



Oman's International Relations

Oman is a trading country and, as such, has a long tradition of cooperating with other countries. In general, Oman has maintained good relations with surrounding countries and with the rest of the world.

Among the countries along the Persian Gulf (called “Arabian Gulf” by the Arabs), only Oman has tried to maintain good relations with all of its neighbors. Iran, Persian-speaking and Shi’ite Muslim, is disliked and distrusted by the all the other Gulf nations except Oman. In Oman’s view, the Persians have been their neighbors for more than five thousand years and are likely to continue to be there in the future, so it’s to everyone’s advantage that they are included in regional discussions. The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab nations disagree. Saudi Arabia and Iran are particularly at odds – especially over the ongoing conflict in Yemen (Oman’s immediate neighbor). Oman tries to remain on good terms with both foreign participants in Yemen’s conflict.

Because of its long historical association with Zanzibar (in East Africa), Oman and Tanzania have close ties – politically, culturally, and even by blood. Many Zanzibaris have received Omani citizenship, and many people of Omani descent live in Tanzania. There are daily direct flights between the two disparate places. Oman has also maintained good relations with another Indian Ocean trading partner: India.

Oman has had good relations with the U.S. since the early days of American independence. During the Cold War, Oman favored the West – while neighboring Yemen leaned toward the Soviet Union. In the post-Cold War world, Oman continues its ties to the U.S. and even helped the U.S. negotiate a nuclear arms deal with Iran.

Overall, one can say that Oman’s relations with the rest of the world are stable and friendly.