

# UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

## Party Portrait

The UAE, while a small state, is a key regional player as a result of its economic strength, particularly in oil, finance, tourism, shipping. Furthermore, it has gained political strength in recent years as a result of its increased role in regional affairs, ranging from intervention in Libya to intervention in Yemen. Though its regional and global ambitions are increasing, its main interests lie in strengthening economic growth in the long term, continuing its modernization and diversification agenda, and ensuring the continuity of the current regime.

### Key Interests

- For the most part, the UAE acts primarily on its economic interests. To this end, the country aims to paint itself as the cosmopolitan business capital of the GCC and the Arab world.
- Critically, it also focuses on regime stability, and maintaining a stable federative relationship among the various emirates

### Sources of Leverage

**Economic** - Its economic might and role as an investment and business hub in the Arab world are a significant source of soft power.  
**Political** - Regime stability, particularly given a region characterized by conflict and instability, is a strong source of leverage.  
**Convening Power** - The UAE's strong partnerships with key GCC allies, as well as Western states (including hosting a French military base), contributes to being seen as a responsible actor in the region that can be counted on to support key regional initiatives (including military missions).

## Regional Strategy

Its regional strategy is largely anchored in strengthening its economic position as a hub for investment in the MENA region. Recently though it has assumed a greater regional leadership role, participating in air strikes in Libya in 2011, and most recently in Yemen.

### Powerful Individuals

President Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Prime Minister Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

### Potential Negotiation Moves

**Strengthen ties with GCC allies** - The UAE may further strengthen its ties with Saudi Arabia and other GCC partners, therefore fortifying the GCC as an economic and political bloc, and increasingly as a military alliance.  
**Consolidating ties with Western partners** - Strengthening ties with the United States and European partners are key interests in order to maintain external legitimacy and financial/military support.

## Internal Conflicts

Perceived threat of political dissenters and in particular Muslim Brotherhood factions, terrorist threats (often related to perceived political dissenters)

### Memberships

ARAB LEAGUE, GCC, IAEA, ISTANBUL COOPERATION INITIATIVE, OIC, OPEC, UN

### Allies

SAUDI ARABIA, BAHRAIN, KUWAIT

### Partners

OMAN, UNITED STATES, UNITED KINGDOM, FRANCE

### Rivals

IRAN, QATAR

### Adversaries

N/A

### Active Armed Opponents

N/A

### Proxy

N/A

### External Sponsor

N/A

### Aid Recipient

EGYPT Government, YEMEN Government

### Aid Donor

N/A