



# Model Arab League

## Annotated Bibliography for the United Arab Emirates

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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. Abdulla Aljunaibi, Abdishakur Abdulle, Nico Nagelkerke, "Parental Weight Perceptions: A Cause for Concern in the Prevention and Management of Childhood Obesity in the United Arab Emirates," *PLoS ONE*, Volume 8, Issue 3, March 2013, pp. 1-4. •• Childhood obesity is a growing problem in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), one which can lead to consequential health problems like diabetes. Studies show that parents' knowledge and attitudes regarding weight appropriateness has a direct effect on their child's chances of being obese, and troubling in the UAE are Emirati parents' lack of understanding in this area. This study assesses Emirati parents' knowledge of childhood obesity and finds that many of them mischaracterize their children as "appropriate" in weight when in truth they are overweight or obese. Therefore, public health campaigns in the UAE must especially target parental education when it comes to obesity prevention. This article illustrates the problem of childhood obesity in the UAE through statistics and parental knowledge of the issue.
2. Bryan R. Early, "Acquiring Foreign Nuclear Assistance in the Middle East: Strategic Lessons from the United Arab Emirates," *Nonproliferation Review*, Volume 17, Number 2, July 2010, pp. 259-180. •• Nuclear technology for civilian purposes in the Gulf has become a contentious issue of late, with Iran antagonizing the international community and Israel very wary of these technologies in its relative proximity. Despite these problems, the UAE has succeeded in garnering international assistance in developing its own nuclear power, with its first reactor scheduled to go online by 2017. The UAE faced numerous obstacles when it came to persuading the international community that it would be safe to allow nuclear technology to be used within its borders and not create and leak weapons materials, like the fact that its export controls are different in each of the seven emirates. Again, despite these odds, the UAE pursued what can only be described as a masterful political strategy in order to gain support in its

nuclear ambitions. This article details the various obstacles and strategies the UAE encountered and employed in trying to achieve a domestic nuclear power program, and the author argues that along with its success, the UAE may serve as a model for other Arab countries wishing to obtain civilian nuclear capability of their own.

3. F. M. Howari, F. N. Sadooni, and P. C. Goodell, "Assessment of Water Bodies of United Arab Emirates Coastal Sabkhas as Potential Sites for Natural Salinity Gradient Solar Ponds," *Journal of Energy Engineering*, Volume 134, Number 4, December 2008, pp. 111-120. •• The UAE is one of the most arid places on earth, sometimes receiving as little as 2mm of rainfall per year and occasionally reaching temperatures of 47°C (116°F). Coupled with a rapidly growing population, the demand for fresh water is increasing in the UAE by about 10% a year. With little to no ground water resources, the UAE is very reliant on water desalination. Luckily, the UAE has abundant seawater and fossil fuels with which to power desalination. There has been a recent push however for environmentally friendly desalination methods, which although they are relatively lower in productivity and take up more space than fossil fuel powered desalination, they are easy to operate and maintain. This article explores the possibilities for environmentally sustainable water desalination in the UAE and the viability of its use.
4. Christopher M. Davidson, "Dubai and the United Arab Emirates: Security Threats," *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, Volume 36, Issue 3, December 2009, pp. 431-447. •• As the UAE developed at a rapid pace, its concerns about security expanded in a parallel manner. In a series of attempts to mitigate security concerns, the Emirates originally set out to secure their own territories separately, securing arms deals with various international actors, and sometimes at odds with each other. Later, along with enhanced cooperation, the UAE's military became more integrated but is still reliant on a Western military umbrella due to its geography, location, and population. These factors make the UAE wary of Gulf neighbors like Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Iran, and force their armed forces to employ expatriates of other countries. Finally, in spite of its development, the UAE has remained a target of terrorism, especially following 9/11 and the ensuing Global War on Terror. This article details the history of the UAE from the perspective of military necessities and explains the various agreements the UAE has with international powers in order to protect itself.
5. Gawdat Bahgat, "Energy Security: The United Arab Emirates," *Asian Affairs*, Volume 43, Number 2, July 2012, pp. 268-279. •• Despite having the sixth largest proven oil reserves in the world, the UAE has been making significant advances in its own domestic research and use of renewable energy resources. The reason for the UAE's pursuing renewable energy so intently appears to be stemming from their leaderships understanding that hydrocarbons are an exhaustible resource, and population growth

within the Emirates has made domestic use of oil double in the last decade. The push represents an honest drive to transfer Emirati wealth into something sustainable and the desire to become the “Silicon Valley of renewable energy”. Currently, the UAE is on schedule to have its first civilian nuclear reactor operation by 2017 and is cultivating a number of other resources including solar, geothermal, and hydrogen. This article explains the necessity and impetus behind the UAE’s development of domestic renewable energy.

6. Sara Ashencaen Crabtree, “Engaging Students from the United Arab Emirates in Culturally Responsive Education,” *Innovations in Education and Teaching International*, Volume 47, Number 1, February 2010, pp. 85-94. •• The UAE is increasingly trying to include liberal arts education into its university level curricula. As early as 1998, Zayed University (ZU) was opened, gaining notoriety for being a women’s only campus. Although ZU is state funded, it operates more independently than other state funded universities and uses an active-learner as opposed to wrote-memorization approach to education. Classes follow an American liberal arts format, and the students have to carry out social research projects focused on issues of identity and globalization. Student projects reveal an understanding of the rapid change brought on by oil wealth and the contrast between their grandparents’ quality of life and their own. This article reveals a novel and promising path for female’s education and education in general in the UAE.
7. Jacqueline MacDonald Gibson and Zeinab S. Farah, “Environmental Risks to Public Health in the United Arab Emirates: A Quantitative Assessment and Strategic Plan,” *Environmental Health Perspectives*, Volume 120, Number 5, May 2012, pp. 681-686. •• Rapid modernization in the UAE has led to the female life expectancy in its first decade (46 years) to almost double in the most recent decade (81 years). The UAE has made a demonstrative shift from having to deal mostly with infectious diseases to non-infectious diseases like cardiovascular issues, cancer, and diabetes as well. These shifts necessitate an equally modern approach to healthcare policy in the UAE. According to many Emiratis, the most important issues of public health that need immediate attention are environmental and indoor air pollution which has been attributed to a number of premature deaths and levels typically only seen in Western countries. The UAE has taken this challenge in stride however, and in 2010 produced the National Strategy and Action Plan for Environmental Health [UAE], a plan which has been well received and publicized as a model for other nations experiencing similar needs of strategic planning.
8. S.W. Ng, S. Zaghoul, H. Ali, G. Harrison, K. Yeatts, M. El Sadig, and B.M. Popkin, “Nutrition transition in the United Arab Emirates,” *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, Volume 65, Issue 12, December 2011, pp. 1328-1337. •• Following rapid growth and modernization, the UAE is making a noticeable nutrition transition, namely to

that of similar caloric intake to relatively wealthy Western countries. There is a rising obesity epidemic within the UAE, wherein the levels of obesity have doubled since 2005, and particularly among the poorest and wealthiest Emirati women. Especially worrying are those women who have reached grade III obesity, having a Body Mass Index (BMI)  $\geq$  40, the proportion of which has increased dramatically in the last decade. This article describes the socioeconomic conditions that have contributed to the UAE's nutrition transition using meaningful statistics conveying obesity rates among the population. The article concludes with recommendations to improve public health and knowledge of healthy eating and lifestyles, like the promotion of physical exercise and increasing the cost of unhealthy foods.

9. Christopher M. Davidson, "The United Arab Emirates: Prospects for Political Reform," *The Brown Journal of World Affairs*, Volume 15, Issue 2, Spring/Summer 2009, pp. 117-127. •• Many scholars thought that in following with economic development, Monarchic governments would be forced to liberalize in a Western democratic fashion. The UAE stands out as a strong counter to this opinion, as it has experienced the fastest economic growth of almost any country in the world and its government remains mostly unchanged. This is not to cast a negative light on the government of the UAE however, as it has certainly taken steps to allow more citizen level participation within government. There are numerous examples of this type of progress, like the strengthening of civil society, the creation of e-government internet portals, the expansion of economic free zones, and the allowance of labor organizations. This article explains how the UAE has remained monarchic while at the same time progressing and liberalizing economically. In doing so, the reader is given a window into the inner workings of UAE governance including the many councils and subcommittees that have been created to address citizen's needs.
  
10. Pernilla Ouis, "'Greening the Emirates': The Modern Construction of Nature in the United Arab Emirates," *Cultural Geographies*, Volume 9, Number 3, July 2002, pp. 334-347. •• As part of the UAE's modernization policies, the Emirati government has embarked on a "greening" campaign aimed at transforming the desert into agriculturally viable landscapes. Obviously, a project like this is extremely expensive, both monetarily and in terms of water use, and is only possible due to the amount of oil wealth available to the UAE. The idea of using oil money and a great deal of fresh water to furnish environmental protection may sound like a contradiction to Western ears, however the Emirati's have created a unique discourse that combines modernization, a culture of consumption, and environmentalism all at once. This article explains the evolution of Emirati modern environmentalism and the various angles that they approach the topic from.

11. Saif S. Al-Qaydi, "Tradition, Change, and Government Policy in the United Arab Emirates East Coast Fishing Community," *Focus on Geography*, Volume 51, Number 1, Summer 2008, pp. 1-6. •• The UAE has undergone significant population growth in a short period of time and the demand for fish has increased proportionally. Where traditional Emirati fishing practices used simple fishing techniques and were carried out by local fishermen only, oil wealth and the population boom has attracted foreign fishing vessels that use drag nets and crowd out the locals. For example, in the 1950's and 60s, 95% of fishing off the east coast of the UAE was carried out by Emirati fisherman, whereas in the 1980's, less than 5% of fishing off the coast was done by Emiratis. For these reasons, the government is promoting a shift over to aquaculture instead of traditional fishing as a way to revive Emirati the fishermen's economy. This article shows the historical progression of the UAE's fishing economy and explains the impetus for government advocacy of aquaculture, a change the fishermen appear to be hesitant to adopt.