

阿拉伯国家研究省部共建协同创新中心

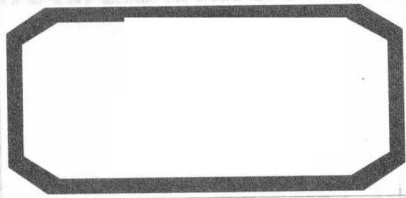
MYSTERIOUS ARAB COUNTRIES

# 神秘的阿拉伯

| 姜克银 季春燕 | 编

时事出版社

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## 前 言

本书包括十三个单元，内容涉及阿拉伯社会的不同方面。

第一单元主要介绍沙特阿拉伯的历史。作为古代著名的贸易中心，沙特阿拉伯的历史最早可追溯到两万年前人类刚刚定居阿拉伯半岛的时候，其历史充分展现了这个民族的灵魂。

第二单元主要介绍阿拉伯的地理。阿拉伯半岛的地貌非常多样化，沙漠、山脉、平原、湖泊共存，尤其值得关注的是其较匮乏的水资源和丰富的石油储藏。

第三单元主要介绍在阿拉伯世界最为常见的三种媒体形式：报纸、电视和互联网。它们的发展历史、产生基础以及特有价值观能帮助读者更好地了解媒体对于阿拉伯世界所产生的影响。

第四单元主要介绍 2010 年到 2012 年间每况愈下的埃及经济。虽然发达的旅游业为埃及经济的发展做出巨大的贡献，但是 2011 年 1 月和 2 月爆发的革命将埃及经济推入深渊。

第五单元主要介绍埃及现有的教育体制以及政府在推进教育改革方面付出的努力。

第六单元主要介绍旅游胜地迪拜。快速发展中的迪拜以其大胆而创新的建筑吸引着全世界的关注，游客们纷至沓来，只为欣赏迪拜那新潮并奢华的美景。

第七单元介绍阿拉伯国家的舞蹈。在阿拉伯国家多种多样的舞蹈形式中，肚皮舞因其特有的魅力而在全世界范围内广为流行。

第八单元主要介绍阿拉伯音乐。书中对阿拉伯音乐基础知识做了简要的介绍。

第九单元主要介绍阿拉伯国家悠久而灿烂的服饰文化，包括早期的服饰材料、衣物制作、衣着风尚等。

第十单元主要介绍阿拉伯国家的烹饪。阿拉伯国家保持着大家庭成员之间分享食物的习惯。因此，阿拉伯半岛的烹调中凝聚着阿拉伯人民

的热情和慷慨。

第十一单元主要介绍埃及的婚礼习俗。在古埃及，婚姻既是一种法律关系，也是一种宗教约束。夫妇双方都有着自己要承担的义务和责任。然而，现代埃及的婚礼在传承传统的基础上又有其自身独有的特点。

第十二单元主要介绍巴解组织的领导人——阿拉法特。他用毕生的精力来实现建立独立的巴勒斯坦的梦想，但最终未能实现。因此，关于阿拉法特是“恐怖分子”还是革命者，仍存在争议。

第十三单元主要介绍具有代表性的女作家——格拉迪斯·马塔尔。幼年的生长环境培养了她的艺术和文学才能。格拉迪斯·马塔尔作品中的史诗风格和讽刺手法深受广大文学爱好者的喜爱。

这本书表面看起来是一项英文文献的编纂工作，但是真正坐下来细细品读后会发现，其内容涉及历史、地理、媒体、经济、教育、婚俗、舞蹈、音乐、服饰、烹饪等多方面。书中有些内容需要从宏观上把握，有些需要从微观上设计，驾驭的难度较大，加之目前国内此类研究成果比较少，可供参考的书目也不多，书中难免出现不足之处，欢迎学界同仁及广大读者批评指正。

姜克银

2019年3月29日

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# Unit 1

## History of Saudi Arabia

### Warm-Up Questions

1. Which Arab country do you like to go to travel or study or live in? Do you know anything about its history?
2. What do you know about the history of Saudi Arabia?
3. Do you know the location of the Kingdom Center? What do you know about its history?

### Text

*History is the soul of a nation, to know something about a nation, know its history first. The history of Saudi Arabia, the largest country in the Middle East in terms of area, an ancient trade center, as a state, begins with its foundation in 1932 by Abdul Aziz al-Saud, although the history of what was to become Saudi Arabia goes back to the beginnings of human habitation in Arabia up to 20,000 years ago.*

## Brief History of Saudi Arabia<sup>①</sup>

Saudi Arabia traces its roots back to the earliest civilizations of the Arabian Peninsula. Over the centuries, the peninsula has played an important role in history as an ancient trade center.

Since King Abdul Aziz al-Saud established the modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932, its transformation has been astonishing. In a few short decades, the Kingdom has turned itself from a desert nation to a modern, sophisticated state and a major player on the international stage.

### Early History

The first concrete evidence of human presence in the Arabian Peninsula dates back 15,000 to 20,000 years. Bands of hunter-gatherers roamed the land, living off wild animals and plants.

As the European ice cap melted during the last Ice Age, some 15,000 years ago, the climate in the peninsula became dry. Vast plains once covered with lush grasslands gave way to scrubland and deserts, and wild animals vanished. River systems also disappeared. This climate change forced humans to move into the lush mountain valleys and oases. No longer able to survive as hunter-gatherers, they had to develop another means of survival. As a result, agriculture developed—first in Mesopotamia, then the Nile River Valley and eventually spreading across the Middle East.

The development of agriculture brought other advances. Pottery allowed farmers to store food. Animals, including goats, cattle, sheep, horses and camels, were domesticated, and people abandoned hunting altogether. These advances made intensive farming possible. In turn, settlements became more permanent, leading to the foundations of what we call civilization—language, writing, political systems, art and architecture.

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① <http://www.saudiembassy.net/about/country-information/history/>.

## **An Ancient Trade Center**

Located between the two great centers of civilization, the Nile River Valley and Mesopotamia, the Arabian Peninsula was the crossroads of the ancient world. Trade was crucial to the area's development. Caravan routes became trade arteries that made life possible in the sparsely populated peninsula. The people of the peninsula developed a complex network of trade routes to transport agricultural goods highly sought after in Mesopotamia, the Nile Valley and the Mediterranean Basin. These items included almonds from Taif, dates from the oases, and aromatics such as frankincense and myrrh from the Tihama plain.

Spices were also important trade items. They were shipped across the Arabian Sea from India and then transported by caravan. The huge caravans traveled from what is now Oman and Yemen, along the great trade routes running through Saudi Arabia's Asir Province and then through Makkah and Madinah, eventually arriving at the urban centers of the north and west.

The people of the Arabian Peninsula remained largely untouched by the political turmoil in Mesopotamia, the Nile Valley and the eastern Mediterranean. Their goods and services were in great demand regardless of which power was dominant at that moment—Babylon, Egypt, Persia, Greece or Rome. In addition, the peninsula's great expanse of desert formed a natural barrier that protected it from invasion by powerful neighbors.

## **The First Saudi State**

In the early 18th century, Shaikh Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab, a scholar and reformer who believes in Islam, began advocating a return to the original form of Islam. Abdul Wahhab was initially persecuted by local religious scholars and leaders who viewed his teachings as a threat to their power bases. He sought protection in the town of Diriyah, which was ruled by Muhammad bin Saud.

Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab and Muhammad bin Saud formed an agreement to dedicate themselves to restoring the pure teachings of Islam to the Muslim community. In that spirit, bin Saud established the First Saudi State, which prospered under the spiritual guidance of bin Abdul Wahhab, known

simply as the Sheikh.

By 1788, the Saudi State ruled over the entire central plateau known as the Najd. By the early 19th century, its rule extended to most of the Arabian Peninsula, including Makkah and Madinah. The popularity and success of the Al-Saud rulers aroused the suspicion of the Ottoman Empire, the dominant power in the Middle East and North Africa at the time. In 1818, the Ottomans dispatched a large expeditionary force armed with modern artillery to the western region of Arabia. The Ottoman army besieged Diriyah, which by now had grown into one of the largest cities in the peninsula. Ottoman forces leveled the city with field guns and made it permanently uninhabitable by ruining the wells and uprooting date palms.

### **Modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Its Economy**

The young Abdul-Aziz was determined to regain his patrimony from the Al-Rashid family, which had taken over Riyadh and established a governor and garrison there. In 1902, Abdul-Aziz, — accompanied by only 40 followers — staged a daring night march into Riyadh to retake the city garrison known as the Masmak Fortress. This legendary event marks the beginning of the formation of the modern Saudi state. After establishing Riyadh as his headquarters, Abdul-Aziz captured all of the Hijaz, including Makkah and Madinah, in 1924 to 1925. In the process, he united warring tribes into one nation.

On September 23, 1932, the country was named as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, an Islamic state with Arabic as its national language and the Holy *Qur'an* as its constitution.

When the modern Kingdom was established, the Arabian Peninsula was an agricultural society depending on farming and commerce-especially date exports and tradegenerated by pilgrims coming to Makkah and Madinah. The discovery of oil in commercial quantities in 1938 changed that. Soon after World War II, steady oil exports provided the funds to build a basic infrastructure of roads, airports, seaports, schools and hospitals. While the economy largely depended on oil revenues, Saudi leaders resolved to bring about basic improvements in the country's economic structure with the objective to diversify the economy away from oil into other fields.

Achievement of such an economic transformation required deliberate planning and careful implementation of a development program with clearly defined objectives. The quest for economic development and growth began in earnest with the introduction of the First Development Plan in 1970 by MOEP, Ministry of Economy and Planning in Saudi Arabia. This triggered a series of ongoing five-year development plans to build a modern economy capable of producing consumer and industrial goods that previously had been imported. The first phase of this process was to establish an infrastructure that could support a modern economic base and allow industry and commerce to flourish. The next was to develop the human resources necessary to help bring about the planned economic transformation. Finally, the focus could shift to economic diversification, including expansion of the industrial, agricultural and other sectors, an expansion that is now well advanced.

The establishment of the physical infrastructure was accomplished in stages during the first three development plans. As the infrastructure was taking shape, the government launched a major effort to expand the industrial base. This was done along two separate, but parallel, courses. One aimed at the expansion of the country's oil industry and the other at establishing a modern non-oil industrial sector. In addition to optimizing revenues from Saudi oil production, the modern oil industry plays an equally important role in the development of the non-oil industrial sector by providing the raw materials and feedstock that facilitate the growth.

Throughout the course of the development plans, Saudi Arabia's steady but dramatic industrial and economic transformation has been accomplished through the careful guidance and active support of the government. Today, Saudi Arabia is one of the fastest developing countries in the world.

### *New Words*

trace [treɪs] v. to go back over again 追溯 (由来); 上溯; 回溯

monotheistic [ˌmɒnəʊθɪˈɪstɪk] adj. believing that there is only one god 一神论的

sophisticated [səˈfɪstɪkətɪd] adj. ahead in development; complex or intricate

老练的；精密的；世故的

concrete [ˈkɒ:ŋkri:t] adj. capable of being perceived by the senses; not abstract or imaginary 实在的；具体的

roam [rəʊm] v. walk about without any fixed plan or purpose 漫游；闲逛；徜徉

lush [lʌʃ] adj. produced or growing in extreme abundance 繁茂的；茂盛的；丰富的

scrubland [ˈskrʌblənd] n. an uncultivated region covered with scrub vegetation 灌木丛林地

vanish [ˈvæniʃ] v. get lost, especially without warning or explanation; become invisible 消失；突然不见

oases [əu'eisi:z] n. a fertile tract in a desert 绿洲；避风港，名词 oasis 的复数形式

pottery [ˈpɒtəri] n. the craft of making earthenware 陶器

domesticate [də'mestikeɪt] v. make fit for cultivation, domestic life, and service to humans 驯服的；驯养的

intensive [m'tensɪv] adj. tending to give force or emphasis 密集的；彻底的；精细的

settlement [ˈsetlmənt] n. a community of people smaller than a town 定居点

caravan [ˈkærəvæn] n. a procession (of wagons or mules or camels) traveling together in single file (穿越沙漠的) 旅行队；商队

artery [ˈɑ:təri] n. a major thoroughfare that bears important traffic 动脉

sparsely [spa:slɪ] adv. in a sparse manner 稀少地；贫乏地

aromatic [ˌærə'mætk] n. 芳族植物；芳香剂

frankincense [ˈfrænkɪnsens] n. 乳香

myrrh [mə:(r)] n. 没药（一种树胶树脂）

spice [spais] n. 调味品；香料

ship [ʃɪp] v. transport commercially; go on board 装运；（用船）运送

turmoil [ˈtə:mɔɪl] n. a violent disturbance 混乱；骚动

invasion [m'veɪzən] n. any entry into an area not previously occupied 侵略；侵入

sheikh [ʃeɪk] n. 族长；酋长

advocate [ˈædvəkeɪt] v. push for something 提倡；主张

n. a person who pleads for a cause or propounds an idea 拥护者；提倡者

- persecute [ˈpə:sɪkjʊ:t] v. cause to suffer (尤指宗教或政治信仰的) 迫害
- suspicion [səˈspɪʃn] n. doubt about someone's honesty 猜疑; 怀疑
- dispatch [dɪsˈpætʃ] v. send away towards a designated goal 派遣; 调度
- expeditionary [ˌeksprɪˈdɪʃənəri] adj. (used of military forces) designed for military operations abroad 探险的; 出征的 (尤指军事上)
- artillery [ɑːˈtɪləri] n. 炮, 大炮; 炮兵部队
- besiege [brɪˈsi:dʒ] v. surround so as to force to give up 围困; 包围
- uninhabitable [ˌʌnɪnˈhæbɪtəbl] adj. not fit for people to live 不适宜居住的
- patrimony [ˈpætrɪməni] n. 遗产; 教会财产
- garrison [ˈgærɪsn] n. 守备队; 驻地; 要塞
- legendary [ˈledʒəndrɪ] adj. celebrated in fable or legend 传说的; 传奇的; 著名的
- headquarter [ˈhedˈkwɔ:tə] n. 总部; 司令部
- generate [ˈdʒenəreɪt] v. produce; bring into existence 产生; 生成
- pilgrim [ˈpɪlgrɪm] n. someone who journeys to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion 朝圣者
- infrastructure [ˌɪnfɪəˈstrʌktʃə] n. the basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of a society or enterprise (e. g. buildings, roads, power supplies) 基础设施
- revenue [ˈrevənju:] n. a state's annual income from which public expenses are met (国家的) 岁入; 税收
- diversify [daɪˈvɜ:sɪti] n. the state of being diverse 差异; 多样性
- deliberate [dɪˈlɪb(ə)rət] adj. marked by careful consideration or reflection; with care and dignity 深思熟虑的
- implementation [ɪmplɪmenˈteɪʃ(ə)n] n. the act of accomplishing some aim or executing some order 实施; 执行
- flourish [ˈflʌrɪʃ] v. grow vigorously; gain in wealth 茂盛; 繁荣; 活跃
- parallel [ˈpærəlel] adj. being everywhere equidistant and not intersecting 平行的
- optimize [ˈɒptɪmaɪz] v. to improve the way that something is done or used so that it is as effective as possible 优化
- feedstock [ˈfi:dstɒk] n. the raw material that is required for some industrial process 原料; 给料 (送入机器或加工厂的原料)

### *Phrases & Expressions*

play an important role in	在…中起重要作用
live off	依赖…生活
give way to	让步
be crucial to	对…是至关重要的
in turn	反之；反过来；依次；轮流
seek after	寻求；追求
the great expanse of	一望无垠的
dedicate oneself to doing	专心致力于；献身于
take over	接管；被接手
with the support of	在…支持下；有了…的支持
made a concerted effort to	齐心协力；做出巨大努力
be determined to	下决心；决心做
in earnest	认真地；坚定不移地
take shape	成型；形成

### *Proper Names*

Saudi Arabia [ 'səʊ:di ə'reɪbɪə ]	沙特阿拉伯
Arabian Peninsula [ ə'reɪbɪən pɪ'nɪnsjələ ]	阿拉伯半岛
Abdul-Aziz al-Saud [ ʌ:bdula'zi:z æl sa:'u:d ]	阿卜杜勒·阿齐兹 (1876— 1953 年)
Mesopotamia [ mesəpə'teɪmɪə ]	美索不达米亚 (亚洲西南部)
the Nile [ naɪl ] river	尼罗河
Mediterranean Basin [ medɪtə'reɪnɪən 'beɪsn ]	地中海盆地
Taif [ ta:ɪf ]	塔伊夫 (沙特阿拉伯西部城 市)
Oman [ əu'mɑ:n ]	阿曼 (西南亚国家)
Yemen [ 'jemən ]	也门 (西南亚国家)
Asir [ æ'sɪə ]	阿西尔 (沙特阿拉伯省份)

Makkah [ 'mækə ]	麦加 (Mecca 阿拉伯语名称)
Madinah [ 'medɪnə ]	麦地那 (阿拉伯语名称)
Babylon [ 'bæbɪlən ]	巴比伦 (古代巴比伦王国 Babylonia 的首都)
Persia [ 'pɜ:ʃə ]	波斯 (西南亚国家, 现称伊朗)
Riyadh [ ri:'jɑ:d ]	利雅得 (沙特阿拉伯首都)
Hijaz [ 'hi:'dʒæz ]	汉志 (沙特阿拉伯省名)
Ottoman [ 'ɒtəmən ]	土耳其人
Turki [ 'tɜ:kɪ ]	突厥语; 突厥人

### *Background Information*

#### 1. Abdul-Aziz al-Saud (1876 - 1953)

The legendary King Abdul-Aziz (also known as Ibn Saud) was the first founder of Saudi Arabia and the father of the present-day king. He began conquering today's Saudi Arabia in 1902, by restoring his family as emirs of Riyadh. He then proceeded to first conquer the Nejd (1922) and then the Hejaz (1925). He progressed from Sultan of Nejd, to King of Hejaz and Nejd, and finally to King of Saudi Arabia in 1932. His reign ended in 1953.

(Note<sup>①</sup>: In Arabic names, prefix “al-” is the definite article in Arabic—the equivalent of “the” in English. Surnames that begin with “al” often refer to the place where someone's ancestors were born. “Ibn” (“son of”) seems to be spelled “ibn” when used at the beginning of a name, and “bin” when preceded by another bit of the name (Joe bin Bob, or just Ibn Bob). Or it's “Ibn” in the Middle east and “Bin” in north Africa.)

#### 2. MOEP (Ministry of Economy and Planning)

MOEP, the Ministry of Economy and Planning, (formerly Ministry of

① [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Arabic\\_names](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Arabic_names).

Planning until its mandate was revised and broadened in 2003 to take over numerous macro-economic concerns from the Ministry of Finance ) has developed a set of economic models in devising quantitative targets for its five-year plans:

- a. The Century Model: as its name implies, the CM provides long term projections to analyze trends of prices of oil, water and human resources.
- b. The Selection Model: this is a general equilibrium model to arrive at medium-term forecast and therefore recommend policies with respect to development priorities.
- c. The Implementation Model: this will be used to explore sectoral trends and the necessary policies as a follow-up to implementation of the plan.
- d. Oil Model: this is used to develop projections of oil revenues under alternative scenarios on the world oil market. The models are extensively applied in setting the macroeconomic framework of each plan.

### 3. The Ottoman Empire

The Ottoman Empire ( 1299 – 1923 ), sometimes referred to as the Turkish Empire or simply Turkey, was a contiguous transcontinental empire founded by Turkish tribes under Osman Bey in north-western Anatolia in 1299. In 1453, the Ottoman state was transformed into an empire. During the 16th and 17th centuries, in particular at the height of its power under the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, the Ottoman Empire was one of the most powerful states in the world—a multinational, multilingual empire, controlling much of Southeast Europe, Western Asia, North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

## *Study & Practice*

### I Read Aloud and Memorize

Read the following paragraph aloud until you have learned them by heart.

Saudi Arabia traces its roots back to the earliest civilizations of the Arabian Peninsula. Over the centuries, the peninsula has played an important role in history as an ancient trade center.

Since King Abdul-Aziz al-Saud established the modern Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932, its transformation has been astonishing. In a few short decades, the Kingdom has turned itself from a desert nation to a modern, sophisticated state and a major player on the international stage.

## II. Answer the Following Questions

1. Why was it said that Arabian Peninsula has played an important role in history?
2. Why did humans move into the places where Arabian Peninsula was located?
3. Where is the Arabian Peninsula located in?
4. Why was Arabian Peninsula untouched by the political turmoil?
5. Who advocates a return to the original form of Islam?
6. What marks the formation of modern Saudi Arabia?
7. What role does oil industry play in economic development in Saudi Arabia?
8. What are the objectives and phases of ongoing five-year development plans mentioned?

## III. Cloze

Complete the following passages according to your own understanding, and change the forms where necessary.