



When Sharif Fawaz Sharaf Al Hashemite was a young boy, he was very interested in his family's history and that of the Arab world. Filled with curiosity, he often asked his father about how the Arabs advanced, and today feels it is important to pass on his knowledge to his sons, Sharif Sharaf, Sharif Aoun and Sharif Ali.

In "Sahab el Nas Qablinah Tha Al Zaman", a historical autobiography in the Arabic language, Sharif Fawaz takes the reader through the tumultuous events that shaped the Middle East and Arab world, while introducing prominent international key players who impacted the region including the Hashemite Dynasty. Told from his personal experiences and memoirs, the book reads like a story spanning over a century of facts, names, dates and events, while weaving in his personal childhood experiences that eventually led to his professional life and accomplishments.

By the end of the book, the reader ought to have gained a deep understanding of how the Arab world evolved, who the key players were and Sharif Fawaz's personal family journey during these times.

This unique historical autobiography comes alive through the collection of original photographs of prominent decision makers from the Ashraf who led Arabia to government officials from around the world. Sharif Fawaz generously opens up his life to the reader as he shares more personal photographs from his childhood and school days, and of those of his late parents, Sharif Sharaf bin Rajih and Sharifa Asma, his sisters, Sharifa Sheikha and Sharifa Sakina, and his late brothers, Sharif Mohammed and Sharif Abdel Hameed.

Sharif Fawaz starts with an introduction to “Al Hijaz”, where the book’s journey begins. Al Hijaz, the holy land of Islam, is a geographical region that comprises most of the western part of modern-day Saudi Arabia and is centered on the two holiest Muslim cities—Mecca and Madina. Sharif Fawaz’s late father, Sharif Sharaf bin Rajeh (1880-1955), was the last Hashemite Emir of Taif (1914-1925) and famous for having fought alongside Lawrence of Arabia. He joined his Hashemite cousins, Sharif Hussein bin Ali (the Sharif of Mecca, King of Hejaz and patriarch of Jordan’s and Iraq’s kings) and his sons Ali, Abdullah, Faisal, and Zeid, who had led the Great Arab Revolt (1916-1918) against the Ottoman Empire during WWI. (While the colonial powers of Britain and France denied Arabs their promised single unified Arab state, it is nevertheless testimony to the effectiveness of the Great Arab Revolt that the Hashemite family secured Arab rule over all of modern Jordan, most of the Arabian peninsula and Syria.)

In Part 2 of the book, the reader learns about major events during 1921 – 1941 with a focus on the rise of Iraq, including details of the Versailles Agreement, the division of Arab nations under British and French rule, and references to prominent figures such as Winston Churchill and Gertrude Bell. During this time, Faisal I became King of Iraq, and Sharif Sharaf bin Rajih relocated to Iraq and worked with King Faisal I, as the Prince Regent to young King Faisal.

Later in Parts 3 and 4, Sharif Fawaz goes into detailed accounts of Germany and the Arab world during WWII. He uncovers an intriguing and fascinating account of his journey with his mother and brother when political turmoil forced his late father to flee to Iran from Iraq on

the approach of the British forces in 1941. While his late father was exiled to Southern Rhodesia, a very young Sharif Fawaz and the rest of his family settled in different locations including Germany and Istanbul, until King Abdullah I of Jordan recalled the family to Amman in 1945, where his father became a member of the Jordanian Senate from 1950-1955.

By the second half of the book, Sharif Fawaz has reached adulthood and opens up about the highs and lows of his continued journey, such as the loss of family members and his fond memories of them. In particular, the tragic and sudden death of his late brother, Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Sharaf of Jordan, at age 41, devastated Sharif Fawaz and robbed King Hussein of a most trusted and influential adviser on foreign affairs.

Despite having lived through political turmoil and experiencing family loss, Sharif Fawaz persevered and embraced a career in public office where he loyally served the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. His achievements are numerous including the time the late King Hussein requested his involvement in establishing organizations, programs and initiatives for Jordanian youth.

In response, Sharif Fawaz cleverly orchestrated the establishment of various institutions to address different activities, such as the famous “Sports City”, a multi purpose sports complex that today serves thousands of Jordanian youth and is the chosen venue to host major international and local sports and cultural events, including concerts, major competitions. In addition, Sharif Fawaz was responsible for overseeing the creation of a cultural center to allow youth the opportunity to excel in the Arts and Culture. He also oversaw the establishment of a sports college to support Jordanian athletes, in addition to other projects to promote and support youth in Jordan.

Sharif Fawaz, known as a smooth statesman with Western diplomats and Arab government officials, has proudly represented Jordan and headed the Jordanian delegation at numerous conferences including

a key Human Rights conference in Vienna, strategic conferences at the World Trade Organization, as well as a major UNCTAD conference in Cartagena, Columbia, to name a few.

Sharif Fawaz was also invited to other critical meetings such as President Jimmy Carter's First Meeting with King Hussein on June 17, 1980, and Ronald Reagan's meeting with ambassadors on June 11, 1981, to discuss initiatives for peace in the Middle East.

A timeline of his many years of public service is as follows:

- From 1961 to 1962 he was appointed at the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- From 1962 to 1963 he was appointed at the Prime Minister's Office.
- From 1963 to 1965 he was appointed at the Jordanian Mission to the United Nations in New York.
- From 1965 to 1966 he was appointed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- From 1966 to 1973 he was appointed at the Youth Care Organization.
- From 1974 to 1976 he was Director-General of Jordan Youth and Sports Organization.
- From November 1976 to June 6, 1980 he was Minister of Culture and Youth.
- On May 5, 1980 he was designated ambassador to Washington, D.C. where he was accredited from June 6, 1980 till October 26, 1981.
- From November 26, 1981 to 1990 he was Ambassador in Bonn (West Germany), Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Luxembourg and the European Economic Community.
- From November 8, 1995 to December 11, 1997 he was Ambassador in Paris and the Holy See.

Although Sharif Fawaz is now retired, he continues to serve the "homeland" of Jordan through volunteering his time to speak at various conferences and support the Jordanian youth. Not surprisingly, he was recently bestowed the Order of the State

Centennial (a Medal of Honor) by HM King Abdullah, for his many years of service. Sharif Fawaz continues to speak at different conferences and events in his homeland, Jordan. In his free time, Sharif Fawaz also enjoys reading and spending time with his family and grandchildren.

Some Photographs from the Book



Sharif Sharaf bin Rajih, Iraq (1941)



Sharif Sharaf bin Rajih on way to Aqaba during WWI (1916)- photograph taken by Colonel T.E. Lawrence



Sharif Fawaz with Sharifa Sakina



Sharif Fawaz in Kindergarten



With Sharif Abdul Hamid -Germany



With Sharif Abdul Hamid -Austria



Sharif Fawaz and Sharif Abdul Hamid -AUB



Sharif Fawaz with Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf



Special meeting with King Hussein to discuss youth initiatives



Sharif Fawaz in discussions and tours with King Hussein regarding youth initiatives



Sharif Fawaz congratulating youth in events



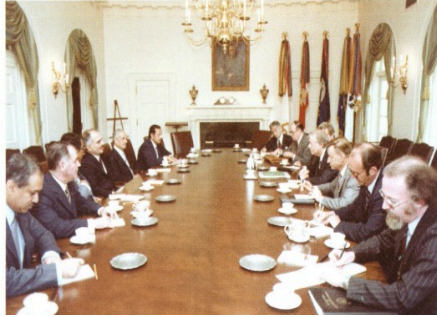
Sharif Fawaz speaking at Cultural Conference



With President Ronald Reagan –White House



With President Ronald Reagan,
Washington, D.C.



With President Jimmy Carter - Washington, D.C.



With President Jimmy Carter



With President Jacques Chirac



Sharif Fawaz in Moscow



With German President Richard von Weizsäcker in Jordan



With German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Jordan, 1982



Sharif Fawaz at UN Conference



Sharif Fawaz with Pope John Paul



Sharif Fawaz on official visit to UK