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Bahrain

Bahrain (officially the Kingdom of Bahrain; Mamlakat al-Baḥrayn) is an archipelago in the Persian/Arabian Gulf originally consisting of thirty-three islands. It lies just offshore from eastern Saudi Arabia (to which it is connected by a causeway, completed in 1986) and is close to the Qatar peninsula to the east. Bahrain's capital, Manama (al-Manāma), is located on the main island, also called al-Baḥrayn (classically known as 'Awāl). The island of al-Muḥarraḡ, to the north, is the second most heavily populated island. The Ḥawār Islands also belong to Bahrain, even though they lie just off Qatar's southwest coast. Other islands include the heavily inhabited Sitra Island to the east and Umm al-Na'sān, reserved for the king's palaces, to the west. A number of planned residential cities have been built throughout al-Baḥrayn Island.

Most of Bahrain consists of arid gravel plain, although the coastal regions of the northern part of al-Baḥrayn Island, as well as al-Muḥarraḡ and Sitra Islands, are intensively cultivated, predominantly with palm gardens. Urban water use

and agricultural production have made unsustainable demands on the aquifer, which extends from the Arabian Peninsula mainland. The extreme shallowness of the surrounding Gulf waters has made extensive land reclamation viable and the country's total land mass has increased by about fifteen percent to nearly 800 square kilometres.

Oil was discovered at Jabal al-Dukhān in the centre of the main island in 1932 by the then American-owned Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO), but production, although important in the 1930s and 1940s, gradually dwindled. By 2012, Bahrain's refinery was dependent for nearly all its crude oil on its 150,000 barrels per day share of Saudi Arabia's Abū Sa'fa offshore field. Oil still accounts for more than seventy percent of exports, but other important economic sectors include an aluminum smelter, offshore banking, and tourism.

Expatriates constitute nearly fifty-five percent of the total population of approximately 1,350,000 people (2015). Of this, more than 400,000 reside in Manama, the largest city. The indigenous Bahraini population is almost entirely Muslim,

apart from a small number of Christians and Jews. Estimates of the Shīʿī proportion of the native population are usually given as fifty to seventy percent. The Baḥārīna (sing. Baḥrānī), those thought to be descended from the original Arab inhabitants of the islands, comprise the great majority of the Shīʿa. They are Ithnā ʿAsharī (Twelver), as is the smaller community of Shīʿīs of Iranian origin. The minority Sunnī population is split between tribal elements originally from the Najd of central Arabia—who came in the eighteenth century with the current ruling family and after—and the Ḥawala, Arab families migrating from the Iranian coast of the Gulf over the last few centuries and often claiming origins on the Arab littoral.

The literal translation of al-Baḥrayn is “the two seas.” In pre-Islamic and early Islamic history, the name al-Baḥrayn referred to a much larger area encompassing much of the adjoining Arabian mainland, including the oases of al-Qaṭīf and al-Aḥsāʾ (al-Ḥasā). The other explanation for the name refers to the existence of numerous springs of freshwater located in the seabed just offshore.

The landscape of the northern half of al-Baḥrayn Island is characterised by some 350,000 burial tumuli dating to the third millennium B.C.E. Some of these were left by the Dilmun civilisation (fl. 2500–1800 B.C.E.) and later by the Achaemenid occupation (fifth century B.C.E.). Christian communities existed up and down the Gulf in the pre-Islamic period and a Nestorian bishopric was situated on al-Baḥrayn islands.

In antiquity, al-Baḥrayn was known in Greek and Latin sources by the name of Tylos/Thilouanoi after it was incorporated into the Parthian Empire. In the first half of the third century C.E., the Sāsānian king Ardashīr I took all

the Parthian possessions and, according to the historian al-Ṭabarī (d. 310/923), eliminated the Parthian governor of al-Baḥrayn, Sanatruk, the last “king of the archipelago,” destroying his fortress at Qalʿat al-Baḥrayn.

Sāsānian control lasted until the local Sāsānian governor and the population converted to Islam in 6–7/628. Muslim forces were sent to al-Baḥrayn during the so-called *ridda* wars, after the death of the prophet Muḥammad, in 9/632. Subsequently, the archipelago was subordinate to first the Umayyad (r. 41–132/661–750) and then the ʿAbbāsīd (r. 132–656/750–1258) caliphs.

However, the Khawārij, a militant Muslim group that formed during the caliphate of ʿAlī (r. 35–40/656–61) and led several rebellions throughout the Umayyad period and into the early years of the ʿAbbāsīds, occupied the islands during the first/seventh century. The expansion of the Ismāʿīlī Qarmaṭī movement from Syria and Iraq into eastern Arabia apparently included the occupation of the archipelago in the first half of the fourth/tenth century. The Salghurids (r. 543–681/1148–1282) restored Qalʿat al-Baḥrayn in the seventh/thirteenth century and made it a base for expanding a vigorous maritime trade between the Gulf and South Asia and China.

The following nearly four centuries saw al-Baḥrayn ruled at varying intervals by neighbouring states or regional rulers. This pattern was interrupted by the appearance of the Portuguese in 1521. A second fortress at Qalʿat al-Baḥrayn had been constructed by the kings of Hormuz in the eighth/fourteenth century and connected to the nearby sea by an ancient 1800-metre-long canal that could accommodate ships. After the Ottomans briefly displaced the Portuguese in 1554,

the Portuguese added distinctive towers and a rampart with bastions to protect the fort (and, as a result, it was called the Portuguese Fort until quite recently). The substantial fort at ‘Arād on al-Muḥarraḡ Island was reinforced as well.

Following the Portuguese departure, al-Baḡrayn fell under Ṣafavid control at intervals but at other times was left to itself, as was the case in 1718 when an Omani army briefly invaded the islands. Another Iranian governor was installed in 1753 but Iranian control weakened enough for members of the ‘Utūb tribe, originally from Najd but then based in al-Zubāra, on the west coast of the Qatar Peninsula, to invade the islands in 1783. They managed to retain possession despite subsequent assaults from Iran and three Omani attacks at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Leadership of these tribal elements was vested in the Āl Khalīfa family, who have ruled al-Baḡrayn ever since.

Most of the nineteenth century was characterised by discord within the Āl Khalīfa and defence against threats from the Wahhābīs of Najd, neighbouring Qatar, and Iran. Relations with the British Government of India grew steadily closer until agreements were signed in 1880 and 1892 giving Britain responsibility for al-Baḡrayn’s defence and foreign affairs and making al-Baḡrayn a British protected state.

The country received full independence in 1971 as the State of Bahrain and a National Assembly was formed in 1972 but suspended a few years later. There has been a long history of opposition to the Āl Khalīfa, dating from the early part of the twentieth century, from both Sunnīs and Shī‘īs, but especially the latter because of the sectarian-based discrimination they have experienced. This opposition manifested itself in civil disobedience

from 1994 until 1999, when Ḥamad b. ‘Īsā succeeded his father as *amīr* and reached partial accommodation with the dissidents. Reconciliation ended in 2001 when Ḥamad proclaimed the “Kingdom of Bahrain” with himself as king. The outbreak of the Arab Spring in 2011 reignited agitation against the monarchy and the government responded harshly. As a result, the main Shī‘ī parties and other opposition parties boycotted the reconstituted parliament.

Bahrain was a founding member of the Gulf Cooperation Council in 1971. Ties to Saudi Arabia have been very close, while relations with Qatar were troubled by conflicting claims to the Ḥawār Islands and other islets, as well as by the Āl Khalīfa claim to al-Zubāra, until matters were resolved in 1994–6. The United States navy has maintained a presence in Manama since 1947. Relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, established in 1979 with the overthrow of the Pahlavi monarchy, have been even more fractured than they had been when the shah was in power, and the Bahraini government has repeatedly charged Iran with fomenting unrest in the archipelago.

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J. E. PETERSON

THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF ISLAM

THREE

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A. PERIODICALS

- AI* = *Annales Islamologiques*
AIUON = *Annali dell' Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli*
AKM = *Abhandlungen für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*
AMEL = *Arabic and Middle Eastern Literatures*
AO = *Acta Orientalia*
AO Hung. = *Acta Orientalia (Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae)*
ArO = *Archív Orientální*
AS = *Asiatische Studien*
ASJ = *Arab Studies Journal*
ASP = *Arabic Sciences and Philosophy*
ASQ = *Arab Studies Quarterly*
BASOR = *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*
BEA = *Bulletin des Études Arabes*
BEFEO = *Bulletin de l'Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient*
BEO = *Bulletin d'Études Orientales de l'Institut Français de Damas*
BIE = *Bulletin de l'Institut d'Égypte*
BIFAO = *Bulletin de l'Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale du Caire*
BKI = *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde*
BMGS = *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*
BO = *Bibliotheca Orientalis*
BrisMES = *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*
BSOAS = *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*
BZ = *Byzantinische Zeitschrift*
CAJ = *Central Asiatic Journal*
DOP = *Dumbarton Oaks Papers*
EW = *East and West*
IBLA = *Revue de l'Institut des Belles Lettres Arabes, Tunis*
IC = *Islamic Culture*
IHQ = *Indian Historical Quarterly*
IJAHS = *International Journal of African Historical Studies*
IJMES = *International Journal of Middle East Studies*
ILS = *Islamic Law and Society*
IOS = *Israel Oriental Studies*
IQ = *The Islamic Quarterly*

- J*A = *Journal Asiatique*
*J*AIS = *Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies*
*J*AL = *Journal of Arabic Literature*
*J*AOS = *Journal of the American Oriental Society*
*J*ARCE = *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt*
*J*AS = *Journal of Asian Studies*
*J*ESHO = *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*
*J*IS = *Journal of Islamic Studies*
*J*MBRAS = *Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society*
*J*NES = *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*
*J*OS = *Journal of Ottoman Studies*
*J*QR = *Jewish Quarterly Review*
*J*RAS = *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*
*J*SAI = *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam*
*J*SEAH = *Journal of Southeast Asian History*
*J*SS = *Journal of Semitic Studies*
*ME*A = *Middle Eastern Affairs*
*ME*J = *Middle East Journal*
*M*E*L* = *Middle Eastern Literatures*
*M*E*S* = *Middle East Studies*
*M*F*O*B = *Mélanges de la Faculté Orientale de l'Université St. Joseph de Beyrouth*
*M*I*D*E*O* = *Mélanges de l'Institut Dominicain d'Études Orientales du Caire*
*M*M*E* = *Manuscripts of the Middle East*
*M*M*A* = *Majallat al-Majma' al-'Ilmi al-'Arabi, Damascus*
*M*O = *Le Monde Oriental*
*M*O*G* = *Mitteilungen zur Osmanischen Geschichte*
*M*S*R* = *Mamluk Studies Review*
*M*W = *The Muslim World*
*O*C = *Oriens Christianus*
*O*L*Z* = *Orientalistische Literaturzeitung*
*O*M = *Oriente Moderno*
*Q*S*A* = *Quaderni di Studi Arabi*
*R*E*I* = *Revue des Études Islamiques*
*R*E*J* = *Revue des Études Juives*
*R*E*M*M*M* = *Revue des Mondes Musulmans et de la Méditerranée*
*R*H*R* = *Revue de l'Histoire des Religions*
*R*I*M*A = *Revue de l'Institut des Manuscrits Arabes*
*R*M*M* = *Revue du Monde Musulman*
*R*O = *Rocznik Orientalistyczny*
*R*O*C* = *Revue de l'Orient Chrétien*
*R*S*O* = *Rivista degli Studi Orientali*
*S*I = *Studia Islamica (France)*
*S*I*k* = *Studia Islamika (Indonesia)*
*S*I*r* = *Studia Iranica*
*T*B*G* = *Tijdschrift van het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen*
*V*K*I* = *Verhandelingen van het Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land en Volkenkunde*
*W*I = *Die Welt des Islams*
*W*O = *Welt des Orients*
*W*Z*K*M = *Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes*
*Z*A*L* = *Zeitschrift für Arabische Linguistik*
*Z*D*M*G = *Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft*

ŽGAIW = *Zeitschrift für Geschichte der Arabisch-Islamischen Wissenschaften*

ŽS = *Zeitschrift für Semitistik*

B. OTHER

ANRW = *Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt*

BGA = *Bibliotheca Geographorum Arabicorum*

BNF = Bibliothèque nationale de France

CERMOC = Centre d'Études et de Recherches sur le Moyen-Orient Contemporain

CHAL = *Cambridge History of Arabic Literature*

CHE = *Cambridge History of Egypt*

CHIn = *Cambridge History of India*

CHIr = *Cambridge History of Iran*

Dozy = R. Dozy, *Supplément aux dictionnaires arabes*, Leiden 1881 (repr. Leiden and Paris 1927)

EAL = *Encyclopedia of Arabic Literature*

EI1 = *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 1st ed., Leiden 1913–38

EI2 = *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 2nd ed., Leiden 1954–2004

EI3 = *Encyclopaedia of Islam Three*, Leiden 2007–

EIr = *Encyclopaedia Iranica*

EJ1 = *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, 1st ed., Jerusalem [New York 1971–92]

EQ = *Encyclopaedia of the Qur'ān*

ERE = *Encyclopaedia of Religion and Ethics*

GAL = C. Brockelmann, *Geschichte der Arabischen Litteratur*, 2nd ed., Leiden 1943–49

GALS = C. Brockelmann, *Geschichte der Arabischen Litteratur, Supplementbände I–III*, Leiden 1937–42

GAP = *Grundriss der Arabischen Philologie*, Wiesbaden 1982–

GAS = F. Sezgin, *Geschichte des Arabischen Schrifttums*, Leiden 1967–

GMS = *Gibb Memorial Series*

GOW = F. Babinger, *Die Geschichtsschreiber der Osmanen und ihre Werke*, Leipzig 1927

HO = *Handbuch der Orientalistik*

IA = *İslâm Ansiklopedisi*

IFAO = Institut Français d'Archeologie Orientale

JE = *Jewish Encyclopaedia*

Lane = E. W. Lane, *Arabic-English Lexicon*

RCEA = *Répertoire Chronologique d'Épigraphie Arabe*

TAVO = *Tübinger Atlas des Vorderen Orients*

TDVIA = *Türkiye Diyanet Vakfı İslâm Ansiklopedisi*

UEAI = Union Européenne des Arabisants et Islamisants

van Ess, TG = J. van Ess, *Theologie und Gesellschaft*

WKAS = *Wörterbuch der Klassischen Arabischen Sprache*, Wiesbaden 1957–