

History of Saudi Arabia¹

1902 - Abd-al-Aziz Bin-Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Faysal Bin-Turki Bin-Abdallah Bin-Muhammad Al Saud (often known as Ibn Saud) takes control of Riyadh bringing the Al Saud family back into Saudi Arabia.

1912 - The Ikhwan (Brotherhood) is founded based on **Wahhabism**; it grows quickly and provides key support for Abd-al-Aziz.

1913 - Hasa is captured from the Ottomans by Abd-al-Aziz.

1921 - Abd-al-Aziz takes the title Sultan of Nejd.

1924-25- The Kingdom of Hejaz, home to the Muslim holy cities of Mecca and Medina, is captured.

Kingdoms of Arabia, ca. 1920s



King Abd-al-Aziz


1926 - Abd-al-Aziz is proclaimed King of the Hejaz in the Grand Mosque of Mecca.

1928-30 - The Ikhwan turn against Abd-al-Aziz due to the modernisation of the region and the increasing numbers of non-Muslims. They are defeated by Abd-al-Aziz.

 **1932 September** - The areas controlled by Abd-al-Aziz are unified under the name Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Abd-al-Aziz is proclaimed King.

1933 - King Abd-al-Aziz's eldest son, Saud, is named crown prince.

1938 - Oil is discovered and production begins under the US-controlled Aramco (Arabian American Oil Company).

 **1953 November** - King Abd-al-Aziz dies and is succeeded by Crown Prince Saud. The new king's brother Faisal is named crown prince.

1960 - Saudi Arabia is a founding member of OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries).

¹ Taken from "Saudi Arabia Timeline" [19 October 2018] <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14703523>



1964 November - King Saud is deposed by his brother Faisal.

1970 - The OIC (Organisation of the Islamic Conference) is founded in Jeddah.

1972 - Saudi Arabia gains control of a proportion (20%) of Aramco, lessening US control over Saudi oil.

1973 - Saudi Arabia leads an oil boycott against the Western countries that supported Israel in the October War against Egypt and Syria. Oil prices quadruple.



1975 March - King Faisal is assassinated by his nephew and succeeded by his brother Khalid.

1979 - Saudi Arabia severs diplomatic relations with Egypt after it makes peace with Israel.

1979 - Extremists seize the Grand Mosque of Mecca; the government regains control after 10 days and those captured are executed.

1980 - Saudi Arabia takes full control of Aramco from the US.

1981 May - Saudi Arabia is a founder member of the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council).



1982 June - King Khalid dies of a heart attack and is succeeded by his brother, Crown Prince Fahd.

1986 November - King Fahd adds the title "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques" to his name.

1987 - Saudi Arabia resumes diplomatic relations with Egypt, severed since 1979.

1990 - Saudi Arabia condemns Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and asks the US to intervene; it allows foreign troops, the Kuwaiti government and many of its citizens to stay in Saudi Arabia but expels citizens of Yemen and Jordan because of their governments' support of Iraq.

1991 - Saudi Arabia is involved in both air attacks on Iraq and in the land force that went on to liberate Kuwait.

1994 - Islamic dissident Osama Bin Laden is stripped of his Saudi nationality.

1999 October - Twenty Saudi women attend a session of the Consultative Council for the first time.

2001 11 September - 15 of the 19 hijackers involved in attacks on New York and Washington are Saudi nationals.

2001 December - King Fahd calls for the eradication of terrorism, saying it is prohibited by Islam; government takes the unprecedented step of issuing ID cards to women.

2003 April - US says it will pull out almost all its troops from Saudi Arabia, ending a military presence dating back to the 1991 Gulf war. Both countries stress that they will remain allies.

2005 February-April - First-ever nationwide municipal elections. Women do not take part in the poll.



2005 1 August - Saudi royal court announces death of King Fahd. He is succeeded by the former crown prince, Abdullah.



2006 October - Saudi Arabia moves to formalise the royal succession in an apparent bid to prevent infighting among the next generation of princes.

2009 June - US President Barack Obama visits Saudi Arabia as part of a Middle East tour aimed at increasing US engagement with the Islamic world.

2010 December - Diplomatic cables revealed by whistle-blowing website Wikileaks suggest US concern that Saudi Arabia is the "most significant" source of funding for Sunni terrorist groups worldwide.

2011 February - King Abdullah announces increased welfare spending, as unrest continues across Arab world.

2011 March - Public protests banned, after small demonstrations in mainly Shia areas of the east. King Abdullah warns that threats to the nation's security and stability will not be tolerated.

Saudi troops participate in crackdown on unrest in Bahrain.



2011 October - Prince Nayef bin Abdulaziz al Saud is named as the heir to the throne, after Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz al Saud dies.

2013 October - Saudi Arabia turns down a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council, accusing the world body of double standards for what the kingdom sees a failure to act on Syria, where it staunchly backs the rebels.



2015 January - King Salman ascends throne after King Abdullah dies.

2015 March - Saudi Arabia launches campaign of air strikes against Houthi rebels in Yemen.



2015 April - In a major generational shift, King Salman appoints his nephew, Interior Minister Mohammed bin Nayef, as crown prince.

2015 November - Women stand in municipal elections for first time, 20 are elected.

2016 June - A United Nations report accuses the Saudi-led coalition fighting Houthi rebels in Yemen of killing and injuring hundreds of children.

2017 February - The Saudi Stock Exchange and a major bank name women as their chief executives.



2017 June - Saudi Arabia sparks a diplomatic crisis by leading an air, land and sea blockade by Arab countries, in an attempt to get Qatar to cut its alleged connections with terrorism and distance itself from Iran.

King Salman names his son Mohammed bin Salman (aka “MBS”) first in line to the throne.

2017 November - Purge of the kingdom's political and business leadership in an apparent move by the heir to the throne to consolidate his hold on power.