

Map Boxes

The 18-volume set includes 2 map boxes containing 30 large folding maps showing boundary agreements:

Map 01. "Anglo-Saudi territorial claims in the Arabian Peninsula 1913–1955 (revised to 1962)."

Map 02. "Provisional British characterisation of boundaries for the newly-independent South Yemeni Federation, 1968."



Map 02

Map 03. "Britain's provisional 1947 award for a Bahrain–Qatar maritime boundary."

Map 04. "Approximate territorial definition in the Musandam Peninsula, 1967."



Map 04

Map 05. "Approximate territorial definition to the south of the Musandam Peninsula, 1967."

Map 06. "Map attached to concession agreement of 15 December 1970, granted by the Government of Bahrain to Superior Oil Company."

Map 07. Chart No. 2888. "RAS JASK to JAZIRAT SIRRI. Operating limits of oil companies off Sharjah/Umm al Qawain. [1965]."

Map 08. Chart No. 2888. "RAS JASK to JAZIRAT SIRRI. Ras Al Khaimah to Muscat, line of equidistance."

Map 09. Chart No. 2888. "RAS JASK to JAZIRAT SIRRI. Ras Al Khaimah offshore operating area. [1968]."

Map 10. Chart No. 2888. "RAS JASK to JAZIRAT SIRRI. Ras Al Khaimah/Umm al Qawain/Muscat. [post-1963]."

Map 11. Chart No. 2888. "RAS JASK to JAZIRAT SIRRI. Trucial States Continental Shelf, subdividing seabed areas. [1963]."

Map 12. Chart No. 2837. "PERSIAN GULF EASTERN SHEET. Iran/Qatar/UAE, medium line on provisional seabed areas, probably as discussed in Tehran Conference. [1965]."

Map 13. Chart No. 2837. "PERSIAN GULF EASTERN SHEET. Abu Dhabi/Iran seabed boundary. Chart showing proposed Abu Dhabi/Iran seabed boundary based on results of Anglo/Iranian discussion in 1966 and 1967. [1966/67]."

Map 14. Chart No. 2837. "PERSIAN GULF EASTERN SHEET. Iran/Trucial States Median Line. [1967]."

Map 15. Chart No. 2837. "PERSIAN GULF EASTERN SHEET. Median lines discussed at Tehran conference. [1965]."

Map 16. Chart No. 2837. "PERSIAN GULF EASTERN SHEET. Operating limits of oil companies holding off-shore concessions in Qatar and the Trucial States. [1965]."

Map 17. Chart No. 2847. "PERSIAN GULF WESTERN SHEET. Chart illustrating the boundary line defined in the Agreement concerning sovereignty over the islands of Farsi and Arabi and the delimitation of the continental shelf between Iran and Saudi Arabia signed in Tehran on 2 Aban 1347 equivalent to 2 Sha'ban 1388 and 24 October 1968. [1968]."

Map 18. Chart No. 2847. "PERSIAN GULF WESTERN SHEET. Bahrain/Iran Seabed Boundary Agreement, 1971/72. [1972]."

Map 19. Chart No. 2847. "PERSIAN GULF WESTERN SHEET. Bahrain Continental Shelf, June 1970. [1970]."

Map 20. Chart No. 756. "RED SEA GULF OF 'AQABA. Saudi Arabia/Egypt (Tiran Island), 1967".

Map 21. Chart No. 3[3]707. "UMM AL QAIWAIN to RAS AL MATBAKH. Seabed boundary between Qatar and Abu Dhabi in accordance with the agreement of 1 Moharram 1389, corresponding to 20 March 1969, between Qatar and Abu Dhabi. [1968]."

Map 22. "BAHRAIN/IRAN SEABED BOUNDARY. [1970]."

Map 23. "ABU DHABI/DUBAI FRONTIER. [1965]."

Map 24. Chart No. 3707. "OPERATING LIMITS OF THE QATAR OFF-SHORE AREA. [1965]."

Map 25. Chart No. 2886. "JAZH SHAIKH SHU' AIB to RAS AT TANNURA AND SHAH ALLUM SHOAL. Operating limits of oil companies holding offshore concessions in Dubai out OT Median Line, November 1965."

Map 26. Chart No. 3707. "UMM AL QAIWAN to RAS AL MATBAKH. Operating limits of the Dubai Off-Shore area, 1964/65."

Map 27. Treaty Chart No. 3842. "SHATT-AL-ARAB TREATY. Entrance to Shatt-al-Arab. Treaty No. I-14903 (Vol. 1017). [1971]."

Map 28. Treaty Chart No. 3843. "SHATT-AL-ARAB TREATY. Inner Bar to Kabda Point. [1972]."

Map 29. Treaty Chart No. 3844. "SHATT-AL-ARAB TREATY. Kabda Point to Abadan. [1973]."

Map 30. Treaty Chart No. 3845. "SHATT-AL-ARAB TREATY. Abadan to Jazirat Umm At Tuwaylah. [1966]."



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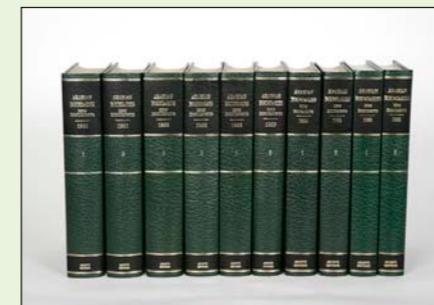
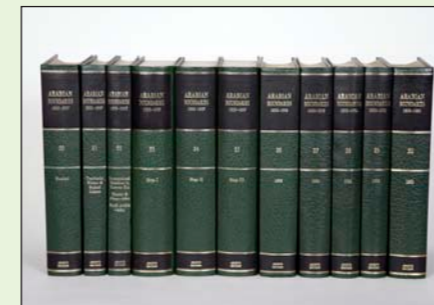
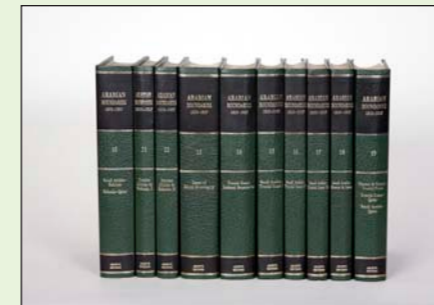
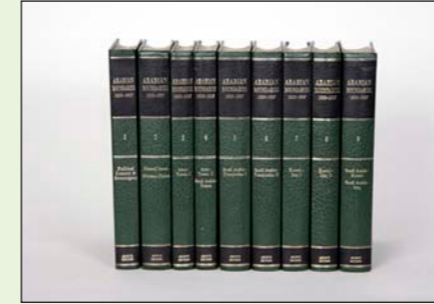
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ARABIAN BOUNDARIES 1966 – 1975



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Algiers: Algeria's President Houari Boumedienne, (centre) is flanked by Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi of Iran, (left) and Iraq's Saddam Hussein, (right), Vice President of Iraq's Revolutionary Command, at the Salle de Honour at Algiers Airport, March 3 1975.

This 18-volume collection provides the most comprehensive record published anywhere of the negotiations, discussions and detailed consideration given over to territorial questions in the Gulf region in the critical 1966–1975 decade. Often more revealing than the actual agreements themselves are the policy discussions and debates that result in them. Here they are assembled for the first time.

The documents chronicle the most critical decade witnessed to date in the territorial evolution of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf region, a wholly unique area in geopolitical terms.. Nowhere else is there such a concentration of microstates and these overlie the world's greatest concentration of hydrocarbon reserves, all within a semi-enclosed sea. The illuminating Foreign and Commonwealth Office record included here comprehensively charts the huge efforts made by Britain to get its territorial house in order by the time it left the region as protecting power in December 1971 but also provides unique insights into the major settlements of the era and their background:

- Maritime boundary agreements between Iran and its western Arab neighbours (1968–1975)
- The rescission of the Iranian claim to Bahrain (1969–1971)
- Consideration of the Lower Gulf islands dispute in the years leading up to the Sharjah–Iran Memorandum of Understanding over Abu Musa (1971) and the response to that settlement
- The disposal of the Buraimi question and Saudi Arabia–United Arab Emirates (1974)
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Arabian Boundaries 1966-1975

Records have been identified which either specifically define the various boundaries concerned or throw direct light on their origin or evolution. Thus the records presented include treaties, letters, telegrams, memoranda and notes, the latter often being diplomatic summaries and assessments. The subject matter being dealt with here includes negotiations, agreements, disputes, incursions and claims.

The aim in this publication is to present a sequence of original file material in integral form for the benefit of the researcher. Detailed and original academic introductions by the editor, Richard Schofield of King’s College, London, are provided for every year covered by the collection and provide a clear and concise contextual analysis for the enclosed documentary content.

From the General Preface

- This collection obviously serves to update the original Archive Editions’ Arabian Boundaries: Primary Documents, 1853-1957 collection, edited by Richard Schofield and Gerald Blake just over two decades ago in 1988. Yet it hopefully does more than merely update. If a decade is often described as a long time in politics, then the period from the mid 1960s to mid 1970s was seminal for the Arabian peninsula states. Many would emerge in fully independent form and, fairly logically, many questions of territorial definition on land and sea needed to be broached. Central to the timescale was Britain’s decision to vacate first Aden (in 1967), then the Gulf (announced in 1968, effected in 1971) as protecting power. Already, by the mid-1960s, many longstanding boundary and territorial disputes were enmeshed in the fast-developing national and regional rivalries of the region. Many, too, would provide a symbolic focus for Arab nationalist agitation against either Britain’s continuing colonial presence in the region or Iran’s ambitions to cement itself as the future dominant Gulf player.

...Securing a sustainable basis for peaceful coexistence between the new and old states of the Gulf region was not the only consideration driving redoubled efforts to see disputes settled. Commercial pressures to delimit maritime space had only become more intense by the time Britain announced its decision to leave. Massive US efforts to push through a seabed boundary agreement between Iran and Saudi Arabia paid dividends in 1968 and in the following few years most of their neighbours would follow suit. For a short while, all other regional territorial issues seemed subordinate to this goal of opening up maritime hydrocarbon reserves for commercial exploitation.

From the Editor’s Introduction to 1975:

- This was a year in which the affairs of the northern Gulf would evidently surprise and intrigue Western governments. Justifiably, they also completely dominate the following short analysis. There had been few signs that a territorial/Kurdish question package settlement was on the cards at the

turn of the year (see 16.01), so Iraqi Vice President Saddam Husain’s abrupt climb-down over the sovereignty of the Shatt al Arab in concluding the Algiers Accord with the Shah of Iran during March 1975 took observers off guard. As Johnny Graham, Britain’s Ambassador in Baghdad commented on the 8th March, only two days after the shock diplomatic breakthrough: “as seen from here, Saddam deserves credit for statesmanship. He has paid a big price in the Shatt al Arab for the Shah’s agreement to end his support for the Kurds, a price that most people here, including myself, doubted he would be willing to pay” (see 16.01)...

- The seemingly bleak outlook for Kuwait–Iraq relations had been highlighted late in February 1975 within a lengthy despatch from Archie Lamb (soon printed as an FCO memorandum entitled “Kuwait and her Neighbours [and a Friend or Two]”) (*see 16.03*).

...“Certainly, I think that they will continue to inch forward at Umm Qasr, thereby putting on the Kuwaitis the onus of action to eject them; and I suppose they might use the same tactics on Warba and Bubiyan, though in the latter case it would be clear to all that they were trespassing.

This leads me to a heretical thought. In the last sentence of (the printed despatch), Lamb says that the consequences of war in this area (i.e., over Kuwait) could be far-reaching and very serious for the Western oil companies and even for détente. I wonder whether this is not overstating the case or perhaps, to put it another way, whether an Iraqi take-over of Kuwait, especially if it were achieved ‘peacefully’ would or should lead to war. Indeed in terms of Western interests, or even in terms of specifically British interests, is the continued independence of Kuwait really a matter of such great moment?” (*16.03*).

...This open and candid discussion of the triangular territorial relationship in the northern Gulf and its potential contribution to inter-state conflict seems particularly prescient in light of what was to transpire over the next one and a half decades.

Documentary Coverage

The documents cover a period, 1966–1975, during which Britain made an enormous effort to conclude the processes of territorial definition and natural resource allocation before it vacated the region as protecting power at the end of 1971. Thereafter it kept a close watch on the legacy it had bequeathed, commenting with great candour on the major territorial settlements of the mid-1970s and the fast-developing regional resource geopolitics it had been so instrumental in defining.

1966

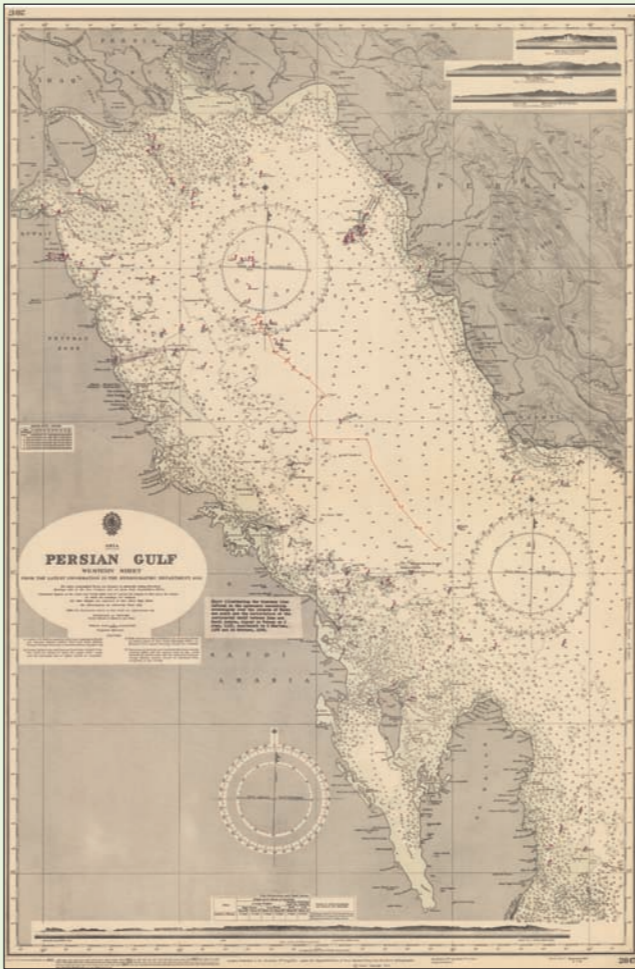
- Iran–Iraq: the origins of linkage in treatment of the territorial and Kurdish questions
- Operations of the Iraq–Kuwait Border Committee
- Safe operating limits for oil concessions and the Hawar island dispute (Bahrain/Qatar)
- Buckmaster and the delimitation of boundaries for the Shaikhdoms of the Trucial States
- The boundary between Saudi Arabia and the Aden Protectorate
- Yemeni claims to Asir, Najran and Jizan
- Review of British policy towards islands of indeterminate sovereignty in the Arabian and Red Seas
- Consideration of the Iran–Kuwait maritime boundary
- Dissatisfaction with the enduring stalemate over Buraimi

1967

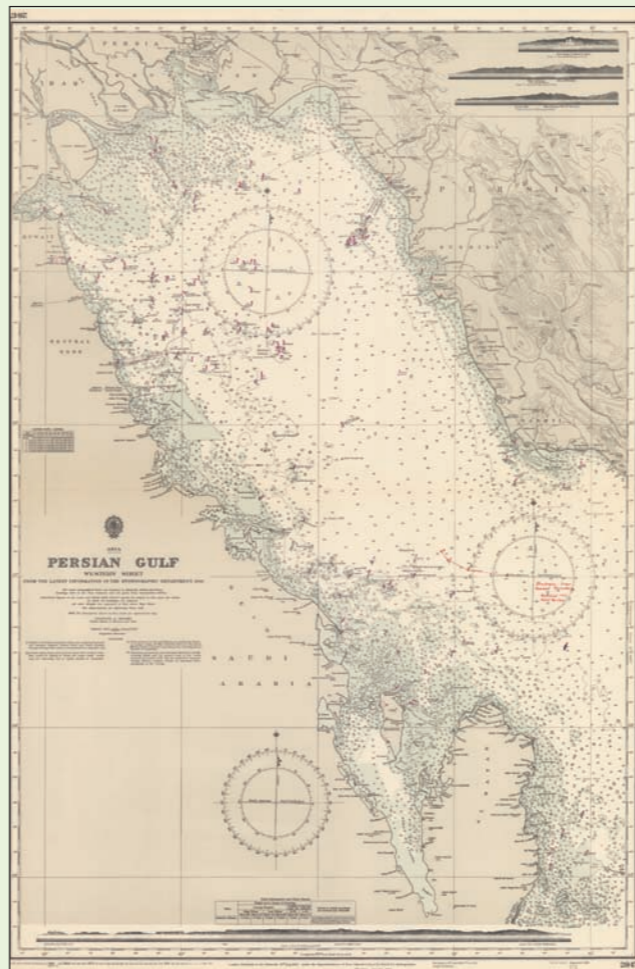
- Consideration of the future status and sovereignty of Kamaran, Kuria Muria, Perim and Socotra islands
- Suggestions of linked packages to treat the Bahrain question and the Lower Gulf islands dispute
- Nomenclature of the Persian Gulf
- Persistence of the Hawar dispute threatens Britain’s ‘Gulfery’ project
- Stalemate over Buraimi hampers efforts to resolve Khor al Udaid dispute
- Oil and the developing territorial consciousness of the Gulf shaikhdoms
- The boundaries of the Aden Protectorate on Britain’s decolonization

1968

- Sorting the three-way conundrum over the Khor al Udaid
- Tidying up territorial claims near the notional Saudi/Abu Dhabi/Oman boundary tripoint
- Recognition of boundaries for newly-independent South Yemen
- Linkages and the suggested resolution of outstanding Arab–Iranian disputes
- Iran–Saudi Arabia maritime boundary agreement of 24 October 1968
- The rise and fall of the envisaged territorial packages



Map 17 Iran/Saudi Arabia



Map 18 Bahrain/Iran

1969

- Abu Dhabi–Qatar maritime boundary agreement of 20 March 1969
- Iran–Qatar maritime boundary agreement, April 1969
- Kuwait–Saudi Arabia boundary agreement (new delimitation effectively bisects old Neutral Zone), 18 December 1969
- Shah of Iran’s New Delhi announcement, January 1969: the inhabitants of Bahrain are free to decide their own political fate
- The Wadi’ah (Saudi Arabia/South Yemen) incident, November 1969
- Crisis over the Shatt al Arab (Iran–Iraq), March–April 1969
- Continuing deliberations over the Lower Gulf islands
- Consideration of Britain’s regional territorial aims and policy

1970

- Reactivation of Saudi–Abu Dhabi boundary dispute and suggestions for a way out of the Buraimi stalemate
- King Faisal’s package proposal for a resolution to the Buraimi dispute (and responses to it), April 1970
- Monsieur Vittorio Winspeare Guicciardi’s mission and the UN disposal of Iranian claims to Bahrain
- Interdepartmental debates over policy to be adopted towards remaining Arabian territorial questions
- Ramifications/implications of the 1969 territorial settlements and incidents
- Consideration of status and alignment of Saudi–Qatar boundary and earlier treaty of December 1965
- Kuwait–Iran communiqué of July 1970 regarding offshore boundaries
- Question of future diplomatic recognition of future Federated Arab Union and resolution of boundary and territorial disputes with Iran and Saudi Arabia

1971

- Consideration of Iraq–Kuwait territorial relations following assassination, in Kuwait, of Iraqi Foreign Minister Hamdan
- Bahrain’s grant of oil concession to Superior in December 1970 reignites the Hawar dispute – reconsideration of British policy towards the dispute
- Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and the continuing dispute over the Khor al Udaid
- Final attempts to broker a package between King Faisal and Shaikh Zaid over Buraimi
- International reactions to the Iran–Sharjah Memorandum of Understanding over Abu Musa, December 1971
- 1972
- Britain’s reflections on the recent past and re-adjustment to new (and old) realities

- Continuing concerns over Iraq–Kuwait disputes
- Saudi–Kuwaiti island disputes and the question of fixing a maritime boundary
- Sovereign status of Red Sea islands
- Unresolved Abu Dhabi border remains a “bone in the throat” of Anglo-Saudi relations
- UAE–Iran relations (and the question of mutual diplomatic recognition) in the wake of the Abu Musa settlement – breakthrough on Christmas Eve
- Peter Ramsbotham’s dispatch of April 1972: “Goodbye to the islands” and an analysis of the Shah’s (and Iranian) territorial strategy

1973

- March 1973 al Samta police post incident (Iraq–Kuwait) and its fallout
- March 1973 Saudi Arabia–Yemen Arab Republic joint communiqué declaring 1934 Taif treaty boundary line as “finally and permanently established”
- Legal proceedings at the Royal Courts of Justice between rival UAE offshore oil concessionaires over concession limits
- Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates edge towards territorial settlement
- Further analysis of Iraq–Kuwait territorial relations

1974

- Territorial component in a starkly deteriorating Iran–Iraq relationship
- Activities along the Iraq–Kuwait borderlands and the gloomy predictions for immediate bilateral relations
- Consideration of provisional alignment and status of Oman–Saudi Arabia international boundary
- Saudi–United Arab Emirates joint communiqué of 29th July 1974 and the bizarre boundary agreement of 21st August 1974 – conjecture, analysis and reaction

1975

- Iraqi climb-down over the Shatt-al-Arab in the Algiers Accord of March 1975
- Subsequent territorial (and other) treaties of June and December 1975
- Analysis of possible Iranian and Iraqi strategies and motivations in landmark territorial settlement
- Anglo-French deliberations and reflections on the climactic events in the northern Gulf
- Implications (and fears) of Iran–Iraq territorial settlement for Iraq–Kuwait relations
- Consideration of Britain’s defence commitments to Kuwait
- Continuing efforts to negotiate existing “holes” in the Persian Gulf median line