CHAPTER IV

RULING CLASS DEFINED

Right from the very beginning this thing is quite obvious that there are two sections of the people in society, the 1st that rules, the 2nd that is ruled. The 1st section of the society performs all political functions, monopolizes power and enjoys unlimited sort of privileges, whereas the second one is directed and controlled by the first, either more or less in a legal, arbitrary or violent ways and supplies the 1st section with the material means of subsistence which are quite vital to the living of the political organism.

In practical life we all recognize the existence of this ruling class (or political class, as we have elsewhere chosen to define it). In every political organism there is only one individual, who is chief among the leaders of the ruling class as a whole, and at the helm of the state. But this person does not always hold the supreme power according

91. From Mosca, The Ruling Class (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. 1939), pp.50-102, Copyright 1939 by the McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc. used with the permission of the Publisher Cross references have been omitted.
to law. Alongside of the hereditary king or emperor we find that there is a Prime Minister or a major-domo who exercises his powers more than that of a sovereign. Under special circumstances there may be, instead of a single person, two or three who discharge the functions of supreme control.

The second most important point is that political intrigue plays the most important role in swaying the passions and emotions of the public. There should also be another organized minority within the masses themselves to discharge the functions of a ruling class. Otherwise all organizations, and the whole structure, would be destroyed.

From the point of view of scientific research the real superiority of the concept of the ruling, or political class lies in the fact that the varying structure of ruling classes has a preponderant importance in determining the political type, and also the level of civilization, of the different peoples. According to a manner of classifying
forms of government that is still in vogue, Turkey and Russia were both, up to a few years ago, absolute monarchies, and France and the United States were classed as republics. The classification was based on the fact that, in the first two countries mentioned, headship in the state was hereditary but his powers and prerogatives are limited; in the last two, he is elected. The classification mentioned above, which divides governments into absolute monarchies, limited monarchies and republics, was devised by Montesquieu and was intended to replace the classical categories of Aristotle, who divided governments into monarchies, aristocracies and democracies. What Aristotle called a democracy was simply an aristocracy of fairly broad membership. Aristotle himself was in a position to observe that in every Greek State, be whether being aristocratic or democratic, there was always one person or more who exercised tremendous power and influence. Between the day of Polybius and the day of Montesquieu, many writers perfected Aristotle's conception by introducing into it the concept of "mixed" governments. Later on the modern
democratic theory, which had its source in Rousseau, took its stand upon the concept that the majority of the citizens in any state can participate, and in fact ought to participate, in its political life, and the doctrine of popular sovereignty still holds sway over many minds inspite of the fact that modern scholarship is making it increasingly clear that democratic monarchial and aristocratic principles function side by side in every political organism.

In primitive societies that are still in the early stages of organization, military valor is the quality that most readily opens access to the ruling, or political, class. In societies of advanced civilization, war is the exceptional condition. Poland offers a characteristic example of the gradual metamorphosis of a warrior class into an absolutely dominant class. There was no distinction between fighters and farmers - in other words, between nobles and peasants. Everywhere in Russia and Poland, in India and medieval Europe - the ruling warrior classes acquire almost exclusive ownership of the land. The condition that in the main is required for this transformation is that social organization
shall have concentrated and be come perfected to such an extent that the protection offered by Public authority is considerably more effective than the protection offered by private force.

The rich ordinarily feel a certain aversion to entering into public life, and the poor a certain aversion to choosing the rich for elective office. But that does not prevent a rich man from being more influential than a poor man, since he can use pressure upon the politicians who control public administration. It does not prevent whole legislators and considerable numbers of national congressmen from feeling the influence of powerful cooperations and great financiers.

In China, too, down to a few years ago, though the government had not accepted the principle of popular elections it was organized on an essentially equalitarian basis. Academic degrees gave access to public office, and degrees were conferred by examination without any apparent regard for family or wealth. According to some writers, only
barbers and certain classes of boatmen, together with their children, were barred from competing for the various grades of the mandarinate.

In societies in which religious beliefs are strong and ministers of the faith form a special class, a priestly aristocracy almost always arises and gains possession of a more or less important share of the wealth and the political power. Conspicuous examples of that situation would be ancient Egypt (during certain periods), Brahman India and Medieval Europe. They possess legal and scientific knowledge and constitute the class of highest intellectual culture. According to Darwin's theories, the upper classes represent a higher level in social revolution and are therefore superior to lower classes by organic structure. Gumplowiez goes to the point of maintaining that the divisions of populations into trade groups and professional classes in modern civilised countries are based on ethnological heterogeneity. Mirabeau remarked that, for any man, any great

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92. Der Rassenkempf. This notion transpires from Gumblowiez's whole volume. It is explicitly formulated in Book II Chapter XXXIII.
climb on the social ladder produces a crises that curse the ills he has and creates new ones that he never had before.

The best known and perhaps the most important example of a society tending towards crystallization is the period in Ranan history that used to be called the Low Empire. A division between two classes grew sharper and sharper. The one made up of great landowners and high officials, the other made up of slaves, farmers and urban plebeians. What is even more striking, public office and social position became hereditary by custom before they became hereditary by law, and the trend was rapidly generalized during the period mentioned.

Buddhism, Christianity and Mohammedanism are the three great humanitarian religions that have so far appeared in history. Each of these possesses a complete body of doctrine, the basis being predominantly metaphysical in Buddhism and dogmatic in Christianity and Mohammedanism. Common acceptance of one of these religions constitutes a
very close bond between most disparate peoples who widely differ in race and language.

Before we proceed any further, it is better to divide the classes into two types into which all political organisms may be classified, the feudal and the bureaucratic.  

By "feudal state" we mean that type of political organization in which all the executive functions of society, the economic, the judicial, the military - are exercised simultaneously by the same individuals, while at the same time the state is made up of small social aggregates, each of which possesses all the organs that are required for self-sufficiency. The Europe of the Middle Ages offers the most familiar example of this type of organization - that is why we have chosen to designate it by the term "feudal."

In the bureaucratic state not all the executive functions need to be concentrated in the bureaucracy and exercised by it. The main characteristic of this type of social

93. Marquardt, Manuel des antiquites.domaines, Fustel de coulanges, Nouvelles recherches sur quelques problems d'histoire.

organization lies in the fact that, wherever it exists, the central power conscripts a considerable portion of the social wealth by taxation and uses it first to maintain a military establishment and then to support or more or less extensive number of public services. In bureaucratic state there is always a greater specialization in the functions of government than in a feudal state. The first and most elementary division of capacities is the withdrawal of administrative and judiciary powers from the military element. The bureaucratic state, furthermore, assures a far greater discipline in all grades of political, administrative and military service. Egypt was bureaucratized in the golden ages of the 17th and 18th dynasties, when the civilization of the Pharaohs had one of its most lustrous periods of renascence, and the Egyptian battalions pushed their conquests from the Blue Nete to the foothills of Caucasus. Spencer seems to have thought of an industrial state as a sort of democratic state, in which the government is based as representation, he says "such control as is required under the industrial type can be exercised only by
an appointed agency for ascertaining and executing the average will, and a representative agency is the one best fitted for doing this." He therefore classifies the Puebgo Indians of New Mexico and Arizona with societies of the Industrial type because, "sheltering in their walled villages and fighting only when invaded, they .... United with their habitually industrial life a free form of government ..... the governor and his council were annually elected by the people."

Spencer finds certain distinguishing characteristics in his militant and industrial types that seem to us exceedingly vague and indefinite. He writes that as militarism decreases and industrialism increases proportionately, a social organization in which the individuals exist for the benefit of the state develops into another organization in which the state exists for the benefit of the individual.

2. **RULING CLASS IN KUWAIT:**

The new era in the history of Kuwait begins with the settlement of the Al-Sabah family in the year 1710. Al-Sabah

95. Ibid., & 566, p. 508.
96. Ibid., Vol. II, Chapter XVIII, £ 513, p. 616.
traces their descent from bedouin Atib or Utul Clan, who were of the Dhamshah branch of Amarat tribe. The actual homeland of the Sabah family was the inner Najd but they left their homeland and came to the coastal strip which they found most hospitable for them. Actually the name of Sabah has been predominant in historical annals. The Al-Sabah family played very important role in shaping the historical events.

The members of the Al-Sabah family have been the rulers of Kuwait. This tribe ranges today through the deserts of Syria, Iraq, and northern Saudi Arabia.

Anaza is a tribe of ancient lineage, dating back to pre-Islamic time. During the early period of Islam some members of Najd, the corn of Arabean Peninsula the Arab Geographer has clearly recorded their presence, and has given a detailed account about them as living in the site of Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia (Riyad itself was not founded until several centuries later.

Hamdani opined that there was a famous tribe named Jumaila in the district of Al-Ajlaj. That tribe was dominant and powerful in that area.

These two famous families lived together and went north, the classic direction taken by Arabian tribesmen in search of greener pastures. But greener pastures were not to be the lot of the Houses of Sabah and Khalifa. Not far away from that place was the site of kazima, it was famous place in days of Islam, and offshore was the island of Falaka, a centre of civilization in the ancient times. The settlers chose this place near the sea which was store of natural resources and good for trade.

There was a small fort (Kuwait is the diminutive of 'kut', a non-Arabic word commonly used in the Gulf region for a fort) built by Mohammad ibn 'Ubair, the chief of Bani-Khalid then the masters of much of the eastern sea board. Another version attributes the building of the fort to the House of Sabah suggesting that the spot they singled out on the coast was completely uninhabited.

It was in tradition that the House of Sabah had no chief of its own at the time of settlement. After a lapse of some year, Sabah—I was elected head of community. Some Arabic scholars have guessed the date of his death as being around 1776. Other guessed that is possible 1762.

First date of his death is verified, Sabah was the ruler when Carsten Neibuhr passed through that place. Neibuhr, a German scholar was sent out to explore Arabia. He was the subservior of a Danish scientific mission. He heard that it was a small town of 10,000 people with 800 sailing crafts engaged in pearling and fishing. He did not visit Kuwait but heard about it. The inhabitants were said to be the subject to Bani-Khalid.

An important event relating to the future history of Gulf took place during the second half of the 18th century when the house of Khalifa decided to leave Kuwait and settled elsewhere, settled first in Qatar, the

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emigrants in 1783, secured a foothold on the island of Bahrain, the ever cherished seat of their dynasty. Though they shifted to some other place, their relationship did not break off with the Sabah family.

3. TWO MAIN HOUSES:

The two important houses established in Kuwait and Bahrain sources said that the House of Saud of Saudi Arabia is also descended from 'Anaza', and it is related to the House of Sabah and Khalifa, but it is not completely verified.

The Ottomans successfully challenged the Portuguese supremacy in the Gulf in the sixteenth century and seized Basra and Quatif in 1550. Later, the Portuguese expelled them from Quatif but they remained at Basra and exercised nominal control over most of the land area which is now Iraq. Kuwait had commercial links with Basra and that those relationships were very cordial, and amiable. Finally, Britain's signing of a treaty with Kuwait in 1899 failed Ottoman hopes of gaining control of Kuwait.
From 1775 to 1779 the Persians, after ousting the turks from Basra, held their occupation on that important port and trading centre. Many Basra merchants arrived to carry on their business. In addition to this, the British East India Company sent its mail from India to Kuwait and from there it was carried by camel riders to Aleppo. The Camel caravans became known as the "Desert-Mail," and covered the journey to Aleppo from fourteen to twenty days.

Round about 1766, during the reign of Abdullah I (1762-1812). The Al-Khalifah family shifted to southward Zubara in Qatar. In 1783, Sabah helped his kinsmen a lot drive the Persians from Bahrain and the Al-Khalifah finally established themselves as the ruler of those islands. Basra was again overtaken by the Ottomans from the Persians and a turbulence created was the East India Company to move its factory and staff to Kuwait in 1793. This clearly

reflected Kuwait's independence from the Turkish authority. For Kuwait it was a period of turbulence and disorder. The Wahhabis, an orthodox religious sect, posed a serious threat to the independence of Kuwait and carried out a long series of military conquests from their home in the Nejd. The first fierce attack was made on Kuwait when the East India Company existed in Kuwait. The Joint Warfares of the company and Kuwait resulted in the repulsion of Wahhabis. No doubt, Wahhabis interference created a lot of trouble but Kuwait managed to pressure its precarious independence and to remain free from Ottoman interference. After Abdullah there emerged Shaikh Jabir I (1810 - 1859) on the throne. He maintained friendly relations with Britain with a view to facilitate the trading business. In 1859, Shaikh Sabah embarked upon the throne of Kuwait which by that time had a population of about 20,000. By this time Kuwait had established its reputation as being one of the most important trading centres and sea-ports and the fame of its sea-faring community Kuwait had become the important port in the northern part of the Gulf and its ships ventured far to increase the prosperity of the
town where the desert under the dwellers, the merchant
and the seaman worked in harmonious industry under the
stable Sabah administration.

OLD RULING CLASS BEFORE DISCOVERY OF OIL:
The Ruling family, mindful of its own desert back­
ground, maintained traditional links with the Bedowin,
upholding the desert code of honour and chivalry. Thus
they obtained the Royalty of the free-moving tribes and
at the sametime maintained a sophisticated, Urban leader­
ship which welded both desert dweller and towns man in
amicable associated, by Shaikh Abdullah II (1866 - 1892)
and then by a period when the Ottomans, occupying what is
now Iraq, aspired to increase their power in Kuwait.

After Abdullah, Shaikh Mohammad (1892 - 1896)
captured power. This was the dark period for Kuwait in
of
the sense that the sun/strength of Sabah had sunk down by
that time. Even he had no more the political wisdom and
insight of Sabah. Turkish interference in the internal

affairs of Kuwait clearly showed the signs of the takeover by the Turks. Kuwait plunged into the state of lawlessness, anarchy and disorder.

It was at this crucial juncture that a man of vigorous strength and political wisdom ascended to the throne named Mubarak, half brother of Muhammad. He had a great aversion towards Muhammad’s Pro-Turkish policy, which threatened Kuwait’s independence, and spoke fearlessly against the impotent administration of Shaikh Muhammad. As a result he was exiled into the desert with an instruction to restore order, there if he could lead mission that was likely to lead to his true mission. In the desert Mubarak lived for a long time without money or the supply of food, but he accompanied with himself the boldest tribal leaders and launched a successful campaign against the rebellious elements. He made a clemency to Muhammad for food and money so that he might come out successful in his mission but was refused.

The only thing left with him was to seize power and assert his own independent opinion. In an extensively well-planned attack Mohammad/ killed along with his followers and his brother, Jerrah. Mohammad's pro-Turkish Wazir fled to Ottoman in terror Mubarak decided to face the people himself in the large council room of the Shaikhs. This throne is known as the new Seif-Palace, the administrative headquarters of the Amir. The people acclaimed Mubarak as their new ruler.

Mubarak wasted no time and asserted much for restoring the lost dignity and honour to Kuwait. The Turks bestowed honourary title on Mubarak which helped him a lot bring good reputation to him. The new ruler imposed a levy on imports, including those of Turkish origin. When the Ottomans sent an official and soldier back to take charge of Kuwait port, he had an attempted approach to Britain but later on discovered that British Government was not ready to grant it with the fear that it may offend the Turks. In 1899, with the fear of German expansion,

facilitated through the treaty with Kuwait, a warship was sent to Kuwait with the instruction that Mubarak should grant permission to the Turkish troops to be stationed in the port. Britain sent three Naval vessels to Kuwait and landed a small troop of soldiers. Turkish attempt to kill Shaikh Mubarak was faced by the town people under the heavy arms and by a British warship. No further attempts were made to overthrow the Mubarak Government.

In June 1904, for the first time in the history of Kuwait, the first British political Agent was appointed and this marked the beginning of a new era symbolising the consolidated Kuwait British friendship. The British Government assured the Kuwaiti Government that it would not hurt the sentiments of the people and that it would guarantee them full rights to keep up the prestige of their own people. Mubarak proved to be a wise and competent ruler who helped a lot consolidating the Kuwait Government. The title earned by Mubarak suited him the

106. The Persian Gulf Arms and Arms Control, K.R.Singh Published in India 1983, p.52.
best since he was strong, upright and decisive until his death. Kuwait kept up its old maintained reputation and prestige and that it maintained its stalwart independence, a legacy that was firmly upheld by the Sabah line which followed him. In 1891, the Al Saud who had established themselves in Nejd were forced to flee after Turkish invasion, placed their hereditary enemies, the Ibn Rashid of Hail, in command of Riyadh. Shaikh Mubarak granted the Amir Abdul Rahman Ibn Faisal Al-Saud permission to live in exile in Kuwait with his four sons, the eldest of whom, Abdul Aziz, was later to become King Ibn Saud (1902). Abdul Aziz, no doubt inspired by the daring exploit which had placed Mubarak in power in Kuwait led a small band of followers to Riyadh where the Rashidi Governor was killed and he took possession of the city. Later, Shaikh Mubarak continued extending his support to Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud who extended his power over the whole of the Najd. Finally, all the domains belonging to the hereditary Saud were recaptured.

During Mubarak's rule Kuwait's seafaring and merchantile trade got much expansion and whole-hearted
support. The town began to be considered as the main-
stream of a prosperous community and they had many
skilled craftsmen whose fame spread throughout the region.
Law and order situations were strictly maintained and the
reputation of Kuwaiti citizens as being the most honest
people was recorded in the chronicles of several European
travellers exploring the gulf region. In 1914, the state's
population increased up to 35000, mostly inhabited by the
town people which contained more than 3,000 houses and
about 500 shops. Prosperity came to the town because of
its being as a trading centre shipping and ship building,
fisheries and pearling and on a smaller scale, and breed-
ing, there were nearly five hundred boats (500) with
crews. Most of them were engaged in pearl fishing, and
much larger vessels carried on a profitable trade with
India and Africa.

After the death of Shaikh Mubarak, the rise of a
new dynamic force in central Arabia known as the Ikhwan
(Brethven) posed a threat to Kuwait and the tenacity of
Kuwaiti citizens was often put to the test. The Ikhwan,
who had strongly recommended and revived the religious zeal of the Wahabbis, believed themselves to be God’s instrument for restoring the purity of Islamic faith. With militant fervour and real zeal they set out to invade the domains of the people they classed as "infidels".

Jabir II (1915-1917), the eldest son of Mubarak, followed the policies of his father. Jabir was in turn followed by Salim (1917-1921). Relations with Ibn Saud had deteriorated as a result of inter tribal disputes over sovereignty rights. The Najd ruler had become the leader of the Ikhwan and, in 1917, he started a launch against those tribes which would not accept Ikhwanism. A powerful Ikhwan army under its chief, Faisal, Al Duwish, was formed and extended its whole-hearted support to Saud who was then engaged in a long and bitter disputes over border territories with Shaikh Salim. The confrontation resulted in hostilities when the Ikhwan fell upon a Kuwaiti force and almost wiped it out. Shaikh Salim immediately ordered the construction of defensive wall to be built around Kuwait

town and it was completed within a period of two months. The achievement was a fore runner of Kuwait's rapid transformation after the advent of oil.

Later in 1920, a large Ikhwan force attacked Jahra, the site of a small oasis outside the town. Quite a good number of Kuwaitis were forced to withdraw to the Red Fort the Qasr Al-Ahmar—preserved now as one of genuine source of link with the Past. The Ikhwan launched attack against the fort but were held off by the waterless garrison and finally, after suffering heavy losses, had to withdraw. The Battle of Jahra is commemorated even today and the old fort stands amid the huge office blocks as the great monument of Kuwait, steadfastness and courage.

Shaikh Salim was succeeded by his nephew, Shaikh Ahmad (1921-1950). Ibn Saud immediately extend the hands of cooperation and amiability but the frontier problem still remained a grave issue. Under the Britain at a crucial desert meeting at Ufair, the territories of Iraq, Kuwait and what is now Saudi Arabia were delineated. At
the Southern and Western vicinity of Kuwait two central zones were marked on the map. These areas provided buffer territory for all the states, giving equal access to fresh water and grazing land. Despite the border conflict, Kuwait maintained friendly relationships with Britain. Shaikh Ahmad set up a council of advisers in which the most prominent town merchants participated, but his word was a law inspite of all that.

At the unfair conference in 1922 Kuwait's representation was led by British Political Agent Major J.C. More, whereas both Iraq and Saudi Arabia sent their own representatives to the conference which was dominated by Sir Percy Cox, the High Commissioner posted at Baghdad. After a long and tiring efforts the border disputes were settled and the new borders of Kuwait were defined by a line which started at the junction of Wadial al-Aujah and the Britain valley in the West to the point where the 29th parallel of latitude met the border of Najd (Saudi Arabia) and Kuwait. It then followed at the same time to a coastal
point just South of Rasal Qalai'ah (Jlay'ah). South of this boundary was the Kuwait Neutral Zone. Now it becomes quite clear that Kuwait has been deprived of nearly two third of its territory. Shaikh Ahmad was very much disheartened and his faith in Britain was quite shattered. It was a period of hostilities involving Ibn Saud and the Ikhwan who rose in rebellion against his authority. They plotted a conspiracy to overthrow Saudi power but were finally subdued when Kuwait refused them any shelter in their territory. The Saudi Blockade started for a tenure of seven years e.g. from 1920 to 1927. Even after it came to an end, there arose the problem of long succession of landowner disputes. With Iraqi interests. Much later, in 1961, Kuwait again had to face Iraqi claims for Kuwait territory on the grounds that the state had been part of Basra province under Ottoman rule. Under the adequate support by Britain, these claims were finally rejected.

RULER OF KUWAIT AFTER OIL ERA:

With the establishment of peace in the region there came the rush of oil prospectors and in 1934. The Kuwait oil company was formed as an Anglo-American enterprise with British Petroleum (then the Anglo-Persian Oil Company) and the Gulf oil corporation of America as partners operating on a concession granted by Shaikh Ahmad to search for and produce oil in the state. Shaikh Ahmad died on January 29, 1950 the first ruler of Kuwait oil era. He was the last of the traditionalist Shaikh and during his regime the emphasis was laid on the need for the development of the industry so as to benefit every inhabitant of the country. For the first time in Kuwait, a hospital was built under the American Missionary. The character of Kuwait was changing fastly from a dhow port and the trading centre to a thriving modern metropolis supported by the revenues of the oil industry. The new ruler Shaikh Abdullah III (1950-1965) was a cousin of Shaikh Ahmad and the son of a former Ruler Shaikh Salim. It was under his kindness that Kuwait became a fully sovereign state under
the terms of the 1961 treaty with Britain. For the first time a provisional government was established with an appointed constituent assembly and a draft constitution was drawn up for the state.

In 1958, the Hashmite regime in Iraq was overthrown and several Qassem came to power. Even Britishers made assurances that Kuwait would be protected. Warships were sent to the state and a British military force was landed. It in Kuwait, now became the member of the Arab league and its full international status as a sovereign power was recognized by its admission to the United Nations in 1963.

Sabah III kept up the hereditary system of statesmanship and administrative wisdom and the importance of the country in international affairs. Sabah heritage consists of the enlightened approach to democracy, having a massive social welfare pattern and its policy of generous aid to poorer nations.

The head of the tribe Sabah I was the ruler of the new state and as indicated earlier, member of the

same family have been the ruler to this day.

The present Amir Shaikh Jabir and Ahmad al Jabir kept "The tradition of consultation between the ruler and his subject, however, is not an alien phenomenon in Arabian Peninsula. On the country, it is one of the major pillars of tribal society although the degree of consultation has differed from tribe to tribe. His experience of financial affairs ensures the Amir's grasp of world economics and is certain to be a key reason why forecasters predict the state will enjoy steady growth for his belief in the one family concept" and much liked for his compassionate, direct manner.

The present Amir of Kuwait, Shaikh Jabir al Ahmad al Sabah, is known to feel strongly that the democratic reforms introduced since his accession in 1978 have benfitted the country.

The present ruler is the B-th Al-Sabah head of the state. This enlightened family has led the country on its

111. Shaw Ralph, Kuwait (Ministry of Information, Kuwait, 1976), p.25.
march to progress in all walks of life down the ages.

Ruling class they were respected due to financial position.

The ruling family al-Sabah whose descendants are today prominent in the business/commercial life of the nation.

RULER'S RELATION WITH MASSES:

There is co-ordial relation and less hostility.

There is a history of consultation between rulers and the people. It exists at many levels, including informal meetings between ruler and subjects at Diwania, and at regular sessions at the Seif Palace where the people come to discuss their problems or get action on complaints.

The small size of the population has traditionally enabled the ruler to keep a finger on the pulse of the nation, but with the recent huge increase in population the task has become that much more difficult. More formal channels have been set up, ministeries, advisors and so on - but Shaikh Jabir Al Ahmad remains a staunch advocate of direct contact.

HOW THEY RULE OVER KUWAIT:

Kuwait was originally an absolute monarchy in which the Amir himself took all decisions concerning the government and policy of the state, though he might sometimes delegate certain powers to Sheikhs with whom he was linked by bonds of kinship or suzerainty. The first Amir, Abdullah a Salim al-Sabah, influenced by the British example, sought to give the country more structured and more democratic institutions and on 26 August 1961 set up a constituent Assembly. On 11 November 1962 a constitution was formulated under which Kuwait was declared to be an independent and fully sovereign state belonging to the "Arab Nation." The system of government is democratic, the people being recognized as sovereign and the sources of all power. The ruler can, however, be chosen only from among descendants of Amir Mubarak al-Sabah."

The head of the state is Amir Sheikh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. As head of the reigning dynasty his person is inviolable and he can not be removed from his post. Executive power rests with him, he appoints the Prime Minister and appoints

and dismisses members of the government on the Prime Minister's recommendation. He is also commander-in-Chief of the armed forces and is authorised to declare war. He concludes treaties with other powers, subject to the agreement of the National Assembly. He can dismiss officials and officers of all grades and ranks and can commute or reduce judicial sentences.

The Amir, the ruler has the right to dissolve the house by special order and which contains also the reason for which the house dissolved. Moreover Amir has the power to adjourn the house for a month. Should the Assembly dissolved by the Amir, it is incumbent on him to arrange for fresh election within two months of the dissolution of the house. If the Amir fails to hold new elections, the dissolved house resumes its position and carries out its duty as usual. The Assembly has no doubt the authority to legislate but the new legislation comes into force only after its approval by the Amir. The Amir of Kuwait holds automatically the coveted position of the head of the state. He has right to

115. Ibid., p. 55.
confering highest national awards. He holds the position of authority. The system of government in Kuwait shall be democratic, under which sovereignty is vested in the people.

After the Independence in 1961, the process of democratic rule in Kuwait began when the country required the international recognition. Kuwait became the member of United Nations and held a firm independent position in the eyes of the world. The Amir who held the supreme power and enjoyed unlimited sorts of privileges in the governance of the country.

Prudent government planning has ensured that Kuwait's wealth, derived from its position as one of the world's leading oil producers, has been shared through the society. This has been achieved through a land buying programme, though the creation of jobs and through the provision of lavish social services. The use of bureaucracy to transfer wealth to the people, reflects the traditional liberal mindedness of the ruling Al-Sabah family and the close relationship that exists between the government, the
people and Kuwaitis leading merchants.

Having completed twenty years of independence, Kuwait has achieved a degree of development and progress that has earned it a position of prominence both in the Arab world and the international community. As a modern state Kuwait has striven to realise national aspirations with a vigour that has made it an example for other nations living in similar circumstances to follow.

Democracy in the meaning of consultative rule is not new to Kuwait. Long before the formation of constituent Assembly or the election of the First National Assembly, the Kuwaiti peoples democratic spirit was reflected in the bonds linking the people to the Al-Sabah ruling family.

Even before the Arab world came to know democracy in the forms with which we are familiar today, Kuwait, under the rule of the late Shaikh Ahmad Al-Jabir, Al-Sabah had already formed a consultative council in April 1921. This was composed of twelve prominent personalities and businessmen in Kuwait, Hamd Al-Sager was elected Chairman of the Council.

Although the consultative council did not last long, it was followed by other democratic experiments. Elections were held for Kuwait Municipality Council in 1934 and for the education council in 1936. In 1938 elections were held for a legislative council which was chaired by the late Shaikh Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah.

EXECUTIVE POWERS:

The Supreme power of the state, and a responsible Cabinet Amir, the head of the ruling dynasty, is declared to be immune and his person inviolable. The via through which he exercises his powers are his ministers. He appoints the Prime Minister under the traditional constitution and relieve the Ministers of his office on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The Amir, the supreme power of the state has the supreme power in his hand.

The supreme commander of the armed forces is Amir and he has right to appoint ministers and dismiss them as well. Even he can declare offensive war by decree, but according to the constitution, "offensive war is prohibited."

He can conclude treaties with the foreign governments, provided it gets passed through the National Assembly. But Parliament does not approve other types of treaties and agreements. Amir is a authority who appoints and dismisses civil servants and diplomats to other countries. He has power to reduce death sentence and confers orders of honour.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

After achieving independence in 1961, the Kuwait ruling family set out to institutionalize traditional consultation through a popularly elected National Assembly. The Assembly once constituted, proceeded to play an important role in the states economic, political and social development."

No sooner had Kuwait achieved independence on June 19, 1961, with the termination of the January 23, 1899 Treaty than His Highness the Amir Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah declared his intention to complete the formation of constitutional government as soon as possible. Only two months later on August 26, 1981, His Highness issued an Amin Decree which stated.

118. Al-Ebraheem Hassan Ali
Kuwait and the Gulf, p.
"Out of our desire to establish a firmly based system of government and in preparation for the promulgation of a constitution based on democratic principles that, in conformity with the countries circumstances, shall seek to promote the people's welfare and prosperity.

The new Assembly met for the first time on January 29, 1963. The term inaugurated by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Al-Salim Al-Sabah, who took the constitutional oath and gave the following speech.

"In the name of Almighty God we open this first term of the National Assembly, with the convening of which we commence the constitutional phase (in the development) of the state of Kuwait."

"At this stage in our country's advance towards its supreme goal, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the trust placed in you by the people who have chosen you to represent them and reiterate my advice to you as a

father to his sons. Uphold the unity of this state that adheres firmly to its religion and traditions.

"It also gives me great pleasure on this noble day in the history of our country, to swear by Almighty, had to respect the constitution and laws of state, to depend the people's freedoms, interests and property and to preserve the independence and integrity of the nation."

The fifteen ministers, who are the ex-officio members of the Assembly and are elected. Deputies are responsible to the Assembly for the affairs of their ministers. Although they are appointed by the Amir, they can be forced to resign by a vote of non-confidence by the Deputies. The Assembly has power of no-confidence in respect of the Prime Minister. When the Prime Minister does not show co-operative attitude to the Assembly, then this matter can be reported to the Amir who will either dismiss the Prime Minister or dissolve the Assembly. If he takes the latter step, elections must be held within two months and if the new Assembly finds too that it can not co-operate with the Prime Minister, he must resign.
Legislation may be initiated by the cabinet or by any member of the Assembly. If the Amir approved a law, the Amir sanctions and promulgates it in the same session if the bill is approved by a two third majority of votes. If it were passed by a simple majority vote, the Amir could delay its promulgation to another session of the Assembly. The Amir can also legislate by using decrees having the force of the laws during the absence of the natural Assembly but such decrees must be submitted to the National Assembly either to change them into laws or repeat them. It is the job of the council of Ministers to lay down the general policies of the government. Their meetings are secret and are presided over by the Prime Minister.

On August 24, 1980 His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jabir Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, issued an Amiri order calling the National Assembly to convene by February 1981 at the latest. In a press statement, His Highness the crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Sa’ad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, expressed the hope that the interim period had a positive effect on the

course of Parliamentary life in Kuwait.

The National Assembly of the Amir's choice of the heir apparent, gives Kuwait a unique position among the world democracies. The second part of this constitution is called "Basic Constituents of Kuwait Society" and deals with the protection of the young, care of the aged, property, wealth and the national economy. Any proposal for repealing the Amiri system is not within the jurisdiction of the Assembly. Inspite of the prevalence of the Amiri system it would be altogether assured to doubt National Assembly a rubber stamp.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS:

The state protects the free exercise of religion in accordance with the established customs, provided it is not contrary to public order or morale.

The Amir may ask for reconsideration of a Bill passed by the Assembly and sent to him for rectification, but the bill would automatically becomes laws if it were subsequently passed by a two third majority at the next sitting, or by a simple majority at a subsequent sitting. The Amir may
declare emergency, but only with the approval of the Assembly.

An annual budget shall be presented, and there shall be an independent Finance control Commission. All the Kuwaitis are equal before the law, in prestige, rights and duties. Individual freedom is guaranteed. So is the freedom of expression granted in unequivocal terms. Moreover all citizens irrespective of caste, colour, creed or any other consideration are equal before the law and enjoy equal rights without any discrimination whatsoever. In the constitution it is explicitly stated that on grounds of language, tribe, culture, race, origin and religion no discrimination shall be made by the state.

**FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS:**

No one can be punished, except for an act or abstaining from an act considered as a crime in accordance with a law applicable at the time of committing it, and no penalty shall be imposed more severe than that which could have been imposed at the time of committing the crime.

121. El Mallakh
The freedom in conscience is guaranteed in terms. The state protects the free exercise of religion in line with the customs of the day subject to the condition that it does not harm public order or morals in any way. The citizens enjoy also the right of forming associations including trade union, though use of coercion in this regard is strictly outlawed. In line with the democratic spirit of the constitution it is also stated that citizens have the right to assemble at a place without permission or any prior notification.

Every one is free for opinion, and each has the right to express himself through speech, writing or other means within limits of the law. The press is free with the limits of the law, and it should not be suppressed except in accordance with the dictates of law.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE:

Administration of justice is one of the essential functions of each and every state. The law and order within

the state is maintained through the administration of the justice and citizens are made to realize the existence and the importance of the state. The administration of the justice in Kuwait in reaching its present structure has passed through various stages.

Before November 1960, Kuwait had an ill-defined legal system which was not capable to protect the poor people or aggrieved party. Judges had to abide by the Islamic Sharia, a code under which religious and forensic matters were merged into one. They had vast powers to deal with criminal and civil cases, but commercial cases were considered outside the then jurisdiction. Public security forces - Police has also given powers to settle piety cases themselves - punishments were also mild.

An Election judiciary system was devised and introduced in 1960. This system proved effective in the administration of justice but, it was only beginning of the administration of justice in the new thought.

Kuwait ushered in a new era after 1961 when an agreement was signed with the British Government declaring her an independent state. Whole of the legal system has been over-hauled. The Ministry of justice itself supervises the judiciary system. No one can interfere to change it. Its independence is guaranteed by the constitution. The law administered in the courts is based on sense and not superstitions and the man who transgresses it, or commits one offence is guaranteed a court trial. Likewise, other rights of the accused viz to get bail, to hire a lawyer of his own choice the right of appeal are also given. In Kuwait there are only two categories of the courts namely a court of the first degree consists of the two criminal courts and other specialized courts. One of these is domestic court, separate for the Sunnis and Shiites and the Non-Muslims which deals with cases about marriage divorce, inheritances, and waqf. Another one is a civil court dealing with civil law suits in real and transferable estates, contracts and other matters. The commercial court specialises in commercial disputes and also in conflicts arising between members of the public and the Government of both civil and
commercial nature. Likewise, there is also a labour court which deals with problems between employer and the employee.

The Nation enjoys greater prosperity and higher international standing, in which the citizens enjoy greater political freedom, equality and social justice, and which upholds the traditions inherent in the Arab spirit such as respect for the dignity of the individual, service of the public good, and consultative rule in the interest of safeguarding the nation's unity and stability.

**COURT SYSTEM:**

It is divided into criminal and non-criminal. The appeal of court are only permitted unconditionally in the first and the commercial cases.

The rule of court system is the same as in other advanced countries. Investigation of the facts is conducted by the police in the case of misdemeanour and by the Attorney General in the certain cases. Bail is allowed in minor cases. A case must be brought before court within 6 weeks of the arrest of the accused. A man can be punished after his approval of guilt. Punishment in cases of misdemeanour
cannot exceed three years jail and for other offences different punishments have been laid down in the code. Responsibility to extented the punishment rests in the Ministry of the interior.

The rapid increase in cases have made a traffic court. It has power to give the punishment of jail for mistake of breaking the rule of traffic court system. The court system of traffic can decide limited compensation. Whether it can do accordingly the order in the event of a disabil- ity or death is under discussion.

VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

There are several department in the Ministry to look after the property of an orphan and to have record the ownership of such property. There is court for labour to solve the problems of labourers. They solve the problem between employees and the employers.

These who hire the land from land owner are protected by a Rent Court. If he fails to pay his rent he can not be evicted without the order of a judge. Their department carried
out all the judgements which made in the civil, commercial or domestic relations. Responsibility for carrying out the court sentences rests with the Ministry of the information. They have six prisons for men or and one for women. Some of them serving terms of life imprisonment. The seven currently housing 340 prisoners can expect one per cent reduction in their sentence for good behaviour, provided the term served is less than a year.

There is special force for younger criminal, aged 15 or less than it. They sent them for special training course, but they get permission during the day when they go to school with other children. At that time they are allowed to go.

In 1955, a Law passed and amended twice since reaffirmed the Kuwaiti workers right to form a trade union, but at the same time its provisions has made trade unions almost unnecessary. The law gives more protection than other countries.

The law operates with the conjunction with the minority of social affairs and Labour, a small ministry with a big job
which looks after workers, interest in and out of work and sees that there is justice and satisfaction among Kuwait's working population.

The Ministry tries to find job for men who want to do job they train the workers who are not trained. If they are untrainable, they offer them capital of 200 or more dinars to open a shop. They teach them how to do business at least six months and then left to flourish the business.

The government, realising the importance of education levied a special type of tax to find the new chain of school. The Ministry runs 21 fundamental education centers where adults not only learn to read and write but are also prepared for useful careers.

Some girls have domestic problem in their home. Few parents have objection for their daughter attending school. Social worker deals the problem to visit their home and attempt to persuade them. If a man have domestic problem in his marriage life and is contemplating divorce, ministerial

men try to settle his problem.

There is a treatment and training for handicapped. A special medical treatment to the disabled and training for a job is given in the same place. A children garden opened by family welfare department. After finishing the days schooling, younger and older children play in that department and other amusement mostly imported from Sweden. Social worker and folklore centre select it properly for children.

The centre is arranging to preserve the property of the ancient songs, dances, poems and music which have been important and interesting part for the life of Kuwaiti life in past but, after discovery of oil and inflow of money and prosperity, have been fading fast from Kuwaiti life of the people. This centre exhibits painting and displays photographs, and it gives music lessons to amateurs, collect musical instrument, from other Arab countries. This centre has its own recording studio, where songs, music and the culture of past, are preserved for future. In future people can know their past culture and enjoy by it preservation.
In 1961, the treaty of independence with Britain and with the Iraq crises which immediately followed a show a traditional Kuwaiti wedding, filed two years ago, and beginning with the parents proposal since were then shot in the Mosque where the ceremony is carried out in the absence of bride. Another ministry made an official documentary films they made many culture colour pictures with sound trade and music. One of them is "The New Dawan." It shows the emergence of the new Kuwait. Cinema unit is one of the most efficient branches of the folklore centre.

The two professional theatre companies are established by the Ministry. One presents short seasons of works by Kuwaiti play wrights, acted in the typical national accent. The other presents by writers from all over the world in classical Arab Language Cultural Units, a library which can also be a cinema and a club, have been established in different districts in Kuwait. At that time film shows were shown in open air in every villages and cities. The organizer of documentary film show imported good feature films from
Iraq and Egypt which caught the audience attention.

The Ministry of social affairs and Labour has opened youth clubs and sports clubs where they spend leisure time. It is so popular that youths and adults both have interest to visit these clubs. The sports and other activities of the clubs are supervised by a youth guidance at the Ministry.

In 1953, Kuwait participated into international sport. The team took part in the Arab league games at Alexandria. They entered again and did well after a years at Beirut. Next games were held at Casalencea. They participated in the game of basket ball, foot-ball water polo. Kuwait involved seriously into international sports within two years several foot ball teams were invited to Kuwait to play with the national team clubs took part in Tunis, Cairo, Sweden, Cyprus. Kuwait played first full scale international matched in 1963 and beat Jordan. The competitions entered at this period were track and field sports.

The country is member of the sports international federation. These 30 teams and 28 players are registered,

125. Sapsted David
Modern Kuwait
Volley ball is most popular sport. It has 228 players in 26 teams. Kuwait has seven teams in basket ball.

Kuwait holds a sports day once a year in April. It starts at sunrise and goes on until sun set. Every sports are included on a smaller than normal scale six a side-foot ball, 15 minute basket ball, etc. Kuwait has a big plan on Olympic city which will be biggest sports stadiums in the Middle East. It is hoped to be the venue of the Arab League. The cost and size is one of the biggest project, the country has ever known. The country has taken big step forward on the sports.

OUTDOOR FACILITIES:

Other seems under the consideration by the Ministry including an opera house which scating accommodation for thousand people. They also have a plan to improve the country's beaches. The stadium which will hold, 50,000 people, a shooting range, two swimming pools, a cycling track, a hockey pitch, additional pitches, facilities for the horse riding, a village for players and officials.
Kuwait wants to attract visitors and encourage the people to visit this country. They don't encourage outsider only but, they encourage their own country young people to give loan to travel abroad. There is also a plan for permanent camp of scouts from all over the world. Counting is not only in the schools but also in past school years. It thrives in Kuwait. During the Traffic week, scouts help police. Scouts help in organization of Kuwaitis big days Health Day, Mother's Day, Independence Day.

The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour managed a special Department to settle the labours problem properly. The department of labour affairs is guided by the Labour Law which deals the worker's problem working condition and their pay. One of the Law's stipulation is that women doing the same jobs as men shall receive the same money. The duty of the department is to handle the labour problem in proper manner. The Law says that no one under the age of 12 can be employed. Workers between 12 and 18 are banned from night work between sun set and sunrise. Other workers can not work more than eight hours a day unless they are managed.
WELFARE ACTIVITIES:

Government ministries have responsibilities which include housing, education, foreign affairs, transport and communication, finance, public health, social affairs and labour, public works, justice, Awqaf (religious endowment) and Islamic affairs, commerce and industry information and, of course, oil.

In Kuwait health education and public housing, the record speaks for itself. Free health care and interest-free housing loans and land form the basis of Kuwait government's social services programme. But there are other areas in which developments do not receive properly. They deserve In Kuwait public transport is not completely performed. It has a lot of criticism as it is in most places. But its fold has been built nothing to a position where it provides reasonably reliable and cheap transport for thousand. Whatever it may be the services provided by the state must rank among the very best offered by developing nations, even oil rich ones.

126. Sapsted David
Modern Kuwait
"Spending services continues to grow, and the benefits can be seen everywhere. The return on such a massive investment, however, can scarcely be matched by the record achieved 127 by the nation's school."

EDUCATION FACILITIES:

Education is the biggest single item on the state's social spending list and has risen from $185 million in 1973 to nearly half a billion dollars in 1978. It accounts for about 20 per cent of current expenditure and takes pupils from kindergarten through to University, with high aptitude students receiving scholarships to study abroad. One of the most important task of the Ministry is to provide education for adults who are illiterate and could not get education when they were younger. Government started adult educational system to remove illiteracy among the adults as well. It happened in 1960, and this is considered the best educational programme in the world.

127. Sapsted David

128. The Ministry of Guidance and Information of Kuwait
Kuwait Today (Nairobi, ), p.25.
The government realising the importance of education, levied a special type of tax to find the new chain of school.
The condition of women education deserved mention, because in 1945 only 5 per cent girls were educated any how. But in 1965 the number of female candidates increased to 30 per cent and by the year 1975 it shot up to 45 per cent. These achievements are considerably large in view of the great number coming in Kuwait which was quite unlettered and need education.

The year 1955 marks a turning point in the history of education in Kuwait. A comprehensive educational plan was envisaged in consultation with the experts to establish schools, colleges, training and technical institutes. In accordance with this ambitious plans lavish funds were provided by the government. Soon the inconspicuous Department of education was converted into a full fledged Ministry of education to cater to the demanding situation.


130. Shaw Ralph, Kuwait (Ministry of Information, Kuwait, 1976) pp. 140-143.
In addition to these institutions, imparting modern knowledge there is a religious institute in which hundreds of students are on rolls. Similarly special institutions for the handicapped and commerce are also in Kuwait. The patronage offered by the government has gone a long way in encouraging this healthy trend.

Health services spending is presently running at about $200 million and there are 20 hospitals and more than 500 clinics throughout the country.

Consequent upon the discovery of oil living conditions in Kuwait have considerably improved. All the facilities associated with a welfare state are made available to masses.

Health system in Kuwait, as pointed out earlier, is free of cost ensuring the best possible medical aid to all citizens. Few countries in the world can lay claim to have provided a total free health system as in Kuwait.

131. P.G.Sadler and M.W.Khouja
The Economy of Kuwait (London, 1979) p.32.

132. P.G.Sadler and M.W.Khouja
The Economy of Kuwait (London, 1979) p.32.
Sheikh Mubarak, the architect of modern Kuwait, is to be credited for having taken a lead in this direction. A plan was chalked out to provide "womb to tomb" medical services, free of cost of course, to all inhabitants of Kuwait, be they Kuwaitis or non-Kuwaitis. The Ministry of health, set up in 1936, looks after the medical services.

In pursuance of the aim of making Kuwait a welfare state the government built a new hospital along modern lines for the psychological disorders Hospital. Attached to it are a clinic, laboratory etc. The al-Saba hospital is one of the prestigious medical institutions of the world, bears testimony to the changed social conditions in Kuwait and to the beginning of a new era of this modern welfare state and to render masses all possible help and facilities may be observed in the light of the fact.

Like the policies to health, education, the government housing policy too, aims at giving a fairer deal to masses.

Housing programme, initiated by the government. Since 1953 the government has been working out ways and means to provide houses to Kuwaiti, particularly those belonging to lower middle and lower classes. At highly subsidised rates the government allocates such houses. Since the government has intensified this programme, it is expected that by the next decade there would be no Kuwaiti without a house owned by himself.

Much before the death of Shaikh Abdullah III, Kuwait emerged as a new modern state, enjoying enviable economic position. Not only in affluence, Kuwait also annexed the pride of place in the Arabian peninsula on account of its modern educational system, a well knit medical system, constitutional democracy and a number of welfare activities which contributed a good deal to the upliftment of masses. Kuwait is moving steadily on its onward march to progress in all walks of life.

135. The Gulf Emirates
Nagel's
Encyclopaedia - Guðøe
(Switzerland, 1976) p. 65.