

The Persian Gulf

Iran's Role

By ROUHOLLAH K. RAMAZANI, *University of Virginia*. xi, 150 pp., maps, apps. \$7.50

With the British departure from the Persian Gulf in 1971 this oil-rich, strategic, and conflict-ridden zone of the Middle East has become a new center of world politics. Both superpowers profess a hands-off policy, but the author argues that their stakes are too high to take their avowals seriously. The superpower rhetoric of noninvolvement, however, appeals to Iran, which is the strongest military power in the Gulf area, the prospective leading oil producer, the closest American ally, and the only Gulf neighbor of the Soviet Union. Iran has aspired to play a leading role in the Persian Gulf since ancient times, but only now does it seem to have the power to do so. The author compares Iran's perspective, capability, and policy with those of the Gulf and non-Gulf Arab states of the Middle East. He cautions that any assessment of Iranian capability to play an effective role in the future security of the Persian Gulf must take note not only of the deep-seated Arab-Iranian conflict but also of the dilemma of maintaining political stability within Iran. In examining alternative security arrangements in the Persian Gulf, the author suggests that the kind of role that Iran will be able to play in the area will also depend on the nature and development of Iranian nationalism and on the regional and international environments as these affect the Persian Gulf as a whole.

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ENGLISH TRANSLITERATION SYSTEM

CONSONANTS

Column Headings: A = Arabic, P = Persian, OT = Ottoman Turkish, MT = Modern Turkish

A	P	OT	MT	A	P	OT	MT	A	P	OT	MT
ع	'	'	—	ث	zh	j	j	ك	—	g	g
ب	b	b	b or p	س	s	s	s	ل	l	l	l
—	p	p	p	ش	sh	ş	ş	م	m	m	m
ت	t	t	t	ص	ş	ş	ş	ن	n	n	n
th	s	s	s	ض	đ	ž	ž	ه	h	h ³	h ³
j	j	c	c	ط	ṭ	ṭ	t	و	w	v or u	v
—	ch	ç	ç	ظ	z	z	z	ي	y	y	y
ه	h	h	h	ع	gh	gh	g or ğ	ة	-a ¹		
kh	kh	h	h	غ	gh	gh	g or ğ	ال	-a ²		
d	d	d	d	ف	f	f	f				
dh	z	z	z	ق	q	k	k				
r	r	r	r	ك	k	k or ñ	k or n				
z	z	z	z			or y	or y				
						or ğ	or ğ				

¹ (-at in construct state)
² (article) al- and 'l-
³ (when not final)

VOWELS

ARABIC AND PERSIAN	OTTOMAN TURKISH	MODERN TURKISH
<i>Long</i> ا or آ â	â { words of Arabic }	â
و û	û { and Persian }	û
ي î	î { origin only }	î
<i>Doubled</i> ع iyy (final form î)	iy (final form î)	iy (final form î)
و' uww (final form û), etc.	uvv	uvv
<i>Diphthongs</i> او au or aw	ev	ev
اي ai or ay	ey	ey
<i>Short</i> ا a or e	a or e	a or e
و u or ü	u or ü	u or ü
و o or ö	o or ö	o or ö
ي i or i	i or i	i or i

For Ottoman Turkish, authors may either transliterate or use the modern Turkish orthography. Articles submitted in French and German may be transliterated according to the systems common in those languages.

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