

A Research Review of Contemporary Effects on the Economy of Saudi Arabia in the light of the Hadiths of the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

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Abstract

This article examines Saudi Arabia's (KSA) current economic situation as well as the effects of politics, religion, culture, and agriculture. It also investigates if the nation's commercial practices are consistent with Islamic teachings, including the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) hadiths. Understanding the economic effects and the function of Islamic ideas across a range of industries is the aim of this study. Saudi Arabia, a major participant on the world stage, has a robust economy that is mostly powered by its enormous production of gas and oil. Its industries are growing quickly, yet this expansion comes with a lot of difficulties. Economic development, the problems brought on by fast industrialization, and the Islamic viewpoint on domestic trade are all included in this overview. It assesses whether economic activities align with Islamic beliefs and offers insights into the contemporary business world. By examining these elements, the article seeks to provide a thorough understanding of Saudi Arabia's changing economy and the way that business and Islamic values interact in the contemporary world.

Keywords: Agriculture, Arab-History, Culture, Economy, Hadiths, KSA, Religion.

Introduction

The Saudi Arabia is one of the major players in the global economy, with large oil and gas production facilities. Their businesses are growing exponentially, but this growth also brings challenges. This article will provide a good analysis of the current business of these industries by examining economic development, competition, and Islamic thought. In Saudi Arabia, there is a surge in the construction of skyscrapers. Cities like Riyadh and Jeddah are home to some of the tallest buildings in the world. This phenomenon can be understood through the lens of Islamic principles that encourage human creativity and innovation. Halloween is celebrated in many parts of the world, but it has a lesser presence in Saudi Arabia. The kingdom is an Islamic state that strictly follows the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Therefore, celebrations that draw from non-Islamic traditions must be approached with caution. There have been concerns that the rediscovery of ancient civilizations in Saudi Arabia could erode Islamic values. Saudi Arabia, a country known for its dry climate, has experienced economic growth in recent years. Interestingly, regional rainfall patterns are also linked to economic development. This

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phenomenon can be understood through Islamic teachings, particularly the words of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him). This article provides insight into the relationship between rainfall and economic growth in Saudi Arabia in an Islamic context.

The Religions of Arabia

The most famous monotheists were the Jews, but the Persians and Medes also developed monotheistic religions. Judaism is one of the oldest monotheistic religions. Before Islam, Arabia had a thriving Jewish tribal community, which included both settled and nomadic communities. Jews had been migrating to Arabia since Roman times. Arab Jews spoke Arabic, Hebrew, and Aramaic, and had contacts with Jewish religious centers in Babylonia and Palestine. The Himya people of Yemen converted to Judaism in the 4th century, and some of the Kinda tribe of central Arabia, who were vassals of the Himya people, also converted to Judaism in the 4th and 5th centuries. Jewish converts in the Hijaz were regarded as Jews by both Jews and non-Jews, and there is evidence that they consulted Babylonian rabbis on matters of dress and kosher food. There is at least one known case where an Arab tribe agreed to convert to Judaism as a condition of settling in a predominantly Jewish city. Some Arab women in Yathrib/Medina reportedly swore that their surviving children would be converted to Jews, since the Jews were regarded as a people of "knowledge and books." Historian Philip Hitti has concluded from proper names and agricultural terms that the Jewish tribes of Yathrib were composed primarily of Judaized clans of Arab and Aramaic origin.

The Gods of Pre-Islamic Arabia

The chief god of pre-Islamic Arabia was Hubal, the Syrian moon-god. Hubal's three daughters were Allat, Al-Uzza, and Manat, the principal goddesses of Meccan Arabic mythology. Allat was a goddess associated with the underworld. Al-Uzza, "the most powerful" or "the strong one," was a fertility goddess, called upon before battle for protection and victory. Manat was a goddess of destiny. The Book of Idols describes her as the oldest of all idols. The Book of Idols describes the gods and rituals of Arab religions, but criticizes the idolatry of pre-Islamic religions.³

Past Economy Saudi Arabia (KSA)

The economy of Saudi Arabia, previously known as Arabia, was predicated on trade, nomadism, and the production of aromatics and spices prior to the arrival of Islam. As nomads, the Bedouin tribes kept herds of sheep, goats, and camels for food, milk, cheese, and other necessities. They also escorted caravans, hunted, and worked as mercenaries. Exchange For seasonal trade, the Quraysh and other Arabs visited Yemen in the winter and Syria in the fall in caravans. Due to the severe desert climate, starvation was common throughout the Arabian Peninsula prior to Saudi Arabia experiencing its current level of affluence and wealth following the discovery of oil.

Amidst resource restrictions that were mostly limited to rudimentary agriculture of dates and specific grains, the threat of poverty was evident during this centuries-long deprivation. Work-intensive jobs including building, specialized crafts, herding sheep and camels, and gathering firewood were all necessary to earn money.

They travelled both locally and internationally, visiting locations such as present-day Iraq, Basra, Sham (Syria), and India. They diligently followed their religious principles, treated people with

³<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/suny-fmcc-boundless/worldhistory/chapter/pre-islamic-arabia/#:~:text=Pre%2DIslamic%20religion%20in%20Arabia,Christianity%2C%20Judaism%2C%20and%20Zoroastrianism.>

respect, and effectively represented their nation. They carried the objects they had bought in their host nations with the money they earned, and many of them went home with a sense of pride and respect. Many made financial investments in start-up companies.⁴

Current Economical Position

(a) Oil Production

The economy of Saudi Arabia is the 17th largest in the world and the second largest in the Middle East.⁵The kingdom's known oil reserves are the second largest.⁶Its proven natural gas reserves rank fourth.⁷Refining and chemical manufacturing, which take advantage of the nation's oil deposits, are two other significant economic sectors. A large portion of these industries are vertically integrated within Saudi Aramco, the state-owned company. Saudi Arabia founded OPEC and is a permanent member. Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil exporter and second-largest oil producer, with the second-largest oil reserves in the world, behind Brazil and Venezuela.

The Saudi Arabian government has supplied data indicating that proved reserves are believed to be 260 billion barrels (41 km³), or roughly 25% of the world's total. In comparison to other areas, Saudi Arabia's oil is more affordable and lucrative to extract due to its abundance and compression near the earth's surface. High oil prices over a large portion of the 2000s enabled the government to maintain a surplus budget and raise expenditures on government salaries, infrastructure development, and job training and education.

Saudi Arabia's economy heavily relies on the oil and service sectors, but the government has long promoted private sector growth to reduce dependence on oil and create jobs. In recent years, private enterprise and foreign investment have been encouraged in industries like power generation and telecommunications, alongside the country's accession to the WTO. Despite decades of economic diversification efforts since 1970, progress has been limited. In the 2000s, high oil prices boosted the economy, and in 1999, Saudi Arabia played a key role in OPEC's efforts to regulate oil production, significantly raising prices. That same year, the Supreme Economic Council was established to enhance economic policymaking and accelerate industrial and institutional reforms for sustainable development.

(b) Natural gas production in Saudi Arabia 1998-2023

In 2023, natural gas production in Saudi Arabia amounted to around 114.1 billion cubic meters. This represented a decrease of nearly 2.2 percent in comparison to the previous year, wherein the production value stood at around 117 billion cubic meters.⁸

⁴<https://english.alarabiya.net/perspective/features/2014/12/13/For-Saudi-Arabia-s-past-generations-life-was-a-quicksand-of-poverty>

⁵"World Economic Outlook Database, April 2024 Edition. (SA)". IMF.org. *International Monetary Fund*. 10 April 2024. Retrieved 2 May 2024.

⁶"The World's Largest Oil Reserves By Country". World Atlas. Archived from the original on 9 May 2019. Retrieved 12 December 2018.

⁷"Country Analysis Executive Summary: Saudi Arabia". eia.gov. Archived from the original on 13 July 2022. Retrieved 19 July 2022.

⁸House, Karen Elliot (2012). *On Saudi Arabia: Its People, Past, Religion, Fault Lines and Future*. Alfred A. Knopf. p. 163. ISBN 978-0307473288. Archived from the original on 13 June 2021. Retrieved 13 February 2015. every five-year plan since the first one in 1970 has called for diversifying the economy beyond oil, but oil is still supreme

(c) Automobiles

In 2010, students at King Saud University developed the KSU Gazal-1, Saudi Arabia's first mass-produced vehicle. In 2022, Lucid Motors announced plans to build an EV plant in Jeddah with a 150,000-unit capacity. Toyota leads Saudi car sales (30%), followed by Kia and Hyundai (26%) and Renault/Nissan/Mitsubishi (9%).⁹

(d) Vision 2030

In 2016, the Saudi Arabian government launched the Saudi Vision 2030 program, which aims to reduce dependence on oil and diversify economic resources.¹⁰ By 2022, Saudi Arabia would have only slightly reduced its dependence on oil.¹¹ In addition to oil, Saudi Arabia also has small deposits of other natural resources, including gold, silver, iron, copper, zinc, manganese, tungsten, lead, sulfur, phosphate, talc, and feldspar.¹²

Impact of Agriculture on Economy of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

Salt Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC)

Saudi Arabia, a desert nation without permanent rivers or lakes, relies on innovative water solutions. The Saline Water Conversion Corporation (SWCC) has launched a 110-megawatt photovoltaic (PV) project to enhance renewable energy use in desalination. The Al Jubail plant, one of the world's largest using reverse osmosis (RO) technology, will produce over 1 million cubic meters daily with minimal energy consumption. SWCC aims to cut liquid fuel use and carbon emissions while aligning with the Saudi Green Initiative. Additionally, its solar-powered mobile desalination unit has set a world record, targeting further efficiency improvements to 2.0 kW/m³.

Heavy Rains and Increased Greenery

From August to December 2023, unusually high levels of rainfall turned the parched regions of Mecca and Medina into verdant areas that drew tourists, residents, and wildlife. Many pilgrims were taken aback by the sudden greenery, and others interpreted it as a harbinger of the end of the world. Despite Saudi Arabia's low rainfall, irrigation has helped the country's agriculture, even though crops there require three times as much water as the typical person worldwide. By 2030, the Saudi Green Initiative wants to increase the amount of vegetation. Winter temperatures in northern Saudi Arabia were 700% higher than historical averages, and there was two to five inches of rain. While locals kept camels away to protect the bloom, visitors camped, cooked, and enjoyed the flowers.

Impact of Culture on Economy of Saudi Arabia

Halloween Celebration

Originating from Christian customs and potentially Celtic celebrations such as Samhain, Halloween, also known as All Hallows' Eve, is celebrated on October 31 prior to All Saints' Day.

⁹"Gearing up for a 'Made in Saudi Arabia' Lucid EV". *Arab News*. 1 March 2022. Archived from the original on 18 January 2023. Retrieved 23 March 2022.

¹⁰"Saudi Arabia Automotive Market". *trade.gov*. International Trade Administration. 13 September 2021. Retrieved 23 September 2023.

¹¹Kim, Il-Gue; Bae, Sungsu (18 September 2023). Nam, In-Soo (ed.). "Hyundai eyes Saudi EV plant as Korea bets on Middle East boom". *amp.kedglobal.com*. *The Korea Economic Daily*. Retrieved 23 September 2023.

¹²Dept, International Monetary Fund Middle East and Central Asia (17 August 2022). "Saudi Arabia: Selected Issues". *IMF Staff Country Reports*. 2022

It has pre-Christian components even though it is associated with Christian remembrance of the dead. Because of its pagan roots, some Islamic scholars view it as haram, making participation forbidden.¹³

Halloween in Saudi Arabia: Ignorance Under Mask of Modernity

As a component of Riyadh Season, Saudi Arabia commemorated Halloween with the "Scary Weekend" event in Riyadh. The event took place on Thursday and Friday at the Boulevard and included a costume party where anyone dressed in spooky clothing may enter for free. Its goals were to present imaginative disguises and create a thrilling environment. On social media, however, pictures and videos of people in costume caused controversy, sparking a broad discussion about the celebration.¹⁴

Impact of Religion on Economy

Religious tourism shapes Saudi Arabia's economy, and Islam shapes society and governmental policies.

(a) Religious tourism

By diversifying beyond oil, one can increase national revenue, create jobs, and enhance income from other sectors. By bringing more money into Saudi Arabia's economy, this promotes economic growth, draws in international investment, and fortifies development.¹⁵

(b) Government policies

Saudi Arabia's government policies and social values are heavily influenced by Islam, with some investments being prohibited as haram. Because religion is so important in Saudi society, the ulema, a group of Islamic experts, have a lot of power. The only two countries that allow the ulema direct government involvement are Saudi Arabia and Iran.¹⁶ The King received informal advice from the Council of Senior Ulema until 1971. Later, it was officially named the Council of Senior Scientists and received government funding and appointments. The ulema influence important choices like the 1973 oil embargo and the 1990 foreign troop presence in addition to approving laws and royal succession. They are in charge of public morality, the legal system, and the educational system.¹⁷

Impact of Saudi Economy in Light of Hadiths

1. *Narrated Thawban*: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ as saying: Allah, the Exalted, folded for me the earth, or he said (the narrator is doubtful): My Lord folded for me the earth, so much so that I saw its easts and wests (i. e. the extremities). The kingdom of my community will reach as far as the earth was folded for me. The two treasures, the red and the white, were bestowed on me. I prayed to my Lord that He may not destroy my community by prevailing famine, and not give their control to an enemy who annihilates them a masse except from among themselves. My Lord said to me: Muhammad, If I make a decision, it is not withdrawn; and I shall not destroy them by prevailing famine, and I shall not give their control to an enemy, except from

¹³Nicholas Rogers (2002). *Halloween: From Pagan Ritual to Party Night*. Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-516896-9. Retrieved 31 October 2011.

¹⁴Tehran Times: *International*, Dated: October 31, 2022

¹⁵Alkhateeb, T. T. Y., Sultan, Z. A., & Mahmood, H. (2017). Oil revenue, public spending, gross domestic product and employment in Saudi Arabia. *International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy*, 7(6), 27-31

¹⁶Goldstein, Natalie; Brown-Foster; Walton (2010). *Religion and the State*. Facts On File. p. 118.

¹⁷Cavendish, Marshall (2007). *World and Its Peoples: the Arabian Peninsula*. Marshall Cavendish. p. 78.

among themselves, who exterminates them a masse, even if they are stormed from all sides of the earth; only a section of them will destroy another section, and a section will captive another section. I am afraid about my community of those leaders who will lead astray. When the sword is used among my people, it will not be withdrawn from them till the Day of Resurrection, and the Last Hour will not come before the tribes of my people attach themselves to the polytheists and tribes of my people worship idols. There will be among my people thirty great liars each of them asserting that he is (Allah's) prophet, where as I am the seal of the Prophet s after whom (me) there will be no prophet; and a section of my people will continue to hold to the truth - (according to the Ibn Isa's version:(will continue to dominate) - the agreed version goes: "and will not be injured by those who oppose them, till Allah's command comes."¹⁸

2. *Narrated Hudhayfah:* The tradition mentioned above (No. 4232) has also been transmitted through a different chain of narrators by Nasr ibn Asim al-Laythi who said: We came to al-Yashkuri with a group of the people of Banu Layth. He asked: Who are these people? We replied: Banu Layth. We have come to you to ask you about the tradition of Hudhayfah. He then mentioned the tradition and said: I asked: Messenger of Allah, will there be evil after this good? He replied: There will be trial (fitnah) and evil. I asked: Messenger of Allah, will there be good after this evil? He replied: Learn the Book of Allah, Hudhayfah, and adhere to its contents. He said it three times. I asked: Messenger of Allah, will there be good after this evil? He replied: An illusory truce and a community with specks in its eye. I asked: Messenger of Allah, what do you mean by an illusory community? He replied: The hearts of the people will not return to their former condition. I asked: Messenger of Allah, will there be evil after this good? He replied: There will be wrong belief which will blind and deafen men to the truth in which there will be summoners at the gates of Hell. If you, Hudhayfah, die adhering to a stump, it will be better for you than following any of them.¹⁹
3. *Narrated Abu Hurairah:* The Prophet ﷺ as saying: Woe to Arabs because of evil which has drawn near! He will escape who restrains his hand.²⁰
4. *Narrated Abdullah ibn Amr ibn al-As:* The Prophet ﷺ said: There will be civil strife which wipe out the Arabs, and their slain will go to Hell. During it the tongue will be more severe than blows of the sword. Abu Dawud said: Al-Thawri transmitted it from Laith, from Tawus on the authority of Al-A'jam.²¹
5. *Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying:* The Last Hour would not come until the women of the tribe of Daus would be seen going round Dhi al-Khalasa (for worship) and Dhi al-Khalasa is a place in Tabala, where there was a temple in which the people of the tribe of Daus used to worship the idol.²²
6. *Aisha RA reported:* I heard Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: The (system) of night and day would not end until the people have taken to the worship of Lat and Uzza. I said: Allah's Messenger, I think when Allah has revealed this verse: "He it is Who has sent His Messenger with right guidance, and true religion, so that He may cause it to prevail upon all religions, though the polytheists are averse (to it)" (ix. 33), it implies that (this promise) is going to be fulfilled. Thereupon he (Allah's Apostle) said: It would happen as Allah

¹⁸Hadith 4252 Sunan Abi Dawud, *The Trials and Fierce Battles* .

¹⁹Hadith 4246 of Sunan Abi Dawud in *English Translation narrated by Imam Abu Dawood in Chapter Trials And Fierce Battles*

²⁰Hadith 4249 of Sunan Abi Dawud in *English Translation narrated by Imam Abu Dawood in Chapter Trials and Fierce Battles*

²¹Hadith 4265 of Sunan Abi Dawud narrated by Imam Abu Dawood in *Chapter Trials and Fierce Battles*

²²Sahi Muslim Hadith Number 6944: *Book 41. KITAB AL-FITAN WA ASHRAT AS-SA'AH*

would like. Then Allah would send the sweet fragrant air by which everyone who has even a mustard grain of faith in Him would die and those only would survive who would have no goodness in them. And they would revert to the religion of their forefathers.²³

7. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: The Last Hour would not come unless the Euphrates would uncover a treasure of gold, so he who finds it should not take anything out of that.²⁴
8. Abu Huraira reported Allah's Messenger (may peace be upon him) as saying: The Euphrates would soon uncover a mountain of gold but he who is present there should not take anything from that.²⁵
9. Naked, destitute, barefoot shepherds will compete in building tall buildings²⁶
10. Arabia will become a land of gardens and rivers.²⁷

Conclusion

Halloween provides a chance to consider the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) from an Islamic standpoint. Despite being linked to superstition and dread, it emphasizes how crucial intention is to behavior. The Prophet urged festivities that foster happiness and a sense of community and underlined that actions are evaluated by their motive. Participating in activities that are in line with Islamic teachings promotes a sense of belonging, and upholding Islamic values and cultural identity is essential. Muslims can concentrate on festivities that highlight happiness and solidarity rather than engaging in traditions that go against their Islamic convictions. Maintaining a strong faith and loyalty to Islamic ideals is facilitated by abstaining from pagan habits.

1. Arab countries' rivalry to construct the tallest structures is a reflection of their aspirations and cultural significance, signifying advancement and creativity. Nonetheless, the significance of intention and humility is emphasized in Islamic teachings, especially in the hadith of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him). The Prophet promoted socially beneficial initiatives over those motivated by rivalry or prestige. While architectural innovations demonstrate progress, it is crucial to strike a balance between aspiration and morality to make sure that projects promote sustainability and the welfare of society. Real success comes from raising humanity via collaboration and significant accomplishments, not from outperforming others.
2. While the Arab race to construct the highest structures is a reflection of desire and advancement, Islamic teachings place a strong emphasis on humility and intention. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) advocated for good deeds rather than status-driven goals. Sustainable development, societal well-being, and improving humanity via collaboration and significant contributions are the keys to true success.
3. Archaeological digs and tourism are essential to Saudi Arabia's cultural and economic advancement. Some people think that the resurgence of ancient sites, like as the UNESCO-listed Nabataean tombs, is in line with prophetic predictions about the return of ancient deities, even though tourism stimulates the economy and draws tourists to historical sites.

²³ Hadith Number 6945 Sahi Muslim Book 41. *KITAB AL-FITAN WA ASHRAT AS-SA'AH*

²⁴ Hadith Number 6920 Sahi Muslim Book 41. *KITAB AL-FITAN WA ASHRAT AS-SA'AH*

²⁵ Hadith Number 6921 Sahi Muslim Book 41. *KITAB AL-FITAN WA ASHRAT AS-SA'AH*

²⁶ *Sahih Bukhari, Vol 1: book 2*

²⁷ *Sahih Muslim, Book 005: 2208*

Recommendations

There are some assumptions and recommendations to work on these areas in respect of prophecies of Prophet Muhammad SAW;

1. *Euphrates River*: It is situated in Western Asia and situated in between to the countries Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Egypt. According to hadith Mountains of Gold will appear, as it is drying very quickly, it seems very nearby.
2. *BAPS Temple*: The Opening of Hindu temple also interpret the good ties i.e. ties of heartily friendship with Pagans, in light of Hadiths of Prophet Muhammad SAW.
3. *Competition of Tallest Buildings*: Seems very clear, in Arabs like KSA and UAE.
4. *Greenery of Makkah*: Seems increasing with open eyes, as increase of rainfall since 2023.
5. *Tourism*: It generate the revenue of the countries, but the excavations of the ancient untouched dynasties like Thamud and others may lead to the return of Ancient Pagan Arabs deities.

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