

OMAN

Party Portrait

Oman is a small Gulf nation of a little over 4 million people, but one with the potential to play a larger regional role, including as a regional mediator. Sultan Qaboos Bin Said is one of the longest ruling monarchs in the world, having maintained power since 1970. In recent decades, it has embarked on a reform agenda seeking to modernize and develop the country. Furthermore, Oman is also an oil-dependent Gulf state, but its oil production is significantly smaller than its neighbors.

Key Interests

- Furthering its own economic and social development, as well as diversify its economy in areas such as tourism.
- Ensuring regime continuity, which to date has involved modest advances towards increasing popular decision making. However, critically the regime seeks to stifle political opposition and the threat of terrorism.

Sources of Leverage

Political - Oman's continuous relationship with Iran has made it a valuable Gulf Arab ally for Western states who seek a mediator or intermediary to help resolve disputes or pursue shared interests with Iran.

Western partnerships - It's friendly relationships with United Kingdom and the United States make Oman a discreet, yet reliable partner in a volatile region.

Regional Strategy

Oman has historically sought to play the role of regional mediator. Its regional strategy is therefore to participate in track-II diplomatic efforts and not intervene militarily in the region.

Powerful Individuals

Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said, Deputy Prime Minister Fahd bin Mahmoud al Said

Potential Negotiation Moves

Broker rapprochement between West, Gulf and Iran - Given its unique role as a Gulf Arab state, and its partnership with both Western states and Iran, the Sultanate could potentially be a broker or mediator in any regional discussions with the United States, Iran, Saudi Arabia and other GCC countries. If tensions increase between Gulf states, the United States and Iran, Oman could also help mitigate the challenges and support conflict resolution.

Internal Conflicts

Though a formidable domestic political opposition does not exist at the moment, Oman did face some rising political discontent following the 2011 Arab Spring.

Memberships

ARAB LEAGUE, GCC, IAEA, OIC, UN

Allies

QATAR, BAHRAIN, KUWAIT

Partners

SAUDI ARABIA, UAE, UNITED STATES, UNITED KINGDOM, IRAN

Rivals

N/A

Adversaries

N/A

Active Armed Opponents

N/A

Proxy

N/A

External Sponsor

N/A

Aid Recipient

N/A

Aid Donor

N/A