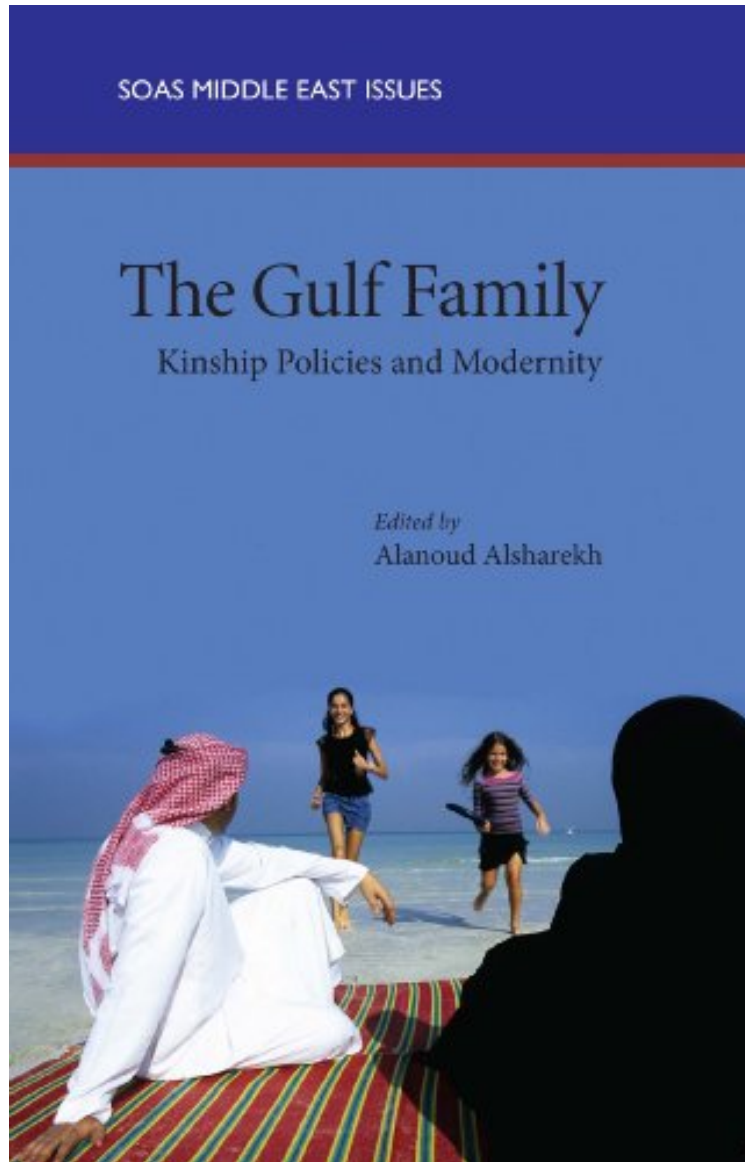


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The six Arab States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are all monarchies, but their societies, economies and politics are organised primarily through kinship, in the form of extended families and tribes. No other region in the world consists of states so traditional in their organisation, developing at rates well above global averages, are ultra-modern in many other regards. The book examines the paradox of the persisting importance of family and tribe in the face of modernisation. It evaluates past and present roles of kinship in the GCC states, assesses the impacts of change, and speculates on likely future patterns of social, economic and political organisation. Contributors include Shaikha Hind bint Salman al-Khelifa, Salwa al-Khateeb, Fred H. Lawson, Mandana Limbert, James Onley, J. E. Peterson, Jean-François Seznec and Ali al-Tarrah.

About the Author Dr Alanoud Alsharekh is a member of the Advisory Council of the London Middle East Institute at the School of Oriental and African Studies and a consultant for the United Nations Development Fund for Women. She is one of the few individual recipients of a Middle East Partnership Initiative grant and is currently working as a consultant for UNIFEM.