

WILIANDER FRANÇA SALOMÃO

Discovering the
**UNITED
ARAB
EMIRATES**

The history of a country that has become one
of the most powerful and prosperous in the world



editora
D'PLÁCIDO

WILIANDER FRANÇA SALOMÃO

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Rodapé



This book is dedicated to the people of the United Arab Emirates and to the memory of the Founding Father Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan for his history, his legacy and his teachings.



Acknowledgement

Writing about another country, having an idea and turning it into a book is harder than I thought but it is far more rewarding than I could imagine. This experience, even challenging, is very important for bringing information and knowledge to the public.

None of this would have been possible without the help of some special people.

First, I have to start by thanking my brothers from the United Arab Emirates: Adil and Khamis. Brother *Adil*, thank you for your valuable contributions to this project, for our many talks about the history of the UAE, the progress made in recent years, and the relevant informations you gave to me showing enthusiasm and a great support for the success of this work, thank you for your care and generosity. Brother *Khamis*, for encouraging me for writing this book and great support for this to become a reality. I am forever grateful to you both, for our brotherhood, for our adventures and for all the support you have always given to me.

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A decorative geometric pattern consisting of interlocking hexagons and lines, forming a lattice-like structure, located at the top of the page.

Acronyms

ADIA	Abu Dhabi Investment Authority
ADNOC	Abu Dhabi National Oil Company
ENEC	Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation
ENOC	Emirates National Oil Company.
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
RAK	Ras Al Khaimah
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UAQ	Umm Al Quwain
UN	United Nations
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
USA	United States of America



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Author's note

Marhaba!
Alsalam Aleikum!

My Lebanese Arab heritage through my paternal grandparents makes me be in constant connection with the fascinating world of the Arab people and its ancient history. Writing about the United Arab Emirates has been a journey where curiosity, admiration and excitement were the most relevant points. After writing four books about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, in the Portuguese and English versions, it was necessary to move forward with studies on Middle East.

It was at that moment that I thought about the United Arab Emirates, a small country in the Arabian Gulf where I traveled in January 2017 for the first time to visit my Emirati brothers. After having spent some time there, I could notice that I had two observations: one, that UAE was much more than I had read about it, and the second is the Spirit of Union and pride of its citizen in demonstrating the advances made over the years in a geographic environment unfavorable by climate conditions but driven by the dream of prospering and showing the world that everything is possible.

It was in this sense that I had no doubts about what I should write. This is how the project of a book about the United Arab Emirates came about and having a chance to explore its past, its

leaders, its history, culture and, above all, its innovations that cause admiration around the world mainly because in its territory are people from 200 nationalities living in a peaceful society whose government invests in well-being measures and a place of opportunity that goes far beyond oil.

It is a society dedicated to fulfil their dreams, entrepreneurship and modernity but without forgetting its Arab and Muslim traditions.

This book is about to discover the UAE, in all aspects, in a journey to inspire us all.

Abu Dhabi, January 2019.

Wiliander Salomão

Author



Preface 1



The year 2018

celebrated the centenary of the birth of the Founding Father of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, as well as marks the celebrations of the 47th National Day of the founding of the state that over the years has become a great international power whose principles of cooperation, friendship, protection of Human Rights and the resolution of conflicts by peaceful means.

In this sense, the Government of the UAE has always performed its duties based on the values of tolerance and multiculturalism, rejecting discrimination and hatred by adopting national programs in partnership with several local, regional and international bodies. Today our country represents a model of prosperity where people from 200 nationalities live and work in harmony.

The United Arab Emirates are actively involved in the fight against extremism and terrorism, it is a key element in the country's determined efforts to ensure national security and to defend international peace among nations.

Likewise, Sheikh Zayed's vision for the future of the state was built on the need to an integrated economy by turning the nation into a global business center, and ranked first among Arab countries for its ability to receive foreign investment. This established its position as a strategic trading hub that provides access to regional markets, having an effective judiciary and legislation system as well.

As a direct consequence of the commitments to move forward in the future, the UAE Government recently announced the launch of the KhalifaSat satellite as the country's first one made by Emirati engineers as a result of national pioneering to establish a new phase of space technologies in a global scale.

In humanitarian aid, the United Arab Emirates represents one of the world's leading foreign aid donors.

It is relevant to emphasize the bilateral relations that unite Brazil and the United Arab Emirates with friendly ties based on the principles of cooperation and respect and have reached a high level of strategic partnership in the last years, mainly by the mutual visits of the leaders of the two countries and the great increase of the commercial, economic and cultural exchange.

Finally, the edition of a book about the UAE represents an important source of knowledge about its culture, its people, its hospitality, its historical features and its traditions for the future generations that will be able to discover more about this country and its positive impact on the world.

Sao Paulo, December 2018.

Ibrahim Salem Al Alawi

General Consul of the United Arab Emirates in Brazil



Preface 2



To the author,

thank you for the great efforts you have been done to accomplish this book with full of passion and love, and many thanks to you for giving me the chance to be part of this project and I ask God to bless both our countries for more progress and prosperity.

To all who will put this book under his hands, we wish you an enjoyable reading by sailing in the depths to the young state, that number one is its goal in all sectors and areas.

We assure you that, all what has been achieved till this moment is just the beginning of a country that always aspires for more with the wise leadership and the loyalty of the people to their country and their father, the founder of the UAE, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al Nahyan, may God have mercy on his soul.

Regards,

Adil Alamiri

Diplomat of the United Arab Emirates

Abu Dhabi, January 2019.



Introduction



The history of the people

of the United Arab Emirates is full of great moments, but mostly with struggles and challenges like any other.

From ancient times, tribes communities on the southern coast of the Arabian Gulf, where is located the United Arab Emirates at the present time, lived according to their values and traditions, while surrounded by a strategic trade route linking the east to the west and for that reason numerous civilizations traveled to that region. In this sense, that Arab tribes survived from fishing and agriculture, where a small group wander the territory in search of better conditions of life remaining close to the water sources in the oases and the sea.

The position of the trade routes in the Gulf caused that great empires of that time such as Persia, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands came place the region under their direct influence.

Despite of that, the United Kingdom became the only one to exert such control over the Arabian Gulf in the nearby territories including Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman. The frequent conflicts with the local tribes gave rise to a Truce System that originated a Protectorate over the Arab Sheikhdoms.

From then on, the local reality underwent profound changes where these Sheikhs struggled to maintain the integrity and

sovereignty of their emirates while maintaining security and other activities in the exclusive charge of the United Kingdom.

In this context, in the 20th century, while most countries in the world were experiencing moments of progress and building schools, universities and hospitals, the former populations of the United Arab Emirates had precarious infrastructure and a poverty life. This social conditions faced a severe change by the event known as “the catastrophe” caused by the breaking of the pearl trade in the 1930’s at the time of World War II, leaving the Gulf completely abandoned by the foreign companies.

The consequences of this crisis had a negative impact for the entire population that began to migrate in search of better living conditions. Some emirates like Abu Dhabi have lost almost half of the population.

As seen, the situation of the UAE in those days seemed not to change, but, despite of that, the people used their ability to survive through those times and struggled without showing any sign of defeat. But there was a belief that something could be done, a belief that looked beyond the desert, as a projection of a mirage that only something impossible could happen to change all this. That’s when the oil was discovered in Abu Dhabi in the 1950’s. From that moment on, the whole territory changed and started to receive more interest from the British Government and other countries to obtain concessions of oil exploration.

The crisis of the pearl trade was left behind. In the arid landscape a new kind of wealth emerged as an unlimited source considered a divine gift for those people that now have the chance to transform everything around them. The most remarkable thing was to realize that this wealth was there, all the time, watching the events without showing the slightest sign of its presence. Immediately, from the desert soil was built cities, highways, companies, skyscrapers and a progress never seen before. The central element is the Founding Father of the nation, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who believed in the Union Project of all emirates as the solution for the development of the people

and the whole region. He saw a future of possibilities. He saw beyond the desert.

But Sheikh Zayed said that wealth is not Money but is in men and that is the true power and the profit of oil should be invested to improve the life of the whole population. It was under the leadership of His Highness and the other Rulers that the United Arab Emirates became a modern and developed state despite of the challenges.

This fascinating history starts to be told throughout this book, with the intention to discover the United Arab Emirates.

Mashallah!

The founder of the project to create the United Arab Emirates was Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the Founding Father, who during his leadership guided his people to a better life and future. He once mentioned:

“ We were like those who had climbed a mountain and reached the top. When we looked down, we still wanted to go higher to realise our goals. Despite all the achievements (within the UAE Federation), we still have an ambition for more. That is my way of looking at things. ”

In this sense, the history of the United Arab Emirates, since the beginning, is full of great moments, but also with many struggles and challenges like any other. It was a British Protectorate and the Emirati people lived modestly and survived from fishing and pearl farming, and sought for a better living and working conditions in a contrasting landscapes by the desert, mountains and the sea. Undoubtedly, this reality changed from the moment oil was discovered in Abu Dhabi and, immediately, from the desert land, was built cities, highways, hospitals, universities, skyscrapers, and a progress never seen before.

The UAE celebrated the Sheikh Zayed's 100th birth anniversary in 2018, as well as the 47th anniversary of the announcement of the Union resulting in a country that has become one of the most powerful in the world and has embraced the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, cooperation, friendship, the defense of rights and the solution of conflicts by peaceful means.

In this sense, the Government of the United Arab Emirates has a message of peace and multiculturalism, having a population with more than 200 nationalities living and working in harmony. It is a new country with wealth and prosperity in a modern and sophisticated society, as well as being one of the largest donors of humanitarian aid.

This fascinating history is told throughout this book, with the intention of discovering the United Arab Emirates, in every extraordinary achievements.

