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.

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For Gregory and Emma, who have waited too long
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Note on the text and bibliography

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.