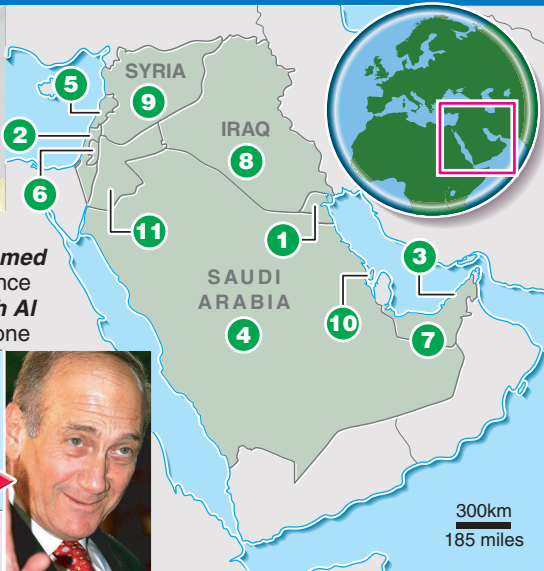


Changing faces in the Middle East



1 Jan 15, 2006, Kuwait: Emir **Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah** dies. Crown Prince **Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah Al Sabah** (top) assumes throne

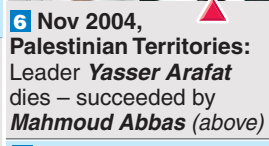
2 Jan 4, Israel: Prime Minister **Ariel Sharon** incapacitated by stroke – replaced on interim basis by his deputy, **Ehud Olmert** (right)



3 Jan 4, Dubai: Emir **Sheikh Maktoum bin Rashid al-Maktoum** dies – succeeded by younger brother, **Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid al-Maktoum**



4 Aug 2005, Saudi Arabia: **King Fahd** dies. **Crown Prince Abdullah** (right) becomes king



5 Feb 2005, Lebanon: Prime Minister **Omar Karami** quits under pressure after killing of former premier



Rafik Hariri. Replaced by **Fuad Saniora** (left)

6 Nov 2004, Palestinian Territories: Leader **Yasser Arafat** dies – succeeded by **Mahmoud Abbas** (above)

7 Nov 2004, UAE: President **Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan**, ruler of Abu Dhabi, dies – replaced by eldest son, **Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan**

8 Apr 2003, Iraq: U.S.-led invasion topples **Saddam Hussein**. Selection of new government pending

9 Jun 2000, Syria: President **Hafez al-Assad** dies – succeeded by son, **Bashar al-Assad**

10 Mar 1999, Bahrain: Emir **Sheikh Isa bin Salman al-Khalifa** dies – succeeded by son **Sheikh Hamad bin Isa al-Khalifa**

11 Feb 1999, Jordan: **King Hussein** dies – he is succeeded by his son, **King Abdullah II**