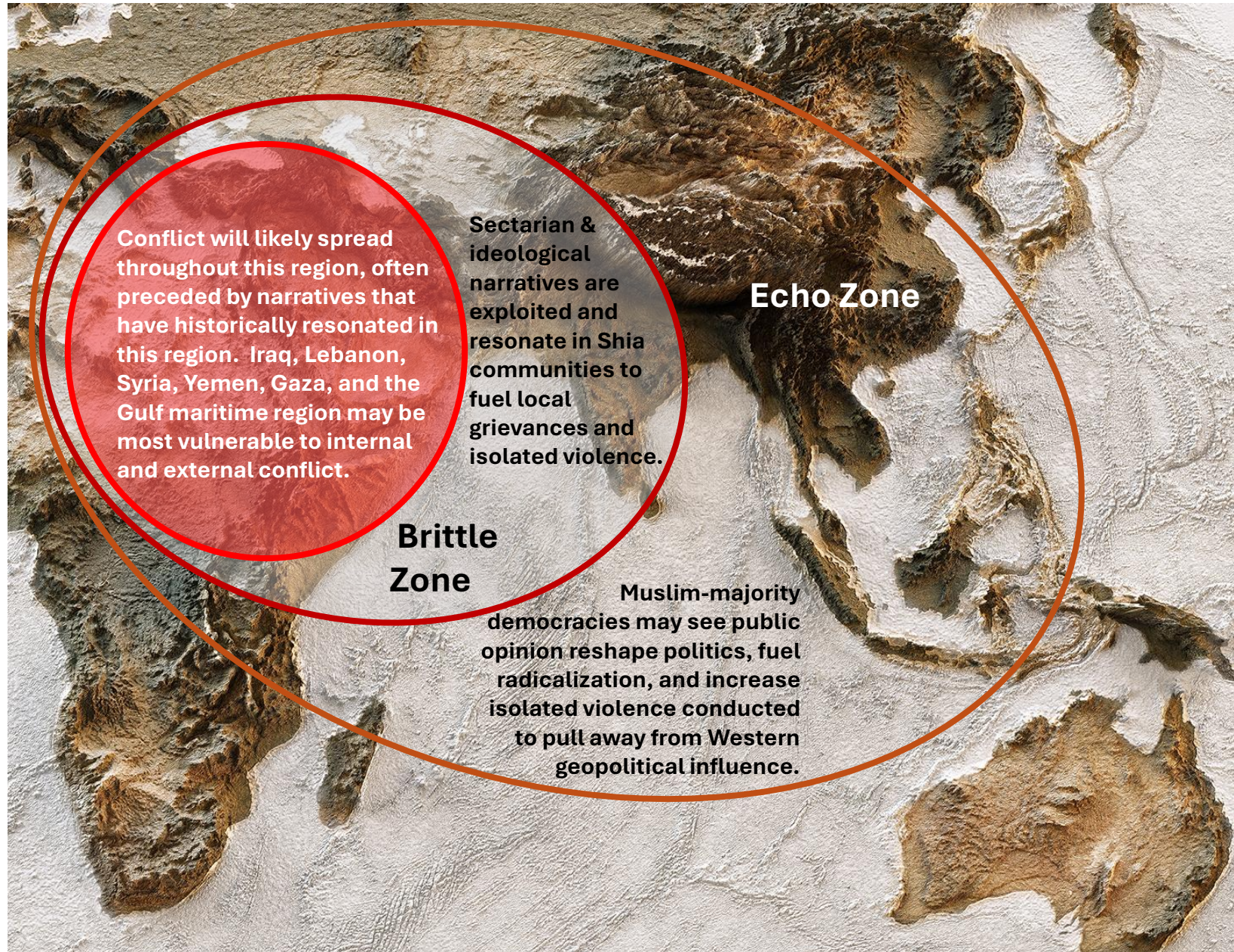


Is the Arab Spring a fair comparison or predictor of how conflict might spread?



I had an AI conversation that started with the question of how might conflict and unrest spread compared to the Arab Spring, not because I think they are the same but because of the lasting impact on U.S. presence in the region, alliances, and warfare. From the dozen or so pages of back-and-forth conversation, I put together the figure and took away the following.

- This conflict is starting where the Arab Spring ended, in the proxy war stage.
- This conflict may reignite and further entrench Sunni-Shia sectarian narratives in some areas.
- There are levels of conflict spillover in the red zone (graphic) countries that are already vulnerable.
- In the fractured countries (Brittle Zone), things to watch for are:
 - Rapidly increasing socioeconomic grievances within a country
 - Legitimacy crisis or crises for the current government in power
 - A security apparatus that is fragmented, creating a permissive environment for opposition groups, or a security apparatus that becomes increasingly oppressive.
- Fragile countries (Echo Zone) may see localized violence and political turbulence.

Key factors will be more triggering events that move populations in either direction (towards or away from the West), events that reaffirm standing grievances and move the affected people to action, and an increase in protests in other countries calling for change of some kind.