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## **The Peace on The Horizon - 75 Years after The World War 2 in the Middle East (73)**

Chapter 3 The grace of Allah – Oil boom (10)

073 Saudi Arabia appeared on stage (2/4)



The opening of the Suez Canal in 1871 caused the clash between UK and Ottoman Empire. Suez Canal made the British Empire possible to reach to its colonies in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia easier than before. UK confronted with regional powerhouse Ottoman Empire. Two empires battled in the World War I. UK made allied with Bedouin in the Arabian Peninsula. In 1940 first oil was discovered in the eastern province. Later, giant oil fields, Ghawar and Safania, were discovered in the onshore and offshore of peninsula respectively. These findings opened the door for Saudi Arabia as the world energy supplier. Saudi Arabia appeared on stage of Middle East.

Four American oil companies found the oil in Saudi Arabia. They were Standard Oil Company of California (Socal), Standard Oil Company of New Jersey (Esso), Standard Oil Company of New York (Mobil) and Texaco. But commercial production was postponed after the World War II. It was worthy to mention that US President Roosevelt met King Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia immediately after Yalta Conference in 1945. (See Prolog 1. "Summit at Great Bitter Lake of The Suez Canal "). Oil was one of the most important factors to take the initiative of postwar world.

(To be continued ----)

Areha Kazuya

(From an ordinary citizen in the cloud)