

Country: Bahrain

Years: 1971-1998

Leader: Isa Ibn al-Khalifah

Ideology: rightist

Description: CHISOLS identifies leader party as none. Perspective monde does not identify leader ideology. Rulers notes "Sheikh Isa and his government decided the island's future prosperity could only be assured by transforming the economy. Long an established trading centre, Bahrain encouraged the development of a substantial banking industry" and worked on general "economic diversification". World Encyclopedia of Political Systems and Parties notes that the ruling family "set up a commercial, estate-holding aristocracy over the locals." The Encyclopedia continues that Bahrain has "serious outbreaks of political violence have occurred repeatedly in the country... From the 1950s to the 1970s, riots and strikes pitted Bahrain's working class against the ruling family and state officials.... These incidents were for the most part characterized as well by persistent demands for changes in the country's economy to benefit poor workers... [then] beginning in 1991, popular unrest reemerged... among poorer Shi'is agitation for a more equitable social order." The Encyclopedia also notes that although "political parties, like trade unions are prohibited by law... three informal blocs appeared in the Assembly in the early part of 1974" one of these groups "the independents advocated a number of diverse programs that were largely in line with the maintenance of an unregulated market economy on the island." The Encyclopedia continues noting that even though one of these informal blocs, "the People's bloc advocated for traditional labor demands for unionization, worker participation in economic policy making, and higher wages... and included Ba'th Party, communist and PFLOAG sympathizers" the country has in place "a strict public security Law that had been used to suppress the PFLOAG, Ba'this, and local communists... [and] it became clear by mid-1975 that the two largest informal blocs of delegates within the Assembly, the People's and the Religious blocs, acting together could not force the government to cancel the Public Security Law."

Years: 1990-2020

Leader: Hamad Isa Ibn al-Khalifah

Ideology: rightist

Description: CHISOLS identifies leader party as none. Perspective monde does not identify leader ideology. Varieties of Democracy identifies party affiliation as none. World Encyclopedia of Political Systems and Parties notes that the ruling

family “set up a commercial, estate-holding aristocracy over the locals.” The Encyclopedia continues that Bahrain has “serious outbreaks of political violence have occurred repeatedly in the country... From the 1950s to the 1970s, riots and strikes pitted Bahrain’s working class against the ruling family and state officials.... These incidents were for the most part characterized as well by persistent demands for changes in the country’s economy to benefit poor workers... [then] beginning in 1991, popular unrest reemerged... among poorer Shi’is agitation for a more equitable social order.” The Encyclopedia also notes that although “political parties, like trade unions are prohibited by law... three informal blocs appeared in the Assembly in the early part of 1974” one of these groups “the independents advocated a number of diverse programs that were largely in line with the maintenance of an unregulated market economy on the island.” The Encyclopedia continues noting that even though one of these informal blocs, “the People’s bloc advocated for traditional labor demands for unionization, worker participation in economic policy making, and higher wages... and included Ba’th Party, communist and PFLOAG sympathizers” the country has in place “a strict public security Law that had been used to suppress the PFLOAG, Ba’this, and local communists... [and] it became clear by mid-1975 that the two largest informal blocs of delegates within the Assembly, the People’s and the Religious blocs, acting together could not force the government to cancel the Public Security Law.”

References:

Kaple, Deborah A. and Delury, George E. 1999. Bahrain. In: Kaple, Deborah A. and Delury, George E. World Encyclopedia of Political Systems and Parties. 80-83.

[Rulers.org](http://www.rulers.org/indexh1.html#hamad). 2020. Isa Ibn al-Khalifah. <http://www.rulers.org/indexh1.html#hamad> (last checked on May 4, 2020)