This ethnographic map is a starting point for appreciating the ethnic diversity in the world’s Muslim population. A word of caution in interpreting this map: just because a single color (olive green) is used to indicate “Arab” does *not* mean that Arabs across this geographic area are all the same. In fact, people who ethnically identify as Arab are citizens of different countries, observe different customs and traditions (including religious ones), and speak different forms of Arabic. The same is true of any ethnicity represented on this map (e.g., Persian). We should always be aware of cultural diversity *within* ethnic groups as well as *across* ethnic groups.
This linguistic map is a starting point for appreciating the linguistic diversity in the world’s Muslim population. As in the case of the ethnographic map, just because a single color (olive green) is used to indicate where Arabic is spoken does not mean that Arabs across this area all speak Arabic in the same way. In fact, Arabs speak a wide variety of Arabic dialects and sometimes the dialects are so different that they cannot understand one another. The same could be true of speakers of other languages that are represented on this map. We should always be aware of cultural diversity among those who speak the same language as well as among those who speak different languages.