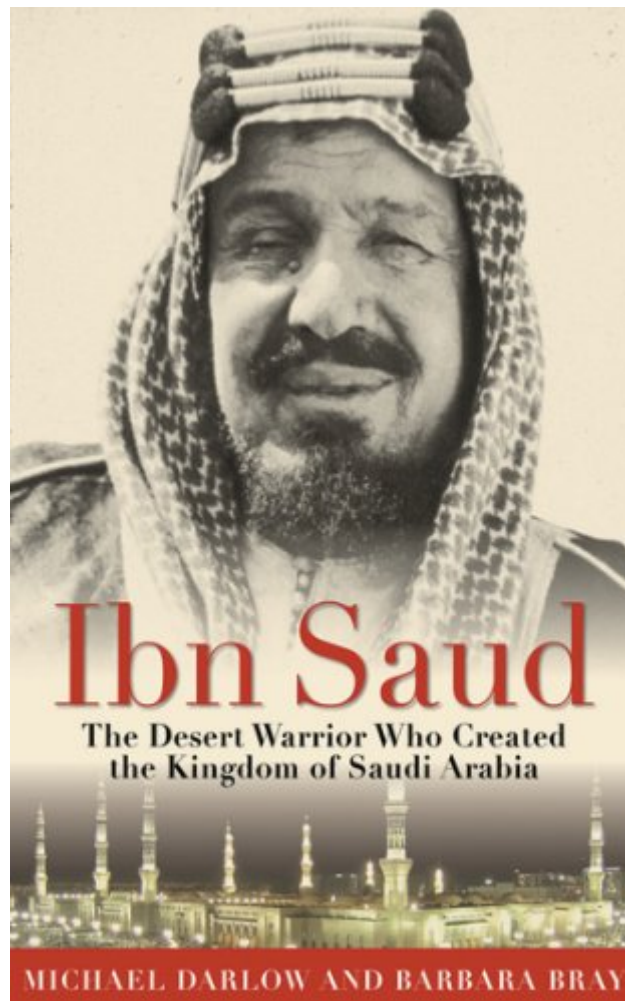


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# Ibn Saud: The Desert Warrior Who Created The Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia



## Synopsis

Ibn Saud grew to manhood living the harsh traditional life of the desert nomad, a life that had changed little since the days of Abraham. Equipped with immense physical courage, he fought and won, often with weapons and tactics not unlike those employed by the ancient Assyrians, a series of astonishing military victories over a succession of enemies much more powerful than himself. Over the same period, he transformed himself from a minor sheikh into a revered king and elder statesman, courted by world leaders such as Churchill and Roosevelt. A passionate lover of women, Ibn Saud took many wives, had numerous concubines, and fathered almost one hundred children. Yet he remained an unswerving and devout Muslim, described by one who knew him well at the time of his death in 1953 as "probably the greatest Arab since the Prophet Muhammad."

Saudi Arabia, the country Ibn Saud created, is a staunch ally of the West, but it is also the birthplace of Osama bin Laden and fifteen of the nineteen 9/11 hijackers. Saudi Arabia's kingdom, as it now stands, has survived the vicissitudes of time and become an invaluable player on the world's political stage.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The vast amount of information presented by authors Michael Darlow and Barbara Bray is

astonishing, as a reader I am in awe. I cannot remember reading a book that made me think "Wow, how did they find that out" as well as speculating that the research took more than just years. Ibn Saud's story is nothing less than amazing. Reading Ibn Saud, The Desert Warrior Who Created the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia I realized that growing up in the desert steered Ibn Saud's mind and body. While that may be somewhat logical the book shows Saud's exceptional personality. After Ibn Saud reclaims Riyadh with basically a handful of men, he begins to transform the desert land into a global powerhouse with vision from the very beginning. I had never realized that Ibn Saud was a truly religious man; he partnered with religious leaders not only to form alliances, he was religious. This turned into a meaningful symbiosis which helped him to turn the previously underdeveloped desert country into a powerful kingdom. Having read the book I now understand today's conflict between Yemen and Saudi Arabia much better. It appears the issue started 1932. Fascinating are the stories how the American oil companies set foot into Saudi Arabia, and I also did not know that Kuwait already had considerable power at the time. However, the part of the book I enjoyed the most was about the relationship between FDR and Ibn Saud. The two heads of state descended to the private mess hall in separate lifts (on the USS Quincy) the President pressing the emergency button to stop the lift between decks so that he could quickly smoke two cigarettes. Roosevelt, a chain smoker, was taking good care not to offend Ibn Saud's strict Wahhabi principles.

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