Preface

In this thesis entitled “The Rule of Shari’a and the Contemporary Saudi Political System”, an attempt has been made to discuss and analyze the Saudi political system in the light of Shari’a, which is the edifice of any Islamic political enterprise. The political structure in Saudi Arabia is based on Shari’a as it is claimed by the establishment and a certain section of Ulama.

The thesis has been divided into four chapters besides the Introduction and the Conclusion.

Chapter I deals with Shari’a and its various aspects as a factor in the evolution of an ideology which forms the cornerstone of religious and political alliance.

Chapter II features the Saudi political system and the influence of the Ulama. Ulama as interpreters and authority over Shari’a constitute an important subject as far as Saudi political system in concerned.

Chapter III discusses the Islamic jurisprudence as enshrined in Shari’a and its evolution and application in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and how it has been accommodated with the monarchical political dispensation.
Chapter IV focuses on the constitutional reforms as brought forth in Saudi Arabia. It deals with promises of reforms by the monarchy and the actual reforms demanded by the dissenting clergy and the groups from time to time. It is hoped that this study would contribute, in its own modest way, to the understanding of Saudi political system in the light of Shari'a.

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