**Saudi Founding Day: Celebrating the Birth of a Nation**

On February 22, Saudi Arabia comes alive with celebrations as the nation commemorates \*\*Saudi Founding Day\*\*. This important event marks the enthronement of \*\*Muhammad bin Saud\*\* as the emir of the oasis town of \*\*Dariya\*\* in 1727. Let us delve into the significance of this day and explore its rich history.

**## The Genesis of the First Saudi State**

The death of \*\*Saud bin Muhammad al-Muqrin\*\* in around 1726 paved the way for his son, \*\*Muhammad\*\*, to succeed him as the emir of Dariya in Najd. This hereditary succession marked the birth of the \*\*Emirate of Dariya\*\*, also known as the \*\*First Saudi State\*\*. But it wasn't just a local affair; it laid the groundwork for a remarkable journey.

In 1744, Muhammad forged an alliance with \*\*Muhammad bin Abdul Wahhab\*\*, a reformist Sunni Islamic scholar who sought asylum after expulsion from his hometown due to his perceived unorthodox teachings. Ibn Wahhab's teachings would later become a driving force for future conquests and expeditions across the Arabian Peninsula. The goal? To revive theological monotheism and eradicate perceived deviant beliefs among Muslims.

**## The Rise and Fall**

The First Saudi State expanded its influence, conquering territories until 1818 when the Ottoman Egyptian army, led by \*\*Muhammad Ali Pasha\*\* and \*\*Ibrahim Pasha\*\*, retaliated. They laid siege to Dariya, ultimately defeating the First Saudi State. However, in 1824, \*\*Turki bin Abdullah al-Saud\*\* reclaimed Dariya and Riyadh, establishing the \*\*Second Saudi State\*\*, which lasted for 67 years.

**## A Legacy Revived**

Fast forward to 1901: \*\*Ibn Saud\*\*, son of exiled emir Abdul Rahman al-Saud, embarked on a raiding spree into Nejd. His mission? To avenge his father's exile by targeting tribes associated with the Rashidi’s. His efforts culminated in restoring Saudi rule and establishing what we now know as the present-day \*\*Kingdom of Saudi Arabia\*\*.

**## Celebrating Unity and Heritage**

Today, on Saudi Founding Day, we honor Imam Muhammad bin Saud's vision and resilience. His establishment of the first Saudi state laid the foundation for our nation's deep historical, civilizational, and cultural roots. As we celebrate this day annually on February 22nd, let us reflect on our unity, stability, and prosperity—a testament to our enduring legacy