

JORDAN

Party Portrait

The Jordanian monarchy maintains a robust authoritarian grip, undergirded by dependence on Western institutions and the United States for aid. Although there have been serious attempts at reform within Jordan over the past few decades, the reluctance of the monarchy to relinquish control and the manipulation of the Muslim Brotherhood's Islamic Action Front have hindered these efforts. Western sponsorship has made this possible and encouraged the monarchy's unpopular cooperation with Israel, against the desires of the Jordanian-Palestinian majority. Further liberalization or destabilization of the state could incentivize King Abdullah II to act with the sole intent of preserving the monarchy, even if doing so would counter Western allegiances.

Key Interests

- Internally, sustain power through maintaining economic stability, promoting social cohesion, and national identity
- Maintain economic and security support from outside powers
- Promote the stability of other authoritarian regimes in ME
- Delegitimize democratic reforms (esp. Muslim-Brotherhood-led)
- End refugee crisis within Jordan's borders and beyond
- Stabilize environmental, food, water and economic resources

Sources of Leverage

Geography – Stability within Jordan is lynchpin for stability in Israel-Palestine, broader ME. Jordan is a buffer state for regional neighbors
Military - Well-funded military that acquired much of its material from American military sales, with highly capable intelligence
Soft Power – Broad regional amicability as a moderate state
Economic – High quality higher education facilities and healthcare despite other economic difficulties
Political – Allied with Western powers offers both economic and political leverage

Regional Strategy

Aims to maintain amicable connections with any actor who could hold leverage over them and to maintain a neutral stance unless asked by allies to cooperate in a multilateral effort. Goal is to sustain Jordanian monarchy at any cost. Aims to support Western efforts in Syria and Libya, and Saudi strategy in the Gulf while not alienating Iranian allies (Iraq or Lebanon). Focus diplomatic efforts on solution to Israel-Palestine conflict that allows the stability of the Jordanian monarchy. Appealing to the US and international bodies for political, military, and economic assistance.

Powerful Individuals

King Abdullah II (reigning monarch); Queen Rania (Palestinian wife of Abdullah), Hussein bin Abdullah II (heir to the throne)

Potential Negotiation Moves

Democratize - Initiate internal democratic reforms to form stronger alliances, or to demand more forcefully a Palestinian state
Repress reform - Repress reform efforts more harshly;
Exit - Threaten to exit partnerships with the US, Saudi Arabia, and Israel if interests are not met, particularly around economic support;
Russia - Align with the Russian-sponsored Assad regime against American-sponsored rebel groups in Syria if shifting realities on the ground reflect a lasting government presence on the Jordanian border.

Internal Conflicts

Conflict exists between "ethnic Jordanian," or "Jordo-Jordanian" citizens and Palestinian Jordanians; Palestinian Jordanians are underrepresented and disadvantaged by Hashemite monarchy's preference towards Jordo-Jordanians. Allegiance to Western states, while tolerated by most citizens, provokes anger in subsets of the population, specifically for participation in Jordanian-Israeli peace process and cooperation in U.S. invasion of Iraq and Syrian war. A divide exists between Islamist, anti-government parties led by the Islamic Action Front and the loyalist parties backed by the monarchy. It is illegal to criticize the monarchy, so the scope of public disagreement is limited. Conflicts also exist between Syrian, Iraqi, and Sudanese refugees and Jordanians, and between foreign workers and Jordanian nationals. Strong economic divisions separate wealthy elite from rural and urban poor.

Memberships

IAEA, ARAB LEAGUE, MEDITERRANEAN DIALOGUE, OIC, UN

Allies

MOROCCO Government, SAUDI ARABIA, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES, YEMEN Government

Partners

EGYPT Government, EUROPEAN UNION, PALESTINE Fatah, HOLY SEE, HUMANITARIAN ACTORS, IRAQ State of Law Coalition, ISRAEL, JAPAN, LEBANON Government, NATO, SYRIA Other Opposition Groups, QATAR, RUSSIA, TURKEY, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Rivals

PALESTINE Hamas, LEBANON Hezbollah, IRAN, KUWAIT, PALESTINE Civil Society, SYRIA Government

Adversaries

AQAP, YEMEN Houthis

Active Armed Opponents

ISIS

Proxy

N/A

External Sponsor

N/A

Aid Recipient

N/A

Aid Donor

HUMANITARIAN ACTORS, INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, NATO, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED NATIONS, UNITED STATES