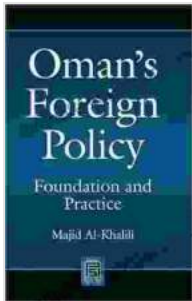


Oman's Foreign Policy: A Comprehensive Guide



Oman's Foreign Policy: Foundation and Practice (Praeger Security International) by Majid Al-Khalili

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1818 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 184 pages



Oman's foreign policy has long been characterized by its neutrality, non-alignment, and mediation. This approach has served the country well, allowing it to maintain good relations with both its neighbors and the major powers. However, Oman's foreign policy is now facing a number of challenges, including the rise of regional instability and the growing influence of Iran.

Historical Roots of Oman's Foreign Policy

The roots of Oman's foreign policy can be traced back to the country's strategic location at the mouth of the Persian Gulf. For centuries, Oman has been a crossroads for trade and commerce, and its rulers have been adept at playing off the major powers to maintain their independence.

In the 19th century, Oman came under the influence of the British Empire. The British established a protectorate over Oman in 1892, and the country remained under British control until 1971. During this period, Oman's foreign policy was closely aligned with that of the United Kingdom.

Key Principles of Oman's Foreign Policy

Since independence, Oman has pursued a foreign policy based on the following key principles:

- **Neutrality:** Oman has traditionally avoided taking sides in international conflicts. This policy has allowed the country to maintain good relations with both its neighbors and the major powers.
- **Non-alignment:** Oman is not a member of any military alliance. This policy gives the country greater freedom to pursue its own independent foreign policy.
- **Mediation:** Oman has a long history of mediating disputes between other countries. The country's neutral status and good relations with both the Arab world and the West make it well-suited for this role.
- **Regional security:** Oman is committed to maintaining peace and stability in the Gulf region. The country has played a leading role in promoting regional cooperation and dialogue.

Current Challenges to Oman's Foreign Policy

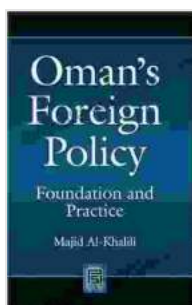
Oman's foreign policy is now facing a number of challenges, including:

- **The rise of regional instability:** The Middle East is currently experiencing a period of great upheaval. The Syrian civil war, the rise

of ISIS, and the ongoing conflict in Yemen have all had a destabilizing impact on the region.

- **The growing influence of Iran:** Iran is a major regional power with a long history of rivalry with Oman. Iran's support for Shia militias in Iraq and Yemen has raised concerns in Oman about the threat of Iranian expansionism.
- **The changing role of the United States:** The United States has been a key security partner for Oman for decades. However, the Trump administration's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and its decision to move the US embassy in Israel to Jerusalem have raised concerns in Oman about the future of US-Omani relations.

Oman's foreign policy is facing a number of challenges. However, the country has a long history of adapting to change and maintaining its independence. Oman's commitment to neutrality, non-alignment, and mediation will continue to be the cornerstones of its foreign policy in the years to come.



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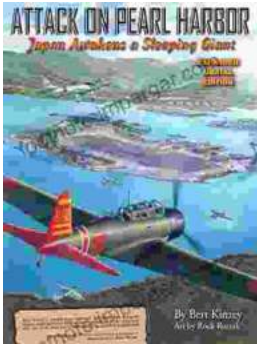
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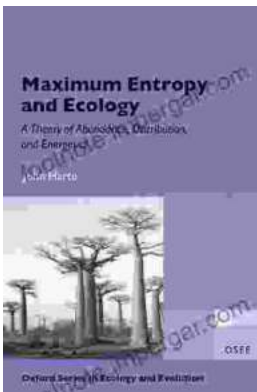
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