

HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF SAUDI ARABIA

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SECOND EDITION - 2003

This file contains the chronology only from the second edition of the dictionary. The file resides on the website www.JEPeterson.net and is scheduled for updating at irregular intervals. (June 2003)

CHRONOLOGY

- B.C. -

4th mill. Settlements belonging to al-'Ubayd culture appear in eastern Arabia

3rd mill. Trading settlement established on Tarut Island in the Gulf

2nd mill. Middle: Walled town-complexes are built at al-Quriyat, Daydan (modern al-'Ula), Tayma' and Ha'il

1st mill. Dumat al-Jandal (modern al-Jawf) emerges as first known independent Arabian state

9th cent. Settlements established at Thaj and Najran; al-Faw flourishes until 2nd century B.C.

c. 750 Sabaeen civilization of South Arabia appears and flourishes until c. 115 B.C.; Minaean civilization appears a few decades later and flourishes until 3rd century B.C.

1st mill. Middle: Mada'in Salih established as Minaean outpost

7th cent. Lihyanite civilization appears with its capital at Daydan (modern al-'Ula) and flourishes until 3rd century B.C.

4th cent. Early: Nabataeans establish a state with its capital at Petra and dominate northwestern Arabia for the next four centuries

c. 115 Himyaritic state supplants Sabaeen and Minaean civilizations in South Arabia and flourishes until c. A.D. 300

24 Roman army under Aelius Gallus invades Arabia

- A.D. -

106 Petra becomes a Roman province

c. 500 Quraysh tribe establishes control over the trading center of Makkah

570 The Prophet Muhammad is born into Quraysh tribe at Makkah

- 622** **July 16:** Prophet Muhammad and his Muslim followers leave Makkah for Yathrib (now al-Madinah); this event (*hijrah*) marks beginning of Islamic calendar
- 624** Muslim forces of al-Madinah defeat superior army of Makkah at Battle of Badr
- 625** Makkah forces defeat Muslims at Battle of Uhud outside al-Madinah
- 630** Makkah submits to the Muslims
- 632** Prophet Muhammad makes his farewell *hajj* (pilgrimage) to Makkah and dies later that year
- 635** Jawatha Mosque established in al-Ahsa' oasis, making it the oldest mosque in eastern Arabia
- 8th cent.** Pilgrims' way of Darb Zubaydah is built across the northern Arabian Peninsula to Makkah
- 899** al-Qaramitah (Carmathians) establish a state based on al-Hufuf
- 930** al-Qaramitah raid Makkah and bring the sacred Black Stone to al-Qatif; it is returned to Makkah in 951
- c. 1446** Village of al-Dir'iyah is founded in southern Najd by Mani' bin Rabi'ah
- 1541** Portuguese attack Jiddah
- c. 1541** Najdi town of Buraydah is founded
- 1550** Ottomans capture al-Hufuf during course of their expansion into perimeter of Arabian Peninsula
- 1669** Bani Khalid tribe ousts Ottoman forces from eastern Arabian Peninsula
- 1703** Islamic reformer Muhammad bin 'Abd al-Wahhab is born in al-'Uyaynah
- 1727** Muhammad bin Sa'ud bin Muqrin becomes first independent Saudi ruler of al-Dir'iyah
- 1744** Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab is forced to leave al-'Uyaynah and is welcomed at al-Dir'iyah by Imam Muhammad bin Sa'ud Al Sa'ud, who subsequently accepts Wahhabism
- 1762** Imam Muhammad bin Sa'ud Al Sa'ud dies and is succeeded by his son 'Abd al-'Aziz bin Sa'ud

- 1773** Forces of Al Sa'ud capture Riyadh
- 1792** Muhammad bin 'Abd al-Wahhab dies
- 1794** Al Sa'ud forces capture al-Ahsa'
- 1798** Saudi forces defeat Sharif Ghalib of Makkah near al-Khurmah
- c. 1801** Saudi forces attack Karbala and strip tomb of Caliph al-Husayn; Saudi forces subsequently capture Makkah
- 1803** Imam 'Abd al-'Aziz bin Sa'ud Al Sa'ud is assassinated and is succeeded by his son Sa'ud bin 'Abd al-'Aziz
- 1805** Saudi forces capture al-Madinah
- 1814** Muhammad 'Ali, the Ottoman Viceroy of Egypt, captures al Hijaz from the Al Sa'ud
- 1814** Imam Sa'ud bin 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud dies and is succeeded by his son 'Abdullah
- 1818** Muhammad 'Ali's son Ibrahim Pasha destroys Al Sa'ud capital at al-Dir'iyah; Imam 'Abdullah bin Sa'ud is taken to Istanbul where he is executed
- 1819** G. F. Sadleir becomes the first European to cross the Arabian Peninsula
- 1824** Turki bin Sa'ud, a cousin of previous Imam 'Abdullah, assumes leadership of Al Sa'ud and eventually recaptures Riyadh
- 1824** Al Khalifah of Bahrain seize al-Dammam and hold it for 17 years
- c. 1830** Idrisi family settles in Sabya
- 1834** Imam Turki bin Sa'ud is assassinated; his son Faysal defeats the assassin and becomes Imam
- 1835** 'Abdullah bin Rashid of 'Abdah Shammar tribe is appointed governor of Ha'il by Imam Faysal bin Turki Al Sa'ud, thus beginning Al Rashid dynasty
- 1838** Egyptian forces invade Najd a second time and take Imam Faysal to Cairo
- 1840** Direct Ottoman rule is reimposed on al-Hijaz
- 1843** Imam Faysal escapes from Cairo and regains control of Najd, thus marking beginning of Second Saudi State

- 1845** Saudi forces capture al-Buraymi oasis
- 1858** A massacre of Christians in Jiddah provokes a British naval bombardment
- 1864** Imam Faysal dies and dynastic squabbles ensue until 1889
- 1865** Col. Lewis Pelly, the senior British official in the Gulf, travels to Riyadh
- 1865** Saudi raids extend deep into Oman
- 1866** Anglo-Saudi agreement reached
- 1868** Appointment of Midhat Pasha as Governor-General of Baghdad generates Ottoman expansionist phase in Arabian Peninsula; Ottomans extend their control over eastern Arabia and capture 'Asir from local Al 'Ayid dynasty
- 1871** Muhammad bin Rashid Al Rashid captures al-Ahsa' from Al Sa'ud
- 1874** Imam Sa'ud bin Faysal Al Sa'ud dies of wounds received in battle and is succeeded briefly by his brother 'Abdullah
- 1884** Al Rashid dynasty of Ha'il consolidate their control over most of Najd and capture Riyadh
- 1889** 'Abd al-Rahman bin Faysal, son of Imam Faysal, assumes uncontested leadership of Al Sa'ud and temporarily rejects Al Rashid control of Riyadh
- 1891** Muhammad bin Rashid Al Rashid captures Riyadh and Imam 'Abd al-Rahman is forced to flee, eventually settling in Kuwait
- c. 1900** Idrisi family establishes independent dynasty in Sabya
- 1900** Work begins on al-Hijaz Railway, linking Syria with al-Madinah
- 1902** **January:** Imam 'Abd al-'Aziz bin 'Abd al-Rahman captures Riyadh from the Al Rashid, thus marking beginning of Third Saudi State
- 1905** A small Ottoman garrison is posted in al-Qasim
- 1908** Ottoman-built al-Hijaz railway reaches al-Madinah
- 1908** Husayn bin 'Ali al-Hashimi becomes Sharif of Makkah
- c. 1908** Saudi sovereignty is extended over al-Qasim
- 1910** Captain W. H. I. Shakespear, the British Political Agent in Kuwait, becomes the first Englishman to meet Imam 'Abd al-'Aziz

- 1910** Sharif Husayn of Makkah sends an army to capture al-Qasim but is repulsed by Saudi forces
- 1912** First Ikhwan settlement is founded at al-Artawiyah
- 1913** Imam ‘Abd al-‘Aziz captures al-Ahsa’
- 1913** **29 July:** Anglo-Ottoman Convention establishes the "Blue Line" as the eastern Arabian boundary between the Ottoman and British empires
- 1914** **May:** Imam ‘Abd al-‘Aziz signs a treaty with the Ottomans
- 1915** Captain Shakespear is killed during the Battle of Jarrab between the Al Sa‘ud and the Al Rashid
- 1915** **26 December:** Anglo-Saudi treaty provides British recognition of Imam ‘Abd al-‘Aziz bin ‘Abd al-Rahman
- 1916** **5 June:** Sharif Husayn of Makkah proclaims the Arab Revolt
- 1916** **29 October:** Sharif Husayn of Makkah adopts the title of King of al-Hijaz
- 1916** **5 November:** Sharif Husayn of Makkah proclaims himself King of the Arabs
- 1918** **May:** Al-Khurmah is scene of first clash between forces of Imam ‘Abd al-‘Aziz Al Sa‘ud and King Husayn al-Hashimi and the oasis falls to the Al Sa‘ud in the following year
- 1920** The Al Sa‘ud occupy mountainous areas of ‘Asir
- 1920** Imam ‘Abd al-‘Aziz concludes Saudi-Rashidi agreement which places foreign relations of the Al Rashid amirate and control of Shammar tribe under Saudi control
- 1920** The Ikhwan under the leadership of Faysal al-Duwish rout Kuwaiti Shaykh Salim and his forces at al-Jahrah
- 1921** Imam ‘Abd al-‘Aziz annexes the Al Rashid amirate and becomes Sultan of Najd
- 1922** **5 May:** Representatives of Najd and Iraq sign Treaty of Muhammarah on common borders but the treaty is rejected by Imam ‘Abd al-‘Aziz
- 1922** **December:** Al-‘Uqayr Protocol fixes Najdi-Iraqi and Najdi-Kuwaiti borders and creates Najdi-Iraqi and Najdi-Kuwaiti Neutral Zones
- 1923** Major Frank Holmes secures oil concession for al-Ahsa’

- 1923** Ikhwan raids into Transjordan and Iraq result in numerous deaths
- 1923** **17 December:** Kuwait Conference convenes to deal with Saudi-Hashimi border problems and to settle provisions of Treaty of Muhammarah; conference continues until April 1924
- 1924** **3 March:** Turkey abolishes Islamic caliphate and it is taken up by King Husayn of al-Hijaz on March 5
- 1924** **August:** Saudi forces invade al-Hijaz and Ikhwan capture of al-Ta'if degenerates into looting and a massacre
- 1924** **3 October:** King Husayn of al-Hijaz abdicates and leaves for al-'Aqabah; he is succeeded by his son 'Ali; Saudi forces enter Makkah unopposed less than a week later
- 1925** **January:** Saudi siege of Jiddah begins
- 1925** **November:** Sir Gilbert Clayton negotiates Haddah and Bahrah Agreements with Imam 'Abd al-'Aziz
- 1925** **December:** Al-Madinah and Yanbu' surrender to forces of Imam 'Abd al-'Aziz; Saudi army enters Jiddah on 19 December and ex-King 'Ali sails for Iraq on 22 December
- 1926** Tribal heads of the Ikhwan meet in al-Artawiyah to discuss their grievances against Imam 'Abd al-'Aziz
- 1926** **8 January:** Notables of al-Hijaz proclaim 'Abd al-'Aziz King of al-Hijaz and Sultan of Najd and Its Dependencies
- 1926** **February:** Britain recognizes 'Abd al-'Aziz as King of al-Hijaz
- 1926** **October:** King 'Abd al-'Aziz and Idrisi leader of 'Asir sign Treaty of Makkah
- 1927** Soviet Union recognizes Imam 'Abd al-'Aziz as King of al-Hijaz and Sultan of Najd and sends a minister to Jiddah
- 1927** **20 May:** Anglo-Saudi Treaty of Jiddah supersedes that of 1915; the British government recognizes full independence of Imam 'Abd al-'Aziz while the Saudi leader acknowledges the British treaty relationships with the shaykhdoms of the Gulf
- 1927** **October:** The Ikhwan massacre Iraqis at al-Busaya police post, which leads to hostilities between Britain and 'Abd al-'Aziz lasting into following year

- 1929** The Ikhwan kill an American missionary in his car on road between Basra and Kuwait
- 1929 30 March:** King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz defeats the Ikhwan at the Battle of Sibilah
- 1929 Late:** Bertram Thomas becomes the first European to cross al-Rub‘ al-Khali desert (the Empty Quarter), frustrating H. St. John B. Philby's ambition to be the first
- 1930 January:** Imam ‘Abd al-‘Aziz breaks back of Ikhwan rebellion in Battle of Shu‘ayb al- ‘Awjah; Ikhwan leaders subsequently surrender in Kuwait and are turned over to ‘Abd al-‘Aziz
- 1930 22 February:** Meeting between Imam ‘Abd al-‘Aziz and King Faysal of Iraq lays foundations for amicable relations between AlSa‘ud and al-Hashimi families
- 1930** First British minister arrives in Jiddah
- 1930** Ministry of Foreign Affairs is established
- 1930 November:** King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz annexes ‘Asir
- 1931** Council of Deputies is established for al-Hijaz
- 1931 February:** Charles Crane visits King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz at Jiddah and sends Karl S. Twitchell to conduct the country's first geological survey
- 1932** Ministry of Finance is established
- 1932 May:** Bin Rifadah, a tribal shaykh of northeastern Arabia, revolts against Imam ‘Abd al-‘Aziz
- 1932 22 September:** Name of the country is changed to Saudi Arabia and ‘Abd al-‘Aziz adopts title of King of Saudi Arabia
- 1932 October:** Idrisi Amir revolts against King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz
- 1933 April:** King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz and King ‘Abdullah of Transjordan recognize each other's regimes
- 1933 May:** King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz grants al-Ahsa’ oil concession to SOCAL
- 1934 March-May:** Saudi-Yemeni war takes place; the two countries sign the Treaty of al-Ta’if (Yemen) in June

- 1935** **April:** King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz presents Britain with his "Red line" border proposal; Britain counters in November with the "Riyadh Line"
- 1936** Petroleum Concessions Ltd. receives al-Hijaz oil concession
- 1936** Saudi Arabia signs treaties with kingdoms of Iraq and Egypt
- 1936** Britain and Saudi Arabia agree to revised Treaty of Jiddah
- 1938** **March:** Oil discovered at Well No. 7 at Dammam Dome
- 1939** Oil pipeline is laid from Dhahran oil field to new oil terminal at Ra’s Tanurah
- 1942** British government initiates war subsidy to Saudi Arabia of £3 million
- 1942** United States legation is established in Jiddah
- 1944** Californian Arabian Standard Oil Company is renamed Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO)
- 1945** First Saudi university graduates return from abroad
- 1945** **February:** King ‘Abd al-‘Aziz meets US President Franklin Roosevelt aboard the USS *Quincy* in the Suez Canal
- 1945** **March:** Saudi Arabia becomes a founding member of the League of Arab States
- 1946** Ministry of Defense is established
- 1946** American air base is established at Dhahran
- 1947** British Military Mission arrives at al-Ta’if
- 1948** ARAMCO discovers giant al-Ghawar oil field
- 1948** United States legation in Jiddah is upgraded to an embassy
- 1949** Saudi-Kuwait Neutral Zone oil concession is awarded to Getty Oil
- 1950** Deep-water port is opened at al-Dammam and TAPLINE oil pipeline is built from Eastern Province to Mediterranean ports
- 1951** Ministry of Interior is established
- 1951** Railroad is built between al-Dammam and Riyadh

- 1952** Capital of al-Ahsa' Province is moved to al-Dammam and province is renamed the Eastern Province
- 1952** Saudi Arabia and Britain discuss boundaries between the kingdom and the British-protected states of the Gulf at al-Dammam Conference, but without success
- 1952** **October:** Armed Saudi detachment occupies village of al-Hamasah in al-Buraymi oasis
- 1953** Ministries of Agriculture and Water, Communications, and Education are established
- 1953** First strike of ARAMCO workers takes place
- 1953** **9 October:** Royal decree establishes first Council of Ministers; but death of King 'Abd al-'Aziz delays council's first meeting until March 1954
- 1953** **November:** 'Abd al-'Aziz bin 'Abd al-Rahman (Bin Sa'ud) dies in Riyadh and is succeeded as King by his son Sa'ud bin 'Abd al-'Aziz
- 1954** Ministry of Health is established
- 1955** **11 September:** Al-Buraymi Arbitration Tribunal convenes in Geneva but is soon suspended
- 1955** **26 October:** The Trucial Oman Scouts expel the Saudi garrison from al-Buraymi oasis
- 1956** **June:** Strikes directed against King Sa'ud occur amongst ARAMCO workers
- 1956** **August:** King Sa'ud meets with the Soviet Ambassador to Iran in Tehran
- 1956** **November:** Arab-Israeli (Suez) War provokes demonstrations in Dhahran and Riyadh; Saudi Arabia breaks diplomatic relations with Britain and France
- 1957** King Sa'ud University, Saudi Arabia's first, opens in Riyadh
- 1957** King Sa'ud visits the United States and wins sympathy for plight of his polio-stricken young son
- 1958** **March:** King Sa'ud's plot to assassinate Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir is revealed by Syrian intelligence
- 1958** **24 March:** King Sa'ud hands over executive powers in foreign and internal affairs, including fiscal planning, to his half brother Faysal

- 1960** Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources is established
- 1960** **January:** Oil production begins in Japan Oil Company concession offshore of Saudi-Kuwaiti Neutral Zone
- 1960** **September:** OPEC is formed with Saudi Arabia as a charter member
- 1960** **December:** King Sa'ud regains control over government from Crown Prince Faysal
- 1961** Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is established
- 1961** **January:** King Sa'ud appoints a new Council of Ministers, including representatives of the "Liberal Princes"
- 1961** **September:** Saudi military units arrive in Kuwait as part of Arab League peacekeeping force to deter Iraqi invasion; they remain in Kuwait until January 1963
- 1961** **September:** King Sa'ud's cabinet reshuffle sends "Liberal Princes" into exile
- 1962** Ministry of Hajj Affairs and Awqaf is established
- 1962** American air base at Dhahran reverts to Royal Saudi Air Force
- 1962** **March:** Prince Faysal is restored as Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister to substitute for King Sa'ud who is in the US for medical treatment
- 1962** **September:** Diplomatic relations are resumed with France, as a result of Evian accords which bring an end to Algerian war
- 1962** **26 September:** An attempted revolution in Yemen plunges that country into civil war; Egyptian support for the new republic provokes Saudi Arabia to support the ousted Yemeni Imam and his royalist followers
- 1962** **October:** The Al Sa'ud family forces King Sa'ud to appoint Crown Prince Faysal as Prime Minister again, and to appoint Faysal's half brother Khalid as Deputy Prime Minister
- 1962** **November:** Prince Faysal, as Prime Minister, announces a 10-point plan for reform, including promises to issue a constitution, establish local government, and form an independent judiciary
- 1963** Ministry of Information is established
- 1963** Diplomatic relations are reestablished with Britain

- 1964** **23 March:** *Fatwa* by *'ulama'* proclaims that King Sa'ud is unfit to rule
- 1964** **2 November:** A royal proclamation, signed by 68 princes, transfers power from King Sa'ud to Crown Prince Faysal; deposed as king, Sa'ud goes into exile in Greece; King Faysal's half brother Khalid becomes Heir Apparent
- 1965** Central Planning Organization is created
- 1966** **November to February 1967:** Underground opposition groups set off bombs inside Saudi Arabia
- 1967** **June:** Third Arab-Israeli War ends with Israeli occupation of Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, and Jerusalem and the West Bank; token Saudi forces participate in war while action by ARAMCO workers temporarily disrupts oil exports
- 1967** **August:** Khartoum summit of Arab leaders leads to settlement of Egyptian-Saudi differences over Yemen and commits Saudi Arabia and other Arab oil-producing states to provide financial subsidies to Arab frontline states
- 1969** **September:** Rapprochement is achieved with Egypt
- 1969** **September:** Discovery of putative plot against government sets off wave of arrests lasting into 1970
- 1970** Ministry of Justice is established
- 1970** First Five-Year Development Plan is inaugurated
- 1973** **October:** Fourth Arab-Israeli War begins with Egyptian forces crossing the Suez Canal; talks between OPEC states and oil company representatives in Vienna end inconclusively and are followed by unilateral price rises by Gulf producers; Arab oil producers, including Saudi Arabia, announce a mandatory cut in exports as result of the war and institute an embargo on exports to the United States and the Netherlands (later extended to Portugal, Rhodesia, and South Africa)
- 1974** **March:** Decision is taken to end Arab oil embargo against United States
- 1974** **June:** Visit of Second Deputy Prime Minister Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz to Washington results in creation of Saudi-US joint commissions
- 1975** **25 March:** King Faysal bin 'Abd al-'Aziz is assassinated in Riyadh by his nephew, Prince Faysal bin Musa'id, who is subsequently beheaded; Faysal's half brother Khalid succeeds him as King; half brother Fahd is appointed Heir Apparent

- 1975 October:** Council of Ministers is reorganized, with 20 ministries headed by ministers and three ministers without portfolio; King Khalid bin ‘Abd al-‘Aziz heads Council as Prime Minister, Heir Apparent Fahd bin ‘Abd al-‘Aziz becomes First Deputy Prime Minister, and ‘Abdullah bin ‘Abd al-‘Aziz becomes Second Deputy Prime Minister
- 1975 Ministries of Higher Education, Industry and Electricity, Municipalities and Rural Affairs, Planning, Public Works and Housing, and Posts, Telephones, and Telegraphs are established after death of King Faysal**
- 1976 March:** Diplomatic relations established with South Yemen
- 1978 May:** US Congress approves sale of F-15 combat aircraft to Saudi Arabia
- 1979 Antigovernment demonstrations by Shi‘ah elements take place in Eastern Province, inspired by the Iranian revolution; more demonstrations occur in 1980**
- 1979 21 November:** Neo-Ikhwan group, led by Juhayman bin Muhammad al-‘Utaybi seizes Great Mosque of Makkah; control is not regained until 5 December and after the loss of many lives; Juhayman and other surviving dissidents are subsequently executed
- 1980 ARAMCO becomes 100% Saudi-owned, with ownership backdated to 1976**
- 1980 Carter Doctrine is announced, by which Washington signals its intention to intervene in the Gulf when necessary to protect oil supplies**
- 1981 United States sells five AWACS radar-aircraft to Saudi Arabia after narrow vote of approval in US Congress**
- 1981 19 May:** Two bombs explode in Riyadh, killing one and wounding three
- 1981 25 May:** Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is inaugurated in Abu Dhabi at summit of rulers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, and Oman
- 1982 King Khalid bin ‘Abd al-‘Aziz dies and is succeeded by his half brother Fahd: Fahd's half brother ‘Abdullah is recognized as Heir Apparent and a full brother Sultan is recognized as next in line to the throne**
- 1984 June:** Royal Saudi Air Force shoots down an Iranian F-4 fighter invading Saudi airspace
- 1984 April:** Minister of Health Ghazi al-Qusaybi is dismissed after he publishes a poem critical of the royal family

- 1985** Saudi Arabia places order for British Aerospace Tornado combat aircraft in al-Yamamah-I deal
- 1986** King Fahd Causeway is opened, connecting Eastern Province to Bahrain
- 1986** **October:** Minister of Oil and Mineral Resources Ahmad Zaki Yamani is dismissed
- 1987** **31 July:** Iranian demonstration in Makkah during *hajj* gets out of control and more than 400 people are killed in ensuing melee between demonstrators and Saudi police
- 1987** **15 August:** Explosion rips through natural gas plant in Eastern Province
- 1988** Saudi Arabia and Britain sign al-Yamamah-II deal for military equipment and construction of air bases
- 1988** **March:** United States government protests Saudi acquisition of Chinese ballistic missiles; in response, Riyadh declares US Ambassador Hume Horan persona non grata
- 1988** **March:** Explosions set off at refinery in Ra's Tanurah and at petrochemical plant in al-Jubayl; four Saudi Shi'i nationals are executed in September 1988 for the acts
- 1990** **21 July:** Diplomatic relations are established between Saudi Arabia and the People's Republic of China
- 1990** **2 August:** Iraq invades Kuwait, following the breakdown of talks over border and oil issues
- 1990** **17 September:** Saudi Arabia formally reestablishes diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, suspended since 1938
- 1991** **16 January:** Operation Desert Storm air offensive begins against Iraq; on January 30-31, an Iraqi offensive against al-Khafji is contained; the Operation Desert Storm ground campaign begins against Iraq and occupied Kuwait on February 24; on February 27, Kuwaiti armed forces enter Kuwait City and a cease-fire in the war is announced on February 28
- 1991** **26 March:** Diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran are reestablished; in June, Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal becomes first senior Saudi official to visit Tehran since Iranian revolution of 1979
- 1992** **1 March:** King Fahd announces institution of a Basic Law for the kingdom and establishment of a 60-member Majlis al-Shura (Consultative Council) within six months

- 1992 17 September:** Justice Minister Muhammad bin Ibrahim bin Jubayr is appointed Speaker of proposed Majlis al-Shura
- 1992 30 September:** Saudi forces attack a Qatari border post, killing at least one; Egypt's mediation defuses dispute in December and Qatar withdraws its threat to boycott the GCC summit
- 1992 21 December:** King Fahd in speech criticizes religious extremists in Saudi Arabia and their foreign backers; this follows dismissal of seven members of the Supreme Authority of Senior 'Ulama'
- 1993 9 March:** A riot in an Iraqi refugee camp inside Saudi Arabia's northern border results in 13 deaths
- 1993 13 May:** Newly formed Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights is declared illegal and its members removed from their jobs
- 1993 11 July:** Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz bin Baz is appointed Mufti of Saudi Arabia
- 1993 21 August:** King Fahd appoints the 60 members of the long-promised Majlis al-Shura (Consultative Council)
- 1993 13 September:** Lone gunman fires at gate of King Fahd's palace in Jiddah
- 1993 4 October:** Saudi Arabia contributes \$100 million to the \$2 billion international fund for Palestinian development established after the Israeli-PLO accord
- 1994 17 May:** Saudi diplomat Muhammad al-Khilawi defects to the United States and is granted political asylum; a second diplomat, Ahmad al-Zahrani, defects to Britain two months later
- 1994 September:** Security forces arrest more than a hundred Islamic dissidents, many of them in the central region of al-Qasim; among them are Shaykh Salman al-'Awdah and Shaykh Safar al-Hawali
- 1995 2 January:** As part of an austerity budget, the Saudi government announces price increases for water, telephone charges, gasoline, and domestic air travel
- 1995 May:** The flogging of an Egyptian schoolteacher in Saudi Arabia as punishment for an alleged crime provokes a brief crisis between Egypt and the kingdom

1995 19 June: Saudi Arabian Airlines announces the purchase of 61 commercial aircraft from US manufacturers Boeing and McDonnell Douglas in a deal worth more than \$6 billion

1995 5 July: Details of the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan for 1995-2000 are published; the plan emphasizes austerity to match declining government revenues and economic diversification away from dependence on oil; nearly \$258 billion is expended during the plan's life

1995 2 August: The most extensive reshuffling of the cabinet in two decades is announced, including new appointments for the ministries of petroleum and finance

1995 13 November: A car bomb explodes at a National Guard facility in Riyadh used by American military personnel; seven were killed and 60 were injured. Four Saudis confessed to the act on Saudi television on 22 April 1996, claiming they had been influenced by the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights and Usamah bin Ladin; they were executed on 31 May 1996

1995 22 November: A powerful earthquake across the Middle East strikes the northwestern corner of Saudi Arabia, killing several

1996 27 March: Three Saudi tribesmen hijack an Egyptian aircraft to Libya

1996 1 April: The Saudi Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Dr. Ghazi al-Qusaybi, warns the British government that it must expel Saudi dissident Dr. Muhammad al-Mas'ari or risk losing millions of dollars in trade with the kingdom. A British court subsequently overturns the British government's deportation order

1996 26 June: A truck bomb at a US military housing complex in al-Khubar kills 19 Americans and injures nearly 400 individuals of various nationalities; the identity of the perpetrators remained unknown six years later but speculation focused on Saudi Shi'ah assisted by Iran

1996 5 July: French President Jacques Chirac visits Saudi Arabia and discusses payments for French arms sales to the kingdom

1996 11 August: King Husayn of Jordan meets King Fahd in Jiddah, the first time the rulers have met since 1990 because of Saudi displeasure with Jordan's apparent support for the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait

1996 17 November: Unexpected rainstorms and gale-force winds kill at least three people in southern Saudi Arabia and cause \$24 million in damage

1997 12 March: Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense and National Aviation Prince Sultan bin 'Abd al-'Aziz makes the first official visit to Britain by a senior Saudi official since 1989

- 1997 16 April:** A cooking-gas cylinder ignites a fire in the pilgrims' camp during the annual *hajj* (pilgrimage) to Makkah, killing 343 pilgrims
- 1997 6 July:** The Majlis al-Shura (Consultative Council) is reconstituted for a second term, with the retention of 30 members and the appointment of 60 new members
- 1997 7 September:** Former Minister of Oil 'Abdullah al-Tariqi dies in Cairo
- 1997 10-11 December:** Heir Apparent Prince 'Abdullah bin 'Abd al-'Aziz holds talks with Iranian President Muhammad Khatami during Prince 'Abdullah's presence at the Organization of the Islamic Conference summit in Tehran
- 1998 21 February:** Former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani begins a 10-day visit to Saudi Arabia, the first by a senior Iranian official since the 1979 revolution
- 1998 9 April:** The official death toll from a stampede during the annual *hajj* (pilgrimage) to Makkah is put at 118 pilgrims
- 1998 13 May:** King Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz names his youngest son 'Abd al-'Aziz as a minister of state without portfolio; 'Abd al-'Aziz makes an official visit to the United States on his father's behalf two months later
- 1998 16 May:** Iranian President Muhammad Khatami begins three-day visit to Saudi Arabia, the first by an Iranian leader since the 1979 revolution
- 1998 15 September:** Heir Apparent Prince 'Abdullah bin 'Abd al-'Aziz starts a lengthy international tour by meeting British Prime Minister Tony Blair in London. Subsequent stops on his tour include France, the United States, and China
- 1998 22 September:** Saudi Arabia announces it is recalling its chargé d'affaires from Afghanistan in response to the ruling Taliban government's failure to hand over Saudi-born dissident Usamah bin Ladin to the Saudi government
- 1998 26 September:** Heir Apparent Prince 'Abdullah meets US oil company executives in Washington to invite US businesses to invest in Saudi Arabia's oil and gas industries
- 1998 15 October:** Saudi Heir Apparent Prince 'Abdullah bin 'Abd al-'Aziz meets Chinese President Jiang Zemin in Beijing in first high-level Saudi visit to China. President Jiang Zemin returns visit in October-November 1999
- 1998 7-9 December:** GCC summit in Muscat elects Jamil al-Hujaylan of Saudi Arabia to a three-year term as Secretary-General of the GCC, effective 1 April 1999

1999 15 March: As part of an accord among OPEC and other international oil exporters, Saudi Arabia agrees to cut its crude oil output by 585,000 barrels per day, dropping its total production below 8 million barrels per day for the first time in nearly a decade

1999 13 May: Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz bin 'Abdullah bin Baz, Mufti of Saudi Arabia, dies and is replaced by Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz bin 'Abdullah Al al-Shaykh

1999 17 June: The cabinet is reshuffled

1999 29 July: A fire engulfs a wedding-party tent in a village of the Eastern Province, killing at least 46 people

1999 24 October: New Pakistani ruler General Pervez Musharraf makes his first foreign trip as ruler to Saudi Arabia

1999 29 October : Kamal Adham, prominent businessman, brother-in-law of King Faysal, and former head of Saudi intelligence, dies in Egypt

2000 28 February: Japan's Arabian Oil Company loses its 40-year concession for the Saudi share of the Saudi-Kuwait Neutral Zone; operations are taken over by an ARAMCO subsidiary

2000 17 March: Shots fired from a moving car wound a guard at the Russian consulate in Jiddah; the Saudi government denies that the attack was because of Russia's campaign against Chechen rebels

2000 17 April: Higher Organization for Tourism is created as part of a policy of economic diversification, in conjunction with the issuing of guidelines for the country's first tourist visas

2000 29 May: Women are allowed to attend a session of the Majlis al-Shura (Consultative Council) for the first time

2000 14 June: Formation is announced of a council of the Royal Family composed of 18 senior princes with Heir Apparent 'Abdullah bin 'Abd al-'Aziz at its head; its purpose is apparently to bring the widespread family together and to arrange family affairs

2000 28 August: Ministry of Planning announces approval of the Seventh Five-Year Development Plan for 2001-2005, with spending set at \$200 billion, concentrating on economic reforms, the diversification of income away from oil, and promotion of the private sector

2000 14 October: Four Saudi dissidents hijack a Saudi Arabian Airlines plane to Baghdad, where they were given sanctuary

2000 17 November: A British man is killed and his wife wounded when a bomb blows up their car in Riyadh. Subsequent explosions take place on 22 November and 15 December, all with British victims. Four Europeans confess on Saudi television on 4 February 2001 to the attacks, in what the Saudi government claims is a dispute over illegal alcohol smuggling in the kingdom. Questions regarding their guilt and punishment continue into 2002

2000 18 December: Saudi government announces a balanced budget for 2001, following a surplus for 2000, the first budget surplus in 19 years

2001 5 March: The second fatal stampede in three years during the annual *hajj* (pilgrimage) to Makkah kills 35 pilgrims

2001 17 April: Iran and Saudi Arabia sign a security pact intended to combat organized crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, and illegal immigration

2001 14 May: The Ministry of Health reports that an outbreak of Rift Valley fever in southern Saudi Arabia has killed 124 people since September 2000; dozens more die in adjoining regions of Yemen

2001 24 May: The membership of the Majlis al-Shura (Consultative Council) is expanded to 120 in preparation for its third four-year session; of these, 62 members are new

2001 8 September: Prince Turki al-Faysal, Director of General Intelligence since 1968, is replaced by his uncle, Prince Nawwaf bin 'Abd al-'Aziz

2001 11 September: Fifteen Saudis are among the 19 hijackers of four American domestic airliners, which are then used to destroy the World Trade Center in New York and damage the Pentagon in Washington; the Saudi government condemns the attacks and their presumed mastermind, Saudi-born dissident Usamah bin Ladin; US-Saudi relations are strained by American media attacks on the kingdom and perceived Saudi slowness to join US President George W. Bush's declared "war on terror"

2001 25 September: Saudi Arabia severs all diplomatic relations with Afghanistan's ruling Taliban government for its support of Usamah bin Ladin and al-Qa'idah organization

2002 18 January: Interim President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai arrives in Saudi Arabia on his first trip abroad as president, seeking aid for his war-torn country; the kingdom provides \$20 million in initial aid and pledges an additional \$200 million at the Tokyo donors conference a few days later

2002 24 January: Shaykh Muhammad bin Ibrahim al-Jubayr, the Chairman of the Majlis al-Shura (Consultative Council) dies; he is replaced by Dr. Salih bin 'Abdullah bin Humayd

2002 February: Heir Apparent ‘Abdullah bin ‘Abd al-‘Aziz announces his Arab-Israeli peace plan to a visiting journalist, proposing the normalization of Arab relations with Israel in exchange for Israel's withdrawal to its 1967 borders; the rough plan attracts international attention and is adopted in a more complete form by an Arab League summit on 28 March 2002

2002 11 March: At least 15 girls are killed during a fire at their school in Makkah, apparently because the *mutawwi'in* (religious police) prevented them from leaving the school because they are not properly dressed

2002 21 March: ‘Abdullah bin ‘Awad bin Ladin, head of the wealthy bin Ladin family and uncle of the estranged Usamah bin Ladin, dies in al-Madinah

2002 2 April: Amnesty International announces that Saudi Arabia executed at least 79 people in 2001, ranking it third in the world and slightly surpassing the United States

2002 5 April: Several thousand people demonstrate in Dhahran in protest against Israeli actions against West Bank towns. A subsequent Saudi telethon on 12-13 April raises more than \$100 million for Palestinian relief

2002 12-15 April: Torrential rains and flash floods in western and southern Saudi Arabia kill more than 12 people

2002 25 April: Heir Apparent ‘Abdullah bin ‘Abd al-‘Aziz visits US President George W. Bush at his Texas ranch in an attempt to mend bilateral relations after September 2001 and to ask for the US to exert pressure on Israel to stop its attacks on Palestinian towns; the visit follows the cancellation of an earlier visit scheduled for May 2001 because of Saudi objection to US support for Israel

2002 Early May: An empty missile tube from a Soviet-made SA-7 anti-aircraft missile launcher is discovered outside the Prince Sultan Air Base, used by United States aircraft enforcing the no-fly zone over Iraq; 13 men, including 11 Saudis, are arrested a few weeks later on charges of having been involved in the attempt on behalf of al-Qa'idah

2002 11 May: An Iraqi government minister attending an Arab meeting enters Saudi Arabia in the first such visit since the Kuwait War

2002 20 June: A British banker is killed by a car bomb explosion in Riyadh; bombs attached to the cars of two other expatriates are discovered a few days later

2002 Late June: A Saudi government team visits Guantánamo Bay in Cuba to check on the approximately 100 Saudi nationals being held there on suspicion of having links to terrorism

2002 5 July: Prominent Saudi businessman Sulayman al-‘Ulayan dies

- 2002 23 July:** Prince Ahmad bin Salman Al Sa'ud, son of Prince Salman bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, Governor of Riyadh Prince, dies of a heart attack six weeks after a horse he owned won the Kentucky Derby
- 2002 25-29 July:** King Fahd bin 'Abd al-'Aziz undergoes two eye surgeries in Geneva amid concerns that his health was continuing to worsen
- 2002 19 September:** The Saudi ambassador to the United Kingdom Ghazi al-Qusaybi is recalled to Riyadh and appointed Minister of Water
- 2002 30 September:** A German employee of an electronics company is killed by a car bomb explosion in Riyadh
- 2002 1 October:** The United States government introduces a policy of registration and fingerprinting of Saudi Arabian males entering the United States
- 2002 15 October:** A Saudi unsuccessfully attempts to hijack a Saudi Arabian Airlines plane on a flight from Khartoum to Jiddah
- 2002 3 November:** Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal says that Saudi Arabia will not allow the United States to use its facilities for any attack against Iraq even if a strike was sanctioned by the United Nations. He clarifies his remarks on the following day to note that Saudi Arabia would be obligated to cooperate with the United Nations if Iraq refuses to implement UN resolutions but that it would not mean that the kingdom would join any fighting.
- 2002 18 November:** Saudi securities forces wound and apprehend a terrorist suspect in Riyadh
- 2002 20 November:** Minister of Interior Prince Nayif bin 'Abd al-'Aziz says that Saudi Arabia holds more than 100 Saudi nationals on suspicion of ties to al-Qa'idah. On the same day, a gunman fires shots in an American fast-food restaurant in al-Kharj and is later arrested
- 2002 3 December:** Saudi Arabia announces that former head of intelligence Prince Turki al-Faysal is to be appointed ambassador to the United Kingdom