

Europe

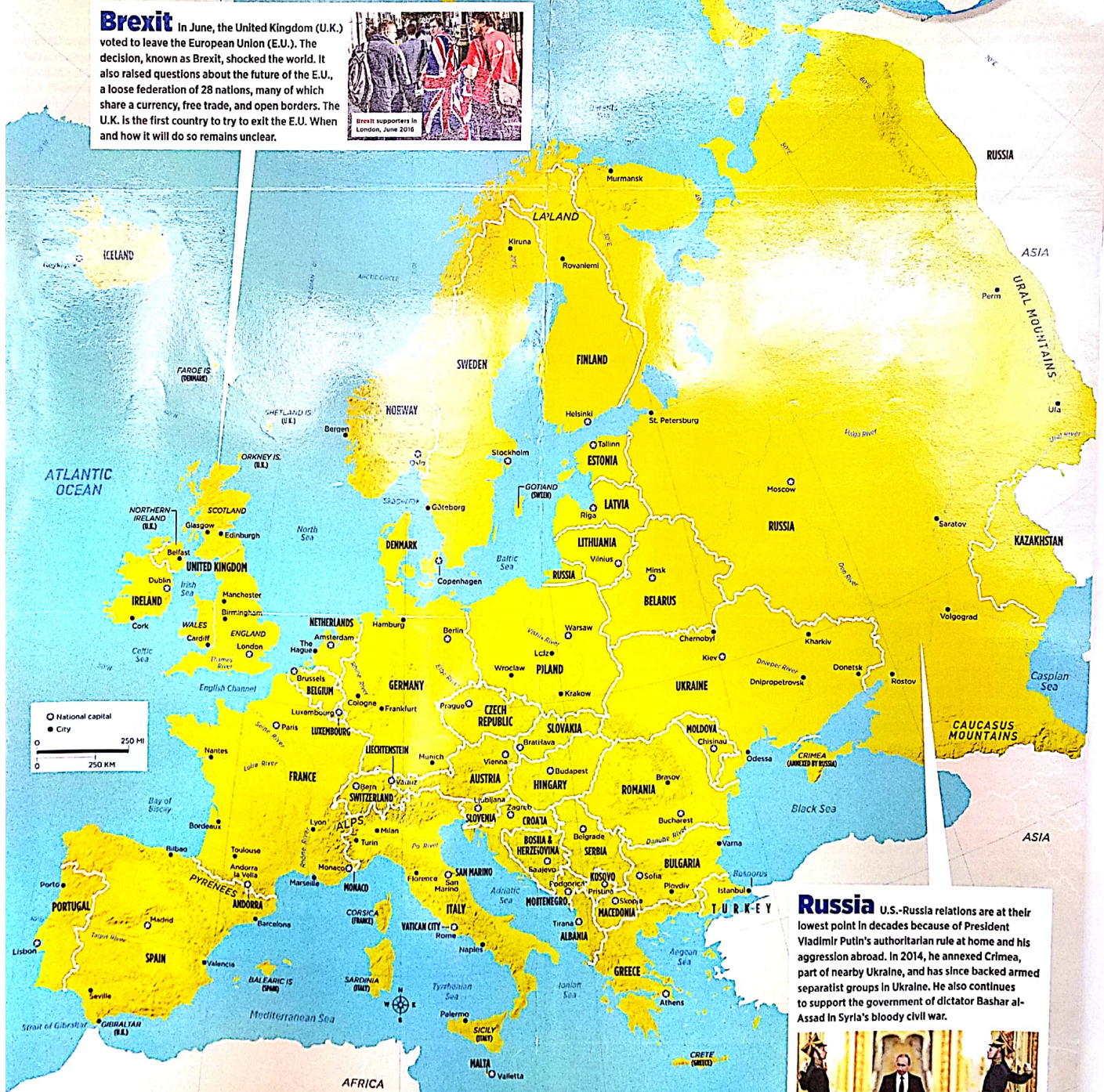


Brexit

In June, the United Kingdom (U.K.) voted to leave the European Union (E.U.). The decision, known as Brexit, shocked the world. It also raised questions about the future of the E.U., a loose federation of 28 nations, many of which share a currency, free trade, and open borders. The U.K. is the first country to try to exit the E.U. When and how it will do so remains unclear.



Brexit supporters in London, June 2016



National capital
 City
 0 250 MI
 0 250 KM

Russia

U.S.-Russia relations are at their lowest point in decades because of President Vladimir Putin's authoritarian rule at home and his aggression abroad. In 2014, he annexed Crimea, part of nearby Ukraine, and has since backed armed separatist groups in Ukraine. He also continues to support the government of dictator Bashar al-Assad in Syria's bloody civil war.



Russian President Vladimir Putin, April 2016

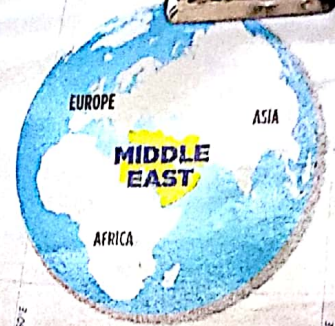
Migrant Crisis

Since 2015, well over 1 million migrants have fled to Europe to escape violence and poverty in the Middle East and Africa. Many crossed the Mediterranean Sea in rickety boats—and thousands of people have died along the way. Europe has been overwhelmed by the flood of migrants. As a result, several countries, including Hungary and Austria, have sealed their borders to prevent migrants from entering.



Migrants being escorted to a detention camp in Slovenia.

IN THE NEWS Middle East



Syria Since 2011, more than 400,000 people have been killed in the civil war pitting various rebel groups against President Bashar al-Assad. About 4 million Syrians have fled to neighboring countries and to Europe; another 7 million have lost their homes within Syria.

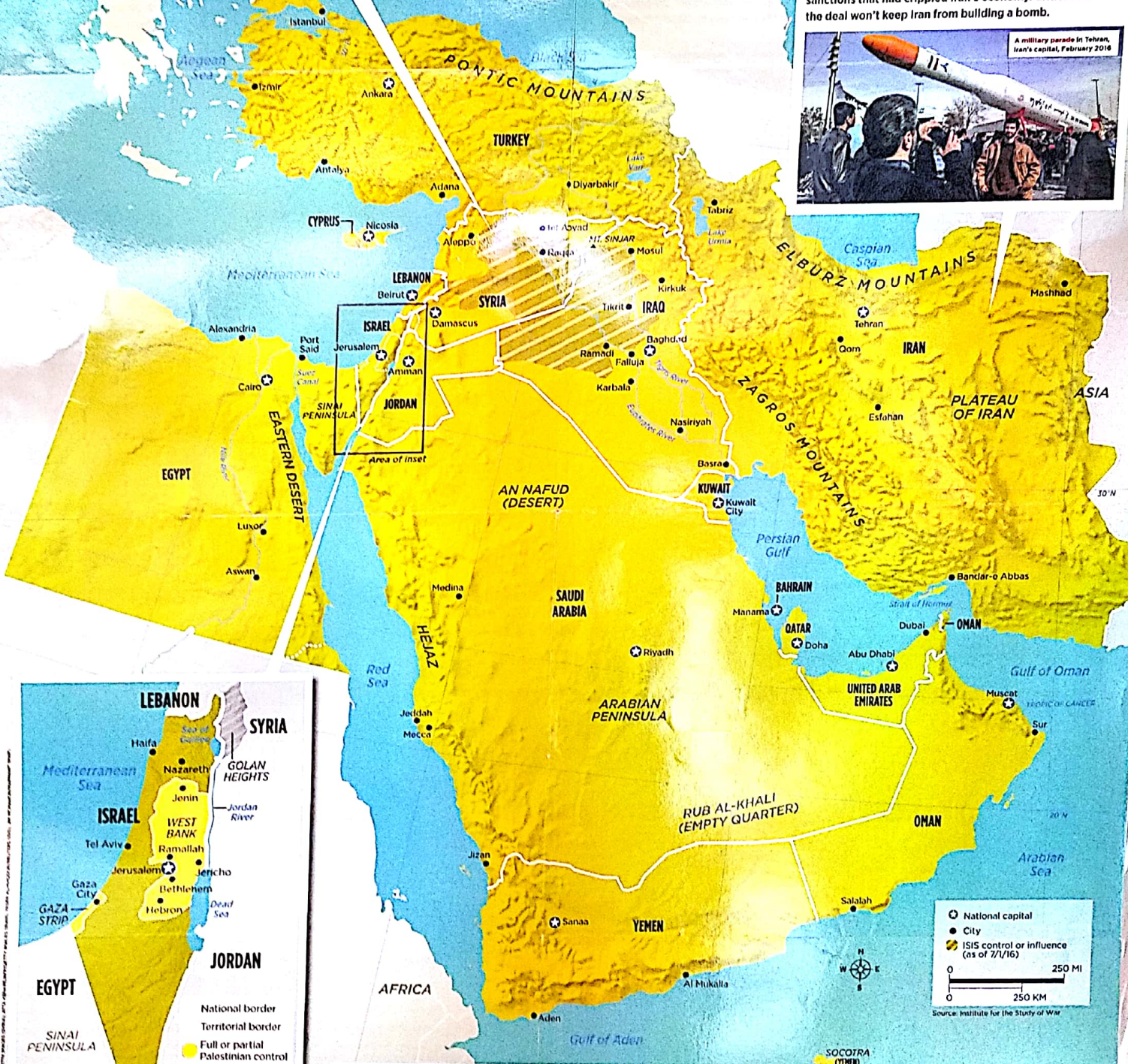


Aleppo, Syria. A man sits on injured dirt after an airstrike, April 2016.

Iran Iran has turned over almost all of its stockpile of enriched uranium following a 2015 deal with the U.S. and five other nations. The deal was aimed at preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons. In return, the U.S., the United Nations, and the European Union lifted most of the economic sanctions that had crippled Iran's economy. Critics fear that the deal won't keep Iran from building a bomb.



A military parade in Tehran, Iran's capital, February 2016.



ISIS The U.S.-led campaign to reclaim territory from the radical Islamist group ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) is making progress. But the group still controls a large swath of territory in Syria and Iraq. ISIS, which wants to establish a state governed by strict Islamic law, has responded with a series of deadly terrorist attacks—including those in France, Belgium, Bangladesh, Iraq, and Turkey.



ISIS fighters march through the Syrian town of Tel Abyad.