

# Saudi Arabia

-- Find out the why and how of Saudi Arabia's involvement in the Iraqi conflict... --

## **BACKGROUND:**

One of the most devout and insular countries in the Middle East, Saudi Arabia has emerged from being an underdeveloped desert kingdom to become one of the wealthiest nations in the region thanks to its vast oil resources.

Named after the ruling Al Sa'ud family, who first came to power in the 18th century, the country includes the Hijaz region - the birthplace of the Prophet Muhammad and the cradle of Islam. This fact, combined with the Al Sa'uds'



espousal of a strict interpretation of Sunni Islam known as Wahhabism, has led it to develop a strongly religious self-identity.

The Arabs under Ottoman rule rebelled during the First World War, in which Turkey was allied with Germany. In 1915 the United Kingdom signed a treaty of friendship with Ibn Sa'ud, who was then master of central Arabia, securing his co-operation against Turkey.

Ibn Sa'ud successfully campaigned against the rulers of four Arabian states (the Hejaz, Asir, Hayil and Jauf) between 1919 and 1925. In September 1924 his forces captured Mecca, forcing Hussein to abdicate, and in 1925 they overran the whole of the Hejaz. In January 1926 Ibn Sa'ud was proclaimed King of the Hejaz and Sultan of Najd. On September 23, 1932 the dual monarchy ended when the two areas were merged as the unified Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Commercially exploitable deposits of petroleum (the basis of Saudi Arabia's modern prosperity) were discovered in the Eastern

Province in 1938, and large-scale exploitation of the Saudi Arabia's huge reserves for petroleum began after the Second World War. A consortium of US companies pioneered exploration, establishing close ties between Saudi Arabia and the USA. Petroleum royalties were used to develop and modernize Saudi Arabia's infrastructure and services.

In May 1981 Saudi Arabia joined five neighboring states in establishing the Co-operation Council for the Arab States (GCC). In August, Crown Prince (subsequently King) Fahd announced an eight-point plan for the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. His proposals, by implication, recognized Israel as a legitimate state. At a summit conference of Arab states in September 1982, the so-called "Fahd Plan" formed the basis of an agreed proposal for the achievement of peace in the Middle East, and during 1983 Saudi Arabia sponsored repeated diplomatic initiatives within the region.

The disclosure in March 1988 that Saudi Arabia had taken delivery of an unspecified number of medium-range missiles from the People's Republic of China provoked Israeli threats of a pre-emptive military strike. The USA warned Israel against such action, but in April it was reported that King Fahd had made an unprecedented request for the replacement of the US Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, following his delivery of an official complaint from the USA concerning the purchase of the missiles.

In July, after the US Congress had refused to sanction an agreement to supply military equipment to Saudi Arabia, the Government signed a large-scale defense procurement agreement with the United Kingdom, which superseded the USA as Saudi Arabia's main supplier of military equipment.

Saudi Arabia hosted the U.S.-led coalition that expelled Iraq from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf

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War. At that time, the kingdom was under direct threat from the Iraqis, who were moving south toward Saudi Arabia. Afterward, thousands of U.S. troops, housed at the Prince Sultan air base outside Riyadh, stayed to monitor the no-fly zone established in southern Iraq.

In late 1997, as a crisis developed regarding access to sites in Iraq by weapons inspectors of the UN Special Commission, Saudi Arabia firmly advocated a diplomatic solution. In February 1998 Saudi Arabia stated that it would not allow the USA to use Saudi territory as a base for air-strikes against Iraq, and reiterated its desire for a diplomatic solution.

Internal stability has meant successive leaders have been able to concentrate on modernization and developing the country's role as a regional power. In 1990 King Fahd invited US-led troops to enter the country following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. Saudi Arabia served as the base from which Kuwait was liberated.

Saudi Arabia faces serious economic and political challenges. Oil revenues comprise about three-quarters of the national income, making the country vulnerable to world price fluctuations. Unemployment runs at 15%-20% - but foreign migrants continue to account for some 65% of the workforce - raising fears that unemployed youth could be drawn to radical Islamist groups.

After September 11, 2001, King Fahd calls for the end of terrorism, saying it is prohibited by Islam; government takes the unprecedented step of issuing identity cards to women.

In November 2002, Saudi foreign minister says his country will not allow the US to use its facilities to attack Iraq, even in a UN-sanctioned strike. Prince Saud al-Faisal had earlier indicated that the US would be given access to Saudi bases for UN-endorsed strikes. Thousands of U.S. troops were deployed near the Saudi border with Iraq and in a garrison town in the north. More have been deployed at Prince Sultan. In addition, more than 3,000 Saudi soldiers are in Kuwait as part of an agreement to protect Kuwait from a possible Iraqi attack.

### STORY:

As in other Arab countries, anti-war and anti-U.S. sentiments are simmering among Saudi citizens, fueled by images of Iraqi casualties on television. Weeks ago, Saudi officials discreetly floated the idea of exile for Saddam Hussein and suggested offering amnesty to all but his inner circle in the hope that senior generals would overthrow him.

Saudi Arabia backed away Wednesday from an announcement that it had made a peace proposal to the United States and Iraq, saying only that it had offered "general ideas" about ending the war and not a formal initiative. "We have thoughts and ideas that will not come to fruition unless both agree in principle it is time to stop the fighting," Foreign Minister Prince Saud told reporters. "Saudi Arabia has always thought the war should not have happened in the first place. Perhaps it's a good time to ... think about diplomatic solutions."

Washington said it was not aware of a peace proposal from Saudi Arabia, and Iraq's information minister described Prince Saud's comments as "baseless."

U.S. military officials in the Gulf say they have limited cruise missile flights over Saudi Arabia after that country complained that some of the missiles had landed on its territory. But a top U.S. general says the move will not affect the U.S. led coalition's operations.

U.S. Air Force Major General Gene Renuart, the coalition's director of operations, admits several U.S. Tomahawk cruise missiles fired towards Iraq have gone astray. The problem occurred shortly after the missiles were launched from ships, presumably in the Red Sea. After the Saudis complained, he says, U.S. forces agreed to limit flights of the missiles over Saudi territory and investigate the cause of the faulty launches. He says the flights will be resumed when appropriate and that limiting cruise missile flights over Saudi Arabia will not affect coalition operations. He says coalition forces will use other routes and systems to achieve its objectives.

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

On the grand scorecard of deft diplomacy before war, the Bush administration lost at the UN. But its quiet diplomacy did win a big victory in the one nation that's been both a source of terrorism and is now pivotal to ending it.

With all the stealth of a B-2 bomber, Saudi Arabia silently let itself slip onto the list of unnamed nations offering support for a United States war on Iraq.

By allowing the US to fly aircraft over their long border with Iraq and use a key command facility near Riyadh, the Saudi royal leaders have made the war much easier for the American military. Their move is a signal that they want Saddam Hussein out. That breaks a tradition among Arab rulers not to seek one another's overthrow.

For the Saudi royal family, the potential risks and rewards are high. Public resentment toward the regime could rise, forcing more political repression and motivating more Saudis to join Al Qaeda (15 of the 19 9/11 hijackers were Saudis). But if the US does set up a friendly government in Baghdad, it will end the Saudi need to have US forces on its territory as defense against a threatening Iraq. That will meet, albeit indirectly, a key demand by Osama bin Laden to remove the infidels from Islam's homeland, and thus perhaps weaken Al Qaeda's ability to recruit.

Despite that likely and likable outcome, the Saudis may have won a concession from President Bush for their permission: that the US take a strong stand for creating a Palestinian state under a US-drafted "road map" that Israel opposes. The US, too, may have won support from Saudi leaders for more political freedoms. That would allow Saudis to vent their frustrations at their own leaders instead of at the US.

All these steps are necessary to achieve Mr. Bush's vision of building a postwar, democratic Iraq that will spur reforms in Arab nations and quell terrorist tendencies. The Saudis seem to have bought into that vision.

## *Halliburton Gets Firefighting Nod*

**BACKGROUND:**

From building cells for detainees at Guantánamo Bay in Cuba to feeding American troops in Uzbekistan, the Pentagon is increasingly relying on a unit of Halliburton called KBR, sometimes referred to as Kellogg Brown & Root.

Halliburton was led by now-Vice President Dick Cheney before he resigned in 2000 to join the Republican presidential ticket. Halliburton oversaw the firefighting efforts on 320 wells in Kuwait after retreating Iraqi troops set fires in 1991. Firefighting companies extinguished 90 percent of the fires within a year, far ahead of the 18-month schedule.

**STORY:**

Halliburton subcontractors Boots & Coots International Well Control Inc. and Wild Well Control Inc., both from Houston, will organize the oil well firefighting and rehabilitation effort in Iraq just as it did after the 1991 Gulf War, officials said. The value of the contract was not disclosed.

The contract was initially disclosed at the end of a Defense Department statement on preparation for the possibility that Saddam Hussein's regime might destroy Iraq's oil fields in case of war with the U.S.-led coalition. Analysts believe the wells may need significant work even if they aren't sabotaged. Daily production has slid from 3.5 million barrels per day in 1979 to about 2 million barrels per day, partly due to UN sanctions that banned import of equipment.

"KBR was selected for this award based on the fact that KBR is the only contractor that could commence implementing the complex contingency plan on extremely short notice," the company said in a statement.

In a statement the Defense Department said the Army Corps of Engineers would rely

largely on contractors to extinguish the oil well fires and assess the damage to facilities.

Kellogg, Brown and Root was the prime contractor for the initial phase, Pentagon said. The contract would be in force for an interim period, until additional contracts were procured, it said.

Subcontractor Boots and Coots welcomed its selection. In trading Tuesday on the New York Stock Exchange, Halliburton shares rose 54 cents, 2.7 percent, to \$20.66. Iraq's proven oil reserves are second only to those of Saudi Arabia.

### **SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Halliburton Company, the Dallas oil services company bedeviled lately by an array of accounting and business issues, is benefiting very directly from the US efforts to combat terrorism.

Although the unit has been building projects all over the world for the federal government for decades, the attacks of Sept. 11 have led to significant additional business. KBR is the exclusive logistics supplier for both the Navy and the Army, providing services like cooking, construction, power generation and fuel transportation. The contract recently won from the Army is for 10 years and has no lid on costs, the only arrangement by the Army without one.

The government business has been well timed for Halliburton, whose stock price has tumbled almost two-thirds in the last year because of concerns about its asbestos liabilities, sagging profits in its energy business and an investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission into its accounting practices back when Vice President Dick Cheney ran the company. The government contracts, which the company said Mr. Cheney played no role in helping Halliburton win, either while he led the company or after he left, offer the prospect of a long and steady cash flow that impresses financial analysts.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, Congress has appropriated \$30 billion in emergency money to support the campaign against terrorism. About half has gone to the Pentagon, much of it to buy weapons, supplies, and services. Although KBR is probably not the largest recipient of all the

government contracts related to terror efforts, few companies have longer or deeper ties to the Pentagon. And no company is better positioned to capitalize on this trend.

*By JEFF GERTH and DON VAN NATTA Jr.*

## **UPDATE:**

### ***NY Bar Smoking Ban***

As New York City bars and restaurants go smoke-free this weekend, bar patrons may take comfort in a study that suggests -- given enough time -- those who disapprove now may actually end up liking the change. In a CA survey, most bar-goers said they supported and complied with a similar law two years after it went into effect.

While 60% approved of the law three months after it went into effect, that number increased to 66% at the eight-month point and reached 73% about 2.5 years after the law was in place. In 1994, California was the first state to ban smoking in all workplaces -- a law that included almost all bars starting in 1998.

Dr. Hao Tang, lead author of the study, and colleagues at the California Department of Health Services concluded that the "increasingly positive attitudes" may be partly attributed to the public's greater understanding and concern about the negative effects of second-hand smoke. Studies have shown that second-hand smoke increases the risk of cancer and heart disease.

Tang said the California results might be paralleled in NY and bar patrons' opinions toward smoking in public places could change with time.

Stevens said the ban represents a turning point in a culture where alcohol and cigarettes have long gone hand in hand. The three telephone surveys each included at least 1,000 people who visited a bar at least once in the past year. Overall, 664 smokers were included in the surveys.

*SOURCE: American Journal of Public Health 2003.*

**THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:****March 31, 1946**

## *Academy Award* Radio Show Begins

*Academy Award*, an anthology radio show on CBS, debuts on this day. The show turned Academy Award-winning movies into half-hour radio dramas starring the actors from the original productions. In the debut episode, Bette Davis reprised her Academy Award-winning role in *Jezebel*. Other episodes featured Humphrey Bogart and Sydney Greenstreet in *The Maltese Falcon* and Cary Grant in *Suspicion*. The cost of paying the stars—about \$4,000 total per episode—plus a \$1,600 payment a week to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for the right to use its name—made the show too costly for sponsors, and it was scrapped after 39 episodes.

Anthology shows in which Hollywood actors played radio versions of their film roles had become a popular and important form of radio drama starting in 1934, when *Lux Radio Theater* debuted. The show was one of the most important dramatic series in radio, boasting a big budget, top talent, and high-quality sound effects. Narrated by Hollywood's top director at the time, Cecil B. DeMille, the show was also a powerful driver of box office hits, serving to promote the movies and actors featured. *Lux Radio Theater* featured nearly 500 stars during its 21-year run, including almost every major Hollywood star of the 1930s and 1940s. Just a few of the show's many star performances included Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert in *It Happened One Night* (1939), Bette Davis in *Dark Victory* (1940), Elizabeth Taylor in *National Velvet* (1947), and Humphrey Bogart in *The African Queen*.

The dramatic anthology format would be adapted to television in the late 1940s and early 1950s. In fact, most early TV shows were either comic variety shows or dramatic anthologies such as *Kraft Television Theater*, *Fireside Theater*, and

*Philco/Goodyear TV Playhouse*. It was only after the success of *Dragnet*, which debuted in 1952, that original TV series featuring recurring characters became popular and eventually grew to dominate prime-time television.

**ENTERTAINMENT:**

## O'Toole Receives Honorary Oscar!

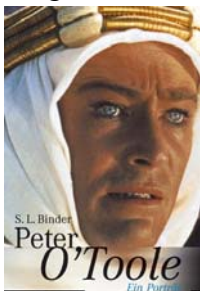
After seven nominations (Lawrence; Becket; Lion in Winter; Mr. Chips; Ruling Class; Stunt Man & My Favorite Year), O'Toole was finally awarded an Oscar at this year's Academy Awards on March 23rd. He gave his acceptance as follows:

*"Meryl Streep, members of the Academy, distinguished guests, viewers, ladies and gentlemen. 'Always a bridesmaid, never a bride' – my foot! I have a my very own Oscar, to be with me 'til death do us part. I wish the Academy to know I am as delighted as I am honoured. And I am honoured. The magic of the movies enraptured me when I was a child. As I totter into antiquity, movie magic enraptures me still. Having already bagged this baby, as it were, and so spared uncertainties prior to the opening of an envelope, I am able to think. I think of our colleagues, our old friends, now gone, who played their parts in this ceremony. I think of the sumptuous talents alive and well and with us now. I think of the astonishing young, the gifted and able young men and women who I meet practically every time I go to work – and from whom I grab energy in handfuls. I think of the United States and of the loves and friendships I've known here for more than half a century. And of how much the nation has given to me both personally, privately and professionally – I am deeply thankful. And now, at this last, you have given me this delightful shock! You are very good. Good night and God bless you."*

## WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW:

### Peter O'Toole

Peter Seamus O'Toole was born on 2nd August 1932 in Connemara, County Galway, Ireland. His parents were Patrick "Spats" O'Toole and Constance Jane Eliot Ferguson. His father was an itinerant bookie. He moved to Leeds as a boy and spent his childhood following his father on the horse racing circuit. He became an apprentice reporter as a teenager, but quickly became disillusioned. At 17 he enlisted the Royal Navy, and served for two years as a radioman, before landing a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.



He performed on stage for several years as member of the Bristol Old Vic, then as a member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, until he, in 1959, eventually won his first movie role in "The Savage Innocents." He won the part of Lawrence of "Lawrence of Arabia" in 1959. It was grueling shoot making its stunning debut in 1962.

He has had many important parts in over 40 films since then, most notably "Beckett" (1964), "The Lion In Winter" (1968), "Goodbye Mr. Chips" (1969), "Ruling Class" (1970), "The Stuntman" (1978), "Masada" (1980), "My Favorite Year" (1982), and recent television appearances in "Gulliver's Travels," and "Joan of Arc."

Among his film and television parts, Peter has also managed to spend a lot of time on stage; his theatrical appearances span four decades. In 1954 he made his professional stage debut in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at Brighton. His most notable recent stage performance was in "Jeffrey Bernard Is Unwell" at the Old Vic.

O'Toole was married to actress Sian Phillips from 1959-79. They had two daughters, Katherine and Patricia. He has one son, Lorcan, with model Karen Somerville. Peter's passions in life are cricket, fly-fishing and the ongoing writing of his autobiography - *Loitering With Intent*.

## SPORTS:

### NCAA TOURNEY

Teams still in the NCAA playoffs:

Women		Men	
<b>Midwest Region:</b>		<b>Midwest Region:</b>	
1	Duke	1	Kentucky 69
2	Texas Tech	3	Marquette 83
<b>West Region:</b>		<b>West Region:</b>	
2	Texas	1	Arizona 75
1	LSU	2	Kansas 78
<b>Mideast Region:</b>		<b>East Region:</b>	
1	Tennessee	3	Syracuse 63
2	Villanova	1	Oklahoma 47
<b>East Region:</b>		<b>South:</b>	
1	Connecticut	1	Texas 85
2	Perdue	7	Mich St 76

### Upset lovers rejoice -- at last

By JEREMY STONE, Yahoo! Sports

Marquette and Kansas made sure that both of the nation's best regular-season teams, Kentucky and Arizona, wouldn't be in Louisiana. For Kansas, it marks a second straight trip to the Final Four. Marquette's wait was a quarter of a century longer. Who is Marquette?

On the national sports landscape, the Golden Eagles barely register. The Milwaukee school has 7,500 undergraduate students but doesn't even have a football team. Maybe Al McGuire and the 1977 national champion Marquette Warriors rings a bell. But McGuire left us two years ago, and the school's teams haven't been called the Warriors for years.

Indeed, the game was over early -- in the opposite way than everyone imagined. Marquette exploded offensively after a momentarily sluggish start, racing to a 19-point halftime lead. Kentucky outscored Marquette in the second half, but that was merely a testament to the Wildcats' tenacity.

With apologies to Butler, the upset of this tourney belongs to the Jesuit school located in Milwaukee, named after Father Jacques Marquette.

## FEATURE:

*T. E. Lawrence**(Lawrence of Arabia)*

**“All men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dream with open eyes, to make it possible.”**

—T. E. Lawrence from "The Seven Pillars of Wisdom"

**Thomas Edward (T.E.) Lawrence** was born on August 16, 1888 in Wales. Popularly known as **Lawrence of Arabia**, Lawrence became famous for his exploits as British Military liaison to the Arab Revolt during the First World War.

Lawrence had been fascinated by archaeology since childhood. After graduating with honors from Oxford in 1910, he served as an assistant at a British Museum excavation in Iraq (then known as Mesopotamia). When war broke out with Germany in 1914, Lawrence spent a brief period in the General Staff in London, and was then posted to the Military Intelligence in Cairo. In 1916 the Arabs rebelled against the Turkish Empire. Lawrence was sent to Mecca on a fact-finding mission, becoming the British liaison officer to the Arabs. His account of the revolt is chronicled in his classic books, "Seven Pillars of Wisdom, A Triumph" and "Revolt in the Desert."

After the war Lawrence served in the British Delegation at the Paris Peace Conference, where he promoted the cause of Arab independence. Despite his efforts, Syria, Palestine and Iraq were mandated to France and Britain.

In 1922 Lawrence enlisted in the RAF under an assumed name. After four months he was discovered by the press and discharged. With the help of a highly-placed friend he re-enlisted in the Tank Corps as 'Thomas Edward Shaw'. Between 1922 and early 1927 Lawrence revised "Seven Pillars" and edited an abridgement of the book called "Revolt in the Desert."

In March 1935 his twelve-year enlistment came to an end and he retired to "Clouds Hill" (the name of his cottage) in Dorset, England. Two months later he was thrown from his motorcycle while on a local errand. He suffered severe head injuries and died some days later without regaining consciousness.

Lawrence of Arabia is one of those difficult to define characters: he is a larger-than-life hero in the minds of some, yet while history supports some of the legend, is probably given more credit than is due. Lawrence did carry out a brilliant raid on Akaba, which resulted in the capture of a town and fortress that should probably never have fallen, were it not for the element of surprise and sheer audacity of his actions and planning. However, the idea that this, and the fall of Damascus, was based on his leadership and strategy alone is historically unfounded.

The leadership in A'rabia' was already established in Sharif Hussayn with his desire to see independence for Arab Territory. He had proclaimed a revolt in 1916 and took over Mecca, then captured other towns and ports which forced the "Turks" into a defensive posture.

Aziz al Masri, a Major under Hussayn, got much of the organization of the Arab Army of Revolt going well before the arrival of Allied liaison officers; including Lawrence. Besides the purely tribal elements of the force, made so popular in the Movie, there had to be a core of trained troops and these were mostly ex-Ottoman officers and soldiers. The British Colonel Joyce, who was actually senior to Lawrence and supposedly in command, is usually linked more with this Sharifian Regular force. History has not given him the same PR coverage as Lawrence.

Also, although conveniently left out of the movie, the French had quite a bit to do with it and sent troops, while Italian Naval units helped secure the ports and ensure Hussayn's supplies.

Lawrence was nearly two hours behind the 10th Cavalry Brigade which took Damascus. There is no account of his troops doing anything other than celebrate, loot and ride about noisily.

*Quote of the Week:*

"Always a bridesmaid, never a bride' – my foot!"  
-Peter O'Toole

*Fact of the Week:*

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest producer of oil.

*Word of the Week:*

Maraud v.i. To rove in quest of plunder.

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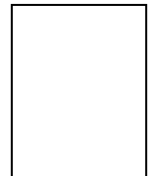
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