



ISSN: 2617-958X

المجلة الإلكترونية الشاملة متعددة التخصصات
Electronic Interdisciplinary Miscellaneous Journal
العدد السابع والسبعون شهر (11) 2024
Issue 77, (10) 2024

**The Saudi Arabia Policy towards the Arab League during the Period
1364 -1402 AH/ 1945-1982 AD**

Prepared by:

Dr. Mohammed Abdulrahman Al-Shiha

Associate Professor, Department of History and Civilization

Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University

1446 AH/ 2024 AD



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Abstract

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was among the first Arab countries to establish the Arab League, which also included Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen, and Palestine. This was based on King Abdulaziz's belief in the importance of Arab unity and support for its causes, especially the Palestinian cause, and the necessity of opposing colonial presence in Arab countries through the Arab League. His sons continued this approach; King Saud supported the Palestinian and Algerian causes and opposed the Baghdad Pact signed in 1955 AD (1374 AH) by Britain, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, and Iraq, as it contradicted the League's charter. He also supported Egypt against the Tripartite Aggression and stood with Kuwait against Iraqi threats. While King Faisal opposed Israel in the 1967 war (1387 AH) and continued supporting the Arab cause during the Ramadan War of 1393 AH / October 1973 AD. Whereas King Khalid sought to resolve the Lebanese crisis through the Arab League and condemned the Camp David Accords. Thus, the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the reign of its kings, in the period under study, was clear in supporting major and crucial Arab causes and aligning with decisions issued by the Arab League in accordance with its charter.

Keywords: Saudi Arabia, policy, Arab League.



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Introduction

The Arab League is one of the oldest and most prominent regional organizations due to its unification of countries that share a common language, history, heritage, civilization, and collective aspirations. They also share similar experiences with colonialism. Therefore, the Arab League has played a significant role in many Arab and regional events, continuously addressing the internal and external challenges faced by Arab countries (Abdul Karim, 2018, p.1). This organization, headquartered in Cairo, established a charter that includes many objectives: Coordination between the members of the Arab countries in various economic transactions, research on trade relations, communication matters, cultural relations, social and health fields, and many others. The League's headquarters moved to the Egyptian capital, Cairo, after having been in Tunisia for eleven years.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was among the first Arab countries to establish the Arab League, and has made significant and enduring contributions that serve Arab interests. Therefore, the relationship between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab League has developed over the years and with the multiplicity of challenges facing the Arab nation, as it contributed, during the reign of all its kings, to support the unity of the Arab ranks and activate the decisions of the League that serve Arab interests.

This study aims to shed light on Saudi Arabia's policy towards the Arab League from the establishment of the League until the end of the reign of King Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (1364–1402 AH / 1945–1982 AD).

Importance of the research:

- 1- The importance of the research stems from the importance of the topic, the importance of the personalities related to it, and the importance of the period under study and the events that took place in it.

- As for the importance of the topic: It lies in its relation to Saudi Arabia's policy towards an important Arab organization that plays a pivotal role in coordinating between Arab countries on key issues in various fields (economic, political, social, and others).
- As for the importance of the personalities related to the topic: It relates to unique leading personalities who were able to lead this country to the ranks of countries. By the grace of God and through their leadership, Saudi Arabia has become a country of substantial regional and international influence.
- The importance of the period, 1364-1402 AH / 1945-1982 AD, is due to the critical period during which the Arab countries faced significant events and immense challenges.
- 2- The study of such historical topics is important for benefit from them, especially the history of great leaders. By studying their history, we can understand the wisdom and insight they possessed, how they made sound decisions during critical events, and how they managed or anticipated dangers and worked to avoid them.
- 3- This research serves as a valuable contribution to Saudi library, focusing on a significant period that began with the founder of this generous country and extended through the reigns of three of his sons, may God have mercy on them all.

Research Objectives:

The research aims to investigate the following:

- 1- Understanding the policy Saudi Arabia adopted towards the Arab League during the reign of King Abdulaziz Al Saud.
- 2- Highlighting the policy Saudi Arabia adopted towards the Arab League during the reign of King Saud bin Abdulaziz.



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- 3- Demonstrating the policy Saudi Arabia adopted towards the Arab League during the reign of King Faisal bin Abdulaziz.
- 4- Identifying the policy Saudi Arabia adopted towards the Arab League during the reign of King Khalid bin Abdulaziz.

Research Questions:

The research aims to answer the main question: What was Saudi Arabia's policy towards the Arab League from its establishment until the end of King Khalid bin Abdulaziz Al Saud's reign (1364 - 1402 AH/ 1945-1982 AD)?

The following questions arise from this:

- 1- What was Saudi Arabia's policy towards the Arab League during the reign of King Abdulaziz Al Saud?
- 2- What was Saudi Arabia's policy towards the Arab League during the reign of King Saud bin Abdulaziz?
- 3- What was Saudi Arabia's policy towards the Arab League during the reign of King Faisal bin Abdulaziz?
- 4- What was Saudi Arabia's policy towards the Arab League during the reign of King Khalid bin Abdulaziz?

Research Methodology

The researcher used the historical and analytical approaches in this study by narrating events according to their historical sequence and analyzing the events and positions of the Kings of Saudi Arabia during the period under study with regard to the Arab League, as well as their contribution to Arab unity and the unification of positions towards important Arab issues.



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Research limits:

Objective limits: Saudi Arabia's policy towards the Arab League.

Time limits: the period between (1364 AH/ 1945 AD - 1402 AH/ 1982 AD).

Previous Studies:

The researcher, through his efforts in both public and private libraries, did not find any study, research, or book that independently addressed the policies of any of the kings under study toward the Arab League. Rather, he found it within other topics or periods that do not align with the period under study. Among the letters and books that the researcher found to address part or period relevant to this research are the following:

- 1- A study titled (The Political Role of Saudi Arabia in the Arab League 1364-1399 AH/ 1945-1979 AD) by Raja bin Ateeq Al-Muaili: Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Qassim University, College of Arabic Language and Social Studies, 1434 AH / 2014 AD.

This study addressed the political role played by Saudi Arabia in the Arab League, not towards the Arab League. Moreover, the previous study focused on the period from 1364 - 1399 AH / 1945 - 1979 AD. While the current research focuses on the policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia towards the Arab League, and its period extends from 1364 AH / 1945 AD to 1402 AH / 1982 AD.

- 2- A study titled (The Role of the Arab League in Resolving Arab Issues (2011-2017 AD) by Abdulkarim Imad Omar, unpublished master's thesis, Middle East University, College of Arts and Sciences, 1439 AH / 2018 AD.

This study discussed the role of the Arab League in resolving Arab issues; thus, it dealt with the Arab League as a part of the current research. The current research, however, focuses on Saudi Arabia's policy

toward the Arab League during the reigns of King Abdulaziz and three subsequent Kings: King Saud, King Faisal, and King Khalid.

- 3- A book titled (The Arab League 1945-1985 AD: A Political Historical Study) by Abdul Monem: Ahmed Fares, 1st edition, Beirut, Center for Arab Unity Studies, 1406 AH /

The author studied the Arab League from a historical and political perspective, limiting his study to the period between 1945 and 1985; he addressed the political history of the League and the roles of its various members, including Saudi Arabia. while the current research focuses solely on Saudi Arabia's policy towards the Arab League, on the one hand, and on the other, the period covered in the current research differs, extending from 1364 AH / 1945 AD to 1402 AH/ 1982 AD.

- 4- A book titled: (The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Arab League: Positions and Selected Documents, published on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the Arab League, King Abdulaziz Foundation, edition, 1437 AH/ 2015 AD.

This book discussed some positions and documents related to Saudi Arabia and the Arab League without focusing on a specific period and talking about all its political events, unlike this research, which addressed Saudi Arabia's policy towards the Arab League during the period from 1364 AH / 1945 AD to 1402 AH / 1982 AD.

Research terms:

Politics in language: "Managing something in a way that reforms it... and the ruler governs his people" (Ibn Manzoor, n.d., p. 107), " Zayd managed the matter: he governed it with policy; he planned and executed it."(Al-Maqri, n.d., p. 295).

Politics in terminology: Organizing the affairs of the state, whether internal or external, by directing relations between members of society and the state or



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between states with each other. Politics aims at making decisions that contribute to organizing society's life according to applicable laws and regulations, ensuring public interest both domestically and in international relations (Al-Aroui, 2008, p. 56).

Research divisions:

The research is divided into the following sections: a preface preceded by an introduction, followed by five chapters and a conclusion, followed by the research sources and references. The details are as follows:

Introduction: This includes the importance of the research, its objectives, questions, methodology, objective and time limits, previous studies, key terms, and finally, the research divisions.

Preface: Focused on the role of Saudi Arabia in the establishment of the Arab League.

First Chapter: Discussed King Abdulaziz's policy towards the Arab League.

Second Chapter: Addressed King Saud's policy towards the Arab League.

Third Chapter: Examined King Faisal's policy towards the Arab League.

Fourth Chapter: Covered King Khalid's policy towards the Arab League.

Conclusion: Contained the key findings of this research.

Sources and References.



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Prelude

The policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia towards the establishment of the Arab League (1364 AH/ 1945 AD).

Saudi Arabia is one of the first seven Arab countries to establish the Arab League; it was among the founding countries, which included Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen, and Palestine.

The Arab League was established during the reign of King Abdulaziz, who strongly believed in the importance of supporting Arab unity to face the difficulties and challenges confronting the Arab world at that historical stage. The historic meeting between King Abdulaziz and King Farouk, the last king of the Kingdom of Egypt in 1364 AH / 1945 AD, in Mount Radwa (located in the Yanbu Governorate in the Medina region (Samhudi, n. d., p. 81), northwestern Saudi Arabia) confirmed the key terms for the establishment and support of the Arab League (Umm al-Qura newspaper, February 1945, p. 1; Al-Zarkali, Al-Wajeez, 1988, p. 304).

On March 22, 1945 AD, (corresponding to Rabi al-Akhir 08, 1364 AH), Saudi Arabia signed the Arab League Charter, known as the Alexandria Protocol, after King Abdulaziz had approved it. Thus, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia officially announced its membership in the Arab League (Al-Zarkali, 1970 AD, vol. 1, p. 1207). This announcement was an endorsement of the League's charter in its final form (Umm Al-Qura newspaper, March 1945 AD, p. 1; Al-Muhafaza et al., 1983, p. 50).

King Abdulaziz played a major role in laying the foundations of the Arab League, as he emphasized in one of his letters regarding the League that Saudi Arabia sought to see the Arab countries united and in agreement on solid principles that would lead to achieving the aspirations of the Arab nation.

Saudi Arabia sent a message to the Arab committees in Egypt, which included a number of principles, the most important of which were:



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- 1- Striving to form an Arab alliance aimed at solidarity, cooperation, and the security of Arab states, and ensuring good neighborliness among them.
- 2- The Arab alliance and interdependence are not directed towards any hostile goal against any group, nation, or state; rather, it is a tool for self-defense and the establishment of peace.
- 3- Facilitating transactions that enhance relations between member states of the Arab League.

Ultimately, it was agreed that the Arab League Charter would include the following points:

- Recognition of the sovereignty and independence of member states within their existing borders.
- Recognition of complete equality among member states, large and small.
- Recognition of the right of each state to conclude treaties and agreements with other Arab or non-Arab states, provided that they do not conflict with the provisions of the League's Charter.
- There is no clear obligation to follow a unified foreign policy.
- No resort to force to resolve disputes and disagreements arising between member states.
- The Council of the League shall mediate between member states at their request (Umm Al-Qura Newspaper, the twenty-first year, Issue 1048, Friday, 16 Rabi al-Thani 1364 AH, corresponding to March 30, 1945 AD, p. 1; Al-Muhafaza, et al., n.d., p. 50)."



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Chapter One

Saudi Arabia's Policy towards the Arab League during the reign of King Abdulaziz since its establishment (1364 - 1373 AH / 1945 - 1953 AD).

Since the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia joined the Arab League, it worked tirelessly to unify the Arab nations under strong principles and foundations, paving the way for achieving the unity aspired to by the Arab nation. This is evident in its support for Arab causes and its solidarity with them, most notably the Palestinian cause, Saudi Arabia's position on this cause during the reign of King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al Saud is evident through the following:

First: King Abdulaziz's support for the Arab League's position on the Palestinian cause:

King Abdulaziz had a deep understanding of the Palestinian cause. When the idea of partitioning Palestine emerged, the Arab League held its fifth session in 1365 AH / 1946 AD, with the presence of Saudi Arabia. The council reaffirmed in its resolution its commitment to continue defending the rights of the Arabs of Palestine until justice was restored, and that the council would not yield or waver in its rejection of any project that would lead to the partition of Palestine (Al-Zarkali, Al-Wajeez, p. 299, 302).

In 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to partition Palestine. The Arab League council, with Saudi Arabia in attendance, met and issued a resolution stating that the Arab governments did not recognize the partition resolution issued by the United Nations and considered it null and void (Al-Zarkali, Al-Wajeez, p. 299).

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, sent two memoranda, one to the British legation and the other to the American legation, both based in Jeddah. These memoranda contained a warning regarding the recommendations of International Commission of Inquiry to



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partition Palestine and explained the dangers of this decision and its violation of Arab rights (Al-Zarkali, Al-Wajeez, p. 299).

Second: King Abdulaziz's Support for the Arab League Regarding Colonial Presence:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during the reign of King Abdulaziz, was keen to support the efforts of the Arab League towards the colonial presence and foreign aggression in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria, and Yemen. Saudi Arabia was among the leading countries that called for a meeting of the League's council to discuss the French presence in Syria and Lebanon and to find a solution to the French military attacks on Damascus in 1364 AH /1945 AD. Consequently, the League council held a meeting and issued a resolution stating that: Any international conference held to resolve the disputes between Syria and Lebanon on one side, and France on the other, must be represented by the Arab League, in addition to the representation of Syria and Lebanon, and that all negotiations in this regard must be based on full independence and sovereignty for both countries" (Umm Al-Qura Newspaper, 1945, p. 2; Abdul Moneim, 1986, pp. 59-60).

The council also issued several other resolutions, the most notable of which are: the French government is responsible for the killings, destruction, and material and human losses caused by its attacks on Syria and Lebanon. Additionally, the continued presence of French forces in Syria and Lebanon contrary to their recognized sovereignty and independence (Abdul Moneim, p. 60).

In the same context, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the reign of King Abdul Aziz supported the resolutions issued by the Arab League regarding the demands for the withdrawal of British forces from Egyptian territories (Abdul Moneim, p. 61).

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the reign of King Abdulaziz also approved the resolution of the League Council regarding the Libyan cause, which



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authorized the Secretary General of the Arab League to submit a memorandum to the London Conference in 1364 AH/ 1945 AD. This memorandum expressed the Libyan people's desire to remain united, to manage their own affairs freely, and for Libya to become a member of the Arab League. The memorandum warned that any solution that failed to meet these aspirations would lead to deep disappointment not only in Libya but also across the entire Arab world (Al-Mansour, 1998, p. 206).

As for the Tunisian cause, the League council, with Saudi Arabia's support, recommended sending a telegram to Tunisia, expressing the League's support for the Tunisian people's struggle to obtain their freedom and independence. The council also recommended the delegations of Arab countries to the United Nations General Assembly to facilitate the Tunisian delegation's efforts to present and defend their cause. The League also sought support from Afro-Asian countries to stand with Tunisia in its cause (Abdul Moneim, p. 62).

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the reign of King Abdulaziz also stood with the Moroccan cause and supported it in the Arab League, as the League Council decided in 1365 AH/ 1946 AD to represent Morocco in the League's committees. In another session, the council declared its support for the Moroccan people's demands for freedom and independence, and assigned the General Secretariat to exert its efforts to secure the release of detained freedom fighters (Abdul Moneim, p. 63).

With regard to the Algerian cause, Saudi Arabia during the reign of King Abdulaziz was among the leading countries that supported this cause in the Arab League. As a result, the Secretary General of the League discussed with the U.S. Minister Plenipotentiary in Cairo the French forces' aggressions against the Algerian people, and requested U.S. intervention with France (Umm Al-Qura Newspaper, December 1947 AD, p. 2; Abdul Moneim, pp. 63-64).



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All of this indicates that Saudi Arabia's policy during King Abdulaziz's reign toward the Arab League was characterized by adhering to the foreign policy framework set by the League and fully committing to its traditions and customs.

In addition, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia did not undertake any matter related to the Arab countries without consulting the League. This approach was followed by King Abdulaziz from the establishment of the League until his death, and his sons after him continued it (Al-Zarkali, Peninsula, Vol. 1, p. 1209).

Chapter Tow

Saudi Arabia's Policy toward the Arab League during the Reign of King Saud bin Abdulaziz (1373-1384 AH/ 1953-1964 AD)

King Saud bin Abdulaziz (1373-1384 AH/ 1953-1964 AD) was keen to follow in his father's footsteps in his policy toward the Arab League. He adopted a clear and defined policy toward the Arab League and Arab countries in particular, and toward the international community in general. The policy adopted by King Saud in this regard appears through the following:

First: King Saud's Support for the Arab League Regarding the Palestinian Cause:

King Saud adhered to his father's policy toward Arab countries, which was based on understanding and cooperation with everyone, and working for the benefit of all Arabs. This included the Palestinian cause, which he supported in various ways and positions. Thus, one of the most prominent positions adopted by King Saud towards the Palestinian cause is that he presented it at the (Afro-Asian Conference) held in Indonesia in Bandung - the capital of West Java Province- in Sha'ban 1374 AH (April 1955). This was based on the position taken by the Arab League, which agreed to present Arab issues, especially the Palestinian cause, at international forums to gain global support for it (Abu Alia, 2006 AD, Vol. 5, p. 23).



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When Saudi Arabia received an invitation from the General Secretariat of the Arab League to attend the meeting of the kings and presidents of the Arab countries that are members of the League Council to discuss the measures to be taken regarding the Israeli plot to divert the course of the Jordan River, King Saud's response was:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, out of its belief in the unity of the Arab struggle, its commitment to its original policy and long history of supporting Arab causes to achieve the aspirations of the Arab nation, and its deep awareness of the dangers surrounding the first Arab cause, declares its acceptance of this invitation and its full readiness to provide support to the direction of the Secretariat in this matter (Abu Alia, 2006 AD, Vol. 5, p. 23).

In 1384 AH/ 1964 AD, King Saud participated in the Arab Summit Conference in Jordan. This conference issued several resolutions, most notably: the formation of a unified Arab leadership to defend their rights against any Israeli aggressions and the diversion of the Jordan River's tributaries that pass through Lebanese, Syrian, and Jordanian territories to deprive Israel of the right to benefit from the river's waters. The conference also resulted in the establishment of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. The unified Arab leadership, composed of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Tunisia, was able to achieve some of its shared objectives in facing Israeli hostile plans in Arab territories (Al-Bilad Saudi newspaper, 1962 AD, p. 1; Abu Alia, 2006 AD, Vol. 5, p. 27).

Second: King Saud's Support for the Arab League Regarding the Algerian Cause:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia supported the Algerian people in obtaining their independence and backed their revolution during King Saud's reign. The Algerian cause received significant attention and care from Saudi Arabia during his reign, and the Kingdom advocated its cause in the Arab League, such as that King Saud, through the Arab League, adopted the Algerian cause and declared



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his support for it during the Arab League meeting held on 10 Safar 1374 AH, corresponding to October 7, 1954 AD. He also called on the Arab League to adopt the same position. Undoubtedly, this position inspired enthusiasm among Arab nations, whose efforts played a clear role in the success of the Algerian revolution and its achievement of independence (Arab League, 1954 AD, p. 1; Al-Muailei, 2014 AD, p. 90).

Saudi Arabia also approved the decision of the Political Committee of the Arab League, which called for educating Arabs in Algeria, intensifying the means of teaching the Arabic language, and increasing aid to national schools in Algeria (Arab League, 1954 AD, p. 1; Al-Muailei, 2014 AD, p. 91).

Additionally, The Secretary-General of the Arab League mentioned in his report on secretariat's activities during the period between the twenty-second and twenty-third sessions of 1374 AH/ 1975 AD that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through its delegation to the United Nations, had submitted a memorandum drawing attention to the serious situation in Algeria due to the brutal acts, oppression and violence of the Algerian fighters by the French authorities (Arab League, 1955 AD, p. 1; Al-Mailli, 2014 AD, p. 90).

Third: King Saud's Position through the Arab League towards the Baghdad Pact:

King Saud firmly believed that Arab countries had the right to live in peace and that Arab peoples deserved to live freely and with dignity in their countries. This was not just a slogan or words that he repeated, but he applied it practically; King Saud took a strong stand against Western alliances that aimed to fragment Arab unity, one of the most prominent of these alliances was the Baghdad Pact, which was signed in 1374 AH/ 1955 AD by Britain, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, and Iraq. It also known as the Middle East Treaty.

Saudi Arabia rejected this pact and declared its objection to Iraq's accession to it, considering that it would be merely a tool serving Western colonialism, and



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would make the territories of Arab countries battlefields for issues unrelated to them and contradict the Arab League's Charter (Umm Al-Qura Newspaper, 1955; Al-Fa'i and Saeed, p. 19).

Due to this firm and serious stance from Saudi Arabia during King Saud's reign, Egypt decided to invite the heads of Arab governments to an urgent meeting at the Arab League headquarters to discuss Iraq's decision to join a military alliance outside the framework of Arab countries, which posed a threat to the League. Egypt also stated in its invitation that it still believed in cooperation with all Arabs, free from foreign influence represented in the alliance policy. However, Nuri Al-Said (1348-1377 AH/ 1930-1958 AD), Iraq's Prime Minister at that time, responded that he would not attend the meeting of Arab heads of government, claiming that it was an interference in Iraq's internal affairs and an infringement on its independence and freedom to act (Al-Fa'i and Saeed, p. 22).

Accordingly, the conference took place on 13 Jumada Al-Thani 1374 AH, corresponding to February 6, 1955 AD, and the Arab League Council issued a final statement from the meeting, which stated that the foreign policy of Arab states was based on the Arab League Charter, the Joint Defense Treaty, economic cooperation between Arab states, and the United Nations Charter, and it did not endorse forming other alliances (Arab League, p. 18; Al-Fa'i and Saeed, p. 22).

Fourth: Saudi Arabia's support for the Arab League during the reign of King Saud towards the tripartite aggression against Egypt:

Saudi Arabia's policy was clear during the Tripartite Aggression against Egypt in 1375 AH/ 1956 AD, as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced its support for Egypt since the beginning of the aggression by: Israel, France, and England. King Saud sent telegrams to the leaders of the Islamic world to urge them to support and advocate Egypt.

Saudi Arabia announced general mobilization, and opened volunteer offices across the Kingdom, led by senior Saudi princes. Saudi Arabia also provided substantial financial aid. In addition to these efforts, Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties with England and France, and the Saudi government issued a decision to halt the export of Saudi oil to them (Umm Al-Qura Newspaper, November 1956 AD, p. 5; Umm Al-Qura Newspaper, December 1956 AD, p. 1; Amin, 1965 AD, Vol. 3, pp. 164-168).

Fifth: the position of Saudi Arabia during the reign of King Saud through the Arab League towards the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict:

In the 1381 AH/1961 Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict, King Saud stood with Kuwait against the threats from Iraqi Prime Minister Abdul Karim Qasim (1377-1382 AH/ 1958-1963 AD), who threatened to annex Kuwait to its territory, these threats were unacceptable as they undermined the sovereignty of an Arab state. Saudi Arabia's efforts successfully led to the Arab League issuing a resolution outlining potential steps for resolving the issue. The key resolutions were as follows:

- 1- The withdrawal of British forces from Kuwait.
- 2- Obligating Iraq not to use force against Kuwait.
- 3- Ensuring that Arab states provide effective assistance to maintain Kuwait's independence.

Additionally, with strong support from Saudi Arabia, the Arab League successfully formed an international emergency force to oversee the implementation of these resolutions (Umm Al-Qura Newspaper, April 1964 AD, p. 1; Arab League, 1961 AD, p. 45; Muhafaza et al., p. 176).

King Saud bin Abdulaziz's policy toward the Arab League and Arab countries in particular, and toward all countries and regional and international organizations in general, was based on fostering friendly relations and strengthening ties with all countries, especially Arabs and Muslims. He also advocated for contributing to mitigate the dangers of wars, maintaining security and peace, and preserving



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international relations by following sound methods. During his reign, Saudi Arabia maintained its strength and stature, which was a result of the superiority inherited from King Abdulaziz, passed down to his sons (King Saud bin Abdulaziz, Saudi Pedia page).

Chapter Three:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Policy toward the Arab League during the Reign of King Faisal bin Abdulaziz (1384-1395 AH/ 1964-1975 AD)

King Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (1384-1395 AH/ 1964-1975 AD) is considered one of the most prominent Arab leaders in both Arab and global political course from an early age. Some of the key positions that reflect Saudi Arabia's policy toward the Arab League during King Faisal's reign include the following:

First: Saudi Arabia's support for the Arab League during the reign of King Faisal towards the war of 1387 AH/ 1967 AD:

Saudi Arabia stood against Israel in this war and opposed it through various means (Al-Muaili, p. 249). Given the rapid developments in the Arab region, King Faisal decided to embark on a tour of several European countries to discuss the situation in the Middle East with their leaders. He visited France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Britain. He also announced at a press conference in London on 14 Safar 1387 AH (May 23, 1967 AD) that if Israel takes any action against any Arab country, Saudi Arabia would be at the forefront of Arab countries fighting against Israel (Al-Nabawi: 2009 AD, vol. 1, p. 301).

Due to the increasing Israeli threats, the Arab League Council held a session on 11 Safar 1387 AH, corresponding to May 20, 1967 AD, in which it issued several resolutions, while Saudi Arabia declared general mobilization, and the Saudi Ministry of Defense and Aviation issued a statement confirming that Saudi forces had taken positions near the Jordanian city of Aqaba. This statement emphasized that strict orders were issued to repel any treacherous Israeli attack on any part of the Arab region. Additionally, the Saudi Air Force was instructed

to be ready to provide air support as needed (Arab League, pp. 3-4; Al-Muaili, p. 250).

In an effort to find a solution, Arab oil ministers, including the Saudi oil minister, met in Baghdad to discuss the issue of sanctions and oil embargoes that could be imposed by Arab states on Britain and the United States if they aided Israel. The conference issued several resolutions that were announced on 26 Safar 1387 AH, corresponding to June 5, 1967 AD, and the most important of these resolutions were:

- 1- If any country enters into a direct or indirect armed aggression against Arab countries, the funds of its companies and citizens present in the territories of the Arab countries shall be subject to the laws of war, including the funds of oil companies.
- 2- The conference affirmed that signing any statement that affects the sovereignty of Arab states over the Gulf of Aqaba would justify depriving the oil tankers of those states from transporting Arab oil (Al-Muaili, p. 251).

After these tensions, on the morning of the 26 of Safar 1387 AH, corresponding to 5 June 1967, Israeli aircraft launched intensive raids on Egyptian airports and missile bases, and stopped Egyptian air movement. At the same time, Israeli ground forces advanced and occupied Gaza, the coastal city in Palestine, which is one of the largest cities in the Gaza Strip, located to its north, at the southern end of the eastern Mediterranean coast, approximately 78 kilometers southwest of Al-Quds (Hashem, n.d., p. 9). Israel also occupied Sinai, a triangular desert peninsula located in West Asia, in the northeastern part of the Arab Republic of Egypt, covering an area of about 60,088 square kilometers, representing 6% of Egypt's total area (Shaqir, 1991 AD, pp. 9-11). Israeli forces reached the Egyptian Suez Canal, the shortest maritime route between Europe and countries around the Indian Ocean and the Western Pacific, known as the heart of global trade and navigation, and one of the busiest maritime routes in



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the world (Samarco, 2015 AD, p. 53). Furthermore, Israel occupied the West Bank, located in central-eastern Palestine, to the west of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea, which is the Palestinian land that was annexed to Jordan at the Jericho Conference in 1951 AD, and formed the remaining part of Palestine that was not seized by Israel in the Nakba in 1948 AD, including East Al-Quds. The Jordanian authorities called it the "West Bank" because it lies west of the Jordan River, while Jordan lies on the eastern side of the river.

After the Nakba, the West Bank territory were subject to Jordan, and the unity between the eastern (Jordan) and western (Palestine) banks was achieved after the Jericho Conference in 1951 AD, and the people of the West Bank were considered Jordanian citizens. However, in 1967 AD, Israel reoccupied the West Bank. Through the Oslo Accords held between 1993 and 1995 AD, the Palestinian Authority (PA) was formed as an administrative entity, to manage the affairs of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Unfortunately, the authority failed to control its territories, leaving the West Bank under Israeli occupation and settlement policies (Mahdi, 1992 AD, p. 97; Al-Mamlouk, 2012 AD, p. 17).

Israel also occupied the rest of Palestine, including Al-Quds, which is the largest city in historical Palestine in terms of area and population and holds the greatest religious and economic importance (Al-Barr, 2002 AD, p. 7). Additionally, it occupied the Golan Heights in Syria, which located between the Yarmouk River from the south and Mount Hermon from the north, where the Israeli army seized two-thirds of its area, making it an occupied Syrian territory (Al-Dabbagh, 1983 AD, p. 11).

Thus, Israel was able to occupy all of the Palestinian territories, in addition to parts of Syrian and Egyptian lands (Al-Muaili, p. 251). Historians have indicated that the duration of the Israeli airstrike was three and a half hours, which was a deathblow for Egypt. There were 492 aircraft that struck Egypt in three runways,

and the result of these strikes determined the fate of the entire battle of the 1387 AH/ 1967 war (Heikal, 2004, p. 788; Khouleif, 2009, Vol. 1, p. 349).

King Faisal's wisdom was evident in those critical moments; he proved his keenness and support for Arab causes by setting aside his differences with the President of the Republic of Egypt and declared Saudi government's support for Egypt and the other Arab countries in the battle. He also sent letters to the leaders of the Arab frontline states, expressing his full support for them in their fight against Israel and the readiness of Saudi Arabia to put all its resources at the service of the Arab countries. Saudi Arabia also adhered to the Baghdad Conference's resolutions, where it stopped pumping oil from countries that support Israel in the war (Umm Al-Qura newspaper, June 1967 AD, p. 1.)

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia followed the same policy in the War of Attrition (1387-1390 AH/ 1967-1970 AD), and the Kingdom's position in this war can be summarized in the following points:

- 1- Supporting Arab countries to curb Israel's repeated aggressions.
- 2- Participating in the meetings held by the Political Committee of the Arab League, condemning Israel's acts of violence and sabotage in all forms, including Saudi Arabia and the Arab League's condemnation of Israel for its attack on Al-Aqsa Mosque and its burning.
- 3- Supporting the Egyptian front, enabling Egypt to build a new army after the severe damage it suffered in the 1387 AH/ 1967 AD war. Egypt was able, after that support from the Kingdom and the Arab League, to achieve victories, the most prominent of which was the sinking of the destroyer Eilat in the Mediterranean Sea.
- 4- Saudi Arabia denounced the actions of Israel, explaining that the Arabs were committed to the resolutions issued by the Security Council to stop the war, while Israel did not, and that the Arabs are going through the most dangerous stages in their history, which requires the solidarity of the Arab countries to support their causes (Al- Muaili, pp. 266-267).



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Second: Saudi Arabia's support for the Arab League during the reign of King Faisal towards the war of Ramadan 1393 AH/ October 1973 AD.

Saudi Arabia's efforts continued under King Faisal's reign to support Arab causes, including its support for the Ramadan War of 1393 AH/ October 1973 AD. With the support and endorsement of Saudi Arabia, represented by King Faisal, a meeting of the Arab League was held on 1 Sha'ban 1392 AH, corresponding to 9 September 1972 AD.

The council discussed the Israeli aggression, and at the end of the session, the Arab League Council approved joint Arab action, and a committee of foreign and defense ministers was formed that included twelve Arab League countries, led by Saudi Arabia. The committee was tasked with assessing the Arab position from all aspects and laying the foundations for a joint Arab action plan. The committee decided that its meeting would take place in Kuwait (Arab League, September 1972 AD, p. 65; Al-Muaili, p. 269).

By the end of 1392 AH/ 1972 AD, a severe global energy crisis emerged, and petroleum experts warned of this crisis, so King Faisal, after realizing the world's need for oil, decided to work to achieve state control over its petroleum resources, which is one of the goals he sought to achieve since assuming power. In Dhul-Qi'dah 1392 AH/ December 1972 AD, he signed a participation agreement with the oil companies operating in Saudi territory (Al-Muaili, p. 269).

In 1393 AH/ 1973 AD, King Faisal undertook a tour of Europe, including France, where he issued an appeal to friendly countries, urging them to cooperate with France to find a settlement that would guarantee security and peace in the Middle East. King Faisal tried to convince the European community through political dialogue that their interests and those of America in the Arab world are vital, and that the Arabs only demand from these countries to support the right and force Israel to withdraw from Arab territories and return it to its owners (Al-Muaili, p. 271).

King Faisal continued his support for Arab countries and stressed the use of oil as a weapon. He also sought to unify the Arab ranks, and his efforts resulted in the convening of the Arab League summit in Cairo on 6 Jumada al-Akhir 1393 AH, corresponding to 10 September 1973 AD. One of the most prominent results of that summit was the restoration of relations between the Arab countries (Al-Muaili, p. 271).

When the war broke out on the 10 Ramadan 1393 AH/ 6 October 1973 AD, King Faisal immediately declared his full support for the battle.

In the same context, the use of oil as a weapon in the battle of 1393 AH/ 1973 AD changed the balance of power; through the use of this weapon, Egypt and Syria were able to achieve several gains that would not have been possible without it. Saudi Arabia did not hesitate to provide political, economic, and military support to Egypt (Al-Muaili, p. 283).

Among the most notable results of the 1393 AH/ 1973 AD war were:

- 1- The destruction of the Bar Lev Line, which Israel had long boasted about; it was considered a barrier that no one could overcome by any force whatsoever.
- 2- The unification and cooperation of the Arabs, which contributed to achieve victory and the restoration of Saudi-Egyptian relations stronger than they were before.
- 3- The United States feared for its interests, so it quickly resorted to using all diplomatic means to find a settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- 4- The oil weapon used by King Faisal was effective and aligned with the military movements.

Although King Faisal bin Abdulaziz followed the path of his father, King Abdulaziz, and his brother, King Saud, in their policies, the successive Arab and international changes forced him to take several directions that served Arab and



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regional causes while adhering to the inherited political principles and values from the reign of King Abdulaziz (Al-Riyadh Newspaper, September 2022, p. 1).

Chapter Four

Saudi Arabia's Policy towards the Arab League during the Reign of King Khalid bin Abdulaziz (1395-1402 AH/ 1975-1982 AD)

King Khalid bin Abdulaziz (1395-1402 AH/ 1975-1982 AD) placed great emphasis on balanced relations with the Arab world and the Arab League. He was committed to continue Saudi Arabia's role in fulfilling its moral and legal responsibilities toward the world and to work for global peace based on truth and justice. He also supported Arab unity and effective cooperation among Arab nations in all political, economic, and social fields.

King Khalid's policy towards the Arab League played a major role in resolving several Arab issues and conflicts (Al-Muaili, p. 284), the most prominent of which are the following:

First: King Khalid's Support for the Arab League towards the Lebanese crisis:

Saudi Arabia made great efforts during King Khalid's reign towards the Lebanese crisis. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through the Arab League, had a direct role in resolving Lebanese crisis, as the Kingdom proceeded to resolve this crisis from the principle of strengthening Arab solidarity and unity.

The most prominent position adopted by the Kingdom towards this crisis was supporting the Arab League in calling for an emergency conference at the level of foreign ministers to discuss the Lebanese situation. The conference was held during the period from 10-12 Jumada Al-Thani 1396 AH, corresponding to 8-10 June 1976 AD, and approved sending security forces from various Arab countries to Lebanon under the flag of the Arab League and under the command of the Assistant Military Secretary-General. Its tasks were defined as working on the

ceasefire and maintaining security within the framework of Lebanese sovereignty (Palestine Liberation Organization, Vol. 2, p. 308).

Saudi Arabia supported this decision in a statement issued by the Saudi government, which affirmed its approval of the Arab League's decision to send Arab security forces to oversee the peace in Lebanon (Al-Jazeera Newspaper, June 1976 AD p. 1; Al-Muaili, p. 292).

In this regard, Saudi Arabia handed over a check to the Assistant Secretary-General of the Arab League in the amount of one million and four hundred thousand dollars as a contribution to the expenses of the Arab security forces present in Lebanon (Riyadh newspaper, June 1976 AD, p. 1).

When the Lebanese crisis escalated in 1396 AH/ 1976 AD, King Khalid bin Abdulaziz called for a summit conference in Riyadh to address the crisis. The conference was held during the period from 23-25 Shawwal 1396 AH, corresponding to 17-19 October 1976 AD, and the final statement of the conference included several key decisions, the most notable of which were:

- 1- A permanent ceasefire and cessation of fighting throughout Lebanon by all parties, effective from 27 Shawwal 1396 AH/ October 21, 1976 AD.
- 2- The reinforcement of the existing Arab security forces to form a deterrent force, operating in Lebanon under the direct leadership of the President of Lebanon (Al-Muaili, p. 297).

The Secretary-General of the Arab League praised the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's strong position in supporting the Arab League's efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis, and its fulfillment of its obligation to send fuel regularly, which enabled the operation of water, electricity, bakeries, and mills, thus helping to return normal life in Lebanon (Al-Jazeera Newspaper, September 1976, p. 1).

Second: Saudi Arabia's position during the reign of King Khalid through the Arab League towards the Camp David Accord:



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Regarding Saudi Arabia's position on the Camp David Accords, named after the location where it was signed, a resort for the U.S. President located in Maryland and established by President Roosevelt in 1361 AH/ 1942 AD, the accords were signed between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin in 1398 AH/ 1978 AD (Fahmi, 1987, p. 408).

During the reign of King Khalid bin Abdulaziz and after the Ramadan/ October War, the discussions on peace in the Middle East began to take a different direction. They began to focus on the principle of coexistence between the parties and peace in the region.

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat (1390-1401 AH/ 1970-1981 AD) announced before the Egyptian People's Assembly on 28 Dhul Qadah 1397 AH, corresponding to November 9, 1977 AD, that he was ready to go anywhere in the world for Egypt's sake, and that he does not mind going to the Israeli Knesset to discuss the issue with the Israelis to save Egyptian blood. Following this, Israel extended an official invitation to him to visit Israel. President Sadat accepted the invitation to visit Al-Quds and issued a statement stating that the visit came in response to the call for peace in the name of the legitimate and just demands of the entire Arab people, as well as the Palestinian people. . It also aimed to avert dangers threatening the people of the region (Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1979 AD, p. 43; Abdel Salam, 1980 AD, p. 168; Dayan, 1987 AD, p. 83).

He further stated that he would perform the Eid al-Adha prayer in Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the visit would begin on Saturday, 9 Dhul Hijjah 1397 AH, corresponding to November 19, 1977 AD (Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1979, p. 43; Abdel Salam, 1980, p. 168; Dayan, 1987, p. 83). President Sadat's visit surprised the world, as it was the first official visit by an Arab leader to the State of Israel.

Despite Saudi Arabia's efforts to postpone the visit, it took place, and Arab countries opposed it, they called for confronting it and called it conspiracy by Sadat. Among the Arab countries that strongly opposed the visit were Syria,



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Libya, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and South Yemen, which called for an Arab summit in Tripoli. However, Saudi Arabia did not attend the summit to preserve Arab unity and prevent division, as it believed that holding a summit in such emotional circumstances would not serve Arab solidarity. Therefore, it called for resuming discussions between Arab countries and Egypt and proposed a summit conference to reconcile between President Sadat and the Arab countries that opposed him (International Politics Journal, 1978 AD, pp. 253-275; Al-Muaili, p. 318).

The thirty-ninth President of the United States, Jimmy Carter (1397-1401 AH/ 1977-1981 AD), who served as president from 1397 AH/ 1977 AD to 1401 AH/ 1981 AD (Carter, 2013, pp. 21-22), took advantage of the situation in the Middle East and invited both Anwar Sadat, the President of Egypt, and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (1397-1403 AH/ 1977-1983 AD) to hold a tripartite summit meeting at Camp David (Abdel Ghaffar, 1982 AD, pp. 295-297).

It is worth noting that after this accord, both parties jointly received the Nobel Prize in 1398 AH/ 1978 AD: Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who served as Israel's Prime Minister from 1397 AH/ 1977 AD to 1403 AH/ 1983 AD, and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat (Ma'di, 2013 AD, pp. 5-7).

Iraq called for an Arab summit to discuss the Camp David Accords. Saudi Arabia praised the Iraqi proposal, and the summit was held in Baghdad in the period from 2-5 Dhul Hijjah 1398 AH, corresponding to November 2-5, 1978 AD. The summit issued several resolutions that condemned the Camp David Accord and called the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt to return permanently from this accord.

Egypt's signing of the peace treaty with Israel constituted a departure from the resolutions of the Arab League, which considered that the state of war with Israel was still ongoing. It also contradicted the Arab League's statement in its twelfth session in 1369 AH/ 1950 AD, which stated that none of the League's countries was allowed to negotiate with Israel for a separate reconciliation or

any political, economic, or military agreement. This also conflicted with the Joint Arab Defense Treaty. The position of Saudi Arabia, represented by King Khalid bin Abdulaziz, was opposed to the results of the Camp David Accords, and described the peace that was signed in that agreement as unacceptable (Arab League, Ninth Summit Conference, Resolutions 99 and 100, 5/11/1978 AD).

The Arab League decided to relocate its headquarters from Cairo to another Arab capital temporarily and to suspend Egypt's membership in the Arab League on a temporary basis (Arab League, Ninth Summit Conference, Resolution 107/D9, 5/11/1978 AD).

Saudi Arabia sought to reconcile Egypt with the Arab League by combining two things:

- 1- Threatening severe political and economic sanctions against Egypt.
- 2- Leaving the door open for the Egyptian leadership to return to the Arab League if it withdrew from the Camp David Accords, with economic support for Egypt if it changed its policy regarding this agreement.

Saudi Arabia opposed this agreement because it did not align with the aspirations of the Arab nation and did not fulfill the demands of the Palestinian people. Furthermore, it did not compel Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories. The Kingdom followed a policy of persuasion with Egypt, aiming to prevent a rift in Arab relations. It used all available means and made various efforts to dissuade Egypt from signing the Accords and to bring it back to the Arab ranks. Moreover, Saudi Arabia distinguished in its dealings between the Egyptian government and the Egyptian people, as it showed respect for the Egyptian people and all other struggling Arab people (Al-Muaili, p. 324).

The policy of King Khalid bin Abdulaziz toward the Arab League can be summarized a policy based on a strong and solid strategy; He exerted all his efforts to eliminate disputes between Arab countries, pursued a policy of

convergence between Arab views, supported the efforts of the Arab League, and endorsed many of its resolutions. Additionally, he supported global peace initiatives that called for disarmament and aimed to protect humanity from the dangers of deadly weapons (Al-Dajani, 2002 AD, p. 120).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the researcher presents the key findings of this study, as follows:

- 1- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of King Abdulaziz, was one of the first countries to participate in the establishment of the Arab League.
- 2- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia gave the Palestinian cause great importance during the reign of King Abdulaziz, and adopted it. What indicates the Saudi government's interest in the Palestinian issue is that the kingdom's representatives on the Palestinian cause have been at the highest levels of the state.
- 3- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, through the Arab League, adopted a positive policy towards the Arab peoples wishing to get rid of colonial restrictions.
- 4- Saudi Arabia, through its support for Egypt in particular, and through its adoption of the Arab League's position on the Ramadan War of 1393 AH/ October 1973 AD in general, had a role in Egypt's victory in that war.
- 5- Saudi Arabia stood by Lebanon during its crisis, and this position stemmed from the Kingdom's belief in the importance of Arab solidarity.
- 6- Saudi Arabia's rejection of the Camp David Accords was due to that they did not align with the aspirations of the Arab nation, did not meet the demands of the Palestinian people, and did not compel Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories, which was therefore unacceptable.

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المجلة الإلكترونية الشاملة متعددة التخصصات
Electronic Interdisciplinary Miscellaneous Journal

العدد السابع والسبعون شهر (11) 2024

Issue 77, (10) 2024

ISSN: 2617-958X

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