



Saudi Arabia: A Modern Reader

Edited by Winberg Chai, Ph.D.,
D.H.L., D.L.



Although many recent polemical books have been written, either criticizing the Saudi Kingdom and its relationship with the United States or praising the Kingdom for allying with the United States, none has tried to provide nonpartisan, up-to-date, and basic information about this important nation and its complicated relationship with the United States.

Saudi Arabia: A Modern Reader aims to fill this gap by providing readers with enough background, historical data, and contemporary information about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to provide American citizens and other English readers with the fundamental information they need in order to understand Saudi Arabia's key role in the Middle East and to form their own opinions about its present and future relationship to the United States.

The book's editor, political scientist Dr. Winberg Chai, provides in his introduction a concise overview of this largely unknown Kingdom for American readers, from its geography and history to its contemporary role in the "war on terrorism." He then selects important documents, journalists' articles, political leaders' public statements, and academic essays that illuminate the unique character, development, modernization, and contemporary troubles facing the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The editor's criteria for selection have been relevance and readability. The editor has tried not to abridge selections, in order to maintain the sense of the original.

The *Reader* is divided into four parts: US-Saudi Relations; Saudi Arabian Modernization; War Against Terrorism; and Current Background and Statistics. It also includes a useful appendix and glossary that will help readers readily access definitions of terms they may not be familiar with. This *Reader* offers a fascinating and illuminating portrait of the powerful forces of continuity as well as change in this important country, an essential United States ally in the Middle East today.

Dr. Winberg Chai is a professor of political science at the University of Wyoming. He is the author and editor of more than twenty books. Dr. Chai has traveled extensively in the Middle East, including frequent visits to Saudi Arabia over the course of more than three decades. He currently serves as Executive Editor of *Asian Affairs: An American Review*, a scholarly journal published by Heldref Publications of Washington, D.C.



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1400 East Hanna Avenue

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lin@uindy.edu

(317) 788-3480 (fax)