SW Asia History Conflicts (Wars) Vocabulary terms

1. Al-Qaeda- Terrorist group founded by Osama bin Laden and responsible for the September 11 attacks.
2. Artificial Political Boundaries- Country borders drawn by European colonial rulers who did not respect the ethnic and religious groups.
3. Colonialism- When one country takes political and economic control of another country.
4. Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq War)- A war fought from 2003-2011 mostly by the U.S. and U.K. who were afraid that Saddam Hussein had WMD's (Weapons of Mass Destruction).
5. Oil, Money, and Terrorism- Reasons for US interest in Southwest Asia (Middle East)
6. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)- Controls the price and amount of oil sold in the world market by major oil exporting countries.
7. Osama bin Laden- Founder of al-Qaeda; Arab Muslim terrorist responsible for the 9/11 attacks. Killed by U.S. forces in 2011.
8. Persian Gulf War- War fought from 1990- 1991 by 34 United Nation member countries.
9. Sadaam Hussien- "President" of Iraq from 1979-2003. Defeated by US led invasion in 2003.
10. 9/11 Attacks- Suicide attacks carried out by a militant Muslim group who hijacked passenger jets and crashed them into the World Trade Center and Pentagon. This is the cause of the invasion of Afghanistan.
11. United Nations- Organization founded in 1945 to promote worldwide peace.
12. Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD’s)- Chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons that can kill thousands.
13. Taliban- A group of fundamentalist Muslims who controlled the government of Afghanistan; provided a safe haven for Osama bin Laden, after the 9/11 attacks.
14. Invasion of Afghanistan- The United States invaded Afghanistan after 9/11 attacks; in search of Osama bin Laden.
15. Slant Drilling- Is a non-vertical form of well drilling typically used in natural gas and oil production.