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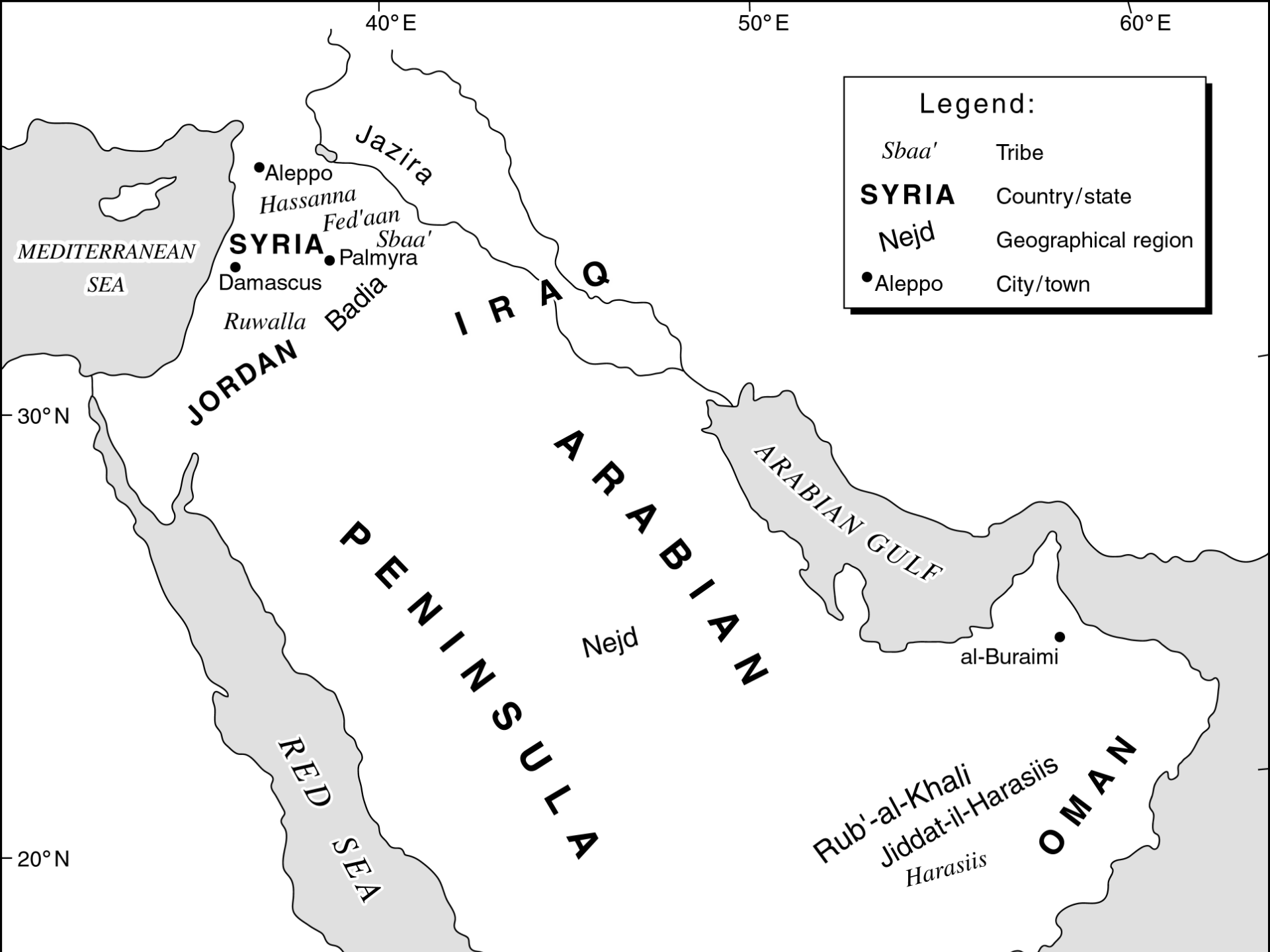
Bedouin, Movement, and Environmental Change: The Harasiis of Oman

**Language and Nature in Southern and Eastern
Arabia**

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25 April, 2019

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‘Bedouin-ness’, Mobility, and Environment

- Bedu-Hadar distinction deep roots in Muslim history and historiography
- Identity and landscape of the imagined nation: hegemonic notion of the **new insiders** [government bureaucrats] casting the traditional inhabitants as ‘**outsiders**’
- Desert Environment – the landscape viewed as ***terra nullius*** - local inhabitants and their languages considered interlopers, trespassers

Herders in South East Arabia

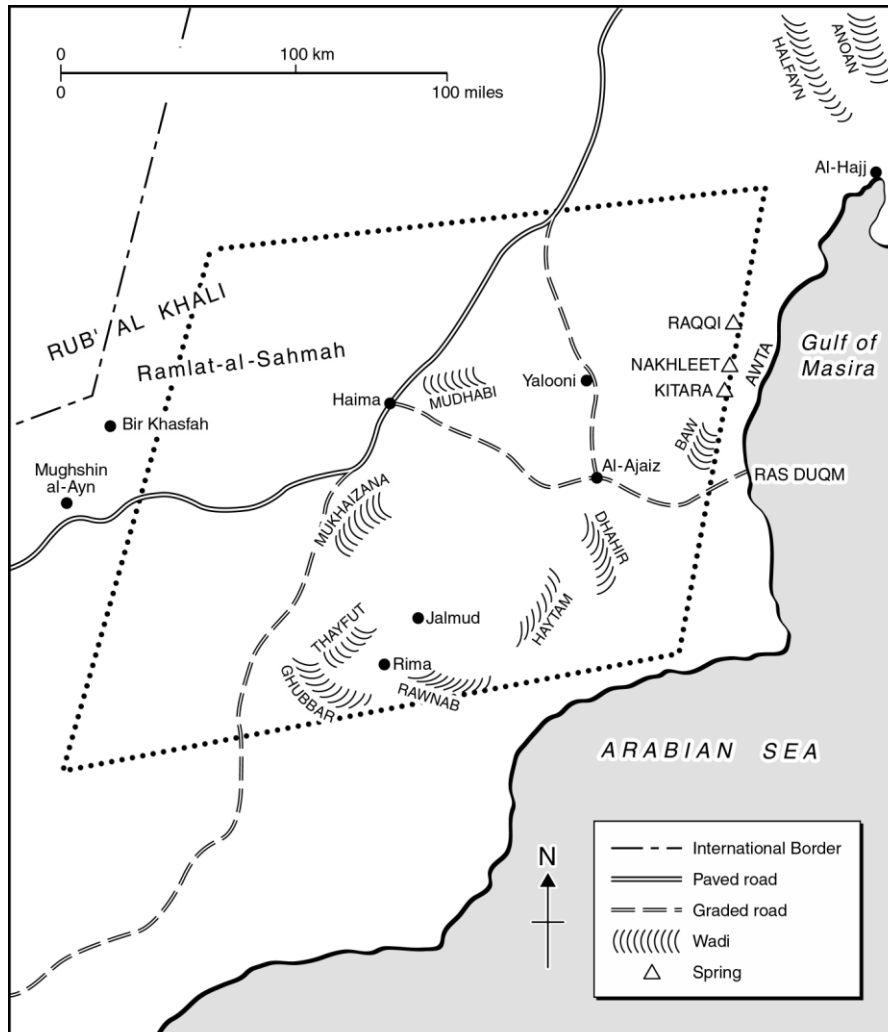
- Desert rather than semi-arid land (<50mm per year)
- Natural resources conflicts are **not** intertribal
- Conflicts mainly with conservation bodies and **extractive oil industry**



The Jiddat il Harasiis and its People

- South Arabian speaking nomadic pastoral people of about 5,-7,000 people
- Refuge tribe – oral history places them in the Jiddat from mid-1800s
- Raise herds of camels and goats over the 40,000 sq kilometres of waterless gravel plain
- First water wells in the Jiddat dug in 1950s by oil company

Oman Jiddat il Harasiis



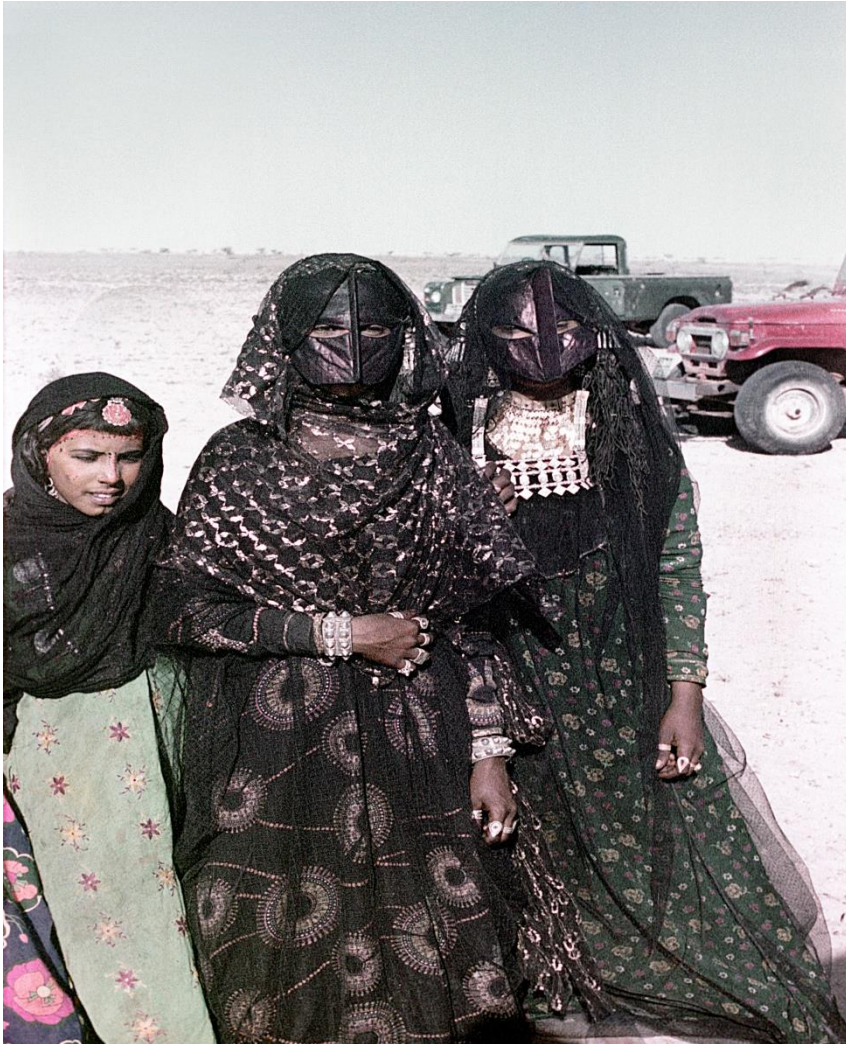
Jiddat-il-Harasiis



Jiddat il Harasiis



Jiddat il Harasiis 1970s



Jiddat il Harasiis in the 1980s

Social housing



Co-ed School

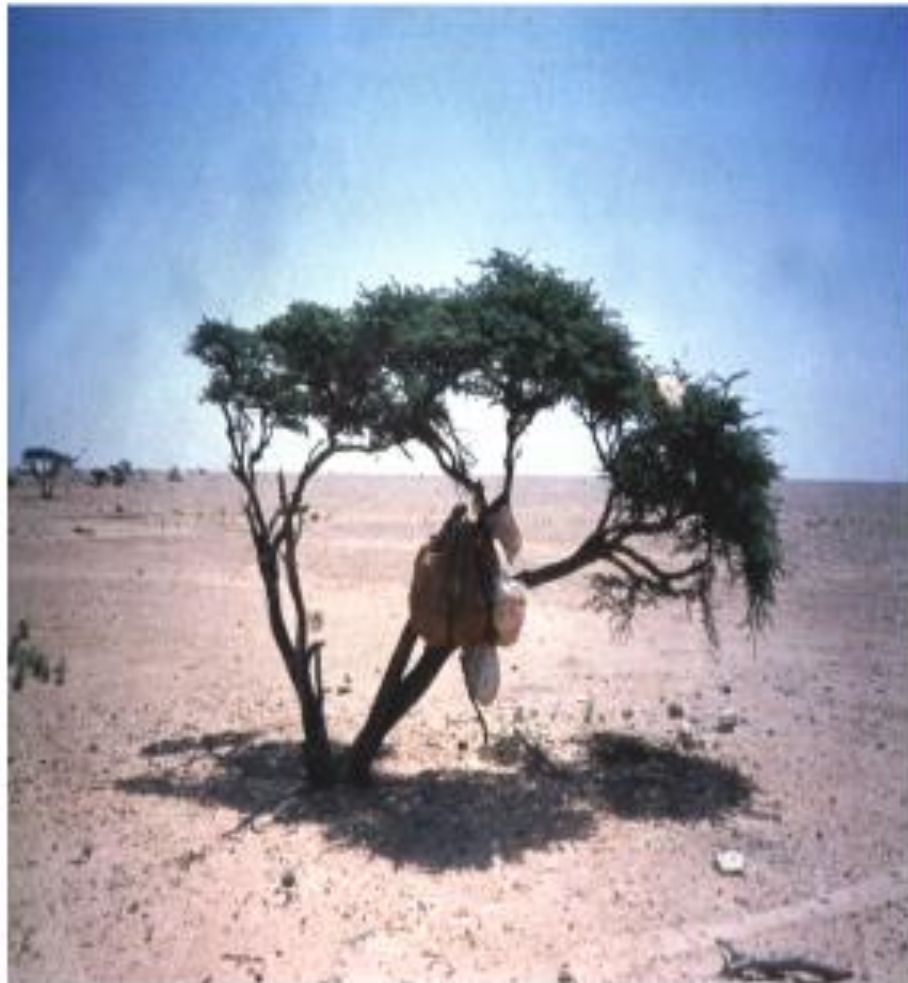


Innovation in Herding Practices



Harasiis Herding Household Shelter

1970s



2000s



The Azabah – mobile camel camp



Celebration at Kin Group Azab



Changes to Harasiis Tribal Society

- Increased mobility of individuals
- Decreased household movements
- Increasing use of split households and temporary camps; multi-resource
- Social housing units in Oman and UAE
- Hired herders Baluchistan, Sindh

Bedouin Mobility, and Environmental Adaptation

- Tackling the pejorative attitudes to Bedouin mobility, and settlement
- Fears of loss of language as Arabic becomes hegemonic and **inter-tribal** settlements increase
- Concerned with challenges to their identity and belonging with oil company view of desert as '**terra nullius**'.
- 'Belonging' and culture transfer tied the family Azabah