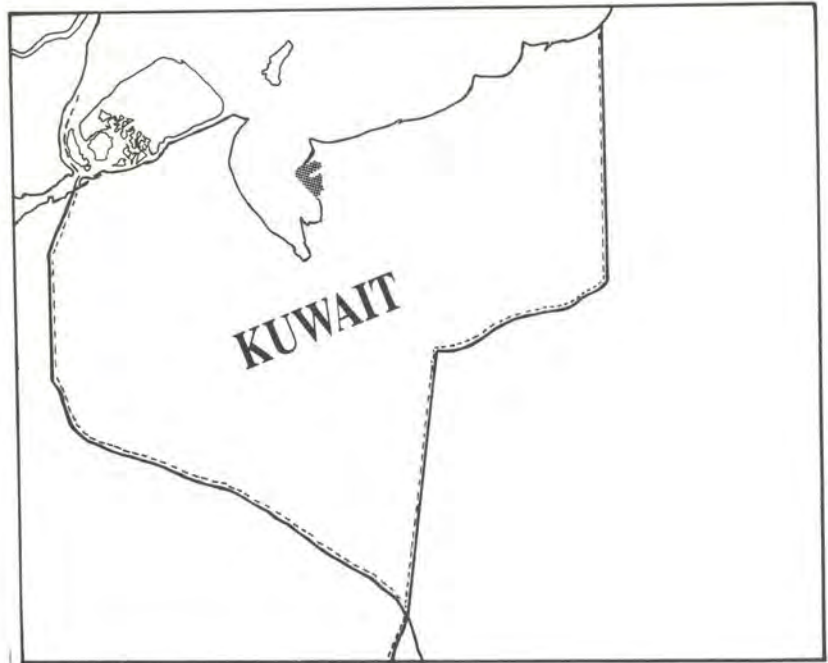


## KUWAIT



<b>Location:</b>	Kuwait is bordered by Saudi Arabia to the south, Iraq to the west and north, and the Arabian Gulf to the east.	Constitutional hereditary monarchy. The Amir (head of state), the prime minister and a cabinet hold the executive power. Legislative power is held by the elected National Assembly. Legislation and court jurisprudence are based on the Islamic Sharia.
<b>Area:</b>	20.150 sq. Km.	
<b>Population:</b>	1.7 Million.	
<b>Capital:</b>	Kuwait.	
<b>Languages:</b>	Arabic.	
<b>Religions:</b>	Islam (predominantly sunni) 91.5 %, Christian 6.4 %, other 2.1 %.	
<b>Education:</b>	It is free through post-graduate level and compulsory through intermediate level. The first girls elementary school was opened in 1937. The first 6 Kuwaiti women college graduates received their degrees in 1960.	
<b>Birth Rate:</b>	Per 1000 pop. (1980) 39.7.	
<b>Death Rate:</b>	Per 1000 pop. (1980) 4.1.	
<b>Life Expectancy:</b>	(1975-1980): Female 72 years, male 67 years.	
<b>Government:</b>	The al-Sabah Dynasty was founded in 1756. Kuwait was proclaimed a British Protectorate by a treaty concluded between the Sheikh and Britain in 1899.  It was recognized as an independent government in 1914 under British protection. It gained its full independence in 1961, and was recognized as a sovereign Arab State in 1962.	
	<b>Women's Suffrage:</b>	None.
	<b>Currency:</b>	Kuwaiti Dinar.
	<b>Per Capita Income:</b>	\$ 14,000 (in 1984).
	<b>Equal Pay Policy:</b>	Equal pay for equal work.
	<b>Production:</b>	Livestock, oil, fish, petrochemicals.
	<b>Family:</b>	Maternity benefits are sponsored by the government. 2-month maternity leave. A modern maternity hospital opened in 1961, and there were around 73 free government-run kindergartens (in 1981) as well as several (motherhood centres).
	<b>Welfare:</b>	Health services and education are free to everyone. The government funds orphanages, senior care facilities, libraries, and gives rent subsidies to Kuwaiti families living in leased housing.