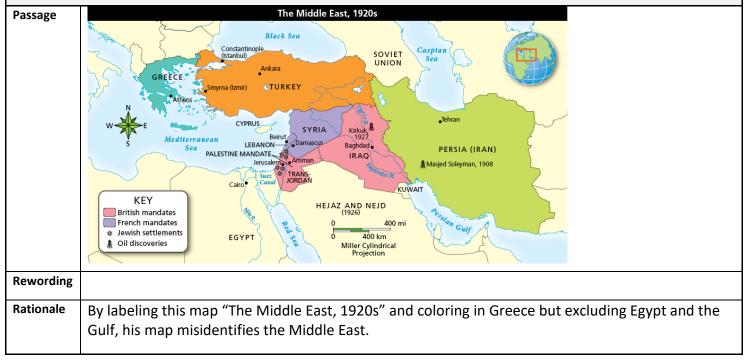
•	Topic : 9: The World Between the Wars (1910-1939) Lesson: 2: Nationalist Movements in Africa and the Middle East – Subsection: Nationalism and Conflict in the Middle East Page: 434	
Passage	"The Pan-Arab movement however, faced obstacles. Arabs generally were not united. They tended to identify with their particular tribe, sect, religion, or region rather than with a single, unified nation-state.	
Rewording	"The Pan-Arab movement however, faced obstacles. Arabs tended to identify with their particular tribe, sect, religion, or region rather than with a single, Arab identity.	
Rationale	The statement "Arabs generally were not united" does not explain why this unification was difficult, but rather, makes a blanket statement that ignores other connections between Arabs, such as their shared experiences under colonial rule. The idea of Pan-Arabism depended on the existence of nation-states, which was introduced to the region after WWI by European influence (see William L. Cleveland's A History of the Modern Middle East).	

Topic: 9: The World Between the Wars (1910-1939) | | Lesson: 2: Nationalist Movements in Africa and the Middle East – Subsection: Nationalism and Conflict in the Middle East | Page: 434



•	Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 3: The Modern Middle East Takes Shape – Subsection: The Challenges of Diversity Page : 435	
Passage	"Arabs attacked Jewish communities, hoping to discourage Jewish immigration. To protect themselves, the Jewish settlers established their own military defense force."	
Rewording	"A minority of both Arabs and Jewish settlers attacked one another, hoping to advance their claims to the land. In 1920, Jewish settlers established their own military defense force, the Haganah."	

Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 3: The Modern Middle East Takes Shape – Subsection: The Challenges of Diversity Page : 435	
Rationale	1) The current language does not acknowledge the violence waged by Jewish settlers, led by paramilitary militias such as the Irgun and Lehi. Instead, the current language positions Arabs as the aggressors and Jews as the victims who only acted in self-defense, which is historically inaccurate and biased (see Ian S. Lustick's "Changing Rationales for Political Violence in the Arab-Israeli Conflict").
	2) By adding "a minority," this rewording emphasizes that only a modest number of Arabs and Jews engaged in violence.

Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 3: The Modern Middle East Takes Shape – Subsection: The Challenges of Diversity Page : 434	
Passage	"Britain and France were given mandates over large parts of the Middle East."
Rewording	"Britain and France took mandates over large parts of the Middle East."
Rationale	The current language presents Britain and France as passive receivers of the mandates, but rather, these two powers struck a deal (under the 1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement) to divide modern day Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan amongst themselves. Therefore, the language should reflect this active role played by the British and French in the formation of the mandate system.

Topic : 12	Lesson: 3 Page: 539 Paragraph: Line:
Passage	Hopes rose for an easing of tensions between Iran and the West. At home, however, Rouhani faced an economy hurt by years of economic sanctions and deep political divisions between hardliners and reformists.
Rewording	
Rationale	Mention negotiations that led to Iran agreeing to limit its nuclear program in exchange for reduced economic sanctions; and Trump's withdrawal from JPCOA in 2018.

Topic : 12	Lesson: 3 Page: 539 Paragraph: Line:
Passage	Although the military intervened in the past, today Turkey is a multiparty democracy with a market economy. Clashes erupted in 2013, however, that pitted the moderate Islamist government against protesters who opposed the growing authoritarianism of the government. The clashes reflected a divide between supporters of the older secularist ideology of Ataturk and those supporting the more Islamist-oriented policies of the government.
Rewording	
Rationale	Failed coup attempt in 2016, followed by harsh crackdown by PM Erdogan, then change of constitution to create strong presidency, to which he was elected in 2018.

Topic: 12 Lesson: 4 Page:546 Paragraph: Line:		
Passage	Syria invaded Lebanon and Syrian troops remained for 29 years	
Rewording		
Rationale	Misleading. Syrian troops intervened in 1975 at the request of the Lebanese government, and with US acquiescence, and initially took action against the PLO.	
Topic : 12	Lesson: 4 Page: 545 Paragraph: Line:	
Passage	Hamas was funded by Iran and rejected Israel's right to exist. It was ready to use violence to achieve its aims.	
Rewording		
Rationale	Worth mentioning that Hamas won a relatively free election in 2006?	
Topic : 12	Lesson: 4 Page: 545 Paragraph: Line:	
Passage	From Gaza, Hamas launched frequent rocket attacks on Israel. The Israeli military responded with air strikes and several invasions.	
Rewording		
Rationale	Once again, the text implies parity. In fact, Israeli attacks on Gaza were massive, resulting in thousands of casualties; Hamas attacks on Israel resulted in many fewer casualties.	
Topic : 12	Lesson: 4 Page: 546 Paragraph: Line:	
Passage	Bashir al Asad	
Rewording	His name is Bashar al-Asad	
Rationale		
Topic : 12	Lesson: 4 Page: 546 Paragraph: Line:	
Passage	The Assads opposed peace with Israel	
Rewording		
Rationale	Misleading. Both Asads negotiated with Israel and on at least two occasions came close to reaching agreement on the core issues.	

Topic: 12 | Lesson: 4 | Page: 545..... | Paragraph: | Line:

Passage

Rewording

They and their descendants want the "right of return," or the right to resettle on their land in Israel

Topic : 12	Lesson: 4 Page: 545 Paragraph: Line:
Rationale	Or to receive compensation for their lost properties, as called for in UN resolutions after the first Arab-Israeli war.

Topic : 12	Lesson: 4 Page: 545 Paragraph: Line:
Passage	Israel gained control in 1967 and later added it to the capital of Israel, reuniting the city of Jerusalem
Rewording	
Rationale	This is an awkward sentence. More accurate to say that Israel conquered east Jerusalem and surrounding Jordanian territory; expanded the municipal boundaries of Jerusalem to include the Jordanian municipality and additional Jordanian-controlled territories; and declared that the united and expanded Jerusalem was Israel's eternal and indivisible capital. Most countries did not recognize Israel's claim, until the administration of President Trump did so in 2018.

Topic : 12	Topic: 12 Lesson: 4 Page: 545 Paragraph: Line:	
Passage	A third stumbling block is the issue of Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem and the West Bank, areas claimed by Palestinians.	
Rewording		
Rationale	Mention the number of settlers. As of 2018, settlers in the West bank and east Jerusalem number over 500,000.	

Topic: 12 Lesson: 4 Page: 545 Paragraph: Line:	
Passage	To achieve this, peacemakers drew up the "road map" to peace, calling for an end to violence and terrorism
Rewording	
Rationale	And an end to Israeli settlement activity.

Topic : 12	Lesson: 4 Page: 545 Paragraph: Line:
Passage	The most recent peace talks opened in the aftermath of the "Arab Spring." The uprisings did little to improve the outlook for peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Islamists won power in some elections, while turmoil engulfed Egypt and Syria.
Rewording	
Rationale	This implies that the problem in making peace is that radical Islamists have successfully opposed it. But the real problem is that the Israeli government and the mainstream PLO have not been able to come to terms. That has little to do with the opposition from radical Islamists.

-	
Topic : 12	Lesson: 3 Page: 539 Paragraph: Line:
Passage	He led two unsuccessful wars against Israel. Egypt relied on Soviet aid during the Cold War.
Rewording	
Rationale	More accurate to say that during Nasser's presidency he was embroiled in two wars with Israel, in 1956, when Israel attacked in coordination with Britain and France, and in 1967. The latter war in particular was costly for Egypt, as well as Syria and Jordan, all of whom lost land to Israeli occupation. The United Nations in November 1967 adopted Resolution 242 that called for the Arabs to make peace with Israel and to recognize its right to exist, and for Israel, in exchange, to return territories occupied in the 1967 war.
Topic : 12	Lesson: 3 Page: 539 Paragraph: Line: Line:
Passage	In 1979, Nasser's successor, Anwar Sadat, reduced ties with the Soviet Union and sought aid from the United States
Rewording	
Rationale	Misleading. After leading a surprise attack on Israel in 1973, Sadat turned to the US to find a diplomatic settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He also reduced his dependence on the Soviet Union. The result, in 1978, was a summit meeting with Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and Sadat, with president Carter at Camp David
Topic : 12	Lesson: 3 Page: 538 Paragraph: Line:
Passage	fled their homes in Israeli territory
Rewording	fled or were driven from their homes in territory controlled by Israeli forces.
Rationale	
Topic : 12	Lesson:4 Page: 547 Paragraph: Line:
Passage	disputed border region.
Rewording	oil-rich border region
Rationale	
Topic : 12	Lesson: 4 Page: 547 Paragraph: Line:
Passage	The Rise of ISIL
Rewording	
Rationale	Almost no one uses the acronym ISIL either ISIS or Islamic State.

Topic : 12	Topic: 12 Lesson: 4 Page: 546 Paragraph: Line:	
Passage	Assad's continued grip on power.	
Rewording		
Rationale	In 2015-2016, Russia had a major commitment to keeping the Asad government in power, and their military intervention helped to turn the tide against the fractured opposition. Probably also worth mentioning: the growth of Islamic state-ISIS in Iraq and Syria and the response to that, which placed US on the same side as Russia and Asad government. Current text simplifies all this at considerable cost to accuracy.	

-	Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 3: The Modern Middle East Takes Shape – Subsection: The Founding of Israel Page : 600	
Passage	"In the Balfour Declaration, Britain had supported a Jewish national home in part of the Palestine mandate, while Arabs in the region demanded self-rule."	
Rewording	"The British made two sets of promises which fueled this tension: in the Balfour Declaration they supported a Jewish national home in part of the Palestine mandate, while under the Hussein-McMahon Correspondence they promised Arabs the prospect of self-rule."	
Rationale	The revised language better acknowledges Britain's role in contributing to tensions through two contradictory promises to Jewish settlers and Arabs (https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2017/02/19/the-middle-east-contradictory-promises-that-led-century-conflict/tJZ7Rk1GMwJR3PELFdmRAM/story.html).	

-	Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 3: The Modern Middle East Takes Shape – Subsection: The Founding of Israel Page : 601	
Passage	"Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs fled their homes in Israeli territory. The UN housed them in temporary camps in nearby countries, where they remained for decades. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees expelled from Arab lands fled to Israel."	
Rewording	"Hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs fled or were forcibly expelled from their homes in Israeli territory. The UN housed them in temporary camps in nearby countries, where many still remain today. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees expelled from Arab lands fled to Israel."	
Rationale	 The difference in language between "fled" and "expelled" carries an implicit meaning that assigns agency and choice to leave to the Palestinians and victimhood to the Jews. These polarized words garner sympathy and support for the Jews who were expelled without acknowledging that many Palestinians were forcibly expelled from Israel (Ilan Pappe's <i>The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine</i>). By replacing "where they remained for decades" to "where many still remain today," this rewrite acknowledges the present significance of these camps and the ongoing struggle of Palestinian refugees. 	

-	Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 3: The Modern Middle East Takes Shape – Subsection: The Founding of Israel Page : 601	
Passage	"In 1950, Israel passed a law called the right of return, granting every Jew the right to live in Israel and become an Israeli citizen. This was a response to the Holocaust when countries closed their doors to Jews fleeing the Nazis. This law established Israel as a safe haven for the Jewish people. Jews from around the world migrated to Israel. They joined native Israelis who had struggled to win independence."	
Rewording	"In 1950, Israel passed a law called the right of return, granting every Jew the right to live in Israel and become an Israeli citizen. This was a response to the Holocaust when countries closed their doors to Jews fleeing the Nazis. This law established Israel as a safe haven for the Jewish people. Jews from around the world migrated to Israel. They joined native Israelis who had struggled to win independence. Many Palestinian refugees would also like to exercise the right of return to their land."	
Rationale	I only suggest adding a sentence to acknowledge Palestinian refugees' demands for the "right of return" in order to create a balanced and multi-perspective account of the ongoing conflict.	

_	New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson: 3: The Modern Middle East Takes Shape – Subsection: the Modern World Page: 605
Passage	"Although many governments cracked down on radical Islamic fundamentalists, these groups survived. In 1979, Islamic fundamentalists welcomed Iran's revolution. Iran became the first modern nation to topple a secular government and replace it with a government based on Sharia."
Rewording	
Rationale	1) The textbook should consider replacing the word fundamentalism with a more specific term. What do the authors mean by fundamentalism? People who practice Islam? Those who display outward signs of piety in dress, beards, etc? Salafis? Those who believe there should be a role for Islamic values and principles in governance and civic life?
	2) The term fundamentalism as it is used in these two sentences is problematic. The term fundamentalism here works as a pejorative that is paired with "Islam" in both radical Islamic fundamentalists and Islamic fundamentalists. This feeds into the idea that Islam is an aberration and has no positive or normal iteration as a religion in modern society. The two sentences on Iran should be moved under the previous section titled "Islamic Revival."

Topic: 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson: 4: Conflicts in the Middle East Page: 606	
Passage	"Women's rights movements in the Middle East faced serious challenges, however. While access to education has improved for women, girls are often less likely to attend school than boys because of the tradition that girls do not need a formal education for their expected roles as wives and mothers."

Topic: 12:	Topic: 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson: 4: Conflicts in the Middle East Page: 606	
Rewording	"Women's rights movements in the Middle East faced serious challenges, however. While access to education has improved for women, girls are often less likely to attend school than boys because of their expected roles as wives and mothers. However, these expected roles are quickly changing in the Middle East, and in some countries more women attend university than men."	
Rationale	The expected gender roles of women are rapidly changing in the Middle East. In fact, in many Middle Eastern countries more women are enrolled in university than men (http://monitor.icef.com/2014/07/increasing-participation-by-women-in-middle-east-education/)	

-	Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson: Lesson 3: The Modern Middle East Takes Shape – Subsection: Assessment Page: 606	
Passage	3. Identify Cause and Effect. What effect did the Arab rejection of the State of Israel have on today's Palestinians?	
Rewording	3. Identify Cause and Effect. What effect did the conflict between Israel and Palestine have on today's Palestinians?	
Rationale	While Arab states did indeed reject the State of Israel, this assessment question ignores why Arab states held this position and also disregards the various other reasons for ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine. By changing the question to use more neutral language, this assessment ensures that students have a fair and balanced understanding of the conflict.	

Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 4: Conflicts in the Middle East – Subsection: Israel and Palestine Page : 607	
Passage	"Arab nations rejected the UN plan as illegal, even though it offered Palestinians territory for their own state. Instead, they called for the destruction of Israel."
Rewording	"Arab nations rejected the UN plan, because it took land away from Palestinians. Instead, they rejected the state of Israel as illegal."
Rationale	1) The partition plan allotted 55% of the region of Palestine to the Israeli state and only 45% to Arabs even though Arabs owned 94% of the total land area of Palestine in 1947 (Eugene Rogan's <i>The Arabs: A History</i> pgs. 252-3). The current language portrays the Arabs as completely unreasonable in rejecting the 1947 Partition Plan, but the facts presented above show a very understandable reason for turning down the plan.
	2) By not explaining why Arab states rejected the state of Israel, the second sentence paints Arabs as the violent enemy.

Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 4: Conflicts in the Middle East – Subsection: Israel and Palestine Page : 607	
Passage	"Arab rejection of the State of Israel has led to ongoing conflict."
Rewording	REMOVE SENTENCE
Rationale	This sentence only acknowledges one reason for the ongoing conflict. Unless the textbook can also acknowledge the issue of the right of return for Palestinian refugees, disproportionate use of force by the IDF, and the building of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, the textbook should remove this sentence.

-	Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 4: Conflicts in the Middle East – Subsection: Israel and Palestine Page : 607	
Passage	"In these wars, Israel fought for its existence, and in the process of turning back attacking Arab forces gained more land. Between and since these wars, Israel has faced many terrorist attacks within its borders, and ongoing rocket attacks from Gaza and Lebanon."	
Rewording	"In these wars, Israel fought for its existence and even gained more land ruled by neighboring Arab countries. Between and since these wars, Israel has faced many terrorist attacks within its borders, and ongoing rocket attacks from Gaza and Lebanon. Israelis have also carried out terrorist attacks against Arabs, and the Israeli government uses disproportionate force against Palestinians."	
Rationale	 In 1967, Israel preemptively attacked Arab forces and went on the offensive to grab new territory. Therefore, the phrase "and in the process of turning back attacking Arab forces gained more land" is partially inaccurate. The current language used to describe terrorist attacks against Israel is a one-sided version of history that does not acknowledge Israeli state sanctioned violence against Palestinians. A more nuanced and balanced account should acknowledge the use of force by both Arabs and Israelis. 	

Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 4: Conflicts in the Middle East – Subsection: Israel and Palestine Page : 607	
Passage	"In the Six Day War of 1967, in response to ongoing hostility by its Arab neighbors, Israel took control of the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan along with the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt."
Rewording	"In the Six Day War of 1967, in response to ongoing hostility by its Arab neighbors, Israel launched an offensive against these countries and took control of the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan along with the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt."
Rationale	A description should be added to note <i>how</i> Israel took control of these territories.

Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 4: Conflicts in the Middle East – Subsection: Israel and Palestine Page : 608	
Passage	"Led by Yasir Arafat, the PLO called for the destruction of Israel and waged guerrilla war against Israelis at home and abroad."
Rewording	"Led by Yasir Arafat, the PLO initially called for the destruction of Israel and waged guerrilla war against Israelis at home and abroad."
Rationale	4) Yasser Arafat stated in 1988 that the PLO "'accepted the existence of Israel as a state in the region' and 'declared its rejection and condemnation of terrorism in all its forms."" (https://www.nytimes.com/1988/12/08/world/arafat-says-plo-accepted-israel.html)

_	New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson: 4: Conflicts in the Middle East – Subsection: Israel and Page: 608
Passage	"In 1987, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza started to resist Israel with intifadas, or uprisings. Young Palestinians demanded an end to Israeli control and hurled rocks at or fired on Israeli soldiers. Suicide bombers blew up buses, stores, and clubs in Israel. Israel responded by sealing off and raiding Palestinian towns and targeting terrorist leaders. The violence killed many civilians on both sides."
Rewording	"In 1987, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza started to resist Israel through the First Intifada, or uprising. Young Palestinians mostly protested peacefully and demanded an end to Israeli control. However, a few Palestinian suicide bombers blew up targets in Israel. Israel responded by sealing off and raiding Palestinian towns. The violence of both sides during the First Intifada killed 1,376 Palestinian civilians and 94 Israeli civilians."
Rationale	 The current passage emphasizes violence of the first Intifada, but this uprising is known for its nonviolent action (See Erica Chenoweth's and Maria Stephan's "Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict") 1,376 Palestinian civilians were killed by Israeli security forces during the Intifada while only 94 Israeli civilians were killed by Palestinians (https://www.btselem.org/statistics/first_intifada_tables). The current language is deceptive by stating that both sides faced large civilian causalities.

Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 4: Conflicts in the Middle East – Subsection: The Difficult Road to Peace Page : 608	
Passage	"In 1994, Jordan and Israel signed a peace agreement. Talks between Syria and Israel stalled over issues such as the future of the Golan Heights. Israel had taken control of the heights, which Syria had long used to fire on its neighbors."

Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 4: Conflicts in the Middle East – Subsection: The Difficult Road to Peace Page : 608	
Rewording	"In 1994, Jordan and Israel signed a peace agreement. Talks between Syria and Israel stalled over issues such as the future of the Golan Heights. Israel had taken control of the heights, which was a key resource for Syria because of its water, fertile land, and political strategic importance."
Rationale	The Golan Heights is important to Syria for so many more reasons than as a position to "fire on its neighbors." The Golan Heights are a key source of water and fertile land. This territory is also of geo-political importance because of it acts as a border between Syria and Israel (https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14724842)

Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 4: Conflicts in the Middle East – Subsection: The Difficult Road to Peace Page : 609	
Passage	"In 2007, Hamas seized control of Gaza. Israel then imposed a blockade on Gaza, controlling access to the region in order to stop weapons from reaching Hamas."
Rewording	"In 2007, Hamas seized control of Gaza. Israel then imposed a blockade on Gaza to stop weapons from reaching Hamas. This blockade severely worsened the living conditions of Gazans."
Rationale	The passage should also acknowledge the dire impact of the blockade for Gazan citizens. Since 2007, the blockade has "undermined the living conditions in the coastal enclave and fragmented the [Palestinian territories] and [their] economic and social fabric" (https://www.ochaopt.org/theme/gaza-blockade_).

Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : 4: Conflicts in the Middle East – Subsection: Conflict in Lebanon and Syria Page : 610	
Passage	"For decades, Hafez al-Assad and later his son, Bashir al-Assad, ruled the country and its diverse population with an iron hand."
Rewording	"For decades, Hafez al-Assad and later his son, Bashar al-Assad, ruled the country and its diverse population with an iron hand."
Rationale	Bashir is the incorrect first name. His name is Bashar al-Assad.

Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : Lesson 4: Conflicts in the Middle East – Subsection: Warfare in Iraq Page : 612	
Passage	"After Saddam's overthrow, Iraq became a bloody battleground as rival factions fought for power."
Rewording	"After Saddam's overthrow, Iraq became a bloody battleground as rival factions fought for power."
Rationale	The current language absolves the United States of any role in creating this political struggle. A more nuanced account should acknowledge the United States' exacerbation of sectarianism, which contributed to ongoing strife in Iraq. (See Ches Thurber's "From Coexistence to Cleansing: The Rise of Sectarian Violence in Baghdad").

Topic : 12: New Nations Emerge (1945-Present) Lesson : Lesson 4: Conflicts in the Middle East – Subsection: The Difficult Road to Peace Page : 612	
Passage	"The United States launched air strikes to protect various Iraqi minority groups from ISIS atrocities and to destroy weapons and equipment ISIL fighters had seized from the Iraqi army."
Rewording	"The United States launched air strikes to protect various Iraqi minority groups from ISIL atrocities and to destroy weapons and equipment ISIL fighters had seized from the Iraqi army."
Rationale	Up until this sentence, the textbook uses the acronym ISIL, but here switches between ISIS and ISIL. The same acronym should be used through to ensure continuity.

NOTE ON TOPIC 13 LESSON 8: While the text does a great job of including issues of terrorism around the world, there is a disproportionate amount of space dedicated to Middle Eastern and Islamic terrorism. To illustrate this point, less than 1.5% of terrorist attacks in the European Union in 2013 were perpetrated by Islamic groups (https://www.europol.europa.eu/activities-services/main-reports/te-sat-2014-eu-terrorism-situation-and-trend-report).

Furthermore, Lesson 8 does not explain *why* we see a rise of Middle Eastern and Islamic extremism, such as "political grievances with the appeal to religion as a source of identity, ideology, legitimation, and mobilization" (John L. Esposito "Islam and Political Violence").

Topic : 13: The World Today (1980-Present) Lesson: 8: Terrorism and International Security – Subsection: The U.S. Response to Terrorism Page: 676	
Passage	"As part of its "war on terror," the United States made it a priority to find and punish the organizers of the 2001 attacks. Osama bin Laden was based in Afghanistan. The government of Afghanistan, an extreme Islamic fundamentalist group called the Taliban, refused U.S. demands to surrender the terrorists."
Rewording	"As part of its "war on terror," the United States made it a priority to find and punish the organizers of the 2001 attacks. Osama bin Laden was based in Afghanistan. The government of Afghanistan, which was at the time controlled by an extreme Islamic fundamentalist group called the Taliban, refused U.S. demands to surrender the terrorists."
Rationale	The phrase "which was at the time controlled by" should be added to the second sentence to stress that the Taliban is no longer the seat of the Afghanistan government (even though its presence and strength is growing again).