

The Arab economies' subordination to the capitalist strategy has strengthened the position of the Arab comprador that in turn furthers subordination to the international capitalist economy. Increasing capital accumulation in the hands of the bourgeoisie was matched by further impoverishment of the vast majority of the population. This is the background for the bread revolts that have taken place in Morocco, Sudan, Tunis, Egypt and Jordan. Even Algeria, which has followed a relatively independent course of development, was not immune to this phenomenon.

THE POLITICAL LEVEL

Although the Arab region became better off economically during the oil era, this also marked the beginning of the political decline of the Arab order. The oil era, led by the Arab capitalists, was full of national catastrophes.

In 1973, the Arab states enacted an oil embargo against the capitalist states that supported Israel, at a time when the US was importing more than one-fourth of its total oil imports from Arab countries. But, thanks to the insistence of the Saudi king and Egypt's Sadat, the embargo was lifted in early 1974. Saudi Arabia became the oil reserve that provided the capitalist countries with any amount any time. Prince Fahd signed an agreement with US President Ford in 1975, whereby Saudi

Arabia was committed to not raising the oil prices by more than 5% until 1984.

From that time on, Saudi Arabia has hosted a US military base, and later bought the AWACS that are run by US military personnel. Meanwhile, Jordan was involved in joint military maneuvers with the US. Egypt signed the Camp David accords which marked a turning point in the Arab-Zionist conflict. Thus, Egypt broke decisively with the Arab national security doctrine of collective defense against foreign aggression, for Camp David involved military alliance with the US and peace with the Zionist enemy that continued to occupy Palestine and other Arab territories. On the economic level, the Camp David alliance was symbolized by the opening of the American Chamber of Commerce in Cairo, for coordinating the interests of US capital and the Egyptian business class spawned by the regime.

The Arab world was further humiliated when Israel bombed the nuclear reactor in Iraq and the PLO headquarters in Tunis, and the US airforce raided Libya, not to mention the US-backed Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanon.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARAB ORDER

The Arab order was established in the period between 1945 and 1955, after a number of countries achieved political in- ►

Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Sabah in Cairo, August 1989

