



Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz



Forces achieved a big jump in modernisation and became one of the most advanced armed forces.

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.

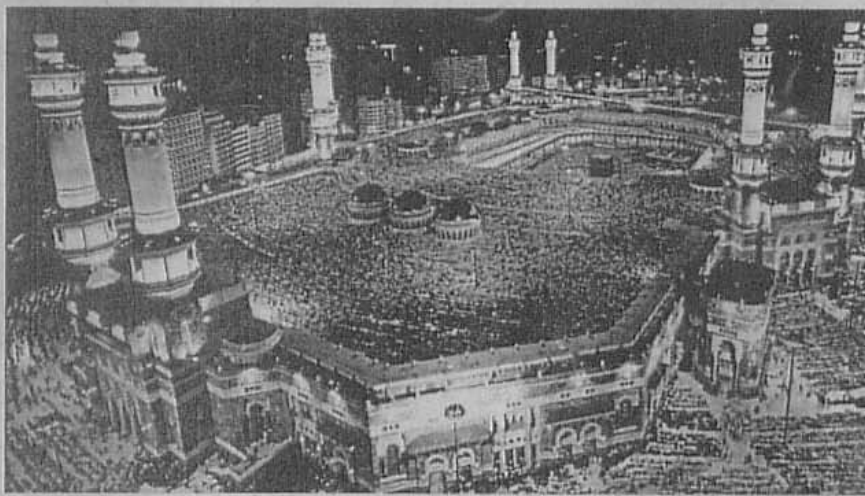
Riyadh by King Abdul Aziz. When the first cabinet was formed, Prince Sultan took the portfolio of the ministry of Agriculture on December 24, 1953. One of the great projects he executed, at that time, was the settlement of the nomads which was one of the concerns of the government. On November 5, 1955 he was appointed minister of transport. On October 13, 1962 he was appointed Minister of Defence, Aviation and Inspector General.

Since then, the Armed forces witnessed great development in its reorganizing, modernizing of its military weapons and equipments, building of its military schools and colleges. All branches of Saudi Armed

CROWN Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz stands among the leaders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who built the modern state with its mass development plans.

He took responsibilities since the early stages of his life, and worked with all the successive Saudi Monarchs from King Abdul Aziz till the era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques. He was always at the core of the Saudi domestic and foreign policy.

Crown Prince Sultan was born on Jan 5, 1928. He lived under the careful eye of his father, the founder King Abdul Aziz. On Jun 2, 1947, he was nominated the governor of



Holy Mosque at Makkah.



Holy Mosque at Madinah

King Abdul Aziz

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"There is no divinity but God and Muhammad is the Messenger of God." He then set about the task of building the structures of a modern state. He began to open the doors to 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 Madinah 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 intimation of good fortune when oil was discovered in the Eastern Province in 1938. 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 Organization 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 in 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 Arab 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 labor 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.

Our heartiest felicitations and greetings to the Government, Royal Family and the Brotherly People of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the auspicious occasion of their

National Day



King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz



Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz

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Late King Fahad

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He has visited all the Arab states more than once and participated in many meetings and conferences. He was a bold interlocutor and campaigner for peace and amity, between Arab states. He stood by every Arab cause. The history of the Palestinian issue is a witness to his defence of the rights of the people of Palestine and his efforts explain their legitimate claims to the world leaders for more than a quarter of a century. To ensure security and stability in the region without sacrificing legitimate Arab rights, he put forward a solution to the Middle East problems. That was the initiative that carried his name, and was later transformed into decisions adopted by the Arab Summit Conference in Morocco in 1982 and came to be known as the "Arab Peace Project". His initiative was received favorably not only in the Arab and Islamic spheres but throughout the world. The initiative was also adopted by the Islamic Summit Conference of Casablanca and formed the basis for the

Madrid Peace Conference of 1991. The Lebanon crisis that erupted in 1975 received the conciliatory effort of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the fruits of which was the convening of the reconciliation conference of Lebanese Parliamentarians held in Taif in Saudi Arabia in 1989. This conference helped to restore calm to the Lebanon and heal the wounds of conflict and division. The Kingdom continues to provide the Lebanon with political and economic support to overcome the legacy of the civil war. When the sisterly state of Kuwait suffered Iraqi aggression on 2 August 1990, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques late King Fahad took up his well known stance that made possible the return of freedom to Kuwait, the Kingdom played host to the government and the people of Kuwait during the crisis as well as helping Kuwaitis abroad.

Gulf cooperations: Late King Fahad has said, "with the blessings of God, we have succeeded in establishing with our brothers in

the Gulf, a strong and effective circle within the circle of the Arab League: The Arabian Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC). It is to be a model for the level of co-operation among Arab brothers and a prop that will strengthen the Arab League, deepen Arab relationships and a shield protecting the Arabs from harm." As was hoped by the erstwhile Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the Council has proved its effectiveness in meeting the challenges of recent events in the Gulf region, especially during the Iraq invasion of Kuwait. The Gulf Co-operation Council took far-reaching steps in co-operation and coordination among the member states in matters of security, military affairs, economy, education and information. It has become a homogenous unit that embodies the hopes and aspirations of the people of the region and those of the Arab and Islamic world.

Man of peace: Under the able leadership of the then King Fahad, the Kingdom has had distinguished contributions, consistent with its international standing in the politics and

economy of the world. Its Arab and Islamic position is the focus of the attention and respect of more than a billion Arabs and Muslims. Changes in the international scene have helped to enhance the Kingdom's importance in world affairs and visits of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to a number of states had a bearing on the strengthening of relations with those states. The King has an outstanding record in confronting political and economic crises. His stance on oil pricing and OPEC production quotas have earned him the regard of the entire world. A stance that helped to consolidate world stability and foster world peace and earn for the King the title "Man of Peace." He was always anxious to deal with exploding crises with wisdom and calm consideration and see them from the point of view of universal good as well as from that of Arab and Islamic interest. His far-reaching vision earned him "Man of the Year" title for many times through polls conducted by the media in a number of countries.

Set nation's goal: His address to the Shura Council on May 17, 2003 this year was a clarion call to the nation to bravely face the changed situation of the world which is now at a cross road. He declared: "The march of reform has remained unimpeded and will continue with the grace of the Almighty Allah. We will go on the path of political and administrative reforms, and we will work for revision of our systems and instructions, and to tighten control on the performance of the govt. organs, as well as broadening the scope of the popular participation, and opening wider horizons for the work of woman within the frame work of the teachings of Islam. This nation is determined on eradicating all forms of terrorism. The real reform is the one that emerges from the nation's faith and heritage, and the reform that is accepted by the nation willingly without coercion." The illustrious leader of the Muslim world breathed his last on August 1, 2005.

Our Heartiest Felicitations to the Government and the Brotherly People of the Kingdom of SAUDI ARABIA on the Occasion of their 74th National Day



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