

Saudi Arabia Part II

Topics

- Saudi Arabia and the King Salman.
- Administration.
- Local Government
- Economy
- Tourism
- Religion & culture

Saudi Arabia and the King

Officially known as
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

In Arabic
(Al-Mamlakah Al-'Arabiyah As-Sa'udiyah)

Capital: Riyadh



Kingdom Centre

- Kingdom Centre (Arabic: مركزاًو برج المملكة), is a 41-storey, 302.3 m (992 ft) skyscraper in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It is the third tallest skyscraper in the country after the Abraj Al Bait Towers and the Burj Rafal, and is the world's third tallest building with a hole after the Shanghai World Financial Center and Tuntex Sky Tower.

Currency: Saudi riyal



King of KSA

- **Salman bin Abdulaziz Āl-Saud** (also Prime Minister)



Salman bin Abdulaziz

- He is reported to be the 25th son of King Abdulaziz ibn Saud.
- He served as the Deputy Governor and then the Governor of Riyadh for 48 years from 1963 to 2011.
- He was appointed as Minister of Defence in 2011.
- He was also named the Crown Prince in 2012 following the death of his brother Nayef bin Abdulaziz.
- Salman was crowned as the new King of Saudi Arabia on 23 January 2015 following the death of his half brother, King Abdullah.

His major Steps

- Among the first things were to streamline the government bureaucracy. On the death of King Abdullah, there were as many as eleven government secretariats, and all of these were abolished and reconstituted as only two.
- In March 2015, the king ordered the bombing of Yemen and military intervention against the Shia Houthis and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Alteration in line of succession

- Salman altered the line of succession by appointing Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the interior minister, as Crown Prince.
- Prince Mohammed, 55, is a grandson of ibn Saud.
- King Salman took this decision and thrust aside his half-brother, Prince Muqrin, who had previously been the chosen successor.
- An official statement tried to save Prince Muqrin's dignity by claiming that his sudden demotion had taken place "upon his request".

Crown Prince of KSA



Crown Prince of KSA

- Muhammad bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (Arabic: محمد بن نايف بن عبد العزيز آل سعود; born 30 August 1959) is the Crown Prince, First Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Interior of Saudi Arabia.
- He is nephew of King Salman. If he ascends to the throne, as a grandson of King Abdulaziz he will be the first king of the third generation in Saudi Arabia.

Deputy Crown Prince

- King Salman appointed his own son, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, as Deputy Crown Prince and second in line for the throne.
- Mohammed bin Salman, aged only 30, is also the defence minister.

Administration

- The King of Saudi Arabia is both the **head of state** and the **head of government**.
- The Qur'an is declared to be the constitution of the country, which is governed on the basis of Islamic law (Shari'a).
- The decisions are made on the basis of consultation among the senior princes of the royal family and the religious establishment.
- No political parties or national elections are permitted.
- Government is dominated by the royal family.

Legislative, executive and judiciary

- The king combines legislative, executive, and judicial functions and royal decrees form the basis of the country's legislation.
- The king is also the prime minister, and presides over the **Council of Ministers (Majlis al-Wuzarā')**.

Continued

- **Council of Ministers (Majlis al-Wuzarā’):** comprising the first and second deputy prime ministers and 23 ministers with portfolio and five ministers of state.
- **Consultative Assembly:** There is also a 150-member **Consultative Assembly**, appointed by the King, which can propose legislation to the King but has no legislative powers itself.

Royal family & Succession

- The family's vast numbers hold most of the kingdom's important posts and have an involvement and presence at **all levels** of government.
- The number of princes is estimated to be anything from **7,000** upwards, with the most power and influence being wielded by the 200 or so male descendants of King Abdulaziz.
- The key ministries have historically been reserved for the royal family, as are the **13** regional governorships.

Succession

- Succession has been from brother-to-brother since the death of the Founder of modern Saudi Arabia.
- King Salman ended the brother-to-brother succession and appointed his 56-year-old nephew Muhammad bin Nayef as Crown Prince in April 2015.
- He appointed his young son Mohammad as Deputy Crown Prince, thus making the next succession from cousin-to-brother.

Local Government

- The Kingdom is divided into **regions** (مناطق إدارية), each is headed by a Governor or Ameer.
- The region capitals, which have the status of municipality (amanah) headed by mayors (amin).
- Each of Saudi Arabia's 13 regions is sub-divided into **governorates** (محافظات) numbering **134**.
- The governorates are further subdivided into **sub-governorates** (marakiz).

The 13 Regions

The numbers indicated in brackets are the number of governorates located in each region.

13 Regions:

- Al-Riyadh (20), Makkah (16), Al-Madinah (8), Aseer (15), Eastern Region (11), Hail (8), Northern Borders (3), Al-Qassim (12), Najran (7), Al-Baha (9), Jizan (16), Tabouk (6), Al-Jawf (3).

Map showing 13 regions



Economy of KSA

- Saudi Arabia has an oil-based economy with strong government control over major economic activities.
- Saudi Arabia possesses 18% of the world's proven petroleum reserves, ranks as the largest exporter of petroleum.
- The petroleum sector accounts for roughly 92.5% of Saudi budget revenues.
- Oil production and sales are dominated by Saudi Aramco, a state-owned company that produces 95 percent of Saudi oil.

Economy

Agriculture - products:

- wheat, barley, tomatoes, melons, dates, citrus; mutton, chickens, eggs, milk.

Industries:

- crude oil production, petroleum refining, basic petrochemicals, ammonia, industrial gases, sodium hydroxide (caustic soda), cement, fertilizer, plastics, metals, commercial ship repair, commercial aircraft repair, construction

Economy

Top exports:

- Crude Petroleum (\$232B), Refined Petroleum (\$19.8B), Ethylene Polymers (\$11.4B), Acyclic Alcohols (\$7.37B) and Propylene Polymers (\$6.6B).

Top imports:

- Cars (\$13.6B), Refined Petroleum (\$10.7B), Delivery Trucks (\$3.48B), Planes, Helicopters, and/or Spacecraft (\$3.06B) and Packaged Medicaments (\$3.01B).

Economy

Top export destinations:

- China (\$44.2B), Japan (\$42.5B), the United States (\$41.8B), South Korea (\$33.1B) and India (\$30B).

Top import origins:

- China (\$20.5B), the United States (\$15.4B), India (\$13B), Germany (\$11.5B) and South Korea (\$8.29B).

Diversification Plan

- Economic planners are working of diversification of economy. Although they have not achieved all their goals, the economy has progressed rapidly.
- Industry and agriculture now account for a larger share of economic activity.
- The fishing villages of al-Jubail on the Persian Gulf and Yanbu on the Red Sea were developed.
- Spending rose remarkable on education, health, and social services.

Diversification Plan

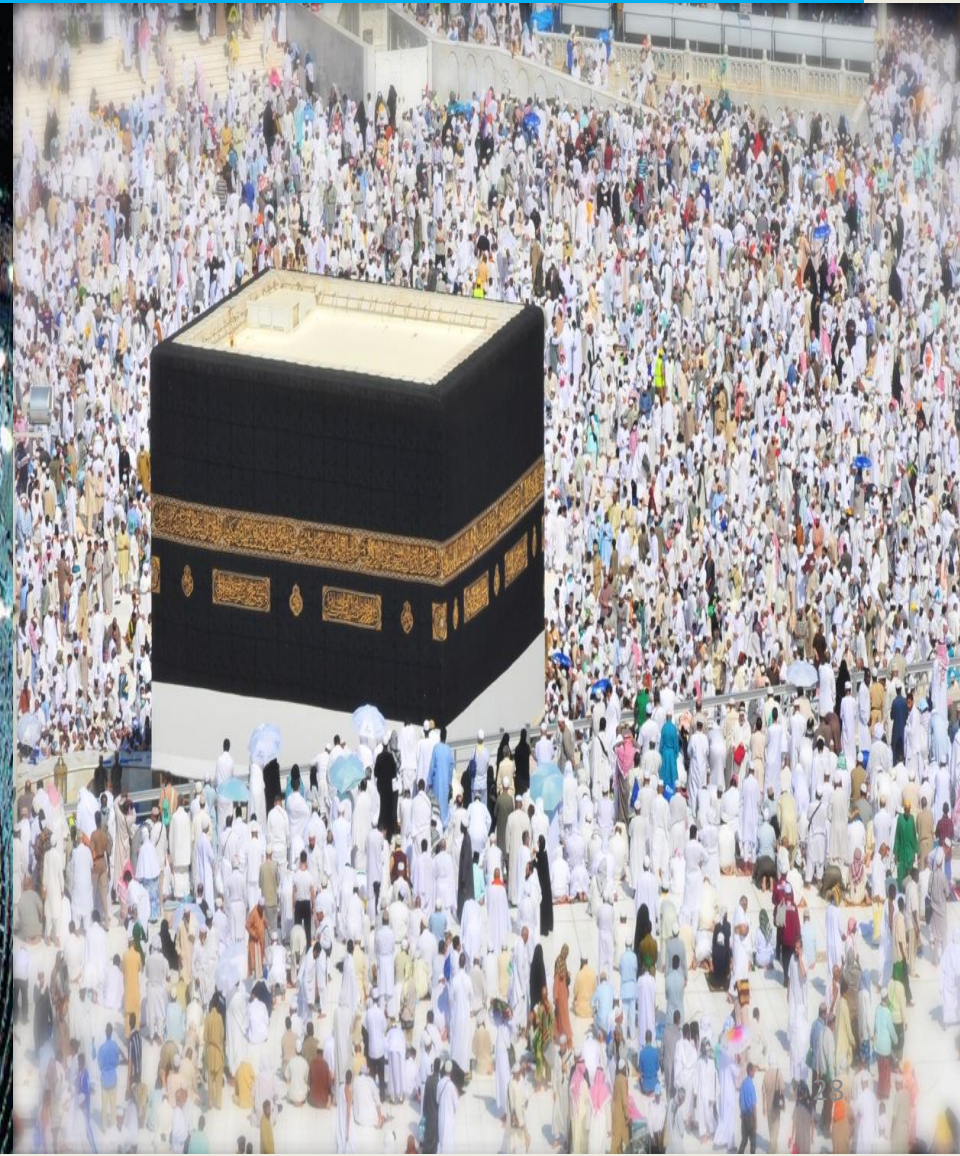
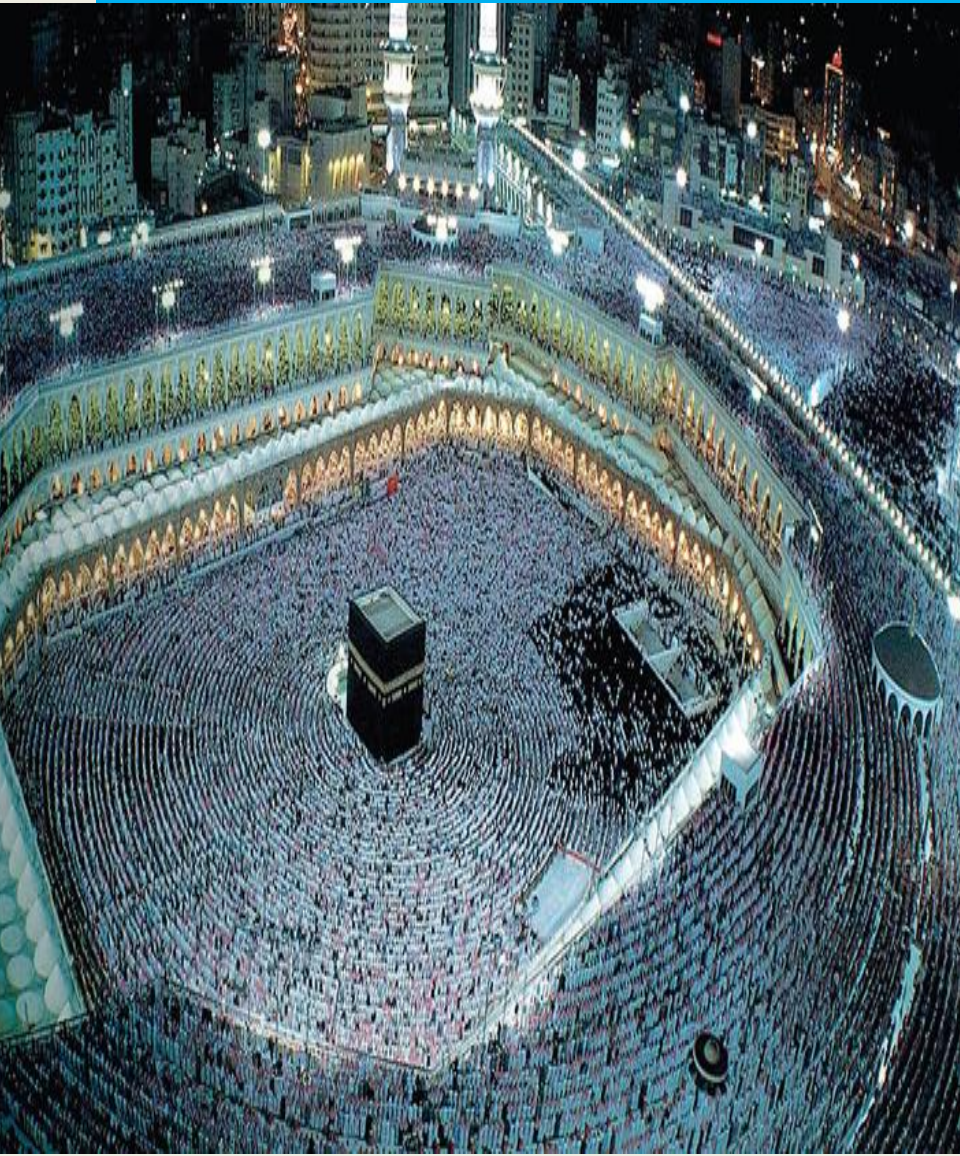
- **Nitaqat:** Nitaqat ("ranges" or "zones") is a Saudization program introduced by the Saudi Ministry of Labour. It is an effort to "Saudiize" the labor force. The initiative was announced in June 2011.
- Saudi Arabia has plans to launch six "economic cities" in an effort to diversify the economy and provide jobs.
- **GDP:** 748.4 billion USD (2013)
- **GDP per capita:** \$55,400 (2015 est.)
- **GDP growth:** 5.5% (2016).

Tourism

Religious tourism:

- Tourism in Saudi Arabia still largely involves religious pilgrimages.
- Mecca receives over **three million** pilgrims a year during the month of Dhu al-Hijjah in Hajj,
- and around **two million** during the month of Ramadan in Umrah.
- During the rest of the year, Mecca receives around **four million** for Umrah.

Ka'aba



Masjid Nabawi



Tourism

- **Leisure tourism:**
- According to the World Bank, approx. **14.3 million** people visited Saudi Arabia in 2012, making it the world's 19th-most-visited country.
- In Dec, 2013, Saudi Arabia announced its intention to begin issuing **tourist visas** for the first time in its history.
- Tourist areas include: many Museums & World Heritage Sites; **Diriyah, Mada'in Saleh** (pre-Islamic archgcl site).
- Potential tourist areas include the **Hijaz** and **Sarawat Mountains, Red Sea** diving and a number of **ancient ruins**.

Religion & Culture

- Saudi Arabia is one of the most tightly controlled governments on the planet.
- The ruling House of Saud is a Sunni Muslim family, and Sunni Islam is the state religion of Islam.
- According to official statistics, 85-95% of Saudi citizens are Sunni Muslims, 10-15% are Shia.
- The two holiest cities of Islam, Mecca and Medina, are in Saudi Arabia. Non-Muslims are not permitted to enter the holy cities although some Western non-Muslims have been able to enter, disguised as Muslims.

Religion & Culture

- The legal system of the country is based entirely on Sharia law,
- The government has stated that the Holy Quran and the Sunni school of Islam are the nation's constitution.
- **Dress:** Muslim men are expected to wear clothing that covers their entire body. Muslim women in public are required to wear the full-body abaya, generally black, and the niqab.

Thank you

- (Prepared by Dr. Mukhlesur Rahman)