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.

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F. Gregory Gause, III
For Gregory and Emma, who have waited too long
## Contents

*List of maps and tables*  
*Acknowledgments*  
*Note on the text and bibliography*  

1. The Persian Gulf as a security region  
2. The emergence of the Gulf regional system, 1971–1978  
3. The Iranian Revolution and the Iran–Iraq War  
4. The Gulf War and the 1990s  
5. 9/11, the Iraq War and the future of the Persian Gulf  
6. The Iraq War: American decision-making  
7. Conclusions: war and alliance in the Persian Gulf  

*Index*
Maps and tables

Maps
1 The Persian Gulf and the broader Middle East page 15
2 Iran–Iraq frontier 65
3 The Iraq–Kuwait border 103
4 Iraq’s provinces and major cities 169

Tables
1 Oil revenues of the Gulf states, 1969–1978 28
2 Nominal and real oil prices, 1974–1981 52
3 Results of Iraqi elections of 2005 163
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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, Omaniis, 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

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.