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About the Contributors

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Said Al Bimani joined the Royal Air Force of Oman in 1989 and graduated as an officer in 1993. He graduated as a fighter pilot in 1995. He was the commander of the Basic Flying Training Squadron from 2012–2015, Deputy Base Commander from 2016–2019, and Air Power Director in 2018. He retired as a Colonel in 2021 and Joined Qatar Emiri Air Force as an Aviation Ground School lecturer. Said holds a Graduate Diploma of Strategy in Defense Studies from the Australian Command and Staff College, a Master's degree in Strategy and Policy from the University of New South Wales (Australia, 2010), a Graduate Diploma in Strategic Studies from the Air War College, (Al, USA), Executive MBA from Faulkner University (U.S), Master degree in Political Science from Auburn University at Montgomery (U.S), and he is in his third year of Ph.D. Program in Gulf Studies at Qatar University.

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Matthew Gray is a professor at the School of International Liberal Studies (SILS), Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan. Prior to taking up this position in September 2016, he spent over 11 years based at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra, Australia. He has also held visiting positions at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia at the University of Tokyo, Japan,

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Saif Al Maamari is a professor of social studies and citizenship education at College of Education/Sultan Qaboos University. He hold a PhD from Glasgow University/Uk in 2009. His research interests including citizenship education, global citizenship in higher education, curriculum theories, Education in GCC countries, civic education, and social studies education. He granted several awards, most notably first place for the Khalifa Educational Award in 2022, the Distinguished Research Group Leader Award at the College of Education, SQU, for the years 2018, 2020, 2021, the Glorious Researcher Award at the College of Education 2020, the Most Influential Researcher in Educational Sciences in Arab World In 2021, he was ranked 29th out of ten thousand researchers, in 2022 it was ranked 39th out of more than 13,000 researchers. He has been published many articles in Arabic and English about the state of citizenship education and intercultural education in Oman, GCC countries and Arab countries.. He published 15 books about citizenship, Education, development and political participation. He worked as a consultant for different national and international institution and Organizations such as Carnegie Middle East Center Carnegie and UNISCO. In addition, he is columnist in some newspapers in Oman and gulf counties focusing on the educational and political transformations.

Francis Owtram holds a PhD in International Relations from the London School of Economics and is an Honorary Research Fellow at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter. He is the author of *A Modern History of Oman: Formation of the State since 1920* (IB Tauris, 2004) and has contributed articles on Oman's modern history, politics and foreign policy to the Qatar Digital Library, Arabian Humanities, and the LSE Middle East Centre.

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Rafiah Al Talei is the editor in chief for *Sada* in Carnegie's Middle East Program, where her research focuses on civil rights, women's issues, and political developments in the Gulf. She has over twenty-five years of experience in Omani and international media networks, and most recently held the position of senior producer in the Public Liberties and Human Rights Center at Al Jazeera Media Network. She holds a Ph.D. degree on Gulf Studies, Qatar University. Al Talei also has held fellowships at Stanford University, Syracuse University, and the National Endowment for Democracy, and was awarded a certificate from Harvard Kennedy School on Public Narrative: Leadership, Storytelling and Action. She has conducted research on women's issues with Freedom House and with the International Council for Research and Exchange (IREX). She is a former candidate for parliament in Oman (Majlis Al-Shura) and frequently speaks on media freedom and women's empowerment in the Gulf.

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Lakshmi Venugopal Menon is a doctoral candidate at the Gulf Studies Program, Qatar University. She was previously a Qatar History Instructor at University of Doha Science and Technology, and a Research Associate at the National Institute of Advanced studies, Indian Institute of Sciences. Her research areas include cultural heritage and politics in the Gulf, Afghanistan, and migration. Her thesis is on Trafficking of Cultural Antiquities in the Gulf region. Her recent publications include “The US should not worry about China-Gulf relations”, *Al-Jazeera*, April 2023; and “Tujjar in the Gulf: Changes in Political Influence”, (book chapter) in *Social Change in the Gulf region*, 2023.”

Mahjoob Zweiri is a Professor in Contemporary Politics and History of the Middle East with focus on – Iran and Gulf region – at Qatar University, he is the former director of Gulf Studies Center as well. He was the Head of Humanities Department 2011-2016. Before joining Qatar University in 2010, Professor Zweiri was senior researcher in Middle East Politics and Iran at the Center for Strategic Studies, University of Jordan. He was also a visiting professor to School of Government & International Affairs at Durham University. From March 2003-December 2006 he was a research fellow and then a director of the Centre for Iranian Studies in the Institute for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at Durham University. Professor Zweiri has more than 90 publications in the areas of Iran and Contemporary Middle East History and Politics, Gulf Studies and Social Sciences in the University of the future and the AI, Social Sciences. In addition to Arabic, Professor Zweiri is fluent in Farsi and English.