREE "SPHERES" (RUSSIAN, BRITISH AND NEUTRAL) DEFINED IN THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT OF AUGUST 31, 1907.

(It will be noticed that all the principal towns of Persia except Shiraz, Isfahan and Kirman, as well as the most fertile and populous part of the country, are included in the "Russian Sphere." The "British Sphere" consists mostly of desert, and contains only one town of importance, etc. Kirman.)



Ethnic Composition of the Ottoman Empire





Themes of the class

- Orientalism today (our understanding or lack of it!)
- Understanding the Middle East (through history among many)
- Why History? What is History? Politics? It is not memorizing dates!!
- Focus on broad themes not details
- Culture. Middle East does not mean war!!