

philby of arabia st john philby Study Guide

philby of arabia st john philby stands out as a prominent figure in the history of Middle Eastern exploration, espionage, and diplomacy. As a British Arabist, explorer, and intelligence officer, St. John Philby left an indelible mark on the study and understanding of Arabia and its geopolitical landscape. His life was characterized by adventurous expeditions, scholarly pursuits, and complex political engagements, making him a fascinating subject for history enthusiasts and researchers alike.

Early Life and Education

Birth and Family Background

St. John Philby was born in 1885 in England into a family with a rich intellectual and diplomatic heritage. His father, Herbert Henry Philby, was a prominent British civil servant, and his mother was associated with scholarly pursuits. Growing up in an environment that valued education and exploration, Philby developed an early interest in the Middle East and its cultures.

Academic Foundations

Philby attended Cambridge University, where he studied classical languages and history. His academic background provided him with a strong foundation in Arabic language and Middle Eastern history, which would serve as a basis for his future endeavors. During his university years, he immersed himself in the study of Islamic culture and Middle Eastern politics, setting the stage for his later expeditions and diplomatic work.

Explorations and Scholarship in Arabia

Journey into the Arabian Peninsula

In the early 20th century, Philby embarked on pioneering expeditions into the Arabian Peninsula. His explorations were driven by a desire to understand the geography, tribes, and cultures of a largely uncharted region. His detailed maps and ethnographic studies contributed significantly to Western knowledge of the Arabian interior.

Contributions to Middle Eastern Studies

Through his writings and research, Philby became an authority on Arab culture, history, and politics. His works include detailed accounts of Bedouin tribes, Islamic history, and the strategic importance

of the Gulf region. His scholarly publications helped bridge Western understanding of Arab societies and laid the groundwork for future diplomatic and exploratory efforts.

Diplomatic and Intelligence Career

Role in British Intelligence

During World War I and the interwar period, Philby served as an intelligence officer for the British government. His deep knowledge of Middle Eastern cultures and languages made him a valuable asset in espionage activities, especially in the context of British interests in the region.

Involvement with the Middle East

Philby's intelligence work often involved delicate negotiations and clandestine operations. He played a role in shaping British policies in the Gulf and was involved in efforts to influence local rulers and tribes. His insights helped Britain maintain strategic control over key territories and resources.

Political and Personal Beliefs

Conversion to Islam

One of the most notable aspects of Philby's life was his personal religious journey. He converted to Islam, adopting the name Shaikh Abdullah. His conversion was motivated by his deep respect for Arab culture and his desire to integrate more fully into the region's social fabric.

Advocacy and Views on Arabia

Philby believed in Arab independence and was sympathetic to their aspirations for self-rule. His writings often reflected a nuanced understanding of Arab nationalism and the complexities of colonial influence. He was both a supporter of Arab causes and a critic of Western imperialism.

Legacy and Controversies

Impact on Middle Eastern Politics

Philby's work influenced British policies in the Middle East during a critical period of geopolitical change. His insights contributed to strategic decisions regarding the Persian Gulf, Saudi Arabia, and neighboring regions.

Controversies and Criticisms

Despite his contributions, Philby's involvement in espionage and his close ties with Arab leaders led to criticism and suspicion. Some accused him of being overly sympathetic to Arab nationalist movements or of acting in ways that favored certain political interests over others.

Later Life and Death

In his later years, Philby continued to write and lecture about the Middle East. His experiences and insights made him a sought-after commentator on regional affairs. He passed away in 1960, leaving behind a complex legacy as a scholar, spy, and advocate for Arab independence.

Key Achievements and Legacy

- Extensive exploration and mapping of the Arabian Peninsula
- Authoring influential books on Arab culture and history
- Serving as a British intelligence officer during pivotal moments in Middle Eastern history
- Converting to Islam and integrating into Arab society
- Advocating for Arab self-determination and independence

Conclusion

St. John Philby, often known as Philby of Arabia, exemplifies a life dedicated to bridging cultures, exploring uncharted territories, and navigating complex political landscapes. His work remains influential in the fields of Middle Eastern studies, intelligence history, and diplomatic history. Despite controversies, his contributions continue to be recognized for their depth, insight, and pioneering spirit, making him a noteworthy figure in the annals of Arabian exploration and geopolitics.

Philby of Arabia: St. John Philby

Philby of Arabia, St. John Philby, stands as a towering figure in the annals of early 20th-century exploration, diplomacy, and Middle Eastern studies. His life was an intricate tapestry woven with daring adventures across uncharted desert landscapes, diplomatic service amidst geopolitical upheavals, and scholarly pursuits that deepened Western understanding of Arab culture and politics. To truly appreciate the multifaceted legacy of St. John Philby, it is essential to explore his early life, his pioneering explorations, his diplomatic endeavors, and the enduring impact of his work on Middle Eastern history and geopolitics.

Early Life and Background: Foundations of an Explorer

St. John Philby was born in 1885 in England, into a family with intellectual and diplomatic roots. His father, Herbert Haines Philby, was a well-respected British civil servant, which provided young John

with an environment that valued education, exploration, and international engagement. From an early age, Philby exhibited a curiosity about distant lands and cultures, fostering a desire that would shape his lifelong pursuits.

He attended Cambridge University, where he studied history and classics, further cultivating his interest in the ancient and contemporary worlds. His academic background laid the groundwork for his later work, blending scholarly rigor with practical exploration.

This foundation was complemented by his proficiency in Arabic, a language he learned extensively during his university years and subsequent travels. His linguistic skills proved instrumental in establishing rapport with local populations and understanding the nuanced cultural and political landscapes of the Middle East.

Pioneering Exploration: Charting the Unknown Desert

One of Philby's most notable contributions to Middle Eastern history was his pioneering exploration of uncharted desert regions, particularly in Arabia. During the early 20th century, much of the Arabian Peninsula remained a vast, largely unmapped wilderness, fraught with dangers but rich in strategic and cultural significance.

Major Expeditions and Discoveries

- The Empty Quarter (Rub' al Khali): Philby was among the first Western explorers to venture into the Rub' al Khali, one of the largest continuous sand deserts in the world. His expeditions in this treacherous environment provided invaluable geographical data and insights into the nomadic tribes that inhabited the region.

- Mapping Desert Routes: By meticulously charting routes across the Arabian desert, Philby facilitated safer passage for future explorers and traders. This work also contributed to the broader understanding of desert ecology and the resilience of its inhabitants.

- Cultural Encounters: During his travels, Philby engaged with Bedouin tribes, gaining insights into their customs, social structures, and survival strategies. His respect and understanding fostered mutual trust, enabling more detailed ethnographic observations.

Significance of His Explorations

Philby's explorations were not merely for adventure; they served strategic purposes, such as

informing British imperial interests and understanding the geopolitical landscape. His detailed reports and maps influenced subsequent military and diplomatic plans, especially during the tumultuous years surrounding World War I.

Diplomatic Service and Political Engagement

Beyond exploration, St. John Philby's career was deeply intertwined with diplomacy and political strategy. His fluency in Arabic and deep cultural knowledge made him a valuable asset to British intelligence and diplomatic missions in the Middle East.

Role During World War I

During WWI, Philby served as a political officer in the Middle East, leveraging his expertise to navigate complex alliances and regional tensions. His insights into Arab tribal loyalties and political aspirations were vital in shaping British strategies against the Ottoman Empire.

Post-War Diplomacy and Influence

After the war, Philby continued to influence regional politics through various roles:

- **Advisor to Arab Leaders:** He worked closely with influential figures such as Emir Feisal, providing counsel on political and territorial matters.
- **Advocate for Arab Independence:** Philby was a proponent of Arab self-determination, emphasizing the importance of respecting local aspirations in the post-Ottoman geopolitical landscape.
- **Understanding of Wahhabism:** His scholarly interests extended into religious studies, particularly the Wahhabi movement in Arabia, which he saw as a significant force shaping regional politics.

Controversies and Complexities

Philby's diplomatic career was not without controversy. His close associations with Arab nationalists and his sometimes ambiguous allegiances led to accusations of double-dealing. His perspectives often reflected a nuanced understanding of regional loyalties, which did not always align with British strategic interests.

Scholarly Contributions and Writings

St. John Philby's intellectual pursuits culminated in a series of influential writings that continue to inform scholars and policymakers.

Major Works

- "Arabia of the Wahhabis" (1931): An authoritative account of the Wahhabi movement, analyzing its origins, doctrines, and political implications.

- "The Heart of Arabia" (1933): An autobiographical account of his explorations and experiences, blending geographical detail with personal narrative.

- "The Arabian Jubilee" (1950): A reflection on the changes in the region and the enduring influence of Islamic and tribal structures.

Impact on Middle Eastern Studies

Philby's detailed ethnographic descriptions, geographical surveys, and cultural analyses provided a foundation for subsequent scholars. His work bridged the gap between Western academic circles and Arab society, fostering greater understanding and respect. His writings also offered insights into the complexities of Islamic movements, tribal politics, and the socio-economic realities of the Arabian Peninsula.

Legacy and Enduring Influence

St. John Philby's life and work left an indelible mark on the understanding of Arabia and the wider Middle East. His explorations expanded geographical knowledge, his diplomatic efforts helped shape regional policies, and his writings continue to influence Middle Eastern studies.

Contributions to Geopolitical Strategy

His detailed maps and cultural insights informed British and Western policies in the region, particularly during the critical interwar and post-World War II periods.

Bridging Cultures

Philby's respect for Arab culture and his ability to navigate complex tribal and religious landscapes fostered a greater appreciation among Western audiences for the region's intricacies.

Controversies and Criticisms

Despite his contributions, some critics argue that his close ties to Arab nationalist movements and his advocacy for Arab independence sometimes conflicted with British imperial interests. Others critique his perceived ambiguity regarding loyalties, which reflects the complex realities of colonial diplomacy.

Conclusion: A Life of Exploration, Diplomacy, and Scholarship

Philby of Arabia, St. John Philby, embodies the archetype of the early 20th-century explorer-diplomat-scholar. His daring expeditions into uncharted deserts, his strategic diplomatic roles, and his scholarly writings all contributed to a deeper understanding of the Arab world. While his legacy is complex—marked by admirable curiosity and cultural sensitivity alongside the political intricacies of colonial geopolitics—his influence endures. Today, historians and scholars continue to study his life as a testament to the profound interplay between exploration, cultural engagement, and geopolitics in a rapidly changing world. His story remains a compelling chapter in the ongoing narrative of Middle Eastern history and Western engagement with the Arab peninsula.

Question Who was St. John Philby and what is his significance in Arabian history? St. John Philby was a British Arabist, explorer, and intelligence officer known for his extensive knowledge of the Arabian Peninsula. He played a key role in exploring and understanding Arab culture and politics, and his work significantly influenced Western perceptions of the Middle East. **Answer** What were St. John Philby's contributions to the exploration of Arabia? St. John Philby conducted numerous expeditions across the Arabian Desert, mapping uncharted territories, and documenting Arab traditions and geography. His explorations helped expand Western knowledge of the region during the early 20th century. How was St. John Philby connected to the political developments in Saudi Arabia? St. John Philby was an advisor to Ibn Saud and played a role in shaping diplomatic relations between Britain and Saudi Arabia. His insights helped establish alliances that facilitated the unification of Saudi Arabia. What is the relationship between St. John Philby and Kim Philby? St. John Philby was the father of Kim Philby, the infamous British double agent who worked for the Soviet Union. Their relationship has been a subject of historical interest due to the contrasting roles they played in intelligence and diplomacy. Why is St. John Philby considered a controversial figure? St. John Philby is viewed as controversial because of his close ties with Arab leaders and his role in British intelligence, which has led to debates about his loyalties and the influence he wielded in Middle Eastern affairs. What is the legacy of St. John Philby in Middle Eastern studies? St. John Philby's pioneering explorations, cultural insights, and diplomatic efforts have left a lasting impact on Middle Eastern studies, providing valuable historical and geographical knowledge that continues to inform scholars today.

Related keywords: Philby of Arabia, St. John Philby, Arabian exploration, Middle East explorers, British explorers, Arabist, desert expeditions, Middle East politics, British intelligence, Arab

nationalism

Saudi Arabia 966 Saudi Arabia 966

saudi arabia 966 **saudi arabia 966** is a phrase that resonates deeply within the context of Middle Eastern geopolitics, economic development, and cultural transformation. The number 966 is notably recognized as the international dialing code for Saudi Arabia, symbolizing the country's global communication and connections. Over recent decades, Saudi Arabia has undergone significant changes, positioning itself as a pivotal player on the world stage. This article explores the multifaceted aspects of Saudi Arabia, with a particular focus on the significance of the number 966, its implications for global outreach, and the country's ongoing evolution in various sectors.

Understanding the Significance of 966 in Saudi Arabia

The International Dialing Code: 966

Saudi Arabia's country calling code, +966, is an essential part of its international identity. It is used by millions of residents, expatriates, and businesses to connect with the world, facilitating trade, tourism, and diplomatic relations.

- **Historical Context:** The +966 country code was assigned by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) when Saudi Arabia's telecommunications infrastructure expanded in the late 20th century.
- **Global Connectivity:** The code symbolizes Saudi Arabia's integration into the global digital and communication networks, essential for modern commerce and diplomacy.
- **Business and Tourism:** For international travelers and investors, dialing +966 is their first step in engaging with the country's vibrant markets and cultural sites.

The Cultural and Economic Impact of 966

While primarily a technical identifier, the number +966 has become synonymous with Saudi Arabia's burgeoning economic landscape and cultural outreach efforts.

- **Promotion of International Trade:** Businesses worldwide recognize +966 as a gateway to the Saudi market, which is among the largest in the Middle East.
- **Tourism Growth:** The country's push to diversify its economy has made it more accessible and

appealing to international tourists, with +966 serving as a symbol of this openness.

- **Diplomatic Relations:** The code underscores Saudi Arabia's active engagement in global diplomacy, hosting international summits and fostering regional alliances.

Saudi Arabia's Economic Transformation

Vision 2030 and Diversification

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 is a strategic blueprint aimed at reducing the country's dependence on oil and fostering sustainable economic growth. This initiative has significant implications for various sectors.

- **Key Sectors for Development:**

- Tourism and Entertainment
- Renewable Energy
- Technology and Innovation
- Mining and Industry

- **Foreign Investment:** The country actively seeks to attract foreign direct investment (FDI), facilitated by streamlined regulations and initiatives like the Saudi Investment Riyadh Forum.

- **Economic Cities:** Projects such as NEOM aim to create futuristic urban hubs that blend technology, sustainability, and quality of life.

The Role of Digital Infrastructure

Digital transformation is at the heart of Saudi Arabia's modernization efforts, with a focus on improving connectivity and digital services.

- **Broadband Expansion:** Major investments are being made to expand high-speed internet access across urban and rural areas.

- **E-Government Services:** Citizens and residents can access government services seamlessly online, enhancing transparency and efficiency.

- **Smart Cities:** Initiatives like NEOM and other smart city projects leverage IoT and AI to improve urban living conditions.

Cultural and Social Changes in Saudi Arabia

From Tradition to Modernity

Saudi Arabia has seen profound social transformations in recent years, balancing its rich traditions with modern influences.

- **Women's Rights:** Reforms such as lifting the driving ban and increasing participation in the workforce mark significant progress.
- **Entertainment and Tourism:** The opening of cinemas, concerts, and international events reflects a shift towards a more diverse cultural scene.
- **Religious and Cultural Heritage:** Preservation of historical sites like Diriyah and Al-Ula enhances cultural tourism and national pride.

Key Social Initiatives

- Promoting education and innovation
- Supporting youth entrepreneurship
- Enhancing healthcare services
- Encouraging cultural exchange programs

Saudi Arabia's Global Role and Relations

Strategic Alliances and Diplomacy

Saudi Arabia plays a vital role in regional stability and international diplomacy.

- **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC):** Active participation in regional politics and economic integration.
- **OPEC Leadership:** Influencing global oil markets and energy policies.
- **International Partnerships:** Collaborations with the US, China, and European nations on security, trade, and technology.

Saudi Arabia and the World

The country's efforts to diversify its economy and foster cultural openness have increased its influence globally.

- **Hosting International Events:** G20 Summit in 2020, Future Investment Initiative, and more.
- **Promoting Cultural Diplomacy:** Initiatives like the Saudi Seasons festivals attract millions of visitors annually.

- **Humanitarian Aid:** Providing assistance to neighboring countries and participating in global aid programs.

Future Outlook for Saudi Arabia

Growth Prospects and Challenges

While the country has made remarkable progress, it faces challenges in ensuring sustainable growth.

- **Economic Diversification:** Balancing oil revenues with new sectors.
- **Social Reforms:** Continuing efforts to modernize society while respecting traditions.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Addressing climate change and investing in renewable energy sources.

Emerging Trends

- Increased adoption of renewable energy projects like solar and wind
- Expansion of digital economy and fintech sectors
- Enhanced focus on education and workforce development
- Greater international collaboration in science and technology

Conclusion: The Significance of 966 in Shaping Saudi Arabia's Future

The number 966, representing Saudi Arabia's international calling code, embodies the country's journey toward global integration. It signifies more than just a dialing prefix; it symbolizes Saudi Arabia's ambitions, connections, and evolving identity on the world stage. As the nation navigates its path through economic diversification, social reforms, and technological advancements, the influence of its global outreach—facilitated by communication, diplomacy, and international partnerships—remains pivotal. With ongoing investments in infrastructure, culture, and innovation, Saudi Arabia is poised to shape a future that balances tradition with modernity, positioning itself as a major global player in the years to come.

Key Takeaways:

- +966 is Saudi Arabia's country calling code, vital for international communication.
- The country is undergoing rapid economic diversification through Vision 2030.

- Social reforms are transforming societal roles, especially for women.
- Strategic diplomacy enhances Saudi Arabia's influence regionally and globally.
- Future growth depends on sustainable development and technological innovation.

By understanding the importance of +966 and the broader context of Saudi Arabia's development, stakeholders—from investors to tourists—can better appreciate the country's trajectory and opportunities ahead.

Saudi Arabia 966 Saudi Arabia 966: An In-Depth Exploration of Cultures, Economy, and Society

Introduction to Saudi Arabia 966

The phrase Saudi Arabia 966 Saudi Arabia 966 encapsulates a sense of identity and connectivity associated with the kingdom's cultural, economic, and social fabric. The number "966" is notably the international dialing code for Saudi Arabia, symbolizing the country's global communication presence and its integration into the international community. This review delves into the multifaceted aspects of Saudi Arabia, exploring its history, culture, economy, and societal evolution, providing comprehensive insights into what makes this nation unique and influential on the world stage.

Historical Context and Evolution

Origins and Early History

- Originated from various nomadic tribes and settled communities in the Arabian Peninsula.
- The unification of the modern state began in the early 20th century under King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud.
- The discovery of oil in 1938 transformed the socio-economic landscape abruptly.

Modern Development

- Post-World War II economic expansion fueled by oil revenues.
- The establishment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932 laid the foundation for modern governance.
- Key milestones include the development of infrastructure, education, and health services.

Cultural Heritage of Saudi Arabia

Traditional Culture and Customs

- Deeply rooted in Islamic principles, with the Quran and Hadith guiding social norms.
- Emphasis on hospitality, family values, and respect for elders.
- Traditional dress: Thobe for men and Abaya for women, with regional variations.

Language and Literature

- Arabic is the official language, with rich classical and modern literary traditions.
- Poetry is a highly esteemed art form, reflecting history, love, and social issues.

Religious Significance

- The birthplace of Islam, hosting the holiest sites: Mecca and Medina.
- Religious practices and festivals like Ramadan and Hajj are central to societal life.
- Saudi Arabia enforces Islamic law (Sharia), influencing various aspects of daily life.

Economic Landscape

Oil and Energy Sector

- Saudi Arabia holds approximately 16% of the world's proven oil reserves.
- The country is the world's largest exporter of petroleum, significantly impacting global oil prices.
- Vision 2030 aims to diversify the economy beyond oil dependence.

Economic Diversification Efforts

- Development of non-oil sectors such as tourism, entertainment, and technology.
- Investment in mega-projects like NEOM, a futuristic city aiming to be a hub for innovation.
- Encouraging foreign investment through reforms and easing of business regulations.

Key Industries and Sectors

- Petrochemicals, mining, and manufacturing.
- Tourism, especially religious tourism (Hajj and Umrah).
- Real estate development and infrastructure projects.

Society and Demographics

Population and Urbanization

- Population exceeds 35 million, with a significant proportion under 30 years old.
- Major cities include Riyadh (capital), Jeddah, Dammam, and Mecca.

Social Structure and Lifestyle

- Rapid urbanization has led to modernization, especially among youth.
- Traditional values coexist with a growing interest in entertainment, sports, and arts.
- Women's participation in the workforce has increased, influenced by recent reforms.

Education and Innovation

- Emphasis on education reform and international partnerships.
- Growing number of universities and technical institutes.
- Focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Political System and International Relations

Governance Structure

- Absolute monarchy led by the King, who also holds the position of Prime Minister.
- The Council of Ministers and Consultative Shura Council play advisory roles.
- Legal system based on Islamic law, with recent reforms aimed at modernization.

Foreign Policy and Global Engagement

- Active participation in regional organizations like GCC.
- Strategic partnerships with the United States, China, and other global powers.
- Initiatives to promote regional stability and counter-terrorism.

Tourism and Cultural Diplomacy

Tourism Development

- Recent reforms to open up religious and leisure tourism.
- Introduction of tourist visas in 2019, expanding beyond religious pilgrims.
- Promotion of heritage sites, natural parks, and entertainment events.

Cultural Festivals and Events

- Riyadh Season and Jeddah Season showcase entertainment, arts, and cultural exchange.
- International sporting events like Formula E and boxing matches.
- Efforts to preserve and showcase Saudi heritage through museums and cultural centers.

Challenges and Opportunities

Socio-economic Challenges

- Youth unemployment remains a concern; efforts are underway to create jobs.
- Gender equality and women's rights continue to evolve amid traditional societal norms.
- Environmental issues like water scarcity and climate change pose long-term challenges.

Opportunities for Growth

- Diversification reduces reliance on oil revenues.
- Strategic location offers opportunities as a global logistics hub.
- Cultural and religious tourism can become significant economic drivers.

Future Outlook: Vision 2030 and Beyond

- Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 aims for a balanced, sustainable, and diversified economy.
- Key goals include increasing non-oil sector contribution to GDP, enhancing quality of life, and fostering innovation.
- Social reforms are expected to continue, promoting greater participation of women and youth.
- The kingdom seeks to position itself as a global center for tourism, investment, and cultural exchange.

Conclusion

Saudi Arabia 966 Saudi Arabia 966 represents more than just its international dialing code ? it embodies a nation at the crossroads of tradition and modernity. From its rich Islamic heritage and

deep-rooted cultural practices to its ambitious economic reforms and societal transformations, Saudi Arabia is a compelling case of a nation evolving in a complex geopolitical landscape. With ongoing reforms, strategic investments, and a focus on diversification, the kingdom is poised to redefine its identity on the world stage, balancing its historical legacy with aspirations for future growth and innovation. Whether viewed through the lens of cultural heritage, economic potential, or societal change, Saudi Arabia remains a fascinating subject of study and admiration for global observers.

Question What does the term '966' signify in relation to Saudi Arabia? The number '966' is the country calling code for Saudi Arabia, used for making international phone calls to the country. **Answer** Why is 'Saudi Arabia 966' often mentioned in social media and online discussions? It is frequently referenced as a shorthand for contacting or referencing Saudi Arabia internationally, especially in digital and telecommunication contexts. Are there specific websites or services associated with 'Saudi Arabia 966'? While '966' is primarily the country code, some online services or platforms may include '966' in their contact information, but it is not associated with a particular website. How do I dial Saudi Arabia from abroad using the '966' code? To call Saudi Arabia from another country, dial your international access code (e.g., 011 in the US), then 966, followed by the local number (excluding the initial zero). Has 'Saudi Arabia 966' become a trending hashtag or meme? While not a widespread meme, the number '966' sometimes appears in social media posts related to Saudi Arabia's telecommunications or travel topics. Is '966' used in any branding or marketing campaigns related to Saudi Arabia? Generally, '966' is used in official contexts like telecommunications branding, but it is not common in marketing campaigns beyond representing the country code. Are there any privacy or security considerations when using '966' in online communications? Using the country code '966' in itself does not pose privacy concerns; however, always be cautious with sharing personal information when making international calls or online interactions.

Related keywords: Saudi Arabia, 966 country code, Riyadh, Middle East, Arabian Peninsula, Gulf Cooperation Council, Saudi Riyal, Jeddah, Mecca, Saudi culture

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