



Gulf Women Today = Pre and Post Arab Spring:  
**Globalization and Achievements**

## GEOPOLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Gulf States: Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman  
Hegemonic Neighbors: Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran



Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members: SA – 830,000 sq. mi.; Kuwait – 6,880 sq. mi.; Bahrain – 385 sq. mi.; Qatar: 4,416 sq. mi.; UAE – 31,976 sq. mi.; Oman – 119,499 sq. mi.

**The wealthiest is SA followed by Qatar, Kuwait, and the UAE in almost equal wealth power, while Oman and Bahrain are poorer**

# Historical Legacy: Governments and People

- Ancient role as international trader
- Europeans first arrived in the 1500s then British held full control of region until the 1970s. All Gulf states granted independence in 1960s-1970s.
- Oil discovered in the 1930s, thus West/US increasingly concerned to maintain control, security, stability and access to oil/region.
- All Gulf states, especially Bahrain, are small and relatively new institutional setups though now incorporated into international global & corporate economic system.
- Geo-political economy determined the region's recent and current turmoil: both international and regional.
- In spite of wealth and power all Gulf states are vulnerable to local and international disruptions. 2011 uprisings (AS) exposed weakness of Gulf governments vis à vis citizens and exposed dysfunctional social bargain. Today: continuation and unresolved dilemmas of power, wealth distribution and social coherence.



# 2011: Decades of Change impacting Women's Achievements

- Background steeped in Globalization:
- Physical and Human transformations: Savage western/global impact
- Oil and tremendous sudden wealth: benefits and progress as well as social dilemmas
- Human influx and unbalanced societies: Cultural and identity threats
- Social Politics: The Sheikh, the Tribe and the Family
- Paradox of the “Tribal Modern”, societal borders of identity ( Miriam Cooke’s “Barzakh”)

# Demographic Nightmare & The Problem of National Identity

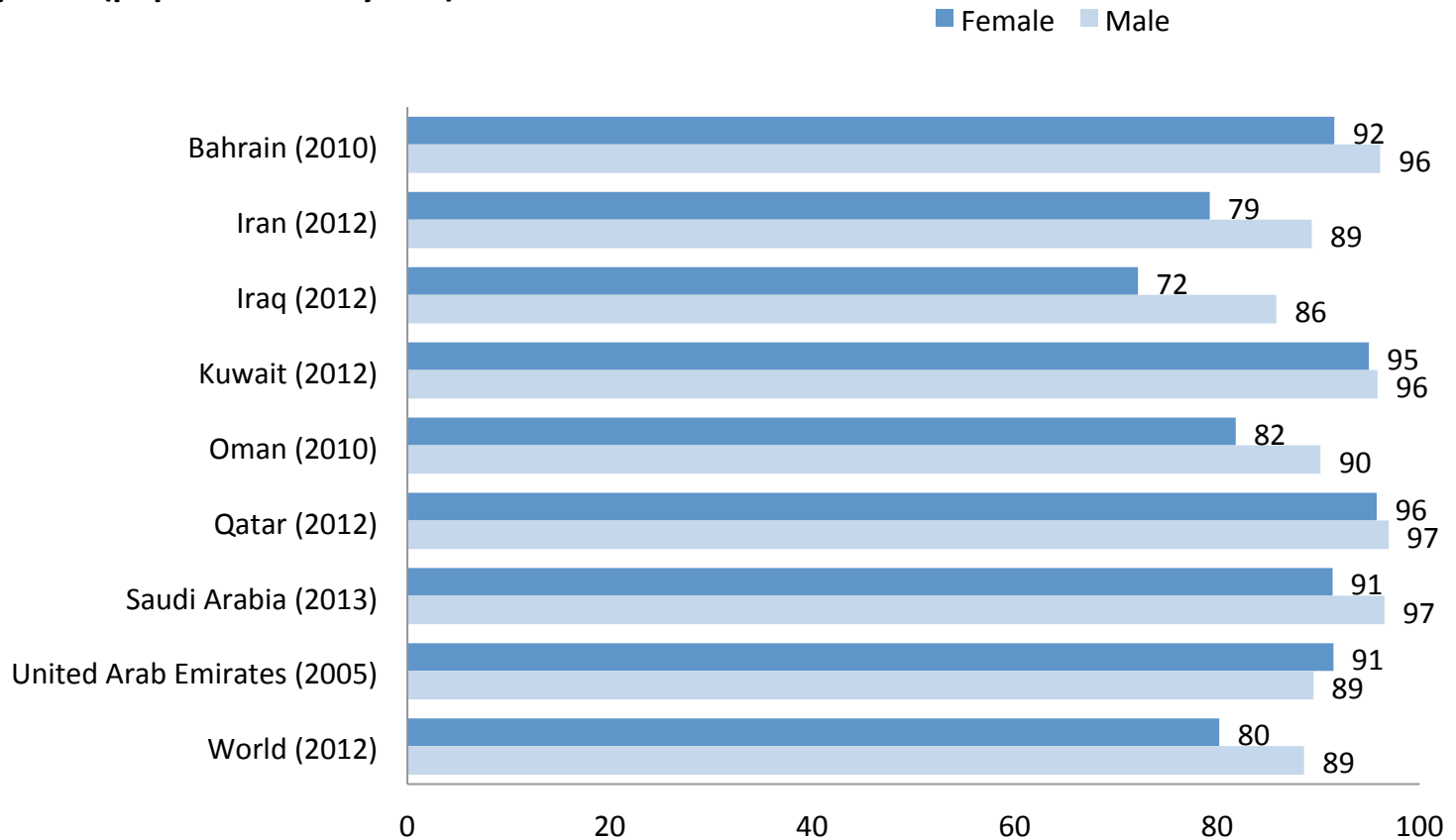
- ✧ Kuwait: 2.80 mil total pop. 50-56% non-Kuwaiti
- ✧ Bahrain: 1.32 mil. total pop. 45-50% non Bahraini
- ✧ Qatar: 2.12 mil. total pop. 85-88% non Qatari
- ✧ UAE: 5.63 mil. total pop. 80-81% non Emirati
- ✧ Oman: 3.22 mil. total pop. 48-52% non Omani
- ✧ Saudi Arabia: 27.34 mil. total. 58-62% non Saudi

# What defined gender achievements in the Gulf.

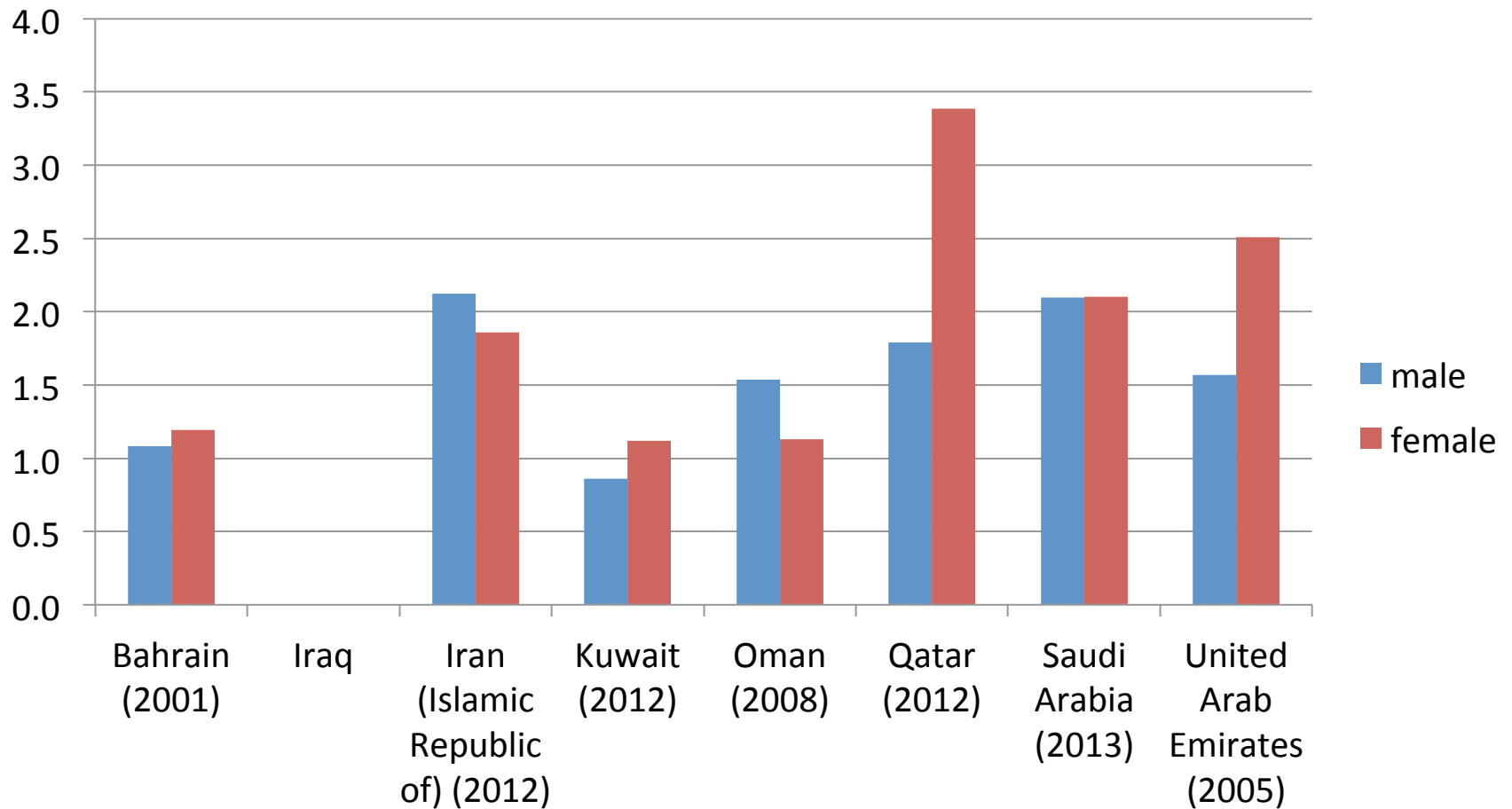
- Priorities that guided women's achievements, fulfillment of rights and current status:
  - Education
  - Employment and financial independence
  - Political participation and global exposure
  - Outlets: Social media and modernization!
  - Youth and generational differences and outlooks.

# Literacy rate of women and men in the Gulf region

Literacy Rate (population 15+ years)

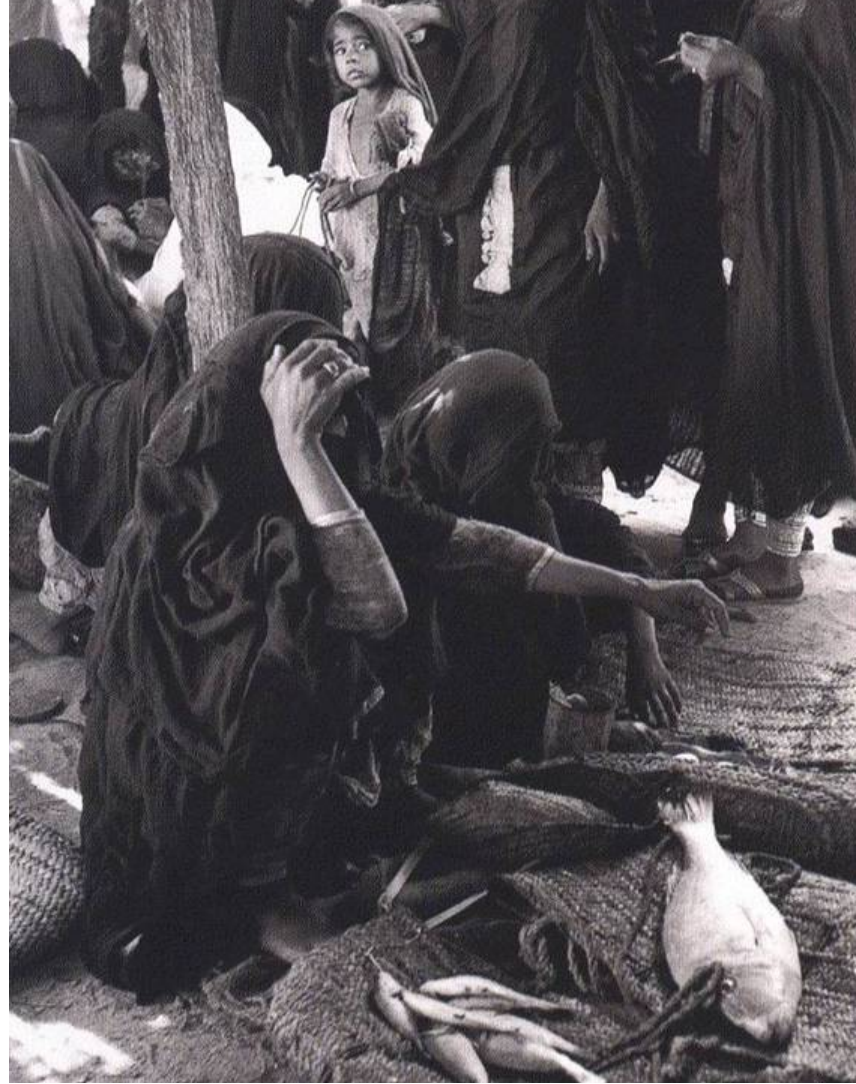


# Higher education (Post High School) of women and men in the Gulf region

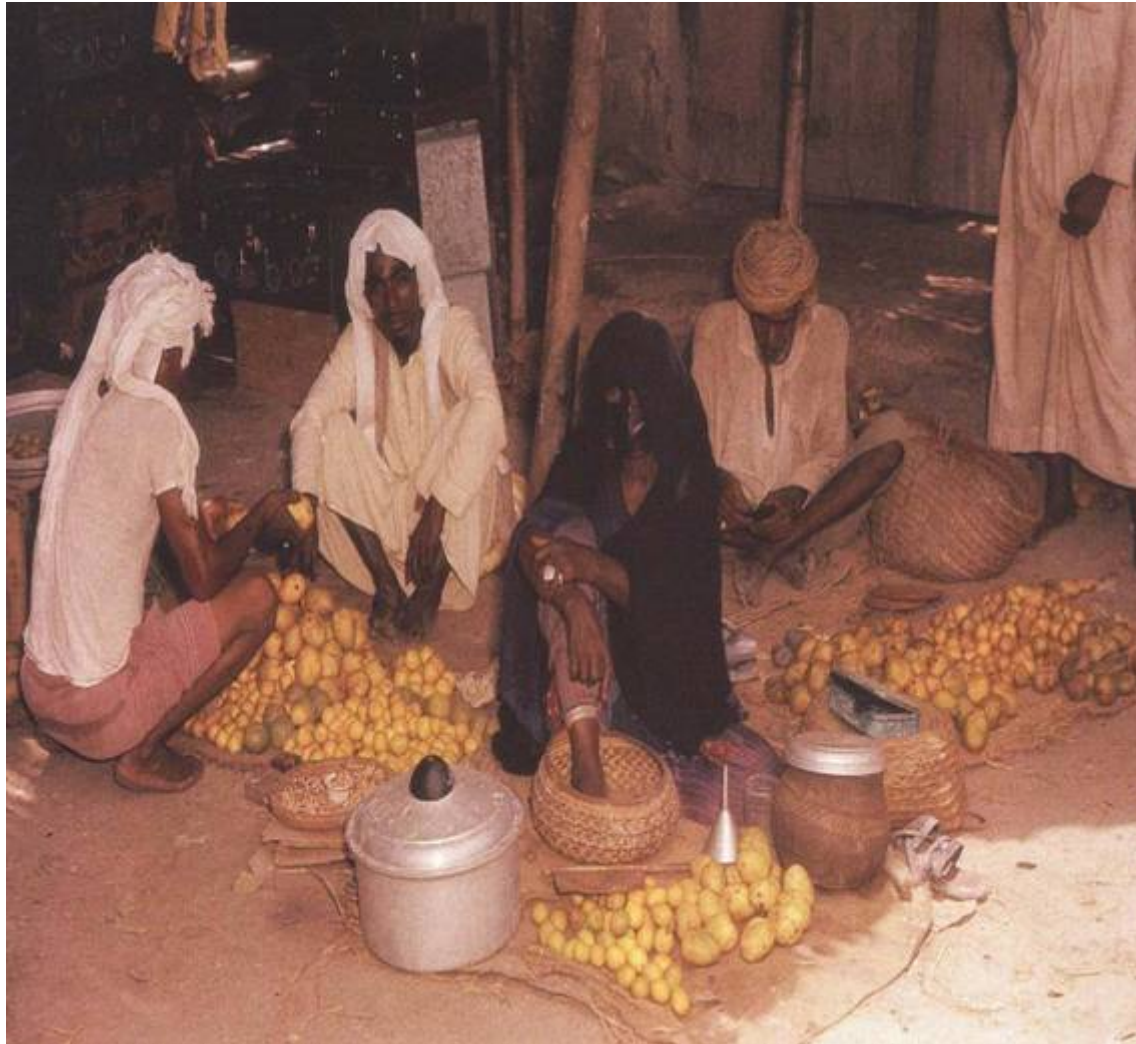




# Bedouin fish seller in Kuwait 1930s



# UAE 1930-40s: Both Female and Male sellers in open market



# 2012 Labor Force Indicators

## Sex differences in labour force participation rate in the Gulf region (percentages; age 15–64)

	Women	Men	Gender gap*
<b>Bahrain</b>	40.8	88.5	2.17
Iran	17.4	76.1	4.37
Iraq	15.5	72.2	4.66
<b>Kuwait</b>	44.7	84.6	1.89
<b>Oman</b>	30.1	83.6	2.78
<b>Qatar</b>	51.8	96	1.85
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	19.1	77.3	4.05
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	46.8	91.2	1.95

**Note:** Labour force participation rate includes employed and unemployed labour force

\* Calculated as: Participation rate of men divided by the participation rate of women.

**Source: ILO (2012)** Key indicators of the labour market database

# Women Active in the market and society



Miss Arab World 2007,  
Wafaa Ganahi, 23 year  
old law faculty, Bahrain  
University



Qatar International  
Businesswomen Forum 2013

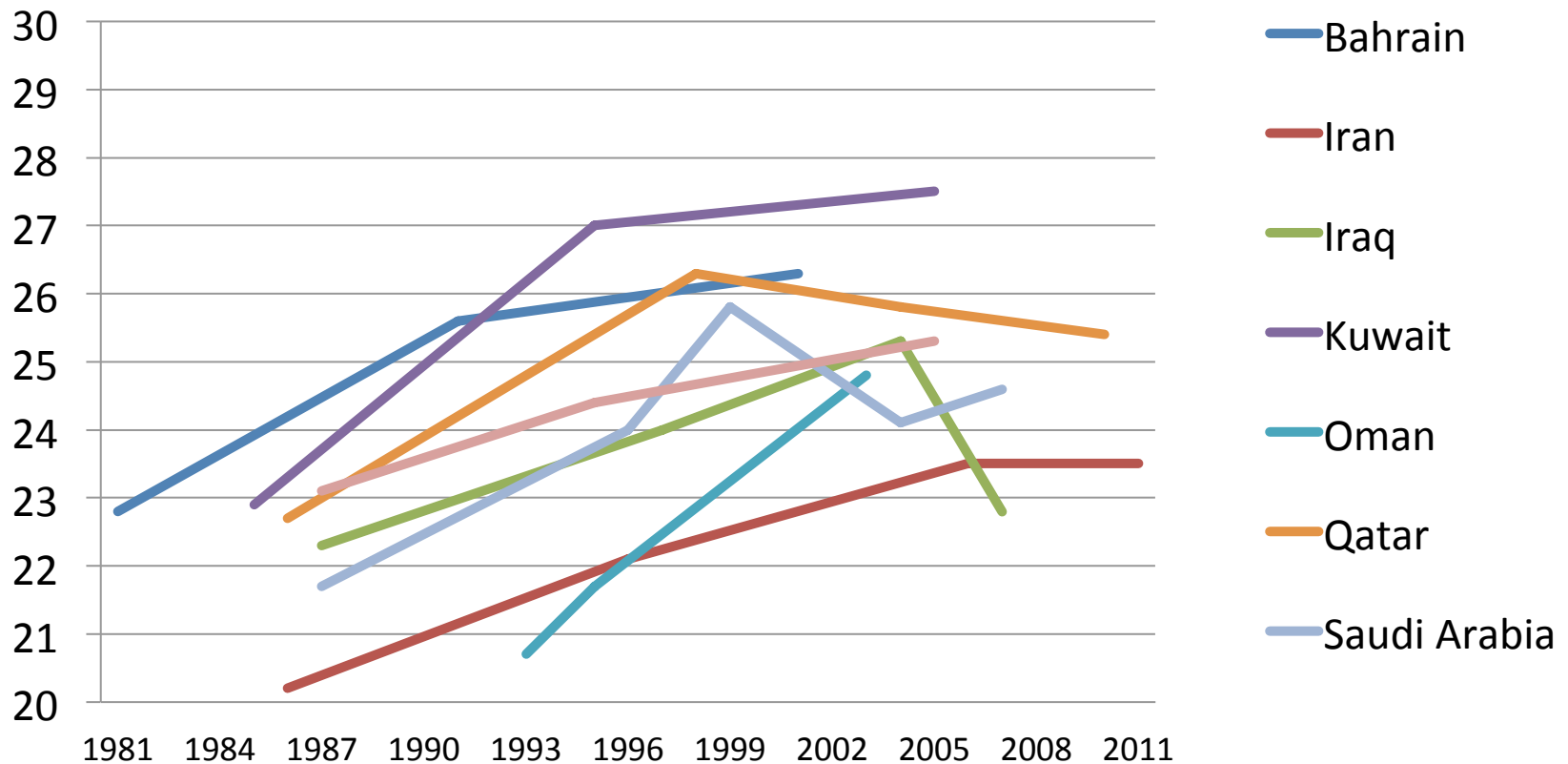


Amal Almoayed, one of  
Bahrain's leading  
businesswomen

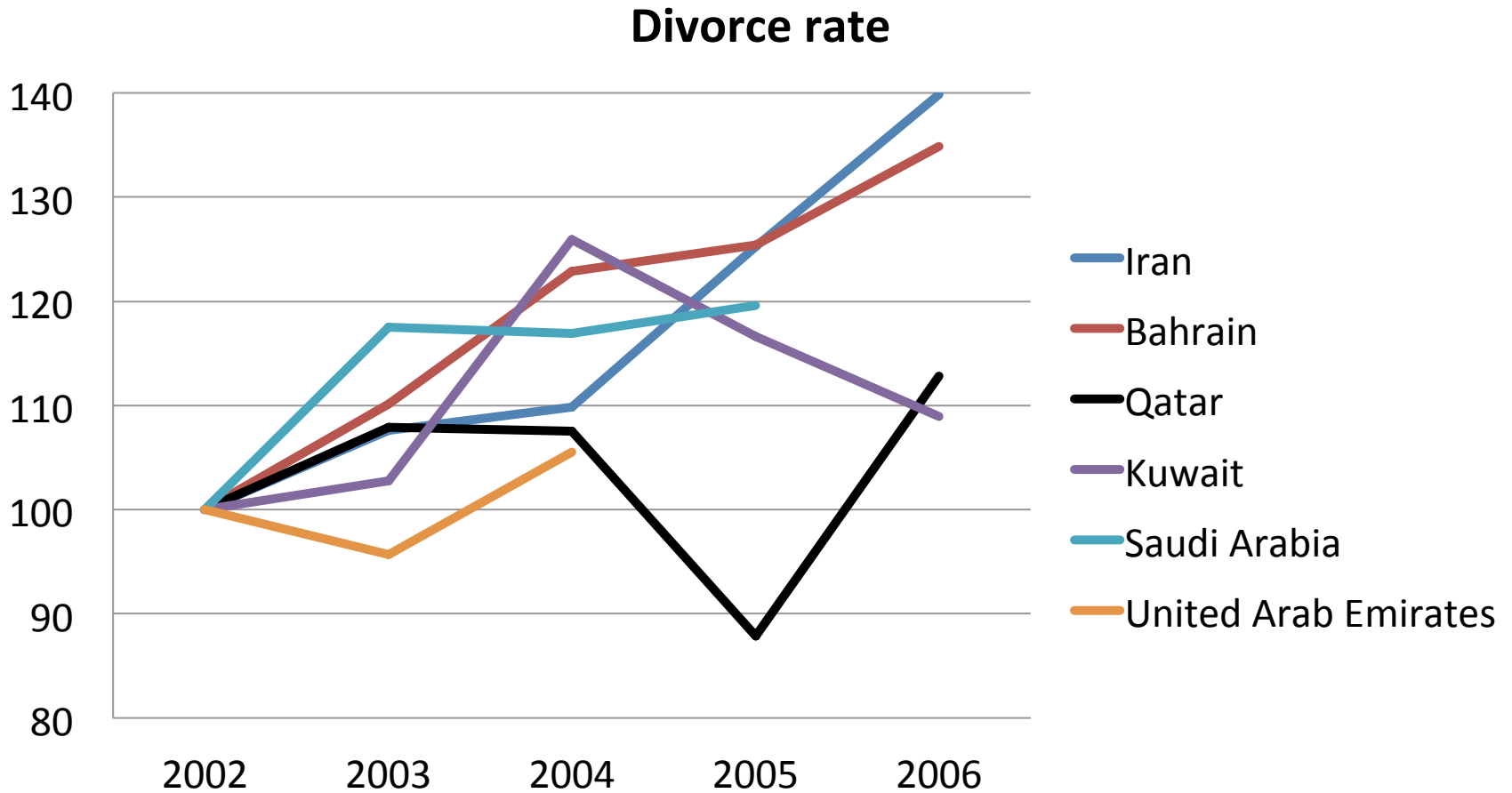
# Social Development

## Age at first marriage in the Gulf region

Age at first marriage



# Globalized Urbanization and Society: Divorce rate in the Gulf region



# Proportion of women in parliament and in ministerial-level positions

	Proportion and number of seats held by women in parliament						Proportion and number of women in ministerial level positions					
	2005		2010		2014		2005		2010		2014	
<b>Bahrain</b>	0%	0	3%	1	10%	4	9%	2	11%	3	15%	4
Iran	4%	12	3%	8	3%	9	7%	2	3%	1	10%	3
Iraq	No parliament		26%	70	25%	82	19%	6	10%	4	4%	1
<b>Kuwait</b>	0%	0	8%	5	5%	3	0%	0	7%	1	7%	1
<b>Oman</b>	2%	2	0%	0	1%	1	10%	3	9%	3	7%	2
<b>Qatar</b>	No parliament		0%	0	0%	0	8%	1	0%	0	5%	1
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	0%	0	0%	0	20%	30	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
<b>UAE</b>	0%	0	23%	9	18%	7	6%	1	17%	4	15%	4

# Royal Women in the Limelight



Sheikha Moza, Qatar's (ex) First Lady-still active as a minister today.



Sheikha Haya Al-Khalifa, President UN General Assembly 2007 - Bahrain



Sheikha Lubna Al-Qasimi, Minister of Economy, UAE



# Active Women: All Fields- lawyers, journalists, ordinary citizens



# The Arab Spring 2011/15 in the Gulf

- Events and Reactions:
- Existential Fear, Security and paranoia
- Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, UAE and Qatar street demos= Strongest in Yemen, Oman and Bahrain
- Slogans and demands: Reform and Social Justice
- Arab Spring repercussions in the region moved political leaders to halt social development including serious reviews & reforms of women issues: Security/stability of rule is Paramount !
- Bahrain: GCC Military occupation; Repression and Loss. 2015 impasse!  
Regression in Social, Economic and Political levels: State of official inertia : Public fear and distress: Continued arrests and incitement:  
Women and families worst hit

# Bahrain:



# Kuwait:



# Yemen:



# Oman:



# Saudi Arabia (Qatif and Awwamiyya):



**Bahrain on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2015: International Woman's Day**  
**Women's voices- Economic & social distress**  
**Lack of development in gender rights**

**The struggle goes on: Al-Wasat 3/8/15**



Bahrain: Post Arab-Spring 2014 Elections' campaign slogan:  
Give me your vote and I give you your house: housing Policy is in my pocket



يد بيد نواصل المشوار لتحقيق الأهداف  
بيوت الإسكان لعبتي  
عطني صوتك وخذ بيتك  
**مرشحكم النيابي**

**حسن سالم الدوسري**

**3** المحافظة الشمالية

569 - 565 - 561 - 559 - 557 - 555 - 553 - 552 - 550 - 1004 - 1003 - 1002  
1001 - 591 - 589 - 585 - 581 - 587 - 1095 - 1089 - 1010 - 1009 - 1006

**39 66 2111 - 33 70 1111**

Bahrain: Post Arab-Spring 2014 Elections' campaign slogan:  
**We work to protect your right to multiple wives (4 wives)!**

Political bankruptcy, regression and social malaise

معاً نستطيع

elba7rain eali 36000501

تزويج كل رجل ٤ نسوان

سنعمل على حفظ حقوق العوانس

شراكة - عدالة - انصاف

مرشحكم النيابي

إبراهيم علي

خامسة المحرق

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قلالي - أمواج - ديار المحرق - دلمونيا

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2014/509985/  
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