

# Oman



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出版者:

出版时间:2009-6

装帧:

isbn:9780231700887

Though Sultan Qaboos overthrew his father as ruler of the state of Oman in 1970, few expected the new leader to thrive. Sultan Qaboos was an unfamiliar figure, and Oman was a poor country plagued by civil war. Nevertheless, Sultan Qaboos cemented his rule through a policy of national unification, an assimilation of all of Oman into an oil rentier state framework, and an embodiment of the state in the person of the sultan, who was later heralded as an incarnation of Oman's "renaissance." Based on years of hands-on research, Marc Valeri treats the political career of Sultan Qaboos as a case study of the social and political mechanisms of authoritarianism in postcolonial states. He examines the way in which Sultan Qaboos built and constantly renewed his base in order to meet internal and external challenges to his power. Valeri also considers what happens when one part of this model, namely an oil-rent economy, falters, and the privileges enjoyed by half the population are no longer tenable. Expanding his focus beyond the state of Oman, Valeri then evaluates the strategies adopted and challenges faced by other Arab monarchies in Morocco, Jordan, and the Persian Gulf.

作者介绍:

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