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About Jordan  
  
Baghdad  
Iraq  
  
‘© Damascus  
Amman  
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Jordan  
  
Country  
  
Jordan, officially the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, is an Arab kingdom in the  
Middle East, on the East Bank of the River Jordan, and extending into the historic  
region of Palestine.  
  
Capital: Amman  
  
King: Abdullah I of Jordan  
  
Currency: Jordanian dinar  
  
Population: 6.181 million (2011) World Bank  
  
Government: Unitary state, Parliamentary system, Constitutional monarchy  
  
Official language: Arabic Language  
  
Jordan (pron.: /'dgordon/; Arabic: EADY Al-’Urdunn), officially the Hashemite  
Kingdom of Jordan (Arabic: 44eilgll 444591 48Leall g/-Mamlakah al-'Urdunniyyah  
al-HaSimiyyah), is an Arab kingdom in the Middle East, on the East Bank of the River  
Jordan, and extending into the historic region of Palestine. Jordan borders Saudi  
Arabia to the south and east, Iraq to the north-east, Syria to the north and Israel to the  
west, sharing control of the Dead Sea with the latter.  
  
The desert kingdom emerged out of the post-World War I division of the Middle East  
by Britain and France. In 1946, Jordan became an independent sovereign state  
officially known as the Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan. After capturing the West  
Bank area of Cisjordan during the 1948—49 war with Israel, Abdullah I took the title  
King of Jordan and Palestine, and he officially changed the country's name to the  
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in 1949.  
  
Modern Jordan is classified as a country of "medium human development"! by the  
2011 Human Development Report, and an emerging market with the third freest  
economy in West Asia and North Africa (32nd freest worldwide).”! Jordan has an  
"upper middle income" economy.2” Jordan has enjoyed "advanced status" with the  
European Union since December 201004 and it is also a member of the Euro-  
Mediterranean free trade area. Jordan is a founding member of the Arab League,™”!  
and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

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History  
  
Main articles: History of Jordan and Timeline of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan  
  
The Roman Oval Piazza in the ancient city of Jerash.  
  
In antiquity, the present day Jordan became a home for several ancient kingdoms  
including: the kingdom of Edom, the kingdom of Moab and the kingdom of Ammon.  
Throughout different eras of history, parts of the country were laid under the control  
of some regional powers including Pharaonic Egypt during their wars with the  
Babylonians and the Hittites; and for discrete periods of times by Israelites. The  
Mesha Stele recorded the glory of the King of Edom and the victories over the  
Israelites and other nations. The Ammon and Moab kingdoms are mentioned in  
ancient maps, Near Eastern documents, ancient Greco-Roman artifacts, and Christian  
and Jewish religious scriptures. 8  
  
Classical Transjordan  
  
Due to its strategic location in the middle of the ancient world, Transjordan came to  
be controlled by the ancient empires of Persians and later the Macedonian Greeks,  
who became the dominant force in the region, following the conquests of Alexander  
the Great. It later fell under the changing influence of the Hellenistic Seleucid Empire  
from the North and the Parthians from the East.  
  
The Nabatean kingdom was one of the most prominent states in the region through the  
middle classic period, since the decline of the Seleucid control of the region in 168  
BC. The Nabateans were most probably people of Arabian ancestry, who fell under  
the early influence of the Hellenistic and Parthian cultures, creating a unique civilized  
society, which roamed the roads of the deserts. They controlled the regional and  
international trade routes of the ancient world by dominating a large area southwest of  
the fertile crescent, which included the whole of modern Jordan in addition to the  
southern part of Syria in the north and the northern part of Arabian Peninsula in the  
south. The Nabataeans developed the Arabic Script, with their language as an  
intermediary between Aramaean and the ancient Classical Arabic, which evolved into  
Modern Arabic.  
  
The Nabateans were largely conquered by the Hasmonean rulers of Judea and many  
of them forced to convert to Judaism in the late second century BC. However, the  
Nabataeans managed to maintain a sort of semi-independent kingdom, which covered  
most parts of modern Jordan and beyond, before it was taken by the Herodians and  
finally annexed by the still expanding Roman empire in 106 AD. However, apart from  
Petra, the Romans maintained the prosperity of most of the ancient cities in

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Transjordan which enjoyed a sort of city-state autonomy under the umbrella of the  
alliance of the Decapolis. Nabataean civilization left many magnificent archaeological  
sites at Petra, which is considered one of the New Seven Wonders of the World as  
well as recognized by the UNESCO as a world Heritage site.  
  
Following the establishment of Roman Empire at Syria, the country was incorporated  
into the client Judaean Kingdom of Herod, and later the Iudaea Province. With the  
suppression of Jewish Revolts, the eastern bank of Transjordan was incorporated into  
the Syria Palaestina province, while the eastern deserts fell under Parthian and later  
Persian Sassanid control. During the Greco-Roman period, a number of semi-  
independent city-states also developed in the region of Transjordan under the  
umbrella of the Decapolis including: Gerasa (Jerash), Philadelphia (Amman),  
Raphana (Abila), Dion (Capitolias), Gadara (Umm Qays), and Pella (Irbid).  
  
With the decline of the Eastern Roman Empire, Transjordan came to be controlled by  
the Christian Ghassanid Arab kingdom, which allied with Byzantium. The Byzantine  
site of Um er-Rasas is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.  
  
Middle Ages to World War I  
  
In the seventh century, and due to its proximity to Damascus, Transjordan became a  
heartland for the Arabic Islamic Empire and therefore secured several centuries of  
stability and prosperity, itor neededl which allowed the coining of its current Arabic  
Islamic identity. Different Caliphates' stages, including the Rashidun Empire,  
Umayyad Empire and Abbasid Empire controlled the region. Several resources  
pointed that the Abbasid movement, was started in region of Transjordan before it  
took over the Umayyad empire. After the decline of the Abbasid, It was ruled by  
several conflicting powers including the Mongols, the Crusaders, the Ayyubids and  
the Mamluks until it became part of the Ottoman Empire in 1516.44  
  
The Umayyad caliphs constructed rural estates such as Qasr Mshatta, Qasr al  
Hallabat, Qasr Kharana, Qasr Tuba, and Qasr Amra. Castles constructed in the later  
Middle Ages including Ajloun, Al Karak, and Qasr Azraq were used in the Ayyubid,  
Crusader, and Mamluk eras.  
  
In the 11th century, Transjordan witnessed a phase of instability, as it became a  
battlefield for the Crusades which ended with defeat by the Ayyubids. Jordan suffered  
also from the Mongol attacks which were blocked by Mamluks. In 1516, Transjordan  
became part of the Ottoman Empire and remained so until 1918, when the Hashemite  
Army of the Great Arab Revolt took over, and secured the present day Jordan with the  
help and support of Transjordanian local tribes.  
  
eA  
Arab Revolt Tribal Cavalry — Tribes of Jordan and Arabia, c. 1918.