



ZENTRALRAT
ORIENTALISCHER
CHRISTEN IN
DEUTSCHLAND e.V.

FRIEDEN DURCH DIALOG

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF ORIENTAL CHRISTIANS IN GERMANY e. V.

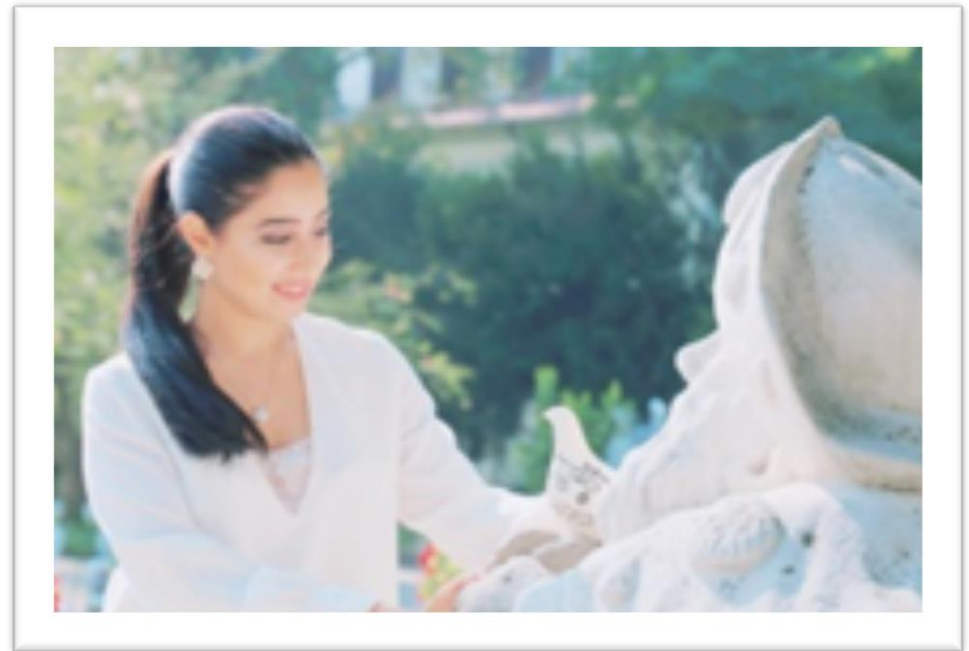
OUR GOALS

The Central Council of Oriental Christians in Germany is a charitable association of Christians living in Germany who belong to the Oriental Churches.

It was founded on 18th March 2013 in Munich.

OUR GOALS: TOLERANCE AND LOVE OF NEIGHBOUR

One of the main objectives of the Central Council of Oriental Christians in Germany is to maintain a respectful exchange with religions, traditions and cultures, based on the values of the love of neighbour, tolerance and particularly the open, factual as well as critical dialogue.



OUR GOALS: DEMOCRACY

We Oriental Christians see democracy with all its rights and duties as a system of government which equally facilitates opportunities to the people independently of their faith, origin or culture. The integration in this frame of values is an essential component of our duties. To integrate means to us to participate in a society shaped by variety.



OUR GOALS: INTEGRATION

Promoting integration in a humanistic society in which all citizens have a place, independently from their gender, religion or ethnic origin.

In consideration of the values and standards of pluralism. Based on the principle of the love of neighbour.

However also critical in the dialogue with anti-democratic tendencies.



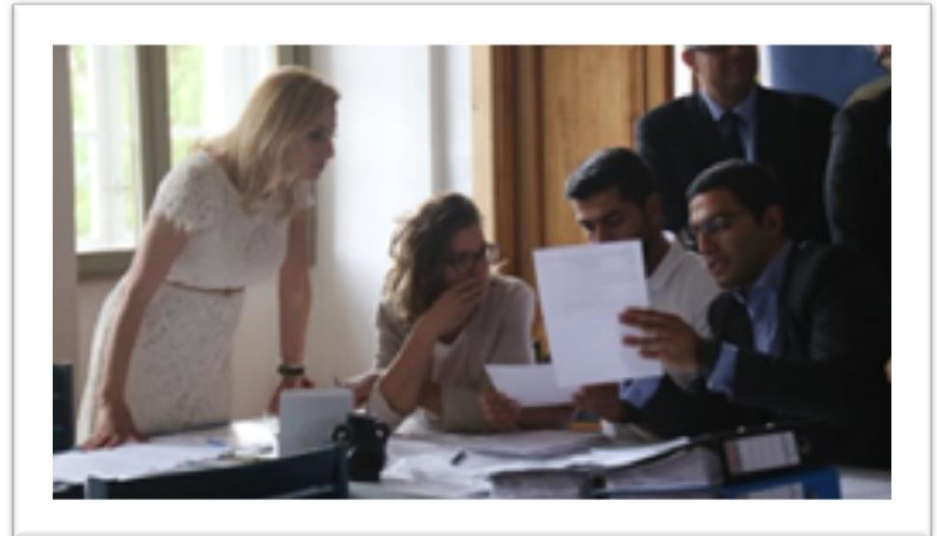
OUR GOALS: FREEDOM OF RELIGION

We stand for similar rights in the countries of origin. Especially the freedom of religion and the change of religion, the freedom of expression and equal rights of men and women are essential for us.



OUR GOALS: BRIDGE BUILDERS

We see it as our duty to encounter the division of the society by extremists and populists of every shade. Especially us who have always been bridge builders between the East and the West can take over an important role here. Particularly the relationship between every single person and patriarchal authoritative structures are in the focus authorized religiously lead to parallel societies.



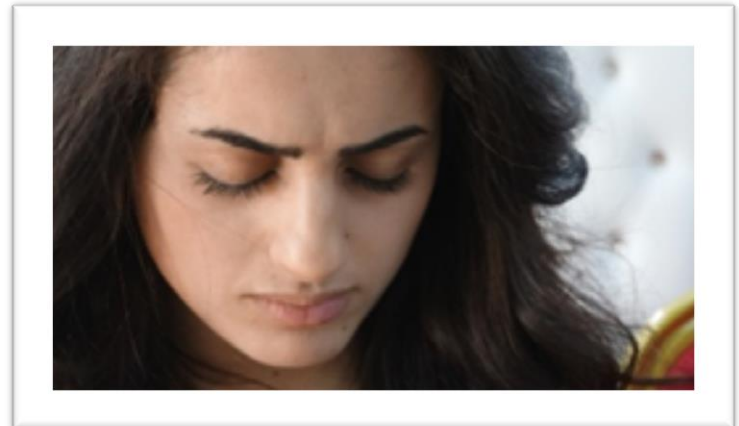
OUR GOALS: ECUMENISM

A vital variety of churches leaves a margin for new ideas and promotes tolerance. This has not always been like that in the past. In Germany a new young generation is following such developments precisely at the moment.



OUR GOALS: WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The value of women in patriarchal structures is far away from our understanding of equality between men and women in modern societies which is often religiously authorised. Reduced to traditional functions e.g. the role as a mother, sister and wife on whose “purity” the clan defines its honour, she is discriminated as the weakest limb of a society, often misused in contexts of war in order to humiliate and weaken opponents.



ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES BY

Political activities

Attendance and informal
exchange with politicians
on all levels



ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES BY

Media activities

Television reportages, radio broadcasts, videos, newspaper articles, interviews



ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES BY

Education

Participation and organisation of lectures, open forums and workshops



ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES BY

Ecumenical events

Participation and organisation of events like church services with representatives of different Christian groups.



THE BEGINNING IN 2011

When did the project ZOCD assume a form?

- Meeting with the foundation Konrad Adenauer in 2011/2012
- Simon Jacob, Representative of Integration of the Syriac Orthodox Church (2010) was mandated to build the structure



GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 12th April 2014

Matthäuskirche in Munich



OFFICIAL FOUNDATION OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF ORIENTAL CHRISTIANS IN GERMANY IN 2013 –

THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY

2013 - Inception ZOCOD



[Videolink](#)

2015 - 2016 – Project Peacemaker Trailer 1



[Videolink](#)

2015 - 2016 – Project Peacemaker Trailer 4



[Videolink](#)

ECCLESIAL STRUCTURES

1. Germany
2. Middle East

Focus:
Hamburg, Bremen, Berlin,
Gütersloh, Paderborn,



64 communities
56 pastors
36 churches

Approx.. **120.000**
members – 2017 ?

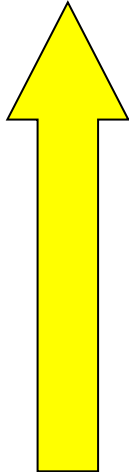
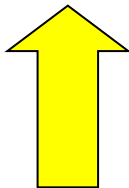
However
continuously
decreasing
birthrate!

over 400 %

Focus:
Kirchardt, Augsburg,
Göppingen, Ahlen,
Frankfurt, Wiesbaden

Till 1980 - population

25.000



Bishop's See

Monastery of Saint Jakob of
Sarug in Warburg

Syriac Orthodox Church



Apostolic Church of
the East (Assyrian
Church of the East)



Approx. 10,000
members



München,
Wiesbaden,
Augsburg

Chaldean Church



Approx. 15,000
members



1. Bavaria
München, Augsburg, Nürnberg

2. Stuttgart,
Pforzheim, Wiesbaden,
Heilbronn, Saarbrücken

3. Essen, Mönchengladbach,
Stadtlohn, Bonn, Köln

Further Churches in Germany

Western Rite

- Coptic Orthodox Church approx. 10,000
- Armenian Orthodox Church approx. 40,000
- Eritrean Orthodox Church approx. 20,000
- Ethiopian Orthodox Church approx. 20,000
- Indian Orthodox Church of Malabar approx. 2,000

Byzantine Rite

- Greek Orthodox Church approx. 400,000 (1997 – Reinhard Thöle – Orth. Church Germany)

Apostolic Church of
the East (Assyrian
Church of the East)



Approx. 12,000
members



München,
Wiesbaden,
Augsburg

Chaldean Church



Approx. 20,000
members



1. **Bavaria**
München, Augsburg, Nürnberg

2. **Stuttgart**,
Pforzheim, Wiesbaden,
Heilbronn, Saarbrücken

3. **Essen**, Mönchengladbach,
Stadtlohn, Bonn, Köln

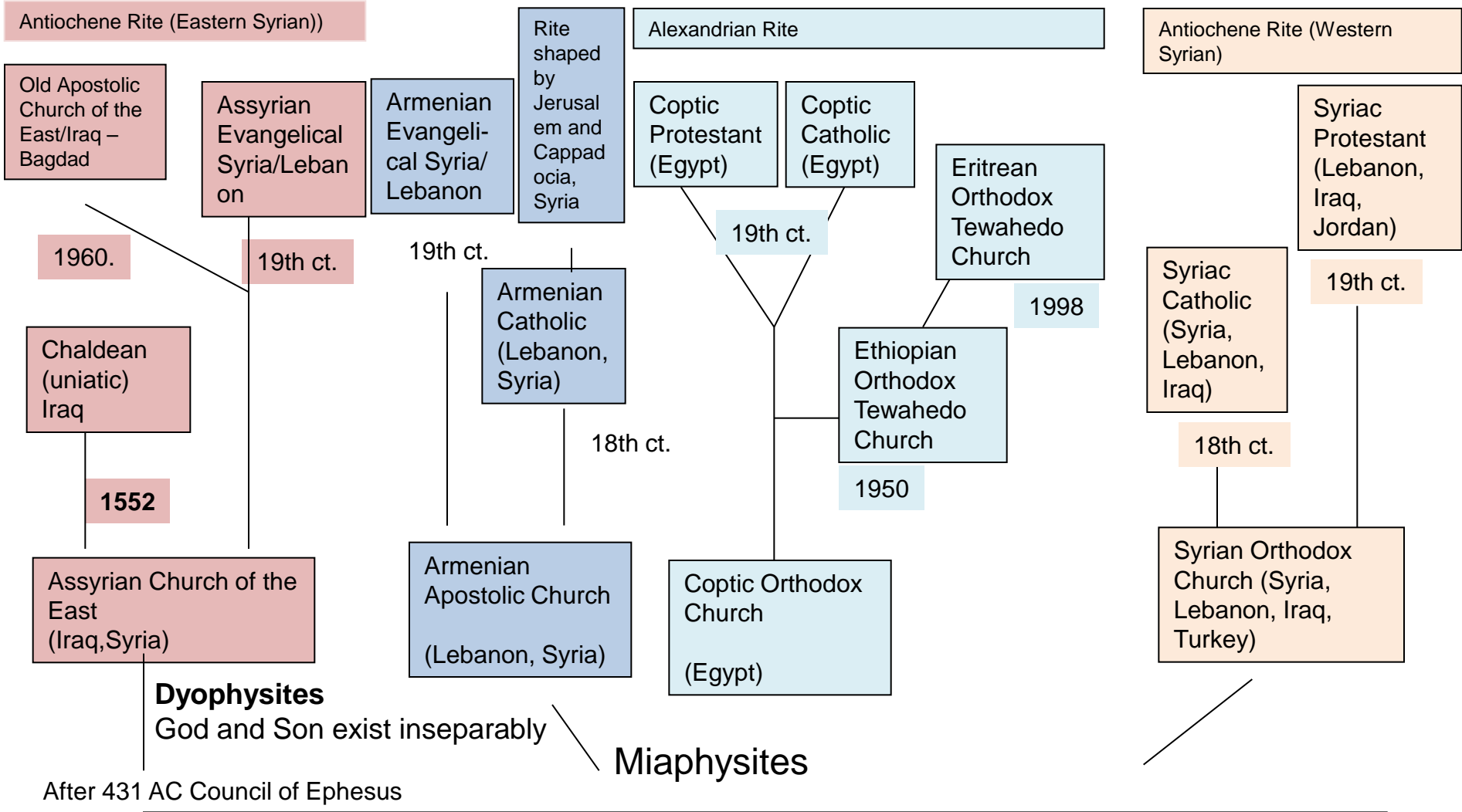
Further Churches in Germany

Western Rite

- Coptic Orthodox Church approx. 30,000
- Armenian Orthodox Church approx. 50,000
- Eritrean Orthodox Church approx. 20,000
- Ethiopian Orthodox Church approx. 20,000
- Indian Orthodox Church of Malabar approx. 2,000

Byzantine Rite

- Greek Orthodox Church approx. 400,000 (1997 – Reinhard Thöle – Orth. Church Germany)



Syriac Christianity after the 4th Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon 451 AC.



Index v. 1900 bis
2003/Mio

Index v. 1900 bis 2003/Mio heute

Tendenz

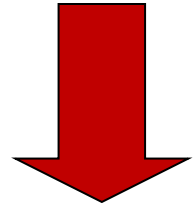
- Chaldäische Kirche
- Syr. Kath. Kirche
- Apostolische Kirche
- Syr. Orth. Kirche

Bis 2003
Gesamtbe-
völkerung
30,7/Mio

Davon
5 %
Christen

Gesamtbe-
völkerung bis
2010
30,7/Mio

Davon 0,65 %
Christen



Index v. 1900 bis
2003/Mio

Index v. 1900 bis 2003/Mio heute

Tendenz

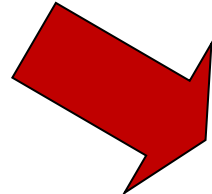
- Koptische Kirche
- Syr. Orth. Kirche
- Ev. Koptische Kirche
- Kath. Koptische Kirche

Bis 1930
Gesamtbe-
völkerung
20/Mio

Davon
15 %
Christen

Gesamtbe-
völkerung bis
2010 77/Mio

Davon 15 %
Christen





Index v. 1900 bis
2003/Mio

Index v. 1900 bis 2003/Mio heute

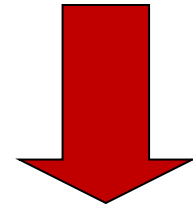
Tendenz

11 verschiedene Kirchen

Christen wurden
(werden) respektiert

Gesamtbe-
völkerung bis
2010 22/Mio

Davon 10 %
Christen



Index v. 1900 bis
2003/Mio

Index v. 1900 bis 2003/Mio heute

Tendenz

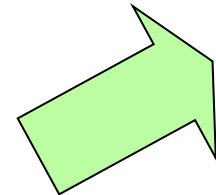
- Griechisch Orth. Kirche
- Armenische Kirche
- Syr. Orth. Kirche
- Bulgarisch Orth. Kirche

Bis 1900
Gesamtbe-
völkerung
14/Mio

Davon
20 %
Christen

Gesamtbe-
völkerung
bis 2010
74,8/Mio

Davon 0,13 %
Christen





Assyrian apostolic

- chaldean catholic
- protestant
- anglican

Teheran
Urmiah

Armenian apostolic

- catholic
- protestant

Teheran
Isfahan

Percentage share between 0,4 % und 0,8 %
Approximately 250.000 Armenians and
30.000 Assyrians

The church is part of the
jurisdiction

- marriage
- wedding
- divorce
- children.....

Scope in Shia Islam



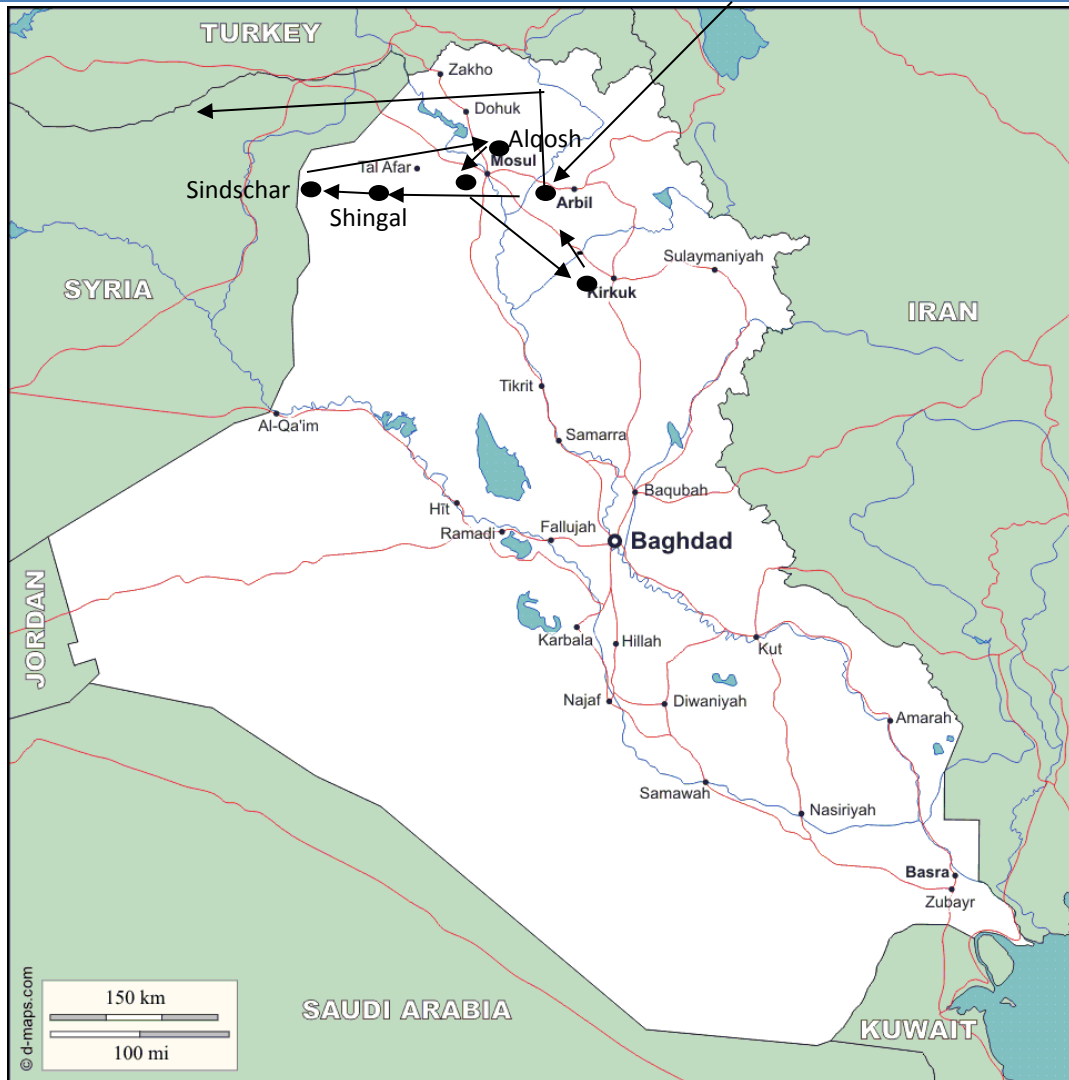
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OVERVIEW

Development

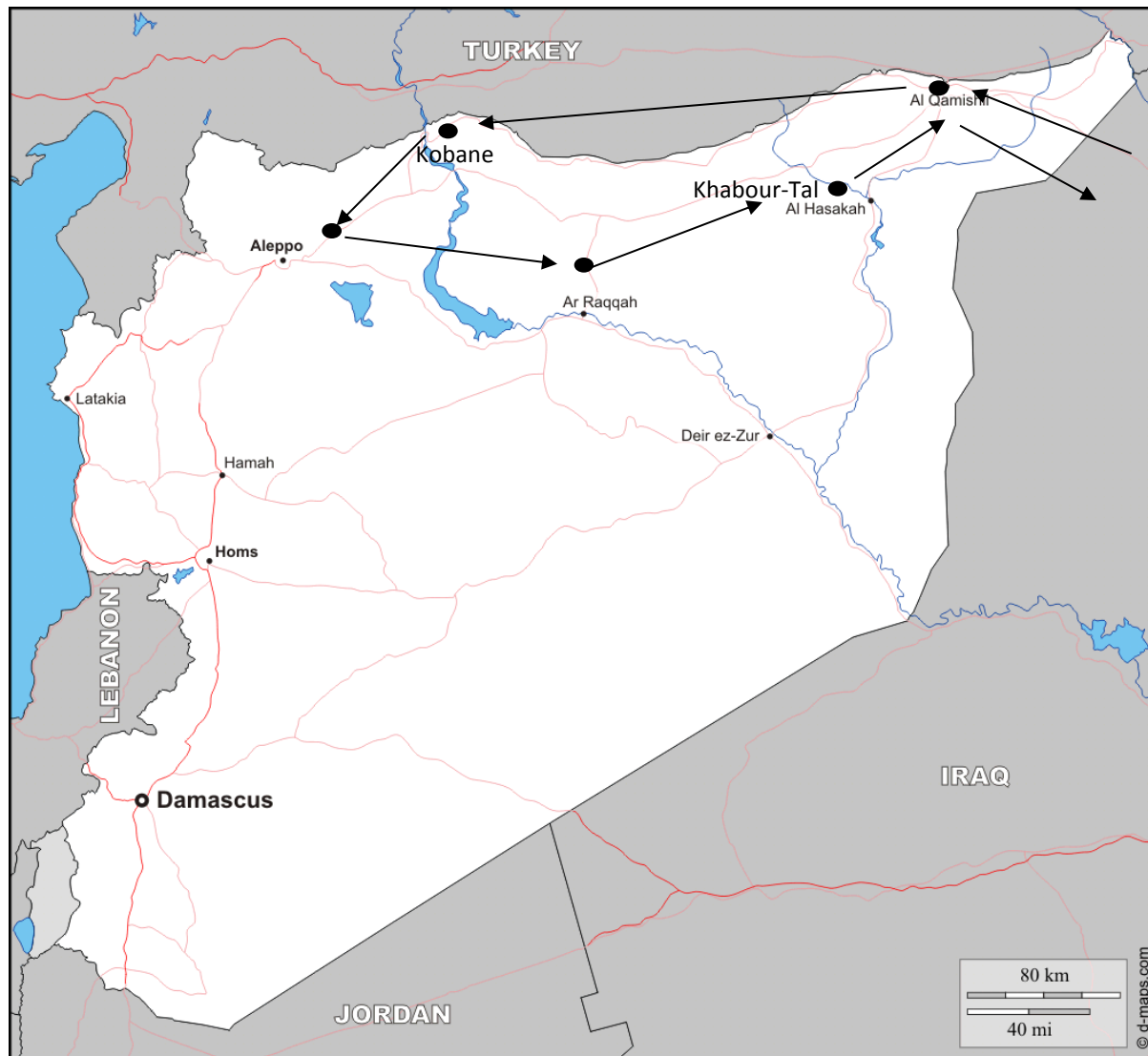
After 1990 and the Second and Third Gulf War



Through different migration programs but also illegal/legal escape more and more Christians from Iraq (Bagdad, the Niniveh Plains, Assyrians, Chaldeans) found a new home in Augsburg.

The structure of the church communities has also changed. Eastern Syrian and Arabic are being spoken more often.

After 2010 and the beginning of the war in Syria



Approximately 40 % to 50 % of all Christians have left the region. Unlike Iraq and Turkey (see slides above), Syria has a much larger variety of churches.

The impact on the churches in Germany and also Augsburg are accordingly much bigger.

The Eucharistic communities become more heterogeneous.