



A general view of the Holy Mosque at Makkah



A general view of the Holy Mosque at Madinah

King Abdul Aziz

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 a bright future for his people. One of his acts was to implement a scheme to settle nomadic bedouins into settled communities; he called 'Al-Hijir' to which he brought instructors, teachers and experts in many fields. He began to release the productive potential of the people, being careful to heed the needs and aspirations of all the people of the Kingdom.

The security of Hajj (Pilgrimage) roads was one of his main objectives. Pilgrims to Makkah and visitors to the Mosque of the Prophet in Madinah feared for their lives when undertaking those journeys. He took stern measure against the miscreants and secured a safe passage for travelers to the

Holy place.

Attention to holy place

King Abdul Aziz paid special attention to the Holy places. During his reign, Al-Haram Mosque in Makkah was renovated and vastly improved while the Mosque of the Prophet in Medina saw a substantial enlargement to accommodate the ever increasing number of visitors.

King Abdul Aziz was the first to call Islamic solidarity. He believed in the unity and cooperation between the peoples of the Muslim world, for the good of humanity as a whole. He set up the first Islamic Conference in Makkah in 1346 H (1926 AD).

His young state had an intima-

tion of good fortune when oil was discovered in the Eastern Province in 1338. Then the meagre income from oil helped the Kingdom to accelerate development in the country. Many projects came to fruition, such as the rail line connecting the capital Riyadh with the Eastern Province, opened in 1371 H (1951 AD); the establishment of a national airline in 1945, the inauguration of broadcasting, and several other projects.

Spread of education

The King paid special attention to education. He sought the spread of learning to all parts of the Kingdom. He paid generous grants to students and initiated the production and free distribution of textbooks. He set up the General Directorate of Education in 1926 and entrusted it with the task of opening and administering schools. In the same year the Saudi Scientific Institute was set up.

This is an establishment that produced much of the talents that was to run government departments and the private sector. A school to prepare students for foreign scholarships was established. By early 50s the Kingdom's first two colleges were opened. These were the College of Humanities and the College of Sharia in Makkah, whose main task was to tutor judges and teachers. Young Saudis were sent abroad to study at universities in Western countries.

Education was not the King's only concern; he also built roads, opened hospitals and introduced modern methods of government. Simultaneously King Abdul Aziz paid attention to the Kingdom's position among the nations of the world and sought to enhance it on the Arab, Islamic and International levels. He entered into treaties and established relations with all

nations. Saudi Arabia was a founder member of the United Nations Organisation whose charter the Kingdom signed in San Francisco in 1945. King Abdul Aziz took on and vigorously defended the just causes of the Arab and Islamic worlds.

A protagonist of world peace

The Kingdom was a founder member of the Arab League that saw the light in 1944. King Abdul Aziz stood side by side with Arab states struggling to rid themselves of colonialism and foreign interference. He put all his weight behind the Palestinian cause and his famous meeting with America President Roosevelt in 1945 and the exchange of letters with him about Palestine are notable examples of his efforts on behalf of the people of Palestine and the struggle for their legitimate rights and their usurped homeland. He sought to secure world peace by ensuring and human rights for all.

Arab and foreign historians have placed King Abdul Aziz among the world's great leaders. Volumes have been written eulogizing his heroism, his many talents and his unique personality. He was a great and pious leader and an astute politician. He passed away on 2 Rabi Al-Awwal 1373 H (9 November 1953). In his death the Arabs lost a great statesman, and the world lost one of the greatest humanitarians and protagonists of peace.

The people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as they enjoy today the fruits of his labour and shelter under his great legacy, they remember with pride their leader's striving and his victories. His sons, who trod the same path have succeeded in achieving what he strove so valiantly for, that is, progress, peace, prosperity and welfare of the people.

Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz

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 Complementary projects were also established, such as military hospitals, housing cities which were built according to the latest specifications. The Crown Prince is keen to spend national and religious holidays visiting military units and camps in the various parts of the Kingdom. In these visits, Crown Prince Sultan meets all armed forces personnel, including officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers.

In 1982, he was appointed second deputy premier in addition to his responsibilities as Minister of Defence, Aviation and Inspector General. In his capacity as second deputy premier, he chaired a number of the cabinet meetings. He represented the Kingdom in many international conferences. He also visited most of the friendly countries. In 1986 Crown Prince Sultan delivered a historic speech at the

UN on its 40th anniversary.

In addition, Crown Prince Sultan chairs a number of different specialised committees including:

- *The general organisation for defence industries.
- *Saudi program for strategic storage.
- *The committee of economic balance.
- *The council of work force.

- *Board of directors of Saudi Arabian Airlines (SAUDIA)
- *The higher council for Islamic affairs.

*The national commission for wildlife conservation and development.
 Crown Prince Sultan is well known for his charity and good deeds. He established 'Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud Charity Society' which is supervised by a Board of Trustees headed by himself.

Our Heartiest Congratulations to the Government & the Brotherly People of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the Occasion of their 75th National Day



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