



منتدى الخليج
Gulf International Forum

GIF Newsletter

July 2018, Volume 3

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REMINDER: Upcoming Conference:

The Inaugural Gulf International Conference

"The Future of a Disrupted Gulf Region: Old Tensions, New Paradigms, & Emerging US Challenges"

Washington, DC
SEPTEMBER 25

THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB | GULFI.COM | @GULFINTFORUM

In the decades after the end of foreign domination, much of the greater Middle East witnessed numerous ethnic, religious and territorial conflicts. However, the Arab Gulf region has remained during this period an oasis of relative stability. Yes, this region too has seen its share of violence, with the 1980-90 Iran-Iraq War, the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait, Desert Storm and constant turmoil in Yemen as the most notable examples. Reacting to the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran War and in an effort to maintain a "Pax Arabia" at least within their narrow region, the six Arab Gulf states formed the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in 1981. In the first decades following the establishment of the GCC, the Gulf States concentrated on maintaining domestic and regional stability and building their economies. When they did extend power abroad they generally used financial, social, religious and diplomatic tools. All this changed with the so-called "Arab Spring" which saw the Gulf States, largely under a new generation of leadership, inserting themselves into Libya, Syria, and Lebanon, while also banding together to protect one of their own during Bahrain's iteration of the Pan-Arab protest movement. [Read More](#)

Save the Date!

When:

Tuesday, September 25th, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.

Location:

National Press Club
Ballroom Hall

529 14th St, NW 13th floor, Washington, DC.

More information to be announced!

Analysis



Challenges and Results of the United States Withdrawal from Iran Nuclear Deal on Gulf Cooperation Council

There is a general consensus among political sociologists that for any major decision in

international affairs, there are going to be extreme, yet disparate reactions from the international community. Big or small, far or near, each nation is forced to react, a fact only made more apparent when that decision is announced by a major country, such as the United States. Nowhere has this been more apparent than in President Trump's recent decision to withdraw from the JCPOA, (more commonly known as the Iran Nuclear agreement), a move that sparked a widespread reaction in the Gulf, Iran and elsewhere. Naturally, given the Arab Gulf's proximity to Iran, the GCC states have a strong reason to care about the withdrawal's political, economic, social and military repercussions. [Read More](#)

Review of the Gulf Cooperation Council's Efforts to Introduce a Value-Added Tax

Undertaking efforts to diversify their economies away from a reliance on oil, and in response to a recent decrease in oil prices, the GCC



(Gulf Cooperation Council) member states responded to the advice of taxation experts from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and agreed to institute a 'modern' value-added tax (VAT). The GCC-wide agreement was signed in 2016, with a vague implementation date set for 2018. However, despite this deadline, only two GCC members, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), have actualized this agreement into a taxation reality. As it relates to the other GCC member nations, varying degrees of progress towards instituting the tax laws have taken place. Given the region's status as a tax-free haven is a large part of what has made the Gulf a destination for expatriates and multinational businesses, such a large shift in the region's taxation practices should not be taken lightly. [Read More](#)



Closing the Strait of Hormuz: Empty Threat or Imminent Reality?

The repercussions of the Trump administration's decision to withdraw from the JCPOA and re-impose economic and trade sanctions on Iran have resulted in a new threat to energy market

security. Last week several Iranian officials threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz in response to the U.S. sending State Department delegations to Iranian oil-buyers, warning them of the sanctions for dealing with Iran, part of an overall effort to reduce Iranian oil exports. The threat was made straight and blunt by a hardline member of parliament, followed by President Rouhani who responded amidst a visit to Europe. Later, the head of Iran's IRGC Quds Brigade, Lieutenant General Qassim Soleimani, sent a message to Rouhani hailing his threat and reiterated the readiness of his forces to execute, a rare show of unity between reformist President Rouhani, and the hardliner General Soleimani. [Read More](#)

Saudi Iranian OPEC Compromise Brings Hope for Lower Oil Prices

Last Saturday, U.S. President Donald Trump agreed with Saudi King Salman to boost Saudi oil exports to 2 million barrels per day (bpd), the agreement came one week after OPEC's 14-member nations held a long-awaited meeting following months of marathon oil diplomacy. The organization announced it had reached an agreement to increase oil production by one million (bpd), a compromise between Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Iran. The proposed production change is part of a Saudi-Russian scheme that aims to lower oil prices in response to increased demand from China and India, in addition to the US's call for lower prices. Prior to the meeting, Iran and Venezuela rejected the proposal because of the perceived pressure from the U.S, calling for OPEC to be neutralized from politics. While KSA, Kuwait, and the UAE, (backed by Russia), considered the increase of output a crucial step in protecting oil markets from another price shock, the announced increase is a mild appeasement for the global demand of oil. [Read More](#)





Implications of Erdogan's Presidential Win on the Gulf Region

Today, Turkey's incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was sworn in as the first President of Turkey to be granted extended powers following the constitutional

amendments that were approved in April 2017. Erdogan was re-elected to a five-year presidential term after receiving nearly 53% of votes.[1] In a high voter turnout reaching about 86%, President Erdogan's sweeping win saved him from needing to contest a runoff, as he secured the absolute majority threshold of 50%. Erdogan's main competitor in the presidential elections, Muharrem Ince, conceded following reports of the initial results.[2] During the campaign, Muharrem promised to work to restore good relations between Turkey and its neighbors, including the Assad government in Damascus,[3] a major shift from Erdogan's foreign policy. The results of the election will likely not change Turkey's position toward the ongoing turbulences in the Gulf region –the Gulf Crisis, JCPOA and the war in Yemen. [Read More.](#)

The Historical Role of Women in Oman's Development

To understand strides made by Omani women, look no further than inspiring historical figures and opportunities provided by the nation's seafaring past. Throughout modern history,



western writers, journalists, and pundits have portrayed women of the Middle East in sweeping, static, and monolithic terms. Without benefit of either fieldwork or serious inquiry, women of "the Orient" have been characterized in fiction, popular lore, and the mainstream media as faceless, submissive victims, at the mercy of their male counterparts.

[Read More](#)

Opportunities

Position Title: Internship Program

Period: Fall 2018

Job Summary:

Gulf International Forum is offering a fall training opportunity for distinguished students and graduates. Internship programs are designed to help interns learn about the Gulf region through research/analysis and event planning. A cover letter is required stating why you would like to intern with us and what interests you in Middle East studies, particularly the Gulf region. There is a \$500 monthly stipend for the internship. Interested applicants, please send an updated resume and cover letter to info@gulfii.com.

Two Internship Programs Available:

Please indicate which program you are applying to in your cover letter.

(1) Events and Social Media

The internship will provide a training opportunity to advance interns skills in pre-event preparations and post-event documentation. Specific training experiences may include, but are not limited to:

- Learn how to prepare all event-related tasks, which includes -but not limited to- printouts, venue logistics before and during the event day, taking photos and check-in participants.
- Learn how to promote GIF's events and activities.
- Assist in managing GIF social media accounts according to GIF standards for social media and information dissemination.
- Assist in editing for all events related materials.

Desired Skills:

- Undergraduate or recent graduate
- Strong analytical and critical thinking skills
- Strong communication and presentation skills
- Flexibility to work extra hours to fulfill event preparation requirements
- Ability to work well in teams
- Previous experience working on small or medium scale events preferred
- Strong negotiation skills
- Diligent, dependable and hard working
- Detail Oriented

(2) Research Assistant Intern (2 positions)

The internship will provide a training opportunity to advance interns research skills by providing assistance and support for the organization's research and publications initiatives. However, given this is a start-up organization, the training opportunity may vary as the organization further develops. Specific training experiences may include, but are not limited to:

- Learn how to monitor news trends on social media and promote organizations in social media.
- Home editing skills, developing, and producing print and electronic promotional/informational material for the institute, including, but not limited to the website, press releases, newsletters, reports and other publications.
- Learn how to plan and execute events.
- Learn in other areas of organization based on demand.

Desired Skills:

- Degree in liberal arts, public policy, political science, or related field.
- Interest in the Gulf and Middle East region required.
- Strong attention to detail.
- Strong research and analytical skills.
- Excellent written and communication skills
- Ability to proactively multitask and prioritize.



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