

## SAUDI ARABIA HANDOUT KEY FOR TEACHERS

### Key Terms

*Identify (define and explain the significance of) the following.*

Crown Prince Abdullah / de facto ruler –  
*half-brother of King Faud who is ill, ruler of Saudi Arabia*

Hajj –  
*yearly pilgrimage to the Great Mosque in Mecca (all Muslims who are able are expected to perform this once during their lives, one of the five pillars of Islam)*

Mecca –  
*birthplace of the prophet Mohammed, location of the Kaaba, destination of pilgrims*

Kaaba –  
*shrine believed to have been originally built by Abraham, Muslims worldwide face in the direction of the Kaaba when they pray*

Medina –  
*site of the prophet Mohammed's tomb*

Wahhabi / Salafi Islam –  
*the form of Islam taught in Saudi schools, some find it restrictive or even extreme*

Hijazi –  
*holy region of Mecca and Medina, melting pot of the Muslim world*

Jihad –  
*individual striving to do good or create beauty, as opposed to Holy War*

Idolatry –  
*idol worship, forbidden*

### Analysis Questions

*Work together to answer the following questions thoughtfully and analytically based on what you learned from Inside the Kingdom.*

1. What are possible causes of terrorism within Saudi Arabia? Analyze each. What can you conclude about support for terrorism within Saudi Arabia?
  - *monarchy / lack of democracy*
  - *anti-non-Muslim curriculum*
  - *resentment of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, a holy place for Muslims*
  - *indoctrination in Afghanistan and Pakistan*

- *U.S. support of / bias towards Israel in conflict with Palestine, sympathy for Palestinians*
  - *extremism; moderate Islam not heard*
  - *view of bin Laden as a folk hero willing to stand up to U.S.*
  - *unwillingness to examine social problems*
2. What are the sources of wealth, power, and authority within Saudi Arabia? How do these sources of power shape society and daily life inside the kingdom?
- *Islam, religious leaders*
  - *royal family*
  - *gender*
  - *oil*
  - *family & tribe*
3. Why is Saudi Arabia especially important to other Arabs and to Muslims around the world? What are the implications of this important role for relations between the West and the Arab Muslim world?
- *location of Mecca & Medina*
  - *birthplace of Islam*
  - *troops on holy ground a sensitive topic*
4. What have been some of the results of 9/11 in Saudi Arabia? Are these consequences justified?
- *sadness at being labeled terrorists*
  - *drop in tourism*
  - *freezing of assets*
  - *shock over U.S. media depictions*
5. How does Islam seem to offer, promote, or allow for the following within Saudi Arabia: extremism, stability, moderation, flexibility, and balance? What can you conclude about how Islam as it is currently practiced in Saudi Arabia shapes culture and politics there?
- *lack of religious tolerance seen today*
  - *Prince Abdullah denounces extremism; moderate Muslims often not heard*
  - *Islam can be a unifying and stabilizing force*
  - *balance between constant (respect for the past) and variable (changes, differing viewpoints in the present)*
  - *being open, flexible, and adaptable made Islam a great civilization – is it too restrictive today?*