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## THE GULF REGION AND ISRAEL

Old Struggles, New Alliances

## SIGURD NEUBAUER

Foreword by Professor Houchang Hassan-Yari Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman

Neubauer paints a compelling portrait of the political and geopolitical intrigue.... — Dr. Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, Rice University's Baker Institute

Sigurd Neubauer's book... provides valuable insight and unique firsthand sources into some of the most complex and politicized events related to the Gulf dispute.... — Mary Beth Long, Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs.

Neubauer... has written an easily accessible book that is must read for anyone, even those with only a cursory interest in a part of the world that too often impacts the lives of those far beyond its boundaries. — James Dorsey, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University.

The Qatar dispute is the greatest divisive issue between the states of the Arabian peninsula.... At the same time, the increasing involvement of Israel with various Gulf states is moving from the shadows into the clear. Sigurd Neubauer is one of the few people who can link these two

Abderrahim Foukara, Washington Bureau Chief, Al Jazeera Arabic

developments in an accessible form. — David Des Roches, Associate Professor, National Defense University, Washington, DC Sigurd Neubauer Sigurd Neubauer's The Gulf Region and Israel: Old Struggles, New Alliances is a notable addition to scholarship on a part of the world which continues to be relatively under-covered despite its increasing influence regionally and on the world stage. —

The President's message was clear: The first plank is that Saudi Arabia and Israel would serve as co-pillars of the U.S. security architecture for the broader Middle East. The second plank sought to expedite the collapse of Iran's economy as part of an effort to strengthen Washington's standing vis-à-vis Tehran. The third plank focused on solving the Israel-Palestinian conflict. These dynamics would help set the stage for the renegotiation of the Iran agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. Trump's vision, however, faced immediate resistance—from some of Washington's own Gulf partners. Sigurd Neubauer examines the overlooked and widely misunderstood roles in this feud.

The Gulf crisis has shattered the widely held preconception that Israel and the Gulf states are drawing closer because of their shared animosity towards Iran and its regional agenda. While the Gulf states and Israel are indeed drawing closer, it is not primarily driven by fear of Iran but rather by inter-GCC rivalry, including in Washington, where an inexperienced administration had to dedicate significant political capital to solve the Gulf crisis.

