

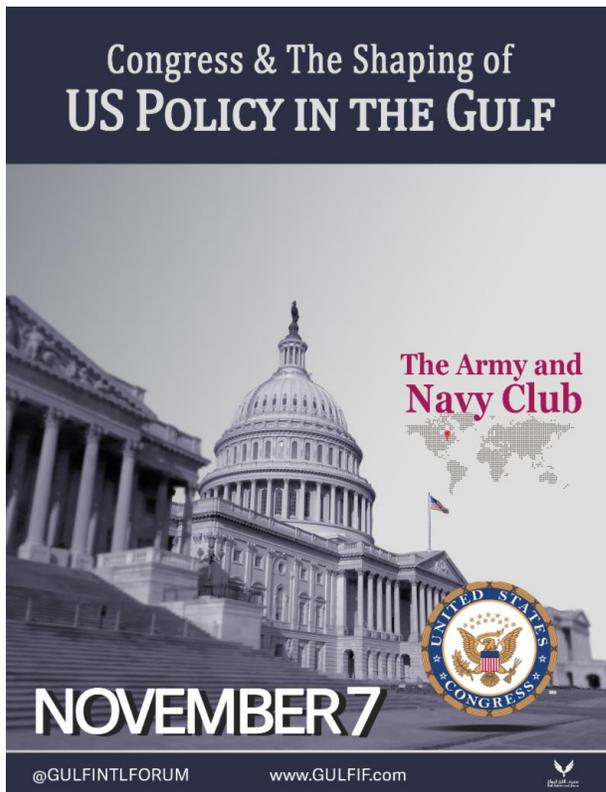
GIF Newsletter

November 2018, Volume 5

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Upcoming Event - Save the Date!

Wednesday, November 7th, 2018 from 12:00 p.m. till 2:00 p.m.



With each new Congress or presidential administration, new questions emerge regarding which aspects of United States foreign policy are under the purview of the executive and legislative branches of government. 2018 has been no exception and has been typified by foreign policy dilemmas, such as the JCPOA, the murder of Jamal Khashoggi and the Qatari Crisis drawing unexpected attention to the Gulf region in particular. The United States again finds itself in an environment where nearly every issue, whether foreign or domestic, is intensely polarizing. The long-running war in Afghanistan, instability amongst allies in the Middle East, as well as refugee crises in Syria, Yemen and Burma each in their own ways contribute to forming the tendencies of those whom Congress is (ideally) most beholden: the American voter.

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Location:

The Army & Navy Club
901 17th St, NW, Washington, DC.

Click [here](#) for directions.

More information to be announced!

ANALYSIS

Oman: Israel's Door to the Muslim World?



On October 25, Israeli Prime Minister (PM) Benjamin Netanyahu became his nation's third PM to visit the Sultanate of Oman. Netanyahu's trip to Muscat built on a bilateral relationship that has remained intact, even if quiet, since Omani

and Israeli representatives first made unofficial contact in 1993 while at the UN Headquarters in New York. While in the Sultanate, Netanyahu, who was accompanied by the head of the Mossad intelligence agency, his national security adviser, and other senior officials, discussed the Middle East's stalled peace process with Oman's leadership.

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The Khashoggi Affair: MbS, Trump & Erdogan

The firestorm surrounding the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi bodes ill for the US-Saudi relationship. In particular, this event will affect the personal relationship between the Crown Prince and the Trump Administration.



The growing bipartisan support for a rethinking of the US-Saudi relationship will not please a president who appears to become personally embarrassed when his party shifts from him. Washington, however, is not the only capital where Khashoggi's murder is threatening its foreign relations status quo. The lack of a convincing response from the Saudis to the investigative conclusions that assassinating Khashoggi was a premeditated operation has handed Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan a proverbial 'Get-Out-Of-Jail-Free Card' for his current problems with Washington, and a leg-up over Riyadh in the public-image game.

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The New Battlefield: Cyber Security Across the GCC



In the past decade, the Gulf region has become increasingly digitalized as its respective nations seek to modernize their societies in order to achieve economic diversity. Naturally however, through increased digitalization comes greater

vulnerability to cyberspace hackers. Thus, the aim of this research is to assess the GCC's ability to handle emerging cyber-threats to its technology-reliant infrastructure. Through the study of various scholarly publications, data, news articles, and government documents, it is evident that there are inconsistencies among the GCC countries resulting in varying levels of cyber-readiness. It appears that the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, and Qatar are relatively better equipped than Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Kuwait to handle emerging cyber threats, such as those originating from Iran.

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Qatar Enacts Favorable Immigration Laws

Qatar recently announced a series of reforms related to the legal status of the countless expatriates who live and work in the country. In doing so, Qatar became the first of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member nations to officially offer



a path to permanent residency for expatriates, create a national legal framework for political asylum, and abolish the controversial exit-visa requirement. These three major alterations to Qatar's expat-related domestic policy were likely motivated by two factors: the ongoing Gulf crisis, as well as Qatar's upcoming role as the host of World Cup 2022. A byproduct of these reforms will be the enhancement of rights for women and laborers relative to their counterparts in other GCC states. However, while the new laws are a tangible sign of progress for both of these groups, the reforms' restrictive nature leaves their struggles incomplete. In spite of this, these reforms, however imperfect, offer an opportunity for advocates of reform to leverage these small gains into significant improvements.

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The Inaugural Gulf International Conference Highlights



GIF's Inaugural Gulf International Conference, "The Future of a Disrupted Gulf Region: Old Tensions; New Paradigms and Emerging US Challenges," took place on October 16, 2018. The conference panels discussed the changes to oil markets, impacts of Trump Administration decisions, Political Islam, Media Freedom and issues involving Women & Youth. The conference saw upwards of 350 attendees, who came from diverse backgrounds including policymakers, students, diplomats, businesspersons, and academics from the US and the Gulf region. We are pleased with its reception in Washington D.C, and we look forward to building on the event's success as we leave our mark on objective analysis of the Gulf Region.

Watch Panel 1:

How did we Get here and Where is the Region Going?





Watch Panel 2
The Gulf Headed Towards a Post-Oil Era



Watch Panel 3:
Trump's America and the Region



Watch Panel 4:
**Free Media & Expression:
Suppressed or Triumphant?**



Watch Panel 5:
**The Ticking Time Bomb:
Youth & Gender Issues**



Watch Panel 6:
**The Region's Future: Political
Islam or Secularism**

Internship Opportunities

Period: Spring 2019

Position Title: Unpaid Internship

Job Summary:

Gulf International Forum is offering a 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. 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.

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- (1) Events and Social Media Intern. [Read more.](#)
 - (2) Research Intern. [Read more.](#)



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