

# King Faisal and the Forging of The Anglo-Saudi Terror Alliance

by Richard Freeman

*This is the second part of a series detailing the Anglo-Saudi alliance. Part I ran in EIR, May 23, 2014 (“Charles of Arabia: The British Monarchy, Saudi Arabia, and 9/11”). This installment details the critical role of the late King Faisal bin Abdulaziz al Saud in forging this alliance and transforming Saudi Arabia into a leading force behind the global “Jihad Without Borders,” targeting nations, particularly in Eurasia and Africa, for total destruction.*

King Faisal bin Abdulaziz al Saud (reign 1964-75) was one of the most evil men of the 20th Century. He transformed the Saudi state into: 1) the hub for control and deployment of Wahhabi-based terror around the world; 2) the center for siphoning trillions of petrodollars that largely found their way into accounts in the City of London; 3) an internal police state under Wahhabi authority; and 4) the largest militarized state and purchaser of defense weapons in the Third World.

Although he was assassinated in 1975, King Faisal’s legacy lives on through the extended Faisal clan. Today, King Faisal’s five most politically important children and/or sons-in-law, are among Prince Charles’ closest collaborators in directing the British-Saudi Empire’s support for international terrorism. They are: Prince Turki bin Faisal; Prince Mohammad bin Faisal; Prince Bandar bin Sultan—the husband of King Faisal’s daughter, Princess Haifa bint Faisal; Prince Saud bin Faisal, and Prince Khalid bin Faisal. The imprint of Faisal’s fundamental changes is so significant that its evil still shapes the thinking and contours of policy of the House of Saud, and specific decisions, to this day.

## Faisal’s Origins

King Faisal was born in 1906 in Riyadh; his father, Abdulaziz al Saud, was a warrior, a killing machine. As early as the 1915 Anglo-Saudi Treaty of Darin, the British government officially recognized Abdulaziz, who had conquered his rivals, as the ruler of the Nejd region, part of the modern Saudi state. He officially received

\$300,000 a year from His Majesty’s government, during the 1920s, a large sum in those days, as well as receiving British weapons.

Deploying a force he had created—the first Ikhwan, or Muslim Brotherhood—he drowned the Arabian peninsula in blood; in some villages, his forces killed every last man, woman, and child. By 1932, the Saudi Kingdom was created. Faisal’s mother, Tarfa, was equally important, as a member of Al ash-Sheikh family, the direct descendants of Muhammad bin Abdul-Wahhab (1730-92), the founder of Wahhabism, and the most powerful family in Wahhabism during the past 150 years. When Faisal was six years old, his mother died; he was raised by his maternal grandfather, Abdullah bin Abdullatif, one of the most powerful leaders of the Wahhabi-run Saudi Ulema (supreme religious council). Abdullatif raised Faisal in the most pure form of radical Wahhabism, which the future king advocated throughout his life.

## Faisal and the British

Twice Faisal was deployed to be groomed in Britain: once, in 1919, when only 13 years old, he was received by King George V and Queen Mary, and members of the British aristocracy; the second time was in 1926, when he met and collaborated with King George V to concretize the creation of the Kingdom of Nejd and Hijaz, which is the core of the Saudi state. King George V—the grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II—awarded Faisal the Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a foreigner.

With the creation of the Saudi state in 1932, Faisal’s father became King Abdulaziz al Saud, more commonly known as Ibn Saud. The Saud House had previously conquered the holy cities of Mecca and Medina, putting them under Wahhabite control. King Ibn Saud appointed Faisal as Saudi Foreign Minister, a post he would hold with an iron grip for the next 43 years, even after he became king. Working with the British, Prince

Faisal made Saudi foreign policy serve British interests.

Despite some modest oil income, during the 1950s and 1960s, the Saudi economy was weak and backward, and the British feared that Saudi Arabia was ripe to fall to the pro-development nationalist movement founded by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

In 1953, King Ibn Saud died, and Prince Faisal's older brother, Saud, became King. From the British standpoint, King Saud was ineffective, and was seen as vulnerable to be toppled by Nasserite currents within Saudi Arabia. In 1963, the British deployed two of their top black operations officers, Lt. Col. Neil Bromage and Lt. Col. Kenneth Trimbell, to reorganize the Saudi Arabia National Guard (SANG), whose official purpose was to provide protection for the royal family. In late 1963, the Bromage-Trimbell-led SANG overthrew King Saud, and installed Prince Faisal as king, a violent action that was backed by Prince Faisal's close relatives in the Wahhabite Ulema, who issued a fatwa officially approving Faisal's usurpation of power.

In the interim period, in 1962, Prince Faisal created the Muslim World League (WML), as the coordinating center for Wahhabite and Salafist subversive activity, ultimately leading to the jihadist terrorism of today.

The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, which had taken refuge in Saudi Arabia after a crackdown by Nasser, quickly made a pact with Faisal, resulting in a merger of Wahhabi/Salafist ideology with Muslim Brotherhood pan-Islamist propaganda and recruitment methods. Under this arrangement, Muslim Brothers were able to reshape the harsh Salafi ideology and message to a modern form more acceptable to mainstream Muslim audiences. Sayyid Qutb and other Muslim Brotherhood scholars' books were published and distributed with Saudi money. The Muslim World League and several other organizations were formed under



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*King Faisal upon his arrival in Washington, May 27, 1971. His evil legacy lives on today, through the murderous actions of the terrorist groups he funded.*

Faisal, reflecting his collaboration with the Muslim Brotherhood.

During this period, key members of the Muslim Brotherhood from elsewhere in the Arab world also migrated to Saudi Arabia to avoid crackdowns like that in Egypt. (Sayyid Qutb, one of the most important Muslim Brotherhood proponents of violent jihad, was executed by Nasser in the mid-1960s.) Between the 1960s and 1990s, key members of Muslim Brotherhood were on the Muslim World League payroll.

Faisal's children believe Faisal bin Musaid (Faisal's half brother's son) was ordered by the United States to kill their father to im-

prove Saudi-Iranian relations. Musaid had just come back from a U.S. trip. King Faisal's successor, King Khalid, did significantly improve relations with Iran, and after the Iranian Revolution, he send a congratulatory letter to Ayatollah Khomeini.

### **British 'Reforms'**

Above all else, King Faisal promoted the Anglo-Saudi alliance and put the Kingdom under effective British control. Having been thrust into the position of king by the British, in 1964, Faisal made fundamental changes, which permanently transformed Saudi Arabia from a nasty, but strictly regional force, into the state that has helped bring the world to the verge of a thermo-nuclear war of annihilation. Some of the British-mandated reforms that set this process in motion were:

- *Internal police state intensified:* In the early 1960s, ARAMCO (Arabian-American Oil Company) workers in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province went on strike. Faisal and the oil companies crushed them. In 1964, Faisal announced new anti-strike laws; one law led to widespread arrests of opposition activists in the Eastern Province, who were accused of being communists. Faisal banned all demonstrations of any type in Saudi Arabia; political formations, particularly in Shi'ite regions, were suppressed. Internal spying was

intensified, with new electronic surveillance methods introduced.

- *Reorganized the Saudi intelligence service:* Saudi Arabia created its own intelligence service in 1957, but it was a strictly low-level operation. In 1965, King Faisal ordered its reorganization into the Mukhabarat al-Amah, and appointed as its head Kamal Adham, his much younger brother-in-law, whom Faisal had raised as a son.

Under Kamal Adham, Saudi intelligence greatly expanded into dirty money, black market armaments, and drug networks. Adham would become, apparently, while head of the Saudi intelligence service, a major shareholder of the Bank for Commerce and Credit International (BCCI), one of the foremost weapons and drug banks in the world, which had a private mercenary army of over 1,000 people. In his book *Prelude to Terror*, Joseph Trento reported that the Saudi intelligence service undertook operations for the CIA, which the U.S. Congress had forbidden the Agency to engage in, between the time of Watergate and the end of the Carter Administration. Saudi intelligence played a direct role in the Iran-Contra operations, and during the 1980s, in building, financing, and directing the Maktab al-Khidamat, which in 1989 changed its name to al-Qaeda.

These intelligence operations were precursors to the 1985 Al-Yamamah deal between Saudi Arabia and Britain, which created the greatest pool of offshore cash for black operations ever conceived. The Al-Yamamah operation was organized by King Faisal's son-in-law Prince Bandar bin Sultan and during the tenure of the King's son Prince Turki bin Faisal as head of Saudi intelligence (1979-2001).

- *Created a military garrison state:* Prior to Faisal's 1964 coup, Saudi Arabia was not a military power; it had a small, backward armed forces. Faisal radically altered that. In 1965, he concluded a massive deal with Britain and the United States to purchase initially between \$300 to \$400 million worth of weapons. The deal included add-ons that would make it worth between \$10 and \$15 billion in today's dollars. Under the deal, Saudi Arabia bought 40 British Lightning and 25 British Strikemaster fighter aircraft, and dozens of the American Northrup Freedom Fighters, as its fighter jets. That was one part of the deal; in his book *The King's Messenger*, David Ottaway reported: "But [the Saudis] also bought U.S. Hawk anti-aircraft missiles, and signed up for the Pentagon to begin building a radar defense system," that would cover and protect a good

portion of Saudi Arabia. Faisal developed a plan to greatly increase the size of Saudi Arabia's armed forces, in particular, its Air Force.

Taken as a whole, Faisal's initiatives were the decisive step that catapulted Saudi Arabia into the largest Third World weapons purchaser.

Reuters reported that Saudi Arabia has a deal with Pakistan to rent or buy, and deploy nuclear weapons.

- *Implemented, with the British, the 1973-75 oil embargo/hoax which shattered the world economy:* Under the instruction of British Petroleum and Royal Dutch Shell, King Faisal launched the Oct. 17, 1973 oil embargo/hoax, which devastated industrial production worldwide, creating a depression, and aided in destroying the U.S. dollar.

During the Yom Kippur War (Oct. 6-25, 1973) between Israel and the Arab world, on Faisal's personal instructions, Saudi Arabia led the Organization of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC), to adopt an oil embargo: The price of oil immediately rose from \$3 to \$5.11 per barrel; oil production would be cut by 5% at regular intervals; however, on Nov. 25, Saudi Arabia and some other countries imposed a 25% oil output cut-off. On Jan. 11, 1974, the OPEC nations raised the price of petroleum to \$11.65 per barrel, a quadrupling of the price since October.

Industrial production collapsed, from Japan, to Germany and Italy, to Brazil and Taiwan, and unemployment rose sharply. Between 1973 and 1975, in the United States, the acute effect was such that private gross investment fell 31%; the official inflation rate rose 26%; the stock market collapsed 45%; factories in closed, and the nationwide unemployment level jumped 75%.

On Aug. 15, 1971, President Richard Nixon had fulfilled longstanding British demands to take the dollar off the Bretton Woods fixed-exchange-rate system. Under the British-Saudi embargo that soon followed, the dollar crashed, and the U.S. lost sovereign control of its currency and credit. Saudi oil revenues rose from \$1.8 billion per year in 1964, the year Faisal came to power, to \$32.9 billion in 1975, almost a 20-fold increase. A portion of this, and increasing future revenues, were earmarked for dirty operations, and for terrorism.

The 1973-75 oil embargo-hoax was an act of deliberate economic warfare against the world, and in particular, the United States, by the British and King Faisal.

- *Set up the apparatus for world terrorism:* Through his personal establishment of the Muslim World League in Riyadh in 1962, among other steps, King Faisal set up

the apparatus for world terrorism. This will be the subject of Part III of this series, detailing the Saudi financial infrastructure upon which the neo-Salafist global “Jihad Without Borders” apparatus has been built.

In 1967, in England, King Faisal and Queen Eliza-

beth II held strategic meetings, in which they cemented an integrated working relationship between the House of Saud and the House of Windsor. That relationship has been the wellspring of much of the evil that has beset the world since that date.

## What Is Wahhabism?

One of the most rigid and reactionary sects in all of Islam today is Wahhabism. It is the official and dominant Sunni sect in Saudi Arabia, whose sole constitution is the Holy Qur’an. Wahhabism was born in the middle of the 18th Century in the Arabian Peninsula’s central region of Najd. The Wahhabi sect derives its name from the name of its founder Mohammad Ibn Abdul-Wahhab (1703-92). Like most Sunni Islamic fundamentalist movements, the Wahhabis have advocated the fusion of state power and religion through the reestablishment of the Islamic Caliphate, the form of government adopted by the Prophet Muhammad’s successors during the age of Muslim expansion. What sets Wahhabism apart from other Sunni Islamist movements is its historical obsession with purging Sufis, Shiites, and other Muslims who do not conform to its twisted interpretation of Islamic scripture.

Wahhabism and Saudi Arabia’s ruling House of Saud have been intimately intertwined since their births. Wahhabism created the Saudi monarchy, and the House of Saud spread Wahhabism. One could not have existed without the other. Wahhabism gives the House of Saud legitimacy, and the House of Saud protects and promotes Wahhabism. In 1744, Ibn Abd al-Wahhab forged an historic alliance with the al-Saud clan and sanctified its drive to vanquish its rivals. In return, the House of Saud supported campaigns by Wahhabi zealots to cleanse the land of “unbelievers.” In 1801, Saudi-Wahhabi warriors crossed into present-day Iraq and sacked the Shiite holy city of Karbala, killing over 4,000 people.

Various Saudi-Wahhabi terrorist acts and blasphemous crimes historically aroused the deep anger of Muslims around the world. In 1818, as the official ruler of the Arabian Peninsula and the guardian of Islam’s holiest mosques, the Ottoman Caliph in Istanbul, Caliph Mahmud II, ordered an Egyptian force

to be sent to the Arabian Peninsula to punish the Saudi-Wahhabi clan. An Egyptian army destroyed the Wahhabis and razed their desert capital of Dir’iyyah to the ground. The Wahhabi Imam Abdullah al-Saud and two of his followers were sent to Istanbul in chains, where they were publicly beheaded. The rest of the leadership of the Saudi-Wahhabi clan was held in captivity in Cairo.

Although Wahhabism was destroyed in 1818, it was soon revived with the help of British colonialism. After the execution of Imam Abdullah al-Saud, the remnants of the Saudi-Wahhabi clan looked at their Arab and Muslim brothers as their real enemies, and to Britain and the West in general as their true friends. Accordingly, when Britain colonized Bahrain in 1820, and began to look for ways to expand its colonization in the area, the House of Saud found it a great opportunity to seek British protection and help.

In 1843, the Wahhabi Imam Faisal Ibn Turki al-Saud escaped from captivity in Cairo and returned to Riyadh, where he began to make contacts with the British. In 1848 he appealed to the British Political Resident in the Persian city of Bushere “to support his representative in Trucial Oman.” The British sent Col. Lewis Pelly to Riyadh in 1865 to establish an official treaty with the House of Saud. To impress Pelly with his fanaticism and violence, Imam Faisal said that the major difference in the Wahhabi strategy between political and religious wars was that in the latter there would be no compromise, for “we kill everybody” (quoted in Robert Lacey, *The Kingdom: Arabia and the House of Saud* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1981).

In 1866, the Wahhabi House of Saud signed a friendship treaty with Britain. The treaty was similar to the many unequal treaties imposed by Britain on other Arab puppets along the Persian Gulf. In exchange for British help, money, and weapons, the House of Saud agreed to collaborate with Britain’s colonial authorities in the area.

— Ramtanu Maitra