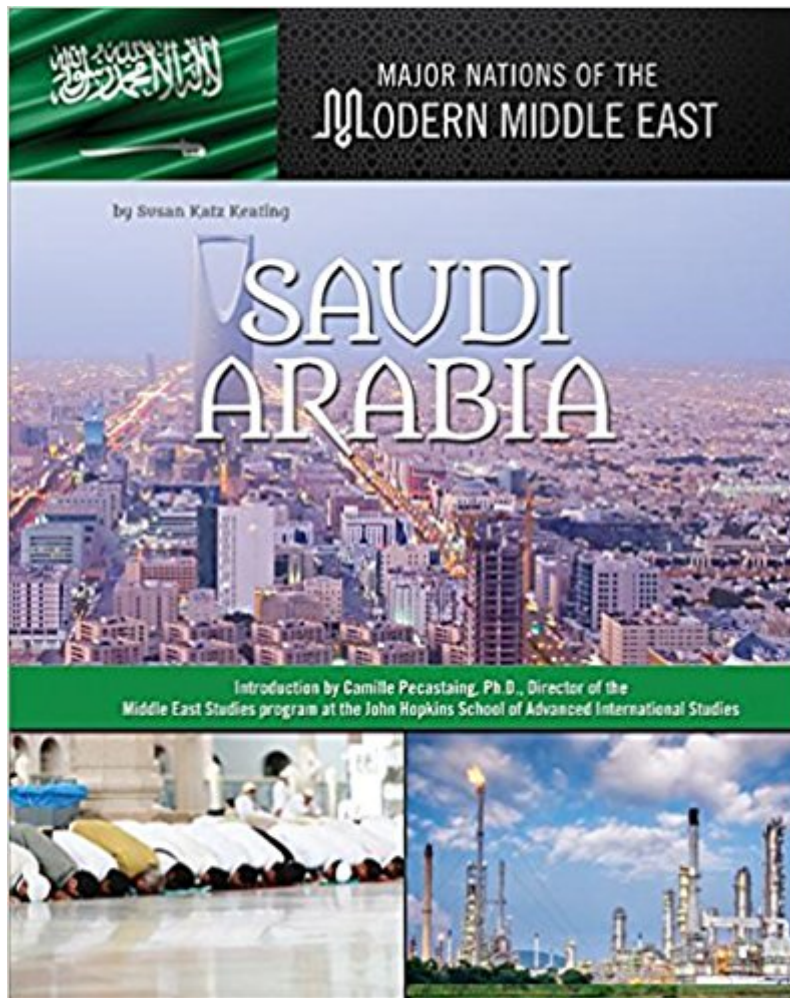




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Synopsis

Saudi Arabia is one of the most important states in the Middle East, as well as the larger Muslim world. The birthplace of Islam's prophet, Muhammad, the kingdom is also home to some of that religion's most sacred places, including the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. As custodian of key Islamic traditions, Saudi Arabia enjoys a leading status among its Muslim neighbors. But as the world's largest exporter of oil, it also has forged strong relationships with Western states, including the United States. Saudi Arabia's government is based on a strict interpretation of Islamic law, in which women have few rights and harsh punishments are imposed on those who do not conform to the law. Since the 1930s, the ruling al-Saud family has held all political power. In January 2015, Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud succeeded his half brother as king of Saudi Arabia, but the new ruler is as unlikely as his predecessors to all greater freedom or democracy in the kingdom. Each title in this series contains color photos, maps, timelines and graphics that will help student readers put events into historical and present day perspective as well as back matter including: an index, further reading lists for books and internet resources, and a series glossary. Mason Crest's editorial team has placed Key Icons to Look for throughout the books in this series in an effort to encourage library readers to build knowledge, gain awareness, explore possibilities and expand their viewpoints through our content rich non-fiction books. Key Icons are as follows: Words to Understand are shown at the front of each chapter with definitions. These words are then used in the prose throughout that chapter, and are emboldened, so that the reader is able to reference back to the definitions- building their vocabulary a

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Gr 7 Up-Previously published in two editions as "Modern Middle East Nations and Their Strategic Place in the World" (2003) and "Major Muslim Nations" (2010), this set has been minimally revised. Changes include some new information about the momentous events and changes that have roiled the region and its governments in the last decade, updated statistics, and new photos. Books are objective and well written and cover standard geographic topics such as history, land, peoples, religions, political organizations, economic structures, foods, and celebrations. Each has several maps, which is a plus, and the large photos are attractive. War, terrorism, and political turmoil have radically altered the customs, religions, and populations of many Middle Eastern countries. Because the revisions don't reflect many of those changes, this set's content is rapidly becoming dated, reducing its value as a report resource. VERDICT Of limited use. (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

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