

# Saudi Arabia Lifts Cinema Ban

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Category : Lifestyle/Entertainment

## Unlocking Word Meanings

Read the following words/expressions found in today’s article.

1. **cease** / **sis** / (v) – to stop  
*Example:* The government decided to **cease** the screening of the popular film because of its offensive content.
2. **conservative** / **kən'sɜr və tɪv** / (adj) – traditional  
*Example:* The country was able to preserve its **conservative** culture.
3. **notion** / **'nɒv jən** / (n) – a general opinion on something  
*Example:* There is a **notion** that the town is not safe to visit.
4. **box-office** / **'bɒks ɔ fɪs, - ɒf ɪs** / (adj) – relating to a successful film  
*Example:* The movie, which is a **box-office** hit, received a lot of praises from viewers.
5. **depleted** / **dɪ'plɪt ɪd** / (adj) – used up or dwindling  
*Example:* Resources are becoming **depleted** because of the country’s high population.

## Article

Read the text below.

映画放映の禁止が実施されてから35年後に

Saudi Arabia is now allowing movie theaters to operate 35 years after the cinema ban was implemented.

映画の放映を停止した

保守的な文化と道徳に反すると言う概念によってこの動きが進められた(immoral : 道徳に反する、notion : 概念、conservative : 保守的)

In the 1980s, the Saudi Arabian government **ceased** the operations of cinemas, which was a move prompted by the country’s **conservative** culture and the **notion** that Western movies are immoral. But in December last year, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman decided to lift the ban as part of the modernization plans for the country.

近代化への一部として禁止を解除する事を決断した(lift : 解除、modernization : 近代化)

大ヒット作

～で最初に映画館で放映された映画

禁止が解除された後

その映画は～を中心として話が展開する(revolves around : ～を中心に展開する)

～によって支配される

*Black Panther*, one of Hollywood’s **box-office** hits, was the first Western film screened in cinemas in Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh, / ri'yɒd / after the ban’s lifting. The film revolves around the fictional African kingdom called Wakanda, which is ruled by a young king who decided to utilize its resources for the common good.

映画(its resources)を共通の利益の為に活用する事を決めた(common good : 公益)

～の状況に影響を与えた

主に自然の資源に依存している

石油埋蔵量はサウジアラビアの富に大きな引き金となって居る

Reports say that *Black Panther*’s plot reflects Saudi Arabia’s situation. Like Wakanda, the country is dependent mainly on its natural resources, particularly oil. Because oil reserves have greatly contributed to Saudi Arabia’s wealth, Prince Salman aims to utilize these resources for the country’s political and economic reorganization before they become **depleted**.

～は枯渇する前にこれらの資源を国の政治と経済の再編成の為に活用する事を目的としている(deplete : 枯渇、political : 政治的、reorganization : 再編成)

映画に関する禁止の解除は～に沿っている。

経済と社会の改革に焦点を置いたプログラム

According to the Saudi Arabian government, the lifting of the ban on cinemas is in line with Prince Salman’s “Vision 2030,” a program that focuses on economic and social reforms. Culture and Information Minister Dr. Awwad Alawwad believes that the revival of cinemas will benefit the local economy as it boosts household spending on entertainment. At the same time, it will provide job opportunities in the country.

映画の復活はエンターテイメントでの家計支出増加と言う形で地元の経済に利益が発生する(household spending : 家計支出、revival : 復活)

それと同時に、仕事の機会を提供する

By 2030, the government aims to establish around 350 cinemas to cater to Saudi Arabia’s population of over 32 million.

2030年までに、大勢のサウジアラビアの人々に応える為、政府は350程の映画館を設立する(cater : 要求などに応じる)

## Viewpoint Discussion

Enjoy a discussion with your tutor.

### Discussion A

- Do you think that a cinema ban is enough to protect a country’s conservative culture? Explain.

- Aside from Black Panther, what other movies do you think should be screened in Saudi Arabia? Why?

**Discussion B**

- Would you consider your country’s cinema industry successful? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How would you feel if your government decides to stop the operations of cinemas? Discuss.