

Omani-US Relations (1833-1939)

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Introduction

Oman was the first Arabian Gulf state and the second Arab state to establish trade relations with the United States of America (USA), the first being the 'Alawi state in the extreme Maghreb, in what is now known as the Kingdom of Morocco. Morocco was the first Arab country to recognize the American Declaration of Independence on February 20th, 1778, less than two years after its independence on July 4th, 1776.

Relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the USA date back to the late 18th century, to September 1790 when the sailing ship 'Rambler' navigated from Boston to the Omani capital, Muscat. The 'Rambler' was commanded by Captain Robert Folger⁽¹⁾ during the administration of George Washington,⁽²⁾ the first American President.

In 1792, a group of Americans arrived at Muscat coming from Wadi Halfein⁽³⁾ after their ship was wrecked while on its way from Sherbthat overlooking the sea on the south-east of Oman. Eight of the sixteen crew had survived and, having covered a distance of 805 km, arrived in Muscat, whence they boarded a British ship to Bombay and then to the USA.⁽⁴⁾

This study shall focus on Omani-American relations between 1833 and 1939. The year 1833 witnessed the signing of the Omani-American "Treaty of Amity and Commerce", which marked the beginning of commercial relations between the two countries. The year 1939 saw the outbreak of World War II and subsequent USA involvement therein, culminating in the Allies' victory and the resulting change in US policy towards the Arab World.

Relations between Oman and the USA may be chronologically divided into three stages as follows:

- 1833 to 1856: the emergence of trade and diplomatic relations following the signing of the 1833 Treaty and the positive result of this was the improvement of relations until the death of Sayyid Said Bin Sultan in 1856.
- 1856 to 1932: review of Omani-American relations following the death of Sayyid Said Bin Sultan and the causes leading to the estrangement between the two countries until 1933.

- 1932 to 1939: the development of Omani-American relations since the assumption of power by Sultan Said Bin Taimur in Oman in 1932 that paved the way for reinforcement of relations between the two countries and Britain's attitude towards such developments, including the impact of Sultan Said Bin Taimur's visit to Washington in 1938 on the two countries' relations and this stage ends with the outbreak of World War II in 1939.

Omani-US Relations (1833-1856)

In 1828, an American trader named Edmund Roberts⁽⁵⁾ visited the port of Zanzibar and hired the ship *Mary Ann*. He was particularly impressed by the island's charms, its markets, commercial activity and the facilities granted to foreign traders.

While in Zanzibar, Roberts addressed a letter to the then US President Andrew Jackson⁽⁶⁾ identifying the potential benefits resulting from dealing with new markets in East Africa and suggesting the conclusion of a trade treaty between Oman and the USA.⁽⁷⁾ Roberts had also sent a similar letter to His Majesty, Sayyid Said Bin Sultan on January 27, 1828.

These correspondences took place a few years prior to Sayyid Said Bin Sultan's decision to make Zanzibar a second capital of the Sultanate in 1835.⁽⁸⁾ Zanzibar thus acquired political and commercial significance dimensions that made it quite a profitable destination in East Africa.

In September 1833, the warship *Peacock* arrived at Muscat carrying the treaty,⁽⁹⁾ which was signed by Sayyid Said Bin Sultan on September 21, 1833. The treaty went into effect on the same day it was ratified by the US Congress, June 30th, 1834. On September 30, 1835 the two countries exchanged instruments of the Treaty's ratification.⁽¹⁰⁾

The American envoy had carried a message to the US President from His Majesty, Sayyid Said Bin Sultan, in which he wrote:

"I have responded to the wishes of HE, your envoy Roberts, and concluded a Treaty of Amity and Commerce between our two beloved countries. It is a treaty by which we will most sincerely abide, myself and my successors. Your Excellency may rest assured that all the American ships that anchor in the ports belonging to us shall receive the same kind treatment we receive at the ports of your contented country where prosperity prevails. I sincerely hope that Your Excellency shall consider me a close and everlasting friend."⁽¹¹⁾

The Treaty stipulated the following:

- Strengthen existing cordial relations between the two countries and ensure free trade by their subjects;
- Enjoy all the trade benefits granted to other countries having good relations with Sayyid Said Bin Sultan;
- Allow American traders to do business in Omani territories against a 5 percent fee on the goods they export;
- Grant the American Consul the right to settle all disputes that may arise between subjects of his country, while the Consul of Oman will have the same right regarding Omani subjects in the USA;
- Allow consuls appointed, by the US President to reside at the ports of Sayyid Said Bin Sultan and settle disputes between American subjects.⁽¹²⁾

The treaty was regarded as a political gain for Oman as it represented recognition by the USA of Oman's status and the prestige of Sultan Said Bin Sultan. In the meantime, the USA gained the friendship of an Asian power boasting possession of a navy bigger than that of the USA.⁽¹³⁾

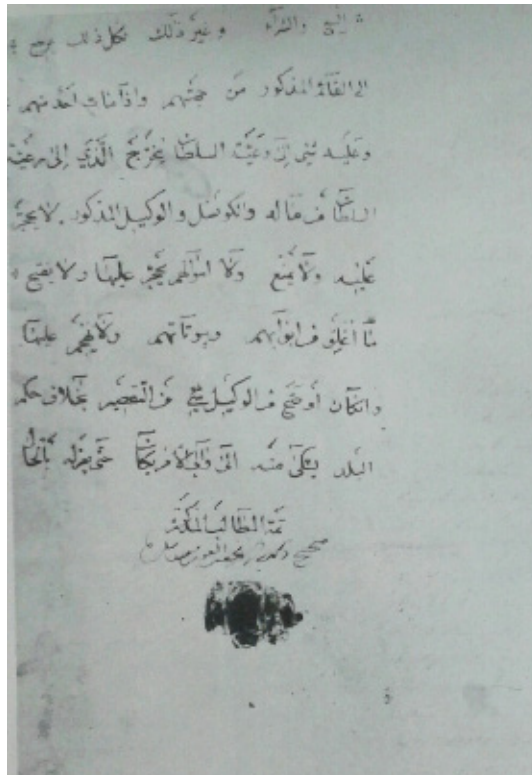
According to the American press, the Omani navy consisted of 70-80 warships, each equipped with from 4 to 74 canons.⁽¹⁴⁾ The Omani navy was also described as a supreme force in all the ports of East Africa, the Red Sea, the Ethiopian coast and the Gulf.⁽¹⁵⁾

In his personal records, Roberts observed that the Omani navy was more powerful than the sum total of all the navies of the local rulers, from the Cape of Good Hope to Japan.⁽¹⁶⁾

However, the conclusion of the treaty raised British concerns and therefore the British Government of India had dispatched Captain Henry Hart to Zanzibar to evaluate the nature of American involvement in East Africa. Hart arrived in Zanzibar in February 1834 and met with Sayyid Said Bin Sultan, to whom he conveyed British concern about increasing American activity and influence in the Sultanate's possessions. But subsequently, he submitted a report to his government emphasizing that the Americans did not intend to settle down in East Africa and that the 1833 Treaty did not provide for any military assistance to seize Mombasa as the British had initially believed. However, he also confirmed that the volume of American trade with goods from Sayyid Said Bin Sultan's territories was on the rise.⁽¹⁷⁾ Thereupon, Sayyid Said Bin Sultan concluded a treaty with Britain in May 1839, similar to the Omani-American Treaty of 1833.

In 1936, the US Government selected Richard Palmer Waters as its first Consul in Zanzibar.⁽¹⁸⁾ It is noteworthy that Henry B. Marshal was appointed as US Consul in Muscat on February 15, 1838. But, he held that position for only nine months as he was shifted to Bombay *Consular Affairs thereafter were managed* by Robert's former interpreter, an Omani national named Said Khalfan, until the latter died in July 1845.⁽¹⁹⁾

It should be noted that the US did not wish to appoint a Consul in Muscat following Marshal's departure of Muscat. This may be explained by the fact that during that period, Zanzibar was then the most vital center for American trade in the Sultanate and its territories. Zanzibar port was receiving American ships bringing in cotton material as well as domestic articles, rifles, gunpowder, watches and shoes. In return, they left carried ivory, cloves, spices and coconut. About thirty American ships had anchored at the port of Zanzibar in 1835.⁽²⁰⁾ In 1838-39, three US ships anchored at Muscat port unloading goods worth 110 dollars. Dates were an essential constituent of the Omani-American trade,⁽²¹⁾ and the focus therefore, had been on Zanzibar more than on Muscat.



Final page of Treaty of Amity and Commerce between Oman and the United States of America in 1833

Source : Hermann Frederick Eilts- Oman-Use 150 years of Friendship- p 10

To further enhance trade relations between the two countries, the Omani ship *Sultana*, which was built in Mumbai in 1833, arrived in New York on April 30, 1840, coming from Zanzibar. It was led by a British captain named William Sulaiman and on board was a high-level Omani delegation led by Ahmad Bin No'man Al-Ka'abi,⁽²²⁾ Personal Secretary to Sayyid Said Bin Sultan, who was thus the first Arab envoy to the USA.

The Omani delegation was warmly welcomed by the Americans, and particularly by the Mayor of Brooklyn and the President of the Marine Club in New York. Interestingly, members of the delegation in their traditional Omani dress aroused the curiosity of New Yorkers who pursued them as they passed by.

Ahmad Bin No'man presented the US President with a set of valuable gifts sent by Sayyid Said Bin Sultan; among these were two thoroughbred Arabian horses and a beautiful sword carved in gold. In return, the President sent a gift to His Majesty consisting of a luxuriously furnished large boat, four revolvers and two automatic rifles.

Ahmad Bin No'man also visited the Institute for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb and witnessed a railroad demonstration. *Sultana* was the first ever Arab ship to reach America's eastern coast.⁽²³⁾ The journey lasted about ten months from the time it left Zanzibar and returned thereto on December 8, 1840.

On January 24, 1846 Charles Ward was appointed as US Consul in Zanzibar and Muscat was adjoined to the Zanzibar Consulate. The new Consul played a rather negative role that contributed to worsening relations between the two countries, and ultimately Omani-American relations were severed in July 1850.⁽²⁴⁾

Disagreements between the two countries were attributed to the following reasons⁽²⁵⁾:

- Rejection by the US Government of a request by Sayyid Said Bin Sultan to amend the 1833 Treaty giving American merchants the right to enter all the ports [under Sayyid Said] of the Sultan's territories, which was construed to be limited only to Zanzibar, while the US administration demanded the right of its traders to enter all the ports of the Sultanate;
- The unfair legal status of American subjects committing crimes against Arabs such as murder, or being engaged in disputes with Indian traders (*Banyan*), who were under British protection. An American sailor had on one occasion murdered an Arab citizen and the case resulted in the retrocession of consular jurisdiction especially as assaults by Americans on Indian traders had become recurrent.

However, the two countries managed to overcome their respective differences as the

American President, Millard Fillmore, dispatched a special envoy to Sayyid Said Bin Sultan. He was Commodore Olik, who arrived at Zanzibar on December 1, 1851 and met with American traders before he had his first audience with Sayyid Said Bin Sultan.⁽²⁶⁾ They made it clear to him that Said Bin Sultan held the American community in respect and treated them well, granting them certain privileges. In the meantime, Consul Charles Ward, who was the cause of deteriorating relations, left Zanzibar and was succeeded by William Macmillan in 1852.⁽²⁷⁾ These developments indicated that the USA was keen on maintaining its ties and commercial interests with Sayyid Said Bin Sultan.

Omani-American Relations (1856-1932)

Following the death of Sayyid Said Bin Sultan in 1856,⁽²⁸⁾ Omani-American relations reached an impasse due to conditions resulting from the partition of the Omani Empire and Lord Canning's decision to sever Zanzibar from Muscat in 1861. The situation was further exacerbated by subsequent domestic conflicts in Oman between the sons of Sayyid Said Bin Sultan. Additionally, trade and economic activity declined while the USA opted for a policy of self-containment as the Civil War erupted between 1861 and 1865.⁽²⁹⁾



Ahmad Bin No'man Al-Ka'abi, first Arab Envoy to the United States of America in 1840

Source : <http://rno.gov.om>

The United States revived its old interest in Oman and the Arabian Gulf following the end of the Civil War and after Turki Bin Said⁽³⁰⁾ came to power in Oman (1871- 1888). On July 22, 1881, the USA appointed Luis Maguire, a Briton residing in Muscat, as its Consul in Muscat. He was previously working for Muscat Establishment, an affiliate of W. J. Towell & Co.⁽³¹⁾ Maguire held that position from October 1866 to July 1880 when he was succeeded by his compatriot, A. MacKirdy, also of Towell & Co.⁽³²⁾ The American practice of appointing non-American Consuls continued until 1909, during the reign of Sultan Faisal Bin Turki⁽³³⁾ (1888-1913), due to a marked growth of economic activity in the port of Muscat during that period.

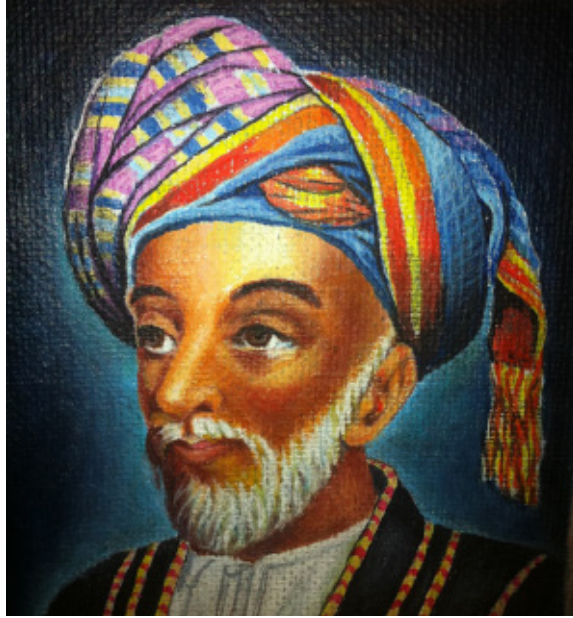
However, in March 1915, the US Consulate in Muscat was abruptly closed down and its holdings and archives were shifted to the US Consulate in Baghdad.⁽³⁴⁾ Sultan Taimur Bin Faisal⁽³⁵⁾ expressed his astonishment as the American decision in a message to the British Consul in Muscat on May 29, 1915.⁽³⁶⁾ However, he ultimately respected the decision and the British Consul in Muscat became caretaker of American interests in Muscat.

Relations remained at that level until November 7, 1923 when John Randolph, the American Consul in Baghdad, paid a visit to Muscat.

Omani-American Relations (1932-1939)

Omani-American relations entered a new stage with the accession of Sayyid Said Bin Taimur as the Sultan of Oman in February 1932, succeeding his father, Sultan Taimur Bin Faisal, who abdicated in favor of his son. There was mutual interest in strengthening relations. On the Omani side, Sultan Said Bin Taimur believed that his rapprochement with the USA would make him all the more independent from Britain, especially in view of its dominating presence in the Arabian Peninsula. The American side, on the other hand, was seeking a foothold in Oman, now that oil had been discovered in the Arabian Gulf region. An opportunity presented itself for the USA in 1934 to gain a foothold in the region when it dispatched a diplomatic mission to Muscat in March 18, 1934, led by Paul Knabenshue, to mark the centenary of the 1833 "Treaty of Amity and Commerce".⁽³⁷⁾ The mission handed Sultan Said Bin Taimur a message from US President, Franklin Roosevelt,⁽³⁸⁾ expressing good will and conveying greetings to the Sultan on the said occasion.⁽³⁹⁾

The Americans next sought an oil concession in Oman, and the Sultan wishing to free himself from British influence, used the pretext of the failure by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company to discover oil in the Sultanate, and established contact with Standard Oil of California in 1937.⁽⁴⁰⁾



His Majesty Sayyid Said Bin Sultan Al Busaidi, Sultan of Oman and Zanzibar (1806-1856)
Source: qal3altareekh.blogspot.com

However, Britain was standing at bay to check the American attempts to penetrate into Oman. Nevertheless, the Americans persisted in their attempts and Standard Oil managed to convince the Sultan to enter into direct contact with the US administration. Sultan Said Bin Taimur, sent a letter to US President Roosevelt in March 1937, expressing his wish to visit Washington in order to strengthen relations between the two friendly countries. The American President welcomed the Sultan to the USA and asserted the importance of further developing his country's relations with Oman.⁽⁴¹⁾ This furnished proof of the role played by oil and trade companies in fostering the political relationships between countries.

However, the question that posed itself in this context was: Where was Britain while such contacts were being made between the Americans and Oman? Of course, Britain was watching and monitoring such contacts and expressed dissatisfaction, especially as the Sultan did not inform the British Government in India (Bombay) of the contacts between himself and the US President, nor of his wish to visit Washington. In 21 July, 1937, Britain drew the Sultan's attention to the fact that he should inform the British Political Resident in the Gulf of any correspondence or contacts he made with foreign powers.⁽⁴²⁾ Though Britain did not objection to the Sultan's visit to the USA, the Americans were requested to keep the visit secret. Such a request reflected British concerns over the possible consequences of the success of such a visit by way

of encouraging the other Emirates and Sheikdoms of the Arabian Gulf to follow suit and seek close ties with the USA thus restricting British's influence in the region.

However, Sultan Said Bin Taimur responded to the message of the British Government of India through a message addressed to Mr. Ralph Ponsonby Watts, the British Consul in Muscat, in 5 August, which he asserted his legitimate rights and his determination to make decisions independently. He also proclaimed his freedom of action, practically and legally.⁽⁴³⁾

The US States Department informed the British Ambassador in Washington about the visit which was about to take place and assured him that it was a friendly visit and had no political repercussions. The visit was duly publicized against Britain's wishes as Sultan Said Bin Taimur arrived at the American capital in Washington, DC in March 1938 being the first ever Arab ruler to visit the USA. He was given a red carpet reception with the US President, Franklin Roosevelt, at the head of the well-wishers gathered to welcome the Sultan. Talks between the two sides focused on the discovery of oil in Oman and review of provisions of the 1833 Treaty.⁽⁴⁴⁾



Visit by Sultan Said Bin Taimur to the USA in 1938
Source: qal3altareekh.blogspot.com

Though no advanced diplomatic relationships were officially established, the visit was a positive step towards cementing Oman's relations with major powers. It was also seen as a breakthrough for Omani diplomacy, which had succeeded in breaking British colonial hegemony and getting closer to the USA in spite of all the pressures exerted by Britain to belittle the visit.⁽⁴⁵⁾

The above visit was followed by the outbreak of World War II erupted (1939-1945) and Omani-American relations took a new turn, characterized by military cooperation between the two countries with Oman offering military facilities to the US forces during the War.

Notes

NB: A= in Arabic

1. Lorimer, *Gazetteer of the Gulf, the Historical Section*, Emir of Qatar Office, Part II, Doha, 1967, p.728
2. George Washington was born in a plantation at Westmoreland in Virginia. At 16, he joined Lord Fairfax, the largest land owner in the state, in a campaign aimed at exploring the latter's western lands. In March 1755, Washington joined a campaign against the French led by General Edward Braddock. Upon the latter's defeat Washington was disbanded but was later (1775) chosen as commander of that army and took part in what came to be known as the Franco-Indian War. Washington struggled for endorsement of the federal system embracing all the states and his struggle ultimately led to convening a constitutional convention in Philadelphia in 1787. After the endorsement of the constitution at that convention, Washington was unanimously elected as the first President of the United States and was sworn in in January 1780. He ruled for two consecutive terms from 1789 to 1797. He died on September 9, 1799. See Abdulaziz Sulaiman Nawar and Mahmoud Mohamed Jamaledin, *Tarikh Al-Wilayat Al-Mottahida AL-Amrikiya, Darul Fikr Al-Arabi, Cairo, 1999, p.85*; Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia. <http://ar.wikipedia.org>
3. Situated in *Welayat* (state) Adm, one of the states of Addakhliya Province, Sultanate of Oman, located in the extreme south of Addakhliya, 225 km from Muscat and 860km from Dhofar. See site of the Omani Ministry of Information: www.omanet.om/arabic/region/addakhliyah1.asp?cat=reg
4. Hermann Eilts, *Oman and the USA, 150 Years of Friendship* translated into Arabic by Mohamed Kamal, Ministry of National Heritage and Culture, Muscat, 1985, pp. 9 and 10 (the Arabic version).
5. Roberts was born in 1794, lost his parents while a child and was a well-known merchant in Buenos Aires then moved to London and later to Paris. For more details, see Herman Eilts, *ibid.* p.12
6. Jamal Zakaria Kassem, *The Bousaid State in Oman and East Africa 1741-1861 (A)*, Cairo, p. 325
7. Andrew Jackson was born on March 15, 1767. In 1788, he became a lawyer in northwestern North Carolina and at the age of 30, was elected to the Senate. He had been commander of the American forces in the battle of New Orleans in 1815. He also took part in the war which eventually led to purchasing the state of Florida in 1810 and later became its first Governor. In 1829, Jackson won the Presidential elections and on March 4, 1829 became President of the United States. He was re-elected for a second four-year term. Jackson opposed policies of the National Bank of the US as he felt that the bank was being directed by the rich and was not serving the interests of lay citizens. During his presidency he signed the Indian Removal Act which forcibly relocated a number of

native tribes to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). See Abdulaziz Sulaiman Nawar and Mahmloud Mohamed Jamaledin, *op. cit.* p.107 and <http://marefa.org>

8. In 1828, Sayyid Said Bin Sultan headed a military campaign to East Africa and made his first visit to Zanzibar. Admiring the island and recognizing its commercial and strategic importance, he took his historic 1832 decision making Zanzibar a second capital for the African sector of his empire. Zanzibar was at a median position for commercial operations in his kingdom and it possessed natural harbors. The decision was taken in spite of several risks as the two capitals were separated by 250 miles and traffic between Oman and Zanzibar was governed by monsoon wind. See Emad Bin Jassem Al-Bahrani, *The Omani Empire in the Reign of Sayyid Said Bin Sultan (1856-1806)*, *Kan Historical Journal* No. II, 2008, p.73.
9. Ministry of Information, *Oman in History* (A), Muscat, Emil Publishing House Ltd. 1995, p. 459
10. Youssef Al-Sharouni, *Al Bousaidiyoon Rulers of the Sultanate of Oman*, Markaz Al-Hadara Al-Arabiya, Cairo, 1st edition 2004, pp. 86, 87
11. Richard Stevens, *Review of the Beginning of American Trade and Consular Relations with the Sultanate of Oman (1833-1856)*, *Gulf and Arabian Peninsula Studies*, July 1977, p.125
12. *Oman in History, op. cit.* p.460
13. Richard Stevens, *op. cit.* p.126
14. Abdulla Al-Harasi, *Oman in the American Press in the 19th Century*, Nizwa, No. 48, October 2006, p. 26 (A)
15. *Ibid.* p. 27
16. Wendell Phillips, *op. cit.* p. 124
17. Mohamed Rajai Rayan, *Omani-American Relations (1932-1949)*, Al-Manara, Vol. 1, No.4, 2007, p. 259
18. Richard Stevens, *op. cit.* p.128
19. Ra'fat Ghuneimi Al-Sheikh, *USA and the Sultanate of Oman During World War II* (A), A study of negotiations between the two sides regarding use by the USA of air facilities in the territories of Muscat and Oman, *Arab Historian*, Federation of Arab Historians, No. 12,1980, p. 237
20. *Oman in History, op. cit.* p.462
21. *Ibid*, pp. 464, 465

22. He is Ahmad Bin No'man Bin Mohsen Bin Abdulla Al-Ka'abi Al-Bahrani who was born in Basra, southern Iraq in 1784. His father was of Arab origins, descending from Bani Ka'ab who had settled on the Gulf coasts; his mother was of Persian origins. Ahmad joined the service of Sayyid Said in Muscat in the early 1820s. It is related that he travelled to China, Egypt and Europe on several missions, mainly the trade of his master, or as manager of the commercial ships on board of which he travelled. In 1835, he became the private secretary of Sayyid Said Bin Sultan, a position he retained until Sayyid Said Bin Sultan's death in 1856. In 1869, Ahmad died and was buried in the General Cemetery of Zanzibar. See Wesam Al-Saba', Ahmad Bin No'man Al-Ka'abi Al-Bahrani... Sanawat Zanzibar, and Al-Wasat (Bahraini newspaper), No.3713, Tuesday, November 6, 2012
23. Youssef Al-Sharouni, *op. cit.* p.89
24. *Ibid.* p. 462
25. Richard Stevens, *op. cit.* p.238
26. Ra'afat Ghuneimi Al-Sheikh, *op. cit.* p. 238
27. *Ibid.*, same page
28. The death of Sayyid Said on 19 October 1856 occurred at sea when he was on board *Victoria* on a voyage from Muscat to Zanzibar. He was buried in Zanzibar, see Emad Bin Jasem Al-Bahrani, *op. cit.* p. 76
29. Lord Canning, Governor General of India had endorsed partition of the Omani Empire. The Canning decree confirmed Sayyid Majid Bin Said as Ruler of Zanzibar and other African possessions in his capacity as successor of his father Sayyid Said. The decree also stipulated that Zanzibar Ruler would pay 4,000 riyals annually to the Ruler of Muscat and that the latter and Omani tribes would refrain from interfering in Zanzibar's affairs, see *Oman in History*, *op. cit.* p. 475
30. Turki Bin Said was born 1832. He was the fifth son of Saif Bin Sultan. Before assuming power, he held several key positions, the most important of which was Governor of Sohar (from 1851 to 1868), and Governor Jawader (1868-1871). In 1871, forces of Turki managed to enter Matrah following a violent battle in which Imam Azzan Bin Qais Al-Bousaidi was killed together with his right arm, Sheikh Said Bin Khalfan Al-Khalili. As Muscat and Matrah surrendered, Turki marched on them escorted by 500 camel riders. With this significant victory, Turki restored the Sultanate system after three years of Imamate rule (1868-1871). The latter stage of Turki's rule witnessed stability and peace. He died in 1888 and his successor Faisal Bin Turki peacefully assumed power. See site of the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <http://mofa.gov.om>
31. Mohamed Rajai Rayan, *op. cit.* p. 270
32. R. W. Baily, *Records of Oman, 1867-1947*, Archive Edition, England, 1988, Vol. III, Historical Affairs 1913-1947, pp. 699-700

33. Faisal Bin Turki was born in India in 1864. He is the middle son of Sultan Turki Bin Said. He assumed power following the death of his father in 1888. His reign coincided with growing European colonial influence in the Arab world, especially British and French as both Britain and France occupied several parts of the Arab homeland. Oman was one of a few Arab states that survived this colonial invasion, thanks to the balanced policy pursued by Sultan Faisal Bin Turki with regard to Oman's international relations, especially with Britain and France. In 1894, he authorized the establishment of a French Consulate in Muscat and gave the French a concession for the establishment of a coal depot at Jassa in 1898. Faisal also ordered the issuance of a brass coin in 1897 and during his reign the port of Muscat became an important hub for the arms trade. The latter years of his reign saw the rise of the opposition Imamate movement led by Imam Salem Bin Rashid Al-Kharousi and Sheikh Nouredin Al-Salmi. He retained his rule until his demise in October 1913. See Nouredin Abdulla Bin Mohamed Al-Salmi, *Tohfat Al-A'yan fi Seerat Ahl Oman*, Maktabat Al-Imam, Nouredin Alsalmi, Muscat, p.357; Lorimar, *op. cit.* pp.809, 818; site of the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <http://mofa.gov.om>
34. Records of Oman, p. 720
35. Sayyid Taimur Bin Faisal was born at Qasr (palace) Al-Alam in Muscat in 1886 and ruled the Sultanate upon his father's death in October 1913 under very difficult domestic and external conditions. At that time, Oman had witnessed internal conflicts between the Sultan and tribes of the interior. Meanwhile, World War I was looming on the horizon and the Sultan did his best to avoid or overcome as much of those difficulties as he could. He tried to impose a measure of political stability in order to improve the economic situation of the Sultanate. Therefore he concluded the Treaty of Seeb in 1920 between himself and the Imamate movement, thus ending a 7-year internal conflict which had started a few months before he came to power in 1913. In the wake of World War I, Omani trade began to flourish again but was faced with a severe crisis due to the Great Depression, starting in 1929. Sultan Taimur Bin Faisal started an economic reform for which he recruited three Egyptian experts. The reform included the customs system. Moreover, he formed the first ever Cabinet in the history of Oman under his brother Nader Bin Faisal in 1920. In 1929, he appointed his son Said Bin Taimur as Prime Minister. It was during his reign that some modern technologies were introduced, such as telephones, and motorcars. He also ordered paving of the road leading to Matrah and established Sultanate schools which were the first regular schools in Oman. Meanwhile, the oil prospecting agreement was signed between Oman and Darki Company. In 1932, he ceded power to his son Said and resided in India, visiting his homeland but once towards the end of World War II and stayed there from September 1945 to January 1946. He died in 1965 and was buried in Bombay. See Youssef Al-Sharouni, *op. cit.* p.147; site of the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs, <http://mofa.gov.om>
36. Records of Oman, pp. 724- 725.
37. *The Persian Gulf Administration Reports (P.G.A.P) 1931-1940*, Vol. IX, *Administration Reports of the Political Agency*, Muscat for 1934, p.66

38. Franklin Roosevelt was born in 1882 in New York, USA, an only son to his parents. He studied at Gorton School in Massachusetts and later at Harvard University where he studied history. Graduating in 1903, he joined the Faculty of Law of Columbia University (1904). After graduation he worked as a lawyer for three years. However, he was not much interested in legal work. In 1910 he became a Senator for the state of New York. He ultimately proved to be a dexterous and bold statesman. Following the breakup of World War I and America's involvement therein, Roosevelt –now Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy—worked on several military projects and made a tour of European theatres of war meeting several high-ranking commanders. In 1921, the Democratic Party's Convention nominated James Cooks, Ohio Governor, for President and Roosevelt for Vice-President. However, they were easily defeated by Republican candidates. In 1921, Roosevelt suffered from polio and it was generally thought that his political career had come to an end. However, he defied his own disability and made a come-back in 1924 and four years later became Governor of New York state and pursued new policies. He was re-elected scoring a landslide victory in 1932. In the same year, the Democratic Party nominated him for President, and John Nancy Garner, Governor of Texas, as Vice-President. Both scored an overwhelming victory and Roosevelt became President on March 4, 1933 at the age of 51. In 1936, he was reelected for a second term. In 1940, he was again nominated for President, and won a third term. Roosevelt declared that all people should enjoy freedom of expression and worship and should be free from want and fear. Those came to be known as The Four Freedoms. In 1944, presidential elections were held in the USA and Roosevelt and his Deputy Harry Truman scored an easy victory over their Republican rivals. Two days after being sworn in, Roosevelt left the USA for Yalta to meet with Churchill and Stalin. The three leaders endorsed a final assault on Germany and examined other issues. On March 29, 1945, Roosevelt went to Warm Springs, Georgia for a rest and on April 12 he suffered a brain hematoma while working at his office and died on the same day. See: *Franklin Roosevelt: A President Who Saved American Economy from a Wheelchair: Djazair News*, <http://www.djazairnews.info/panorama/133-panorama/6666662458-2013-09-30-20-11-27.html>
39. Mohamed Rajaa'I Rayan, *op. cit.* p.260
40. *Ibid.* p.261
41. *Ibid.* same page
42. Baily, Vol. VI, Foreign Relations, p.514
43. *Ibid.* p. 518-519
44. Idris Herdan Mahmoud, *Britain's Attitude toward American Political and Military Presence in Oman, Historical and Cultural Studies Journal (A)*, Vol. 4, No. 12, 2012, p. 315
45. *Ibid.* same page