



Oil and Labor in the Middle East: Saudi Arabia and the Oil Boom

Peter N. Woodward

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Based on the author's first-hand research and experience in Saudi Arabia, this monograph presents a highly readable account of the internationalization of the Middle East's labor force during and after the oil boom of 1973-83. Written from the perspective of an active participant rather than that of an academic observer, *Oil and Labor in the Middle East* analyzes the expatriate workers' world and the multinational companies employing them. It will prove particularly valuable to readers -- business executives, workers, government representatives, and labor leaders -- involved in the exchange of labor across national borders..

Woodward demonstrates that the treatments influx of foreign workers into the Middle East during the oil boom created a complex supranational world of people and corporations -- and an inevitable clash of cultural, economic, and political perspectives. He explores facets of the expatriate experience that have received little treatment elsewhere: the labor pyramid, the relationship between expatriate and host country labor force, the commercial/industrial environment, bargaining position and risk, and the governments of countries sending labor overseas. Finally, Woodward examines individual considerations critical to the decision to become an expatriate worker: personal motivation, living conditions, cultural differences, salaries, and the value of savings.

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