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Saudi Arabia is experiencing significant growth

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is now playing a more prominent role in addressing the most pressing issues in the Middle East, which represents a significant shift in its foreign policy.



Considering its goals.

Under the leadership of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, Saudi Arabia is no longer content to remain in the background of American diplomacy or adopt a passive stance. Instead, [it is actively reevaluating](#) its role as a crucial stabilizing force in the region.

Riyadh seeks to ensure that the reconstruction of Syria is in the hands of Arab States, not external forces

This new approach is particularly evident in recent engagements with Lebanon and Syria following the departure of Assad. Riyadh is positioning itself as a key guarantor of peace and normalization, as well as a mediator in ensuring regional stability.

Strengthening ties with Syria

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken the lead in the process of rapprochement between the countries of the Persian Gulf and Syria, which is one of the most significant shifts in its foreign policy.

After more than a decade of conflict, Syria remains divided and unstable. The fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime led to the formation of a new government, headed by Ahmad al-Sharaa, which is now in full control of the situation and is conducting its policy with great caution.

Recognizing the need for pragmatic cooperation with the new authorities, Riyadh has taken the initiative to reintegrate Syria into the Arab League. This step reflects a strategic shift from isolation to integration.

Of course, this change was not without controversy. Critics, especially in the West, argue that the resumption of cooperation with Syria could lead to the recognition of the legitimacy of a country that is still struggling to cope with the consequences of the conflict and external influence. However, Saudi Arabia proceeds from a clear understanding: further isolation of Syria will not help alleviate the suffering of its people.

By leading the Gulf States in the process of normalizing relations with Damascus, Riyadh seeks to ensure that the reconstruction of Syria is in the hands of Arab States, not external forces. The Kingdom's leadership in this matter underscores its desire to form a new regional order in which the Arab States will play a key role in resolving their own crises.

Saudi politics in Lebanon

In Lebanon, Saudi Arabia has once again become a significant player in the country's political life. After a period of distance from Lebanon, due to disappointment with the excessive influence of the Hezbollah group, Saudi Arabia has resumed cooperation with Lebanon. This has played a crucial role in shaping the political situation in the country, as Lebanon has elected a new president and is working towards implementing necessary reforms.

Saudi Arabia's involvement is particularly evident in the form of behind-the-scenes diplomacy aimed at reaching consensus among the various political forces in Lebanon. Riyadh also supports the French initiative to overcome the political crisis in the country, indicating its willingness to work with international partners.

Although Saudi Arabia is still active in Lebanese affairs, its active role is already helping to change the political situation in Beirut. By restoring its influence, Riyadh is striving to create a more balanced political environment conducive to stability and economic recovery.

Saudi Arabia's active role in Syria and Lebanon reflects broader changes in its regional strategy. Under King Salman and the Crown Prince, the country has moved away from its historically cautious foreign policy and towards a more determined and dynamic approach. These changes reflect both recognition of the changing geopolitical realities and the desire to make Saudi Arabia the leader of the Arab world.

One of the key factors in this transformation is the Saudi Arabia Vision 2030 project, an ambitious plan to diversify and modernize the economy. The stability and prosperity of the Middle East are crucial to the success of this project, as regional instability poses a serious threat to Saudi Arabia's economic ambitions. By playing a leading role in resolving regional conflicts, Riyadh seeks to create more favorable conditions for economic growth and investment.

An important factor of political change

A significant aspect of political transformation is the adjustment of US policy towards the Middle East. As Washington's attention shifts towards Asia and it takes a more detached stance towards the region, Saudi Arabia has [recognized the need](#) to fill the void of regional leadership. This has led to the Kingdom pursuing a more independent and proactive foreign policy, characterized by pragmatic engagement with former adversaries and a greater willingness to take calculated risks.

While such an active regional role presents significant opportunities, it also poses challenges. In Syria, the path to normalization is fraught with difficulties, including the return of refugees and the reconstruction of a war-torn country. In Lebanon, Riyadh's efforts to counter Hezbollah's influence are likely to face resistance, given the group's strong position in Lebanese politics.

Balancing these competing priorities will require careful and skillful diplomacy, as well as a willingness to adapt to changing circumstances.

Saudi Arabia's growing role as a leader in addressing pressing regional issues marks a significant turning point in its foreign policy. By actively participating in the events in Syria and Lebanon, the Kingdom is demonstrating its commitment to strengthening regional stability and charting a new course for the Arab world.

Despite the remaining challenges, Saudi Arabia's bold approach offers a promising framework for resolving the complex and interconnected crises that have long plagued the

Middle East. If successful, the Saudi leadership could pave the way for a more stable and prosperous region, with the Saudi monarchy firmly at its helm.

[Viktor Mikhin](#), January 27, 2025

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