

The Trucial States
Council, 1952

TRUCIAL



MUNUC 35

Model United Nations of the University of Chicago

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CHAIR LETTER

Hey delegates!

Welcome to the Trucial States Council, 1952! My name is Vikrant Magadi, and I'll be serving as your Chair.

A little bit about myself: I'm a fourth year at UChicago studying Molecular Engineering, although I've yet to discover how exactly to engineer molecules. Outside of MUNUC, I'm the President of our traveling Model UN team and the Crisis Director of the Ad Hoc for ChoMUN, our college conference. In the rare moments that I'm not LARPing or supervising other people LARPing, you can find me singing with UChicago's South Asian acapella group, shamelessly riding the Ferrari F1 bandwagon, or attempting to convince my friends I'm not a tech bro.

I'm thrilled to be running this committee for my final MUNUC. As delegates on the Trucial States Council, you'll get to rewrite the history of a fascinating nation while learning about geopolitical issues that still shape the Middle East today. I'm excited to watch all of you debate these issues and work together to come up with unique solutions in frontroom. Whether this is your first MUN conference, or if like me, you've lost count, I want this to be a fun and rewarding experience for everyone involved. Even if you're unsure about what exactly to say in a speech or write in a clause, just go for it - I promise you'll look back on the weekend and be glad you did.

As with every committee, please be respectful of your fellow delegates. MUN can get intense and competitive, but that's not a reason to ignore basic courtesy and kindness. We also ask that you be respectful of the content of this committee. Please avoid any speeches or written content relating to gender or ethnic-based violence or cultural stereotypes. I'll be keeping an eye out for inappropriate content or behavior throughout committee, but please come to me with any concerns you may have.

All that said, Miller and I are really looking forward to running this committee. Feel free to reach out with any questions in the meantime. See you in February!

Best,

Vikrant Magadi

vikrantmagadi@uchicago.edu

CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTER

Dear Delegates,

I'd like to officially welcome you to the Trucial States Council, 1952. My name is Miller Dunbar, and I will be your crisis director for this year's conference.

A little bit about me: I am a third year at UChicago majoring in Economics and Spanish and I'm from Boulder, Colorado. Aside from MUNUC, I have been a crisis director for our college conference, ChoMUN, and compete on our competitive MUN team. Outside of MUN, I am a tour guide, I am in our Spanish club, I do research at the Harris School of Public Policy, I eat ice cream, and I love to roller skate.

In terms of the committee, there are some important things to keep in mind. This committee came into existence to promote mutual prosperity across the Sheikhdoms. There are so many layers to the domestic and international politics at play here, and I hope we all do our best not to oversimplify history in committee. Please be mindful of delicate subject matter, do your research, avoid harmful stereotypes, and treat the constituents of the Trucial States' governments, past and present, with the respect they deserve.

Each one of you (in pairs) represent a different role of government in one of the sheikhdoms in the mid-20th century. You've been brought together to guide the region through political and economic challenges and build a better future. In the backroom, you will have portfolio powers that come naturally with your role's position and sheikhdом's history. That being said, think big! You are at the precipice of great historical change in the region, and we expect you all to take advantage of this! Combine your portfolio powers, a strong ideology, and a compelling story, and we will be eager to see where you want to take committee.

Please feel free to reach out to Vikrant or me with any questions regarding research, committee specifics, or any other concerns you may have. We are looking forward to a weekend of wonderful debate that may help pave the way for a better future for the Trucial States, and maybe even create a new political entity in the process.

Best of luck,

Miller Dunbar

millerdunbar@uchicago.edu

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND MECHANICS

The Trucial States Council will be a double-delegation, hybrid committee with traditional and crisis mechanics. First, we'll expand upon the reasons for a double-delegation system and what that will look like in committee. We want to give you an introduction into the world of crisis-style Model UN without a continuous crisis committee, and double-delegations will help that be a stress-free experience. During our crisis sessions, one delegate can be writing crisis notes while the other is responsible for giving speeches and writing directives. This prevents you from having to do everything at once, which hopefully makes crisis easier for everyone! Then, during our GA-style sessions later in conference, double-delegations will allow for more collaboration and thorough work on working papers and draft resolutions. Because we are using double-delegations, roles will be more general, i.e. "Minister of Infrastructure from Dubai," as opposed to individuals from history. This will be reflected in the bios section of the background guide.

The first three of our five substantive committee sessions will be crisis-style MUN with traditional crisis elements. This will include a crisis frontroom and full backroom. In the frontroom, delegates will receive crisis updates from the backroom staff. These will be little skits and announcements that communicate what is going on in the world of committee. Later on in our crisis sessions, these crisis breaks may incorporate what delegates are doing in their backroom arcs, as well. After receiving crisis breaks, delegates will write directives. Directives are short documents that decide which actions the committee should take in response to each crisis. They are usually formatted with numbered action items (e.g. 1. Hold a parade in each Sheikhdom) and have details provided in lettered sub-points (e.g. a. Bring zoo animals to put on the parade floats). MUNUC has learning resources for more details on directive writing, and we will briefly go over this at the beginning of committee, as well. The goal of the three crisis sessions will be to work on solutions to domestic issues together as delegations from the Trucial States and build into the GA summit in which longer-term resolutions (such as political or economic unification) will be reached.

Crisis backroom will consist of a two-notepad backroom note system. Each delegation will have a backroom arc on their two notepads, so both people are able to write notes and contribute to the

arc. Note runs will be timed at 30-40 minutes initially, and the crisis director will check in with committee to see if timing is working well or needs to be changed. At any given time, the backroom will have one notepad and be responding to the most recent note, and delegates will have the other notepad and be able to write a new note on that pad. As mentioned before, the double-delegation system should make note writing more easily doable, and the crisis director will be accessible for help regarding crisis style MUN in general. We will also briefly go over note expectations at the beginning of committee and provide backroom feedback between sessions. This goes without saying, but backroom will not tolerate backroom arcs that play into harmful stereotypes, oversimplify history, or disrespect any group of people, past or present.

After our three crisis sessions, the committee will move into general assembly (GA) style MUN. It is important to clarify that we will not be accepting notes during the GA portion of committee. All delegates should expect to complete their arcs before the crisis portion ends! One of the unique aspects of this committee is that the GA section will depend largely on the results of the crisis session. Based on the state of individual crisis arcs and the overall arc of committee, you all will vote on what the topic and goals of the GA session will be. For example, if the crisis section focuses heavily on economic and trade issues, committee may decide to set the GA topic to economic cooperation, where the goal is to write a regional trade agreement between the Emirates.

Alternatively, if committee decides to follow history and unify the Emirates into one country, the GA section would be focused on writing the constitution of the new state. We will have a few moderated caucuses after the crisis section wraps up for committee to decide what GA topic it wants to focus on. To reiterate, this is *your choice*; your execs will not have any input on the topic other than to ensure that it's appropriate by MUNUC policies. Therefore, during the crisis portion, think about what issues interest you the most, or what topics could use further debate and more detailed solutions. Regardless of the exact topic of the GA section, a few elements will remain constant. Committee will split up into blocs to write draft resolutions – whether they are constitutions, trade agreements, or something else, we will use the GA term “draft resolutions” to avoid confusion. We will announce the number of draft resolutions we'll accept (and therefore the number of blocs that will form) at the beginning of the GA session. We'll begin the GA session with a few moderated caucuses to allow for initial debate on the topic. After this, we'll enter an unmoderated caucus for

you to form your initial blocs and start talking about the content of draft resolutions. In subsequent moderated caucuses, we'll allow one partner from each delegation to be outside the room working on the draft resolution. We don't have a preference for which partner stays in room or how much time each partner spends in the room, so do whatever works best for your delegation. Once the draft resolutions are finished, you will submit them to the dais, at which point we will introduce each draft resolution with a presentation and Q&A. After these introductions (and maybe a little bit more debate in moderated caucuses), we'll vote on each draft resolution, and that's the end of committee!

TOPIC: THE TRUCIAL STATES COUNCIL, 1952

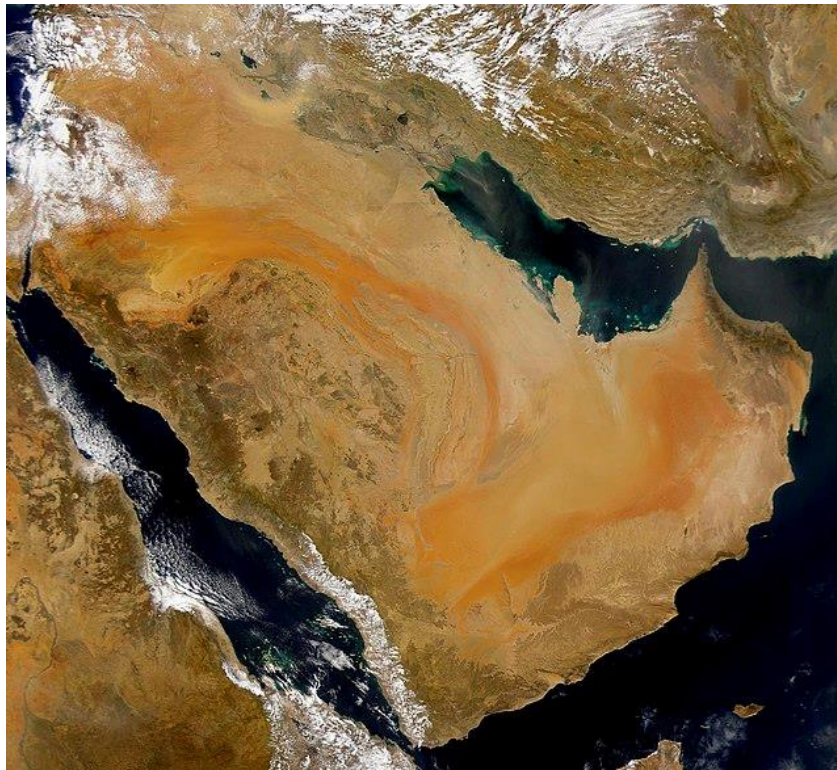
History of the Problem

Early History

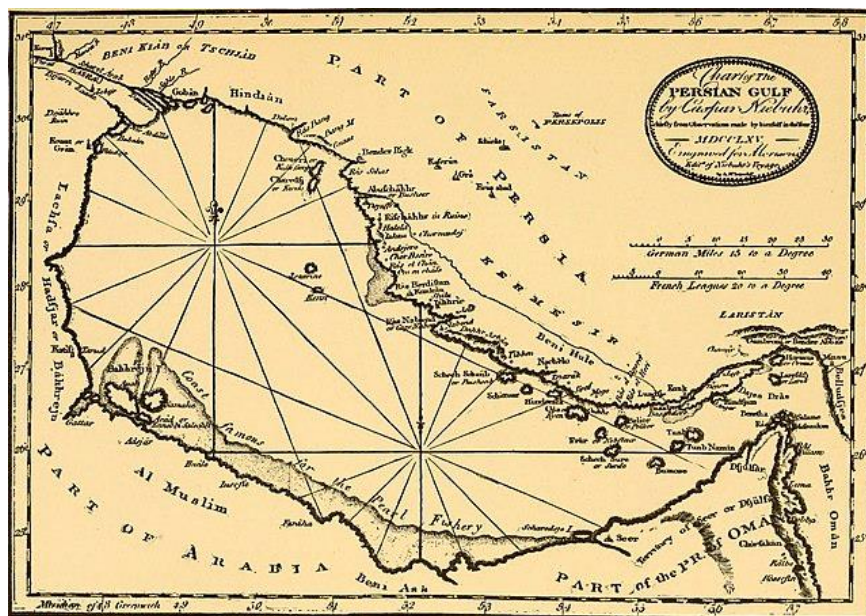
The early history of the United Arab Emirates, previously the Trucial States or the Trucial Sheikdoms, dates back to 6000 B.C.E. Before there was a political organization or a federation, the region was referred to as the Arabian Peninsula. Archaeological excavations have revealed that the peninsula was home to many ancient civilizations, from the Neolithic or Paleolithic Ages (6000 B.C.E. - 3500 B.C.E.) to the end of the Iron Age (1300 B.C.E. - 300 B.C.E.).¹ The first 3,000 years consisted of Bedouin communities that lived off of hunting and fishing in the Arabian Peninsula. This era saw the introduction of pottery to the region. After 3000 B.C.E., society in the Arabian Peninsula became more established through the formation of small cities. Communities built great tombs and monuments for their leaders as their technology advanced. Finally, in the Iron Age (1300 B.C.E. - 300 B.C.E.), there was an agricultural revolution due to the falaj irrigation system.² These allowed for groundwater to be extracted so cultivation could continue year-round, even in the very dry climate. Civilization progressed in the Arabian Peninsula during these 6,000 years toward more organized cities and societal structures.

¹ J.E. Peterson and Jill Ann Crystal, "The History of the United Arab Emirates."

² Ibid.



Aerial view of the Arabian Peninsula³



A map of the Arabian Gulf dating back to the early 1900s⁴

³ Sea-viewing Wide Field-of-view Sensor (SeaWiFS) from NASA

⁴ Images, Internet Archive Book. *English*: 1900.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/internetarchivebookimages/14764348212/> . Source book page:

<https://archive.org/stream/arabiacradleofisoozwem/arabiacradleofisoozwem#page/n142/mode/1up>.

Arrival of Islam

Islam arrived in what is now the United Arab Emirates after the opening of Mecca.⁵ In 630 C.E., envoys from the prophet Mohammed entered the region and began spreading the Islamic faith. Amr bin al'As traveled to the kings of Oman to introduce Islam, and the Gulf region accepted this personal invitation into the new religion. Following the death of Mohammed in 632 C.E., there was a cultural war between new believers and 'apostates', or people who renounce religious belief. In the end, however, the Islamic troops won in Dibba in 633 C.E..⁶ This military and cultural victory for Islam was the success of a series of four caliphs (Arabic: khalifa, "successor"), known as the Rightly Guided.⁷ On the campaign, the Arabian forces took Syria, Palestine, and Egypt from the Byzantine empire, and Iraq and Iran from the Sasanian empire.

'Ali ibn Abi Talib was the prophet Mohammed's son-in-law, cousin, and the last of the Rightly Guided caliphs. In 661 C.E. he was assassinated, and the former governor of Syria, Mu'awiya, seized power in order to establish the Umayyad Caliphate (661 C.E.–750 C.E.). This was the first Islamic dynasty.

'Ali's assassination did spark religious factionalism, however, and led to the creation of Shi'a, a sect of Islam that recognizes the 'Alid line of Mohammad as the rightful caliphs.⁸ Over the coming centuries, religious sites were revered, and Mecca and Medina were supported and embellished for their significance in the Islamic faith. Following the Umayyad Caliphate was the Abbasid Caliphate, which ruled between 750 and 1258 C.E. During these years, cities further developed and sea trade flourished in the Gulf region. Economic development continued through ship craftsmanship and trade relationships with areas in Africa and Asia.

Europe and other Western powers did not address Islamic power in the Arab region until after the fall of Al-Andalus, which was the Islamic rule in the south of the Iberian Peninsula, in 1492. After that,

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arabia-_the_cradle_of_Islam_-_studies_in_the_geography,_people_and_politics_of_the_peninsula,_with_an_account_of_Islam_and_mission_work_\(1900\)_-\(14764348212\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Arabia-_the_cradle_of_Islam_-_studies_in_the_geography,_people_and_politics_of_the_peninsula,_with_an_account_of_Islam_and_mission_work_(1900)_-(14764348212).jpg).

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ The Metropolitan Museum of Art, "Arabian Peninsula, 500–1000 A.D."

⁸ Ibid.

European traders became much more interested in trade routes around southeast Asia.⁹ The introduction of Islam to the Arabian Peninsula sparked cultural and political change, and shaped the rest of history in the region.



A call to prayer from the minaret of a Mosque¹⁰

Portuguese Trade and Conflict

From the arrival and rise of Islam until the 1500s, Muslim traders dominated both land and maritime trade in the East.¹¹ There was extensive trade surrounding the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, much of which was controlled by merchants from Venice and Genoa. As Genoa declined around the year 1380, their share of the trade dwindled, but Venice maintained its position of great power in the trade of the Mediterranean. This changed in 1498 when the Portuguese arrived in the Indian Ocean.

⁹ The United Arab Emirates, "History of the UAE."

¹⁰ Dcubillas, English.

¹¹ National Archives of the United Arab Emirates, "The Portuguese Era."

Their new trade siphoned off much of what was previously under Venetian control, and led to serious economic trouble for Venice, as well as Egypt and Turkey.¹²

The Lusitanian Crown of Portugal was on a path of ambitious expansion at the end of the 15th century. The motivation behind this action was two-fold; their military and mercantile activities allowed for much easier colonization later down the line, but the crown also had its eyes set on exclusive control over the highly lucrative spice trade in the Indian Ocean. Controlling this trade would require taking it from Muslim merchants in the area who had controlled it for centuries. When Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama sailed around the Cape of Good Hope and opened the sea trade route from Europe to India, the Arab merchants no longer held exclusive power of the trade of the region.

The Portuguese campaign for trade dominance began with military efforts to seize key ports in the East, including many in the Gulf and in modern-day Emirates. Towns that complied with the Portuguese were simply seized, while those that resisted were often burned, razed, and had their residents killed or taken hostage.¹³ Portuguese military involvement was a turning point in the Arabian Gulf because it fundamentally changed the direction and nature of trade from India. Previously flourishing mercantile cities were left without income and declined in the coming years. Furthermore, ongoing indigenous resistance to Portuguese occupation also diminished economic output. In the early 17th century, the Ya'arabi succeeded in liberating Oman from Portuguese control.¹⁴ By the late 17th century, the Portuguese faced opposition not only from Arab cities, but also from the British and Dutch trading powers.¹⁵ Their exclusive control ended in the 1650s, but the Portuguese crown had a century and a half of mercantile control over the Arabian Gulf that stagnated economic growth and prosperity in the region for generations.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ de Cardi, "THE PORTUGUESE OCCUPATION OF THE TRUCIAL STATES (SUMMARY)."

¹⁵ National Archives of the United Arab Emirates, "The Portuguese Era."

Bani Yas and Al Qawasim Tribes

Most people native to what is today the United Arab Emirates, and what in 1952 was the region of the Trucial States, are descendants of the Qawasim and the Bani Yas tribal groupings.¹⁶ These two groups emerged as the leading regional powers in the late 18th century. The Qawasim were predominantly land and sea traders, and they had majority influence over what are today the emirates of Ras al Khaymah and Sharjah. The Bani Yas was a tribal group that consisted of agricultural and pastoral peoples, most of whom lived in what are today the emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Because of their involvement in sea trade, the Qasimi had several confrontations with the British government and the British East India Company. Both of these entities were making efforts to solidify trade to India, and made trade treaties with other sheikhs in the late 18th century. The al-Qawasim dynasty opposed such agreements, however, and the British viewed them as an obstacle in their goals. The British accused Qasimi sailors of piracy and launched a series of campaigns that subdued their coastal power in the early 19th century.¹⁷ The Bani Yas tribe were located more inland, and were therefore more protected from the British and their aspirations for unencumbered trade. They maintained influence in their region in the following years, and eventually the principal sheikhs along the coast signed a series of agreements during the 19th century. There was a general peace treaty signed in 1820, the perpetual maritime truce in 1853, and exclusive agreements in 1892 that restricted all foreign relations to British discretion.¹⁸ The maritime truce gave the Trucial Coast its name, and when exclusive agreements were signed in 1892, the sheikhdoms became known as the Trucial States.

1820 Peace Treaty and British Involvement

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, trade interests in the Persian Gulf escalated into recurring conflicts between the British and regional Arab powers. Beginning in 1797, the British, through the East India Company, sought to expand their trade control over the Gulf, as it was a vital channel for

¹⁶ J.E. Peterson and Jill Ann Crystal, "The History of the United Arab Emirates."

¹⁷ Adam Zeidan and The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Qasimi Dynasty."

¹⁸ Ibid.

goods headed to India. Among regional powers, the al-Qawasim, the Bani Yas federations, and the Al Bu Said dynasty in Oman all struggled for control of the Gulf. The presence of these powers, along with regular piracy on trade vessels and French presence, threatened the British.¹⁹ The British, mistakenly believing that the al-Qawasim were primarily responsible for maritime piracy, attempted to protect their interests by entering into a Qulnamah (peace agreement) with the al-Qawasim. As piracy continued, however, the British escalated the issue into a series of naval campaigns against the al-Qawasim. This culminated in an 1819 attack on the Qasimi capital of Ras Al Khaimah which razed the city.

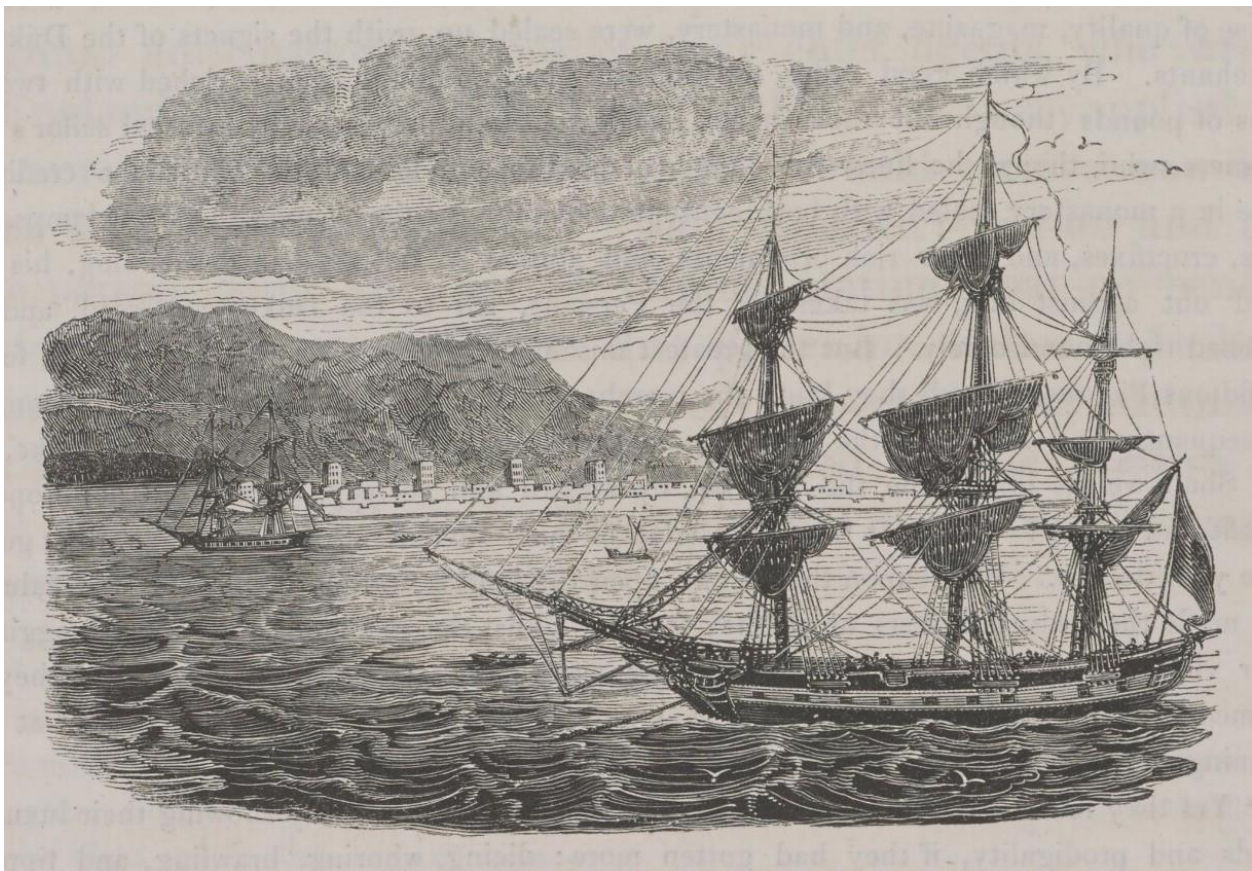


Illustration of a pirate ship near the port of Ras Al Khaimah²⁰

¹⁹ James Onley, "Britain and the Gulf Shaikhdoms, 1820 - 1971" (Center for International and Regional Studies, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, n.d.), <https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/110431/CIRSOccasionalPaper4JamesOnley2009.pdf>, 11.

²⁰ Silk, English.

Following this large-scale attack, the British imposed the General Treaty of 1820 on the al-Qawasim, the other Arab sheikhs, and the Ruler of Bahrain. In the General Treaty, the Arab sheikhs agreed to cease maritime conflict in the Gulf, the building of large ships, and the erecting of fortifications along the coast. The British gained the right to police the waters of the lower Gulf, establishing their headquarters on Qishm Island to oversee their newly claimed territory and enforce the General Treaty. This treaty marked the beginning of formal British control over the Gulf States, a relationship which would be solidified in multiple future agreements. This relationship was characterized by the British as “steady control combined with friendly intercourse.”²¹ The General Treaty partially succeeded in preventing maritime conflict in the Gulf; attacks on British ships mostly disappeared and the pearling industry grew as a result of the safer waters. However, the Arab States still engaged in naval warfare with each other, threatening local trade and the nascent pearling industry. This continued conflict led to another British-mediated treaty: the Maritime Truce of 1835.

The Maritime Truce of 1835 curtailed maritime hostilities between the Gulf sheikhdoms. Under the terms of the Truce, the sheikhdoms were forbidden from attacking any neighboring state’s trade vessels. If one of the states violated this agreement, the truce also forbade the injured party from retaliating; instead, they were obligated to report the infraction to the British-appointed Resident in the Persian Gulf, who would then enforce penalties. Establishing the British as an arbiter of justice in the region was the most lasting impact of the 1835 Truce, which only lasted six months. Over the next few decades, the British capitalized on the sheikhdoms’ infighting to enact a series of renewed truces, giving the Gulf sheikhdoms the collective name of the Trucial States.

²¹ “British Era.” National Archives UAE, n.d. <https://www.na.ae/en/archives/historicalperiods/britishprince.aspx>.

Statement of the Problem

Buraimi Dispute

The Buraimi Oasis is a small collection of villages in the southeastern part of the Arabian Peninsula. While it was a thriving agricultural community, Buraimi had little global relevance prior to the 1950s. However, this small oasis stoked a multinational conflict that defined much of the late colonial era in the Persian Gulf, and proved to be one of the Trucial States Council's biggest tests. The dispute originated out of Buraimi's strategic location at the crossroads of routes to Muscat and Oman and rumors of extensive oil deposits under its land. Ironically, there later proved to be no oil reserves of any kind underneath Buraimi.

Recognizing Buraimi's importance, King Ibn Saud sent troops to occupy the territory in August 1952, despite it already being under the joint jurisdiction of the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi and the Sultan of Muscat and Oman.²² The Sultan of Muscat and Oman rushed to assemble an opposing force, but was talked out of it by the British Government in favor of a diplomatic solution. Britain and Saudi Arabia reached a "Standstill Agreement" in October of the same year, but blatant infractions by Saudi Arabia soon led to the nullification of this agreement. Finally, in 1954, the massing forces agreed to dispel and resolve the conflict through an international tribunal.²³

²²J.B. Kelly. "The Buraimi Oasis Dispute - JSTOR," n.d. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/2608110.pdf>.

²³Petersen, Tore Tingvold. "Anglo-American Rivalry in the Middle East: The Struggle for the Buraimi Oasis, 1952-1957." *The International History Review* 14, no. 1 (1992): 71-91. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40106535>.



Saudi troops in Buraimi, 1952²⁴

The international tribunal was assembled to render an impartial and binding verdict on the Buraimi Dispute. This, however, proved impossible, as the tribunal quickly fell apart after accusations of bribery and corruption by the Saudi government.²⁵ Following the failure of the tribunal, the British decided to abandon the diplomatic approach and took the oasis via overwhelming force. After ousting the small Saudi force that remained in the area, the British split the territory once again between Oman and Abu Dhabi.

A deeper layer to the Buraimi Dispute was the involvement of the Americans, whose oil ties to ARAMCO made them reluctant to oppose Saudi Arabia, even at the expense of the British, their longtime ally.²⁶ Keep in mind that as of this committee's start date in 1952, this dispute is still in its

²⁴ Al Jazeera, English.

²⁵ Petersen, "Anglo-American Rivalry in the Middle East: The Struggle for the Buraimi Oasis, 1952-1957"

²⁶ Kelly, "The Buraimi Oasis Dispute - JSTOR"

early stages. However, as the Trucial States Council goes about building the future of the Gulf, it must understand the far-reaching implications that even small conflicts can have. Resolving any issues will also be complex as the Americans, the British, and the Saudis all have vested interests in the region, and won't hesitate to use force to protect them.

British Rule

The history of British involvement in the Trucial States has been extensively discussed in this background guide, but this section aims to give an overview of the current state of affairs of British administration and resources in the Trucial States in 1952. As previously mentioned, the primary British authority in the region was the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, known as the Resident. The Resident originally reported to the British India Office, but after Indian independence in 1947, the Resident reported directly to the British Foreign Office. The Resident had extensive power in the Trucial States, serving as an appellate judiciary authority and frequently meddling in local rulers' decisions.²⁷ Despite being the ultimate voice of British authority in the Trucial States, the Resident was not physically present on the Trucial Coast; the Resident's office was across the Persian Gulf in the Busehr province of Iran. The primary British officials in the Trucial States were known as the Political Agents, with one stationed in Bahrain and another in Sharjah. The Political Agents reported to the Resident and were responsible for carrying out the administrative functions necessary to enforce the Resident's decisions, such as liaising with local rulers, serving as judges on local courts, and handling domestic disputes that didn't need to be raised to the Resident.²⁸

The British maintained a significant military presence in the region and gave the Resident almost unchecked power to wield its might. The Royal Navy Gulf Squadron was a fleet responsible for patrolling the Gulf to guard against pirates and other foreign aggressors. On land, the Resident commanded the Trucial Oman Scouts, an infantry force of about 1,000 men. This force could be deployed at the Resident's discretion but was generally used for resolving regional disputes such as

²⁷ Barnwell, Kristi Nichole. "From Trucial States to Nation State : Decolonization and the Formation of the United Arab Emirates, 1952-1971." TexasScholarWorks, August 1, 2011. <https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/handle/2152/ETD-UT-2011-o8-3717?show=full>.

²⁸ Barnwell, "From Trucial States to Nation State : Decolonization and the Formation of the United Arab Emirates, 1952-1971."

the Buraimi Dispute. Given the Trucial States' strategic location in the Gulf, they were also prime spots for constructing airfields and military bases. The Sheikhs of Dubai, Sharjah, and Ras al-Khaimah also signed concessions with the British to allow for the construction of airports on their territory.²⁹ While British military presence has been valuable in protecting the Trucial Coast from piracy, it also poses an ever present threat. Any sheikhs who anger the British risk facing the Resident's wrath, and with it the full might of the British military. Therefore, committee must discuss how to handle the British military going forward, and whether the Trucial States want to take a more cooperative or more assertive approach with the Resident.

Trade and Economy

The economy of the Trucial States in 1952 was a far cry from the opulent wealth of the modern-day UAE. Almost the entirety of the present-day UAE's economy is built on petroleum exports; however, as previously discussed, viable oil reserves were not discovered in the Trucial States until 1958. Prior to that, economic and infrastructure development in the Trucial States lagged far behind other areas of the Gulf, which had already discovered and begun to profit from oil reserves. Roads were inconsistently paved throughout the area, making land transportation of trade goods extremely difficult.³⁰ Most Emirates also lacked the resources to build proper wells, instead relying on temporary shallow wells that soon dried up. The only hospital in all of the Trucial States was in Dubai, making official medical care inaccessible for almost all residents of the sheikhdoms.

There were two major reasons for the economic destitution of the Trucial States: the lack of native industries and the lack of British investment.³¹ With the pearling industry effectively dead after the 1930s and early oil surveys turning up nothing, the main remaining industry was agriculture. However, with the arid climate of the Trucial States, agriculture didn't yield enough for more than subsistence. As of 1952, there were very few avenues for economic growth, an issue that this committee must resolve as part of any nation-building plans. The problem was exacerbated by Britain's unwillingness to invest in the economic development of the Trucial States before the

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ BRADSHAW, TANCRED. "The Dead Hand of the Treasury: The Economic and Social Development of the Trucial States, 1948–60." *Middle Eastern Studies* 50, no. 2 (2014): 325–42. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24585846>.

³¹ Bradshaw, "The Dead Hand of the Treasury: The Economic and Social Development of the Trucial States, 1948–60."

discovery of oil. The Trucial States were mostly valuable to the British for their location, so the quality of life of ordinary people was of little concern. In the 1892 Exclusive Agreement, Britain had pledged to keep the Trucial States secure from foreign threats, which they had mostly upheld. However, at no point had they committed to any significant economic partnership, instead expecting the Trucial States to be financially self-sufficient. Beginning in the early 1950s, this policy had begun to reverse slightly, and the British funded small projects such as the hospital in Dubai and a few geological surveys of water sources.³² Committee may be able to cooperate with the British to expand this investment but would need to be able to offer something concrete in return.

Relationships between Emirates

Relationships among Emirates were important for the leaders of the Trucial States, but ultimately the relationship that impacted each state the most was the relationship with the British government due to the protection it guaranteed.³³ Protectorate status had diplomatic, naval, and military implications, including British responsibility for negotiating and maintaining peace between the various sheikhs in the region and defending each sheikhdom by land and sea.

Between Emirates, the concept of *khuwa*, a special kind of tax, was very important. *Khuwa* was commonly paid by weaker states to stronger states as a tribute or in exchange for protection. Sometimes, Emirates would aggress against others in order to collect a *khuwa*, not to actually engage in war.³⁴ *Khuwa* was viewed as personal, and there was a degree of pride and honor that factored into the commercial and diplomatic policies in the Trucial States in the 1950s. Early British accounts state that the relationships between the leaders of the Emirates were strained, and that scarce resources led to tension and competition between states.³⁵ However, it later became apparent that there had been a code of conduct between rulers, centered around *khuwa*, that provided a degree of stability and predictability to regional relations. Nevertheless, the British wanted to be the arbiters of this code of conduct. In order to maintain protectorate status, it was

³² Ibid.

³³ James Onley, "Britain and the Gulf Shaikhdoms, 1820–1971: The Politics of Protection."

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

important that states maintained the favor of the British representative that oversaw the Emirates. Remaining in good graces with the British was one reason for conflict.

Beyond the British protectorate status and *khuwas* among Emirates, there were resource disputes and other purely inter-Emirate conflicts. The Emirate of Fujairah was newly recognized as a separate sheikhdom in 1952, which openly stoked anger in other rulers, especially those from Sharjah and Ras Al Khaimah.³⁶ Trade and port volume was also an ongoing issue between Emirates, as everyone wanted to maximize the amount of commerce flowing through their state. In the early 1950s, the Buraimi Dispute was a pertinent territorial conflict involving the Trucial States (especially Abu Dhabi), Saudi Arabia, and Oman. The Trucial States had to sway tribes residing in disputed territory to affiliate themselves with one of the rulers. Finally, foreign oil companies were constantly vying for rights to explore for and extract oil to be sold on the global market. In fact, Fujairah gained sheikhdom status in 1952 primarily due to influence from Petroleum Concessions Limited, a private company.³⁷ Overall, the major sources of conflict between Emirates were the British protectorate, oil disputes between Emirates and/or with private companies, territorial disagreements with neighboring nations, and Trucial State Council membership.



The Dhayah Fort of Ras Al Khaimah³⁸

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ MoominHussain, English.

Rising Nationalism

The Trucial States Council, which met for the first time in 1952, was a purely suggestive body. Rulers from all seven sheikhdoms met biannually and participated in meetings, but the council had no funding and its only initial power was to consult British choices regarding domestic issues. In response to the lack of Emirate agency in rule, Arab nationalism began to rise in the Trucial States. In the 1950s, the sheik of Abu Dhabi was removed from power because of a British concern for nationalist sentiments.³⁹ This move only angered civilians who saw the British government as overbearing, and nationalism continued to rise year by year. Hand-in-hand with Arab nationalism was anti-imperialism. Rulers who were viewed as too lenient on anti-imperialist critiques were clearly opposed by the British, and often removed for these sentiments.⁴⁰ Furthermore, the Trucial States saw rapid urbanization and commercialization following the discovery of oil in the region. Many people yearned for more “traditional” aspects of Arab society, hallmarks of the pre-oil Trucial States era.⁴¹ The combination of nostalgia for the Arab Peninsula before neo-imperialism and growing contempt for British rule led to strong and growing Arab nationalist, anti-imperialist sentiments across the Trucial States. This was a great source of fear for Britain, but also rulers who benefited from protectorate status in certain economic and militaristic aspects. The committee will have to navigate nationalistic sentiment in the country as well as rising tensions in their relations with the British.



Stamps the British government commissioned for use in the Trucial States⁴²

³⁹ Barnwell, “OVERTHROWING THE SHAYKHS: THE TRUCIAL STATES AT THE INTERSECTION OF ANTI-IMPERIALISM, ARAB NATIONALISM, AND POLITICS, 1952-1966.”

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Dubai, English.

Character Biographies and Roster

1. Minister of Defense from Dubai

1952 was a pivotal time for the ministers of defense across the Trucial States. Given their status as British Protectorates, the sheikhdoms do not have the responsibility of building up strong armed forces to protect their land and people. That being said, there are already political rumblings of discontent surrounding the protectorate status. Some nationalists would prefer to be self-sustained and break off the connection to the British Empire. Other citizens believe that the protectorate status is advantageous for the sheikhdoms and should be supported by politicians from Dubai. Regardless of the source of protection, the Ministry of Defense is kept busy with the consistent threat of piracy in the Gulf. Maritime peace is important to not only the sheikhdoms, but all foreign countries involved in the region. The Minister of Defense from Dubai will be responsible for weighing the pros and cons of protectorate status, contemplating possible alternatives, and generally representing the people of Dubai in the Trucial States Council, 1952.

2. Minister of Education from Abu Dhabi

As the sheikhdoms continue to develop identities and play an important role in global trade and politics, education lies at the heart of a country's mission. Having a strong foundation for public education is vital for a government that stays strong for generations. This is important not only to educate future leaders, but also to educate constituents so as to create the best possible harmony in the Trucial States. Abu Dhabi is a growing commercial center that is viewed as a leader among the sheikhdoms, and so its Ministry of Education influences the others around it. The Minister of Education will need to push committee to keep the issue of education in mind, along with the numerous implications of education on society at large. They will also be one of the only representatives for Abu Dhabi in the room, which makes speaking up for its citizens of utmost importance.

3. Minister of Development from Ajman

Although Ajman is a smaller sheikhdom, it is full of cultural attractions and has a growing capital city. The area of urban development is becoming more and more important for all of the sheikhdoms that make up the Trucial States; the Arabian peninsula is a very arid climate that necessitates that much of a state's commerce is concentrated into urban centers on the coast of the Gulf. The Minister of Development will have to leverage their expertise on the new wave of urbanization, all while ensuring that Ajman doesn't get lost in the shuffle among larger cities like Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Similarly, the ministry will need to advocate for the general needs of Ajman. The responsibility of joining the Trucial States Council includes serving as an ambassador for all of the people in the sheikhdom in their general needs.

4. Minister of Foreign Trade from Ras al-Khaimah

Maintaining connections with the British Empire is certainly not without implications for international trade. The Minister of Trade from Ras-al-Khaimah comes from a sheikhdom placed at the edge of the Gulf, with robust connections to the spice trade and routes to South Asia. The Minister of Foreign Trade will have to make decisions regarding the political and financial unification of sheikhdoms, a new solution to the protectorate status if sheikhdoms are no longer happy, and the provision of economic prosperity for Ras al-Khaimah. This minister should serve as an expert and advisor to other sheikhdoms when foreign trade is being discussed, and should serve as the voice for economic priorities when discussing the future of the Trucial States.

5. Minister of State for International Cooperation from Sharjah

In 1952, the Trucial States' primary international partnership was its protectorate status in relation to Great Britain. This status was politically contentious at the time. Some constituents believed protectorate status was advantageous as it allowed the Trucial States to focus on their financial interests without building a large navy. Others felt that protectorate status was demeaning and building a better future required breaking ties with Britain. Protectorate status did mean that Britain often spoke for the Trucial States, which made establishing independent connections with other nations more difficult. The Trucial States Council is a crossroads where the sheikhdoms will discuss

the future, and international cooperation must be a component of the solution. This minister will need to advocate for their home sheikhdom of Sharjah, but also serve as a voice for the role the Trucial States will play on the international stage.

6. Minister of Justice from Fujairah

As one of just two representatives from the sheikhdom of Fujairah, the Minister of Justice will need to help guide the conversation surrounding principles and building blocks of the future Trucial States. Part of the reason for convening in the Trucial States Council is deciding a path forward for the seven sheikhdoms, and communicating the priorities of justice is very important for these political discussions. There will be discussion of civil rights, which, of course, fall under the responsibility of each individual sheikhdom. That being said, the representative from Fujairah will be the only minister of justice present at the meeting. This makes it even more important that they be a voice for freedoms and values they believe in. Finally, as a representative of Fujairah, it is also important that this delegation prioritizes the individual needs of that sheikhdom in all talks.

7. Minister of Infrastructure from Umm al-Quwain

Umm al-Quwain may be a small sheikhdom, but it also speaks for development along the coast of the Gulf. Building the foundation for urban centers will be vital for the future of the Trucial States' economies, respectively. The minister of infrastructure should approach committee prioritizing the development of the cities of the Trucial States. Simultaneously, this minister should cooperate with ministers advocating for those people who live rural lifestyles in the Arab Peninsula and will also need infrastructure to live in the harsher climates not on the coastline. This minister has a special duty to the people of the Trucial States because they need to build what the people need. Like all other representatives, the minister will also serve the purpose of advocating for their home sheikhdom and its specific needs.

8. Minister of Finance from Abu Dhabi

As mentioned in the overview of individual sheikhdoms, Abu Dhabi is a rapidly developing urban center with the potential to be a leader in the Trucial States Council. Economic growth is difficult

with direct oversight from the British government, but also because of the resource constraints in the Arab Peninsula. It is very important to note that oil for commercial drilling had not been discovered in the Trucial States in 1952, so Abu Dhabi had an economy based on smaller industry and even fewer natural resources. That being said, foreign investment could be an avenue for significant economic growth in the region if it were open. The minister of finance will need to assess the economic climate and help the council devise a plan to move forward for the sheikhdoms. The minister will also ally with other representatives from Abu Dhabi in order to best defend the priorities of their citizens.

9. Minister of the Interior from Ajman

As Ajman is geographically the smallest Emirate, the Minister of the Interior doesn't have a lot of interior to minister. The vast majority of the Emirate's population resides in the city of Ajman, which is one of the largest cities on the Trucial Coast. Since Ajman is only about 100 square miles in area, it has very close ties to its neighboring Emirate, Sharjah. The Minister of the Interior is responsible for managing the internal affairs of the Emirate, including city planning, policing and the local judicial system. It's important to note, however, that this judicial system is still superseded by the authority of the British Resident. One of the Minister of the Interior's main concerns is keeping the population happy with the ruler of Ajman, Sheikh Rashid bin Humaid al Ruaimi III. This includes protecting merchants from British meddling, starting social programs, and protecting the Sheikh from threats. The Minister of the Interior will have to decide how any potential cooperation with other Emirates will affect the Sheikh's standing and the security of Ajman as a whole.

10. Minister of State from Ras al-Khaimah

Located in one of the few agriculturally fertile areas of the Trucial Coast, Ras al-Khaimah is also one of the only Emirates that is economically stable, if not prosperous. However, throughout its history, Ras al-Khaimah has also been especially vulnerable to raids by pirates, so protecting the Emirate's resources is a tall order. The Minister of State is entrusted with Ras al-Khaimah's external affairs, both with the other Emirates and with foreign nations. The Minister of State's main priorities are to

protect Ras al-Khaimah's trade from outside threats and to prevent too much British encroachment on their resources.

11. Minister of Health from Dubai

The Dubai Minister of Health has the dubious honor of running the only hospital in all of the Trucial States. As of now, the Trucial States' health system is all but nonexistent, so making healthcare accessible to more people in the Emirates will be a key priority. The British funded the construction of Dubai's one hospital, so they may be amenable to more investment. Additionally, the other states are actively looking to develop their healthcare systems, so Dubai may serve as a model if it is able to build its own.

12. Minister of Energy from Sharjah

Like the rest of the Trucial States, Sharjah has yet to discover any oil within its territory. However, the Emirate has had an oil concession agreement signed with the British since 1937, which promises to split the profits of any oil drilling in exchange for British infrastructural support. In the meantime, the Minister of Energy partners with Petroleum Development (Trucial Coast), or PDTC, to conduct oil surveys. The Trucial States are all eager to join in on the immense profits from oil drilling that other Gulf states have seen. Therefore, the Council will rely on the Minister of Energy's expertise in geology and energy infrastructure to accelerate the search for "black gold."

13. Minister of Finance from Fujairah

Fujairah is a port city located on the Gulf of Oman, making it the only port with access to the Indian Ocean. However, Fujairah is one of the poorer Emirates, with less lucrative fishing and agriculture industries than the other Trucial States. The Minister of Finance is responsible for collecting taxes for the Emirate, accounting, and leading new economic development projects. Diversifying the economy of Fujairah is a key priority for the Minister, a priority shared by all of the other Emirates.

14. Minister of Defense from Umm al-Quwain

Ruled by Sheikh Ahmad bin Rashid al Mualla, Umm al-Quwain is a small and sparsely populated Emirate on the northern part of the Trucial Coast. The Minister of Defense commands the Emirate's small military force, which mostly maintains order in the city of Umm al-Quwain and protects the Sheikh. However, the Minister's main job is to liaise with British forces on the Trucial Coast to conduct military exercises, patrol for pirate raids, and respond to any foreign aggression. The Trucial States' native military is still fairly underdeveloped, as the Emirates mostly rely on British naval power for protection. However, being able to protect themselves may be a goal to move toward in the future.

15. Minister of Community Development and Youth Programs from Abu Dhabi

As one of the largest Emirates, Abu Dhabi also serves as one of the cultural hubs of the Trucial Coast. Youth groups frequently gather in the city to discuss, and occasionally protest, the Trucial government and British rule. The Minister of Community Development and Youth Programs promotes housing and jobs programs within the city with the goal of improving the general population's view of the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi. Ostensibly, the Minister also promotes community support for the British, but given the rising tide of Arab nationalism within the Emirates, this support is rapidly waning.

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