

The Middle East and North Africa

ARAB LEAGUE

GCC

OIC

The Middle East



UN partition plan for Palestine adopted in 1947.
Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

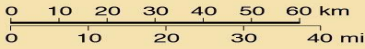


ISRAEL · יִשְׂרָאֵל

-  National capital
-  District (mehoz) centre
-  City, town
-  Airport
-  International boundary
-  Boundary of former Palestine Mandate
-  Armistice Demarcation Line
-  District (mehoz) boundary
-  Main road
-  Secondary road
-  Railroad
-  Oil pipeline



- Districts of Israel**
- 1 Northern District
 - 2 Haifa District
 - 3 Central District
 - 4 Tel Aviv District
 - 5 Jerusalem District
 - 6 Southern District



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Arab-Israeli wars

- series of military conflicts between Israeli and various Arab forces;
 - 1948–49: Israel's War Of Independence And The Palestinian Nakbah
 - 1956: Suez Crisis
 - 1967: [Six-Day War](#)
 - 1973: [Yom Kippur War](#)
 - 1982: Lebanon War
 - 2006: Second Lebanon War
- The Two-States Solution
- Greater Israel and Zionism

THE ARAB LEAGUE

The Arab League-Map

in 1945,
there were
six founding
members.

Today, the
Arab League
has 22
members

Middle East
and Africa



The
Member
States
stretch
geographica
lly from the
far west of
northern
Africa to the
Middle East
and the Gulf
region.

Arab League: Raison d'être

- The Arab League was created to;
 1. Raise joint concerns over postwar colonial divisions of Arab territories
 2. Strong opposition to the emergence of a Jewish state on Palestinian territory
 3. to integrate the member countries in political, economic, military, security, and cultural fields.

- But it has long been criticized for disunity, mutual distrusts, non-cooperation and poor governance.
- Not able to play a role in;
 - fighting terrorism and radicalism in the region
 - to advance in the integration process
 - violation of basic human rights in the Arab world
 - the influx of refugees
 - to stop wars taking place today in the Middle East

Background

- **The Ottoman Empire** called 'the Sick Man of Europe' on its death bed-after WW-I
 - The fall of Ottoman Empire and an end to 'Khilafat'
 - The rise of Arab nationalism to unify the Arab world
- During World War-I, **the Sharif of Mecca**, backed by the British forces, led an Arab revolt.
 - The British government assured Arabs the establishment of an independent state.
 - However, **the Sykes-Picot Agreement** signed in 1916 & **The Balfour Declaration-1917** betrayed this plan
 - They carved up Arab lands into respective spheres of influence for the British and France.
 - Creation of Jewish State
- The devastation of the WW-II and decolonization
 - 1942 – The United Kingdom promotes the idea of the Arab League
 - The USA and Russian involvement since the end of WW-II

the UK's Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour's letter to Lord Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish community .

Foreign Office,

November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Y. in
Arthur Balfour

Genesis

- formation in March 1945 at Cairo under [the Alexandria Protocol](#).
- The [6 founder States](#) are
 - [Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen](#)
- Currently, the League has 22 members, but Syria's participation has been suspended since November 2011
- Six countries are [observer states](#)—a status that entitles them to express their opinion and give advice but denies them voting and decision making rights.
 - Eritrea, Brazil, Venezuela, India, Armenia, Chad

The Charter of Arab League

- The agreement was concluded on March 22nd, 1945
- the Charter;
 - Consists of 20 articles that define the aims that the League should achieve
 - The charter is amendable by a 2/3rd majority
- The Arab League is a regional political organization that aims to secure the interest of Arab countries.
- But, most importantly, we have to see;
 - “What are the interests of Arabs?”

Article 1. Members

- Independent Arab States that have signed this Pact.
 - Founding members
 - Subsequent members

Article 2. The purpose of the League

- To draw close relations between member States
- Co-ordinate political activities to safeguard their independence and sovereignty,
- Protection and promotion of interests of the Arab countries.
- close co-operation in the following areas:
 - Economic and financial matters, including trade, customs, currency, agriculture and industry;
 - Development of Communications infrastructure
 - Matters connected with nationality, passports, visas etc.
 - Social and cultural welfare and health.

Structure

- The Council (Article-3)
 - Composed of the representatives of the member States.
 - Each State shall have one vote
 - Enforce the Charter
 - The function is to realize the purpose of the League
 - Supervise the execution of the agreements concluded between the member States
 - Collaborate with the international organizations
- Permanent Secretariat and Secretary General at Cairo
- Special Committees (Article-4)
 - In certain specialized areas of mutual interest for technical cooperation

Non Use of Force among Members

- **Article 5.** Use of force for the settlement of disputes between two or more member States shall not be allowed.
- Dispute Settlement; the Council shall settle the dispute
 - the decision of the Council shall then be effective and obligatory for the States which accept them..
 - the States among whom the dispute has arisen shall not participate in the deliberations and decisions of the Council.
- Mediation/Arbitration: The Council shall mediate in a dispute which may lead to war
 - between two member States or between a member State and another State
 - The decisions relating to arbitration and mediation shall be taken by a majority vote.

Aggression or Threat of Aggression

- **Article 6.** In case of aggression or threat of aggression
- The Council shall determine the necessary measures to repel this aggression.
 - Its decision shall be taken unanimously.

The Decisions of the League

- **Article 7.** The decisions of the Council taken by a unanimous vote shall be binding on all the member States of the League
- Those decisions that are reached by a majority vote shall bind only those that accept them.
- The Council of the League shall meet in ordinary session twice a year.
- Extraordinary sessions can be held

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Failures

- Some of the failures are related to the decision-making process
 - The charter states that decisions reached by a majority “shall bind only those [states] that accept them,”
 - It limits the league’s ability to take collective action.
- others are just politics resulting from conflicts between its members.
- Despotic regimes working for their vested interests
- Puppets installed by the world powers
- Territorial anomalies and the Proxy wars

The Arab Spring

- The Arab League and the “Arab Spring”
 - Arab League showed an indifference towards the popular rising taking place since 2011
 - Led to the outbreak of internal wars and conflicts in Syria, Yemen, and Libya
 - Unrest in Egypt
 - Destruction of Iraq
 - Rise and fall of ISIL, ISIS, AL Qaida, Ikhwanul Muslemoon and other ‘Islamist’ organizations

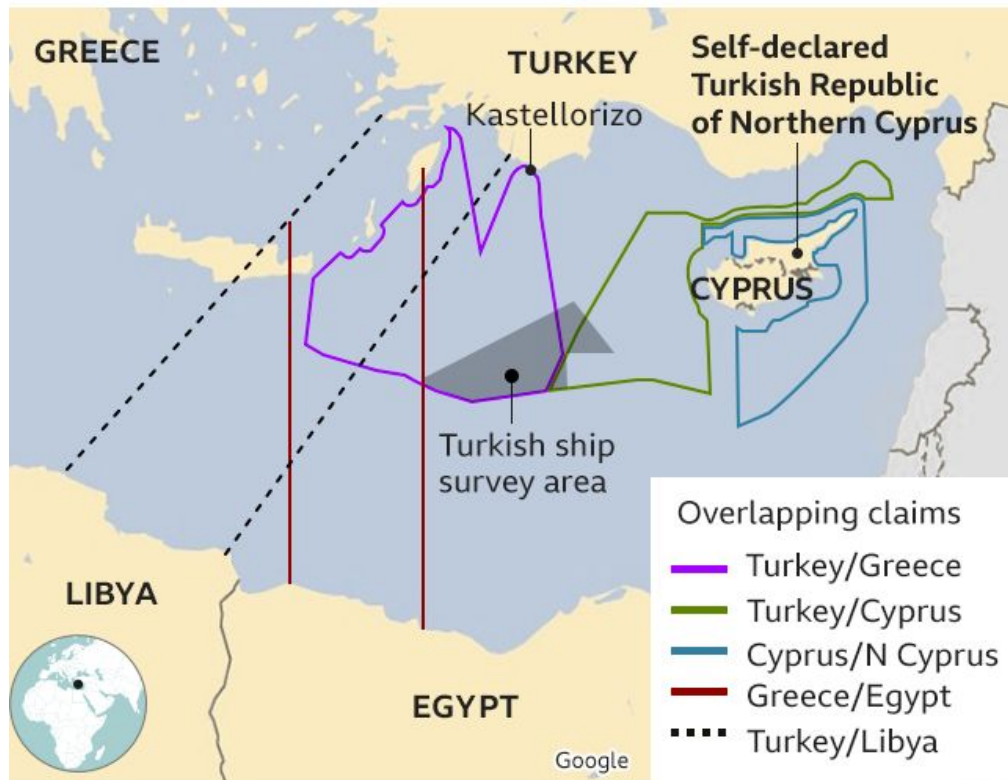
the Middle East Today

- the Transitional National Council (TNC), took power in Libya
- A leadership council for the Syrian opposition formed in Istanbul.
- UAE and Bahrain have accepted Israel
- Mike Pompeo on tour to Middle East for wielding support for Israel's recognition by Arab country
- Pakistan issued statement demanding just and peaceful solution of Palestine issue according to the wishes of the Palestinians

The Rise of 'New Ottomans'

- The 'New Ottomans'-Turkey getting more assertive in Eastern Mediterranean
 - Oil exploration in The Mediterranean
 - The Black Sea
 - Recent row between Turkey and UAE
- Turkey has intervened heavily on the side of the UN-backed Libyan government while the UAE and Egypt back the eastern militias of Gen Khalifa Haftar.
- the Arab population without an influential and active political regional organization to represent and led them to more integration and development.
- The Arab countries are facing both internal and external crises....
- The Arab League is accused of its inaction, disunity, and divided over the very aims it was founded for.

Greece and Turkey have overlapping claims in the Eastern Mediterranean





Organization of Islamic Cooperation

OIC

"the collective voice of the Muslim world"

But it seldom speaks.

None pays heed of if hardly ever do so.

History

- The arson of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem on 21 August 1969
 - Amin al-Husseini, the former Mufti of Jerusalem called for all Muslim heads of states to convene a summit.
 - The Islamic Conference-was established in Rabat, Morocco on 25 September 1969
- A resolution was passed stating that;
 - "Muslim governments would consult with a view to **promoting** among themselves **close cooperation** and **mutual assistance** in the economic, scientific, cultural and spiritual fields, inspired by the teachings of Islam."

- 1970 the first meeting of Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) held in Jeddah
 - to establish a permanent secretariat in Jeddah
- In Feb.1972, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (now the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) was founded during the 3rd ICFM Session
 - **The first OIC Charter** was adopted
 - It laid down the objectives, principles and structure, functions of the organization



- the second largest inter-governmental political organization
- 57 member states, across four continents, with 1.9 billion people (2019).
- To safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world
- To Promote international peace and harmony
 - The OIC has permanent delegations to the UN and the EU.
- The official languages are- Arabic, English, and French.

The OIC Charter

- The **present revised Charter** of the OIC was adopted by the Eleventh Islamic Summit held in Dakar on 13-14 March 2008
- It has 18 Chapters and 39 Articles
- The revised charter **promotes**
 - Human rights
 - Fundamental freedoms, and
 - Good governance in all member states.
 - Democracy
- On 28 June 2011 during the 38th Council of Foreign Ministers meeting (ICFM) in Astana, Kazakhstan
 - the organization changed its name to **Organization of Islamic Cooperation**

OIC: Objectives

- Promotion of Islamic Solidarity
- Enhance cooperation among Muslim countries in economic, social, cultural and scientific fields
- To coordinate among members for protection of Holy places
- To promote unity and the image of Ummah through strengthening ties with other regional and international organizations

Articles-I & II: Objectives & Principles

- According to its Charter (Article –I), the OIC aims to;
 - Promote Islamic social and economic values;
 - promote solidarity among member states;
 - increase cooperation in social, economic, cultural, scientific, and political areas;
 - To strengthen intra-Islamic economic and trade cooperation to establish an Islamic Common Market
 - uphold international peace and security; and

Objectives & Principles

- Respect independence, territorial integrity, equality and sovereignty of member states
- To protect and defend
 - the true image of Islam,
 - combat defamation of Islam and
 - encourage dialogue among civilizations and religions
- To promote and to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms including the rights of women and minorities.
- combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations
- To support and empower the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self determination and establish their sovereign State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital
- settle disputes through peaceful means and refrain from use of force

Article-III: Membership

- Any State, member of the United Nations, **having Muslim majority** and abiding by the Charter, may join the Organisation **if approved by consensus** by the Council of Foreign Ministers

Organization Structure

Islamic Summit

- The Apex body
- the heads of states and governments of the member states
- convenes every two years

Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers

- Meets once a year
- Monitor and review progress of Summit's decisions and programs

Permanent Secretariat & the Secretary General

- Elected by the Council of Foreign Ministers for five years, renewable once.
- Administrative functions
- the administrative organ of the Organization
- entrusted with the implementation of the decisions of the two preceding bodies

Organization Structure

Subsidiary Organizations

- IIUs, IU of Technology
- The Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade
- The Statistical, Economic and Social Research Centre

Specialized Institutions

- The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- Islamic Development Bank
- the Al-Quds Committee

Affiliated Institutions

- Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- World Islamic Economic Forum
- International Association of Islamic Banks

Islamic Summits

Number	Date	Country	Place
1st	22–25 September 1969	 Morocco	Rabat
2nd ^[86]	22–24 February 1974	 Pakistan	Lahore
3rd ^[87]	25–29 January 1981	 Saudi Arabia	Mecca & Ta'if
4th	16–19 January 1984	 Morocco	Casablanca
5th ^[88]	26–29 January 1987	 Kuwait	Kuwait City
6th ^[89]	9–11 December 1991	 Senegal	Dakar
7th	13–15 December 1994	 Morocco	Casablanca
1st Extraordinary	23–24 March 1997	 Pakistan	Islamabad
8th	9–11 December 1997	 Iran	Tehran
9th	12–13 November 2000	 Qatar	Doha
2nd Extraordinary ^[90]	4–5 March 2003	 Qatar	Doha
10th	16–17 October 2003	 Malaysia	Putrajaya
3rd Extraordinary	7–8 December 2005	 Saudi Arabia	Mecca

11th ^[91]	13–14 March 2008	 Senegal	Dakar
4th Extraordinary ^[92]	14–15 August 2012	 Saudi Arabia	Mecca
12th ^[93]	6–7 February 2013	 Egypt	Cairo
5th Extraordinary ^[94]	6–7 March 2016	 Indonesia	Jakarta
13th ^[95]	14–15 April 2016	 Turkey	Istanbul
6th Extraordinary	13 December 2017	 Turkey	Istanbul
7th Extraordinary	18 May 2018	 Turkey	Istanbul
14th ^[96]	31 May 2019	 Saudi Arabia	Mecca

OIC- Issues and Challenges

- The Member States of the OIC face many challenges in the 21st century

- the OIC has taken steps to remove misperceptions and has strongly advocated elimination of discrimination against Muslims in all forms and manifestations.

OIC- Issues and Challenges

- **Leadership Crisis**
- **The Middle-East Conundrum**
 - The Yemen Crisis
 - The Syrian Civil War and the OIC
- **Israeli–Palestinian Conflict**
- **Shia-Sunni Divide in the Muslim world**
- **Islamophobia and the Role of OIC**
- **Combating three menaces**-Terrorism, extremism and Radicalism
- **Democracy & Human Rights**
- **Overcoming poverty and underdevelopment**
- **Relationship with India**
 - India's entry into the OIC
 - Kashmir Issue
- **Relationship with China-BRI's success depends on peace and stability in the Muslim world**

OIC- Issues and Challenges

- OIC and **Muslim Renaissance**- a remote possibility or a reality in near future?
- **Pan-Islamism** and the Unity of 'Ummah'- a gigantic challenge
- Revival of the institution of 'Khilafat'!!!!
 - Political landscape of OIC members
 - Cultural diversities
 - Sectarianism
 - terrorism
- Establishing a single economic and political entity as of EU???----seems impossible

Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition

- For military intervention against ISIL, Yemen and for other counter-terrorist activities
 - Original 34 members.
 - countries joined and the number reached to 41
- Most of its participants are members of the OIC
- Coalition having majority Sunni Muslim populations
 - it has been called "a sectarian coalition" by Hakeem Azameli, a member of the Security and Defense Commission in the Iraqi parliament
 - Iran has expressed strong reservations
 - Turkey is apprehensive

Pakistan and the OIC

- **Pakistan** continues to enjoy a privileged status in the **OIC**
- Pakistan is one of the most powerful members of OIC.
 - population.
 - nuclear weapons
 - seventh-largest standing military force
 - research, education and economy
 - large labor force working in various Muslim countries
 - Counter-terrorism achievements
- the 2nd summit of OIC held in Lahore between 22–24 February 1974

Pakistan and OIC

- Support for Palestine and Middle East issues
- Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition
- Pakistan's Relations with Iran and Saudi Arabia- how to strike a balance???
- Saudi Arab and Gulf States' tilt towards India and the India's increasing role in the Middle East
- Pakistan-OIC, SCO, ECO, and the SAARC
- OIC Contact Group on Kashmir
- On 18 April 2020, the OIC had issued a statement, urging Narendra Modi's government to take urgent steps to "stop the growing tide of Islamophobia" as Hindu nationalists target Indian Muslims, accusing them of spreading the coronavirus disease 2019
- China's representation in OIC through Pakistan



OIC invite India in Muslim world

It is the first time by OIC to invite India in five decades.

Sushma as the “Guest of Honour”

at the 46th meeting of OIC Foreign Ministers (1-2 Mar 2019).



Pakistan did not attend the OIC’s FM’s meeting



MAKING OIC EFFECTIVE

1. Peace and Security: OIC Need to work for both internal as well as world peace and security.
2. Cultural Revolution: Political and Social Reforms
3. Economic Reforms in the Muslim World

The Future: OIC- Vision 2025

focuses on following priority areas

- Peace and Security,
- Palestine and Al-Quds
- Counter-terrorism
- Joint Islamic Humanitarian Action,

- Moderation
- Culture and Interfaith Harmony
- Empowerment of Women
- Human Rights and Good Governance

- Investment and Finance,
- Poverty Alleviation,
- Food Security
- Climate Change and Sustainability
- Science & Technology



Gulf Cooperation Council

GCC

Historical Background

Heads of States of the Gulf region met in Abu Dhabi on 25 May 1981

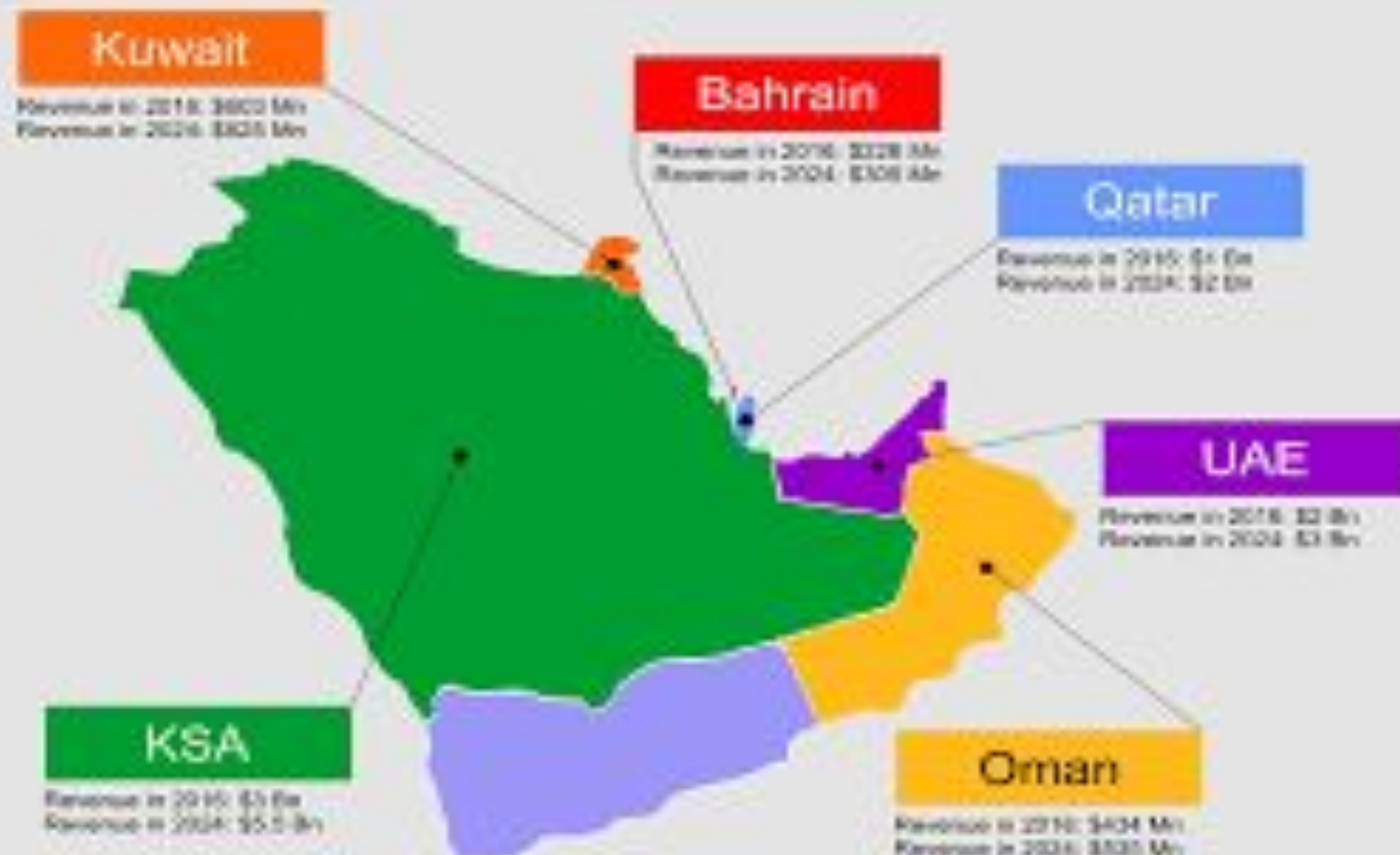


- Agreement of the Gulf Cooperation Council was signed on 11 November 1981 in Abu Dhabi.

Persian Gulf



GCC Facades Market Analysis and Segment Forecasts to 2024





Kuwait

Bahrain

Qatar

**Saudi
Arabia**

UAE

Oman

The **Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf**

- Known as the **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**
 - A regional intergovernmental political and economic union
 - consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf except Iraq
 - Its member states are
 - Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE
- The Charter of the Gulf Cooperation Council was signed on 25 May 1981
- Its headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Introduction

- All current member states are monarchies
- This area has some of the fastest-growing economies in the world
- There have been discussions regarding the future membership of Jordan, Morocco, and Yemen

The objectives of the GCC (Article-IV)

- Regional integration and inter-connection between Member States
- To strengthen cooperation among them in various fields.
- To formulate regulations in various fields including the following:
 - Economic and financial affairs
 - Commerce, customs and communications , and
 - Education and culture
- To stimulate scientific and technological progress
- To establish joint ventures and encourage cooperation by the private sector

Structure

- **1. Supreme Council (SC)**

- The heads of states
- Highest decision making body
- Sets objectives and programs
- Decisions on substantial issues unanimously
- Procedural matters require a majority
- Each member state has one vote

- **2. Ministerial Council (MC)**

- Composed of the Foreign Ministers
- Meets every three months
- Formulates policies and promote cooperation
- Implement projects
- It's decisions are subject to approval by the SC

- **3. The Secretariat and secretary General**

- The administrative arm of the GCC
- Implements decisions approved by the Supreme or Ministerial Council
- Compiles studies

- **5. Monetary Council(MC)**

- To introduce a single currency
- Establishing a central bank
- Choosing a currency regime

- **6. Patent Office**

- Established in 1992

- Applications are filed and prosecuted for patent rights

- **7. Peninsula Shield Force**

- Military arm of the GCC
- Joint Response against military aggression
- Any intervention by the force must include all member states

Steps towards a Monetary Union

- In 2001, the GCC Supreme Council set the following goals:
 - A common Customs Union until January 2003
 - Common market be established by 2007
 - Common currency be introduced by 2010
- The name 'Khaleeji' has been proposed for this currency.
- If realized, the GCC monetary union would be the second-largest supranational monetary union in the world with respect to market capitalization.

GCC-CRITICAL ANALYSIS

GEO-ECONOMICS & GEO-POLITICS

Monetary Council: Bottlenecks

- On 15 December 2009, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia announced the creation of a Monetary Council
 - To introduce a single currency for the union.
 - Establishing a central bank, and
 - Choosing a currency regime
- The Council met for the first time on 30 March 2010.
- Kuwait said that a single currency may take up to ten years to establish.

GCC's Internal Dynamics

- Oman announced that it would not be able to meet the target date for a common currency.
- the UAE announced withdrawal from the monetary union scheme
 - It wanted GCC Central Bank in UAE not KSA
- Saudi Arabia and Kuwait: disputes over shared oilfields

The Row with Qatar

- Saudi Arabia, Bahran and UAE pressuring Qatar-serious row among the three
- Qatar's support to the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, and Islamists in Libya
- Qatar's exit from OPEC after 57 years to focus on natural gas market.
- In June 2017, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain put a ban on Qataris and their businesses.

GCC and Regional Dynamics

- The GCC — set up in 1980 as a fortification against Iran and Iraq
- Iraq is the only Arab country bordering the Persian Gulf that is not a member of the GCC.
- In 2012, Iraq stated that it wanted to join the GCC
- The lack of membership of Iraq is widely believed to be due to
 - Low-income economy
 - Its substantial Shia population
 - Its political system, and
 - Its invasion of member state Kuwait during the gulf war
 - Iraq under turmoil since the fall of Saddam Hussain
- Yemen was also negotiating for membership
 - Yemen War and Humanitarian Crisis

The Oil Politics is on the Decline

- In order to reduce their future dependence on oil, the GCC states are pursuing wider economic structural reforms
- Oil politics in the region on the decline
- In 2011, Saudi Arabia proposed to transform the GCC into a "Gulf Union"
 - With greater economic, political and military coordination
 - To counterbalance the Iranian influence in the region

Pakistan and GCC

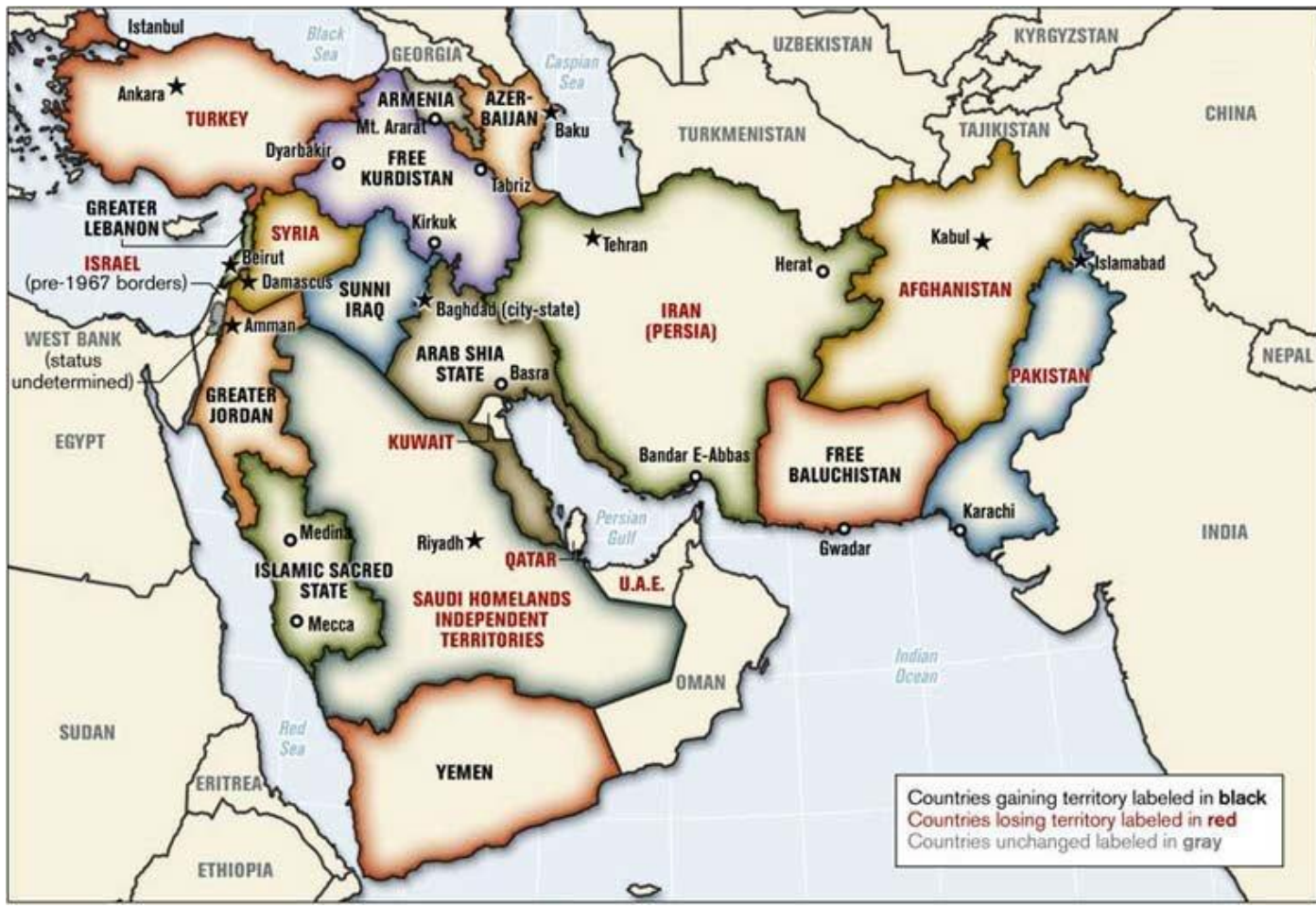
- Pakistan-GCC Free Trade Agreement negotiations since March 2017
- Joint ventures and business opportunities- a source of FDI for Pakistan
- Pakistan's manpower in Gulf countries
 - It is on the decline
- Rising Indian influence in Gulf region and Middle East-a challenge for Pakistan
- Pakistan trying to strike a balance for its relations with
 - Saudi Arabia and Qatar
 - Saudi Arabia & Iran
- Pakistan holds key role in ECO, SAARC, SCO and OIC
- Islamic Force and Pakistan's role
 - Pros and Cons for Pakistan

Iran Vs Saudi Arabia and GCC



Conclusion

- Economic union and monetary union seem remote possibilities
- Peninsula Shield Force has been eclipsed by the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition Force
- US involvement in the region and rising pressure on Saudi Arabia
 - Saudi Arabia has always looked to the United States for protection against **Iran**
 - US-Iran rivalry
- Iran's involvement in the ME and Gulf would remain a serious concern for the GCC
- Future expansion or disintegration of GCC??



SOURCE: CHRIS BROZ, AJ

SOURCE: RALPH PETERS

