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978-0-521-51435-4 - Histories of City and State in the Persian Gulf: Manama since 1800

Nelida Fuccaro

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Histories of City and State in the Persian Gulf

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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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.

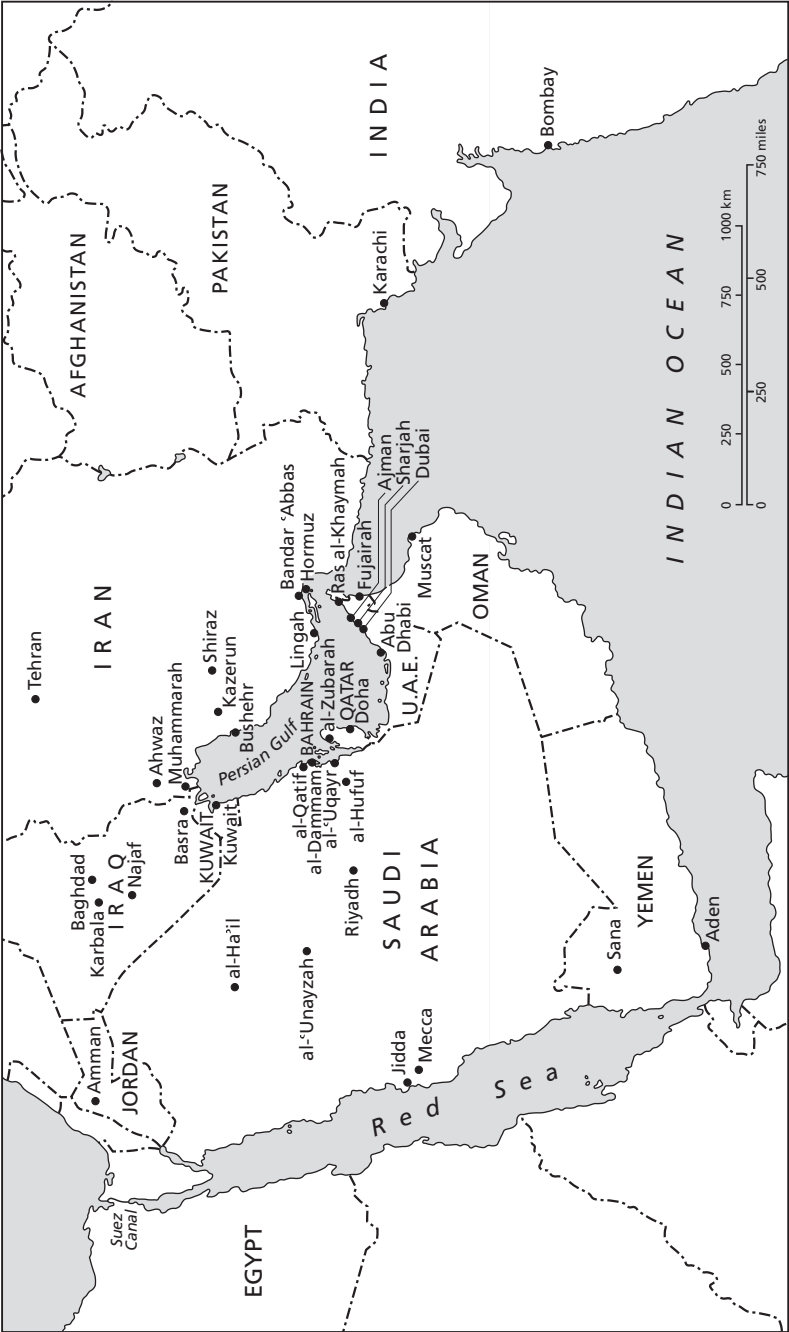
Glossary

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

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>al-mazra‘ah</i> (also collective noun) | agricultural allotment/cultivated land |
| <i>nakhudah</i> | captain of a pearling boat |
| <i>na’tur</i> | municipal guard |
| <i>qasr</i> (pl. <i>qusur</i>) | tribal mansion/palace of a member of the ruling family |
| <i>qassab</i> (pl. <i>qassabun</i>) | butcher |
| <i>shaykh</i> | member of the ruling family/ tribal leader/member of the religious establishment |
| <i>shaykh al-ra’is</i> (pl. <i>shuyukh al-ra’is</i>) | chief Shi‘i cleric of Bahrain |
| <i>al-Shuyukh</i> | the ruler of Bahrain |
| <i>al-sukhrah</i> | collection of tribal tax following customary rights |
| <i>al-tabu</i> | land registration |
| <i>tamthiliyyah</i> | play enacting the killing of Imam Husayn |
| <i>tarwwash</i> (pl. <i>tarwawish</i>) | pearl merchant |
| <i>waqf ja‘fariyyah/al-sunnah</i> (pl. <i>arwqaf</i>) | Shi‘i/Sunni pious foundation |

Abbreviations

| | |
|------|--|
| AWDU | Arab World Documentation Unit (Exeter, UK) |
| BA | Bushehri Archive (Manama) |
| DSQ | <i>Da'irah al-Shu'un al-Qanuniyyah</i> (Directorate of Legal Affairs, Manama) |
| HA | Hamza Archive (Manama) |
| IOR | India Office Records (London) |
| IT | <i>Idarah al-Tabu</i> (Department of Land Registration, Ministry of Justice and Islamic Affairs, Manama) |
| MMBM | <i>Mahadir li Majlis al-Baladiyyah (al-Manamah)</i> Minutes of Manama Municipal Council |
| MWT | <i>Markaz al-Watha'iq al-Tarikhhiyyah</i> (Historical Documentation Centre, Rifa', Bahrain) |
| PRO | Public Record Office (London) |
| WIB | <i>Wizarah al-Iskan wa al-Baladiyyat</i> (Ministry of Housing and Municipalities, Manama) |



1 The Persian Gulf and Bahrain in the regional context

