

India and the Gulf

India's foreign policy in the Gulf has undergone a significant transformation in recent years. From the oil boom of the 1970s to Narendra Modi's aggressive regional outreach after 2014, the density of India's interactions with the region in the form of migration, financial remittances, and trade has grown by multiple orders of magnitude. India has reconfigured its diplomatic and strategic ties with the Gulf states accordingly.

This volume examines the subject from a variety of theoretical lenses and methodological approaches. It treats a range of traditional and emergent themes in India's foreign policy in the Gulf region, including India's alignment choices, its strategic partnerships in the region, the paradiplomacy of Indian states in the region, and the competing political projects shaping India's outlook on the Gulf.

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Theoretical Perspectives and Policy Shifts

Edited by

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Preface

This pioneering volume provides a systematic treatment of India's Gulf policy from multiple thematic and theoretical angles. It seeks to address the mismatch between the Gulf region's economic and security importance to India and the dearth of academic attention paid to India's Gulf policy. Although several books and articles have been published on India's relations with individual Gulf states, few if any offer systematic treatments of India's Gulf policy as a whole. This volume also seeks to reconcile the study of India's Gulf policy with the disciplinary debates and questions that underpin the fields of international relations and foreign policy analysis. While much of the study of India's foreign policy remains atheoretical and isolated from broader theoretical and disciplinary conversations, this volume makes a conscious effort at bridging the divide. The editors have therefore conceived this volume as a collection of theoretically informed treatments of India's Gulf policy. The contributors were asked to consider and discuss the theoretical frames and methods that they employed in analysing the various aspects of India's Gulf policy. The volume, therefore, also serves as a practical guide for students of foreign policy analysis to applying theoretical and methodological tools to foreign policy.

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Harsh V. Pant and Hasan T. Alhasan

Abbreviations

ADNOC	Abu Dhabi National Oil Company
AIADMK	All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BJP	Bharatiya Janata Party
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
CCS	Cabinet Committee on Security
DMK	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam
FDI	foreign direct investment
FPA	foreign policy analysis
FTA	free trade agreement
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GDP	gross domestic product
HADR	humanitarian assistance and disaster relief
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IEA	International Energy Agency
IFCPA	Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act
IISS	International Institute for Strategic Studies
IN	Indian Navy
INC	Indian National Congress
INSTC	International North–South Transport Corridor
IOR	Indian Ocean Region
IOSCG	India–Oman Strategic Consultative Group
IR	international relations
JCPOA	Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action
KNRKWB	Kerala Non-Resident Keralites Welfare Board
MBS	Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al Saud

MBZ	UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
MDA	maritime domain awareness
MEA	Ministry of External Affairs
MIDAS	Missile Defence Alarm System
MMT	million metric tons
MOIA	Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
MoU	memorandum of understanding
NAM	Non-Aligned Movement
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NDA	National Democratic Alliance
NDMP	National Disaster Management Plan
NRI	non-resident Indian
NRC	national role conception
OIC	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
ONGC	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
OVL	ONGC Videsh Limited
PIOs	Persons of Indian Origin
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
RRPCL	Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd
SHADE	Shared Awareness and Deconfliction
SIPRI	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
SLOC	sea lines of communications
SRE	significant reduction exemption
TDP	Telugu Desam Party
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
US	United States
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
VGTI	Victorian Government Trade and Investment