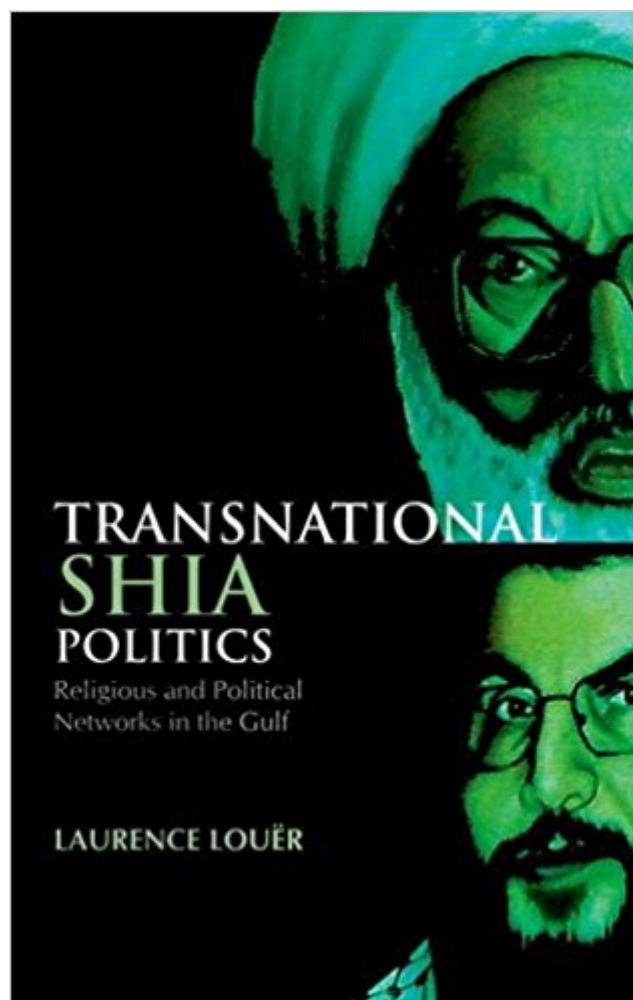




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Transnational Shia Politics: Religious And Political Networks In The Gulf (Series In Comparative Politics And International Studies)



Synopsis

This book illuminates the historical origins and present situation of militant Shia transnational networks by focusing on three key countries in the Gulf, Kuwait, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, whose Shia Islamic groups are the offspring of Iraqi movements. The reshaping of the area's geopolitics after the Gulf War and the fall of Saddam Hussein in April 2003 have had a profound impact on transnational Shiite networks, pushing them to focus on national issues in the context of new political opportunities. For example, from being fierce opponents of the Saudi monarchy, Saudi Shiite militants have tended to become upholders of the Al-Sa'ud dynasty. The question remains, however, how deeply in society have these new beliefs taken root? Can Shiites be Saudi or Bahraini patriots? Louer concludes her book by analysing the transformation of the Shia' movements' relation to central religious authority, the marja', who reside either in Iraq and Iran. This is all the more problematic when the marja' is also the head of a state, as with Ali Khamenei of Iran, who has many followers in Bahrain and Kuwait.

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Customer Reviews

"This is an especially coherent and informative book."--Foreign Affairs
"Louer is supremely qualified to write on the countries where Shiites constitute significant portions of the population ... Highly recommended."--Choice

Laurence Louer is Research Fellow at CERI/SciencesPo in Paris. She has served as a permanent

consultant for the Policy Planning Department of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (CAP) since 2004 and as co-editor-in-chief of Critique internationale since 2006. Her research focuses on the politics of identity and ethnicity in the Middle East. She is the author of two other Hurst titles: Shiism and Politics in the Middle East (2012) and To Be An Arab In Israel (2007).

Well written, as if information was handpicked... worth every penny.

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