

# United Arab Emirates

## *Ethnicity in United Arab Emirates*

### *Group selection*

The population in the UAE is composed of Emirati Arabs - which make up only 19% of the total population - and foreigners from South Asia (50%), Iran and other Arab countries (23%), and other Western or East Asian countries (8%) (CIA World Fact Book).

### *Power relations*

The United Arab Emirates are a federal system of seven Emirates. Each Emirate is ruled by a dynasty. The ancestors of these dynasties were tribes that emigrated mainly from central Arabia. Power is divided among the rulers of these Emirates according to a formula they have agreed on. As there are no formal political parties or political groupings, the political power remains in the hands of the ruling Emirati Arab elites. Ethnicity does not seem to be a defining factor for political power distribution. It should be mentioned, however, that around 81% of the whole population are foreigners. They are excluded from political life and do not seem to be organized politically.

## *Political status of ethnic groups in United Arab Emirates*

*From 1971 until 2013*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Emirati Arabs	0.19	IRRELEVANT



Figure 798: Political status of ethnic groups in United Arab Emirates during 1971-2013.