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Security in the Persian Gulf: Modernization, Political Development and Stability

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eyes . . . as an unwelcome development requiring that Riyadh choose between its commitments to the Arab states and its ties with Washington. Under the circumstances, there was little doubt that the Saudis would opt to disappoint the American government. Indeed, a clear thread running through the book is the limited ability either the United States or Saudi Arabia has to substantially influence the other's major policy decisions. Quandt stresses in his conclusions the importance for the United States to realize that despite their wealth the Saudis are really not a first-rate power and that Washington will fail if we attempt to press Riyadh to go beyond the consensus reached by the Arab nations on any important issue. Similarly, he emphasizes that Saudi Arabia's future will largely be determined by its relationship with the United States and that this fact can be ignored in America only at our peril.

In sum, this book is a useful contribution to the available literature on Saudi-American relations. While probably of modest value to the scholar, it would be of interest to the general reader as an introduction to the subject and of particular importance to policy-making officials and to those that advise them.

BENSON L. GRAYSON
Middle East Horizons

Plascov, Avi. *Security in the Persian Gulf: Modernization, Political Development and Stability*. Totowa, N.J.: Allenheld, Osmun, 1982. 183pp. \$10

Avi Plascov's aim is to assess the nature and magnitude of domestic sources of conflict. Quite rightly, he both perceives Islam as forming the pillar of legitimacy within states of the Persian Gulf and places it as a potentially destabilizing force in the Gulf. It is only since the Iranian Revolution that the danger of instability to existing regimes

through Islamic fundamentalist movements has gained momentum.

The introduction of modernization, which entails Westernization, threatens Islam's legitimacy, and this has led to fervent reactions. Events such as the Grand Mosque Incident (1979) in Saudi Arabia are protests against the secularization of the ruling dynasty.

The many growing pains of modernization in traditional societies circle around the relationship between the regime and its subjects. The course of changing a predominantly rural society into an urban industrial one causes extreme difficulty, especially for the masses, in reconciling spiritual fundamentalism with materialism.

To conclude, the author asks whether free economic enterprises can be both divorced from notions of Western political order and avoid being pushed towards revolutionary Marxism or reactionary Islam. He uses the example of Iran to warn the West that it could be forced to deal with hostility in the Gulf toward Western-implemented industrialization.

ALVIN J. COTTRELL
Washington, D.C.

Levie, Howard S. *Protection of War Victims: Protocol I to the 1949 Geneva Conventions*. Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.: Oceana, v. III, 1980, 565pp., v. IV, 1981, 535pp. \$45 apiece

Roberts, Adam, and Guelff, Richard, eds. *Documents on the Laws of War*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1982. 498pp. \$34.50 paper \$17.95

The first books are the concluding volumes of Professor Levie's compilation of the negotiating record of the diplomatic conference which, meeting in Geneva from 1974 to 1977, produced two protocols additional to the Geneva