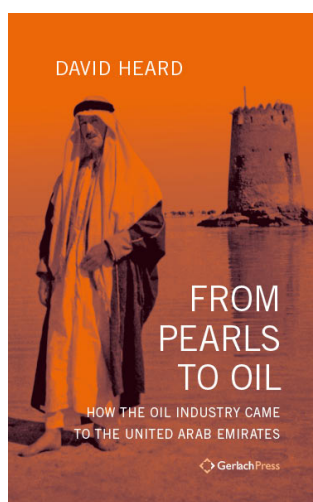


David Heard

FROM PEARLS TO OIL

How the Oil Industry Came to the United Arab Emirates

With a New Foreword by the Author



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This book is about the experiences of the pioneers who visited the Trucial Coast on behalf of the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) subsidiary. These men were the first foreigners to carry out surveys in the barren mountains of the north of the Trucial States and the sand dune desert of Abu Dhabi.

This book and all my subsequent volumes are based on the oil company files which contain the reports and correspondence of these pioneers. 'From Pearls to Oil' briefly introduces the reader to the early history of the oil industry in the Middle East. In those days, the 1930s, it was dominated by the Anglo Iranian Oil Company, operating only in Iran, and the Iraq Petroleum Company (IPC) operating in much of Arabia with the exception of Bahrain, Kuwait and much of Saudi Arabia. The British Government of India was the regional power, aloof and domineering, keeping a watchful eye on the oil men, the chief actors in the following tale of rivalry and intrigue.

With rare photographs and maps alongside the author's in-depth narrative, this book is a great asset for scholars, residents and visitors interested in the history of the United Arab Emirates.

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About the Contributor(s)

David Heard CBE studied physics and geology before joining Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company in 1963. Working for more than a decade as a petroleum engineer he participated in the discovery of oil in the Abu Dhabi desert. Thereafter he was for more than two decades the Representative of the same company in Abu Dhabi.