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After the first World War, the territories of the Middle East, which, at that point, had been a part of the Ottoman Empire for multiple centuries, were divided between Western powers, where new states were created, and the foundations of the Middle Eastern borders that exist today were laid; and after the decolonization that was carried out by said Western powers commenced in the decades following World War II -such as the independence of the Mandate of Syria and Lebanon, the independence of the British-held Trucial states, the independence of South Yemen, the independence of Egypt, Libya, and Algeria and more- and after the creation of the State of Israel, the borders of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region were essentially set in stone. After, a region that was ruled by mainly one state for so long, even before the Ottomans was divided up in a such a way, and when said region holds many valuable resources and points, mainly oil, but also geopolitically important locations such as the Suez, chaos followed. Since the abundance of oil, and the shortcomings of decolonization and independence, military dictatorships, kleptocracies and generally unreliable forms of authoritarian, minority governments were created. Currently, one can still experience the results of this hasty and difficult birth that the modern Middle East had. Many active conflicts are still present, mainly influenced by the Arab Spring of 2011, but older conflicts also exist such as the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, which especially in recent times has again become active, the conflict between pro-Western/democracy forces and the current theocratic regime in Iran and more. (1) These conflicts, due to their nature, result in millions of people being refueged, the destruction of essential infrastructure, and thus, the distruption of access to education. For instance, in Syria, Yemen, Lybia, and Iraq alone, more than 8850 education facilities have been destroyed as a result of these conflicts. In Yemen alone, as a result of the civil war, more than 6 million children aren't able to access education. Combined with Iraq and Syria, the number rises to over 14.3 million. Additionally, the education that is able to be provided is usually low quality, and the skills taught in schools are usually not able to be transferred to real life, resulting in a high unemployment rate. (2&3) The French Republic aims to first and foremost put an end to the conflicts in the region through international organizations such as the UNSC, however, working symptomatically, believes that increasing the quality of education provided in refugee camps, and improving the access to livable, human-conditioned places for the refugees created as a result of these conflicts; and we, the French Republic act as one of the largest emigration and refuge destinations for people living in the MENA region. (4)

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as UNICEF have taken initiative regarding the matter, such as with the MENA Life Skills and Citizenship Education (LSCE) Initiative. The program aims to teach children essential life skills, twelve, specifically, centered around "Learning to Know", "Learning to Be", "Learning to Do", and "Learning to Live Together". The program aims to teach children their rights, teach them to be responsible and active citizens. (5) Other NGOs who along other things, also aim to empower and educate individuals in the MENA region are the Al-Tamayouz Cooperative Society (6) in Jordan, the Educational Forum Association (7) in Gaza City or Tun'Act (8) in Tunisia.

Ultimately, we, the French Republic believe that making the population affected by this issue aware of their rights and liberties to education should be one of the international community's first focuses. Additionally, increasing the quality and access to education from refugee camps, and aiding organizations that provide displaced people with education in countries not their own is a cause we find to be important. Increasing public awareness regarding the recruitment and manipulation of children by means such as religious manipulation by extremist and terrorist groups is a solution we wish to introduce as a country with one of the largest MENA immigrant populations in Europe. Finally, we would like to point out the obvious, which is international cooperation regarding putting an end to the conflicts in the MENA region, especially in organizations like the UNSC, we wish to see unanimity towards the end of war and bloodshed.

Modern nuclear reactors produce energy using the process of nuclear fission, and create a 'chain reaction' as the fission of one atom triggers the fission of 3 more, resulting in a large amount of heat to be created; which can then be used to boil a source of water (or another fluid, however 90% of reactors are water-based), and pass the resultant steam through a turbine, creating electricity. Nuclear reactors are capable of being used for multiple decades, where some have been in use for 80 years at this moment in time. Uranium – more specifically U-235 is used to fuel most reactors, which is quite abundant in the world, being extracted in every continent, most prominently in places such as the United States, Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Australia or Canada – given their size, but uranium is also extracted domestically in France, ensuring our energy security from any foreign threats. (9) Nuclear reactors also produce very little waste compared to something like a conventional coal reactor. Since uranium is significantly more energy-dense (a fuel pellet of uranium around the size of a cube of sugar produces as much energy as a tonne of coal, an atom of U-235 produces around 200 MeV of energy), much less fuel is required to meet the needs of a nation, resulting in an overall lower volume of waste products. (10) Most of this waste is not highly radioactive, and can easily be stored in underground caches, or even partially recycled. (11) Nuclear power is also significantly less polluting to the atmosphere than fossil fuel reactors, being classified as a low-carbon source, and the second largest one at that, being only beat by hydroelectricity. Over the past 50 years, nuclear power has helped avoid 55 Gigatonnes of CO₂ from entering the atmosphere, around 2 years of worth of emissions. Of course, the construction and partial operation of reactors still results in CO₂ emissions, but this is true for all low-carbon energy sources, and considering the amount of energy nuclear can produce, and its low waste production and fuel usage, this can mostly be disregarded – making nuclear energy one of the best low-carbon energy sources currently available. (12) Currently, the countries with the largest amount of nuclear reactors in the world are: the United States with 93, the French Republic with 56, the People's Republic of China with 55, the Russian Federation with 37, Japan with 33, the Republic of Korea with 25, and India with 22. There are 436 nuclear reactors in the world in total. (13) The French Republic, especially after 1974, has been staunchly for energy security among other measures to ensure its independence. Around 70% of our power is produced using nuclear reactors, where 17% is from recycled nuclear fuel – thus, the French Republic is pro-nuclear energy, both as a means to ensure energy security, and to also protect the climate, where per capita CO₂ emissions in our country is among one of the lowest in the European Union (EU). Thus, the French Republic supports all policy proposals aimed to decrease the usage of fossil fuels, in favor of nuclear energy and believes for nuclear power and nuclear waste's potential detriments on the environment to be inconsequential in the face of nuclear's positive sides. (14)

The French Republic follows a set of guidelines regarding its energy productions, which center around the reduction and elimination of fossil fuels as energy sources. According to us, the most “realistic” way of achieving such a thing is through nuclear energy, as renewable sources – barring hydroelectricity, are still very costly, unreliable, and would require an unrealistic amount of sources to be constructed for the energy demands of our nation to be able to met. Especially since nuclear energy provides energy security, its fuel is abundant, and since it produces a very large amount of energy, we prefer it. We have established a “Nuclear Policy Council”, in order to monitor and maintain our nuclear profile more closely. The French Senate has also recently passed a bill that aims to maintain the share of nuclear energy at more than 50% by 2050, and we aim to build more nuclear reactors over the coming years. We highly encourage all nations to first and foremost maintain and update their nuclear energy capabilities, in order to ensure maximum efficiency, and reduce the risk of disaster – one of the largest concerns regarding nuclear energy. We also recommend that energy security be put at the forefront of energy policies, as fossil fuels have become increasingly unreliable, especially after the recent Russian invasion of the Ukraine. We recommend government commissions and contracts regarding the construction of new reactors, and to encourage research into nuclear energy capabilities and new types of reactors – especially ones that use other nuclear fuel sources available on Earth, as to increase energy security and fuel supply (most prominently Thorium breeder reactors). We also recommend elevating the place nuclear has on the free market by giving it certain advantages in order to make it more favorable to energy companies, as fossil fuels are usually still cheaper – environmental subsidies may be a way of doing this. We additionally always support international research, and general cooperation. To conclude, the French Republic, both due to its environmental and energy security benefits, fully supports the transition to nuclear energy for a cleaner future – and recommends that other nations align their policies like so in order to also make such a change.

Resources

1. https://reliefweb.int/attachments/38185dbb-ae66-329d-b10f-9b3f14b9f27d/tackling-the-mena-region_0.pdf
2. <https://www.unicef.org/mena/press-releases/number-children-facing-education-disruption-yemen-could-rise-6-million-unicef-warns>
3. <https://www.unicef.org/mena/education>
4. <https://gulfnews.com/world/mena/france-pushes-for-un-security-council-resolution-on-middle-east-conflict-1.1621376394400>
5. <https://www.unicef.org/mena/life-skills-and-citizenship-education>
6. <http://www.altamayouz.org/>
7. <http://www.multka.ps/>
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9. <https://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Publications/PDF/Pub1800.pdf>
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12. <https://www.iea.org/reports/nuclear-power-in-a-clean-energy-system>
13. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/267158/number-of-nuclear-reactors-in-operation-by-country/>
14. <https://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-a-f/france.aspx>