



Grazing field for desert camels

King Abdul Aziz

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12 the ruler of Diriya, Imam Muhammad Bin Saud with the Islamic reformer Sheikh Muhammad Bin Abdul Wahab. The aim of the alliance was to spread true Islam and purify the faith and rid it of the superstitions and heresies that attached themselves to it over centuries of ignorance. The first fruit of that era was the unification of the disparate regions, the gathering of the tribes and the acceptance of the rule of God's law. A Just society living in peace over vast areas of the Arabian Peninsula and beyond. Eventually, the state came under the pressure of foreign interference and wars, leading to its demise and the return of the Peninsula to its former chaotic condition. The situation pained Abdul Aziz who was living with his family in Kuwait. He swore to regain his heritage at all cost. At last on 5th Shawwal 1319 H (15 January 1902 AD) he succeeded in recapturing Riyadh, which turned out to be the

His Majesty King

Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz

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springboard for the unification of the country. He fought battles after battles, and strove for nearly 31 years to bind the nation together and proclaim the establishment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The people of the Peninsula saw the nobility of his cause and flocked together under his banner.

STRONG BELIEF IN GOD:

Abdul Aziz, driven by a strong belief in God, strong will and an instinctive understanding of the needs of the hour and aspirations of his people, succeeded in overcoming obstacles and laid the foundation of the young state under the banner of: "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 instruc-

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Family and the Brotherly People of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on

the Auspicious Occasion of Their

National Day

tors, teachers and experts in many fields. He began to release the productive potential of the people, being careful to heed the needs and 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

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.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince

Surfan Bin Abdul Aziz

وكيل الاستقدام المرخص من الحكومة مرخيص رفتم: 2٧

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 aspirations of all the people of 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 meager 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 A.D.); 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 ťask 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 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

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 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.

King Abdullah

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Saudi Arabia. King Abdullah

demonstrated an abiding commitment to Islam and a keen interest in Arab history, culture and traditions. Like King Abdul Aziz's other sons, he was tutored by scholars in Islam and Arab history and underwent the rigorous training that King Abdul Aziz demanded of all of them. To develop the physical and mental strength of his sons, Khalid Bin Abdul Aziz, the King Abdul Aziz is quoted as saying: "I train my own children to walk barefooted, to rise two hours before dawn, to Deputy Prime Minister, while eat but little, to ride horses retaining his command of the bareback" and to study the Holy Quran, the Sunnah (teachings and sayings of the prophet Muhammad) and Arab history. As they came of age, the then crown Prince and his brothers spent much time in their father's daily majlis, meetings where any citizen sified his involvement in the could approach the King and ongoing national developdiscuss a grievance or con- ment program, as well as with cern. In this way, they learned the Kingdom's foreign relathe intricacies of statesmanship and the art of communi-

cation with people. with the people, a deep respect for their heritage and understanding of their aspirations, King Abdul Aziz desired that his sons would spend including the civil war in time with the bedouins in the Lebanon, the factional fightdesert. The years the then ing in Afganistan, the situa-Crown Prince Abdullah spent tion in Bosnia-Herzegovina living with the tribes instilled in him a respect for their values, simplicity, generosity and bravery and strengthened his sary, the then Crown Prince desire to serve the people.

association with the affairs of government and the people continued after King Abdul Aziz passed away. He acted as States; the Organization of advisor to King Saud Bin Abdul Aziz and later to King the Gulf co-operation Faisal Bin Abdul Aziz and was Council (GCC) and the Nondeeply involved in the internal Aligned Movement (NAM) affairs of the Kingdom.

Prince Abdullah was ducted state visits to other appointed to command the countries, including the Saudi National Guard, which United States. was formed from the descendants of bedouins who were duties, the then Crown Prince King Abdul Aziz's followers during the years he was working to establish the modern The then Orown Prince

modernize the National Guard and make it a potent force committed to the preservation of the Kingdom's peace and security. He supervised the establishment of military and technical schools with a view to modernizing the force, as well as the establishment of hospitals, clinics and housing facilities for guard members and their families.

On the succession of King then Crown Prince Abdullah was appointed to the prestigious position of Second National Guard. In 1982 former King Fahd appointed him Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince. With his appointment to the position of Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister, the then Crown Prince Abdullah intentions. At the side of late King Fahad the then Crown Prince Abdullah became intimately To develop a strong bond involved in major foreign policy issues, such as Saudi Arabia's relations with Arab, Islamic and other countries, its efforts to resolve crises and the Middle East peace process.

As late King Fahad's emis-Abdullah has represented the King Abdullah's close Kingdom at various international conference, including summit meetings of member states of the League of Arab the Islamic Conference (OIC) He has met with world leaders In 1962 the then Crown in Saudi Arabia and con-

While performing all these now King Abdullah has steadfastly supported efforts to preserve Saudi Arabia's rich heritage. As chairman of the brganizing committee for the diserbited deputy premier, he supervised by d Board of

and Heritage festival, he has overseen the two-week festival held annually since 1985 to promote a greater respect for and a deeper understanding of Saudi Arabia's rich past, its dynamic present and its promising future.

Abdullah has retained a love of the desert, which is reflected in his patronage for equestrian clubs, the Camel Race and other activities associated with the bedouins. He also has developed a passion for knowledge and reading. He has established two libraries, Riyadh and one in Casablanca, Morocco.

After decades of public service in positions of importance, The new King Abdullah is today recognized not only in Saudi Arabia, but also in the Arab and Islamic worlds, as a leader dedicated to ensuring

his country's continued future development while preserving past achievements. King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, may Allah pro-

tect him, being one of the illustrious successors of King Abdul Aziz who was the pro-Throughout his life, King tagonist of world peace has followed in the footstep of his father. He patronized holding of an international conference for dialogue among the followers of different divine messages, civilizations and cultures in Makkah Al-Mukarramah during 4-6.6.2008. His patronage and the King Abdul Aziz library in inauguration of the World Conference for Dialogue among the followers of the world religions and cultures as well as intellectuals and researchers held in Madrid, Spain during 16-18.7.2008 has gained world appreciation for taking this initiative to establish world peace.

Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz

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development in its reorganizing, modernizing of its military weapons and equipment's, building of its military schools and colleges. All branches of Saudi Armed Forces achieved a big jump in modernization and became one of the most advanced armed forces.

Complementary projects tees including: 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' personnels including officers, noncommissioned officers and soldiers.

In 1982 he was appointed second deputy premier in as Minister of Defence, Aviation and Inspector

net 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 U.N. on its 40th anniversary.

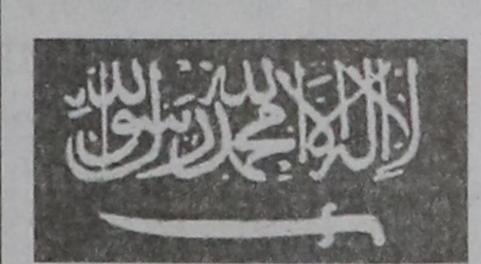
Sultan chairs a number of different specialized commit-The general organization for defence industries.

In addition, Crown Prince

- Saudi program for strate-
- gic storage. The committee of eco-
- nomic balance. The council of work force. Board of directors of Saudi Arabian Air lines
- (SAUDIA). The higher council for Islamic affairs.
- The national commission for wildlife conservation and development.

Crown Prince Sultan is well addition to his responsibilities known for his charity and good deeds. He established "Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Al-General. In his capacity as Saud Charity Society" which is Abdullah worked tirdlessly to Jenadriryah National Culture chaired a number of the cabi- Trustees headed by himself.

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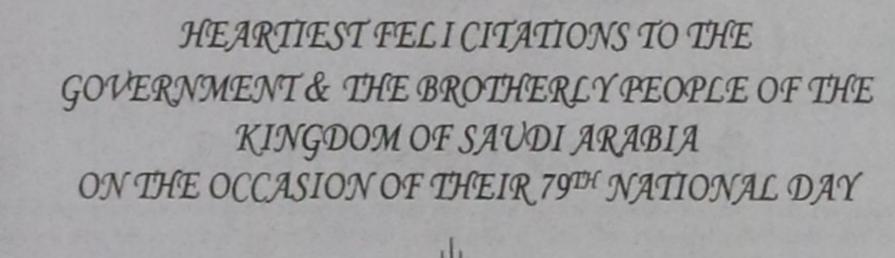






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