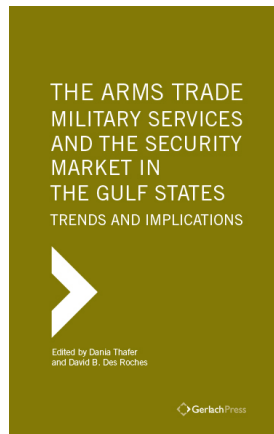


David B. Des Roches and Dania Thafer (eds.)

THE ARMS TRADE, MILITARY SERVICES AND THE SECURITY MARKET IN THE GULF STATES: TRENDS AND IMPLICATIONS



Publication Date: 2016/08

HC 176 pages
HC ISBN 9783959940160
HC price 75 EUR 68 GBP 94 USD
eBook ISBN 9783959940177
eBooks available from JSTOR, Proquest & Ebsco



All prices are net prices (without VAT)
exclusive of postage & handling

Bibliographic record available from
<http://d-nb.info/1104276860>

The Gulf is in the first rank of potential global flashpoints. It is the largest market for weapons imports in the world, and is considered to be a vital interest of all the great powers. Iran is viewed as an expansionist threat by the Arab states of the Gulf, who have built considerable militaries in a historically short timeframe.

Security in the Gulf, however, is a complicated matter. The Arab states of the Gulf have pursued different defense policies as well as different ways of building up their forces. In some instances, the establishment of a strong military is not just a way to ensure security, but also a way to build a national identity. In other cases, great powers (such as the United States) seek to promote cooperation between the Arab Gulf militaries as an interim step to promote political reform and integration.

The essays in this volume examine a broad range of issues in Gulf security. Security is a complex and subjective matter – the various perspectives in this volume combine to form a holistic view of a challenging and evolving topic.

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