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brought to the fore the importance of local efforts and grassroots struggles. Those stories are not left out here, but serve mostly to support the roles of the leading actors. But Kotz's story is that of these courageous leaders and their fight for critical legislation, a tale he tells extraordinarily well.

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Inside the Mirage: America's Fragile Partnership with Saudi Arabia *by Thomas W. Lippman. Boulder, CO, Westview Press, 2004. 390 pp. Cloth, $27.50; paper, $17.50.*

Thomas W. Lippman is rare among American journalists. Rather than collecting anecdotal factoids, he undertakes extensive travel and exposure to a particular topic before analyzing his subject in a cogent volume that earns authority. As a veteran reporter for the *Washington Post*, with serious knowledge of the Middle East, oil, and energy matters, as well as national security, he is eminently qualified to decipher the "mirage" that is Saudi Arabia. In the aftermath of September 11 and amid the deeply flawed analyses that now flood academia as well as the media at large, Lippman's gaze inside the Kingdom is a breath of fresh air.

This well-written study, peppered with keen insights, provides a solid introduction to Saudi Arabia. It discusses how our desire to gain a foothold over Arabia's oil resources has motivated successive private and public sector officials to forge semi-permanent alliances with the Al Saud since 1932. For the erudite Lippman, these initiatives came about for the sake of convenience, rather than as a result of any political or cultural affinity. In fact, and as the subtitle of the book indicates, the relationship has almost always been superficial. Our bargain with Arabia was for oil (later conveniently supplemented by petro-dollars and arms sales) rather than as a result of cultural bonds that forged close ties between our two peoples.

To his immense credit, Lippman masterfully deciphers what changed in Saudi Arabia and, to a lesser extent, how America essentially abandoned Riyadh after the 2001 terrorist acts. For generations, young Saudi men (as well as a few women) learned to admire American values, adopted some of the American work ethic, and tolerated eclectic "foreigners" working at various Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) facilities throughout the Kingdom. Although the ARAMCO story is well known, Lippman affixes a human dimension to its actions and, more important, demonstrates how the company served as an American model. Toward that end, he correctly identifies ARAMCO excesses—pretending that Saudi oil was in reality "ours" to dispose of as we wished because we helped discover it—while clarifying its more enduring legacies, including the empowerment of an entire pro-American Saudi generation. In an equally courageous move, Lippman tackles thorny policies that transformed this pro-American legion as it became less enamored with America, but not with its enduring values.

The author persuasively argues that the Saudi preference to import American technology while rejecting our sociopolitical norms may well have contributed to the current schism. Lippman posits that by encouraging the spread of and reliance on religion, the Saudis preserved short-term stability while planting the seeds of extremism. In turn, the author reasons, these preferences challenged the status quo within Saudi Arabia. The major test came in 1979, when extremist elements took over the Makkah Mosque and, according to then-U.S. Ambassador Richard Murphy, the Al Saud decided that "no one would outflank them on the right" (p. 210). Although the Al Saud were awakened by this epoch-making episode, scores of religiously inclined men sought protection and salvation under the Islamic cloak.

Few Americans—out of ignorance as well as convenience—ever felt comfortable broaching the critical religion question about Islam and its growing politicization. The American-Saudi oil-for-security compact skirted a cultural divide, because both sides were satisfied with superficial links. Washington was pleased when Riyadh cast its "lot with the United States" (p. 279), pumped as much oil as possible to meet the growing Western appetite, and overlooked policy excesses. Riyadh, for its part, bore equal responsibility for this divide because it categorized the United States as a morally wanting society, although the latter's military might was deemed useful against reactionary Arab and Muslim States.

Lippman concludes his study with an honest assessment of the post-September 11 relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia. He quotes several Saudis who realize that fanaticism is their greatest enemy and who correctly identify education reforms as the highest priority. He further analyzes how political reforms will alter critical internal checks and balances between Saudis and their rulers. Even as he quotes former U.S. Ambassador Charles Freeman—revealing that "the Kingdom's slogan should be 'Progress Without Change' [allegedly] because that seemed to be the objective" (p. 313)—Lippman recognizes the tremendous strides made by successive Saudi rulers in propelling an ostensibly tribal society into the modern era. The author's subtle discourse, at times incredulous but more often admiring, reveals a sense of amazement at what has been accomplished, and especially at how the Saudi–American relationship served the latter's imperial interests. Nevertheless, for Lippman as for others, the time may well be at hand to forge a new alliance that builds on oil for security, one that avoids fear, fosters tolerance, encourages entrepreneurship, and enriches the cultural heritage of both America and Saudi Arabia.

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Enforcing the Peace: Learning from the Imperial Past *by Kimberly Zisk Marten. New York, Columbia University Press, 2004. 208 pp. $27.95.*

Few issues have received as much attention in the post-Cold War study of international security as nation building. From Bosnia and Kosovo in the