SAUDI ARABIA IN TRANSITION
Insights on Social, Political, Economic and Religious Change

Making sense of Saudi Arabia is today crucially important. The kingdom’s western provinces contain the heart of Islam, its two holiest mosques in Mecca and Medina, and it is the United States’ closest Arab ally and the largest producer of oil in the world. However, the country is undergoing rapid change: its aged leadership is ceding power to a new generation, and its society, which is dominated by young people, is restive. Saudi Arabia has long remained closed to foreign scholars, with a select few academics allowed into the kingdom over the past decade. This book presents the fruits of their research as well as those of the most prominent Saudi academics in the field.

The fifteen chapters in this volume focus on different sectors of Saudi society and examine how the changes of the last few decades have affected each. Many of the authors have conducted archival and fieldwork research in Saudi Arabia, benefiting from the recent opening of the country to foreign researchers. As such, the chapters reflect new insights from the field and provide the most up-to-date research on the country’s social, cultural, economic and political dynamics.

Bernard Haykel is a professor of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University where he teaches and researches the history and politics of Islam and the Arabian Peninsula. He has published Revival and Reform in Islam (Cambridge, 2003) and various articles on Islamic law, Salafism and al-Qaeda, among other subjects.


Stéphane Lacroix is associate professor of political science at Sciences Po, Paris, and research Fellow at the Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches Internationales. He is the author of Awakening Islam: The Politics of Religious Dissent in Contemporary Saudi Arabia (2011) named “Book of the Year 2011” on Foreign Policy’s Middle East Channel. He also co-authored Al-Qaida in Its Own Words (2008) and The Meccan Rebellion (2011).
Saudi Arabia in Transition

INSIGHTS ON SOCIAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC
AND RELIGIOUS CHANGE

Edited by

BERNARD HAYKEL
Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University

THOMAS HEGGHAMMER
Norwegian Defence Research Establishment

STÉPHANE LACROIX
Sciences Po, Paris
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