This map is a starting point for understanding the religious diversity in North Africa and West Asia between Egypt and Iran. The religious peoples represented on this map are Sunni and Shi’i Muslims, Christians, Jews, Druze, and the Alevi of Turkey. The map also marks the locations of historically significant religious monuments, shrines, and holy places. The shaded areas do not indicate religious homogeneity; this map simplifies the distribution of religious groups to provide a basic picture of the region.

Please note: According to the Harvard Divinity School Religious Literacy Project, “Alevis is a branch of Shi’a Islam that is practiced in Turkey and the Balkans among ethnic Turks and Kurds, and is related to—though distinct from—Alawism in Syria. Alevi make up 20% of Turkish Muslims and comprise Turkey’s largest religious minority community.”
Although this map is out of date (it does not show the unification of Yemen, which took place in May 1990) it does supplement the religious map on the previous page with late 20th century data on the percentage of a country’s population that is Shi’i and the geographic distribution of Shi’i Muslim populations across West Asia, Central Asia, and South Asia.