

KING ABDULAZIZ IBN SAUD'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS SYRIAN MILITARY COUPS (1949-1952)

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ABSTRACT

Syria suffered three consecutive military coups in less than nine months in 1949, followed by a fourth coup in the late 1951. These coups took place in a critical phase in the history of the Arab nation, in the aftermath of 1948 war. Undoubtedly, this series of coups has unbalanced Syria politically, economically and even militarily. The military coups did not stop at this point, but they extended to the late 60s. However, this paper focuses mainly on the coups during the time of King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud.

This paper reviews King Ibn Saud's attitude towards these coups, with the aim of unveiling the extent of the national awareness of King Ibn Saud. It also seeks to answer the following questions: Was there a Saudi awareness of the importance of Syria as an Arab strategic power? Did the unity project, especially the 'Fertile Crescent' Project and the Great Syria, have apart in such coups, especially in the light of the Saudi- Hashemite enmity? Did 'Tabline Pipeline' Project to transfer Saudi oil to the United States through Syrian territories play a role in these coups? The paper hypothesizes that there are foreign efforts behind such series of coups, to divert such a pivotal country and the whole Arab region away from the newborn Israel. This paper is, then, an attempt to prove or deny such hypothesis.

The present paper basically depends on the documents of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, the documents of the American Department of State, as well as coeval Saudi and Egyptian newspapers. For a wider perspective, the researcher has to shed light on Syrian interior affairs, and the attitude of international powers towards the coups. Finally, the paper consists of an introduction and four main components, following a historical-analytical approach.

KEYWORDS: *Syrian coups, Fertile Crescent Project, The Great Syria, King Abdulaziz, Ibn Saud*

