



Journal of Arabian Studies: Arabia, the Gulf, and the Red Sea

Civilian Nuclear Development in the Arabian Peninsula: Prestige, Energy, and Iran

Yoel Guzansky*

In:

Journal of Arabian Studies 5.1 (June 2015) pp. 67–81

For full article see:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/21534764.2015.1050879>

Published online: 21 Aug 2015.

Abstract: The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia seem likely to become the first Arab states to develop fully functioning civilian nuclear programmes. Their motivations stem from considerations of prestige and identity, energy concerns, and as an answer to the threat emanating from Iran. This article considers their particular motivations, aims, and obstacles, and the potential, or lack thereof, for a shift from a civilian to a military programme. Although Iran's nuclear pursuit is probably the primary impetus, it is not the only one, and any conclusion to the Iranian question is not likely to reverse such endeavours.

* Senior Research Fellow at the **Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)**, Tel Aviv University, and a scholar at the School of Political Sciences, Haifa University, Israel