

## **Title:** Saudi Arabia's Constitution of 1992 (Revised 2013)

### **Summary:**

Saudi Arabia's **Basic Law of Governance**, established in 1992 and revised in 2013, defines the country as a **sovereign Arab Islamic state** governed by **Islamic law (Shari'ah)**, with the **Qur'an and Sunnah as its constitution**. It affirms the monarchy as the system of government, where the King is both the **head of state and the government**, with powers to issue royal decrees, appoint ministers, and oversee governance. The **Al Saud dynasty** maintains hereditary rule, and the King selects the Crown Prince, who assumes power upon the monarch's death.

The **state operates on principles of justice, consultation (Shura), and equality**, ensuring that all laws and policies align with **Islamic teachings**. The King wields **executive, legislative, and judicial authority**, with the **Shura Council** serving an advisory role, appointed by the King to review laws and policies. The judicial system is **independent**, applying Islamic law, with the Supreme Judicial Council overseeing legal interpretations. **Personal rights, property rights, and social welfare** are guaranteed, but all civil liberties must align with Islamic law.

Saudi Arabia prioritizes **economic and social development**, with state ownership of **natural resources** and strict regulations on their use. The government ensures public services such as **education, healthcare, and environmental protection**, with policies aimed at economic sustainability. The **media and public discourse are regulated**, emphasizing national unity and restricting speech that disrupts public order. Foreign residents must adhere to local customs and laws, and the state **grants political asylum selectively**.

The Constitution mandates national security, requiring **citizens to defend Islam and the nation**, and grants the King powers over **war declarations and emergency situations**. The financial framework is detailed, specifying tax collection, budgeting, and financial oversight mechanisms. **Provincial governance** is structured under an emir system, ensuring regional stability. Amendments to the Basic Law require the **same formal process as its original enactment**, reinforcing the monarchy's control over constitutional changes.