STATE-SOCIETY RELATIONS IN THE ARAB GULF STATES

Edited by Mazhar A. Al-Zoby and Birol Baskan

ISBN: 978-3-940924-38-4 (print)  Hardcover, 176 pages  
Publication Date: July 2014  
Price: EUR 80 / GBP 70  
plus shipping (and VAT – if applicable only)

This book examines the strategies and dynamics through which state-society relations in the Arab Gulf region have been cultivated, and explores the alternative political, social, economic and popular changes that threaten these relations. The work focuses on understanding how state sovereignty has been shifting to accommodate internal social, cultural, and intellectual forces and how these forces have managed to balance social and political powers in order to function within and co-exist alongside the state.

Case-studies give specific examples of how social forces, popular movements, social media and youth culture are actively influencing cultural attitudes and practices as well as political actions.

**Key Subjects:**
Middle East Studies  
Islamic Studies  
Politics

**Markets:**
University Libraries  
National Libraries  
Policy Makers
# Table of Contents

State-Society Relations in the Arab Gulf Region: Dilemmas and Prospects 1  
*Mazhar Al-Zoby and Birol Baskan*

The Internet and Youth in the United Arab Emirates 13  
*Laure Assaf*

Social Media and the Forging of a Transnational Shi’a Identity: the Case of the Kingdom of Bahrain 37  
*Magdalena Karolak and Hala Asmina Guta*

Social Media: Impacts on Arabian Gulf Youth and Governments 61  
*Mahmood Abdul Ghaffar*

The Emergence of Arab Children’s Television and Animation Industry in the Gulf States 77  
*Omar Adam Sayfo*

The Impact of Global Communications on Family Values in Qatar 101  
*Mark Farha, Dalal K. Al-Thani and Miodrag Stamboldziev*

Neoliberalism and the New Means of Art of Government in the Gulf Monarchies 123  
*M. H. Ilias*

State-Religion-Minorities Tensions in the Arab Gulf 141  
*Cornelia Zeineddin*

About the Contributors 167
List of Contributors

Mahmood Abdul Ghaffar is a Research Assistant at the Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat) since 2011. He received his MBA from the American University in Sharjah and his Bachelor's in Arts from American University in Washington D.C.

Dalal K. Al-Thani is a senior Associate in the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority. She has received her B.A. degree from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

Laure Assaf is a doctorate student in Anthropology at Paris West University Nanterre La Défense (France). Her research focuses on daily lifestyles and cultural practices of young Emiratis and Arab expatriates in Abu Dhabi. She is also an alumna of Ecole normale supérieure (Paris, France).

Birol Baskan is Assistant Professor at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar. His research looks at the roles religion, religious institutions, and grass root religious groups play in creating, maintaining and undermining political order in the Middle East. Currently, he is working on several projects, one of which is a book project analyzing the role of religion in state and nation building in the Gulf.

Mark Farha is Assistant Professor of Government at the School of Foreign Service in Doha, Qatar. He obtained his PhD in History and Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University in 2007. He is currently editing a book manuscript entitled “Secularism under Siege in Lebanon’s Second Republic: Global and Regional Dimensions of a Malaise”.

Hala Asmina Guta is an Assistant Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, Core Humanities and Social Sciences department, Prince Mohamed Bin Fahd University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

M. H. Ilias is Associate Professor at the Centre for West Asian Studies & India- Arab Cultural Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India. He completed his doctoral research in Middle Eastern Studies form Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. His main areas of research include Culture and society in the Gulf States; film and popular culture in the Middle East and South Asian Diaspora in the Gulf. His publications include: Society and Change in the Contemporary Gulf (co-edited), India-West Asia Relations: Understanding Cultural Interplays (co-edited) and Space Memory and Jewish National Identity.

Magdalena Karolak is Assistant Professor of Intercultural Studies at Zayed University, UAE. Her research interests include transformations of societies in the Arabian Gulf and Slavic and Romance linguistics. Dr. Karolak has published journal articles and book chapters on the shifting gender relations, social media, culture and identity and political system transformations. She is the author of a monograph “The Past Tense in Polish and French: A Semantic Approach to Translation”.

Omar Adam Sayfo is a Ph.D. candidate at Utrecht University. His main research field is media and political propaganda in the Arab world. He is also a lecturer of media economics at the University of Debrecen (Hungary) and author of a number of popular articles on Arab media and politics.
Miodrag Stamboldziev is a graduate student in Modern Middle Eastern Studies with the Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Oxford.

Cornelia Zeineddin is a researcher in the Middle East Political and Economic Institute (MEPEI), Bucharest, Romania. She completed an LLM degree in International Human Rights Law at the University of Essex, United Kingdom, with a thesis on minorities issues in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries (GCC). Her current research focus is human rights and freedom of expression rights in the Middle East and especially Lebanon.

Mazhar Al-Zoby is Assistant Professor of culture and politics in the Department of International Affairs at Qatar University. His interests both in research and teaching focus principally on development, globalization, and social change: an area where culture, society and politics encounter historical transformation. While his research interest is the Middle East in general, his current research focus is the Arab Gulf region.