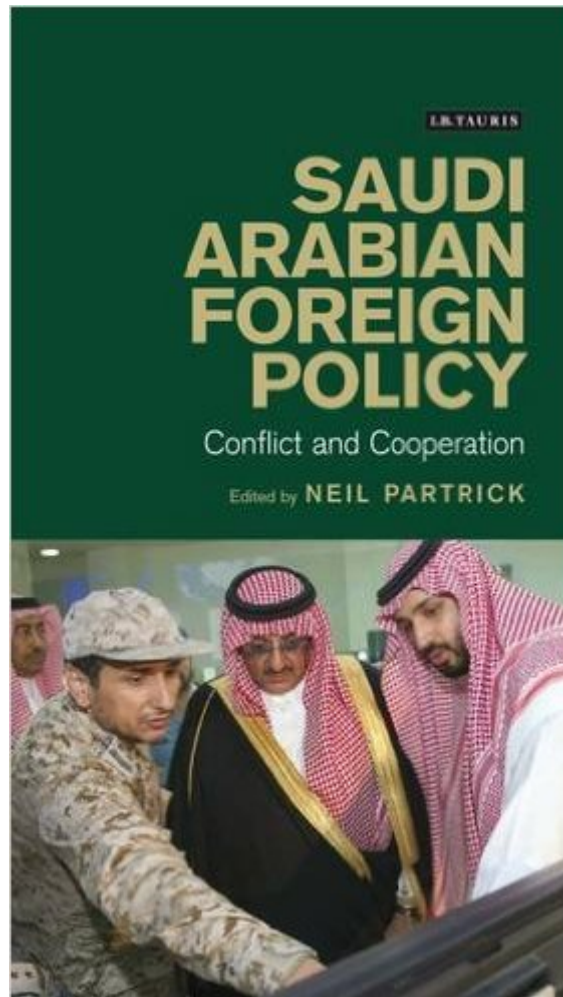


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Saudi Arabian Foreign Policy: Conflict And Cooperation In Uncertain Times



Synopsis

As the only oil producer with sufficient spare capacity to shape the world economy, Saudi Arabia is one of the most significant states in twenty-first century geopolitics. Despite the enormous potential for Saudi Arabia to play a more robust regional and international role, the Kingdom faces serious internal and external challenges in the form of political incapacity and competition with states such as Iran. In this examination of Saudi Arabia's foreign policy, Gulf expert Neil Partrick, and other regional analysts, address the Kingdom's relations in the Middle East and wider Islamic world, and its engagement with both established and emergent global powers. In doing so, he analyses the factors, ranging from identity politics to Iranian acquisition of nuclear weapons that determine the Kingdom's foreign policy. As Saudi Arabia prepares for a generational shift brought about by an ageing leadership, the rapidly changing balance of power in the Middle East offers both great opportunity and great danger. For students of the Middle East and international relations, understanding Saudi Arabia's foreign policy and its engagement with the region and the world is more important than ever.

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Customer Reviews

As a scholar of Gulf geopolitics, I find good sources on the foreign policies of the various states in the region relatively rare. Partrick's edited volume tackles KSA's FP from a number of angles, including religion as a tool of soft power, IPE and security concerns and disposition. All are useful and presented with little to no normative bias on the parts of the authors. This diverse approach,

free of cultural or normative values judgements, is extremely refreshing in highlighting mechanics of the Saudi machine and I highly recommend it to any and all interested in trying to understand the idiosyncrasies of the Kingdom's behaviour on the international stage.

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