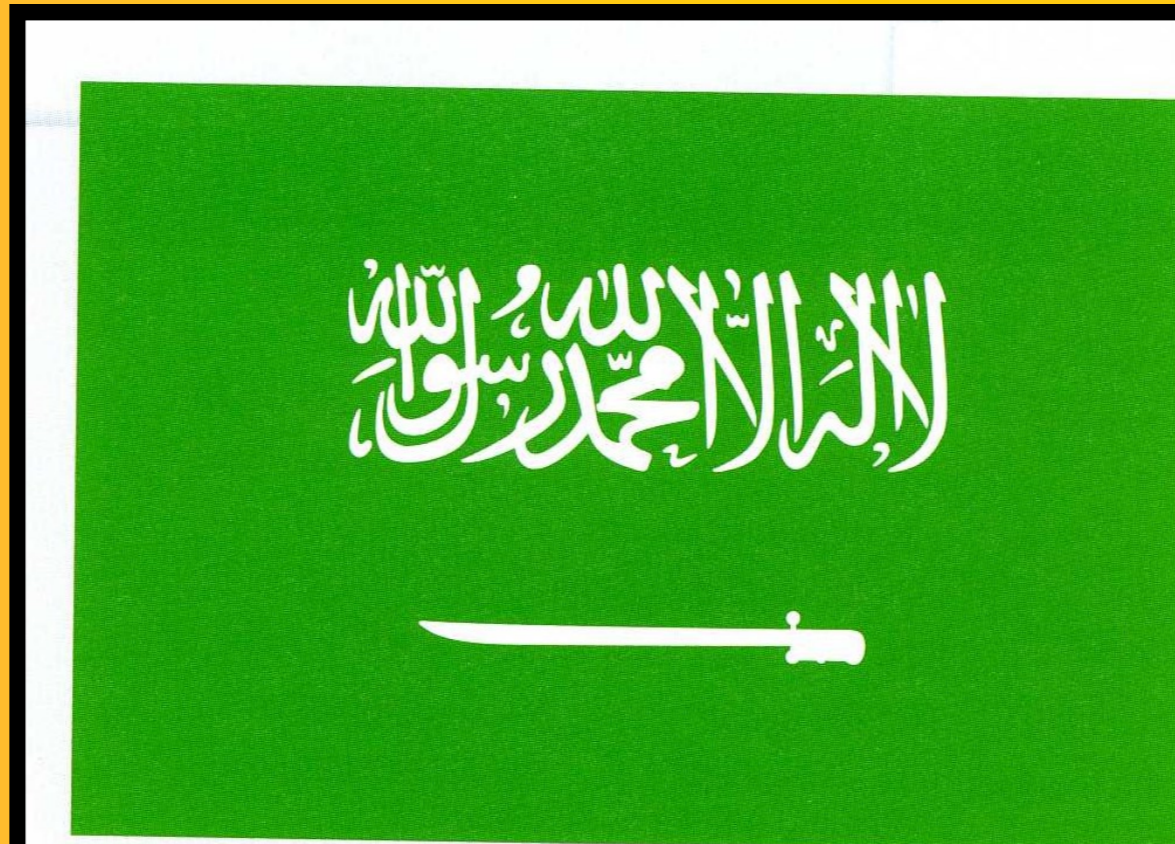


Station # 4

Saudi Arabia was a monarchy led by the Saudi Royal Family, who sought to create a secular and modernized nation in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia later became a theocracy dominated by Sunnis. US troops have been in Saudi Arabia since the Persian Gulf War. Most terrorists come from this region (either physically or financially), making Saudi Arabia an important influence in the War on Terror.

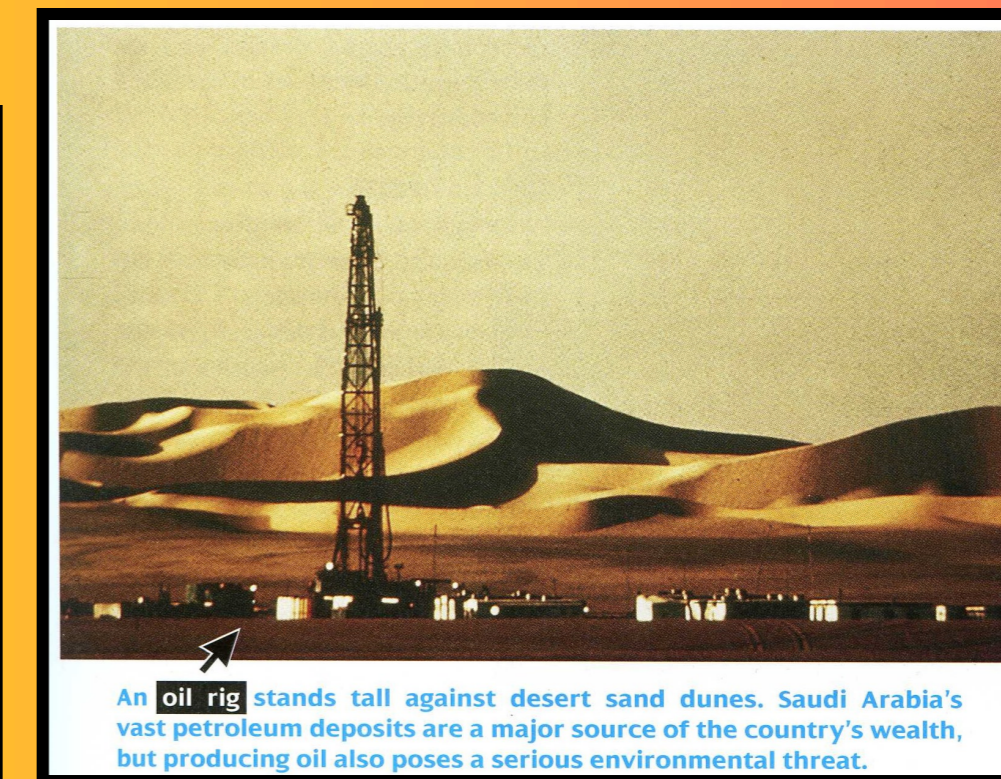


From 1947 on, the Saudi royal family could indeed live like princes. Suddenly Abdul Aziz's sons found the rest of the world just an airplane ride away. In 1947, four of his sons and one grandson accompanied him to New York as part of a delegation to the United Nations. Prince Faisal (center), who would become king of Saudi Arabia in 1964, was Saudi Arabia's permanent delegate to the United Nations.



The Saudi Arabian flag is inscribed with the Islamic Statement of Faith, "There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his Prophet." The inscription was added to the flag in 1901. A sword lies beneath the inscription as a sign of the expansion of Islam through military conquests. The inscription and sword appear on a field of green—the color of Islam, also thought to be Muhammad's favorite color.

The current flag was adopted in 1973, but several versions of the green flag have been used by the Wahhabi sect since the nineteenth century. The flag is considered sacred in the kingdom and must not be flown at half-mast or reproduced on clothing or other commercial items.



An oil rig stands tall against desert sand dunes. Saudi Arabia's vast petroleum deposits are a major source of the country's wealth, but producing oil also poses a serious environmental threat.

"As we pursue modernization in many aspects of our life and our economy, we don't overlook the value of our religious and cultural roots. They're the gold in our lives and not to be traded for every trinket in the social and cultural marketplace."

—Abdallah S. Jum'ah,
President and CEO of
Saudi Aramco

Pakistan, a military dictatorship currently facing much political upheaval, poses a nuclear threat to India and has been accused by the US of harboring terrorists, including Osama Bin Laden, who was found in a well secured compound in Abbottabad in May of 2011.

