**Was 1973 a turning point for economic power in the Middle East?**

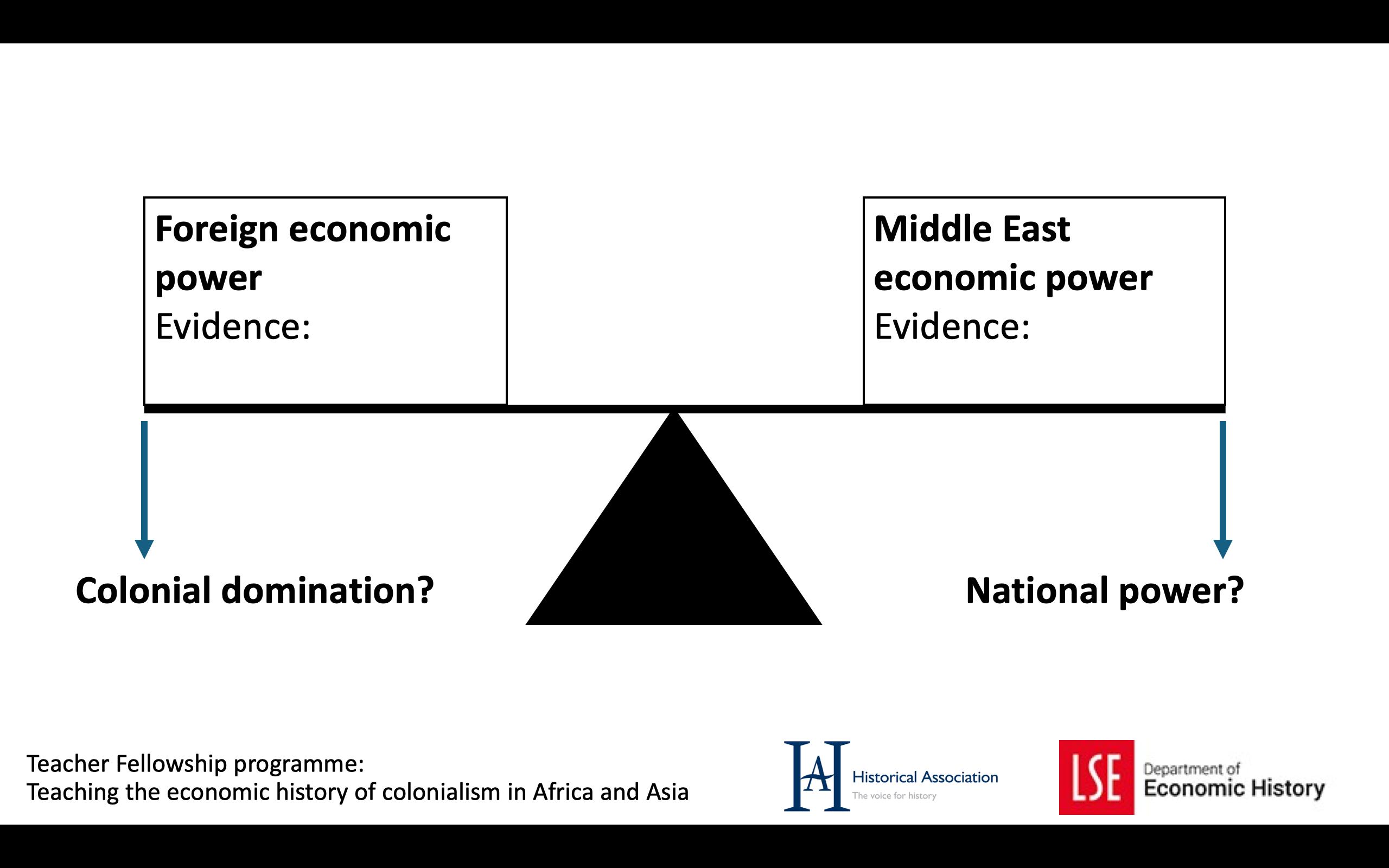
**Map of the Middle East:**



**Timeline:**

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| **Date** | **Event** |
| 1908–14 | Oil discovered in Persia by a British businessman – the first major oil discovery in the Middle East. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company was created and taken under British government majority ownership. |
| 1920–22 | Britain drew the borders of Iraq as part of the League of Nations mandate system, with the aim of securing oil supplies. |
| 1928 | Under the Red Line Agreement, major British, American and French oil companies agreed to work together to control the oil industry across the Middle East. |
| 1951–54 | Iran nationalised its oil industry, leading to a crisis for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, which ended when the British and American governments coordinated the overthrow of Iranian Prime Minister Mossadegh and the return of the Shah. |
| 1960 | The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded to campaign for the increased power of oil-producing countries (mostly from the Middle East). |
| 1973–74 | War between Israel, Egypt and Syria led to an oil embargo by Arab oil-producing countries, targeting allies of Israel, including the USA. During this crisis, OPEC took control of setting the price of oil. |
| 1975–76 | The nationalisation of the oil industry in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. |
| 1979 | The Iranian Revolution led to the complete expulsion of Americans from Iran’s oil industry. |
| 1980s | The discovery of new sources of oil worldwide (e.g. in the North Sea) contributed to a decline in oil prices and a less dominant position for Middle Eastern oil. |
| 1990–91 | In the Gulf War, a 42-country coalition, led by the United States, forced Iraq, led by Saddam Hussein, to stop its invasion of Kuwait. |
| 2003–11 | The USA and Britain invaded Iraq without international support to take down Saddam Hussein. |

**The changing balance of economic power in the Middle East**

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| **Lesson/**  **time period** | **Balance of economic power** | | |
| **Evidence of foreign economic power** | **Evidence of Middle East economic power** | **Your judgement on the balance of power** |
| **Lesson 1**  **1900–50** |  |  |  |
| **Lesson 2**  **1950–73** |  |  |  |
| **Lesson 3**  **1973** |  |  |  |
| **Lesson 4**  **1973–79** |  |  |  |
| **Lesson 5**  **1979–2000s** |  |  |  |