In this path-breaking and multi-layered account of one of the least explored societies in the Middle East, Nelida Fuccaro examines the political and social life of the Gulf port city and of its hinterland, as exemplified by Manama in Bahrain. Written as an ethnography of space, politics and community, it addresses the changing relationship between urban development, politics and society before and after the discovery of oil. By using a variety of local sources and oral histories, Fuccaro questions the role played by the British Empire and oil in state-making. Instead, she draws attention to urban residents, elites and institutions as active participants in state- and-nation building. She also examines how the city has continued to provide a source of political, social and sectarian identity since the early nineteenth century, challenging the view that the advent of oil and modernity represented a radical break in the urban past of the region.

NELIDA FUCCARO lectures on modern Middle Eastern history at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.
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Histories of City and State in the Persian Gulf

*Manama since 1800*

Nelida Fuccaro

University of London
In memory of Clinio
The past is not dead. In fact, it's not even past.
William Faulkner
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Note on transliteration and terminology

The transliteration for Arabic and Persian terms follows that of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. While diacritical marks have been omitted, the letters *hamza* and *‘ayn* are shown as ‘ and ’ in the text. The words *suq*, *shariah*, *mulla* and *qadi* appear in their common English spelling.

The geographical denomination ‘Persian Gulf’ or ‘Gulf’ (as opposed to ‘Arab Gulf’ or ‘Arabian Gulf’) is used throughout the book. The choice of terminology follows an established convention in the historiography of the region in the English language and carries no political connotation.

As some local informants interviewed for this study requested to maintain their anonymity, their names have been omitted from the references.
Glossary

‘amarah (pl. ‘amarat) warehouse
‘arish see barasti
‘asabiyah tribal solidarity
‘ashura’ anniversary of the death of Imam Husayn
a‘yan notables
Baharna Shi‘i Arab population
Baladiyyah municipality
Banyan Hindu merchants
barasti thatched hut
al-barriyyah uncultivated land
Bayt house/merchant mansion
Bayt al-Dawlah British Political Agency
dallal (pl. dallalun) broker
Dar al-Hukumah tribal government
farij (pl. firjan) urban quarter
al-fidawiyyah armed retinue of tribal leaders and of members of the ruling family
dissent/strife of religious nature
hala‘il villagers
Hasawi inhabitant of al-Ahsa’
Hawala mercantile group of tribal descent from southern Iran
‘imarah tribal principality
khums Shi‘i religious tax
majlis council/tribal council/reception room
ma‘tam Shi‘i congregation/house of mourning
Muharram the first month of the Islamic calendar
mujtahid Shi‘i cleric
xiv
Glossary

al-mazra'ah (also collective noun)   agricultural allotment/cultivated land
nakhudah               captain of a pearling boat
na'tur             municipal guard
qasr (pl. qusur)        tribal mansion/palace of a member of the ruling family
qassab (pl. gassabun)   butcher
shaykh               member of the ruling family/tribal leader/member of the religious establishment

shaykh al-ra'is (pl. shuyukh al-ra'is) chief Shi'i cleric of Bahrain
al-Shuyukh    the ruler of Bahrain
al-sukrah      collection of tribal tax following customary rights
al-tabu            land registration
tamthiliyyah   play enacting the killing of Imam Husayn
tawwash (pl. tawawish)   pearl merchant
waqf ja'fariyyah/al-sunnah (pl. awqaf)  Shi'i/Sunni pious foundation
### Abbreviations

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>AWDU</td>
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<td>BA</td>
<td>Bushehri Archive (Manama)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSQ</td>
<td>Da’irah al-Shu’un al-Qanuniyyah (Directorate of Legal Affairs, Manama)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HA</td>
<td>Hamza Archive (Manama)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IOR</td>
<td>India Office Records (London)</td>
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<td>IT</td>
<td>Idarah al-Tabu (Department of Land Registration, Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs, Manama)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MMBM</td>
<td>Mahadir li Majlis al-Baladiyyah (al-Manamah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MWT</td>
<td>Markaz al-Watha’iq al-Tarikhiyyah (Historical Documentation Centre, Rifa’, Bahrain)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRO</td>
<td>Public Record Office (London)</td>
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<tr>
<td>WIB</td>
<td>Wizarah al-Iskan wa al-Baladiyyat (Ministry of Housing and Municipalities, Manama)</td>
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1. The Persian Gulf and Bahrain in the regional context
Bahrain’s settlements

Modern settlements
- Umm Nassan Island
- Jiddah Island

Tribal settlements
- al-Dur
- al-Askar
- Rifa al-Qibli
- Rifa al-Sharqi
- Jidd Ali
- Jidd Hafs

Agricultural settlements
- al-Sakhir
- al-Zallaq

Historical towns and their suburbs
- Muharraq Island
- Manama
- Nabi Salih Island
- Umm Salam
- Jiddah Island
- Sitrah Island

- Modern settlements
- Tribal settlements
- Agricultural settlements
- Historical towns and their suburbs