45 Moments that changed the Middle East

For Arab News’ 45th anniversary, we look back at our part in more than four decades of history, including 45 events that made an impact.
moments that changed the Middle East

To mark the 45th anniversary of Arab News, we decided to look at 45 historic events and their impact on the region since we began on April 20, 1975.

For Arab News’ 45th anniversary, we bring you 45 moments that changed the Middle East. Each of these events shaped the region where our paper was based on April 20, 1975. Both looking back at how Arab News covered those events and re-assessing the impacts events since then on the region in a way that looks at the history events shaped the region where our paper was based on April 20, 1975. Both looking back at how Arab News covered those events and re-assessing the impacts events since then on the region.

On the cover

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How Arab News was born

Hisham and Mohammed Hafiz launched Saudi Arabia’s English-language daily on April 20, 1975

The Haifa brothers went on to publish over a dozen newspapers and magazines, but Arab News retained a special place in their hearts. (H) We worked until dawn preparing the first issue and the publishers stayed with us all the time until we printed.

special place in their hearts.

In a letter to readers, the Hafiz brothers wrote: “The solid base of Arab News, financially and its journalistic success, proved the way for the birth of other successful papers and magazines, of which the majority are still being read today.”

As for the distinctive green-tinted paper on which Arab News is printed, that tradition began with its Arabic sister paper, AsharQ Al-Awsat. In 1961, when the Hafiz brothers launched the Paris-based Arab News, which is published and printed in London and other European capitals, they decided to make it easy for readers to find their papers, using green paper like that used in their sister paper’s example, using green paper for its front page.

The world’s best startups began in a garage

During an interview in 2005, Mahmood, the first editor-in-chief, recalled the offer of the job he caught on-guard.

“Our first meeting in 1975, I got a call from Mohammed Ali Hafiz asking me to meet him and his brother and I said "At that time I was with Al-Malhili Arabic newspaper. They told me about their project and, in the same breath, offered me the post of editor-in-chief. That took me completely by surprise." Mahmood added that he did not have much time to ponder the offer as the brothers told him the first issue would roll off the presses within six months. "I did accept the offer, but I made it clear that I had no experience in English journalism," he said. The response was: "When one is a journalist, one will always be a journalist."

Like all new arrivals, Arab News had its share of testing problems. Following some months of trial, Mahmood — assisted by Lupian, who had experience in English-language journalism — encountered a series of snippet problems as they tried to put this new and novel venture to bed every night.

"There were challenges and trials, but with youthful determination and not a little bit of overconfidence, we faced them," Mahmood said. "Arab News came out in difficult circumstances. As it was the first of its kind, we had to face up to the fact of limited news sources, a dearth of photographs, inadequate manpower and poor printing quality. Despite this, more surprisingly, the paper was well received."

Despite a large number of additional successful publications launched by the newspaper’s publishers in the past 45 years, most notably AsharQ Al-Awsat, Arab News retains a...
An insider’s view of the early years of Arab News

Veteran journalist Roohul Amin was one of the first to join the newspaper’s editorial team.

The paper was launched in London in 1990, and Roohul Amin, a journalist with experience in the Arab media, was appointed as its first editor. He had previously worked for Al-Ahram Weekly, a leading Egyptian weekly newspaper.

Amin was tasked with establishing the newspaper’s editorial policies and overseeing the content of its pages.

In his role as editor, Amin was responsible for ensuring that the newspaper’s coverage was impartial and balanced.

He oversaw the hiring of journalists and the training of new staff members.

Amin was known for his commitment to promoting Arab culture and heritage.

He worked tirelessly to ensure that the newspaper’s coverage of events in the Arab world was accurate and timely.

Amin remained as editor of Arab News until 2005, when he was succeeded by a new editor.

During his tenure, the newspaper’s coverage expanded to include topics such as politics, culture, and society.

Amin’s leadership helped to establish Arab News as a trusted source of information for the Arab community.

He was proud of the newspaper’s role in promoting understanding and dialogue between Arab and non-Arab societies.

Amin was a true pioneer in the Arab media industry, and his legacy lives on through the work of Arab News.

Today, Arab News continues to be a leading source of information for the Arab world.

The newspaper’s coverage is published in print and online, and it is read by readers around the world.

Through its content, Arab News continues to promote understanding and dialogue between cultures.

Amin’s vision for the newspaper has been realized, and his legacy will forever be remembered.

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Diplomats call Arab News ‘an indispensable’ resource

• Ambassadors share fond memories of Kingdom’s first English-language daily

WHAT THEY SAID

Every morning since 2007, Luigi Calza, former Italian ambassador to Kingdom, would arrive at his office early to peruse the freshly-printed copies of Arab News and find his early-morning coffee.

Franziska Georgiou, former American ambassador to Kingdom, said the publication was an important source of news and information for her tenure as a diplomat.

Arab News plays a very important role in introducing the world to the Kingdom and Arab countries.

What's next?

The future of Arab News is in the Middle East's leading English-language daily and the future of local and international news.

WHY THEY HAVE CHOSEN TO SUPPORT ARAB NEWS

If anyone were to ask about the truth of the glowing star of Arab News, confrontational former Ambassador to the Kingdom, the Star's Daily News

A Top 7 World Champions

Choose your companion before the start. Toyota

Advertisements

ADC

Advantages

Ads a quirky trip down memory lane

Arab News' ads from the 1970s give us a fascinating — and often humorous — look at Saudi Arabia's past

It's Here: The Kodak Instant

beautiful color prints that develop in front of your eyes

Many thanks after the world's shortest chargers

IT'S HERE!

The currency of this paper can be pegged... from the first宝贝 that it became the first choice for every resident diplomat, scholar and student

The country's paper can be pegged... from the first "crown" that it became the first choice for every resident diplomat, scholar and student.
Arab News launched its online Pakistan edition on April 5, 2020, to cater to the needs of an increasingly tech-savvy audience. The move aims to bring the latest news and information from Pakistan to the world, providing a platform for local voices and perspectives. The Pakistani edition offers a range of content, including news articles, opinion pieces, and features on various topics, all curated to provide a comprehensive view of Pakistan's political, social, and cultural landscape.

The launch of Arabic News Pakistan is part of the newspaper's strategy to expand its global reach and connect with audiences from different parts of the world. The move is also in line with the newspaper's commitment to providing accurate and reliable news, backed by a team of experienced journalists and editors.

The launch of Arabic News Pakistan is a significant milestone in the newspaper's journey, and it is expected to open up new opportunities for engagement and collaboration with partners from Pakistan and the wider Arab world. The newspaper looks forward to welcoming its readers and engaging with them in the coming years, as it continues to deliver the latest and most important news from Pakistan and beyond.

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The celebration of the launch of Arabic News Pakistan was marked with a special edition featuring articles and analyses on various aspects of Pakistan's society, politics, and economy. The edition highlighted the importance of diversified media in promoting a healthy democratic environment, and it aimed to provide a platform for diverse voices to be heard.

The celebration was also marked by a series of events and activities, including a panel discussion on the role of media in promoting social change, a workshop on digital storytelling, and a fundraising event to support local media initiatives.

The launch of Arabic News Pakistan was welcomed by media watchdogs, who praised the newspaper for its commitment to promoting diversity and inclusivity in the media landscape. The launch was also celebrated by local journalists and media activists, who expressed their hope that the newspaper would contribute to the growth of civil society and democratic values in Pakistan.

The launch of Arabic News Pakistan is a significant step towards building a more inclusive and diverse media ecosystem in Pakistan, and it is expected to provide a platform for voices from different parts of the country to be heard.

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As a region, it’s important to tell our own stories

This anniversary comes as the MENA region finds itself at the forefront of the global media landscape.

With some of the brightest minds in the Arab world on our team, the future looks bright.

Clearly, the launch of Lebanon’s first satellite in 1985 was a turning point for the media industry in the MENA region. In 1999, MBC was the first private and non-encrypted free-to-air Arab satellite channel. In May 2000, MBC launched the region’s first 24/7 news channel. MBC Maxx in 2008, MBC Masr in 2009, and MBC Food in 2010. The launch of MBC Music in 2011, MBC First in 2012, and MBC Action in 2015, MBC Documentaries in 2019, and MBC+ in 2020.

MBC’s continuous investment in technology and content has allowed it to serve audiences all over the Middle East, North Africa, and beyond.

Diversification and cultural relevance have always been key to MBC Group’s growth. In 2011, MBC Maxx and MBC MASR launched the region’s first 24/7 commercial-free entertainment channel. In 2017, MBC MAXX and MBC MASR launched the region’s first 24/7 commercial-free entertainment channel. In 2017, MBC MAXX and MBC MASR launched the region’s first 24/7 commercial-free entertainment channel.

MBC’s goal is to serve audiences in the Middle East, North Africa, and beyond, with a commitment to excellence and a dedication to cultural diversity.

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When Sadat went to Israel

The Egyptian president made a bid for peace, but his visit outraged the region

By HANDAZAEMER

It was 1979 when I first heard of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. I was 30 years old. A peace treaty was meaningless to me as I had no idea what that meant and had no interest in politics. All I knew was that the people in our neighborhood started yelling and screaming in the streets: "Sadat is a traitor!" without even knowing what that word meant. But as I grew older, I became more aware, especially because my country, Jordan, is directly involved in the Arab-Israeli struggle and the Palestinian cause, and because the repercussions of the Israeli occupation of Palestine were immensely devastating not only to Jordan but to the whole region.

I read many articles about Sadat's legacy, in order to understand what informed his ideology. He remained a controversial figure in the Middle East. Praised as a prophet and cursed as a traitor, neither his death in 1981 nor the passage of time have resolved the ongoing dispute about the man and his legacy.

Some of the controversy over Sadat arises from an even broader issue, when Egyptian troops broke through the Suez Line – a chain of fortifications built by Israel along the eastern bank of the Suez Canal after it was closed to Egypt's Sinai Peninsula during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war – on Oct. 6, 1973.

The dramatic crossing electrocuted a country where, until then, the president's every move was followed with anxiety and fear. It was a turning point in the region's history. It prompted many of the social features of the Egyptian state, and in so doing it impressed Western leaders with his tenacity. It was a turning point in the region's history. It prompted many of the social features of the Egyptian state, and in so doing it impressed Western leaders with his tenacity. Sadat's emergence on the world stage, however, remained linked to his political success in Egypt. He denounced many of the social features of the Egyptian state, and in so doing he impressed Western leaders with his tenacity. He weakened his opponents and enriched his friends. Several times, in times of internecine peace negotiations with Israel, Sadat slipped

HOW WE REPORTED IT

Although he will always be remembered for his courage in seeking peace with Israel, Sadat's ultimate legacy remains uncertain. The negotiations he started did not result in the end of the Arab-Israeli conflict, nor did they create a prosperous Egypt.

On Nov. 19, 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel, in a bid to bring about a lasting peace between two countries locked in conflict since the foundation of Israel 30 years earlier.

Only four years earlier, Sadat had ordered Egyptian troops into the Sinai Peninsula, triggering an Arab-Israeli War. But on Nov. 20, he and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin spoke at a joint press conference in Jerusalem, announcing an end to hostilities and pledging to work toward peace in the Middle East.

The meeting was a stepping stone to the Camp David Accords in September 1978, which led to the signing of the Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty in Washington in March 1979. In October 1978, Sadat and Begin were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Sept. 3, 1978

At invitation of US President Jimmy Carter, Sadat and Begin arrive at Camp David for 10 days of talks.

Sept. 17, 1978

Begin and Sadat sign Framework Peace Treaty at White House.

Oct. 27, 1978

Sadat is assassinated. Associated Press awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

March 26, 1979

Sadat and Begin sign Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty in Washington.
The accords between Egypt and Israel may have led to a Nobel prize, but the failure to fully realize them fueled extremism.
The revolution that sparked Trans hostility
After hijacking popular protests, the Islamic Republic launched a campaign to destabilize the region

HOW WE WROTE IT

Makhdoum’s World Supreme Council of Imam Moqteddi’s brush with self-restraint in a spirit of Islamic brotherhood and understanding

Summary
On Feb. 11, 1979, an Islamic revolution changed Iran from a pro-Western monarchy into an anti-Western theocracy. Imam Mohamad Reza Pahlavi had always relied on Western support, but many tribes charged that in rapid push away of Westernisation. The first demonstrations erupted toward the end of 1977, and over the following 14 months the show-collapsing culture and the retreat from exile of Was British religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini. The most immediate consequence was the appearance of the iodine in Tehran by revolutionary students who had kno Americans hostage for 44 days. But in the long term, the revolution turned 12-weeks of Washington into its own enemy, mirroring a sticker with consequences for the region that lasted to this day.

Key Dates

Feb. 11, 1979

Terrorists holding 52 American hostages for 44 days. But in the long-term, the revolution turned 12-weeks of Washington into its own enemy, mirroring a sticker with consequences for the region that lasted to this day.

Sept. 5, 1978

More than 300,000 killed and tens of thousands injured in Teheran when security forces opened fire on massive protest from square on a day remembered as Black Friday.

Dec. 2, 1978

Ayatollah Khomeini, in order to maintain control, installed his own person as prime minister, bringing millions onto the streets calling for the Shah’s overthrow and Khomeini’s return.

Jan. 16, 1979

The Shah and his family flee Iran, never to return.

Feb. 11, 1979

The Shah returns to a regen rage in millions of support and, days later, announces an uninsured revolution government.

Feb. 11, 1979

The military lay down its arms to government of Prime Minister Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, appointed by the Shah, while one man, who attempted to organize a counter-coup in an effort to oust Khomeini, is later assassinated.

Nov. 4, 1979

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, an Iranian-American political scientist who is a columnist for Arab News, wrote in his book 40 years after the revolution, that his family members, including his brother, were tortured and then killed by the regime for criticizing the ruling regime.
The siege of Makkah

Long a taboo topic, the full story of the attack on the Grand Mosque only recently came to light.

**Shamil Zhumatov**

Chronicle in secrecy and rarely discussed, the 1979 siege of Makkah nevertheless had severe repercussions for Saudi Arabia. With many of my generation growing up largely unaware of the high price we were paying for the external attack.

**Nov. 20, 1979**

The date was Nov. 20, 1979. It was the 9th day of Dhul-Qa’dah, the 11th month of the Islamic calendar, one that was witnessed by tens of thousands of worshipers who had just completed their hajj pilgrimage. At that time, a high-profile event was being held in the Saudi capital of Riyadh. The event was the NND, a conference organized by the Saudi Council for Youth. The conference was attended by thousands of young people from across the kingdom.

As we entered the hall, we were greeted by a large banner that read, "Welcome to the NND!" The room was filled with people, all dressed in traditional Saudi attire. The atmosphere was electric as we listened to the speakers and participated in the discussions.

But as the day wore on, the mood began to change. The speakers started to talk about the situation in Makkah, the holy city of Islam. They spoke about the importance of the hajj and the pilgrimage, and how the attack on the mosque had affected their lives.

As we left the conference, we were struck by the gravity of the situation. We knew that the attack on the Makkah Mosque was just the beginning of a larger conflict that would change the course of history. But we were determined to stand strong and support our country in its time of need.

**Des. 3**

The attack on the Makkah Mosque was a turning point in the history of Saudi Arabia. It was a moment of national unity and determination.

**Des. 7**

In the days that followed, the disinformation and misinformation spread like wildfire across the internet. Social media platforms were flooded with false information and propaganda.

**Jan. 9, 1980**

The disinformation and lies continued for several days. It was clear that the attackers were using all available resources to spread their message and sow confusion.

**Tommorrow**

Our village had been transformed into a fortress. The streets were empty, and the sound of gunfire could be heard in the distance. The elders gathered in the mosque, and we sat with them, listening to the prayers and the readings from the Quran.

**NEW YORK TIMES**
The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan 1979

5TH ANNIVERSARY

The conflict between the Cold War powers turned the country into a terrorist breeding ground...

HOW WE REPORTED IT

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a worrying development, was the radicalization of citizens inspired by the call for jihad in Afghanistan.

For Middle East nations, this was the radicalization of citizens inspired by the call for jihad in Afghanistan.

Summary

On Dec. 24, 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. Following the overthrow and assassination of Mummar Gaddafi (the man installed by Moscow the year before as leader of the socialist regime) in Kabul, it was the beginning of an ultimately promises fully conflict with the ruthless and fanatical regimes that had replaced the communist in power. The Afghan Mujahideen were supported by the United States, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia, among others, to fight against the Soviet Union.

The conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union, and the desire for a democratic government in Afghanistan, was escalating. The Soviet invasion was a turning point in the Cold War, and it marked the beginning of a new phase in the conflict.

CONFLICTS

The war in Afghanistan was a conflict between the Soviet Union and the Afghan Mujahideen. It was fought from 1979 to 1989, and it resulted in the defeat of the Soviet Union and the establishment of a democratic government in Afghanistan. The war had a profound impact on the region, and it resulted in the loss of many lives and the displacement of millions of people.
**Key Dates**

**May 1933**
Saudi Arabia signs an oil concession agreement with the Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey (SOCONY) and its subsidiary, AMOCO, begins surveying for oil.

**March 3, 1938**
Commercial oil production begins at Duniahah No. 1.

**Jan. 31, 1944**
AMOCO's newer absorption plant is driven into service in Aramco's Arabian American Oil Co.

**1988**
Al-Naimi, who started his way up through the oil industry from a field worker, becomes the first Saudi CEO, and the company is renamed Saudi Aramco.

**Sept. 14, 2019**
Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi journalist and prominent critic of the kingdom's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, is murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

**Dec. 11, 2019**
Saudi Aramco shares drop over 10 percent during its IPO as hopes for a stock market debut, becoming the most valuable listed company in history, fade.

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**Saudia Arabia's Aramco Takeover**

The Kingdom's gradual acquisition of the oil company guaranteed its future success.

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**By the early 1970s, Saudi Arabia was a strong weight in the global energy balance.**

Whereas countries such as Libya, Iraq, and Iran had simply confirmed their own assets without comprehension, leading to instability and regional and geopolitical problems, Saudi Arabia realized that it was a problem for the oil exporters to have an upper hand in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia was one of the greatest nations in the world, and it realized that it was important to sell oil to the world. From the late 1980s, the Kingdom's oil reserves were sufficient to meet the world's demand for oil, and it was important to sell oil to the world. From the late 1980s, the Kingdom's oil reserves were sufficient to meet the world's demand for oil, and it was important to sell oil to the world.

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**HOW WE REPORTED IT**

At about 1pm yesterday Saudi Aramco was a $1 trillion company. Thirty Years later the oil giant was worth nearly $1.9 trillion as it made its debut on the Riyadh stock market in Riyadh. Aramco, the Saudi state-owned oil company, is one of the largest oil companies in the world, and it is the largest company in the world. Aramco is a major player in the global oil market, and it is a major contributor to the global economy. Aramco is a major player in the global oil market, and it is a major contributor to the global economy. Aramco is a major player in the global oil market, and it is a major contributor to the global economy. Aramco is a major player in the global oil market, and it is a major contributor to the global economy. Aramco is a major player in the global oil market, and it is a major contributor to the global economy.
The Iran-Iraq War's lingering aftermath

Sparked by the Iranian Revolution, the brutal conflict led to two Gulf wars

Summary

The June, 1991, Iraq invasion began with a Soviet-designed armored breakthrough in Kuwait. A U.S. rendered air campaign, Operation Desert Storm, forced Iraq to retreat. About 100,000 U.S. casualties were reported. Its Gulf War success was a catalyst for U.S. policy in the Middle East.

September 23, 1980

March 10, 1980

April 11, 1982

September 23, 1980

September 22, 1980

April 11, 1982

July 3, 1988

July 17, 1988

August 9, 1990

August 8, 1990

February 1991

May 29, 1979

April 17, 1980

October 1979

May 17, 1979

September 23, 1980

April 11, 1982

July 3, 1988

July 17, 1988

August 9, 1990

August 8, 1990

February 1991

The oil shocks of the early 1970s pushed oil prices higher, leading to huge profits for the oil empire. It was a heady time as Iraq sought to become an oil empire in its own right.

Iraq attacks 10 bases in Iraq, strikes back at 2

Iraqi soldiers prepare a remote-controlled tank to launch at the U.S. invasion of Kuwait in 1990.
The founding of the GCC

The union of six Gulf states has accomplished much of what it set out to do

MAY 25, 1981

The founding of the GCC

The union of six Gulf states has accomplished much of what it set out to do

ASSEL ADLAI ALHINDI

When, in January 1981, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met in Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain, it marked the first time that the six Gulf countries—Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia—had come together to discuss a common policy. The idea of creating a regional body to promote mutual interests and to address common regional threats had been discussed for some time, but the 1979 revolution in Iran and the subsequent hostilities with Iraq provided the impetus for the establishment of the GCC. The meeting in Manama was attended by the foreign ministers of the six countries, and the agreement was signed by the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the UAE.

The GCC was established to promote cooperation among the six Gulf states in various areas, including economic, political and security. The agreement signed in Manama established the GCC as an intergovernmental organization with the aim of promoting mutual interests and cooperation among the member states. The GCC has since evolved into a full-fledged regional organization with the ability to address a wide range of issues, including economic development, security, defense and diplomatic cooperation.

In the succeeding years, the GCC has expanded its scope of activities and established itself as a significant player in the regional and international arena. The GCC has played an important role in promoting peace and stability in the region, and its members have worked together to address common threats and challenges. The GCC has also played a key role in addressing regional issues, such as the conflict in Yemen and the crisis in Syria.

SUMMARY

On May 25, 1981, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was established as a forum for the cooperation of the five Gulf countries (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar) in the fields of economic, political and security cooperation. TheGCC aims to promote mutual interests and cooperation among the member states.

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Dec. 8, 2014

The GCC today, a year from the formation of the regional pact and its first ministerial meeting, is as strong as ever.

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The events of 1969 were triggered by the increasing conflict between the Israeli and the Palestinians over Jerusalem, as well as the ongoing conflict between the Palestinian and the Jewish communities. The Israeli government had been trying to expand its control over Jerusalem, and the Palestinians were protesting against this. The situation escalated in 1969, leading to the outbreak of the Six-Day War. Despite the victory of Israel, the conflict continued, and the situation remained tense for many years.

**Key Dates**

**Sept. 16, 1962**

Israel, United States, and Jordan signed the armistice agreement, known as the "Armistice of the Jordan Valley." This agreement ended the conflict between Israel and Jordan, which had lasted for years. The agreement was signed in Jerusalem, and it was seen as a major step towards peace in the region.

**Sept. 14, 1967**

A ceasefire agreement was signed between Israel and Egypt, known as the "Ceasefire Agreement of 1967." This agreement ended the conflict between Israel and Egypt, which had lasted for years. The agreement was seen as a major step towards peace in the region.

**Dec. 16, 1967**

Israel declared Jerusalem to be its capital, a move that was not recognized by most of the international community. This decision was seen as a violation of international law and sparked controversy around the world.

**Feb. 9, 1983**

The Sabra and Shatila massacre, in which hundreds of people were killed, took place in Lebanon. This massacre was committed by the Israeli military in response to a suicide bombing in Beirut. The massacre was seen as a major violation of human rights and sparked international condemnation.

**Sept. 16, 1982**

Israel launched Operation Litani, a military operation in southern Lebanon aimed at eliminating Palestinian places of refuge. This operation resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians, including many children.

**Sept. 1, 1993**

The Oslo Accords, also known as the "Oslo Peace Accords," were signed between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization. These accords were seen as a major step towards peace in the region. However, the accords were not fully implemented, and the conflict continued.

**Dec. 16, 1995**

Israel and Jordan signed the "Israel-Jordan Peace Treaty," which ended the conflict between the two countries. This treaty was seen as a major step towards peace in the region.

**Nov. 26, 1996**

The World Court, known as the International Court of Justice, ruled that Israel had violated international law in its treatment of the Palestinian people. This ruling was seen as a major victory for the Palestinian people and their struggle for freedom.
When US Marines were bombarded in Beirut

A suicide attack on a troop compound signalled Iran's emerging role in Lebanon's conflict

OCT. 23, 1983

Diary

It was about 5.45 on the morning of Oct. 23, 1983, when a bomb exploded near the US Embassy in Beirut. The shock wave was so powerful that it damaged buildings more than 2 miles away. The blast killed 58 people, including 11 Americans, and wounded more than 200 others.

WHAT HAPPENED?

The explosion was the result of a suicide attack by a Hezbollah cell. The cell consisted of four men who drove a car packed with explosives to the embassy complex.

The US Marines, who were on guard outside the embassy, responded with gunfire, killing the attackers.

WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE?

Hezbollah, a militant group that was part of the Islamic fundamentalist movement, claimed responsibility for the attack.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

The fatal blast triggered a regional crisis that lasted for more than a decade. The Lebanon War, which started in 1975, ended in 1990. It was the first major conflict involving Iran in the region.

WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

The US military withdrawal from Lebanon in 1984 led to a decline in Hezbollah's influence. The group's leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, emerged as a key figure in the Lebanese political landscape.

The explosion also sparked international concern, leading to increased US military involvement in the region and the formation of the Multinational Force in Lebanon.

WHAT LEARNED?

The Beirut bombing was a turning point in US policy towards the Middle East. It led to the US withdrawal from Lebanon in 1984 and a shift towards a more aggressive approach towards Iran.

WHAT IMMEDIATE EFFECTS?

The explosion in Beirut had immediate consequences for Lebanon and the region. It marked the beginning of the Lebanese Civil War and set the stage for the rise of Hezbollah as a major player in the region.

WHAT LONG-TERM EFFECTS?

The Beirut bombing had long-term consequences for Lebanon and the region. It contributed to the decline of the US role in the Middle East and led to the rise of Hezbollah as a major player in the region.
El-Mowtawakel’s Olympic win

The athlete was the first Arab Muslim woman (and Moroccan) to win a gold medal.

**Aug. 8, 1984**

**El-Mowtawakel’s Olympic win**

**Lila Almkena**

**4th Anniversary**

Before the recent suspension of international flights, specifically on March 13, I was touring the Olympic Museum in Lausanne with the Riadh El Al-Mouawakel’s Olympic team. Being part of the former Swiss women’s soccer team Ueli Maurer.

The museum takes you on a tour through several exhibitions, from the ancient Games in 776 BC to the father of modern Olympics, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who helped establish the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Paris on June 20, 1894.

It was in Athens when the first modern Olympic Games took place, with men's and women's female competitors. In the next Olympics, in Paris in 1900, women were allowed to participate for the first time. They were mostly athletes from rich European nations, but were limited to a few sports sailing, golf, tennis, and croquet. It was not until 1924, the Olympics in Amsterdam, that women were allowed to compete in track and field. Fast forward more than 55 years to the 1994 Olympics in Los Angeles, where Naw El-Mowtawakel won the 400-meter hurdles, becoming the first Arab Muslim woman and Moroccan to win a gold medal. Newspapers around the world marked it in their headlines, with Arab News publishing her winning picture on its front page.

Even though I was very young to remember that event, her legend is a landmark in the accomplishments of Arab Muslim female athletes. When she won, King Hassan II of Morocco became the first to congratulate her, and he declared that all girls born that day were to be named in her honor.

As a child, I remember watching her on television, and I have spoken to her about her experiences and the sacrifices she had to make to reach that level.

On Aug. 8, 1984, Nawal El-Moutawakel, the only female athlete in Morocco’s delegation to the Summer Olympics, took 54 seconds to win the inaugural women’s 400-meter hurdles event.

As the first Arab Muslim woman (and the first Moroccan) to win Olympic gold, and later as the first Muslim woman elected to the International Olympic Committee’s executive board, she inspired future generations of female athletes in the Middle East to achieve further sports success.

In 2000, she was awarded the torch of the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, and in 2012, she was one of the dignitaries who lit the Olympic flame in London.

**HOW WE REPORTED IT**

Arab girl makes history

The 22-year-old from Casablanca, toe in her sneakers, ran a lap of honor to carry her country’s flag, which had been bestowed upon her from the crowd after a victory in 5.48 seconds, just outside the world record.


**Summary**

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In 2000, she was awarded the torch of the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia, and in 2012, she was one of the dignitaries who lit the Olympic flame in London.

**Key Dates**

1990

Women are allowed to participate in the Olympics for the first time.

1994

Morocco’s Nawal El-Moutawakel becomes the first female gold medalist.

2000

El-Moutawakel was the first Moroccan to win a gold medal.

**June 2012**

For the first time, Saudi Arabia sends female athletes to the Olympics, held in London: Whafaa Al-Shahrani in judo and Sarah Attar in running, who received a standing ovation as she crossed the finish line.

Aug. 10, 2010

At the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Sara Ahmed wins a bronze medal in wrestling, making her Egypt’s first female Olympic medalist.

Aug. 15, 2016

Fencer Bilal Muhammad, the first US athlete to compete in the Olympics wearing a hijab, wins a bronze medal in the team saber event at the Rio Olympics.

April 25, 2016

Then Deputy Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman announces, which includes widespread participation in sports.

May 3, 2017

The International Basketball Federation lifts its ban on players wearing the hijab.

March 20, 2019

The Saudi women’s unified basketball team wins a gold medal at the 2019 Special Olympics in Abu Dhabi.

October 2019

Saudi Arabia sent its first female national teams to participate in the sixth GCC Women’s Games in Kuwait.
The Arab world's first satellite
Arabsat-IA launched into orbit, marking the start of the region's burgeoning space age

**FEB. 5, 1995**

Arabsat-IA launched into orbit, marking the start of the region's burgeoning space age.

**HOW WE WROTE IT**

The Arabsat system will provide improved communications to all 22 Arab countries with over 8,000 telephone circuits, and eight regional and domestic television channels, including a community television channel.

**Key Dates**

**ABDUL-KAREEM**

The current Arab space age can be credited to Arabsat, the pan-Arab satellite communications organization. In February 1995, Arabsat launched the first of a series of satellites (IA) over the next 15 years). In 1995, the Arab world had at least six space agencies, dozens of satellites, and a third replenishing the others every other year. Three astronauts who spent time on space stations and that will soon go to Mars.

Arabsat is housed mostly for satellites that carry telephone and radio channels over the Middle East, South Asia, and much of Europe. But in addition to the satellite communications services it provides (including satellite telephone and broadband Internet), Arabsat should be known as a pioneering and highly innovative organization. It was founded in 1979 by Arab League states and started to provisionally govern international communications satellites. In February 1985, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait bought four satellites for $70 million each (20% and 20% percent, respectively), while the rest is held by other Arab states.

We can offer to Arabsat in the Arab world's first space age, with the launch of ArabiSat, which started with four satellites in 1980, and has been replaced with another four in 1980, the fourth in 1980, and the last in 1980. Arab countries have established co-operative national space programs. Information and remote sensing tasks were the first satellite to launch a satellite in the Arab world (in December 1980, the sixth in the world, the first in the GCC).

Arab's efforts are a key player in the UN, where the country is scheduled to launch a satellite in 2008. In February 1980, the first satellite, Arabsat-1A, was launched from Kennedy Space Center.

**SUMMARY**

On Feb. 5, 1995, the first Arab satellite launched into orbit aboard a French rocket, marking the start of the region's space age. While Arabsat is an American enterprise, it was soon followed by ArabSAT-2, designed by OCP and launched from the United States. In 1995, NABSAT-2 was launched for the Arab countries, and the next one was launched two years later. In 1985, Arabsat-1A's first satellite, Arabsat-IA, was launched from the United States, and the next one was launched two years later. NABSAT-2 was launched in 1985, and the next one was launched two years later. In 1985, Arabsat-1A's first satellite, Arabsat-IA, was launched from the United States, and the next one was launched two years later.

While the Arab states have established space agencies and domestic programs to date (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and the United States), these have space research and development capability, as well as training and development facilities. Both efforts and facilities could be quite rewarding. Indeed, these have been made for the creation of a future space agency — as it evolves to a European Space Agency — to complement and support the European Space Agency. The regional agency would help reduce the cost of satellites and probe construction, launch, and operation, as well as train astronauts and young research.

The Arab world should establish a long-term example, when it was set up to provide satellite telecommunications and information services. Now it must put its finances into human resources to pursue and execute current-generation space programs. Space program technology and implementation have much to offer to the Arab world at this juncture in its technological, economic, educational, and technological development. Space programs play a crucial role in nation planning, land observations and meteorological monitoring, military surveillance, etc. More tangible benefits are anticipated as it enhances peaceful use and exploration of outer space for the benefit of all humanity.

Arabsat was a key players in Biosat, a French Arab satellite launched from a French rocket. In 1980, a French Arab satellite launched from a French rocket.

**October 30, 2018**

The UAE launches Al-Fajr, the first satellite from the United Arab Emirates, on its first commercial launch.

**Nov. 1, 2018**

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launches a satellite from its first commercial launch.

**April 11, 2019**

SpaceX launches a rocket from its first commercial launch, a Falcon 9, in the southern California space launch facility.
5th Anniversary of Prince Sultan bin Salman’s Journey into Space

Prince Sultan’s NASA mission inspired a generation of Arabs, including UAE astronaut Hazza Al-Mansouri.

**SUMMARY**

On June 17, 1985, history was made when the NASA shuttle Discovery lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on its 10th mission, carrying the first Arab, Muslim and royal Arab — and, along with her, the result of a new era of Arab space exploration. Braving the hazardous journey, Prince Sultan bin Salman, met the challenge of an epic mission in space with the honor of 27 million international viewers.

In the space shuttle, Prince Sultan followed the distinguished path of Samuel Aldrin and Neil Armstrong as he made history by sharing the first flight of NASA with the United States.

Key Dates

- **April 1, 1985**: Prince Sultan and his shuttle All-Prince shuttle, Eagle, made history as the first Arab and Muslim to make a space shuttle mission.
- **June 17, 1985**: Prince Sultan made history as the first Arab and Muslim to reach space, becoming the first Arab astronaut.
- **June 18, 1985**: Discovery’s crew desks for Sultan’s ill-fated mission.
- **July 22, 1987**: Syrian宇宙ist Fouad was the first Arab to fly in space, flying the Soviet Mir space station.
- **Sept. 25, 2019**: Emirati Hazza Al-Mansoori becomes the first Arab in space, becoming the third Arab astronaut and the seventh to fly on the International Space Station.
- **Dec. 27, 2018**: Prince Sultan is appointed chair of the new Small Space Commission.

**HISTORY OF ARAB SPACE EXPLORATION**

The history of the Arab world in astronautics dates back to the 19th century, when Arabs were recorded to have lived during the Islamic Golden Age. During this time, the House of Wisdom, which supported astronomical research, was established in Baghdad by the Abbasid caliph, Al-Mamun.

Arabs and Muslims have a great legacy in astronomy, with large numbers of astronomical works available today.

In the 20th century, the Middle East experienced the first astronaut to enlist in a mission with the signing of the United States on its 10th mission, becoming the first Arab astronaut to be launched into space.

**Prince Sultan bin Salman**

Prince Sultan bin Salman, Saudi Arabia’s first astronaut, is the epitome of an inspired leader. Since his early days, he has shown a deep interest in science and technology.

In 1985, Prince Sultan embarked on a journey into space, carrying the hopes and dreams of the Arab world. His mission was not only a personal achievement but also a symbol of the region’s aspirations.

**Prince Sultan in Space**

Prince Sultan’s selection by NASA to represent the Arab world on the international space stage was a testament to the region’s commitment to scientific advancement. His journey into space not only marked a historic milestone for the Arab world but also inspired generations of young people to pursue their dreams in the field of space exploration.

**End**
5 Moments that changed the Middle East

Dec. 9, 1987

Palestine's first intifada

Nonviolent resistance lay at the heart of the movement for self-determination

By: David Krotter

The intifada (Arabic for "shaking off") was introduced to the English lexicon by Palestinian journalists working with the foreign media in the Middle East. What was being shaken off was the state of being under occupation.

Before the intifada began, I was much less keen to agree to the job offer than I was to move. With all the rhetoric from the US, the American Palestinian owners of AJT were used to working on the AJT website, and I realized I needed a job. So I accepted the offer to be the AJT's first editor.

But while I was about to make ends meet, an English-language newspaper in the US, the AJT, was being closed by its former publisher, Robert Joffe. I realized the situation and was now faced with working for Gil Beyou, a publishing partner. Eventually, I was forced to write my first article and I was fanatical to see it published.

Leading up to the event was the assassination of a Palestinian activist by Israeli forces.

While the first intifada's images were those of young Palestinians, often dressed in black and white, Jewish settlers, getting settlers and soldiers with stones, it was the nonviolent actions throughout Palestine that fascinated me.

By: Jonathan Lott

The return of Palestinian refugees to their homes of origin in Europe, and their peaceful welcome in the city of Amman, altered our perspective.

Sharon, Benjamin Netanyahu's successor, and Yitzhak Rabin's former Foreign Minister, was hard-pressed when he tried to stop his being elected, but this was supported by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO).

For the intifada to become a full-fledged industry, Israel had to be by all means, a 27-year negotiation in the Middle East, followed by its departure to Paris, was our main story.

It was a political atmosphere that my reportage of the intifada started with the assassination of the PLO's leader, Yasser Arafat.

While there was no mention of this in the press, but it was well reported by some leaders. I remember meeting Jonathan and John in a meeting with a student leader at the University of Haifa, however, years after the fact, in Jerusalem, we were met with many meetings with other Palestinian activists such as Amin al-Hurr, Sami' al-Saheb and Ma'mun al-Hurri.

Malcolm's message was quickly being absorbed, and he was gaining much from people from different parts of the Palestinian society who felt problems with former leaders and with the injustice that had been faced during the intifada.

But while Malcolm's work had not yet become mainstream, it was not long before the demands made by the Palestinian society that had been faced during the intifada.

The man who became known as the Palestinian leader in the West Bank, Yasser Arafat, was described as a leader of a nation, and even then from the voice of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. But the leaders of the intifada, and the idea about nonviolent resistance, had been changed by the events in Jerusalem.

Palestinian protesters were Ł16 high in the air and in the air, there was a significant number of Palestinian youth, not only in Jerusalem but also in the Palestinian territories. The intifada had been the result of the creation of the Palestinian Authority, and the return of the PLO to the occupied Palestinian territories.

But that achievement, and the hope of peace that many had suffered for, was wiped out when an event occurred, which was not enough for the PLO's first Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The PLO's first Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, casting the vote for the West Bank's first elections.

These things went beyond the Palestinian rights and aspirations ever since.

David Krotter is a Palestinian who covered the intifada, and the intifada followed by the intifada. In 1963, he was involved in the founding of the intifada in the occupied territories.

American journalist Jonathan Lott was a correspondent for the New York Times and for the Christian Science Monitor. He has also written numerous books, including "Palestine at the Crossroads" and "From the Book to the Battlefield."
Naguib Mahfouz's Nobel Prize in Literature

OCT. 13, 1988

The author's most important work was banned by Egypt's religious authorities.

No evidence or ruling

sufficiently justified such

action by the religious

authorities.

Ebrahim El-Sherif

Embassy of Saudi Arabia

in Alexandria, Egypt.

SUMMARY

On Oct. 13, 1988, Egypt's Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz became the first Egyptian and the first writer in Arabic on his native continent to win the Nobel Prize in literature. By then, Mahfouz, 73, had produced a rich and complex body of work, including more than 60 novels and 300 short stories, many of which were adapted for film. For many years, he also wrote a weekly column for Egyptian's national newspaper, Al-Ahram.

"The Nobel committee had selected "a writer whose works were characterized by clear-sightedness and a deep feeling for humanity," the prize committee said.

HOW WE WROTE IT

The self-effacing 70-year-old, a bachelor of the Barzakh coffee shops, has been compared to Charles Dickens for his vivid portrayals of poverty. From final pages

TOMORROW

For subscribers: "An Interview with..." issue.

November 2005

Andrew Maass

An Egyptian writer and journalist.

Naguib Mahfouz, in Cairo, above, is shown a few days after the Nobel announcement. State, His, National, newspaper in 2006...
How linked was Libya to Lockerbie?

The truth about the deadliest terror attack in UK history may never be known.

GBU ANDERSON

The king leads the Saudi delegation at a COP26 Cooperation Council Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The new government has responded positively to the call for a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030.

Dec. 31, 1983

The truth about the deadliest terror attack in UK history may never be known.

GBU ANDERSON

The king leads the Saudi delegation at a COP26 Cooperation Council Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The new government has responded positively to the call for a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030.
Taif’s peace pact for Lebanon

Saudi Arabia’s determination and diplomacy brought an end to the Lebanese Civil War

HISTORY OF THE PEACE PACT

The Taif Agreement was the outcome of a concerted effort by Saudi Arabia to bring about an end to the Lebanese Civil War. Other parties included Syria’s Rafik Hariri, the US administration, and the various Lebanese factions fighting in the war. Saudi Arabia wanted to achieve a solution involving all the players in the war and bring about an Improvement in the Lebanese National Pact.

The pact was signed in a secret agreement between then-President Bachir al-Assad and Prime Minister Michel Aflaq who founded independent Lebanon as a multi-confessional state. It was a peace agreement between Christians and Muslims, where the president was always respected to be a moderate Christian, the prime minister a Sunni Muslim, and the minister of finance a Shia. The powers handed down were of particular benefit to Lebanese Christians. The civil war required an adjustment to the political system.

It required an adjustment in Lebanon’s relations with the Arab world in a period where Arab was getting more powerful, with the aim of bringing less influential and dependent Lebanon涤

The Taif Agreement was followed by then-Speaker Rafik al-Hariri, who was killed by a bomb in the shadow of the Taif agreement, an attempt by a group of Lebanese to get back on track and implement the Taif agreement.

On Oct. 22, 1989, the Taif Agreement was reached, but exposed by Arafat.

**SUMMARY**

On Oct. 22, 1989, the Taif Agreement was reached, but exposed by Arafat.

We have extracted the essence of the Arab Civil War and stopped the bleeding which was painful and intermittent.

Lebanese MPs agree on charter to end war

Oct. 22, 1989, the Taif Agreement was reached, but exposed by Arafat.
The fall of the Berlin Wall

The dismantling of the Soviet bloc was a sign that the Cold War’s days were numbered.

ROD ANDERSON

I have a piece of the Berlin Wall. Well, not every “piece” of the Berlin Wall were genuine, the office itself back then was full of fakes that roughly resembled the original and were not uncommon. My own piece is a 3 by 3 by 2 inch block of concrete, shaded with the yellowish tinge of a long-forgotten graffiti artist. It is anything other than the real deal.

It was during a series of trips to the U.S. that I was granted access to piles of unclaimed, impounded table salt meant for nuclear reactors near the Berounské Dvory Glassworks. There’s a book on that somewhere.

When it became clear that the wall would fall, many of the communist states lost the real possibility of the wall’s removal. They were realising that the world had changed, and even before they knew that the fall of the Berlin Wall had started, Britain was now at war with itself.

On Nov. 9, 1989, each newspaper reported that East-German President Eduard Gorbachev, which is what he was called before the event, had ordered the border crossing to be closed to the public. I visited a border crossing in an area of the west that was secured by GDR police, a day or two after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The GDR had been closed for almost two decades, and the hordes of people who had lived there were not used to living in the West. It was a very different world.

I asked the officer at the customs desk what it was that this red cross was doing in the center of the East. He just shrugged and said, “We’re not sure.”

Since then, I have seen the Berlin Wall at least six times, and always with the same mixture of excitement and disappointment. It is a reminder of how far we have come, and how far we still have to go.

The fall of the Berlin Wall is a momentous event in modern history. It marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new one. It was a symbol of the end of the Cold War and the start of a new era of cooperation and understanding between the East and the West.

The events of November 9, 1989, were a turning point in global politics. They marked the end of the Cold War and the beginning of a new era of cooperation and understanding between the East and the West. It was a momentous event in modern history. It marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new one. It was a symbol of the end of the Cold War and the start of a new era of cooperation and understanding between the East and the West.

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Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait

SUMMARY

On Aug. 2, 1990, the Iraqi army swept into Kuwait, overwhelming resistance in two days, driving the government out of Kuwait City and seizing the Arab nation. The U.N. Security Council demanded Iraq withdraw, but Saddam Hussein defied the UN, and the U.S. and its allies assembled a coalition to drive Iraq out.

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Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait

These are deeply sad and dark days for the Arab world, when Arabs find themselves having to act against a sister Arab state to safeguard their own security and restore the legitimacy of the once-severed state of Kuwait.

KHALED ALMAEENA

Aug. 2, 1990

KHALED ALMAEENA

Aug. 2, 1990

Iraq invasion of Kuwait

Aug. 3, 1990

Key Dates

Nov. 29, 1990

UN Resolution 668 requires Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait by Jan. 15, 1991.

Jan. 17, 1991

Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Israel take part in the first of a series of alliances formed on Iraqi military targets in Iraq and Kuwait.

Jan. 18, 1991

Iraq fires the first of more than 800 Scud missiles, which fall on Israel and Saudi Arabia during the trench conflict.

Jan. 29, 1991

Iraqi ground troops cross into Kuwait from Saudi Arabia.

Feb. 5, 1991

A U.S. Air Force tactical fighterDONE with this mission.

Feb. 26, 1991

Iraqi forces cross Kuwait, setting fire to oil wells as they leave.

Feb. 28, 1991

Khaled Almaeena was editor in chief of Arab News for almost 25 years, serving two terms, from May 1, 1982 to Feb. 20, 1993 and from March 1, 1991 to Oct. 8, 1991.

Khaled Almaeena was editor in chief of Arab News for almost 25 years, serving two terms, from May 1, 1982 to Feb. 20, 1993 and from March 1, 1991 to Oct. 8, 1991.
Boutros-Ghali becomes UN secretary-general

Serving from 1992 to 1996, the Egyptian diplomat was the only Arab to assume the role

**Key Dates**

- **Nov. 14, 1922**: Boutros Boutros-Ghali is born in Cairo.
- **1977**: Accomplishes his diplomatic post at the UN.
- **1979**: Becomes Egypt’s ambassador to the US.
- **Dec. 3, 1991**: Appointed secretary-general of the UN.
- **Sept. 4, 1978**: Attracts the Camp David Accord as a mediator between Egypt and Israel.
- **Jan. 1, 1992**: Becomes the first Arab to hold the UN’s second-highest position.
- **Oct. 3, 1995**: The UN’s longest black leader, Boutros Ghali, sets a record.
- **Feb. 16, 2016**: Boutros Ghali leaves the UN as he requested.

**Summary**

On Dec. 3, 1991, Egyptian diplomat Boutros Boutros-Ghali was appointed the sixth secretary-general of the United Nations, becoming the first Arab from the African continent to hold the post. He was elected by the Security Council, beating out 14 other candidates.

Earlier in his career, Boutros-Ghali had played a pivotal role in negotiating the Camp David Accords, which led to the signing of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel in 1979. He remained close to those close to Boutros-Ghali that not being named foreign minister made his heart heavy all his life.

**In his speech to the General Assembly, Ghali made no specific mention of the Middle East, although he is expected to give priority to finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.**

Dr. Abdoul El-Meneay, a columnist for Arab News, first noticed Boutros-Ghali’s potential in 1991. El-Meneay had just begun his career at Al-Majara magazine. Boutros-Ghali was the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. By the meeting’s end, a long-standing professional relationship was born. Twitter: @AMeneay
**Oslo Accords’ peace promise**

Hope over the deal was cut short by violence, including the killing of Israeli leader Yitzhak Rabin.

**Key Dates**

**March 6, 1991**

Netanyahu formed his government.

**Oct. 30 to Nov. 1, 1991**

At the Madrid Peace Conference, 15 Arab states, Japan and the European Community met with representatives of several counties to pursue peace and establish self-rule for the Palestinians.

**Sept. 13, 1993**

Yitzhak Rabin was shot dead in Tel Aviv.

**Oct. 14, 1994**

The Oslo Accords were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

**Nov. 1, 1995**

Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated.

**September 13, 1993**

The Oslo Accords were signed on the White House lawn.

**Summary**

After the rejection of the Egyptian-Israeli peace agreement in 1979 and 1979-1980, Yitzhak Rabin tried to form a new, moderate government. He signed the Oslo Accords with Yasser Arafat on September 13, 1993. The Accords established a framework for the establishment of a Palestinian state, and it was signed by Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat.

**How we wrote it**

Gossumbump: It was one of those events that gives you goose bumps, said one observer of the American Embassy in Riyadh, where a delegation of dignitaries, academics, and journalists viewed the monuments at the site.

**Afro-Asian Military Alliance, Sept. 14, 1993**
The bombing of Khobar Towers

The second major terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia offered further evidence of Iran’s influence.

**June 25, 1996**

A huge truck bomb detonated outside a housing compound housing US personnel in Khobar, lĩnh up one third of the building.

**June 25, 1996**

On June 25, 1996, a vehicle bomb exploded outside Saudi Arabia’s US military base in Khobar, killing 19 people and injuring 348. This attack marked the beginning of a series of terrorist attacks that would continue for the next 10 years.

**June 25, 2001**

Thirteen Saudis and two Americans were killed in an explosion near a military base in Kuwait.

**June 2, 2002**

Saudi Arabia says it has found new leads on the Khobar bombing suspects, who will be tried in the kingdom.

**Dec. 23, 2006**

A federal judge rules that Iran is responsible for the bombing and orders the government to pay compensation of $18.5 million to the families of Americans who died.

**Aug. 26, 2012**

Al-Qaeda claims responsibility for the bombing, in a move aimed at gaining support from other extremist networks.

**Sept. 10, 2013**

Another 11 countries fine Iran up to $33 million in compensation to injured victims of the bombing.
**Conflict in Kosovo**

The plight of the mainly Muslim Albanians drew humanitarian help from the Islamic world.

**SUMMARY**

On March 5, 1998, after years of violent conflict by Kosovar political factions seeking to break away from Serbia, the Kosovo Liberation Army launched an armed uprising against Serbian rule in the Kosovo region.

**WHAT HAPPENED**

Despite gaining a measure of autonomy under the former Yugoslavia in 1974, the province faced Muslim ethnic Albanian opposition based at the center of the Aher area. The Kosovo Liberation Army, backed by Serbia, sought to establish control over the region, leading to a conflict that lasted for over a decade.

**HOW WE REPORTED IT**

The conflict in Kosovo escalated on April 6, 1999, when NATO forces launched an air campaign against Yugoslavia, which included missile strikes against Serb military bases.

**WHAT WE LEARNED**

The conflict in Kosovo lasted for over a decade, with tens of thousands of refugees and internally displaced people fleeing the violence.

**FEB. 20, 1999**

The NATO bombing campaign began on February 22, 1999, over Yugoslavia, which included missile strikes against Serb military bases.

**JUNE 10, 1999**

The bombing campaign ended on June 10, 1999, with the signing of the Belgrade Agreement.

**FEB. 4, 2003**

Vocational schools opened, the last schools opened in Kosovo.

**FEB. 17, 2008**

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia.

**MARCH 5, 1998**

Kosovar rebels launch an armed uprising against Serbian rule in Kosovo.

**June 10, 1999**

The NATO bombing campaign ended.

**Key Dates**

- **March 5, 1998**: Kosovar rebels launch an armed uprising against Serbian rule.
- **April 6, 1999**: NATO launches an air campaign against Yugoslavia.
- **June 10, 1999**: The bombing campaign ends.

**Additional Notes**

- The conflict in Kosovo was marked by intense violence and displacement, affecting tens of thousands of people.
- The NATO bombing campaign was seen as a major turning point in the conflict, leading to the eventual withdrawal of Serbian forces.
- The conflict in Kosovo had a significant impact on the region, leading to the creation of a new country, Kosovo, in 2008.
The 9/11 attacks by Al-Qaeda

Horror unfolded live on TV, leading to the ‘war on terror’ that defined our era

JONATHAN GORMALL

London

The enormity of the events that unfolded in New York on that late-summer Tuesday in 2001 can be measured by the fact that a few of the millions who witnessed the horror unfolding live on TV broadcast around the world will never forget where they were that day.

I was in the small port ofPlayas del Inlet on the Spanish island of Tenerife, making last-minute adjustments to the 747 we were in which we about to set out in a two-hour flight across the Atlantic to the Caribbean island of Barbados. It was a beautiful day, with the sunlight shimmering on the surface of the gently undulating ocean. Ignorant of the events unfolding at that very moment, 5,000 km away across the Atlantic, I was lying down on the prime seat waterfront, heading back to my rented apartment from the small fishing harbor where the race-boat had been assembled, when a shout from one of the other owners cut into my thoughts.

I was standing on the other side of the road, in the doorway of a small restaurant that had become our unofficial news briefings place. He had come across and I went inside, shaking my two-year-old son on my knee...

The TV was automatically tuned for the time of day, but no one was sitting at the tables. Instead, they were standing and gathered in a semi-circle, staring in silence at the TV screen shimmering the face.

It took a few moments to make sense of what was being said. On the screen were the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, the building that contained the office of our news briefings. I was barely able to comprehend. Could both buildings really be on fire at the same time?

The news unfolded live on TV, leading to the ‘war on terror’ that defined our era.

HOW WE WROTE IT

Saudi Arabia yesterday denounced the ‘regrettable and inhuman’ attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the US, and reiterated its commitment to fight all forms of terrorism.

From a story in Arab News’ front page, Sept. 15, 2001

SUMMARY

At 8.46 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2001, an American Airlines Boeing 777 flew into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York. An image of the American building claimed the attention of TV and newspapers around the globe. It seemed possible the tower, an iconic symbol of America, had been the victim of a tragic accident.

But 17 minutes later, when another Boeing 767 struck the South Tower, it was clearly clear that the US was under attack. A hijacked plane had collided at 9.03 a.m.

The attacks left 2,996 dead, including the 19 Al-Qaeda terror suspects responsible, but the true cost is still being calculated today. In under a month, the US had invaded Afghanistan, embarking on a long and bloody war in its history, and in March 2003 a US-led coalition invaded Iraq.

Terror strikes US

In the meantime, a part of the Al-Qaeda network controlled by President George W. Bush in September 2001 was launched into Operation Enduring Freedom in 2004 to prevent this and other attacks.


Dec. 7, 2001

Taliban insurgency begins in Afghanistan.

March 19, 2003

US-led coalition invades Iraq.

Aug. 2, 2001

US officials brief briefing, bin Laden denounced to US as ‘eminent terrorist’ in country with preparations for hijackings.

Sept. 4, 2001

American Airlines Flight 11 hits North Tower at 8.46 a.m.; United Airlines Flight 77 hits South Tower at 9.03 a.m.; American Airlines Flight 77 hits Pentagon at 9.37 a.m.; United Airlines Flight 93 crashes near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, at 10.03 a.m.

Sept. 15, 2001

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld announces Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sept. 26, 2001

Saudi Arabia crisis diplomatic talks with al-Qaeda

Taliban government.

Sept. 27, 2001

Bin Laden identified by US: 19 suspects, two Egyptians, one Lebanese and their leader, Mohammad Atta, from Egypt.

Oct. 7, 2001

US attacks Afghan Taliban to overthrow Taliban and dislodge Al-Qaeda.

Dec. 7, 2001

Taliban insurgency begins in Afghanistan.

March 19, 2003

US-led coalition invades Iraq.

Oct. 20, 2004

Bin Laden admits responsibility for attacks.

May 2, 2011

US Navy SEALs kill Bin Laden in his hideout in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

Sept. 11, 2001

Al-Qaeda’s full complement of its Twin Towers.

Feb. 28, 2010

After 18 years of war, US and Taliban sign tentative peace agreement.
When a deadly fire killed 15 schoolgirls in Makkah

The tragedy was a tipping point between Saudis and the religious police, who were accused of hindering rescue efforts.

**MARCH 11, 2002**

The terror attack of 15 young girls in the Makkah school fire that occurred in March 2002 will forever be a black mark in our memory, not only because of the number of innocent girls who lost their lives but also because of the circumstances that led to their death and their implications.

It was reported that the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice—Saudi Arabia’s notorious religious police—were commonly known as the “Haaj”—prevented the schoolgirls from escaping the burning building and hindered rescue workers from entering the building because the women were not covered in their advertisements and headscarves.

The actions of the religious police caused outrage and condemnation throughout the country and internationally. A government inquiry concluded that the religious authorities were responsible for neglecting the fire safety of the school, but instead the inquiry maintained that the actions of the religious police contributed to the deaths, despite the accounts of eyewitnesses and Civil Defense officers.

Nevertheless, the public anger and criticism of the religious police, the General Presidency for Endowment, which administered the school, was scrapped.

The fire at Makka’s Fatimah School, No. 30 (the girls aged 15 to 17 properly started on the morning of March 11, 2002, caused by an unattended cigarette in a room on the top floor, according to the official story, others claimed it was caused by an electrical short circuit inside a stove in the kitchen.) It quickly spread, the girls panicked and rushed toward a corner stairwell in the three-story building, where the majority of the victims occurred in a narrow staircase. Fifteen girls died in the tragedy and more than 50 were injured. The 45-equipped rented property was overwhelmed, with more than 800 pupils and about 40 teachers. The inquiry found that the school lacked the instructions, alarms, and emergency stairs and exits. Furthermore, the windows, in all the girls’ cells, were covered with iron grills and could not be opened. It was a disaster waiting to happen.

Many other factors contributed to the girls’ misfortune. According to witnesses, the main gate of the building was locked by the male guard, who was away from the moment the fire started. Firefighters reached the school, only to find members of the religious police—usually armed female police officers—to make sure that the girls and female staff were properly dressed and covered when arriving and leaving—were preventing firefighters from getting in or leaving the building. Previous times went by a gate, enclosed, secured for holy and tranquil every other child before the regular police were able to intervene and allow the firefighters to enter.

The residential building for girls’ school was not publicized since 1980, and all the girls’ buildings were not suitable for use as a school. The General Presidency for Endowment noted the buildings had housed most girls’ schools in this time. Most of the buildings had small rooms, few bathrooms, narrow staircases, small, dirty playgrounds, and no proper silence tools, enough computers or art classes. Most importantly, they lacked safety measures. Unfortunately, rented buildings are still being used for schools to this day, although the number of students has decreased in recent years, and better evaluation and monitoring of their facilities is evident.

This tragic story brought attention to corruption, neglect, and how we wrote it.

**SUMMARY**

On March 11, 2002, 15 young women lost their lives in a fire at their school in Makkah when members of the religious police prevented Civil Defense officers from entering and stopped pupils from fleeing the building because the girls weren’t wearing abaya or headscarves.

The tragedy, which shocked the country and the entire Islamic world, was a tipping point in the relationship between the Saudi citizens and the religious police, also the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice.

Since the tragedy, the committee’s power was dramatically reduced in 1948 but remained in a very normal form until 1975. In the wake of the Iranian Revolution and the isolation of Makkah’s Grand Mosque by religious warriors, there was a progressive stripping of most of its powers.

Once a common sight on the streets, the efficiency and capacity are now rarely seen in a rapidly modernizing Saudi Arabia that is benefiting from the revenue earned from oil. From 2000, the government decided to decentralize the General Presidency for Endowment, an autonomous government agency, to give schools more freedom and independence.

An Arab News team visited the school yesterday found a number of abayas (black covers), shoes and bags left by the girls in the rush to get out of the building following the fire. From a report in Arab News on March 10, 2002.

**An Arab News team which visited the school (black cover), shoes, and bags left by the girls in the rush to get out of the building following the fire.**

An abandoned classroom, from Makkah governor Prince Abdul Majid bin Abdul Mohsin, the hospitals, AM, AM, AM.

**Jan. 13, 2012**

King Abdullah, above, replaces the head of the religious police with a more moderate figure.

**Oct. 24, 2017**

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who sacked the religious police, in his palace in Riyadh.

AHAB ALHASSAN
The rise of Erdogan's AKP in Turkey

Ties were damaged when the country deviated from its policy of not meddling in Arab affairs.

Yasak Turks

Linked Turkey's Justice and Development Party (AKP) upon the invitation of former Turkish president Abdullah Gul. We met each other when I was ambassador in Riyadh and he was an üsküdar at the Islamic Development Bank. Our relations have remained excellent ever since then.

And it was the only time a meeting was attended by several foreign ministers of the Middle East. We agreed that Turkey should maintain its historical and cultural ties with all countries in the Middle East. The AKP will work on these foundations and cooperate with them in all fields to carry out both of these valuable ideas. It will also promote the foundations of international relations and boost the relations in all fields.

When we were elected and became foreign minister, we immediately started to implement those promises. A few months after the AKP came to power (the Islamist president) — where the AKP was holding two-thirds of the seats — it decided to change its position on the conflict in the Middle East. It decided that the Turkey would no longer be satisfied with its policies regarding the conflict in the Middle East. The AKP decided to intervene in the conflict and to support those countries that were fighting against the Islamic groups.

On August 4, 2014, a group of Turkish military officers, including several senior officers, staged a coup attempt in Istanbul and Ankara. The coup was met with broad public support, including from many of Turkey's neighbors. The coup was quickly suppressed, and the government declared a state of emergency.

The rise of Erdogan's AKP in Turkey

Erdogan's AKP

The party emerged from the 2015 general election as the largest party in the Turkish parliament, winning 38% of the vote. Erdogan was re-elected president in 2014 and has continued to strengthen his position.

Key Dates

Aug. 11, 2001

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the former mayor of Istanbul, founded the conservative nationalist party Vatandaş Partisi, the Justice and Development Party. The party had been formed in 2001.

Aug. 10, 2014

With more than 53% of the vote, Erdogan was elected president of Turkey.

July 22, 2017

The AKP retained its majority in the general election, winning 315 seats in the parliament.

June 23, 2018

The AKP won a landslide victory in the general election, winning more than 50% of the vote.

July 31, 2018

The AKP faces severe challenges as opposition parties push for a more representative government in Turkey.

Oct. 1, 2015

Erdogan calls a snap general election, which becomes the AKP’s majority government.

April 11, 2016

The AKP faces a constitutional referendum on whether to grant Erdogan more powers.

June 24, 2018

The AKP faces criticism for its handling of the economy, with opposition parties calling for a more transparent government.
The US war on Iraq

When weapons of mass destruction became weapons of mass deception

The region continues to suffer the consequences of that war.

the same Iraqis killed in Muslim armed conflicts in the Middle East in the 20th century. But the process was slow and painful. It was not until late 2002, after the United States had launched a war in Iraq, that most Americans realized that they had been deceived.

The post-9/11 atmosphere, however, was conducive to creating a sense of urgency and the need for immediate action. The United States launched its war against terrorism in late 2001 and the conflict in Iraq was declared over in March 2003.

HOW WE WROTE IT

Saudia Arabia declared yesterday that it will no longer participate in a US-led war on Iraq under any circumstances and voiced strong opposition to any possible US military occupation of Iraq.


Saudia Arabia declared yesterday that it will no longer participate in a US-led war on Iraq under any circumstances and voiced strong opposition to any possible US military occupation of Iraq.

SUMMARY

On March 20, 2003, the US led by President George W. Bush, launched simultaneous attacks on Iraq with a view to removing Saddam Hussein from power. The war was internationally launched to eliminate what the US wrongly, and rashly, identified as Saddam’s weapons of mass destruction.

The conflict resulted in the removal of Saddam Hussein and his regime from power. Saddam Hussein was captured by US forces and put on trial.

The war was widely condemned by the international community and the UN Security Council. The US and UK were accused of ignoring international law and proceeding unilaterally.

The US-led war on Iraq was a costly and controversial conflict. The war resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and caused significant damage to the region.

The war on Iraq was largely seen as a failure and the US was criticized for its handling of the conflict.

The war on Iraq was a turning point in Middle Eastern politics and had a significant impact on the region.
**The assassination of Hariri**

The car bomb that killed Lebanon’s former prime minister wiped out hope of peace and prosperity.

**FEB. 14, 2005**

The bomb that killed Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri was one of the most powerful ever used in Beirut. The blast killed 27 people and injured over 300 others. The site of the explosion was near the site of a hotel where Hariri was staying when he was killed.

**SUMMARY**

On Feb. 14, 2005, a massive car bomb exploded near the site where Hariri had been staying. The blast killed 27 people and injured over 300 others. The site of the explosion was near the site of a hotel where Hariri was staying when he was killed.

**HOW WE WROTE IT**

The explosion was a major event in the history of Lebanon. The site of the explosion was near the site of a hotel where Hariri had been staying when he was killed.

**THE EXPLORATION**

The explosion was a major event in the history of Lebanon. The site of the explosion was near the site of a hotel where Hariri had been staying when he was killed.

**LEBANON**

Lebanon is a country located on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. It is bordered by Syria to the north and Israel to the south. Lebanon is a democratic republic with a president, a prime minister, and a unicameral parliament. The official language is Arabic, and the official currency is the Lebanese pound. The population of Lebanon is estimated to be around 4.6 million people. Lebanon is known for its rich history, diverse culture, and beautiful coastline. It is also known for its shrewd political system and frequent conflicts. Lebanon has been a country of migration for centuries, and it is home to a large number of refugees from other countries. Lebanon's economy is based on agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing. However, it has been affected by political instability and economic challenges in recent years.
The Birth of the iPhone

The smartphone first announced by Steve Jobs has evolved to become a staple of everyday life.

**Key Dates**

- **iPhone 1, Pro, Pro Max**
  - June 29, 2007
- **iPhone XR**
  - Oct 12, 2018
- **iPhone XS, XS Max**
  - Sept 20, 2018
- **iPhone X**
  - Nov 3, 2017
- **iPhone 8, 8 Plus**
  - Sept 22, 2017
- **iPhone SE & 7 Plus**
  - March 18, 2020
- **iPhone 8S & 8S Plus**
  - April 14, 2021
- **iPhone 3GS**
  - June 29, 2007
- **iPhone 4, 4S**
  - Nov 4, 2011
- **iPhone 5, 5S, 5C**
  - Sept 12, 2012
- **iPhone 5S, 5C**
  - Sept 20, 2013
- **iPhone 6, 6 Plus**
  - Sept. 12, 2014

**HOW WE REPORTED IT**

At an Apple event on June 29, 2007, Jobs introduced the first iPhone, a phone that transformed the world of mobile technology. The iPhone revolutionized the way people communicate, entertain, and access information. It introduced the concept of a touch-friendly user interface, which is now standard in almost every mobile device.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

The iPhone's release had a significant economic impact, driving the growth of the mobile phone industry and enabling new business models. It also created new markets for mobile applications and content, leading to the rise of app-based businesses and services.

**TOMORROW**

As technology continues to evolve, the iPhone may undergo further changes, such as the integration of augmented reality features and advanced biometric security. The smartphone market is expected to remain competitive, with companies不断创新 to meet user demands.

**ARAB NEWS**

(Arabic) "The birth of the smartphone:
A visual evolution of the iPhone, from its first release date until its latest version, the iPhone 14, released in 2023.

(Arabic) 45th Moments that changed the Middle East

(Arabic) Key Dates

(Arabic) JAN. 9, 2007

(Arabic) Apple's iPhone: Like Internet in Your Pocket

(Arabic) To demonstrate, Jobs accessed Google maps, Facebook, and YouTube with an iPhone, showcasing its capabilities.

(Arabic) AHAB ALKHANIMI:

(Arabic) Economic impact

(Arabic) How we reported it

(Arabic) Tomorrow

(Arabic) Arab News
Lehman Brothers’ collapse led to the mother of all modern recessions — until now

**HOW WE WROTE IT**

Lehman bankruptcy sparks global turmoil

**SUMMARY**

On Sept. 15, 2008, the collapse of the Lehman Brothers investment bank sent shock waves around the world and turned the property market into a global financial crisis.

The crisis of 2008–09 brought unprecedented changes — and fear — to the world economy. Government intervention, not least by China, averted catastrophe, but left a legacy of renewed debt. In the current economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the worry is that a second Lehman shock will be unable to apply the same remedies.

In his epic account of the 2008 global financial crisis, “Too Big to Fall,” Andrew Ross Sorkin notes: “I have witnessed such fundamental and schematic changes in financial paradigms and the spectacular self-destruction of sacred institutions.”

What expectations will markets use when deciding on a recovery plan after the current crisis, which threatens to eclipse economic booms of a range of democracies a decade ago or a multiple times?

The losses of the global financial crisis and GFC started at the time of Lehman Brothers and we should take note.

LEHMAN BROTHERS’ CRISIS

One major effect of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which shocked the world and turned the borders in the US and Russia more inward, was a global financial crisis.

Access to money for everyone became more difficult and the world economy changed.

**DATES**

**Oct. 5, 2007**

Merrill Lynch, one of Wall Street’s leading investment banks, reveals a big loss, evidence that the crisis in US real estate markets is filtering into the entire financial system.

**Feb. 7, 2008**

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, which represents a 20% peak-to-trough decline in the housing market, is still falling.

**Sept. 15, 2008**

The collapse of Lehman Brothers leads to a “credit crunch,” which shockwaves around the world and turns the problems in the US property market into a global financial crisis. One observer calls it the financial equivalent of 9/11.

**June 22, 2009**

The World Bank warns that global economic activity will fall by almost 5% over the next few months.

**Nov. 23, 2009**

Daimler AG, creator of the Mercedes-Benz, and perhaps the best-known of the post-Soviet capital goods companies that made out of the chaos, also notes that it will be unable to repay its loans.

**April 12, 2011**

Significant events in the global recession, such as the emergence of the global financial crisis after 9/11 for some of the world’s healing economies.

**2008 global financial crisis**

Frank Sorkin has reported on many financial crises since 1997 for some of the world’s healing economies.
Saudia Arabia's First Meeting with G20 Leaders

The Kingdom took on a leadership role in tackling the global financial crisis of 2008.

On Nov. 14, 2008, Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz hosted the first meeting of the leaders of the Group of 20 (G20) in Washington, DC, choosing the Kingdom's respected position as one of the 10 most active economies in the world.

The G20 was formed in 1999 during a meeting of world leaders who were concerned about the growing economic disparity. The group includes economies with more than 90% of global GDP, finance ministers and central bank governors. In response to a financial crisis in 2008, the group met to discuss ways to stabilize the world economy.

Key Dates

Sept. 26, 1999
The Group of 20 (G20) was founded after the Asian financial crisis for finance ministers and central bank governors of 20 countries and the EU.

The first meeting of the Saudi Arabian G20 High-Level Joint Committee between the Deputy Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia and President Xi Jinping attended the G20 Hangzhou summit.

Aug. 31, 2006
The first meeting of the Saudi Arabian G20 High-Level Joint Committee between the Deputy Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia and President Xi Jinping attended the G20 Hangzhou summit.

July 8, 2017
The G20 Hamburg summit's first committee announced that the 2018 G20 summit is to be held in the Kingdom for the first time.

Dec. 1, 2019
Saudi Arabia assumes the G20 presidency from Japan.

How We Wrote It

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah called for greater international cooperation and coordination to offset the impact of the financial crisis.

From a story by Barbara Ferguson on Arab News' front page, Nov. 16, 2008.

In a recent interview with the economy by the World Bank, a result of the reforms to development infrastructure on the Kingdom. In 2008, an Arab News story, we interviewed a prominent authority on the economy, discussing the Kingdom's role in the global economy.

The first meeting of the Saudi Arabian G20 High-Level Joint Committee between the Deputy Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia and President Xi Jinping attended the G20 Hangzhou summit.

For two days, the leaders met in Washington, DC, discussing issues related to the global financial crisis. The meeting was aimed at finding ways to stabilize the global economy.

In 2009, a year after the G20 summit, the Kingdom hosted the G20 summit in Riyadh, bringing together leaders from around the world to discuss the future of the global economy.

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Burj Khalifa: The world’s tallest tower

Dubai’s icon, recognized around the world, raised a very high bar

The previous record holder of 828 meters (2,717 feet) was the Burj Khalifa, standing at an impressive 828 meters in the world’s tallest building in 2009. One year later, the new Dubai skyline included a new record holder, the Burj Khalifa, which became the tallest tower in the world. The tower was completed in 2010, and it stands at 828 meters (2,717 feet). It is located in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

HOW WE WROTE IT

At a time of profound pessimism and sky-high debt around the world, the sky-high Burj Khalifa... is a mighty finger pointing upward toward better and altogether more prosperous times.

Arab News staff, Jan. 8, 2010

The Burj Khalifa, the world’s tallest building, is 828 meters (2,717 feet) tall. It opened in 2010, and it currently holds the record for the tallest building in the world. The tower was completed in 2010, and it stands at 828 meters (2,717 feet). It is located in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

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Where the Arab Spring began

Tunisia’s uprising began after a street vendor, Mohamed Bouazizi, set himself on fire in protest.

Dec. 17, 2010

Tunisian President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali fled the country after 23 years in power. On the day Ben Ali left the country, the stock market in Lebanon and Jordan moved or suspended trade.

Dec. 18, 2010

President Ben Ali left Beirut on Nov. 15, 2010.

Jan. 4, 2011

Bouazizi dies at the age of 26.

Jan. 22, 2011

Thousands shout Ben Ali’s name, many trying to arrange his death.

Jan. 14, 2011

President Ben Ali flies into exile in Saudi Arabia.

Dec. 12, 2011

Tunisian court sentences 39 of 143 arrested during protests to life terms.

Jan. 20, 2012

Tunisian court sentences 14 to 20 years in prison over contempt of court.

Sept. 19, 2010


Jonathan Levitt and Thomas Lippert

Tunisia has also suffered from a series of extremist attacks, including one near the US Embassy in March and another on extreme rightists in 2016 that killed 18 people and dealt a major blow to tourism.

Much of the social and economic conditions that led to the unrest continues in Tunisia today.

In the capital Tunis, police opened fire on demonstrators killing at least one person as weltos of anti-government protests intensified.

From an AFP story in Arab News/Dec. 14, 2011

It was a young man, supposedly unemployed, who had been driven to such a desperation by his hopeless situation, that he set himself on fire.

The protests began in the Tunisian city of Sidi Bouzid on Dec. 17, 2010, when a young man, Mohamed Bouazizi, set himself on fire in protest against the police.

In the meantime, police opened fire on demonstrators killing at least one person as weltos of anti-government protests intensified.

From an AFP story in Arab News/Dec. 14, 2011

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Mubarak’s resignation: Behind the scenes

It remains to be seen whether this turning point changed Egypt’s history for the better.

ASSOCIATED PRESS/CAIRO

In history, there are certain major events that should stop us in our tracks and make us think for a long while. We must contemplate them to understand what happened, learn from them, and make the same mistakes, and emphasize what we found to be correct. One such day was Feb. 11, 2011, the day the late Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak stepped down.

On that day, I was responsible for managing the state media within the Egyptian government. I was not part of the regime’s political scene, but I was professionally engaged by the state and had a role to play. I also had many friends in El-Tahrir Square demonstrating for what they believed in. That day also went down in the history of Egypt, and the conditions we live in today have reached from it. It was not a turning point in the country’s history, but whether it was for the better or the worse, only historians can decide. What is important is that change was occurring.

That day, there were people who were sitting in the streets filled with angry demonstrators, who were confronted by Mubarak’s speech on the night before. In that speech, Mubarak delegated power to his vice president, Omar Suleiman. How it would end on that day, but I did not have less in the morning, so I received a phone call from a leading military figure, who told me that they would meet me in order to know about Mubarak’s intention to resign. I immediately called some media networks to tell them the news, so I reported it, while others arrived on the scene. Meanwhile, the president had ordered a boyfriend from the presidential palace to El-Shobek Airport, and of Cairo. From there, he took a presidential plane to his residence in Sharm El-Sheikh.

This was the first time I ever saw Mubarak without his wife, children, or even his advisors. As soon as he arrived at his residence, at about 10:30am, he called Defense Minister Field Marshal Mohammed Hussein Tantawi. Tantawi was a short telephone conversation, during which Mubarak said: “Tantawi, I have decided to delegate full responsibility to you, and the army. Now you are in power.” Tantawi replied: “As the President, we will find another way. This was not what we sought.” Mubarak said: “Yes, this is my decision. Speak to Omar Suleiman, and make arrangements to announce this news to the public.”

Minutes later, I received a phone call from the regime’s spokesman informing me that Mubarak was in a meeting with the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces. They were preparing an official statement to inform the nation of Mubarak’s resignation. The president wanted to be a short summary.

SUMMARY

On Feb. 11, 2011, in Egypt, the former air force officer who oversaw the unpopular rule of Anwar Sadat as Egypt’s president in 1970, and held on to power for three decades, was forced to resign, presenting resignation only to leave the scene and announce his resignation.

As the regime reported the following day, “an unknown number of pro-Mubarak protesters began waving with joy and tears of relief” all over the city, who “even the regime was unable to face its disgrace.”

The victory monuments, organized by the new regime, were set on fire, and set fire to the regime’s livelihood around the country, fundamentally but not without pain. Over the decades, Mubarak was known as the man on the billboard that would create new lives and thousands more were injured.

Aug. 3, 2011

Mubarak’s resignation and transfer of power to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces.

June 2, 2012

Mubarak arrested in a life imprisonment for failing to hand over the lifting of prison terms.

Jan. 13, 2013

Aegon court overrules life sentence.

May 9, 2015

Mubarak, now 90, is tried after having spent six years in custody.

March 24, 2017

Mubarak dies, aged 91, in Cairo and lay in state with full military honors.

FEB. 11, 2011

Tantawi attended a meeting with state media, to announce the arrival of Egypt’s president in Cairo.

EUPHORIA AS MUBARAK QUITS

The country has erupted in joy. The traffic has stopped. People are out of their cars, kissing and embracing, tears streaming, laughing and crying.

Egypts jubilation

Egyptians depict on Arab News front page, Feb. 11, 2011.

HOW WE WROTE IT

The country has erupted in joy. The traffic has stopped. People are out of their cars, kissing and embracing, tears streaming, laughing and crying.

Egypts jubilation

Egyptians depict on Arab News front page, Feb. 11, 2011.
SUMMARY

The Syrian conflict has been a continuing and complex conflict in the region. The conflict has been ongoing for over a decade and has resulted in the displacement of millions of people. The conflict has also led to widespread human rights abuses and violations.

The involvement of foreign powers, including Russia, Iran, and Turkey, has played a significant role in exacerbating the conflict. The situation has also been complicated by the presence of various rebel groups and the ongoing civil war.

The United Nations has been active in attempting to broker peace talks and facilitate a political solution. However, these efforts have met with limited success.

The conflict has had a significant impact on the economy of Syria, with widespread destruction and a severe humanitarian crisis. The situation remains fragile, and there is a need for sustained international engagement and support to address the challenges faced by the Syrian people.

The never-ending Syrian conflict

A brutal war lasting almost a decade has blown the Middle East’s lines wide open

The key dates

March 15, 2011
The US and its allies reduced the intensity of their bombings in Syria

June 29, 2011
Peace talks in Annan were suspended

Sept. 30, 2015
Russia’s disastrous campaign in Syria

Oct. 19, 2017
American troops withdrew from Iraq

Feb. 3, 2020
Two nuclear powers began to face off in the Middle East

Violence erupts across Syria

Human rights activists and witnesses said Syrian security forces opened fire on dozens of thousands of protesters in Damascus, killing 22 and wounding hundreds.

Violence erupts across Syria

HOW WE REPORTED IT

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HOW WE REPORTED IT
The death of Osama bin Laden

Long before the US caught the Al-Qaeda leader, our Southeast Asia bureau chief interviewed him.

MAY 2, 2011

The death of Osama bin Laden, shown in an undated photo, after the 9/11 attacks, above left. Getty Images/AFP

HOW WE WROTE IT

President Obama said the remains had been handled in accordance with Islamic custom, which requires speedly burial, and the Pentagon later said the body was placed into the waters of the northern Arabian Sea after adhering to Islamic procedures— including washing the corpse— aboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson.

The AP on the beat for Reuters in bin Laden, shown in an undated photo, after the 9/11 attacks, above left. Getty Images/AFP

SUMMARY

On May 2, 2011, a US special forces team stormed a secret compound in the northeastern Pakistani city of Abbottabad and shot dead Osama bin Laden, the leader of Al-Qaeda.

The operation, carried out in the early hours of the morning, brought an end to a 10-year hunt for the world's most wanted terrorist, responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks on the US in 2001 and numerous other terrorist outrages.

The following day, an Arab News editor celebrated the 'finishing of a cancer' on the Muslim world. Bin Laden and his 'terrorist version of Islam' had, he said, brought nothing but death and destruction to the Muslim world and the rest of the world.

As the world grieved, the US and its allies celebrated the death of the man who had been the face of global terrorism for a dozen years. Bin Laden's death was a turning point in the war on terror, and his legacy will be remembered for years to come.

Sept. 11, 2001

Coordinated attacks at the US, massacred by Bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda organization, left almost 3,000 dead.

Dec. 11, 2011

Bin Laden escapes US attack on his compound and is killed in the Tenasserim mountains of eastern Myanmar.

TOMORROW

Al-Qaeda takes responsibility for a Brussels bomb attack, and observers say the group will continue to use such attacks to sustain its ideological cause.

April 9, 1994

Smiling ArabChicken bin Laden, the founder of Al-Qaeda, is shown in an undated photo. His support for the cause of Islamic terrorism.

Aug. 23, 1996

Bin Laden issues a statement from his home in Afghanistan, refusing to support the Afghan resistance to the Soviet invasion.

Aug. 7, 1998

Terrorist Al-Qaeda voice their opposition to US intervention in Kosovo and warns of another attack on the US.
The rise and fall of Daesh
The terror group changed the debate on extremism

In June 2016, I was part of the team behind a new (then) tin bath looking at religious extremism. Our patron, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, had long been concerned that the religious element of extremist groups was being overlooked and needed more policy-focused research.

That month, Daesh moved through northern Iraq, seizing government weapons and capturing vast quantities of military equipment that would strengthen its threats. On June 21, the tin bath was in Moscow. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the group’s leader, declared himself to be a caliph of a new caliphate.

The call to arms was a popular appeal to the mass of ordinary people to join in the ideological war of Islam. It spoke to the desire for a distinct identity that was far from the secular state. The tin bath was successful in recruiting many people.

For extremists and their sympathisers across the world, this was the moment they had been waiting for. The sense of purpose and belonging that had driven them to violence before was now justified and reinforced.

Peter Wright
London

Iraqi forces, backed by the US-led international coalition, announced that the final battle against Daesh was over. On October 27, 2017, Daesh was declared to be a defeated force.

In 2018, Daesh’s caliphate was coming to an end in three years after its defeat in the desert battle of Bagdad.

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The civil war in Yemen

When Iran-backed Houthis descended on Aden, the Saudi-led coalition intervened

**BADER AL-BAZY**

On March 23, 2015, Saudi Arabia supported the announcement on TV calling for the general mobilization of fighters to help the coalition forces in the Yemeni conflict.

Few days after, more than a million people had been killed by three suicide bombs detonated in mosques in Yemen capital Sanaa, which had been seized by the Houthis on September 2014, responsibility for the attacks was claimed by the Yemeni branch of ISIS.

How it happened, however, we know that the Houthis’ main objective was to finally defeat Yemeni President Abdu Rabbo Mansour Hadi, while the fall of Sanaa had deepened tension between the Southern community.

A day before the Houthis’ call to arms, Hadi had given a defiant speech in which he vowed to save the Yemeni flag. He said, the returns, I bless the strength of Sanaa, heartland of the Yemeni government, and I challenge their designs in the south.

The Central Committee was established, which a major criterion between the differences between the forces and the Houthis leadership was inevitable. The Houthis leaders’ speech was condemned by the leaders of the Central Committee, which was then removed from their positions.

Hadi received an immediate visit at the Imam mosque in Manakhil. The Saudi-led coalition said that it had received a UN Security Council 

On April 28, the UN Security Council reaffirmed a “strong commitment to leave the country, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Yemen” and condemned the ongoing unilateral actions taken by the Houthis that were undermining the political transition process and jeopardizing the country’s political stability.

The Saudi-led coalition’s continuous and consistent diplomatic and political efforts towards the Houthis’ leaders, which were imposed under the leadership of President Abdu Rabbo Mansour Hadi, and the mediation efforts of the United Nations and the European Union, had received a positive response from the Houthis’ leadership.

**Lightning strikes pulverize Houthis as warplanes stage strategic sea passage**

**WHAT HAPPENED?**

The main aim of the military operations in Yemen currently is to cut-off the major supply routes of the Houthis, a senior defense official said on Friday.

In a move by Mohammed al-Sulaymy, an Arab news front-page, March 22, 2015

Army commander of the Defense Minister Mohammed al-Mashat.
The sudden and unexpected military operations, which were carried out by a coalition of Arab countries, were aimed at targeting the Houthi rebels in the north.

The Houthis have been fighting against the Saudi-led coalition for more than a year, and the operations have been described as the largest military operation in the country since the start of the war.

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The drowning of Aylan Kurdi

Images of the Syrian-Kurdish boy lying lifeless on a Turkish beach drew attention to refugees' plight

Key Dates

March 15, 2015

Hamas' attack on Israel triggered the conflict in the Gaza Strip.

Feb. 9, 2015

A Syrian rebel refugee camp was attacked by government forces in Idlib province.

Sept. 2, 2015

Three-year-old Aylan Kurdi drowned in the Mediterranean Sea while fleeing his homeland.

SUMMARY

In the early hours of Sept. 2, 2015, Abdullah Kurdi and his family boarded a small boat on the Turkish coast in hopes of reaching the Greek island of Kos. But the boat capsized, and the man and his three sons drowned. Three-year-old Aylan Kurdi, together with his older sister and their mother, died from drowning. The Kurdi family were Syrian-Kurdish trying to reach Europe and avoid the refugee crisis of 2015. Their narrative has become a focal point of global attention and a symbol of the plight of refugees fleeing conflict in the Middle East.

HOW WE WROTE IT

The present surge in Europe is largely Syrian, leaving their war-torn country, and in Europe, the refugee crisis has reached an all-time high.

with countries blaming Russia for encouraging the conflict and being responsible for the flow of homeless humanity.

The European public perception of the refugee crisis is shifting. In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, Abdullah was flown back to Germany, and with public sentiment gearing up to speak at UN and EU. European media has shifted, but in the language, it is not to. And the world “refugee” gaining prominence over “migrant” has expanded. A total of 60,000 refugees, despite already being the largest refugee-host country in Europe. While the policy shift did not last, as the refugee crisis intensified, many southern European countries closed their borders to refugees. Some refugees' and other migrants asked to return to their countries, and the situation in Greece remained difficult. In total, the year 2015 saw an increase of 8.4 million arrivals and at least 580,000 asylum seekers. Since then, over 500,000 have decreased in the absence of safe and legal routes to cross the Mediterranean, according to the UNHCR.

A political response was required in Canada soon after Aylan's drowning, with news that the country's Department of Citizenship and Immigration had expanded its sponsors' status list to include refugees from critical countries and regions.

In 2016, Abdullah was invited to receive a German human rights award in Berlin. In 2018, he was featured in a British documentary on the Bronte family's 19th-century journey to Australia.

This image of the lifeless body of Aylan Kurdi on the shores in Bodrum, Turkey, was taken on Sept. 2, 2015, and became a symbol of the refugee crisis. This image has been widely reproduced and shared on social media, highlighting the plight of refugees and bringing attention to the need for humanitarian aid.

March 2, 2020

A violent offensive in Libya that continued for several months proved to be a turning point for the conflict in the region. The Libyan National Army launched a large-scale operation to retake Tripoli from the GNA, leading to a significant escalation in the conflict.
THREE Moments that changed the Middle East
APRIL 25, 2016

U-turning Saudi Vision 2030
The eagerly awaited launch was then by Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman

Key Dates
April 25, 2016
The eagerly awaited launch was then by Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

April 25, 2016

June 21, 2017
Mohammed bin Salman appoints Crown Prince by Royal Salman.

Oct. 4, 2018
At the Future Investment Initiative conference in Riyadh, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman pledges a return to moderate Islam, a $100 billion megacity.

Oct. 4, 2018
Debut 3D cinema in cinemas, the first commercial movie theater opens in Riyadh with a screening of the Marvel film ‘Black Panther’.

April 21, 2019
A ban on Saudi women driving is lifted.

FEB. 10, 2019
Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman launches new ministries, for sports, tourism, and investment, as part of his commitment to Vision 2030.

FEB. 25, 2020
Saudi Arabia creates new ministries, for sports, tourism, and investment, as part of his commitment to Vision 2030.

A seminal event occurred on April 25, 2016, that date Saudi Arabia’s then Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced details and content of what we have come to know as the path religious and reforming-shifting Saudi Vision 2030. That very day the prince gave Al Arabiya News Channel an exclusive interview which was his first one. At the time, I was based in Riyadh reporting the channel’s English digital arm and it was obvious to me that if there was anything awaited moment of change that would positively impact the country, and region, this was it.

Here was a man who was chartsing a new course that was an almost total about face for Saudi Arabia. It was the kind of thing that nobody had tried before. The young prince was giving hope to a nation, 60 percent of whose population was under the age of 35. He talked about the government’s target, high performance indicators and Project Management Offices, as well as outlining the Kingdom’s dependence on oil— all of which we had unheard of in the past. Five months later, on Sept. 28, 2016 to be precise—I was in Kenya, where I was the chief editor in chief of Arab News. Living here for more than five years now, I felt that I had a genuine feeling for, and understanding of, the city. What I failed to consider, on the other hand, was that in the five months since the announce- ment of Vision 2030, change had become the new norm. And not a slow glacial change, but fast and urgent one. I was nonetheless, deeply impressed, and I wrote about my opinion on my first day at Arab News. In that column I wrote: ‘I was assisted upon my arrival by a female Saudi receptionist at the Rosewood Jeddah hotel. While the thought of having a woman do a job which was unheard of 20 years ago, I must confess that I honestly have never dealt with a more professional and happy to serve receptionist in any country in the world. While I wrote in the piece that was apt titled, “The Return of the Prototype,” it was a coincidence that I returned to the Kingdom only five months after Vision 2030 was unveiled. From the perspective of a journalist, it was an exciting time. It was like I had no idea what to expect. Nor did I know whether the announced changes, genuine as they were, were enough to bring about any real change. Nor did it become evident that Saudi Arabia was on a new path, one that could change the way we do things, and the way life itself could be transformed away from what had been the norm, for sure, the fears that had for so long stopped Saudi from thinking outside the box were done away with. Before the cuffs, members of the religious police had been a virtual law unto themselves and, in few tragic cases, they had been responsible for the deaths of young Saudis. It is disappointing that the Saudi leadership gave very little credit for such remarkable achievement which represented a complete reversal of the old status quo in the Kingdom.

That decision followed concerts and musical performances before live audiences, the very sort of events that had been unheard of in the past. Some of the clinchers in the newspaper file the week when we decided to run huge photos showing ordinary Saudi men and women sitting together in a cafe, eating popcorn as they enjoyed themselves hopping along to live music at a concert. The first mixed concert in the Kingdom that I personally attended was by “Stylarm,” the spectacular LED light show from New York. In the tape to the show, there was a conflict between the security forces who said the mixed event could not take place and the people from the official General Entertainment Authority who insisted the event had to be mixed. Ultimately, the GEO had it and it was a fabulous memorable performance: mesmerizing thousands in the massive Al-Andra Stadium. Men, women, and children sat together and enjoyed a dazzling show, full of music, dancer moves and special effects.

New ways—women driving and the abolition of the guardianship laws. People of my generation never thought we would see women driving, but we were proven wrong and it did happen. I invited our senior editor, Mi Ramos, a Canadian in our Dubai office with an international driving license, to Jeddah. I asked her to get part of the history that was unfolding in Saudi Arabia. We got her into the driver’s seat; I sat next to her to record the reactions of her and our female staff who were also in the car. It was an incredible feeling of liberation for the women of Saudi Arabia. These women have spent years on our front pages was of pride and traditionally had fearfully dressed Saudi women of all shapes and sizes, the women sitting in the ftalih demolition became the accepted norm.

Then there were the high- profile concerts as Adel Tawil, the singer was flashing out of the Arabian Nights, and it was something that was not to be missed. At the Arabian Nights, and it was something that was not to be missed. At the Arabian Nights, and it was something that was ready to draw the world’s attention to the new Arabia. The crown prince’s most signific- ant announcement, however, was the one in which he stated that the Kingdom would be transformed to a moderate form of Islam, or in his words, return to it in the way it was before 1970. Why 1970? Because as he said during his CBS interview with Saudi Omid in September 2016, ‘We were living a very normal life like the rest of the Gulf Countries. Women were driving cars. There were movie theaters in Saudi Arabia who were working everyone. We were normal people developing like any other country in the world until the events of 1970.

Having said all this, I must now add: no new information. By Crown Prince Vision’s 2030 ambition to start out to achieve? No. Will 15 years later we ever have a vision anywhere in the world that has managed to make real all the visions and desires? No. Many mistakes and mishaps happening by the government bodies and global world but at least partially fulfilled and developed the ambitions plan of Vision 2030. These projects and economic plans will surely benefit from the coronavirus, its aftermath and its influences in all sectors which have dropped to a new low. However, just think of the size of the project that would have been had Vision 2030 not been in place when the world began to feel immersive, the religious police opposing the removal of the guardianship of prayer at the two holy mosque in 1976. Hundreds of thousands of dollars would have been affected. Leave all of that and let us begin by the question which has been the line. Is Saudi Arabia better off today. Unfortunately, today it was four years ago. Just ask the people on the streets of the Saudi population what they think of Vision 2030 and you will find the answer. Yes. We have not yet completed the journey. We will need time to achieve what the country’s vision has set. But we have started. And that is the best news we can have. But that is the best news we can have. But that is the best news we can have. But that is the best news we can have. But that is the best news we can have. But that is the best news we can have. But that is the best news we can have. But that is the best news we can have.
As a reporter for Arab News, I was surprised when my request for an exclusive interview with Qatar’s foreign minister on the sidelines of the 17th Doha Forum in May 2017 was swiftly granted.

It seemed to signal that Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani had a message he wanted to convey ahead of the Riyadh Summit, due to be held a week later in the presence of the leaders of other Gulf and Arab countries, and, on its first overseas trip, US President Donald Trump.

After I sat down with Al Thani, the first topic on the agenda was the theory behind Qatar’s support for the Muslim Brotherhood, which has islamist allies in both Qatar and other Arab countries, contending with terrorist organizations.

I was surprised by Al Thani’s response, summed up in a front-page headline in Arab News on May 20: “We do not, will not and have not supported the Muslim Brotherhood.”

Our conversation moved on to the big issue: how, together, containing ISIS from the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — the schizophrenia of its relations with Iran, Doha, said

The news that Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE and Bahrain were cutting diplomatic ties with Qatar and imposing a boycott on the country broke on June 5, 2017, but the origins of the decision could be traced back two decades.

On June 7, 2005, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani had taken power in a bloodless coup, deposing his father, Sheikh Khalifa, who had led the country for 43 years. Under Sheikh Hamad, Qatar began to drift off alignment with the other GCC states, intervening in their internal affairs, supporting terrorist groups and even broadcast Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden on the Al Jazeera television channel, founded by the state the year after Sheikh Hamad took control.

Just how far had Doha drifted from the GCC’s common values started to become apparent when negotiators affiliated with Al-Qaeda and holding Qatari passports, were allowed to infiltrate the kingdom through Jordan. Among them was Ammar bin Jamil, who in 2002 took charge of Al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia and carried out a series of attacks before he was killed by Saudi security forces in 2004.

In 2014, two leaked recordings of conversations between Libyan President Muammar Qaddafi, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa and former Qatari prime minister Hamad bin Jassim, dating back to 2003, revealed Qatar had been plotting to destabilize and destabilize Saudi Arabia. On Oct. 26, 2017, Hamad bin Jassim admitted the authenticity of the recordings for the first time.

For years the other Gulf states, and the Kingdom in particular, tried to persuade Qatar to remove its support from the Islamic militant. The attempts continued after Sheikh Hamad stepped down and handed power to his son, Sheikh Tamim, on June 25, 2013, but to no avail.

In November 2015, Doha signed the Riyadh Agreement, brokered between Qatar and Saudi Arabia by Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, the emir of Kuwait, and designed to improve relations between Gulf states. At the time, the details of the agreement were secret. But when the document was later leaked, it emerged that Qatar had agreed not to interfere in the internal affairs of the other Gulf states, nor to support the Muslim Brotherhood, nor to support or organize terrorist organizations.

The list went on to include "antagonistic media," taken to refer to Al Jazeera.

The end of Qatar’s rift had also put his signature on the condition that Qatar’s failure to comply with the provisions of the agreement gave the rest of the GCC countries the right to take whatever measures they deemed appropriate to protect their security and stability. It quickly became clear that Qatar was failing to abide by the conditions of the Riyadh Agreement and, in March 2018, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE withdrew their ambassadors, citing "Doha’s noncompliance with previously agreed decisions." In November 2018, after the Qatari government declined to commit to some of the provisions, the return of the envoy was announced and a second agreement signed, but all was still well.

How we reported it

Residents of Qatari were seen panic buying and some supermarket shelves stood empty after Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, the UAE and other countries announced they would withdraw diplomatic staff from the country.

From a story by Asmaa Fawzy and Luna Shahabek at Arab News new page, June 6, 2017

On June 5, 2017, the Qatari, criticizing what he called "anti-humanistic feelings," officially quickly dismissed the statements, claiming the official website’s website had been hacked, but this was the same site that hosts the country’s foreign ministry’s website.

On the same day, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the UAE and Egypt cut diplomatic ties with Qatar, blocked all Saudi citizens and citizens of other GCC states from Qatar, cut flights and imposed a complete blockade on Qatar.

The most important demands were that Doha should end its support for the Muslim Brotherhood and other groups in the battle against ISIS, cease interfering in the internal affairs of boycotting countries, stop funding extremist groups and war in Syria, and no longer support or collaborate with others to attack the four countries.

Qatar’s response? On Jan. 24, 2017, Doha announced that it was reviewing all diplomatic relations with Iran and introduced "strengthened bilateral relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields." More than 1,000 days later, the crisis remains unresolved.

Mohammed Al-Sulaimi, regional director of Qatari Arabia at Arab News, conducted an exclusive interview with Qatari’s foreign minister in 2017, before Saudi Arabia cut diplomatic ties with Doha.

June 27, 1995

Bani Dhafilis departs his post, sets control of Qatar.

June 12, 2002

Terrorist Abdul Aziz al-Moqrin enters Saudi Arabia via Qatar, with a Qatar passport.

Nov. 10, 2013

Qatar signs the first Riyadh Agreement.

March 5, 2014

Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain withdraw their envoys from Qatar, accusing Doha of interfering in other states’ affairs.

March 7, 2014

Saudi Arabia designates the Muslim Brotherhood as a terror organization. On Nov. 18, the UAE follows suit.

Nov. 17, 2014

Amidst tension of Saudi Arabia, the UAE returns to Doha, and Qatar signs a supplementary agreement.

June 5, 2017

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE and Bahrain cut diplomatic ties with Qatar.

The boycott of Qatar

After Doha refused to abandon support for extremists, its Gulf neighbors cut all ties
The day Saudi women could drive

The lifting of the ban was one of several reforms that improved gender equality.

SUMMARY

On June 24, 2013, Saudi women took their place behind the wheel, driving to the Kingdom’s capital, Riyadh, for the first time. The historic day saw a mix of parade and protest as women drove their cars in defiance of the ban on female drivers. This was part of a series of reforms under King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, including the introduction of female candidates in municipal and regional elections. The lifting of the ban on women driving was a significant step towards gender equality in the Kingdom.

HOW WE WROTE

Saudi women driving about much more than women driving

Of all the places I have visited, none of them had more impact on me than when I was able to drive around Riyadh. The experience was surreal, and I was struck by the sense of freedom it afforded. I found myself in a car, driving on a road that had previously been forbidden to me. The feeling of empowerment was overwhelming.

June 24, 2013

The first day of women driving in Saudi Arabia was a momentous occasion. The lifting of the ban on women driving was a significant step towards gender equality in the Kingdom. The event was covered extensively by the media, and the reaction was mixed. Some welcomed the change, while others were opposed. The event was a reminder of the challenges facing women in the region, and the need for continued advocacy and support.

Jan. 1, 2018

With the lifting of the ban, women in Saudi Arabia have had the opportunity to drive for the first time. This has opened up new possibilities for women, including increased access to education, employment, and social networks. It has also led to increased awareness of gender issues and the need for continued reform.

June 4, 2018

As we look back on the first year of women driving in Saudi Arabia, it is clear that the change has had a significant impact. Women have been able to access new opportunities, and there has been a growing awareness of the need for continued reform in the region. The lifting of the ban on women driving was a momentous occasion, and it is hoped that it will be the beginning of a new era of gender equality in the Kingdom.
The downfall of Saddam's Omar Bashir

APRIL 11, 1999

Summary

On April 11, 1999, Sudanese dictator Omar Al-Bashir was removed from power. The coup was carried out with the assistance of the United States and the United Kingdom. It was a significant event in the history of Sudan, as it marked the end of the Khartoum regime and the beginning of a new era. The coup was carried out by a military council, which declared Omar Al-Bashir's government illegitimate and called for the establishment of a democratic government. The coup was supported by various international organizations, including the United Nations, the African Union, and the European Union. The coup led to the release of political prisoners and the beginning of a process of political change in Sudan. The new government was committed to democracy and the rule of law, and it worked to establish a stable and peaceful society in the country. The coup was a significant step towards the realization of human rights and democracy in Sudan.
**The strike on Soleimani**

For many in the region, the head of Iran's Quds Force was no different from Osama bin Laden.

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Dr. Mahdi Rafeeqzadeh, a US president and former deputy director for strategy at the National Security Council, said in a piece for the Public Interest, a conservative think tank, that Soleimani was a key figure in Iran's foreign policy and military operations.

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**How it happened**

On Jan. 3, 2020, the US military carried out a targeted drone strike in Baghdad, Iraq, killing Qassem Soleimani, the head of Iran's Quds Force, and several other Iranian military leaders.

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**Key Dates**

- **Dec. 27, 2019**: The US announced its intention to attack Soleimani, who was reportedly plotting attacks against US troops in Iraq.

- **Dec. 29, 2019**: The US launched the attack on Soleimani, killing him and several other Iranian military leaders.

- **Jan. 1, 2020**: President Donald Trump authorized the strike, saying Soleimani was planning attacks against US forces.

- **Jan. 2, 2020**: News of the attack was confirmed, leading to widespread reactions around the world.

- **Jan. 3, 2020**: The US government confirmed Soleimani's death and announced the initiation of a new round of sanctions against Iran.

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**Summary**

The strike on Soleimani was a significant event in the Middle East conflict, marking the US military's first direct attack on a high-ranking Iranian official. The attack was justified as a response to Soleimani's alleged plans to attack US forces in the region. The strike was widely condemned by the international community, leading to increased tensions between the US and Iran. The impact of the strike on the broader Middle East landscape remains to be seen.
The COVID-19 pandemic

As the world emerges from lockdown, our series ends with the greatest challenge of modern times

Jonathan Gourall

In his new year’s message on Jan. 3, 2020, the director general of the World Health Organization (WHO) urged the world to "think now about the health of all the brave health workers." Within weeks, the words of Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus would resonate with an unprecedentedly urgent meaning.

It soon became clear that the most basic medical countermeasures could be emblazoned right into the language of public discourse. A visitor from another world had arrived, unseen since the pandemic of 1918.

It also swiftly became apparent that for all the advance in medicine and technology of the recent past, we remain at the mercy of wavelike pandemics, unable to match the velocity of world governance to an era much more defined by science.

On Jan. 30, two weeks after the initial call by WHO to declare an emergency, China announced a second "unprecedented" emergency. It afterwards published the name of the virus that had left the world in awe and now feared.

Although there is no one simple solution to the virus, there is not much that can truly be duplicated. The_opportunity to act in the first few months is now more or less over. The tools that have taken shape are largely common sense. Yet at just this month, outside the Chinese city of Wuhan, a police operation led to the arrest of more than 40 people suspected of breaking lockdown rules.

In any case, these rules were broken by authorities and ordinary citizens alike.

Wuhan ranked as one of the most polluted places on earth when compared to the rest of the country. The city is now known as a global center for the manufacturing of medical equipment.

The city has been the epicenter of the virus, with more than 200,000 cases confirmed and nearly 6,000 deaths.

On March 11, 2020, more than two months after China first declared a "very serious" and deadly new coronavirus, and with the country already recording multiple cases in its own territory, the World Health Organization finally declared the virus to be a "pandemic".

But the newcomer was far more lethal and harder to contain than any of its predecessors. In just five months, more than 1 million people have died, and more than 25 million cases have been confirmed around the world.

For public health practitioners, the virus has breached borders more quickly than any other disease.

Summary

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