



## Special report

# Oman under Sultan Haitham

This collection of 11 articles highlights GSN's coverage of Sultan Haitham Bin Tariq Al-Said's first few months of rule following the death of *Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al-Said in January 2020*. Sultan Haitham faces considerable domestic and regional problems and in his *first major speech in February*, seen very much as a *personal manifesto*, he set out his strategic objectives. Priorities are to reduce state debt, increase revenue, diversify the economy and improve the efficiency of government owned companies. He also promised to listen to the needs of Oman's youth. "*Evolution not revolution*" was GSN's conclusion at the end of the new sultan's first 100 days as leader, noting that Haitham's method of conducting business was to "manage change by achieving consensus...and make steady progress rather than introducing radical change."

Recent decisions by Sultan Haitham include the merger of the *State General Reserve Fund and the Oman Investment Fund*, aimed at improving the management of state-owned assets, and a wide-ranging *government reshuffle* in August which saw a new organisational structure with the number of ministries slimmed down. Haitham gave up the key positions of finance and foreign minister as well as chairmanship of Central Bank of Oman. Additional powers and responsibilities have been given to the sultanate's *11 governors*. Close family members have not been left out of the structure – Haitham's brother *Shihab* has been made a deputy prime minister and son Theyazin appointed culture, sports and youth minister. GSN's coverage includes regional affairs with a particular focus on Oman's relations with the *UAE* and *Yemen*.

### Oman archive

Via the GSN website hundreds of stories on the Sultanate can be filtered by the following sectors: defence and security (issues from terrorism to arms deals), energy and industry (the region's major industries), finance and business (economic reporting with a focus on the people making the deals), politics (highlighting issues of internal governance, personal politics, regional conflicts and trends), Risk Management Reports, royals watch (monitoring of political genealogy) and diplomatic brief (international and regional relations).

[VISIT THE OMAN PAGE](#)

### Maps and graphics

GSN has an extensive archive of maps, graphics and family trees. Country maps provide an overview of key infrastructure and energy facilities. Recent graphics include a map to illustrate the targets, assets, techniques and tools the Chinese Communist Party operate in the Gulf region and a map showing shifting positions of forces in the Yemen conflict.

Also available are succinct family trees (along with notes on the family's history, succession issues and key personalities) on all 13 Gulf ruling families.

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## G | S | N Gulf States Newsletter

### Oman report • October 2020

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### GSN's online archive

The online *Gulf States Newsletter (GSN)* archive stretches over 40 years, providing an incredible depth of independent coverage on Gulf politics and the region's ruling elites.

Stretching back to an era where high-level analysis for businesses and embassies operating in the region were only published in paper form, these searchable pdfs provide a wealth of analysis that is not available elsewhere.

1979, the earliest available online volume, focuses exclusively on 14 issues of the *Saudi Arabia Newsletter*, while in 1980 the archive includes the final 11 issues of *Middle East Newsletter* (the early name of *Gulf States Newsletter*) which routinely carried articles on countries in North Africa and the fringes of the Middle East region, including Turkey and Sudan.

From 1980 to 1987, each volume includes issues of both *Gulf States Newsletter* and the *Saudi Arabia Newsletter*, after which, they were merged into an enlarged *Gulf States Newsletter*.

To sample our archive dating back to 1979 visit:

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