



A History of Saudi Arabia

By Madawi al-Rasheed

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Saudi Arabia is a wealthy and powerful country which exerts influence in the West and across the Islamic world. Yet it remains a closed society. The author traces its history from the age of emirates in the nineteenth century to the present day. Fusing chronology with analysis, personal experience with oral histories, she illuminates the social and cultural life of the Saudis. This rich and rewarding book will be invaluable to students as well as others trying to understand the enigma of Saudi Arabia.

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"Madawi Al-Rasheed's critical reinterpretation of Saudi Arabian history is not only timely, it is provocative. It is informed by both excellent scholarship and a familiarity with the subject that comes from knowing it from the inside. Both sympathizers with and critics of the country will find their stereotypes of the Saudi reality challenged." F. Gregory Gause, III, University of Vermont

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"Al-Rasheed has written a strong general history of Saudi Arabia that at the same time offers analysis of selected narrower issues and phenomena." - Peter C. Valenti, New York University

About the Author

Madawi Al-Rasheed is Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology at King's College, University of London. Her publications include Politics in an Arabian Oasis (1991) and Iraqi Assyrian Christians in London (1998).

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