

of British-administered Cyrenaica and was the site of Libya's declaration of independence in 1951. Under King Idrīs al-Sanūsī (r. 1951–69), Benghazi was the seat of Cyrenaica's regional administration (until 1963) and shared national-capital status with Tripoli, although it was the preferred residence of the monarch. In 1955, Libya's first university (later Jāmi'at Qār Yūnis) was founded in Benghazi.

Under the regime of Mu'ammār al-Qadhdhāfi (r. 1969–2011) Benghazi lost some of its former importance, on account of its attachment to the deposed Sanūsī family, but it remained Libya's second city, after Tripoli. In 1986, it was bombed by the United States air force in retaliation for terrorist attacks ascribed to the al-Qadhdhāfi regime. In early 2011, it was in Benghazi that the uprising that toppled al-Qadhdhāfi began, and it served as the first seat of the National Transitional Council (al-Majlis al-Waṭanī al-Intiqālī).

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JAKOB KRAIS

(021327)

Burton, Richard Francis

Captain Sir **Richard Francis Burton** (1821–90) was a Victorian writer, translator, explorer, soldier, and diplomat. Born at Torquay, in Devon, Burton spent his early years with his family in continental Europe, where he acquired an extraordinary facility for languages and an ambiguous sense of ethnic and national identity that resulted from the expatriate experiences of his youth and provided valuable perspectives on the various cultures he studied. He entered Trinity College in Oxford in autumn 1840 but was compelled to leave less than two years later for an infraction of college rules, providing him a welcome opportunity to obtain a commission in the Bombay Army of the East India Company.

1. INDIA AND ARABIA

During Burton's seven years in India (1842–9), he was posted first to Baroda, in Gujarat, with the 18th Bombay Native Infantry, then in Sindh, following its conquest and annexation to the British Empire. He also performed staff duty in the survey of the newly acquired province