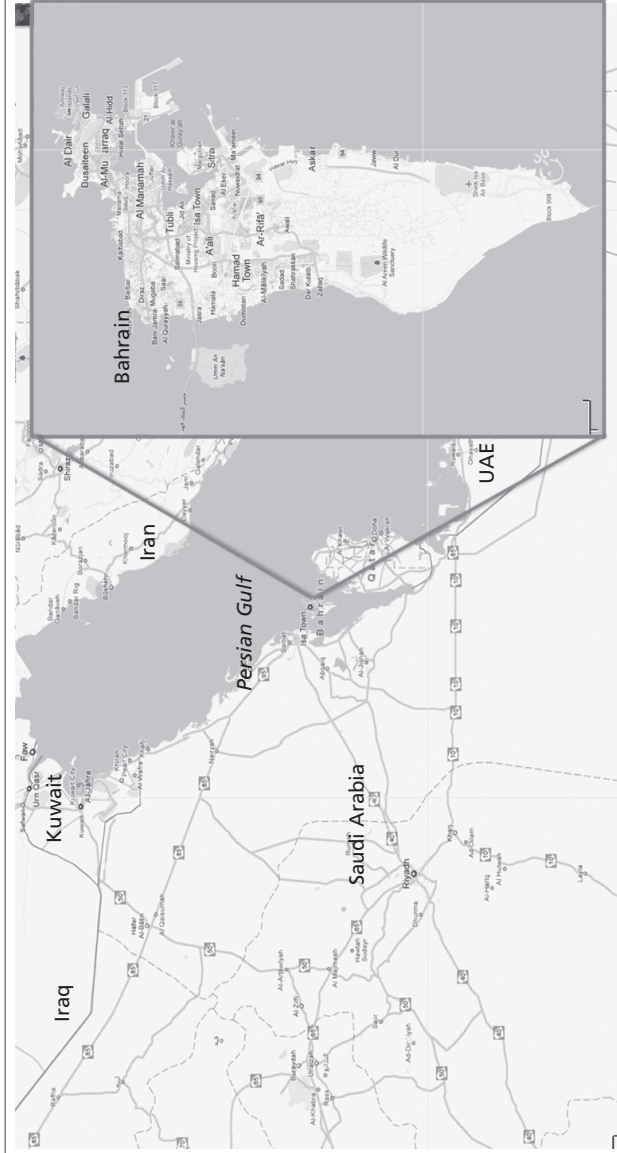


Map 15.1 ► Bahrain from a Regional Perspective



Bahrain is an archipelago of thirty-six islands located off the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia. The four main islands are joined by causeways, and make up about 95 percent of the total land area. Although the tiny Gulf island of Bahrain is only 256 square miles and lacks the vast oil wealth of its petroleum-producing neighbors, it is nonetheless a prosperous and modernized nation. Bahrain is home to heavy industry and is a banking hub for the Persian Gulf countries and Islamic finance. This results in a per capita income greater than that of Canada and Germany. Broadband Internet covers almost 94 percent of the country, which, like other Arab Spring nations, has played a key role in the opposition's success in organizing and generating popular support.

Source: *CIA World Fact Book*, 2010.