

Qatar has gone the heavy industry route with an iron and steel complex, cement plants, fertilizer plant and petrochemical complex. There is now greater confidence in the future as Qatar begins development of the massive offshore North Gas Field which will ensure stable feedstock for domestic industry and should earn substantial, long-term export revenues.

In the United Arab Emirates, industrial cities have been developed near Abu Dhabi and Dubai in an attempt to overcome dependence on oil exports. Major non-petroleum related projects include an aluminum smelter, Dubai dry dock, several cement plants and a host of secondary manufacturing plants.

Oman is still putting its infrastructure together. Oil production continues to rise as does export capacity. Economic diversification is being achieved through the development of mineral resources, agriculture and fisheries. Plants have been built to manufacture cement, fertilizers and various secondary products.

The Gulf States now enter an era of new concerns and fresh spending priorities. Development of educational facilities, especially universities and technical institutes, will continue to be a priority as the Gulf States seek to overcome their dependence on expatriate labour. Social services, already well advanced, will continue to be improved and expanded, especially hospitals and public housing. Local financial institutions and markets will be upgraded to give Gulf nationals greater control over the management of their capital resources. Telecommunications will be expanded and modernized.

Petroleum and Mineral Resources

The discovery of oil in Bahrain in the early 1930s led geologists to correctly believe that hydrocarbons underlay the entire Gulf region. The fields of the Gulf States are both offshore and onshore and contain various grades of conventional hydrocarbons.

Prior to this decade, the emphasis was on oil extraction with much of the associated gas being flared as any alternative was uneconomic. All Gulf States have built systems for gas gathering, distribution and liquefaction and very little gas is now flared. Most