SOCIAL CHANGE IN KUWAIT AFTER 1961

DISSERTATION
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This is to certify that Miss Rashid
Karzana has worked under my supervision for
preparing her dissertation "Social Change in
Kuwait after 1961" and that I consider it
for submission for the award of M. Phil degree.

(Lr. Jamil Farooqui)
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Nuzhat Farzana

Nuzhat Farzana
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

SOCIAL BACKGROUND & TOPOGRAPHY

Here are the instances in the annals of the world history of such a transformation of nomadic society into a modern and industrialized one in a brief span as that of Kuwait. The people of Kuwait today enjoy amenities and luxuries of life which were considered so far the sole prerogative of the developed western countries as, for example, the highest average personal income, a free educational and health system, and a total exemption from income tax. The origins of this bewildering phenomenon can be traced back to the export of the first oil shipment in 1946. Before the discovery of oil, it is not perhaps an impertinence to remark, few people in the world knew of this arid, riverless and desert country which is today a dreamland for millions of people because of its affluence.

The name of the country reminds one of the word, "Kut" synonymous with the ruins of a castle. In view of its proximity to the sea the members of the Ahmaz tribe settled down here sometimes in the eighteenth century. These tribal people opted for pearling, trading and fishing as means of their subsistence. Soon they were in a position to export some of these products for importing tea, sugarcane and rice. Another field in which Kuwaitis distinguished themselves was botan-
building. The whole of the Arabian Sea was soon marked by the presence of boats built in Kuwait. Other factors that account for the prosperity and large-scale trading are; the migration of some more tribes from Hama and Aleppo, and the opening of the East India Company office.

In so far as the genesis of the political set-up of Kuwait is at issue, the first ruler, commonly referred to as 'Amir' belonging to the Jassan family was selected in 1756. Since the Jassan family was already the leading family of the migrated tribes, its authority was unquestioningly accepted. To this day the family enjoys this coveted status of being the ruling family of Kuwait.

That Kuwaitites are, in general, insidious and conscientious may be explained with reference to the rigours of the climate obtaining in Kuwait. Since it was an arid and barren country, it did not catch the attention of any aggressive neighbour. It was only in the last decade of the nineteenth century that Kuwait as a country came into prominence under the leadership of Sheikh Mubarak the Great. He, who was to sign a treaty with the British in 1899 to the effect that Kuwait is an independent country and it will, in return, take care of the British interests. In 1961 the treaty was negotiated by mutual consent and it ushered into a new era of complete political, economic and social independence and self-sufficiency.
Recent research studies in archaeology have almost ascertained the point that the original settlement of Kuwait took place in 1710. The members of the sheikh section of the zamir, a suzir of the Umaiz confederation, settled down on the southern shore. In addition to the ruling Sabah family other prominent families of Kuwait claiming their origin to the early settlers are those of al-Ghanim, Shemen and al-Saleh.

Though most of the members of these tribes being top merchants have given up their desert life, they do take pride in their nomadic and tribal origin. So are the rulers of Kuwait who keep themselves in touch with bedouins. This has resulted in a rapport between the rulers and bedouins.

The total area of Kuwait is 7,400 square miles, including the part of the Neutral Zone. The country is situated to the North-West of the Gulf, while the port, and industrial and administrative set-up of the country is located on the south side.

The population of Kuwait in 1765, as reported by a Danish explorer, was 10,000 which increased little in the eighteen and nineteenth centuries, varying between 10,000 to 20,000 people. According to the first official census carried out in 1937, the population registering a sudden increase,
reached as much as 206,473 which grew to 733,000 in 1970, of which 346,000 are Kuwaitis whereas the rest 387,293 people are expatriates. As regards the gross national income of Kuwait it is estimated at KW 793 (£ 933 millions) which comes to £ 1,330 for every citizen. The man-woman ratio in Kuwait offers an interesting study. An unusually high percentage of men (62.4%) to 37.6% of women may be explained with reference to the large number of expatriates working in Kuwait. Nonetheless, the ratio is even in so far as Kuwaiti nationals are concerned.

More than 70,000 households with an average of six family members, 10,000 shops and 5,000 factories constitute Kuwaiti society. The main industry is, of course, the oil industry whereas agriculture, mining, construction and manufacturing concerns employ most of the people. The bulk of citizens are in services, mainly transport and other departments.

The name of Kuwait evokes today the feelings of reverential wonder, for this country has marched on the path of prosperity at a phenomenal pace. This prosperity of Kuwait may be explained in terms of the discovery of oil some thirty years ago. Prior to this it was merely a walled town, unknown even to its neighbours. The discovery of oil has, however, put things in a different perspective.
While dealing with the social background and topography of Kuwait one notes quite often the remnants of the spirit of the past. Kuwaitis with their fertility, conscientiousness and their zeal for maintaining the Islamic heritage. Under the Sabah family the tribes of Kuwait joined together, for the first time in 1710, as evident from historical records. It has remained to be the ruling family, as the present ruler is the 12th al-Jamah head of the state. This enlightened family has led the country on its march to progress in all walks of life down the ages.

A study of the genesis of Kuwait as a state offers something quite interesting. Early in the eighteenth century a subtribe of the Ahize settled there. The head of the tribe Sabah I was the first ruler of the new state and as indicated earlier, members of the same family have been the rulers to this day.

In 1761, through the travels of Carsten Niebuhr, a Danish explorer, the world came to know of this state. It that the population of Kuwait comprised 10,000 inhabitants. Fishing and pearl were their main sources of living. Even in the Ottoman period Kuwait maintained its independent position. In 1899 the treaty signed with Britain made Kuwait a country subject to Britain and it saved him from the frequent
turk invasions. Mubarak, who took over the reign from Muhammad. He, no doubt, thrust himself into the seat of power, he may rightly be referred to as the architect of modern Kuwait. In the wake of the German expansionist policies the treaty with Britain was signed in 1899 which provided for safeguarding the British interests. For his far-sightedness and political acumen Mubarak was given the honorific appellation of Mubarak the Great after his death. During his reign the country had much prosperity and the main sources of income were trade, shipping, ship-building, pearl- ing and fishing.

The trade links were established with countries as distant as India and many countries of Africa. After Mubarak's death Jabir II (1915-1917) and Salim (1917-1921) took over. During the reign of Salim Kuwait was constantly invaded by Ikhwan, Shaikh Ahmad succeeded to the throne in 1921 and ruled over almost three decades. His reign saw cordial relations with neighbouring Saudi Arabia but the situation on the border was far from satisfactory. As a result of British intervention the border disputes involving Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia were resolved. Though in running the state the Sheikh was assisted by an advisory council comprising representatives of all leading trading families, his last word in all matters. The relations with Saudi Arabia worsened in
1930's and the national economy was hit hard as a result of the blockade imposed by Januari.

It was in 1934 that the prospect of oil in Kuwait were discovered. Soon the Kuwait Oil Company in collaboration with an Anglo-American enterprise came into being. The drilling yielded marvellous result. However, the activity had to be suspended in the wake of the World War II. Shaikh Ahmad died in January 1950. Yet before his death the possibilities of a new source of wealth and social changes consequent upon it were in the offing. Kuwait indeed started taking a new turn in almost all walks of life during his tenure.

Along with the operation of the Anglo-American oil company there came into being a number of schools established by missionary organisations. This set in a new trend which, as we know, ultimately led to a thorough change rather transformation of this state in the years to come. After Shaik Ahmad's death the reins of the country were in the hands of Shaikh Abdullah III (1950-1963). Following in the footsteps of his worthy predecessor Shaikh Abdullah carried out numerous projects aiming at the welfare of masses. To him also goes the credit for the historic treaty of 1961 with Britain which gave Kuwait the status of a sovereign state. The British political agent had to content himself with the designation of ambassador. Soon after the treaty a constituent assembly started its proceedings
and the constitution was readily drafted. Next year the general elections for the National Assembly were also held which completed the new political set up. Much before the death of Sheikh ‘Abdullah III Kuwait emerged as a new modern state enjoying enviable economic position. Not only in affluence, Kuwait also annexed the pride of place in the Arabian peninsula on account of its modern educational system, a well-knit medical system, constitutional democracy and a number of welfare schemes which contributed a good deal to the upliftment of masses. Kuwait is moving steadily on its onward march to progress in all walks of life.

The above introductory account about the genesis of Kuwait as a modern state, it is hoped, will help one appreciate the manifestations and the underlying spirit of changes that have taken place in Kuwait since 1961.
### References

|-----------|--------------------------------------------------|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
CHAPTER II

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. Education:

One of the significant social changes in Kuwait attended upon the discovery of oil is that of growing interest in education. Before the discovery of oil, it is not an impertinence to remark, few people were educated in Kuwait. As a result, most of the positions both professional and administrative were occupied by the foreigners in the initial stage. For all levels of post including the ministerial as well as clerical positions no competent Kuwaiti was available, for it was only in 1912 the first modern school - the Mubarakayah - was opened. Before its opening the only mode of teaching was home study imparted by traditionalist teachers. Students at that time left their studies in their teens after learning a little the Quran, arithmetics and letter writing.

Even this single school, the Mubarakayah, was closed down in 1931 owing to the then bad economic conditions. However, the educational set-up was revived in an organised fashion in 1936. The Government, realising the importance of education, levied a special type of tax to fund the new chain of school. Most of the teachers in these institutions were displaced Palestinians. Not only were syllabi updated and broadened in scope, but also attention was paid to education
of girls. As a consequence, more than one hundred girl students were enrolled in schools, for the first time, in 1937. By 1954 as many as forty-one schools there were in Kuwait.

The year 1955 marks a turning point in the history of education in Kuwait. A comprehensive educational plan was envisaged in consultation with the experts to establish schools, colleges, training and technical institutes and Universities. In accordance with this ambitious plans lavish funds were provided by the government. Soon the inconspicuous Department of Education was converted into a full fledged Ministry of Education to cater to the demanding situation. Around 150 schools were built of which 24 were kindergartens, 65 primary schools, 37 intermediate and 3 secondary stage schools. Excepting Kindergartens none of these school had a co-educational system.

Books on different disciplines were initially imported, mainly from other Arab countries. Today the situation has considerably improved. Kuwait, stands today as one of the major publication centres in the whole Middle East.

In addition to these institutions imparting modern knowledge there is a religious institute in which hundreds of students are on rolls. Similarly special institutions for
the handicapped and commercial institutions are also in Kuwait. In 1952 a technical college was also established as part of the plan of the Kuwait Development Board. The teachers, training college in Kuwait has also thousands of students on its rolls. This has greatly helped in getting teachers for the educational institutions, so far provided by other Western and Arab countries.

Besides, a large number of Kuwaiti students are pursuing studies abroad, mainly in the U.K., the U.S.A., Lebanon, Syria and Egypt. These students are sponsored by the government as the whole expenditure incurred on their education is paid to these students in the form of allowances. In 1968 alone about two hundred students graduated at foreign Universities. Among them are students studying pharmacy, medicine, engineering, dentistry and other specialized branches of learning. The patronage offered by the government has gone a long way in encouraging this healthy trend.

The most glittering aspect of the educational set-up is the University of Kuwait established in 1964. In addition to Kuwaiti nationals a number of students from various parts of the Gulf are attracted to this University. The University is much more than an institution providing academic, professional and technical education, for it is a centre also for
studying and rediscovering the Arab traditions and the Arab culture. A wide gamut of courses in both classical and modern European languages, history of science, pure and applied sciences, social sciences, medicine, engineering, law and commerce is available for the students. The number of students, both the Kuwait and of the Arabian Gulf, runs into thousands. In other words, the University is the pinnacle of Kuwaiti educational system.

Students in Kuwait are very well looked after and provided with all facilities imaginable such as free education, free transport, free school Uniform in addition to cash in the form of bonus.

In sum, the Kuwaiti educational system represents the Utopia of modern education. The day is not too far when the society will be immensely benefitted from it. The great strides in education may be appreciated in the light of the following data, about the increasing number of students, teachers and heavy expenditure on education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of teachers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- 14 -

TABLE E - II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure on</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TABLE E - III

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Institution</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Teachers</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1,138</td>
<td>14,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>6,369</td>
<td>104,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>5,657</td>
<td>74,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3,861</td>
<td>35,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>1,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial College</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Institute</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Training Institutes</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>2,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher's Training College</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1
2. Property and Sources of Income and the Distribution of Property:

Changes both quantitative and qualitative have taken place in Kuwait after the discovery of oil. As indicated earlier, a nomadic social setup is on its way to the transformation into a modern welfare state. It is therefore, strange to come across the numerous changes in society in all respects.

Let us take up first the aspect relating to the distribution of wealth and income. The Kuwaiti government appears to have made it a point to distribute national wealth as fairly as possible. To achieve this objective the government introduced the land acquisition programme and paid no less than KD 1 billion (equivalent to $3.4 billion American dollars) to the property-holders. In doing so the government disbursed a large chunk of its oil revenues among Kuwaitis. The amount spent in making this programme a success is more than foreign investment or any other plan. In many cases the government paid a very high price for even useless pieces of land. Thus a lot of wealth was distributed among thousands of Kuwaitis. The construction of residential as well as commercial complexes has also expedited the process of the distribution of wealth. As a result, economic activity in public sectors such as trade
housin: and small-scale industry has been remarkable. Though this policy of the speedy distribution of wealth has been accused of conspiracy to make the people dependent on the government, it might be said, in all fairness, that the fruits of prosperity are today enjoyed by almost all citizens. Since 1974 10 of the total government expenditure is spent under this head.

As regards the income distribution, national economy suffers from few anomalies. Though the per capita income is of a very high level, the sources of income are too limited; public institutions are too few and there is no arrangement for direct taxation. Inequality does mark and mar national economy. The presence of an unusually large number of non-Kuwaitis in the country also accounts for this disparity. Only 14 households of the highest social order take away as much as 45% of the total income. Out of households in the country 56% of households have to be content with only 25% of the total national income.

Factors responsible for this state of affairs, as summed up by Kholija and Jadier, are:

(1) the high percentage of non-Kuwaitis employed as labourers,

(2) the receipt of unearned income (rents and dividends) by Kuwaitis which does not accrue to non-Kuwaitis because of the restrictions on the ownership of property and company shares,
(3) the preferential treatment given by the government to Kuwaitis in regard to employment and salaries as part of its policy to raise income levels of Kuwaiti nationals and

(4) the impositions of regulations that restrict non-Kuwaitis from operating certain business unless they have a Kuwaiti partner with 57% share of his capital or a Kuwaiti sponsor who receives a fixed fee or a share of net profit."

In spite of many steps introduced by the government, it appears that these anomalies would remain so in the future as well. Other factors that explain the disparity in income are the obvious differences in social rank, imperfections and imbalances in economy, absence of proper public and monetary programmes and plans.

Nonetheless, the disparity is compensated, in no small degree, by the fact that there exists in Kuwait a free educational as well as health system, and a liberal housing programme. These welfare measures have been remarkably successful in keeping intact the social fabric of Kuwaiti society and there are no apparent signs of any distrust.
Family Income:

Generally 13.7% of the households of Kuwait have 150 - 199 (KD) as monthly income. In comparison to it, 16.1% households of non-Kuwaiti have the same monthly income. Further 13.6% of households of Kuwaitis have 100 - 149 (KD) and 12.8% of them have 200 - 249 (KD) as monthly income. Those figures are slightly higher than those of non-Kuwaitis. The interesting feature of family income is that lowest and highest incomes of the households of Kuwaitis are 5.4% and 5.5% respectively. These aforementioned data are mentioned in Kuwaiti Annual Statistical Abstract 1977.

In order to have clear picture of the family income the data indicated in Table 30.7 are helpful. It shows the structure of family income of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti.
### Table E-IV

#### 3. Structure of Family Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monthly Family Income (in KD)</th>
<th>Kuwaities</th>
<th>Non-Kuwaitis</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Households</td>
<td>Share of Income</td>
<td>Households</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than 50</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 69</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 - 99</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 - 149</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150 - 199</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>16.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 - 249</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250 - 299</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300 - 399</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 - 599</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 - 999</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>11.8</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000 and more</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total                        | 100.0     | 100.0         | 100.0    | 100.0          | 100.0      | 100.0          |
4. Living Conditions

Consequent upon the discovery of oil and affluence, living conditions in Kuwait have considerably improved. All the facilities associated with a welfare state are made available to masses.

Health system in Kuwait, as pointed out earlier, is free of cost ensuring the best possible medical aid to all citizens. Few countries in the world can lay claim to have provided a totally free health system as in Kuwait.

Sheikh Mubarak, the architect of modern Kuwait, is to be credited for having taken a lead in this direction. In the second decade of the twentieth century modern medical methods were introduced, for the first time, in Kuwait. This hospital was a brain work of two American doctors and was the only hospital in Kuwait from 1911 to 1949. Though the decision to improve medical services, was taken before the discovery of oil, it was materialised with the money accrued from the oil revenues. A plan was chalked out to provide "home-to-tomb"
medical services, free of cost of course, to all inhabitants of Kuwait, be they Kuwaitis or non-Kuwaitis. By 1960 the number of doctors, beds, hospitals, clinics, nurses and health centres increased greatly, as evidenced by the following Table.

**TABLE - V**

**1960 - 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hospitals</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital beds</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors</td>
<td>340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Centres</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinics</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Clinics</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispensaries</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Clinics</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentists</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nurses</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asst. Nurses</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Besides, in the medical personnel are also included chemists, analysts, radiologists, matrons, dressers, health inspectors and artificial tooth mechanics.

The Ministry of Health, set up in 1936, looks after the medical services. The Emiri Hospital, one of the prestigious medical centres in Kuwait, comprises departments of surgery, anatomy, anaesthetics, orthopaedics, pediatrics, gynecology, dentistry, maternity, E.H.T., ophthalmology and a special clinic for T.B. patients. Thousands of outdoor patients have so far availed themselves of the medical aid provided by it.

In pursuance of the aim of making Kuwait a welfare state the government built a new hospital along modern lines for the mentally sick, known as Nervous and Psychological Disorders Hospital. Attached to it are a clinic, a pharmacy and a laboratory. Latest modes of treatment as, for example, insulin, electric shocks, sedatives and psychological methods are used.

Tuberculosis and small pox have been the most dreaded diseases in Kuwait down the ages. Realising the gravity of the
situation the government chalked out a comprehensive plan to put an end to the incidence of such epidemics once for all. This concept, it is perhaps needless to mention, issued from the idea of making Kuwait a modern welfare state. Large scale inoculation was executed in addition to the opening of sanatoria and other allied units. These epidemics, it is not sheer exaggeration to claim, have been, by and large, contained and have been, ceased to be the alarming ones. A massive drive was, in fact, launched in the fifties to contain the incidence of T.B. Sanatoria were opened at a number of places in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The al-Sabah hospital, built in 1962, is indeed one of the prestigious medical institutions of the world, bears testimony to the changed social conditions in Kuwait and to the beginning of a new era of this modern welfare state. An impressive sum of 16 million KD (346 million American dollars) is spent on the health programme.

Moreover, a new centre for the mother and infant care was established in 1955 and presently the number of such centres
has swelled to dozens. The expectant mothers undergo periodic medical examinations and are imparted useful knowledge. A separate maternity hospital has been built in 1961 to cater to such cases. Highly modern techniques are used in the hospital which has made it one of the best maternity hospitals in the Arabian Gulf.

Separate hospitals have been established recently, for treating infectious diseases. Similarly, a medical centre was opened in 1958 to advise couples desirous of marriage and of using family planning techniques.

The al-Sabah hospitals, as already mentioned, is the pinnacle of Kuwait's health programme and enjoys the status of one of the biggest and best hospitals in the whole of the East. Attached to the hospital is a training centre for nurses.

That the government is determined to make Kuwait a modern welfare state and to render masses all possible help and facilities may be observed in the light of the fact that a
provision has been made for a number of helicopters to carry patients from Failakah and such other distant parts of the country.

Another hospital specially for Orthopaedics was established in 1952. To it was added an orthopaedics surgery clinic in 1962. This hospital is the first of its kind in the Middle East. All sections of a modern orthopaedics hospital such as an artificial limb section, a massage and physiotherapy ward and a laboratory equipped with a photometer etc. form part of this hospital.

A cursory glance at the health budget may help one appreciate the tremendous strides taken in this direction:

**TABLE - VI**

Health Budget in KD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8,015,962</td>
<td>7,893,494</td>
<td>8,248,859</td>
<td>15 million</td>
<td>16 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following projects, as planned by the Ministry of Health, are on their way to completion:
Another big hospital on the pattern of the al-Sabah Hospital, a
- a 350 bed annex to the T.B. sanatorium,
- a women's T.B. clinic,
- expansion of the Nervous and Psychological disorders Hospital with an external clinic,
- a quarantine building for the Haj pilgrims,
- a clinic comprising specialists,
- a drug factory and a central drug store,
- a school for pharmacists, and
- more new health units and clinics both general and specialised.

The above discussion on Kuwaiti Health system affords a weight testimony to the changes that have taken place in society. Such an arrangement for medical aid was certainly something undreamt of in the forties of the twentieth century.

Housing programme, initiated by the government, is another pointer to the changes that have taken place in the last quarter century.

Since 1953 the government has been working out ways and means to provide houses to Kuwaiti, particularly those belonging to lower middle and lower classes. At highly subsidised rates
the government allocates such houses. Under this scheme till 1975 around 15,000 houses have been allocated. In other words, 75,000 Kuwaitis have been benefitted from it. Nonetheless, more than 20,000 families are yet to be provided for the same. Since the government has intensified this programme it is expected that by the next decade there would be no Kuwaiti without a house owned by himself. Moreover, to ease the situation the government sponsored credit and saving Bank has released loans worth KD 48.6 million easy terms to those interested in building their own house. This has gone a long way in improving the housing problem.

Like the policies relating to health, education and land acquisition programme the government housing policy too, aims at giving a fairer deal to masses and has brought about tremendous changes in the social set-up.

That living conditions in Kuwait today are far better than they used to be two decades ago is also borne out by a survey of municipal facilities and other social services.
Though parts of the old Kuwait do exist, the spectacle, in general, is entirely changed. What was a desert yesterday is a metropolis today. The city of Kuwait rightly deserves to be referred to as the best-designed city in the world. Hardly does a day pass when some new piece of architecture does not replace the old, out-dated and shabby structures. What is more significant is the fact that not a single brick is added without regard to the master plan chalked out after much deliberations in 1953.

The institution governing the affairs of towns in Kuwait is known as Municipality established in 1930. Housed in a latest model and well furnished building it is in itself a place worth visiting. It is headed by the Director General appointed on the recommendation of the Municipality President. The main divisions are: Departments of Finance, Technical, Administration and Health. All development programmes of Kuwait city have been executed under the direct supervision of the Municipality. It looks after the town planning. Kuwait city, a tiny town in
the first half of this century, stands today, as indicated
earlier, as one of the best-designed new cities in the world.

The development of Kuwait city offers an example to
appreciate the betterment in living conditions achieved in the
last twenty-five years hence its transformation is dealt with
at length.

Soon after oil revenues poured in, it was deemed
proper to take care of the town planning. With the assistance
of the British architects and town planners, the development
of the town was worked out. As a result, the town has grown
into a beautiful and enviable city as, for example, its central
business area is the most architecturally up-to-date city
centre in the world. Beyond this all facilities possible for
better living conditions have been ensured not only to the
residents of Kuwait city alone but also to all Kuwaitis.

5. Class structure of Kuwaiti society

A survey of the demographic make-up of Kuwaiti society
offers some interesting points, partly because of an over-
increasing number of expatriates, mainly Arab Palestinian refugees, and foreign workers and professional advisers attracted to Kuwait from almost all parts of the world.

Another interesting feature of this demographic make-up, as already indicated, is related to the impressive yet quite unusual percentage of foreign nationals. As many as 50.4% of the total population was constituted by foreign nationals. An equally significant fact is that the percentage of Kuwaiti nationals in the labour force has also slumped down from 23% to 18% by 1970. The affluence of Kuwaitis, in general, is the obvious explanation for the decline in the number of Kuwaitis working as labourers.

As already indicated, the ratio of man-woman in Kuwait is somewhat unusual, because there are 62.4" men in relation to 37.6" women according to 1965 figures. What accounts mainly for this parity is the presence of a very large number of
foreign workers, most of whom have their families at home.

According to 1961 census the number of households in Kuwait is 52,851 with an average of six persons in each household. Agriculture is the main source of income for Kuwaitis. In addition to it are the oil industry, mining construction, manufacturing. The government jobs also engage a considerable number of Kuwaitis.

The following comprehensive table about Kuwait's population, it is hoped, will throw considerable light on the male-female ration, the number and percentage of non-Kuwaitis in Kuwait and the ratio of male-female non-Kuwaitis.
### Table

**Kuwait’s Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1957</td>
<td>59,154</td>
<td>54,468</td>
<td>113,622</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>72,904</td>
<td>92,351</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>132,058</td>
<td>74,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(52)</td>
<td>(48)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>(79)</td>
<td>(21)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>(64)</td>
<td>(36)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>84,461</td>
<td>77,448</td>
<td>161,909</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>116,246</td>
<td>159,712</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>200,707</td>
<td>120,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(52)</td>
<td>(48)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>(73)</td>
<td>(27)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>(67)</td>
<td>(33)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(51)</td>
<td>(49)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>(70)</td>
<td>(30)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>(61)</td>
<td>(39)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>175,513</td>
<td>171,833</td>
<td>347,396</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>244,368</td>
<td>391,266</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>491,831</td>
<td>318,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(51)</td>
<td>(49)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>(62)</td>
<td>(38)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>(57)</td>
<td>(43)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>251,700</td>
<td>250,600</td>
<td>502,300</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>323,400</td>
<td>363,000</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>575,100</td>
<td>491,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(50)</td>
<td>(50)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>(57)</td>
<td>(43)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
<td>(54)</td>
<td>(46)</td>
<td>(100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**N.B.:** Figures in parenthesis refer to the percentage.
on studying the above table one may safely arrive at the following conclusions:

- That the population of Kuwait has been increasing at a bewildering rate. The whole population is doubled in every decade,

- That the percentage of non-Kuwaitis has been consistently 53% of the total population since 1965. Nonetheless, the figure is quite unusual.

- That the increase in non-Kuwaiti female population is a pointer to its less transitory nature,

- That the male-female ratio in Kuwaiti population has been consistently even, with a slight variation from 52% in 1957 to 50% in 1975, and

- That the pace of increase in population is almost same in both Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti population.

The presence of labour force in Kuwait has always been quite marked. It increased 9% per annum during 1946-57
and 16' in the following years. As a result there are as many as 304,532 persons belonging to labour force and they comprise 30.6% of Kuwaiti population. Such a massive labour force is engaged, in the main, in construction projects. Those associated with the oil industry are not many. Moreover, it is interesting to observe a rapid decline in the percentage of Kuwaitis forming labour forces, as may be observed in the light of the data presented in the following table.
### CHANGES IN LABOUR STRUCTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1957 CENSUS</th>
<th>1965 CENSUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KUWAITI</td>
<td>NON-KUWAITI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>56,211</td>
<td>55,111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 15-60</td>
<td>58,226</td>
<td>53,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour force</td>
<td>53,993</td>
<td>53,993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inactives</td>
<td>5,343</td>
<td>5,343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour participation rate</td>
<td>43.9</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of Inactives</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### 1965 CENSUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1965 CENSUS</th>
<th>1965 CENSUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KUWAITI</td>
<td>NON-KUWAITI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>112,569</td>
<td>107,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 15-60</td>
<td>130,634</td>
<td>133,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour force</td>
<td>133,603</td>
<td>7,676</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inactives</td>
<td>10,323</td>
<td>43,260</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour participation rate</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of Inactives</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>97.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>171,513</td>
<td>171,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population 15-60</td>
<td>79,633</td>
<td>73,472</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour force</td>
<td>63,314</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inactives</td>
<td>16,374</td>
<td>76,417</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour participation rate</td>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of Inactives</td>
<td>20.6</td>
<td>97.4</td>
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</table>

*(1975 Census)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour force</td>
<td>84,367</td>
<td>7,477</td>
<td>91,844</td>
<td>135,009</td>
<td>27,729</td>
<td>212,738</td>
<td>269,376</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inactives</td>
<td>25,130</td>
<td>103,497</td>
<td>128,224</td>
<td>11,931</td>
<td>32,459</td>
<td>94,440</td>
<td>37,111</td>
<td>273,750</td>
<td>333,361</td>
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<tr>
<td>Labour participation rate</td>
<td>35.7</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>60.2</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>49.5</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>30.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of Inactives</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>97.3</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>74.3</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>39.3</td>
<td>42.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Status of Women

The changes in the status of women in war and in
the years postwar are obvious outcomes of the social changes. The segregation of women in public life, traditional role of women in society,
becoming more blurred and blurred today,
are reflected in their presence role in the social life of the country. Female labor participation rate has gone up from 3.9 of the total women to 7.6. In 1970 there were only 33,806 as compared to 4,077 in 1957. As a consequence of the
improvement in education facilities and the improvement in women's education, women are entering into various fields of society in general, even in those
very social and public areas. Two decades ago the presence of women in a social get together was uncommon and
almost invisible. In today it is a common place to find women,
companying, or in business with men, or serving on boards and committees, or running against men or just being
more active in the life of society. A large group of women are
now not only seeking social and cultural activities,
Now women are in her state's public life a quarter century ago. Many hundreds of women are associated with public life and, to cases of such as hers. Hurts to read, rude to put the voting right to wish women and the cry is not far away when they will be equal to men in this respect as well.

So is the case with marriage. Though called marriage, generally spoken, to prevent girls of the new generation, to put it on much light need to it. Often an older was of this, borrowed from the western life style, to women, people do.

Surely, just in change make the aspect of Russian society, as the one year mentions with reference to the results of which have advocated for some change, ushering in a new era of the western life style.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref.</th>
<th>Author(s) and Source</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title and Details</th>
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<td>1976</td>
<td>'Kuwait' Macmillan</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>J. S. Chonja and</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>The economy of Kuwait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.G. Naahr</td>
<td></td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>The Kuwait Annual</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Statistical Abstract 1977</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>p.224.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>J. S. Chonja and</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>The economy of Kuwait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>P.G. Naahr and</td>
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<td>London, Kuwait's population.</td>
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<td>Issa Saleh</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>The economy of Kuwait</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Table (1957 Census).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>&quot;</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>The economy of Kuwait</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Table (1970 Census).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER III

POLITICAL ASPECT

1. Impact of Political Independence:

Kuwait as a state came into being most probably in the beginning of the eighteenth century. It is said that members of the Dahanah section of the Sarit, a sub-tribe of the Al-Zaila Confederation settled in this part of area in their search for subsistence and water. Needless to say, the ancestors of the ruling Al-Sarit family were the head of this tribe. Little is recorded in historical works about the early history of Kuwait. Saqaf I happens to be the first person to be acclaimed as the ruler of Kuwait. During the period of the Persian occupation of Iraq (1775-1779) Kuwait assumed the position of the commercial centre. In 1793 the head quarters of the East India Company were established in Kuwait which marks its freedom from the Turkish control. The stationing of the staff of the East India Company helped Kuwait to a great
extent in that it protected Kuwait against the frequent attacks made by Wahabis. A formal treaty ensuring British help was signed by Sheikh Abdullah in 1805. With the passage of time Kuwait enjoyed the reputation of being an important sea port.

At the end of the nineteenth century Kuwait was faced with turbulent times. Muhammad, the then ruler was a weak person who found it impossible to tackle the situation tactfully. Kabarak made a successful attempt and annexed for himself power. An important step taken by Kabarak was to deal firmly with Turkey. He made it plain to the Turk Sultan that Kuwait was an independent country owing no allegiance whatsoever to Turkey.

2. British Rule:

On 23rd January, 1899 a treaty was signed between Kuwait and Britain to the effect that Britain would extendi military help to Kuwait in the event of an invasion. Lord Curzon's visit to Kuwait in November 1903 consolidated the ties further. In lieu of the lease offered to the British in 1907 it was
recognised officially by Britain that Kuwait is an independent and sovereign country. The regime of Mubarak the Great thus marks certain achievements. Kuwait's economy and trade links flourished greatly during the period. An American mission was also established in 1911 under the supervision of Dr. Jennet, Dr. Paul Harrison and Dr. C.J.G. Hylera which catered to the medical services in the area. Mubarak the Great, however, passed away at a time when Kuwait, a nation in the making, needed him the most. In the wake of Ikhwan movement many socio-political changes took place in the Arabian peninsula. The Kuwaitis needed the guidance and leadership of Mubarak to steer themselves clear of the situation. Jabir, the eldest son of Mubarak, succeeded to the throne. He however, ruled over a brief spell of only one year. In February 1917 Salim took over the reign of the country. The relations with Iam Saud, the ruler of Najd, had been strained owing partially to the tactlessness on the part of Salim. In 1920 the battle of Jahra took place. In October, 1920 the attack was launched
by the fiery Ikhwan leader who had defeated Kuwaitis earlier at Faoth. Kuwaiti forces under the military leadership of their ruler utilizando show of exemplary bravado and managed successfully to make the Ikhwan army retreat. After Solim's death Sheikh Hammad al-Jabir was elected the new chief.

With the ascension of Jabir to power the tension between Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabia was, no doubt, eased. But F.C. Cox, the then Political agent of Britain, thought it proper to settle the border issue once for all. In pursuance of this aim a conference at Uqair was convened. Among the participants in the deliberations of this conference were the representatives of Iraq, Amman, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Despite the tall claims made by all the parties Cox himself drew up the final map and thus put the controversy to an end once for all. The conference stands out as an important event in the political history of the whole Arabian Peninsula, in that it defined the new borders. During al-Jabir's reign on the persistent demand
made by influential merchants a council of advisors was formed to advise the ruler on matters of consequence. The formation of this advisory council anticipates the process of democratization in Kuwait. Though the council had few meetings, it marks a departure from the centuries old tradition of an absolute and autocratic ruler.

Another important development of this period is the Saudi blockade which hit hard the Kuwait economy. It was a short-sighted move on the part of Ibn Saud which worsened not only the Kuwait-Saudi relations but also resulted in dissatisfaction among masses. In 1930's the economy of Kuwait presents a gloomy picture. Oil, however, gave a new dimension to the economy of Kuwait. It in fact, transformed the whole scene.

3. Independence

The Treaty of Independence in 1961 is the turning point in the political history of Kuwait. The treaty stands for a full control of Kuwaiti citizens over the government and in all other
affairs Kuwait was, in fact, never a British colony. Nonetheless the treaty over rules even the nominal suzerainty. Soon after the treaty the Political Agent was replaced by a full-fledged ambassador. Moreover, a new flag emblem were opted by Kuwait symbolic as they are of Kuwait's complete independence. So does the new flag made up of green, white and red stripes in association with a black trapezoid signify. The treaty marks also an end of the British military support. Consequently upon the signing of the treaty announcements were made of the establishment of a provisional government through an appointed constituent assembly. Immediately the arrangements were made for the drafting of the constitution which was duly approved by the Emir on 11th November 1962. General elections were also announced and were held, for the first time, in January 1963. For the purpose of polling the country was divided into ten regions. The election system was based on proportional representation.
4. Implementation of Constitution and Formation of National Assembly

Elections in Kuwait are held after every four years. Nonetheless, the Emir, the ruler, has the right to dissolve the house by a special order which contains also the reason for which the house is dissolved. Moreover, the Emir has the power to adjourn the house for a month. Should the Assembly be dissolved by the Emir, it is incumbent on him to arrange for fresh elections within two months of the dissolution of the house. If the Emir fails to hold new elections, the dissolved house resumes its position and carries out its duties as usual prior to the dissolution. The Assembly has no doubt the authority to legislate but the new legislation comes into force only after its approval by the Emir. Every member of the house is entitled to table a new legislation. On being requested by five members of the house, the government is bound to explain the matter in question. Moreover, the Assembly is empowered to appoint high level committees to look into certain matters.
These committees are powerful in that the government has to supply them all required data. The Council of Ministers is responsible for drawing up general policies of the state. The cabinet meetings are headed by the Prime Minister who happens to be the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. Such meetings are secret. The Prime Minister may exercise the casting vote in the event of a tie in the Council of Ministers. The constitution of the Kuwait, drafted painstakingly, in an impressive document stretched over one hundred and eighty-three articles. It is, in fact, divided into five parts of which the first part deals with the state and the system of government. The main articles of this part are reproduced below in order to bring out the nature of the constitution:

1. Kuwait is an Arab, independent and sovereign state. Neither its sovereignty nor any part of its territory may be relinquished. The people of Kuwait form part of the Arab nation.

2. The religion of the state is Islam, and the Islamic law shall be the main source of legislation.

3. The official language of the state is Arabic.
4. Kuwait is a hereditary emirate, the succession of which is confined to the descendants of the late Mubarak al-Sabah. The heir-apparent shall be named within one year of the accession of the Emir. His appointment shall be effected by an Emir decree upon the nomination of the Emir and the approval of the National Assembly which shall be passed by a majority of its members in a special sitting. If the appointment is not made in the way shown above, the Emir shall nominate for the position of heir apparent at least three descendants of the late Mubarak al-Sabah and the National Assembly shall pledge allegiance to one of them as heir apparent. The heir apparent must have attained this majority age, be of sound mind and the legitimate son of Muslim parents. A special law issued within one year of the date on which this constitution comes into effect, shall lay down all other rules concerning the succession of the emirate.

5. The flag, emblem, badges, orders and national anthem of the state shall be specified by the law.

6. The system of government in Kuwait shall be democratic, under which sovereignty is vested in the nation, the source of all powers. This sovereignty shall be exercised in accordance with the rules prescribed in this constitution.
5. Structure of Administrative machinery:

It is evident from the Article No.4, the approval of the

bill adopted by the National Assembly lends a truly democratic touch to Kuwait and includes it among world democracies.

The second part of the Constitution defines the 'basic constituents of Kuwaiti society' and lays it down for the state to look after the young as well as the old and arrange for national property, wealth and economy in general.

The third part is concerned with the right and duties. Personal liberty is guaranteed to all citizens. So is the freedom of expression granted in unequivocal terms. Moreover, all citizens irrespective of caste, colour, creed or any other consideration are equal before the law and enjoy equal rights without any discrimination whatsoever. In the Constitution it is explicitly stated that on grounds of language, tribe, culture, race, origin and religion no discrimination shall be made by the state.
Similarly the freedom of conscience is guaranteed in absolute terms. The state protects the free exercise of religion in line with the customs of the area subject to the condition that it does not harm public order or morals in any way. The citizens enjoy also the right of forming association including trade unions, though use of coercion in this regard is strictly outlawed. In line with the democratic spirit of the constitution it is also stated that citizens have the right to assemble at a place without permission or any prior notification. Public meetings, processions and gatherings are allowed in accordance with the conditions and the manner specified by law. The extradition of political refugees is also forbidden, as recorded in Article 46 of the constitution. Observance of public order, an respect for morals are duty incumbent on all the inhabitants of Kuwait. The fourth part of the constitution deals with the head of state and his legislative, executive and judicial powers and the limits.
The man of highest honor automatically the coveted position of the head of the state, according to the constitution. Moreover, he has to pledge before a special meeting of the National Assembly, thus: "I swear by almighty God to respect the constitution and the laws of the state, to defend the liberties, interests, and properties of people and to safeguard the interests, the independence and territorial integrity of the country." The man is ex-officio the supreme commander of the armed forces of the country, who has the power both to appoint and terminate the officers. He is entitled to issue a decree to the effect of declaring a defensive war. In offensive war, it is worth noting is strictly forbidden by the constitution. In all matters of consequence such as that of appointing or dismissing civil servants and diplomatic personnel, conferring or reducing the sentence and conferring high state awards he holds the position of authority. It is not therefore surprising to note the reference made in
the constitution to his executive power dealing with the council of ministers, financial and military affairs.

In so far as the national budget is concerned, it is to be drafted by the government and to be placed before the national assembly for discussion and approval. The constitution makes provision for a high level financial control commission to advise the government on controlling the collections of state revenues and its proper expenditure. The commission presents before the national assembly its remarks on the budget and national economy in general.

Judiciary in Kuwait, as in all modern welfare states, is absolutely free as stated in the constitution thus: "In administering justice judges shall not be subject to anybody, to interference whatsoever is allowed in the conduct of justice, the law shall guarantee the independence of the administration of justice, in state for the judges the guarantees, provisions in cases of removability."
The Amir as well one-third of the members of the
National Assembly have a right to amend the constitution or
add new clauses to it. The revisions proposed by
the Assembly become effective only on its approval by the Amir.
Any proposal for repealing the Amir system is not within the
jurisdiction of the Assembly.

In May, 1963 Kuwait enrolled itself as the member of the
United Nations Organization. In spite of the prevalence of the
Amir system it could not altogether assure to due the National
Assembly a rubber stamp way. The first step taken by the
Assembly, in fact, related to the size of the priy purses. The
Assembly is to be credited also for taking the move of having
reorganized the defense arrangements with Britain. Kuwait’s
executive represents a fine blending of the American and
British systems. There is also a President whose role is
similar to that of the speaker in Britain. The power of
appointing the Prime Minister vests in the hands of the Amir.
All the ministers are directly answerable to the Assembly for
policies and all other matters.
The political changes in Kuwait, as described above, correspond to the changes in social life attendant upon the discovery of oil.

**CHART 10.1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sabah I</td>
<td>1736 - 1762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdullah I</td>
<td>1762 - 1312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaair I</td>
<td>1312 - 1859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabah II</td>
<td>1859 - 1363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdullah II</td>
<td>1866 - 1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muhammad</td>
<td>1892 - 1896</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mubarak</td>
<td>1896 - 1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaair II</td>
<td>1915 - 1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulim</td>
<td>1917 - 1921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shnaa</td>
<td>1921 - 1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulaim III</td>
<td>1950 - 1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabah III</td>
<td>1964 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col. J.C. Knox</td>
<td>1904 - 1909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain C.H.I. Shakespeare</td>
<td>1909 - 1915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt. Col. A.M.T. Hamilton</td>
<td>1916 - 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain P.G. Loch</td>
<td>1918 - 1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain W.V. Mc Collum</td>
<td>1919 - 1920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major J.F. More</td>
<td>1920 - 1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt. Col. H.C.P. Jackson</td>
<td>1929 - 1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain G. Mc Guary</td>
<td>1936 - 1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major J.M. Ollivory</td>
<td>1939 - 1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt. Col. H.C.P. Jackson</td>
<td>1941 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major T. Mc Kinneston</td>
<td>1941 - 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.J. Kelly</td>
<td>1943 - 1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.L. Jackson</td>
<td>1944 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.O.C. T. Tandy</td>
<td>1945 - 1948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.C. Jenkins</td>
<td>1948 - 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.J. Kelly</td>
<td>1951 - 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.J. Bull</td>
<td>1955 - 1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.R. Thalford</td>
<td>1937 - 1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J.C. Ickerson</td>
<td>1939 - 1961</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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   London, p.70 cf.

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CHAPTER IV

Socio - Economic Conditions

(1) Utilization

Unlike most other countries in the world, the economy of Kuwait is not based on agriculture, but accounts for little agricultural activity in the country is the acute shortage of water. Being one of the countries in the region, Kuwait suffers from searing heat, desert winds, and limited rainfall. The country faces the problem of shortage of water, before the discovery of oil, the only source of water were a few springs on the outskirts of the country. Only water from other countries, were distributed through water carriers. This resulted in the need to have a water carrier's not work in the country.

At the time of the oil discovery and the discovery of oil fields, Kuwaitis needed the government to procure water for supplies. This was done with the cooperation of the government, which then started the development of desert oil company which later cost, for the first time, sea water, later on the government invested in other desert projects.
result, the supply of water in Kuwait is abundant today.

Agriculture is not however, the backbone of Kuwait economy. Only 3 of the land is fit for cultivation. Consequently, the bulk of food grain has to be imported. The total area suitable for agriculture is 17000 dunums, of which 6,000 dunums are used for growing vegetables. Orchards and timber are spread over an area of 1,000 dunums.

Nevertheless, the government has taken some far-reaching step for giving a boost to agriculture. The present abundant supply of water seems to have paved the way for the development of agriculture. Experimental farming methods have been recently employed. Similarly saplings have been installed with a view to check soil erosion. Such saplings have been selected which can withstand soil salinity and brackish water.

The data about the import and export of food items are reflective of insufficient supply of food in the country.
In food production is a remote possibility in Kuwait. Never the less, the planners have been doing their level best to realise the objective of self-sufficiency.

As announced by the Amir of Kuwait in a national assembly on 27th October, 1964, a five year plan for the development of agriculture was chalked out. However, little progress was achieved owing to the acute shortage of water. With the success of the Iraq water supply programme it has been now possible to take steps in this direction. This water supply programme has ensured the flow of 120,000,000 gallons of water every day. The pipe line moves from the Shatt-al-Arab along
In 1953, a new agricultural farm was launched to start an experimental basis. The farm has now been extended over 1,000 acres. The experiment proved a great success once the water supply had been ensured. Besides agriculture, dairy and poultry products registered a marked increase. First the area of cultivable land was extended. It was followed by measures to improve the standards of dairy and poultry farms. Many economical methods were put to use for achieving this end. In addition to all this, it resulted in an increase in vegetable products. Moreover, the greenery along the highways in Kuwait owes its origin to the success of this experimental programme.

The farm operates under the direct supervision of the Ministry of public works. The ministry is assisted by the representatives of the United Nations agricultural organisations who act as experts for different schemes.
The farm nursery looks after the growth of trees, flowers, shrubs, and saplings. In so doing, the salinity of water and other problems peculiar to local conditions are kept in view.

The farm has paved the way for further developments in the growth of agricultural products. There is a scheme to introduce an irrigation network on the pattern of the ancient Roman system which aimed at utilizing rainwater for agricultural purposes. The Amir made reference to the system in his speech outlining the policy for agriculture.

Among the new farming techniques employed, the most important is the use of hydroponics. It helps grow a soil substitute for the soil less sand. This alternative is as good as cultivable land for growing beds at regular intervals. This system, it is worth noting, is successfully practiced in Kuwait today. Usually about a yard wide and 10 to 15 inches deep troughs are used with an in-built arrangement for drainage. The sand containing plant nutrients helps the plant roots grow.
Inside the trough are installed pumps and sumps which hold water. The seedlings are sown closely and are supplied with water through the pumps. Water at first drains out of sumps and is then brought back into the sump through the slopes of sumps. The whole process enables the plant to get sufficient moisture and plant nutrients. The excess quantity is stored inside the sump and is used in future similar operations. The sump is provided with water and chemicals at regular intervals.

As it is, this new technique is extremely useful for a country like Kuwait where the problem of the lack of water is very serious. This technique has born fruits. As a consequence, now there has been a greater yield as compared to the per square yield in the past. Take the case of hydroponically grown tomatoes as illustrative. The yield is six times greater than that of in normal soil. Through the whole business is seemingly expensive, it is cheaper than imports of the many advantages in the use of this technique, mention must be made
of the total absence of any process of tilling on weeding. As
a result, there is barely any need for purchasing equipments.
The system once installed is fit for about fifteen years.

None the less, certain disadvantages are attendant upon
this system. One has to invest a huge amount of money initially, for piping involves heavy expenditure. Similarly on
account of the complicated and highly scientific methods
involved in the system this is not very useful for an ordinary
farmer. He has to equip himself with a good deal of scientific
knowledge. In view of the prevalent social conditions it will
take considerable time to get a high literacy rate. The
government has however, taken steps to train farmers and fami-
iliarise them with the requisite knowledge, for the new system
is extremely useful for the growth of agriculture in the
country.

as a result of the improved standards in poultry farming
it has now become possible to meet the demands of public. In
a sense the country has been able to achieve self-sufficiency
in the supply of fresh eggs and meat.
In 1957 the first poultry farm was established. It consisted of only eight pens with a capacity for three hundred and twenty layers. Later on it grew much in dimension. Initially its products catered to the requirements of hospitals and schools. Since then much expansion has been on its way.

The foundation of the first dairy farm was laid in March 1960. A number of cows and bulls were procured from England and Holland for this purpose. It has been now possible to get a number of breeds. Advancements made in the field of agriculture has made it possible to provide for the green fodder. Due to the success of the dairy farm a supply of fresh, sterilized milk has been ensured throughout the country. Efforts are being made to get other cross breeds.

The position of food supply has considerably improved because of the dairy and poultry products which are available now in plenty. Before the opening of the poultry farm scientists had carried out studies on the adaptability of
breeds in the climate of Kuwait. The white leghorn it was found, withstand the test. Turkeys are now also a common sight in Kuwait. Local fowls are the main centre of poultry farming and this has further facilitated the food supply. Tests were also carried out to select suitable breeds for dairy farming.

Another source of the supply of dairy products is the traditional profession of nomads who raise sheep and goats. For the food of their cattle they depend solely on the grazing fields which are an outcome of occasional rainfalls.

Closely related to this aspect of the study of economic conditions of Kuwait is the government programme for tree plantation on a large scale. Some years ago trees were something unheard of in Kuwait. The whole country was radically changed. There are towns now lined with green trees. The government proposes to plant 25,000 trees every year. This is likely to transform the desert into a place marked by all round greenery.
In all such developments, the role played by the government is of utmost importance. To promote agricultural activity, loans are provided by the government on nominal percentage of interest. Similarly, loans are available for the purchase of seeds or cattle or fencing. Moreover, bank agricultural experts are there to help farmers by way of supplying all useful information and guidance. A farmer is told how to invest his loan to ensure the maximum return. Farmers are supposed to repay the amount taken as loan in easy installments after selling the crop and getting enough money for the next crop.

(2) FISHING

Over the centuries, fishing has been a profession of many Kuwaitis. Fishing as an industry, it is worth noting, has been flourishing here in spite of hectic industrial activity. The settling of the coast has facilitated fishing. There is enough fish to meet the demand of local public. Even a large quantity of the frozen fish is exported every year to the U.S. and Europe.
Recent changes consequent upon the discovery of oil have helped the industry in a certain degree as for example, the fish processing plants are of much help to the industry.

At present four fishing companies operated in Kuwait under the supervision of Kuwait United Fisheries, since 1972 the four companies have been doing their business as a government undertaking.

(3) PEARLING AND HANDICRAFT:

Today the economy of Kuwait is radically different from what it was in 1930 when pearling was one of the major industries of Kuwait, hundreds of boats were employed in exploring the pearling grounds in the Gulf. It is on the record that more than 15,000 persons were dependent on this industry for their livelihood. That it contributed a good deal to national economy may be realised in the light of the facts its annual contribution to national exchanger was as much as one million. In the summer the scene of activity shifted to the southern pearling grounds. It is indeed interesting to
note how the profit accruing from pearling was divided among the captain, crews, divers and sailors. While the captain, crews and divers got three shares each of the sailors used to receive two shares. It was no doubt a profitable industry for the merchants, but the poor diver had to put his life at stake. The drowning of divers was a routine matter.

Notwithstanding the risk in the pearling industry, it was quite common that ships full of pearls sailed abroad and their return was anxiously awaited. A marked decline has set in the pearling industry. As a consequence, the national economy was hit hard. Nonetheless, it has been compensated in a degree undreamt of in the form of the discovery of oil. With the decline in this industry starts a new era of prosperity in Kuwait. However, as a fascinating aspect of Kuwait's social and economic life it would survive long.

As studied earlier, Kuwait a quarter century ago was a regionally prosperous state with pearling, fishing and handicrafts etc. as its main sources of income. In the wake of
the oil discovery the metamorphosis of Kuwait into a modern state with an staggering income accruing mainly from oil. Nonetheless one should not lose sight of the other sources of income which contributed largely to national economy in the past. Though in a smaller degree, for economy at present as well. Pearling and handicrafts deserve special mention in this context.

The main business district is market by shops of skilled craftsmen, carpet, sellers, gold dealers and pearl merchants. Till 15,000 persons were associated with it. The decline in the industry hit hard the national economy but only for a brief period. The discovery of oil eclipsed this industry like others. Pearling and handicrafts thus represent part of the heritage of the pre-oil Kuwait.
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CHAPTER V

FACTORS RELATING TO SOCIAL GROWTH AND SOCIAL CHANGE

1. DISCOVERY OF OIL

There is no denying the fact that the discovery of oil has transformed the tiny state of Kuwait into a force to be reckoned with in the arena of international high finance, politics, trade, commerce, and social life. Oil has added a new dimension to Kuwait. In fact, same holds true for the entire free world.

In the past Kuwait formed part of the desert and was looked upon a non-entity. The importance Kuwait has been able to draw of late offers an amazing study of the change in fortune of a state. Enormous wealth accruing from oil has been invested the world over and in turn it has brought about quite significant changes in the socio-political life of the country. It has enabled the country to turn itself into a highly industrialised and technically advanced country.
How was the oil discovered, tapped and managed? A brief account of this aspect would certainly help one appreciate the tremendous changes consequent upon its discovery. The Arab travellers had indeed a very vague idea about the black oily substance and arzumen was used as well. However it was in 1869 that oil was discovered in Egypt. By the first decade of the twentieth century oil was discovered in Persia as well. Kuwait figures in this list quite late. What accounts for the delay may be ascribed to the uncertain political conditions of the day. Besides, the intrigues of the commercial concerns of the West also account for a delayed activity in this respect. After the two great world wars oil became a necessity for the west and hectic efforts were accordingly launched to explore all possible potential spots to get hold of this precious substance.

While tracing the history of the discovery of oil in Kuwait the first and foremost is the name of William Knox D'Inrey who in collaboration with Jacques de Morgan a French
geologist, made initially yet significant moves in this direction. First they launched their search in Persia and they
managed, aided by very clever and diplomatic moves, to have
an agreement with the Persian government in 1901 to the effect
that it would get 16% of net profits. The company came into
being in 1903 and efforts were made to explore even quite
remote parts of Persia. By 1903 nothing fruitful could be
obtained and the company as well as its British financiers lost
interest in this venture. A notable crack through was achieved
in 1909 when Reynold struck oil in commercial quantity. Soon
Anglo Persian Oil Company came into being and the shares were
fifteen times over subscribed. A Royal Commission on oil
under the headship of Lord Fisher and Sir Winston Churchill
visited the Gulf and Persia to ascertain the future prospects.

A ballot showed one of the members of the Royal Commission, had a
meeting with the then ruler of Kuwait Sheikh Hassam. This
effort, however, did not materialise owing to some grave
misunderstandings and misgivings. It was only during the
reign of Sheikh Ahmad al Jasir that the discovery of oil was accomplished and money started rolling in Kuwait. In 1922 an attempt was made to bring about some compromise between APOC, the British government, the political representatives in the Gulf and the Sheikh Ahmad. While the talks were in the process, Major Frank Holmes, on behalf of Eastern and General Syndicate Ltd. ("EGS"), a London based company operating then in Saudi Arabia, made an offer to the Sheikh for oil. The conditions put forward by EGS were more favourable than the ones suggested by APOC and this obviously forced Sheikh Ahmad to incline favourably towards EGS. Since APOC had direct links with the British government, it was not to the liking of the Sheikh for he looked upon the deal as a kind of dependence on the British government. Finally the offer made by APOC was politely turned down and the British government allowed the Sheikh to go ahead with the deal with the EGS. The negotiations with Holmes continued up to 1926. At this juncture another company Gulf Oil supported...
by USA entered the fray. It was indeed, a difficult situation
for the sheikh to tackle with because both the companies
represent two powerful countries namely USA and Great Britain.
Nonetheless, Sheikh Ahmad was astute enough to carry out nego-
tiations. Actually at that time oil did not occupy such an
important position as it does. It is not therefore surprising
-75-
to note the delay in negotiations. In May, 1933 Kuwait
Oil Company (KOC) was founded representing the interests of
both APOC and AG. The final agreement was signed on 23rd
December 1934. Sheikh Ahmad is thus the architect of the 1934
agreement which ensured an advantageous position and the lion's
share to Kuwait.

The first well was drilled at Jrah in May 1936, a
venture which did not prove successful. It was, however,
compensated in 1938 by the well at Burgan in 1938. They oil
well at Burgan is referred to as the world's largest single oil
field. Many other wells were drilled but the drilling activity
came to a standstill in the wake of the world war II which was
resumed in 1945. From then onwards hectic activities went on in this sphere which eventually resulted in oil export.

Pipelines and a pumping station were installed to take the crude oil from the oil wells to a gathering centre where it was purged of gases and then taken to storage tanks. For this purpose a submarine line was also set up. On 30th June 1945 Sheik Ahmed al-Jabir al-Sabah performed the inauguration of Kuwait's oil terminal and thus the crude oil was sent for the first time aboard. The British tanker, British Fusilier took the cargo on board. From 1945 to 1950 these activities went on at a brisk pace. So only more worker technicians and managers associated with the oil industry but also the problems of housing, food, education, transport and entertainment are showed a good deal.

Over the first twenty years the oil production increased every year by an average of 33% which reached the aggregate of 70.6 million by 1966. In other words, the first year's output of 5.9 million barrels touched the mark of 940 million
barrels in 1970. The following table gives an idea of the role oil plays in Kuwait exports. It is quite significant that export of items other than oil is registering a sharp rise. According to Khuja (1972) the data relating export of items other than oil are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Oil Export</th>
<th>Other Exports</th>
<th>Total Exports</th>
<th>Oil % of Total</th>
<th>Value of Imports</th>
<th>Balance of Trade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>969</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>+ 759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959</td>
<td>863</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>883</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>+ 623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1,021</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>+ 780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>994</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>+ 771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>1,120</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1,142</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>+ 858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>1,316</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1,350</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>+ 899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>1,316</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1,350</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>+ 1,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>1,330</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>1,419</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>+ 1,042</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>1,423</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1,461</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>+ 1,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>1,327</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>1,363</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>593</td>
<td>+ 770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>1,484</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>1,537</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>+ 901</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Despite the inflow of money accruing from oil, the importance of industries cannot be given short shrift, though there is apparently no need felt for developing any basic industry. Industry is, however, to be diversified. Water has proved an important incentive for industries. It was in 1953 that the first government water distillation plant started operating. Water is converted into millions of gallons of potable water every day. A separate power station was installed in 1954 with four 7.5 MW generators designed to feed steam at the correct temperature and pressure to a second distillation plant. In 1961 there came into being the third generation plant. So has the consumption gone up from 119 million in 1957 to 418 million units in 1962. By 1967 it touched the mark of 1,3 thousand million units.

An obvious influence on Kuwait economy is created by a massive growth in domestic well-being illustrated by almost universal ownerships of cars, refrigerators, air conditioners and televisions on the strength of a single product oil.
GROWTH OF INDUSTRIES

The government has provided many incentives to private Kuwaiti investors to join the industrial projects of the state. Many industries are operating in Kuwait without any government control and in this process they are earning huge amounts of profits. The share of the government in the Kuwait investment company was almost fifty per cent to the tune of 15,000,000 KD in 1960. In the Kuwait metals company the government share amounts to twenty five per cent. Similarly, half of the shares invested in the Kuwait transport company owe to the state.

The Kuwait petro-chemical company, a foreign company with 40% government share is facing liquidation. A new venture, the National Industries company dealing in sand lime bricks and cement is doing quite good business. 49% shares in the above mentioned company are owned by individuals. In collaboration with another private enterprise, Kuwait Asbestos Industry making asbestos pipes and sheet for the building trade the National Industries company has been also doing considerable progress.
Many new projects are in the offing. The building trade plays a vital role in the industries. Similarly industries catering to the manufacture of glass, tyres, soaps and batteries have been recently set up. Several industries are also being promoted.

An important section in which the industrial policy of Kuwait has been going is of making use of country's natural resources, particularly the natural gas. Money in these enterprises is invested by both individual and government. This has contributed to diversifying the local economy and to reducing the reliance on oil in future. Another advantage accruing from this policy is that it has now to depend less on imported goods. As already indicated, natural gas is the most obvious resource, next only to crude oil, to be used as a raw material in production and for the industrial programme of the country.

Kuwait Petro-chemical company is being reorganised by the government with a view to making petro-chemical products. After a full and careful survey of product marketing problems it has
been decided to set up and promote the industry in phases. An enzyme plant has been installed for manufacturing fertilisers. Keeping in view the niceties of town planning, big and heavy industries have not been allowed to operate in the heart or vicinity of towns.

Till 1960 the facility for getting money to be invested in industries was not available and thus no incentive was there for small scale industries. In pursuance of this aim the credit bank was set up with an initial government grant of 7.5 million Rs. Low interest rates and long repayment terms are the main features of the credit bank. The loan money is not, however, made lump sum but it is paid out over a period as they are needed. The loans from the bank are available for the purpose of building houses. For persons who cannot afford any security or do not have the capacity for repaying and loan money, Ministry of Social Affairs has drawn up many schemes.

The credit bank has been helping small scale industrial projects as well. All the applications for such help are
screened by the bank consultants and technicians who look into
the feasibility and soundness of the project. Security for
such a loan is sought in terms of the bank machinery and
equipment. The industrial loans are repayable over a period of
five years. The bank not only lends but also keeps a check on
the industrial projects. Loans are refused to projects which
do not fit in with the requirements of national economy.

Another remarkable feature of Kuwait's industrial set up
in the extent to which the public sector of the economy partic-
ipates in joint stock companies. More than three dozen such
companies, varying in purpose, composition, capitalisation,
number of stockholders and profitability, are operating with
the only check that their stock ownership to restricted to
Kuwait nationals alone. The national bank of Kuwait, set up in
1952, has to its credit the largest balance sheet. Some other
import and enterprises are wholly privately owned and managed.
The public sector has also been playing an active role in
Kuwait's economy. Many public companies have recently come into being, to restructure enterprises.

The vast industrial complex at Shuwa'ab reflects the fast pace at which industries have been operating in Kuwait after 1961. The Shuwa'ab area, however, has helped Kuwait achieve a quite high standard of life. Until 1960 Shuwa'ab was a long stretch of barren land. But within a decade this 60 km. long area has been completely transformed with the result that today Kuwait ranks among highly-industrialised countries of the world. In 1964 efforts were made to develop the site as a centre for industrial complex. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry and Industry Shuwa'ab Industrial Development was constituted and presently the Shuwa'ab area authority under the direction of the Ministry of Finance and Oil looks after the management of this complex. The site at Shuwa'ab was, no doubt, suitable in view of its proximity to the essential ingredients of oil and gas but water was scarce in the area. In collaboration with the Ministry of Electricity and Water a scheme was...
prepared to utilise sea water and thus a constant flow of
water was made available to the Kuwait National Petroleum
Company and the Kuwait Chemical Fertiliser Company. Presently
millions of cubic metres of water can be made use of natural gas
pumped from the Kuwait Oil Company's Burgan field gas - gathering
centre is taken through pipeline to Shuiba. This ambitious
and sprawling project has brought about a sharp decline in the
import of raw material. The building of the commercial bar-
bour and oil pier has gone a long way in promoting exports.

Not only has this project provided lucrative jobs to thousands
of Kuwaitis but it has also aroused a keen industrial consciousness
in the country. In 1972 the Kuwait Authority's products
brought in Kw 1,061,562 (about $ 117 million).

Kuwait chemical fertiliser Company, an offshoot of the
Kuwait Petro-chemical Industries Company, took the lead and
engaged itself in the production of sulphuric acid, liquid
ammonia and ammonium sulphite which in turn helped the produc-
tion of urea fertilisers. The production figure of urea
fertilisers stood at 423,307 metric tons in 1972. Another
important enterprise operating in the area is the Petro-chemical
Industries plant which is owned by a Kuwaiti joint stock
company. This company caters to the production of liquid
ammonia. The plant is now one of the largest fertiliser plants
in the world. In 1972 the company exported as many as 586,332
metric tons of its products.

The world’s first all-hydrogen operated refinery has
been also operating in Al Khafji which is owned by the Kuwait
National Petroleum Company. There are fifteen productive units
namely, the Jurgan gas unit, hydrogen unit, sulphur unit,
catalytic reformer unit, crude and vacuum unit, R.Oil reactor
unit, Isomax unit, naphtha unit, napth factionation unit,
kerosene unifier unit, light diesel unifier unit, heavy
diesel unifier unit, amine unit treatment, ammonical water
treatment unit and nitrogen unit. The Kuwait Industrial Refine
Maintenance and Engineering Company plant caters to performing
services for heavy industries and manufacture boilers and heat exchangers.

The Kuwait Cement Company which came into being in 1968 by the royal decree with an initial investment of KD 2.5 million has been producing 300,000 tons of both bagged and bulk Portland, ordinary and sulphate resistant cement. Though some of its raw materials such as clinker and gypsum are imported, the day is not too far when Kuwait will attain self-sufficiency in this respect as well.

Another industry flourishing in Kuwait is of fishing. The Kuwait United Fisheries Company has a large fleet with machinery for processing and freezing shrimps. Similarly the Nitrogen, Oxygen and Argon Plant, an undertaking of the Kuwait Oxygen and Acetylene Company, meets the nitrogen, oxygen and argon requirements of the petroleum and petro-chemical industries. The Kuwait Sulphur Plant operating in collaboration with the Kuwait National Petroleum Company and the American Independent
Oil company helps raw sulphur grind for export through Shuwaikh harbour.

Not very long ago Kuwait was dependent on imports for all its industrial requirements. The scene is now remarkably changed and the image of Kuwait is that of an industrialised country the world over. Besides the Shuwaikh Industrial Complex, no other large scale industrial complex is situated at Shuwaikh. Industries installed at Shuwaikh number around five hundred ranging from iron-pipe factories to macaroni mills.

Steel pipes, next only to oil and its products, dominate Kuwait's industrial scene. The Kuwait Metal Pipe Industries set up in the wake of an Emiri decree in 1966 has been doing considerable business. In 1974 the industry had to its credit the production of 33,749 tons of hot dip pipes encompassing a wide range from 10.75 inches to 48 inches in diameter. A glance over its exports brings into light some amazing points. The industry exported 19,500 tons to Saudi Arabia, 260 tons to Iraq, 230 tons to Bahrain and 13,750 tons
to Syria. A new plant with six production lines has also started operation. It is expected that with the commencement of this new plant the output would touch the mark of 70,000 tons.

The Kuwait Prefabricated Building Company, engaged mainly in Kuwait government's scheme of low-income housing represents another major industry in Kuwait. Investments in this company were provided by the Kuwait, Industries Company, the Kuwait Investment Company and the Savings and Credit Bank with the initial capital of Kd 750,000. Within a short span of its existence the company accomplished the target of building 176 two-storey low income group houses. The company has also achieved the record of constructing the company intends to build several multi-storeyed and high rise buildings. The Kuwait Flour Mills entering the production of bread and other flour products has been quite successful enterprise. Car battery factory, brick works and its subsidiary plants happen to be the other industries doing food business at Shuwaikh.
The government has paid attention to both the categories of industries, the industries which enjoy a good domestic markets and the ones relying on petroleum as its raw material. An important factor which has helped in the industrial expansion and export is the geographical location of Kuwait itself. Large amounts of profit earned by industries earn an ample testimony to the success. Take the profit account of the Petro-chemical Industries Company as illustrative. In 1973 the company had a profit of K 3.7 million a look at production figures tell the same story. The Kuwait Chemical Fertiliser Company produced 377,030 metric tons of liquid ammonia and 399,000 metric tons of urea.

Industrialisation is no doubt a new phenomenon in Kuwait life. It is to the credit of the government that it has planned things so amably that the policy has been moving in the right direction. The growth in industries, like many other social changes, is an outcome of the discovery of oil and consequent political changes.
In spite of growing westernisation, Kuwaitis generally speak, for religious matters, religious affairs are governed by the Ministry of Awqaf. There is no difference between the Church and the state in Kuwait. The rapid increase in the number of mosques is a pointer to the growing interest in religion. Friday is observed in accordance with the social obligations of Islam as the weekly holiday. Non-Muslims enjoy complete religious freedom as evident from the presence of a Catholic pro-cathedral, an Anglican church and a Greek Orthodox Church in Kuwait.

Accede the mosques were thronged by worshipers but the number has been now registering a gradual decline, drinking being forbidden by Islam is not common. However, Europeans and Americans come to get wine through a licensed shop. So are pork bacon and ham, forbidden by Islam, are served only to non-Muslims.
It is quite significant that as a result of material prosperity and luxurious way of life, masses are turning gradually indifferent to religion. This may be referred to as another significant change in Kuwait's life in the wake of the discovery of oil.
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CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

A survey of the numerous changes that have taken place of late in Kuwait brings home the point that a new Kuwait, highly urbanised, westernised and industrialised has been emerging fast and thus has, in turn, demolished the centuries old nomadic set up of this tiny state. The change is almost total and at a quite fast pace affecting all walks of life. It has swept away the traditional life style of the desert. In a degree undreamt of Kuwait has got wealth accruing from the discovery of oil, which is the fountain head of all recent developments in Kuwait. In the past, the sources of national income were meagres as well as inadequate. Agriculture has been developed considerably, as with the flow of money a consequent upon the discovery of oil it has been possible for the government to arrange for a constant supply of ample water. Nonetheless, much remains to be done in this respect as the import unit of food items are reflective of an insufficient supply of food items. The landscape has radically changed.
Towns there are lined with green trees. Some has been the case with fishing industry. Recent changes consequent upon the discovery of oil have helped the industry in that new fish processing plants have been installed. In so far as pearling, a traditional economic activity of pre oil Kuwait, is concerned a marked decline has set in. However, as a fascinating aspect of Kuwait’s social and economic life it would survive long.

The population of Kuwait has registered a sharp increase in recent years, as evident from the following census reports. It stood at 206,473 in 1957 which has shot up to 733,000 in 1970 of which 346,000 are Kuwaitis. The gross national is estimated at kW 793 (£933 millions) which comes to £1330 per capita. Major components of national economy are agriculture, mining, construction and manufacturing concerns, services including transport, and industries of which the most important is of oil.

One of the significant social changes in Kuwait attended upon the discovery of oil is that of a growing interest in
education. Before her independence educated people were few in
Kuwait. Today, Kuwait happens to be one of the major publication
centres in the whole Middle East. The total number of
kindergarten, primary, secondary, intermediate, commercial,
industrial, special training and teachers training institutions
in Kuwait runs into hundreds whereas that of teachers and
students into thousands. In addition, hundreds of Kuwaiti
students including females have been pursing education in pre-
stigious institutions abroad.

Living conditions have improved in general. Few countri
in the world can boast of providing its public with a totally
free health system as in Kuwait. The expenditure on health
care is so less than 16 million. Other municipal and social
services and facilities have been provided the city of Kuwait
may be rightly referred to as the best-designed city in the
world. Another obvious outcome of recent social changes is the
changed status of women. The segregation of sexes in public
life, a traditional feature of Kuwaiti society, has been giving way to women liberation.

There is no denying the fact that the discovery of oil has transformed the tiny state of Kuwait into a force to be reckoned with in the arena of international high finance, politics, trade, commerce and social life. Oil has thrust Kuwait into prominence in every respect.
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