

Kuwait Programme on Development, Governance and Globalisation in
the Gulf States public lecture

After the Arab Spring: the Gulf monarchies in an age of uncertainty

Dr Christopher Davidson

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Author, After the Sheikhs: the coming collapse of the Gulf monarchies

Dr Kristian Ulrichsen

Chair, LSE

Suggested hashtag for Twitter users: #LSEDavidson

LSE events

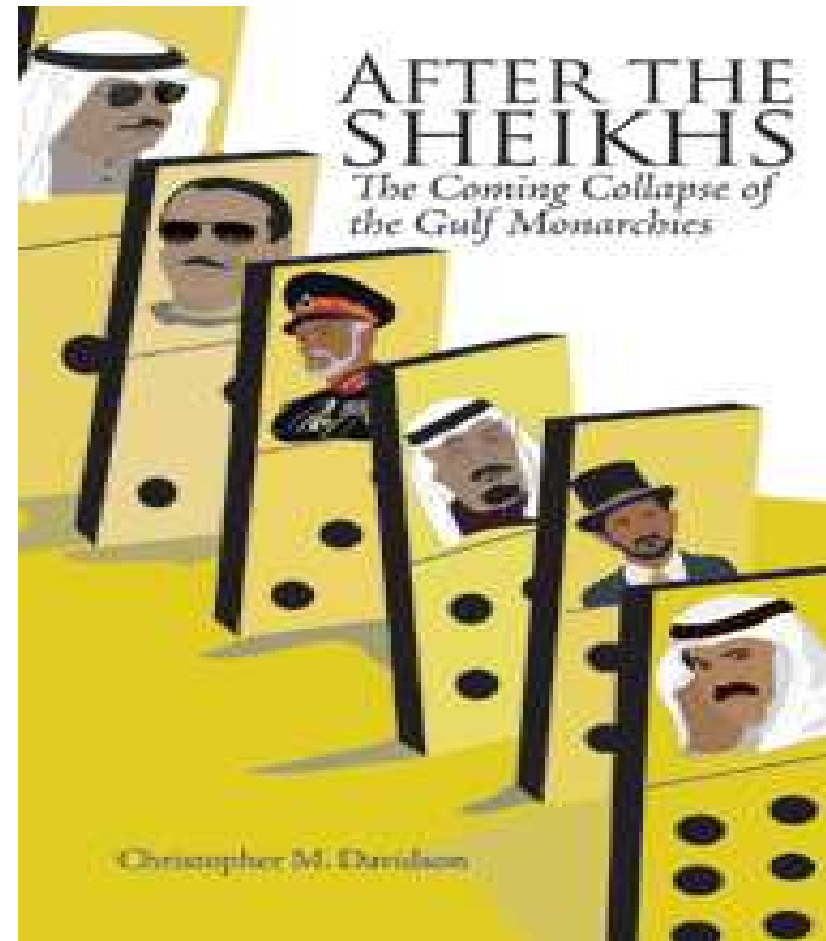


After the Sheikhs: The Coming Collapse of the Gulf Monarchies

Christopher Davidson PhD.

Introduction

- The revolutions that never came
- Explaining monarchical survival
- Further explanations?



State Formation

- Origins of the Gulf monarchies
- Britain and the early order
- Independence and state formation
- Economic development trajectories



Explaining Survival: Domestic Matters

- Distributing wealth
- National elites
- Co-opting expatriates
- Cults of personality
- Heritage and history
- Co-opting religion
- Environmental credentials



Explaining Survival: External Matters

- Development assistance and international charity
- Active neutrality: peacekeeping and mediation
- Soft Power in the West: strategic investments and development assistance
- Soft Power in the West: cultural institutions
- Soft Power in the West: financing universities and manipulating research
- Soft Power in the East: China and Japan

Mounting Internal Pressures

- Resources, Populations, and Subsidies
- Voluntary unemployment
- Squandering wealth
- Poverty and real unemployment
- Discrimination, statelessness, and sectarianism
- Censorship and limiting expression

Mounting External Pressures

- Welcoming foreigners and eroding legitimacy
- Western bases and armaments
- Antagonising Iran
- Israel: the unholy alliance
- Division and disunity
- Interference and coups d'état

The Coming Collapse

- Evolving opposition
- Modernising forces
- Countering the Arab Spring: the wrong side of History
- Bahrain: rage and revolution
- Oman: protests and promises
- Saudi Arabia: the cracks appearing
- Kuwait: 'The People's Spring'
- United Arab Emirates: opposition emerges
- Qatar: champion or charlatan?



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