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978-0-521-13730-0 - The International Relations of the Persian Gulf

F. Gregory Gause, III

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## The International Relations of the Persian Gulf

Gregory Gause's masterful book is the first to offer a comprehensive, narrative account of the international politics in the Persian Gulf across nearly four decades. The story begins in 1971 when Britain ended its protectorate relations with the smaller states of the lower Gulf. It traces developments in the region from the oil revolution of 1973–74 through the Iranian Revolution, the Iran–Iraq War and the Gulf War of 1990–91, to the toppling of Saddam Hussein in the American-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, bringing the story of Gulf regional politics up to the end of 2008. The book highlights transnational identity issues, regime security and the politics of the world oil market, and charts the changing mix of interests and ambitions driving American policy. The author brings his considerable experience as a scholar and commentator on the Gulf to this riveting account of one of the most politically volatile regions on earth.

F. GREGORY GAUSE, III, is Professor of Political Science at the University of Vermont. During 2009–10 he is the Kuwait Foundation Visiting Professor of International Affairs at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. His previous publications include *Oil Monarchies: Domestic and Security Challenges in the Arab Gulf States* (1994) and *Saudi–Yemeni Relations: Domestic Structures and Foreign Influence* (1990).

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*For Gregory and Emma, who have waited too long*

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## Acknowledgments

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It is a pleasure to thank those who helped me as I was writing this book. I owe a great debt of gratitude to the late Arthur Ross and the Arthur Ross Foundation. Mr. Ross financially supported an earlier project of mine at the Council on Foreign Relations which turned into the book *Oil Monarchies*. When I had a sabbatical in the 2001–02 academic year to work on the present book, I turned to Mr. Ross again for support. He very graciously agreed to give me another grant to supplement my sabbatical salary. He was even more gracious when the events of 2001 postponed the completion of what I had thought would be a much shorter book. I also gratefully acknowledge the financial support of Columbia University, where I taught from 1987 to 1995, and the University of Vermont, where I have been on the faculty ever since. I received sabbaticals, leaves and travel grants from both institutions during which I worked on various aspects of this book.

I have been at this project since the end of the 1980s, when I thought it might be interesting to examine the Iran–Iraq War and the effects of the Iranian Revolution on the international politics of the Persian Gulf region. That was two wars ago, and events have conspired to extend this research much longer than I had originally intended. In those two decades I incurred a number of personal debts. I want to thank the people of the region – Iranians, Saudis, Iraqis, Kuwaitis, Omanis, Jordanians, Egyptians, Syrians, Bahrainis, Qataris and Emiratis – who received me on my research trips to their countries and in their diplomatic offices on my trips to Washington and New York. They educated me about their region. Many of them became friends. They are too numerous to mention here, but I am grateful to them all.

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## Note on the text and bibliography

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All translations are mine unless otherwise indicated.

Due to space constraints, there is not a full bibliography in this volume. Every source cited in the notes has a full bibliographic citation at its first mention in each chapter. Subsequent citations are in short form. A full bibliography along with a complete list of interviews conducted during the research is posted at [www.uvm.edu/~fgause/gulfbook\\_biblio.htm](http://www.uvm.edu/~fgause/gulfbook_biblio.htm).