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CRS Report for Congress: Saudi Arabia: Current Issues and U.S. Relations: July 8, 2002 - IB93113

By Alfred B. Prados

BiblioGov. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 22 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. Saudi Arabia, a monarchy ruled by the Saudi dynasty, enjoys special importance in the international community because of its unique association with the Islamic religion and its oil wealth. Since the establishment of the modern Saudi kingdom in 1932, it has benefitted from a stable political system based on a smooth process of succession to the throne and an increasingly prosperous economy dominated by the oil sector. Decrees by King Fahd in March 1992 establishing an appointive consultative council and provincial councils and promulgating a basic law providing for certain citizens rights could signal a gradual trend toward a more open political system. Since late 1995, King Fahd has suffered increasingly from ill health, and Crown Prince Abdullah has assumed many routine governmental functions. The upsurge in oil prices that began in 1999 has relieved pressure on Saudi budgets but created concern in the U. S. Administration and Congress. In March 2000, Members of Congress introduced legislation to reduce or end U. S. assistance or arms sales to countries engaged in oil price fixing. The United States and Saudi Arabia have...



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