

## Timeline / Before 1800 to After 1930 / SAUDI ARABIA / POLITICAL CONTEXT

Date	Country	Theme
1765 - 1800	Saudi Arabia	Political Context
In 1765 Imam Muhammad bin Saud establishes the First Saudi State in Arabia, starting with the Najd region, and making its capital the city of Dir'iyya.		
1800 - 1803	Saudi Arabia	Political Context
Most parts of Arabia become part of the new Saudi State. In 1803, The two holy cities of Mecca (Makkah) and Medina (Madinah), along with the rest of the Hijaz region, join the Saudi State.		
1803 - 1818	Saudi Arabia	Political Context
The third Imam, Saud ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, faces a hostile reaction from the Ottoman Empire through its powerful viceroy in Egypt Muhammad 'Ali Pasha. After 'Abd al-'Aziz's death in 1814, his son, Abdallah, battles with the Egyptian army in many regions of the state. Finally Dir'iyya is surrendered, and Imam Abdallah is then taken to Turkey, where he is executed.		
1824 - 1891	Saudi Arabia	Political Context
Following the events of 1818, the Hijaz returns to Ottoman rule. Then in 1824 the Second Saudi State emerges, led by Imam Turki bin Abdullah, and with its capital now in Riyadh following the destruction of Dir'iyya. Imam Turki is then succeeded by the sons Imam Abdallah and 'Abd al-Rahman ibn Faisal. In 'Abd al-Rahman's reign, in 1891, the Second Saudi State falls into the hands of his enemy al-Rashid. This prompts the king to leave Riyadh for Kuwait with his family.		
1901 - 1909	Saudi Arabia	Political Context
Under the Ottoman Sultan 'Abd al-Hamid, the Hijaz Railway is built, running from Istanbul to the Medina (Madinah) province.		
1902 - 1920	Saudi Arabia	Political Context
In 1902, age 19, King 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn 'Abd al-Rahman, along with a small army, returns to Riyadh to reclaim his family legacy. Managing to take Riyadh, 'Abd al-Rahman then begins to unify modern Saudi Arabia.		
1916	Saudi Arabia	Political Context
By the end of July 1916, the seaports of Jeddah, Yanbu and Rabigh are in Arab hands. This allows the British to increase their supply of arms and equipment to the Arab forces fighting in the Hijaz.		
1916 - 1917	Saudi Arabia	Political Context
Rebel clans allied to Sharif Husayn attack Jeddah (Jidda) and other seaports along the Arabian coast of the Red Sea.		
1916 - 1917	Saudi Arabia	Political Context

Date	Country	Theme
		<p>The Arab Revolt begins on 10 June 1916 led by the Governor of Mecca (Makkah), Sharif Husayn ibn 'Ali, and his sons, the amirs 'Ali and Faisal. His forces seize the city of Riyadh and force the small Ottoman garrison to seek refuge in the local fortress. Another of Husayn's sons, Amir Abdallah, manages to surround and then take the town of Ta'if.</p>
1917 - 1918	Saudi Arabia	<p>Political Context</p> <p>In June 1917 the coastal city of Aqaba in Jordan becomes the new base for Faisal's army, renamed the "Arab Northern Army". Attacks on the Hijaz Railway continue, extending now as far north as southern Jordan. T. E. Lawrence, "Lawrence of Arabia" himself led reconnaissance parties into Syria and made contact with Arab nationalists in Damascus. The spectacular victory of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force (EEF) at the Third Battle of Gaza (Beersheba) in October 1917, and the subsequent British advance into the Jordan Valley, gave renewed impetus to Faisal's "railway war" further east. Meanwhile, Amir Faisal, with Lawrence as his adviser, had captured the seaport of Wejh (al-Wagh) on the Red Sea, 150 km north of Yanbu. From there, Faisal's men spent most of 1917 attacking the Hijaz Railway. Small raiding parties blew up sections of track, destroyed bridges, water towers and even some weakly defended railway stations. The British, planning to invade Palestine, were keen for the Arab rebels to keep the 12,000 Ottoman troops tied down in Medina (Madinah).</p>
1918 - 1920	Saudi Arabia	<p>Political Context</p> <p>Squabbling among the allies (those that had betrayed the Arab Revolution) delays the signing of the Peace Treaty with the Ottomans, which is being negotiated at Sèvres in France up until 10 August 1920. The Treaty confirmed French and British possession of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and Iraq in the guise of League of Nations mandates. Sharif Husayn ibn 'Ali is rewarded for his leadership of the Arab Revolt with international recognition of the Hijaz as an independent kingdom.</p>