

Saudi Inc.: The Arabian Kingdom's Pursuit of Power and Profit

A Book Review

By [James M. Dorsey](#)

Global Research, September 20, 2018

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [History](#), [Oil and Energy](#)

[Ellen R. Wald](#)'s timely, well-written history of the Saudi national oil company, [Saudi Inc. The Arabian Kingdom's Pursuit of Power and Profit](#) (Pegasus Books, 2018), is as much the story of the Saudi oil industry as it is of the ruling Al Saud family's reliance on black gold to ensure the survival of its regime.

In painting a picture of the Al Saud's long-term strategy to build up over decades the know-how and expertise needed to run an oil industry and their determination to ultimately after almost half a century take over ownership in a legal, orderly, commercial transaction, Wald contrasts the kingdom's approach in colourful and painstaking detail with nationalisations as they occurred in Iran and elsewhere in the Middle East.

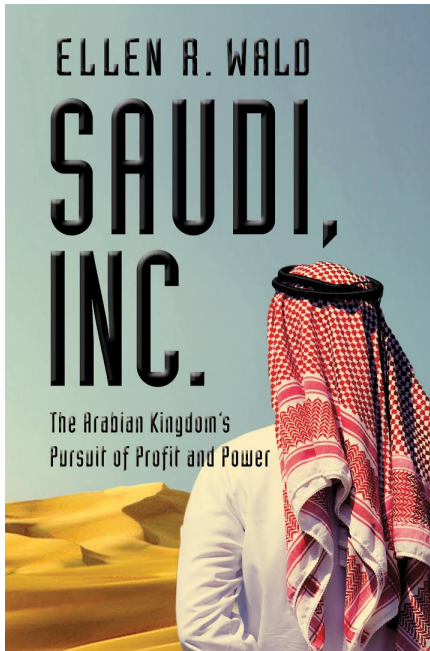
It is also the story of a US government that increasingly saw Saudi oil as crucial to its post-World War Two global military operations and was determined to ensure that American oilmen, despite their arrogant underestimation of Saudis whom they saw as Bedouins and willingness to bend the truth to enhance their profit margins, were sufficiently accommodating to avoid British mistakes in Iran that resulted in nationalisation and a US-British backed coup to roll back the Iranian takeover.

Wald's book provides essential background for the role that the Saudi Arabian Oil Company better known as Aramco plays in Saudi **Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman**'s effort to ween the kingdom off its dependency on oil revenues and diversify its economy. It is essential reading for anyone interested in the kingdom's future as one of the world's foremost oil producers at a time of significant economic change.

*

Note to readers: please click the share buttons above. Forward this article to your email lists. Crosspost on your blog site, internet forums. etc.

***James M. Dorsey** is a senior fellow at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.*



Title: Saudi, Inc.: The Arabian Kingdom's Pursuit of Profit and Power

Author: Ellen R. Wald

Publisher: Pegasus Books; 1 edition (April 3, 2018)

ISBN-10: 168177660X

ISBN-13: 978-1681776606

[Click here to order.](#)

.
. .
. .

The original source of this article is Global Research
Copyright © [James M. Dorsey](#), Global Research, 2018

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [James M. Dorsey](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are

acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca