

Kuwait

Rice

Kuwait became an independent state from their British mandate in 1961. Abdullah III Al-Salim Al-Sabah was the first Emir of Kuwait, a member of the Al-Sabah dynasty. Abdullah Al-Sabah ruled for a few years until 1965, when he suffered a heart attack and handed over leadership to his half-brother Sabah III Al-Salim Al-Sabah. Sabah III ruled for twelve years until his death in 1977 (it is important to note that leadership changed in 1978 technically as Sabah III died on December 31 and the next leader took office the following day, January 1). Jaber III al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah became Emir next, and he was in charge until 1990. Up to this point there are no recorded SOLS changes because all men were members of the Al-Sabah dynasty.

In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Throughout the invasion, the Emir and government of Kuwait (like many Kuwaitis) fled to Saudi Arabia or other friendly Arab states. On August 2nd, Alaa Hussein Ali (a dual citizen of Iraq and Kuwait) was appointed Head of State by the invading forces. His rule lasted only six days, however. On August 8th, Ali Hassan al-Majid "Chemical Ali" began his term as the Iraqi-appointed governor, who was later replaced with Aziz Salih Numan. All of these men were leaders designated by foreign occupiers when nonindep=1, so they are not coded as SOLS changes on the spreadsheet.

In February of 1991, American-led coalition forces had liberated Kuwait to the extent that the government could return to their home country. Jaber III al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah came back to power as Emir, signifying no SOLS change as he was in power before foreign occupation. He ruled until his death in 2006. For approximately eleven days, Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah of the royal line took over the emirship; however, his poor health conditions led parliament to request his abdication. Thus, on the 24th of January 2006, Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir Al-Sabah became emir, and has served the position since.

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