



Model Arab League

Annotated Bibliography for Bahrain

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This annotated bibliography was created to serve as a research resource for students taking part in the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Model Arab League Program. With the understanding that research can be intimidating and time consuming, an effort was made to find a set of scholarly articles that give a detailed background and thorough account of the current situation for this League of Arab States member. Included are annotations designed to give a description of the source with the intention of students completing the research on their own. There has been an attempt to focus on more contemporary scholarship, specifically post-9/11 and post-2011 (so-called "Arab Spring") where possible, as these are two phenomena that fundamentally changed politics in the Arab world. These sources should provide students with a solid basis for understanding the country they are representing in both regionally and globally significant issues as well as the interests of other countries within the League of Arab States.

1. Richard Common, "Administrative change in the Gulf: modernization in Bahrain and Oman," *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, Volume 74, Number 2, June 2008, pp. 177–193. •• In his article, Richard Common argues that Gulf states like Bahrain and Oman void notions of modernization being proportionally linked to administrative reform. Common draws upon various aspects of Bahrain and Oman's civil, governmental, and economic cultures to prove his point. In doing so, the reader is given insights into the countries' histories, government institutions and structures, and levels of stability relative to Gulf neighbors. Finally, the reader is also exposed to relevant theories in political science like the "Rentier State".
2. Ikran Eum, "A Study on Current Culinary Culture and Religious Identity in the Gulf Region – Focused on the Ashura Practice among Shia Muslims of Bahrain and Kuwait," *International Area Review*, Volume 11, Number 2, Fall 2008, pp. 55-70. •• By comparing Shia Muslims in Bahrain and Kuwait, this paper discusses the role international and regional politics play in shaping the religious identity and culinary culture in the two countries. On the reverse, these religio-cultural identities also play a part in shaping regional politics in their own ways. By describing these multifaceted identities, the author conveys important information about food needs in the region, population demographics, political oppression, and the various cultural heritages (linked to other states) of the inhabitants of Bahrain and Kuwait.
3. Laurence Louer, "The Political Impact of Labor Migration in Bahrain," *City & Society*, Volume 20, Issue 1, 2008, pp. 32–53. •• This article gives a very well written account of Bahrain's contemporary economic and political history necessary to understanding the state's current position. Bahrain, like many of the Gulf countries, is heavily reliant on south/southeast Asian immigrant labor, and because of this the government encounters many challenges in trying to provide for its own citizens. The author goes as far as to

argue that Bahraini society has its own caste system in a sense. Surprisingly, much of the debate going on in Bahrain about immigrant labor sounds strikingly similar to the debate going on in the U.S.

4. Nadir Ahmed Elagib & Anwar S. Addin Abdu, "Climate Variability and Aridity in Bahrain," *Journal of Arid Environments*, Volume 36, Issue 3, July 1997, pp. 405-419. •• For the more hard science oriented students, this article explains a few critical environmental problems that Bahrain faces, including desertification and deterioration of groundwater resources. Temperature and rainfall records appear to be in line with global warming and climate change. Despite having a lot of mathematical formulae, the article's conclusion summarizes the authors' findings in a clear and accessible manner. Of course, Bahrain has a very similar climate to its neighboring Gulf countries and most likely faces many of the same ecological difficulties.
5. Caroline Horres, "How Durable is 'Durable Authoritarianism'? A Comparative Study of the Kingdoms of Bahrain and Jordan During the Arab Spring," *Chrestomathy: Annual Review of Undergraduate Research*, Volume 11, 2012, pp. 141-159. •• Many Arab countries experienced protests while the Arab Spring spread throughout North Africa and the Middle East. This article looks specifically at Bahrain and Jordan; two countries which experienced protests but not all out revolt. Notably, the protests in both countries were handled differently, namely that in Jordan concessions were made as "defensive democratization" and in Bahrain the government responded with force. The author argues these differences are due to their different religious and cultural makeups.
6. Faisal Ahmed and Anju Kohil, "India-GCC Relations: Geo-economics and Trade Intensity Analysis," *Asia-Pacific Business Review*, Volume 5, Number 2, April – June 2009, pp. 116-125. •• The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is made up of six Arab countries including Bahrain, and as the custodians of the world's largest oil reserves, it maintains trade relations with many countries. As a developing country, India is seeking to increase its trade relations with GCC countries and acquire more oil. By looking at the trade intensity indexes and comparative advantages of both India and the GCC, there appears to be immense potential for benefits with improved trade relations.
7. Majid Khadduri, "Iran's Claim to the Sovereignty of Bahrayn," *The American Journal of International Law*, Volume 45, Number 4, October 1951, pp. 631-647. •• Unknown by many Americans is the fact that Bahrain has had a tumultuous political history and has been colonized and claimed by many foreign powers. Most notable and relevant among these in modern times is the state of Iran, which has consistently sought to exert control over the islands since the 1500's. In contemporary terms, this claim to sovereignty exacerbates religio-political issues that include the Sunni/Shi'a divide as well as

geopolitical concerns like mining rights to oil and natural gas reserves.

8. Robert E. Looney, "Manpower Policies in a Semi-Rich Oil Economy: The Case of Bahrain," *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, Volume 25, Number 3, July 1990, pp. 161-179. •• Bahrain is both very much like its Arab Gulf neighbors and distinct from them at the same time. While facing many of the same unemployment and/or underemployment issues associated with a humungous youth bulge, Bahrain faces a unique set of challenges associated with its heavy reliance on skilled expatriate workers and waning local education and jobs training. Looney presents a wide range of labor statistics in his article that clarify his argument.
9. Glen Plant, "Maritime Delimitation and Territorial Questions between Qatar and Bahrain (Qatar v. Bahrain)," *The American Journal of International Law*, Volume 96, Number 1 January 2002, pp. 198-210. •• For those students interested in international law, this article gives a thorough account of a territorial dispute between Bahrain and Qatar. Readers are given insight into the arguments presented, technical language, and eventual settlement of this case, and gain an understanding of the workings of a multilateral organization like the International Court of Justice (ICJ). A map within the article illustrates the many international borders present within such a small space.
10. Mohammad Nuruzzaman, "Politics, Economics and Saudi Military Intervention in Bahrain," *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, January 2013, pp. 1-14. •• On March 14th, 2011, the Peninsula Shield Force (*Dar'a al-Jazeera*) was deployed in Bahrain to quell uprisings shadowing those of other countries amidst the so-called Arab Spring. The deployment was the first use of the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) military for an intra-GCC issue. While many argue that this move was Saudi Arabia flexing politically, this article explores the idea that economics and religion had just as much a part to play in the decision to intervene in Bahrain with the Peninsula Shield. The use of force speaks to the international importance of the small island nation that is Bahrain, but also Saudi Arabia's significant stake in the state and wider Gulf region.
11. Magdalena Karolak, "Religion in a Political Context: The Case of the Kingdom of Bahrain," *Asia Journal of Global Studies*, Volume 4, Number 1, 2010, pp. 4-18. •• Modernization and Globalization have done much to change the economy and culture of Bahrain. As these changes occur at a relatively rapid pace, there are undoubtedly those who vehemently oppose these deviations. In protest and resistance, political blocs have formed in Bahrain that are advocating for the re-Islamization and/or re-Arabization of Bahraini society and protect it from cultural pollution. These movements lead to intriguing religio-political divisions and alliances.

12. Simon Mabon, "The Battle for Bahrain: Iranian-Saudi Rivalry," *Middle East Policy*, Volume 19, Number 2, Summer 2012, pp. 84-95. •• Since 2003 and the fall of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, various other nation states have sought to become regional powers. Most notable among these are Iran and Saudi Arabia, both of which are globally significant actors on many levels. Because of its historical significance and modern population demographics, the author argues that Bahrain has become a testing ground between both Saudi Arabia and Iran in which the two larger countries test each other's power through overt and covert means.

13. Staci Strobl, "The Women's Police Directorate in Bahrain: An Ethnographic Exploration of Gender Segregation and the Likelihood of Future Integration," *International Criminal Justice Review*, Volume 18, Number 1, March 2008, pp. 39-58. •• Defying the many stereotypes that are associate with the Arab Muslim Middle East and treatment of women, Bahrain maintains a Women's Police Directorate to work on issues with female criminals and children. The Directorate does not come without problems and opposition however, and in learning about the female police in Bahrain, the reader is exposed to religious and cultural tensions over women's equality in Bahrain and the Middle East as a whole.