

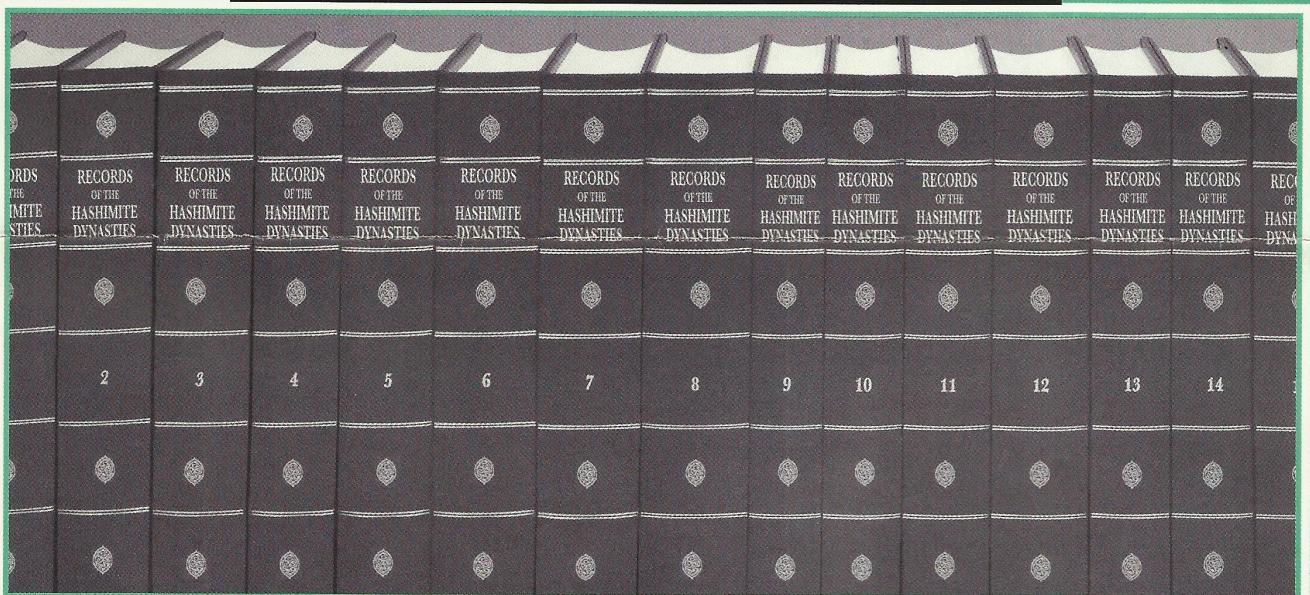


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EDITED BY A. de L. Rush

Editor of *Records of the Hajj*, *Ruling Families of Arabia* and *Records of Kuwait 1899 - 1961*

# ◆ RECORDS OF THE HASHIMITE DYNASTIES ◆

A Twentieth Century Documentary History

## The authenticity of the Hashimite lineage ...

The story of the Hashimites dates back over fourteen hundred years to the lifetime of Hashim, great-grandfather of the Prophet Muhammad (d.632 A.D.) and grandfather of Abbas, the forerunner of the Abbasid Caliphs. Though the authenticity of this lineage cannot be proved beyond question, most Muslims have always accepted it; and it is this traditional consensus that legitimised the ascendancy of the Hashimites in the Holy land of the Hijaz for over six centuries until their expulsion by the father of the present Saudi Arabian monarch in 1925.

As Sharifs - or, more properly, Amirs - of Mecca, they directed the vast concourse of pilgrims that flocked to Mecca and Medina each year from every corner of the Islamic world.

Arch-predators among the devout masses, they were nonetheless deeply revered. Until simpler fashions took hold during the Sharifate of 'Aun al-Rafiq (1882-1905), they were overwhelmingly formidable and impressive figures. Indeed no one privileged to observe them in those earlier centuries ever forgot the sight of a Grand Sharif in his ceremonial gold-embroidered robes and elaborate turban processing through the Grand Mosque beneath the huge umbrella of State, surrounded by his trumpeters, bodyguards, reciters of the Qur'an and African slaves.

## HOW THE HASHIMITES AND THE BRITISH FORMED AN ALLIANCE ... AND HOW THE HASHIMITES LOST THE CENTURIES-OLD EMIRATE OF MECCA

**I**t was after the outbreak of the First World War when Sharif Hussein began to make secret approaches to the British, that his personal, long-term ambitions were revealed.

These communications with British officials and the later story of the Arab Revolt form the substance of the first five volumes of this work. After the success of the Revolt and the defeat of Germany and Turkey, Sharif Hussein was understandably angered and embittered by Britain's failure to honour her promises in full regarding Hashimite rule in the former Ottoman provinces. On the other hand, reading his innumerable, often incomprehensible protests over the Balfour Declaration and the Sykes-Picot Agreement and recalling the enormity of his ambition to become 'King of all the Arabs' and bearing in mind, also, his shortcomings as a ruler, we can easily understand why the British Government abandoned him and why, in the end, he achieved no more than the kingship of the Hijaz.

In October 1924, friendless and menaced by the Wahhabi forces of Ibn Sa'ud (later King 'Abd al-'Aziz), he abdicated and joined his second son, 'Abdallah, in Transjordan. His eldest son, Sharif 'Ali, succeeded him; but within fifteen months, after Ibn Sa'ud's occupation of the Holy Places he too abandoned the throne and went into exile; thus ending the centuries-old Sharifian Emirate of Mecca.

## ESPECIALLY INTERESTING ... THE BACKGROUND TO THE SUCCESSION OF HUSSEIN IN 1951

Especially interesting are the sections of Volume 8 of this work relating to the succession crisis that followed 'Abdallah's assassination in 1951. Shortly before his death, doubting the wisdom of devolving power upon either of his sons, Talal and Naif, he had considered directing the succession to his nephew, King Faisal II of Iraq.

In view of this and, in particular, of Talal's mental condition and Hussein's tender age it was not surprising that the Iraqi Regent, 'Abd al-Ilah, intervened and, in so doing, alarmed those favouring the preservation of Jordan's independence and the succession of Talal and Hussein.

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# A RARE AND VALUABLE PUBLICATION, AN ENCYCLOPEDIA

## RECORDS OF THE ◆ HASHIMITE ◆ DYNASTIES

A Twentieth Century Documentary History



SHARIF HUSSEIN



KING ALI OF THE HIJAZ  
(THE LAST GRAND SHERIF)



KING GHAZI OF IRAQ



KING ABDULLAH OF  
TRANSJORDAN



KING FAISAL II OF IRAQ

**R**ecords of the Hashimite Dynasties is a rare and valuable publication, an encyclopaedia of authentic historical documents, tracing in detail through 15 volumes the destiny of the Hashimites, the most ancient and distinguished family in the Middle East. Through painstaking and expert research in government and private files, the editor and his assistant editor have located diaries, secret reports and a wealth of previously unpublished correspondence. These documents are now reproduced in exact facsimile to make available for your library and your own research the primary documents and archival evidence for the history of the Hashimites.

**Records of the Hashimite Dynasties** focuses on the twentieth century and provides the reader with a detailed study of the convergence of Hashimite and British interests that led to the Arab Revolt in the First World War and the establishment of Hashimite rule in Iraq, Jordan and, briefly, Syria following the defeat of Turkey.

### SAMPLE PAGES

(Translation).

No.6.

October 3rd, 1924  
(4.3.1945)

His Excellency  
the British Agent,  
Jeddah.

In continuation of our letter No.1 of to-day's date we have the honour to inform you that the last communications exchanged with King Hussein are as follows:-

His Majesty King Hussein, Mecca.

The situation is very grave and there is no time for negotiations. If you will not abdicate in favour of the Amir Ali, we yet beg, in the name of humanity that Your Majesty will abdicate so as to allow the nation to form a provisional government as a means of stopping the bloodshed of innocent Moslems. It will then be possible to enter into negotiations for our safety with whomever it may appear necessary and I hope a successor can be appointed in accordance with our wishes. If you delay in complying with our request upon your head be the blood of the Moslems. We hope you to incline before the opinion of the nation.

His Majesty's reply to the above:-

I have already told you that I am perfectly

Ref. 1/33,

Date 11/8,

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan presents its respects to the British Legation and has the honour to inform it that the Jordanian Parliament decided in its extraordinary session which was held today, 1st August, 1952, in view of the state of health of H.M. King Talal, to end the rule of His Majesty and to proclaim his son H.R.H. the Prince Hussein Ibn Talal King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. As H.R.H. has not reached his majority according to the Constitution, the Council of Ministers decided to appoint a Regency Council composed of His Excellency Sayed Ibrahim Hashem, President of the Senate, and their Excellencies Sayed Sulayman Touqan and Abdul Rahman Irsheidat as members of the Council referred to above.

The Ministry takes this opportunity to present to the British Legation its deepest re

### AT A GLANCE

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From the many hundreds of documents collected and made public in this great work, some of them ancient, many of them normally hidden or scattered in obscure archives, some of great political importance and all of historic interest - here we give you a glimpse of the sequence and contents of these 15 volumes. The following are merely a few highlights from the c.10,000 pages of this modern reference work for Hashimite history.

#### VOLUME 1

- GENEALOGY OF THE HASHIMITES: FAMILY TREES BOTH IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC; LIST OF SHARIFS OF MECCA
- DESCRIPTIONS OF GRAND SHARIFS
- CONDITIONS IN HIZAJ UNDER CORRUPT ADMINISTRATION, 1890S
- BRITISH AIM TO ASSUME CONTROL IN HIZAJ, 1916

#### VOLUME 2

- DESCRIPTION OF SHARIF HUSSEIN AND HIS FAMILY, 1915
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- REPORTS BY CAPTAIN T.E. LAWRENCE ('LAWRENCE OF ARABIA') ON CONVERSATIONS WITH KING HUSSEIN AND EMIRS FAISAL AND 'ABDALLAH, 1917
- RIVALRY BETWEEN KING HUSSEIN AND IBN SA'UD, 1917-1919

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- IBN SA'UD ENCROACHES ON HIZAJ, 1921
- KING HUSSEIN'S GRIEVANCES AGAINST BRITAIN
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- ABDICATION OF KING HUSSEIN, ACCESSION OF EMIR 'ALI 1924

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