

Being Young, Male and Saudi

Although the position of Saudi women within society draws media attention throughout the world, young Saudi men remain part of a silent mass, their thoughts and views rarely heard outside of the Kingdom. Based on primary research across Saudi Arabia with young men from a diverse range of backgrounds, Mark C. Thompson allows for this distinct group of voices to be heard, revealing their opinions and attitudes towards the societal and economic transformations affecting their lives within a gender-segregated society and examining the challenges and dilemmas facing young Saudi men in the twenty-first century. From ideas and beliefs about identity, education, employment, marriage prospects and gender segregation, to political participation and exclusion, this study invites us to reconsider the future of Saudi Arabia as a globalized Kingdom.

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Identity and Politics in a Globalized Kingdom

Mark C. Thompson

*King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals,
Saudi Arabia*



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Abbreviations

AGSIW	Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington
CEDA	Council of Economic and Development Affairs
CoE	Colleges of Excellence
CPP	Aramco's College Preparatory Program
DTV	Dhahran Techno Valley
EI	Entrepreneurship Institute
GaStat	General Authority for Statistics
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	Gross domestic product
GEA	General Entertainment Authority
GEM	Global Entrepreneurship Monitor
GPA	Grade point averages
HR	human resources
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ITC	information and communications technology
KACND	King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue
KACST	King Abdullah City for Science and Technology
KAEC	King Abdullah Economic City
KAFD	King Abdullah Financial District
KASP	King Abdullah Scholarship Programme
KAU	King Abdulaziz University
KAUST	King Abdullah University of Science and Technology
KFCRIS	King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies
KFH	King Fahd Hospital
KFU	King Faisal University
KFUPM	King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals
KKF	King Khaled Foundation
KKU	King Khalid University
KPI	key performance indicator
KSU	King Saud University
KSYC	King Salman Youth Center

List of Abbreviations

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MBSC	Prince Mohammed Bin Salman College for Business and Entrepreneurship
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MGI	McKinsey Global Institute
MNC	multinational corporations
MoCI	Ministry of Commerce and Investment
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoH	Ministry of Housing
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoI	Ministry of the Interior
MoL	Ministry of Labor
MoSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
NGO	non-governmental organization
NTP	National Transformation Program
NWC	National Water Company
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PIF	Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund
PNU	Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University
PSU	Prince Sultan University
QU	Qassim University
REDF	Real Estate Development Fund
SABIC	Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation
SAMA	Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency
SAMI	Saudi Arabian Military Industries
SANG	Saudi Arabian National Guard
SAR	Saudi Arabian Riyal
SCTH	Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage
SEC	Saudi Electricity Company
SEU	Saudi Electronic University
SME	small and medium-sized enterprise
SMEA	Small and Medium Enterprise Authority
SOE	state-owned enterprise
SPA	Saudi Press Agency
STEM	science, technology, engineering and mathematics
SYLEP	Saudi Young Leaders Exchange Program
UAE	United Arab Emirates
ULC	University College London
VAT	value-added tax
WEF	World Economic Forum
WWE	World Wrestling Event

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