



**SAPRAC**  
Saudi American Public Relation Affairs Committee



**An Eighty-Five Year Alliance**

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Relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America first began in 1931, when the United States recognized Saudi Arabia as a country and by 1940 had established full diplomatic relations. Despite cultural differences, they have remained strong allies for more than 8 decades.

Saudi Arabia plays a unique part both in its role in the Arab world and Islamic world. Its strategic location in the Middle East made its friendship important and beneficial to the United States. The two nations shared common concerns on political, economic, regional and global issues.

Saudi Arabia undertook a series of economic ties in the 1930s, as it granted its first Oil concession to Standard Oil of California in May, which in turn lead to oil exports beginning that same year. In 1931, a treaty was signed by both nations in order to further strengthen this alliance. By 1943, Saudi Arabia granted the United States access into the country and the right to build the first U.S. military air base in Dhahran. The United States sent its first military mission by December of 1943, and began a military assistance effort that continues today.





Saudi Arabia has proven to be a great partner in maintaining regional security and combating terrorism. Providing military, diplomatic and financial aid, Saudi Arabia worked closely with U.S law enforcements to safeguard both countries national security. During the 1970s and 1980s, the U.S invested \$100 billion in construction, administration, higher education and defense in Saudi Arabia. The two allies worked closely in World War II through their efforts against communism in Afghanistan.

The United States and Saudi Arabia have enjoyed strong economic relations, both enjoying high levels of trade and investment. Saudi Arabia is also one of the leading sources of imported oil for the United States.

Saudi Arabia and the United States tackled many challenges regarding regional security. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in the Gulf War is one such case. Both countries worked side by side to restore Kuwait and provide aid to the country and its people with support from the international community.

After 911/, the relationship went through one of the most challenging trials, when a number of the hijackers were found to be Saudi nationals. However, the Kingdom tackled extremist beliefs with a counter strategy that became of the most effective strategies studied in the Gulf and around the world. Through sound policies, defense cooperation, the expansion of bilateral trade and investment and also through educational exchange programs, Saudi and the U.S. continue to work in tandem to ensure peace and stability between the regions. The prosperity of both countries lies in the hand of the mutual efforts they both perform in the benefit of both nations.

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