



Model Arab League

Annotated Bibliography for Jordan

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This annotated bibliography was created to serve as a research resource for students taking part in the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Model Arab League Program. With the understanding that research can be intimidating and time consuming, an effort was made to find a set of scholarly articles that give a detailed background and thorough account of the current situation for this League of Arab States member. Included are annotations designed to give a description of the source with the intention of students completing the research on their own. There has been an attempt to focus on more contemporary scholarship, specifically post-9/11 and post-2011 (so-called "Arab Spring") where possible, as these are two phenomena that fundamentally changed politics in the Arab world. These sources should provide students with a solid basis for understanding the country they are representing in both regionally and globally significant issues as well as the interests of other countries within the League of Arab States.

1. Moonsung Kang, "An Analysis of Economic Impacts of FTAs on Strategic Industries in Jordan," *International Area Studies Review*, Volume 14, Number 4, December 2011, pp. 73-96. •• Jordan is party to a large number of trade and tariff agreements relative to other Arab countries. In both a regional and global sense, Jordan has used its free trade agreements to expand its export markets strategically. This article covers all of Jordan's trade agreements and contains a wealth of statistical data that show the importance of the agreements to Jordan's economic sectors. Most noticeable is Jordan's entrance into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in the year 2000 which greatly increased its competitive advantages in various industries and its market penetration to the United States.
2. E. S. Hrayshat, "Analysis of Renewable Energy Situation in Jordan," *Energy Sources, Part B: Economics, Planning, and Policy*, Volume 3, Issue 1, December 2007, pp. 89-102. •• Relative to its neighbors, Jordan is a very energy dependent country, with domestic sources accounting for only 3-4% of its needs. Energy demands have been forecasted to double in the next 15 years, and in consequence Jordan is looking heavily into renewable energy resources. Luckily, Jordan's geography and location make it prime for both wind and solar energy production, and the government has already made steps toward expanding its capabilities in these types of energy production. In addition, Jordan is looking into alternative sources of energy including hydroelectric and geothermal as well. This article gives details as to what measures the Jordanian government has taken in order to use domestic renewable energy sources and what obstacles remain in its way to achieving its goals.
3. Atef Al-Kharabsheh & Rakad Ta'any, "Challenges of Water Demand Management in Jordan," *Water International*, Volume 30, Issue 2, January 2009, pp. 210-219. •• Among the Arab Middle Eastern countries, Jordan faces one of the worst looming water crises.

Obviously, the majority of Jordan's climate is characterized by desert with only 4% of its area considered capable of rain fed farming. With major water sources stemming from other countries, predicted increases in desertification, and decreases in per capita water allowance, Jordan is in serious need of developing alternative water resources. This article provides the reader with a wealth of statistics regarding Jordan's current water situation and future, and later discusses possibilities for obtaining potable water including sharing agreements with neighboring countries, pipelines, and desalinization, all of which have distinct costs and benefits. Finally, a list of recommendations are given that could greatly improve Jordan's water security.

4. Dr. Adnan H. Al-Salihi & Dr. Sawsan K. Himmo, "Control and Management Study of Jordan's Water Resources," *Water International*, Volume 28, Issue 1, pp. 1-10. •• "Jordan is suffering from an immediate and rapidly growing [water] deficit; the water demand exceeds the available supply by 140% and the renewable supply by 175%." Clearly, Jordan is using its fresh water at an unsustainable rate and must make changes if it does not want to run itself dry. This article explores many possibilities that Jordan has, including future agreements with neighboring countries, water importation, desalinization (which the authors view as one of the better options), and the building of pipelines. Lastly, the authors discuss the long planned Red-Dead conduit project which could provide water as well as electricity to Jordan, Israel, and Palestine.
5. Eric Abitbol, "Giving the Dead Sea a New Life: Have All Options Been Responsibly Considered?" *Journal of Peacebuilding & Development*, Volume 3, Issue 1, April 2012, pp. 94-99. •• There have been various proposals made to address the depletion of the Dead Sea, most notable of which is the Red Sea-Dead Sea Canal (RSDSC) favored by Jordan, Israel, Palestine, and the World Bank. This short article is critical of the RSDSC from an environmental standpoint and argues for alternatives to this project that could cause great damage to the surrounding environments and diminish tourism to the region. Near the end of the article various alternatives are listed that may prove to be less invasive, but they would most likely have to be used in tandem.
6. Curtis R. Ryan, "'Jordan First': Jordan's Inter-Arab Relations and Foreign Policy Under King Abdullah II," *Arab Studies Quarterly*, Volume 26, Issue 3, June 2004, pp. 43-62. •• In contemporary history, Jordan has occupied a tenuous political position, often having to balance many external and internal interests in order to maintain regime viability and order. Jordan usually kept a steady political stance on various issues, but had to change certain positions in reaction to specific events like the War in Iraq which proved to be quite detrimental to Jordan's foreign relations as the country was essentially stretched in two opposite directions. Also, following the death of King Hussein in 1999, King Abdullah II attempted to strengthen relations with former adversaries including Syria and

the Gulf countries, many times out of necessity for water and/or oil. This article gives a detailed account of Jordan's reactions to contemporary Middle Eastern events and explains the political and economic motivations behind many of King Abdullah II's decisions.

7. Margaret Reid and William Schwab, "Barriers to Sustainable Development : Jordan's Sustainable Tourism Strategy," *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, Volume 41, Number 5-6, October 2006, pp. 439-457. •• Lacking natural resources of its own like water and oil, Jordan is heavily dependent on its tourism industry as its largest contributor to GDP. With a wealth of ancient ruins and archaeological sites, the government has done a great deal to promote tourism from both Western and Gulf countries, however this expansion is often at the cost of environmental and site condition. For these reasons, the Jordanian government has a serious interest in promoting a sustainable tourism industry that protects archaeological sites and the environment, engages local stakeholders, and increases the country's security, of which the last aspect is extremely crucial. This article explains the value of tourism to Jordan using many statistics and provides recommendations for building sustainable tourism practices.
8. Allison Astorino-Courtois, "Transforming International Agreements into National Realities: Marketing Arab-Israeli Peace in Jordan," *The Journal of Politics*, Volume 58, Number 4, November 1996, pp. 1035-1054. •• In creating and enforcing international peace agreements, there are many stages and interests that need to be taken into account. These processes are especially important when attempting to get the local population to accept the terms of the accords, a factor that largely determines the success of peace. In terms of an Arab-Israeli peace agreement, there are certain elements this article shows that, when emphasized, increase the probability of acceptance and realization. Specifically for Jordan, agenda setting and framing appear to be paramount in the presentation of an Arab-Israeli peace agreement, with special emphasis on the positive economic gains to be made by upholding such an agreement.
9. Jeffrey Goldberg, "Monarch in the Middle," *The Atlantic*, April 2013, pp. 45-55. •• The so-called "Arab Spring" spread virally throughout the Arab world yet appears to have not had so much of an effect in the Arab monarchies including Jordan. This is not to say that Jordan has not experienced any unrest; there have certainly been protests in Amman, just to a much lesser scale and not calling for the downfall of the regime as in other countries. This very recent article observes how King Abdullah II has been handling the political upheavals outside and within his country as well as his views on how various other political leaders have been managing their transitions, namely Bashar al-Assad in Syria. The reader is given a look into the day-to-day proceedings that the King must attend to, and the author, through interviews, paints a remarkably human portrait of Abdullah II,

descendant of the Prophet Muhammad.

10. E. S. Hrayshat, "Oil Shale – An Alternative Energy Source for Jordan," *Energy Sources, Part A: Recovery, Utilization, and Environmental Effects*, Volume 30, Issue 20, August 2008, pp. 1915-1920. •• Although Jordan is heavily dependent on energy imports and its domestic energy situation can be described as critical, recent advances in technology have opened up possibilities for new sources. According to this article, Jordan possesses a large amount of oil shale which until recently would have been economically unviable and uncompetitive with traditional oil wells. While extraction and processing of oil from shale is still expensive, it has become more reasonable and has the potential to supply Jordan with its own energy, enough to export. The authors explain the possibilities of mining Jordan's oil shale and make recommendations for going about such a project.
11. Elias Salameh, "Over-exploitation of Groundwater Resources and Their Environmental and Socio-Economic Implications: The Case of Jordan," *Water International*, Volume 33, Issue 1, May 2008, pp. 55-68. •• In consequence of rapid development, Jordan has experienced equally rapid depletion and degradation of its groundwater sources. The groundwater has reached dangerously low levels, forcing wells to drill deeper which is costly, and the lower availability has made farmers to abandon crops. In other cases, over use of groundwater without allowing time for replenishment has increased the salinity of these sources tremendously, rendering them nearly unusable. Sea water desalination is on the horizon but is still too expensive to be worthwhile, especially considering Aqaba is Jordan's only outlet to the sea and transportation of the water to the elevation of Amman would be costly in and of itself. The authors illustrate this problem with graphs displaying the water levels and salinity, and argue that this is a problem not intrinsic to Jordan alone.
12. Hiba A. Bawadi, Reema F. Tayyem, Amal N. Dwairy, and Nemeh Al-Akour, "Prevalence of Food Insecurity among Women in Northern Jordan," *Journal of Health, Population, & Nutrition*, Volume 30, Issue 1, March 2012, pp. 49-55. •• Food insecurity is a significant problem among Jordan's poorer population, especially for women. According to previous studies, about 14% of Jordan's population lives on less than \$553 per person per year. This study found that in northern Jordan, approximately 33% of women were food insecure, are not able to eat a balanced diet, or suffer from hunger. The fact that this number of women are food insecure is a direct result of levels of women's' income, education, and employment. In conclusion, the authors provide policy recommendations that may decrease the rate of women's food insecurity issues.
13. Pénélope Larzillière, "Research in Context : Scientific Production and Researchers' Experience in Jordan," *Science, Technology, & Society*, Volume 15, Number 2,

September 2010, pp. 309-338. •• As a developing country, Jordan is trying to promote academic research in various fields within its universities. While the intentions behind promoting academic research are good, there remain many issues that either prevents research from being done, or preventing research from being of good quality. These issues include: the dependence of Jordan on foreign aid which makes research beholden to foreign interests, the culture of hard sciences being valued over social sciences, and self-censorship of contentious political issues. Although academic research encounters these obstacles, this article explains the pros and cons of these limits, like the fact that research that is done directly addresses local concerns.

14. Salem Al-Oun, "Technology Use Effect on Performance of Small- and Medium-Agro-Farm Businesses in Badia of Jordan," *Social Marketing Quarterly*, Volume 18, Number 1, March 2012, pp. 9-28. •• Since Jordan adopted policies of economic liberalization in the 90's, its agricultural industry has suffered by exposing Jordanian farmers to globalized competition and corporate agro-business. As this liberalization took place relatively recently, Jordanian farmers have yet to react coordinate a marketing and production strategy, making their products subject to daily uncertainty and price fluctuations. Finally, limited use of postharvest technologies and preservation results in produce waste and lost revenues. Given these problems, this article advocates for a government marketing and production strategy for small and medium size farm owners that includes investment in technologies that can greatly improve efficiencies and competitiveness on the regional and global stage.
15. Duane Alexander Miller, "The Episcopal Church in Jordan: Identity, Liturgy, and Mission," *Journal of Anglican Studies*, Volume 9, Issue 2, September 2011, pp. 134-153. •• As in a few other Arab countries, Jordan is home to an indigenous Christian community. Jordan is interesting in this regard, as the Anglican Communion, also known as the Church of England, is present alongside other denominations like the Eastern Orthodox. For various reasons, the historic tensions between Christians and Muslims, as well as between Christians and Christians of other denominations remain a consistent suppressed issue. Written from the perspective of a Western Christian observing the Anglican Christian community in Jordan, this article explains the problems that the Jordanian Christian community has encountered in modern history due to their identity. The author then makes suggestions that may help resolve some of these issues and improve levels of religious freedom in Jordan. In similar Arab countries, analogous changes may improve levels of religious freedom overall.
16. Dr. Firas Al Rawashdeh and Dr. Mohammad Al Alaya, "The Gravity Model of Trade: The Applied Case of Jordan (1976-2008)," *Journal of Economics and Engineering*, Volume 1, Number 4, December 2010, pp. 86-94. •• Among the Middle Eastern Arab

countries, Jordan is regarded as relatively much more liberal when it comes to economic policies than its neighbors. This liberalism is demonstrated through the various free trade agreements that Jordan has signed onto that include bilateral as well as regional treaties. In most cases for Jordan, the entrance into a free trade agreement benefitted the country overall, yet there are a few cases in which the country's economy suffered as a whole or a specific sector was faced with great difficulties. This article explains these effects and gives meaningful statistics that illustrate the changes in trade brought about by free trade agreements, both positive and negative.

17. Ibtesam Alatiyat and Hassan Barari, "Liberating Women with Islam? The Islamists and Women's Issues in Jordan," *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions*, Volume 11, Number 3-4, September 2010, pp. 359-378. •• Within the last twenty to thirty years, Jordan has experienced sweeping changes with regards to the rights of women. Undoubtedly, there was some resistance in response to proposing these changes, specifically from Islamists and tribal elders. Notable victories for the women's cause include the not guilty verdict of Toujan Faisal in her apostasy case, in which she was accused of criticizing Islam by speaking against polygyny. Also, in 1992, Jordan signed the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1992, leading Islamists and tribal leaders to accuse the government of importing Western secularism and feminism. This article gives an in depth look into the progression of women's empowerment in Jordan, and makes clear critical distinctions, like that of the difference between Islamic and tribal law, two legal systems that are often conflated in the Arab Middle East.
18. Hala N. Madanat, Kelly P. Troutman, and Bader Al-Madi, "The Nutrition Transition in Jordan: The Political, Economic and Food Consumption Contexts," *Promotion and Education*, Volume 15, Number 1, March 2008, pp. 6-10. •• While the title of this report would have the reader think it is solely about nutrition and/or eating habits of Jordanians, the authors show that there are a myriad of factors that contribute to a society's overall health. In a sense, nutritional changes can be seen as just the starting point for a wide regression analysis into Jordan's demography, levels of education, urbanization, and gender equality. The article concludes by describing Jordan's nutritional situation as "degenerative" and arguing that specific policy changes be brought about to address the degenerating state of Jordanians' nutritional intake.
19. Ryan B Abbott, Rania Bader, Lina Bajjali, Taher Abu ElSamen, Thamer Obeidat, Hanan Sboul, Mustafa Shwayat, and Ibrahim Alabbadi, "The Price of Medicines in Jordan: The Cost of Trade-Based Intellectual Property," *Journal of Generic Medicines: The Business Journal for the Generic Medicines Sector*, Volume 9, Number 2, June 2012, pp. 75-85. •• Many academics have praised Jordan for its movement toward economic liberalization

and generally paint a positive picture by showing the benefits Jordan has enjoyed as a result. All things are not equal however, and the pharmaceutical industry is one that may have been negatively affected by the government's liberal policies. After joining the WTO in 2000 and later signing a free trade agreement with the U.S., Jordan had to enforce intellectual property laws that “delayed market entry of generics” and may have cost Jordanian consumers nearly \$20 million. If renegotiated, the authors describe various ways in which Jordan can amend intellectual property regulations to better suit the country's needs.

20. Mark Zeitoun, Tony Allan, Nasser al-Aulaqi, Amer Jabarin, and Hammou Laamrani, “Water Demand Management in Yemen and Jordan: Addressing Power and Interests,” *The Geographical Journal*, Volume 178, Number 1, March 2012, pp. 54–66. •• Traditionally, water is only dealt with in a “supply side” manner, in which government policies only attempt to meet demands with an adequate supply. This way of approaching water policy comes at a high cost however as water is overdrawn and unevenly distributed. Water Demand Management (WDM) is the counter approach to supply side water policy, is seen as political suicide, yet it is the “single most effective way of ensuring environmentally sustainable water use.” Even though WDM is a stated policy of both the government of Jordan and Yemen, it remains weak and/or unenforced. This article examines the reasons why WDM meets so many obstacles and may provide possible solutions.
21. Inaam Khalaf RN, Fathieh Abu Moghli RN, and Erika Sivarajan Froelicher, “Youth-Friendly Reproductive Health Services in Jordan from the Perspective of the Youth: A Descriptive Qualitative Study,” *Scandinavian Journal of Caring Sciences*, Volume 24, Issue 2, June 2010, pp. 321-331. •• In Jordanian society, reproductive health education is usually given on what is considered a “need-to-know” basis, and typically the need is qualified by marriage. Through use of various studies and surveys, the authors find that reproductive health is considered a female concern, and even then there are various stigmas associated with the use or visitation of reproductive health providers. At the same time, many Jordanian youth expressed a desire to learn more about reproductive health and wish for improved facilities. Throughout the article the authors provide possible solutions to these problems based on statistical data.