A blast from the past
This Saudi National Day, we look back at how we used to be
How the decision to limit the CPVV's powers played a major role in bringing the kingdom back to its moderate self

The culture of Saudi society prior to 1970 was moderately religious and in line with the cultural, social, and political milieu of the time. However, after the Kingdom adopted a new path, the religious police have become a symbol of the conservative and restrictive nature of Saudi society. The Saudi government has been cited as a primary reason for the rise and fall of the religious police. The authorities have been accused of using the police as a tool to control and suppress dissent. The rise and fall of the religious police is a reflection of the changing political landscape in the kingdom.
The ‘awful’ siege that changed everything

In 1979, Juhayman Al-Otaibi and an armed group did the unthinkable: They took Makkah’s Grand Mosque hostage.

For decades, the infamous name Juhayman Al-Otaibi had been buried in the memories of few Sahm.

On this day, April 20, 1979, a well-organized group of ten members, led by Juhayman Al-Otaibi, laid siege to the Grand Mosque in Makkah. They were armed with hundreds of weapons and explosives. They had been preparing for this attack for months. Al-Otaibi was the mastermind behind the terrorist attack.

Fast forward 40 years, and it’s his first American TV interview — and this time, he is in prison.

In a video published on YouTube above the mosque, Al-Otaibi said he was the leader of the group. He claimed to have been in communication with the Islamists for two months before the attack.

Photos taken from the mosque showed more than 500 people marching around the Grand Mosque. Al-Otaibi was seen leading the march.

In a video published by the Al-Baghdadi Foundation for Research and Archives, the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, Al-Otaibi, declared that he had performed the hajj (the pilgrimage to Mecca) and had been in communication with the Israelis for two months before the attack.

The attack was made by a group of Islamic students just as two million had gathered to perform the hajj.

Soon after, the gates were locked shut, and snipers took positions in the high minarets and flat roofs.

Al-Otaibi’s followers, who had taken positions in the minarets, shot at snipers and flat roofs.

The siege lasted for 10 days, with the government sending in its military forces to try to end the siege.

The attack, known as the Al-Otaibi siege, led to the deaths of over 200 people and caused widespread panic.

Al-Otaibi was eventually captured and tried in a special court, where he was sentenced to death.

The attack had far-reaching consequences, with the government counting the cost of the siege as $15 million.

The siege was a turning point in the Islamic struggle for freedom, and it showed the world that the Muslim Brotherhood was a force to be reckoned with.

Since the attack, the Grand Mosque has been reinforced with security measures, and the government has worked hard to prevent such attacks from happening again.

IN NUMBERS

200
About 200 of Al-Otaibi’s followers were killed.

12
Soldiers killed

117
Non-military officers killed

26
Children killed

61
Injured

19
Executed
How an MBC drama shed light on the Makkah attack

Reckoning with a hard-line past, ‘Al-Asfou’ explores the aftermath of one of Saudi Arabia’s most tumultuous events.

As with any Arab drama series, its plot will always be the talk of the town, and social media. For these events, the conversation might take place via Facebook or Instagram, but, nevertheless, it will remain a hot topic.

That was certainly the case with MBC’s ‘Al-Asfou’ (‘Windows of Change’), a historical drama that captured Saudi Arabia’s transition from the 1970s to the 21st century. The series follows the story of Nour Al-Othiri, a woman who has been at the heart of the story for two decades, including some of the most controversial events in Saudi history.

The series has drawn criticism from some extremist groups, as many of its characters have been portrayed as anti-extremist. Yet, Nour Al-Othiri’s character is portrayed as a symbol of the struggle against extremism and terrorism.

Nour Al-Othiri’s character, played by Egyptian actress Mayada El-Enany, is a symbol of the struggle against extremism and terrorism. She is portrayed as a strong and independent woman who stands against the forces of evil.

The series has been praised for its accurate depiction of the period and its portrayal of women’s rights and the role of women in society.

The series has sparked a lot of debate and discussion, with many people expressing support for the show and its message of tolerance and moderation.

The series has also been criticized by some, who see it as an attempt to show Saudi Arabia in a negative light, and to undermine the country’s reputation.

Amidst the controversy, the series has managed to attract a large audience, with many viewers tuning in to watch the next episode.

The series is scheduled to air its final episode on Thursday, completing its journey through the tumultuous events of the past two decades.
**IRAN: REVELATION & AFTERMATH**

July 1979

Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, last shah of Iran, flees to France, founding the Islamic Republic of Iran.

May 1980

Mohammad Khatami, a reformist, wins the presidential election.

August 1981

Ali Khamenei, a hardliner, emerges as the supreme leader.

June 1989

Abdollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, dies.

January 1990

Najibullah, the last communist leader of Afghanistan, is ousted.

February 2000

Khalilzad, Afghanistan's foreign minister, announces a cease-fire.

June 2001

President Ashraf Ghani, a former military general, is elected president.

June 2003

The United States announces the withdrawal of its forces from Iraq.

January 2004

President Karzai, a former warlord, is elected president.

June 2005

President Karzai declares a national holiday in honor of the Afghani people who died in the war.

June 2008

President Karzai declares the end of the war.

**Why Iran’s ‘Awakening’ created a nightmare for the Gulf**

In 2019, Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani announced the country’s withdrawal from the nuclear deal, a move that threatened to escalate tensions in the region. The deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), had been signed by Iran, the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France, Germany, and the EU in 2015.

The withdrawal was a significant setback for the region, as it increased the risk of a military conflict. The move was seen as a challenge to the United States and its allies, who had supported the nuclear deal as a way to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

Iran’s decision to build up its nuclear program again was seen as a direct challenge to the United States, which had imposed sanctions on Iran following the 1979 revolution. The sanctions had been lifted as part of the nuclear deal, but Iran’s new president, Hassan Rouhani, had failed to deliver on his promises of economic reform.

The United States responded with a new round of sanctions, and Iran retaliated by increasing its military capabilities. The region was on the brink of a war, with the United States and Iran both warning each other of the dangers of escalation.

In December 2019, Iran’s Revolutionary Guard shot down a US military drone, further escalating tensions in the region. The drone was said to have been flying over Iranian territory, but Iran’s decision to shoot it down was seen as a direct provocation.

The United States responded by launching a military strike against Iran’s Revolutionary Guard, killing several of its top military commanders. The strike was seen as a direct challenge to Iran, and it was met with a strong response from the Iranian government.

The situation in the region was further complicated by the threat of terrorism, with both Iran and its allies, such as Hezbollah, being accused of supporting terrorist groups in the region.

The United States and its allies were forced to increase their military presence in the region, but they were unable to prevent the crisis from escalating. The region was on the brink of a catastrophic conflict, with the United States and Iran both warning each other of the dangers of escalation.

The situation in the region continues to be volatile, with both sides refusing to back down. The region is a key player in the global economy, and any conflict in the region could have serious implications for the world economy.

The United States and its allies are working to de-escalate the situation, but it is unclear whether their efforts will be successful. The region is a complex and volatile one, with many different interests and agendas at play.

**Dr. Mohammed El-Sirgali**

**Special TFU Perspective**

**International Relations**

**Semiconductor Industry**

**Technology and Security**

**Teheran University**

**Associate Professor of Political Science**

**Teheran University**
Schools, Science, math and moderation

Mary Saudis recall the 1970s as “the good old days,” a time when education for both girls and boys was at its peak.

**Lessons were intended to be a better understanding of our religion. Teachers were never overbearing.**

Still, Modad struggled initially to continue conservative idioms, in society which opposed women’s education.

Jaffa Rohina, a retired school principal, recalls teaching in the 1960s and 1970s, and said that the school curriculum encouraged gentleness and moderation, especially on Islamic topics.

“Some subjects such as math, science and social studies were taught by foreign teachers from Italy, Sweden, and Syria, along with Islamic subjects such as Quran, Hadith, jurisprudence and hadith interpretation (the Prophet’s sayings),” she said.

“They were learnt in the sense that they became interpreted to offer a better understanding of our religion, and for their use in the field of our world. Teachers were never overbearing and didn’t force students to believe what they were being taught,” she said.

“Women’s education did not deviate from its original purpose of making women good wives and mothers, and preparing them for acceptable jobs such as teaching and nursing in the public schools. Meanwhile, teachers began preparing young female students, using the curriculum in terms of the consequences of killing 91 police and military personal members.”

“Girls’ schools were supervised by high ranks in female society. High schools’ college or university was assigned at least two girls, usually in their 30s or 40s, who were responsible for checking the identity of those who entered the school, and generally monitored over the girls’ meals. We didn’t cover our hands with gloves and ears with scarves. When we went out, we would hurry to hide from our peers’ eyes,” she said.

By contrast, in the 1970s, middle private boys’ schools had language classes, physical education, swimming, basketball, tennis, music and art, while girls’ schools also offered physical education, and French and English language classes.

“Children in the 1970s and 1980s understood the importance of education and sent their daughters to school instead of letting them from religious duties,” Modad al-Danaf, a former high school teacher, said.

“The school system was different from one city to another. I experienced first grade in Jaffa, where wearing a white headscarf for all students. I was an idol of the mosque and my father did not take students to leave their home to start to drive their banks or university for fees.”

Al-Mahdi, a retired school principal of a religious school for masculinity and not for women, said:

“Most of the teachers were women, but we also had foreign teachers, mainly from Egypt, Syria and Iraq,” she added.

During the 1970s, there were no women’s universities in Beirut. “Some girls used to go to King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah and stay in the female dorms. The university used to entertain the girls who lived on campus by taking them to the beach with their female friends, professors and supervisors.”

Schools graduated could also enter local universities or apply for government scholarships abroad, mainly to the US, which had more than 2,000 scholarships available at one time.

“Many have joined the Islamic University in Beirut,” she said.

Al-Mahdi added that she had been a victim of that time. “My mother told me to tell Sahab about what happened. When I was 17, we were 12, I was married to a man who was 12 years older than me. In 1969, I was married to a man who was 12 years older than me.”

**Schools today:**

“Schools today have the advantage of technological advancement and communication tools,” she said.
Life has changed so much. We are getting our freedoms back

As the Kingdom’s dark days recede into the past, Saudi women are looking to the future with renewed optimism

Women

Life for many young women in Saudi Arabia in the 1990s was an enjoyable mix of study, watching movies and looking forward to a normal, peaceful future for themselves.

But as the 90s drew to a close, an attempted bromide overtook the air, and the storm clouds that loomed in Jeddah changed the lives of women and Saudi society as a whole.

Monotony, which later became an art and style with a style, had invaded in the early 1990s. The life of women was not the same anymore. We no longer had the fun time we used to have. Life was not the same anymore.

However, the arrival of the Holy Month of August by Sultan bin Abdul Aziz and the subsequent followers in November 1999 sparked a revolution and a change in the Saudi population, and in the aftermath of the splitting people found themselves facing a mix of ultra-conservative restrictions in their daily lives.

“Life in Saudi Arabia is at its best. We lived in civil and safety, and enjoyed our lives without complications. We didn’t even worry about our lives’ issues. We didn’t worry about our lives’ issues.”

Within two years, life was transformed beyond recognition. People started seeing this, it is true, but not everyone did.

The days before the 90s were less stressful. Life was more enjoyable, but today, life is more complicated. People are more stressed and worried about the future.

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In 2003, King Abdullah appointed women to the Senate Council, a groundbreaking move that symbolized the rise of women in high positions.

In 2018, King Abdullah appointed women to the Senate Council, a groundbreaking move that symbolized the rise of women in high positions.

The Senate has been expanded to include women, and Saudi Arabia is considered one of the only countries in the world that have made significant strides in empowering women.

Saudi Arabia has always loved its country, and now its loyalty shines through. It’s our duty to celebrate this day.

“Today, we are living in a world where women have more opportunities. We are no longer limited to the home or the kitchen. We can now pursue our dreams and goals.”

The future looks bright for women in Saudi Arabia, and the nation is moving towards a more inclusive and diverse society.

Young Saudi women plan to study in Saudi Arabia, with some even considering moving abroad for higher education.

The future looks bright for women in Saudi Arabia, and the nation is moving towards a more inclusive and diverse society.

The past is not something to be feared or avoided, but rather embraced and learned from. Looking back at the past, one can understand the struggles and challenges that have shaped the present.

Firms, women, and the kingdom are all moving forward together, and the future looks bright for Saudi Arabia and its people.
When Saudis turned on and tuned in

The advent of TV signalled a new era of freedom that even the fallout from the Grand Mosque siege couldn't destroy.

Renowned Al-Khaliwi author

When television came to Saudi Arabia in 1969, it was rejected by some as the "new dumb handmaiden." But the new medium quickly became a powerful force for cultural change, paving the way for Saudi Arabia's modernization.

**SAUDI 70's TV**

- **American series** "Bonanza" and "Fury" (both Westerns)
- **Japanese series** "Tatsunoko" pro-War
- **Serial comedy series** "Sid Ali & Nanny"
- **Arabic comedy series** "Sid Ali & Nanny"
- **Televising Al-Thani** On the Blue Planet with Sheikh Ali Al-Tanturi
- **Arabic drama series** "Sid Ali & Nanny" with Dr. Mussafah Mahmoud
- **Televising Al-Thani** on "Al-Ahli" series "Sid Ali & Nanny" produced by Tahl Mahmoud
- **Arabic drama series** "Sid Ali & Nanny" produced by Tahl Mahmoud

**Bonanza**

Thuraya Al-Arabi, a retired inspector from the General Administration of Radio and Television, suggested that TV programs in the 1970s were the most innocent and wholesome. They were known for their family-friendly content, with a focus on cultural and educational values.

**SONY**

Moreover, Saudi broadcasting has gone from strength to strength, despite the challenges that followed the events of 9/11, where some shifts were inevitable. However, the community's resilience and adaptability have ensured that the medium continues to thrive.

**BONANZA**

Saudis have embraced the medium, and its influence reaches far beyond entertainment, touching all aspects of life in the kingdom. From educational programs to cultural events, TV has become a vital part of Saudi society.
The golden age of Saudi cinema

The first films were shown on makeshift screens, but a clarion, determined cinema pioneer soon changed that.

More than half a century ago, cinemas were a popular source of entertainment in major cities in the Kingdom.

Westerners working for the California State Oil Company (Aramco) went to local cinemas to watch American and European films. Cinema went underground in the 1960s when the four major Saudi cities—Riyadh, Jeddah, Taif and Medina—were home to more than 100 theatres. It was a golden age for Saudi cinema.

“Cinema was a medium for education and entertainment,” said Dr. Jumah Al-Ashour, a renowned Saudi film director.

Al-Ashour said he started making films in the early 1980s and that the pioneer in Saudi cinema was Jumah Al-Ashour.

Jumah, who is also a famous actor and director, has been involved in the Saudi film industry for more than 30 years. He has directed and acted in several award-winning films, including “The Bride of the King” and “The King’s Daughter.”

His latest film, “The King’s Daughter,” was released in 2019 and was considered a breakthrough for Saudi cinema.

Al-Ashour said that the Saudi film industry has come a long way since the early days.

The Saudi film industry has grown rapidly in recent years, with more filmmakers and actors emerging on the scene.

“Saudi Arabia has a rich cinematic tradition that is slowly being rediscovered,” said Al-Ashour.

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Darkness reigned. But the zealots couldn’t stop the music

Decades after religious hard-liners targeted artistic expression, Saudis are benefitting from a cultural rebirth

By Nada Yihia

A conservative brand of Islam has always reigned in Saudi Arabia, one of the most religiously conservative societies in the world. However, in the wake of the 1979 Grand Mosque siege, this trend of thought was beginning to loosen its grip on the society, opening the door to new cultural and religious freedoms. The Saudi government has lifted bans on foreign media and entertainment, including movies, theater, and television. As a result, Saudi Arabia is now waking up to a new world of cultural and religious expression.

According to a report by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Saudi Arabia has been gradually opening up to the outside world. The country has lifted many of its restrictions on foreign media and entertainment, including movies, theater, and television. As a result, Saudi Arabia is now waking up to a new world of cultural and religious expression.

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Sporting glory: How the Kingdom raised its game

The groundwork for today’s success was laid in the 1970s.

OLYMPICS 1972

The first Saudis to represent the Kingdom at the Olympics were: Fazlunur Farhan Al-Mogdad (Men’s 1,500m) and Abdullah Abdulaziz Al-Omair (Men’s 5,000m).

Sporting development gained momentum with the introduction of the First Development Plan in 1976. A network of sports and athletic facilities was established along with recreational programs and sporting clubs for the Kingdom’s youth. These included facilities for tennis, basketball, football, archery, archery shooting, and archery. The emergence of the Saudi Arabian Olympic Committee was a significant milestone. South Korea’s 1988 Olympic Games, and the emergence of the Kingdom’s national team for the first time at the Olympics in 1976. South Arabia sent its first national team to compete at the 1956 Melbourne Games. The team included Abdul Salam AlShawaf, Ali AlHassan, Fazlunur Farhan Al-Mogdad, and Abdullah Abdulaziz Al-Omair. The team represented Saudi Arabia at the Summer Games in Seoul.

In 1988, the Kingdom announced that domestic sports would begin offering physical education classes as part of Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman’s initiatives.

To strengthen the PAK-Saudi cordial relationship, PEMU-ES shares the pride and joy of Saudi National Day celebrations with the custodians of the two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, the Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

May this land of hope and peace for the entire Muslim Ummah live long and treasure an everlasting prosperity and success.

P.O. Box 6999, Jeddah 21422, Al Relihi District, KSA, Tel. +96612 673 8670 – 8673 8311 674 5164, Fax: +96612 673 5526, www.psiumah.com
Arabian adventure, '70s style through the eyes of ‘Abu Jack’

A US oil engineer’s treasured photographs reveal a love affair with the Kingdom stretching back four decades.

Mark Lowrey (right) took his first aerial flight with the Arabian Airlines in 1977, and has accumulated thousands of photos of Saudi Arabia ever since. The most recent ones were taken this year.

Mark Lowrey, the former Arabian Airlines employee, had always wanted to fly and finally got his chance when he was offered a job in Saudi Arabia in 1977.

Photographing Saudi Arabia was a passion for Lowrey, who took thousands of photos throughout his career. The photos were a way for him to capture the beauty and culture of the country.

The Arabian Airlines was a major part of Lowrey’s life, and he enjoyed taking aerial photographs of the kingdom. The photos show the stunning landscapes and architecture of Saudi Arabia.

In the 1970s, Lowrey was employed by the Arabian Airlines, and he took thousands of photographs of the kingdom. The photos were a way for him to capture the beauty and culture of the country.

Since 1970, the trend has been to use more traditional and conservative dress for women in the Middle East, he said.

"The Arab Spring in 2010 has accelerated the trend toward conservatism. Now we are seeing women wear more progressive Middle-Eastern attire."

Growing up in California during the 1950s, he was easy and there were fewer rules, but in Saudi Arabia, Lowrey knows that these restrictions exist. He was worried that local people might dislike him and question why he was there—but feeling of being a foreigner was familiar to those living in a foreign country.

Lowrey had a friend, Bob Foxworthy, who was also working for an oil company and offered to take Lowrey under his wing when he arrived in Saudi Arabia.
MYSTERY MAN

In 1979, while on a desert safari with his friend Rob Harvey, Mark Lowey encountered this elusive man walking alone near the Purna Oasis of Rajasthan, India. They stopped, exchanged a few words in their limited Arabic, and after he agreed to let Lowey photograph him, they went on separate adventures.

Throughout the years, Lowey wondered about this mysterious man in the nomad's garb, his story and his identity. When he returned to Saudi Arabia decades later, he asked his friend, Omer Al-Bahij, to help him solve the mystery. Al-Bahij was able to track down the man's family, who told his story.

His name was Abraham Mohammed Al-Mard and he was a famous desert navigator responsible for creating more than 50 wells in the Eastern Province and the Middle East. "He would make water wells all around the desert," Lowey explained. "Because the Bedouins had no water, and before Aramco, there was no drilling of wells, they had to dig them by hand."

Sadly, Lowey wasn't able to meet Al-Mard, because he passed away in 2009.

I hardly saw any religious police in the Eastern Province during the 1970s.

"My last project was representing the Projects Department (as O.E. Operations Excellence) representatives and implementing business in 2005. Aramco began using O.E. projects and methods to improve quality and reliability in the company," he said.

During his time in Aramco, there were Bedouin families who lived near his job site. Lowey enjoyed visiting them and was soon en route there. "I never asked or directed them whether they were Bedouin, but somehow I knew. I always left them in peace and respect," he added.

Lowey never thought that one day she might return to Saudi Arabia. But her last project before retirement brought her back to the place where he first started working. In 2011, three decades after leaving the kingdom, Lowey landed in Dhahran.

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A seismic decade for the Kingdom's economy

Surging oil wealth in the 1970s allowed Saudi Arabia to seize its destiny, paving the way for today's prosperity.

The 1970s were a seismic decade for Saudi Arabia. It was the birth of the nation's modern economic structure on a grand scale. The wealth of the oil industry allowed for massive investments in infrastructure and urbanization, and major steps toward the industrialization of the country.

Suddenly, some Saudis were among the richest people on the planet. The outside world came in to Saudi Arabia.

The oil boom transformed the country, but it also posed challenges. The government had to manage the influx of wealth and ensure that it was used wisely. The benefits of the oil industry were not felt evenly across the country.

The 1970s saw significant changes in the kingdom, including the rise of modern education and the expansion of the private sector. The kingdom became a global player, and its influence grew.

As the world looked to the Middle East for stability and growth, Saudi Arabia found itself at the forefront of the region's economic development.

The kingdom's economy continued to grow, and its wealth continued to flow into the country. The benefits of the oil industry were felt throughout the kingdom, and the kingdom's economy became a force to be reckoned with.

The 1970s were a time of transition, a time of opportunity, and a time of challenges. As the kingdom moved forward, it faced new issues and new opportunities.

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Back then, the Kingdom was improving on industries in which it had had a proved record.

In the Middle East through the Struggle of tariff line, it is not uncommon that manufacturers would refuse to join the business because of the high tariff line. The tariff line is mainly used in countries with similar economies and to control the price of goods. However, the Kingdom has been successful in reducing the tariff line, which has helped to attract more investments. The Kingdom has been successful in attracting investments from the Middle East, which has helped to create jobs and increase the GDP. Moreover, the Kingdom has been successful in reducing the tariff line for certain goods, which has helped to make these goods more affordable for the local population. Despite the tariff line, the Kingdom has been successful in attracting investments from the Middle East, which has helped to create jobs and increase the GDP. Moreover, the Kingdom has been successful in reducing the tariff line for certain goods, which has helped to make these goods more affordable for the local population.

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A capital celebrates
Green is the theme color of all the events

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The streets of Riyadh are covered with the green of the Saudi national flag, which lines the capital’s main highways.

Green is the theme color of all the events that have taken place in Riyadh from Sept. 18-23 to celebrate Saudi National Day.

A festival in Riyadh includes folk dances, live music, an air show and fireworks. The Defense Ministry revealed special designs for the aircraft taking part in the air show.

Artwork Renaissance also have the opportunity to donate blood for King Faisal Medical City.

Exhibition There is also an exhibition at Prince Faisal Hall, where 20 archaeological collections from the pre-Islamic history of the Arabian Peninsula are on display. Volunteers are on hand to explain the significance of these pieces.

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