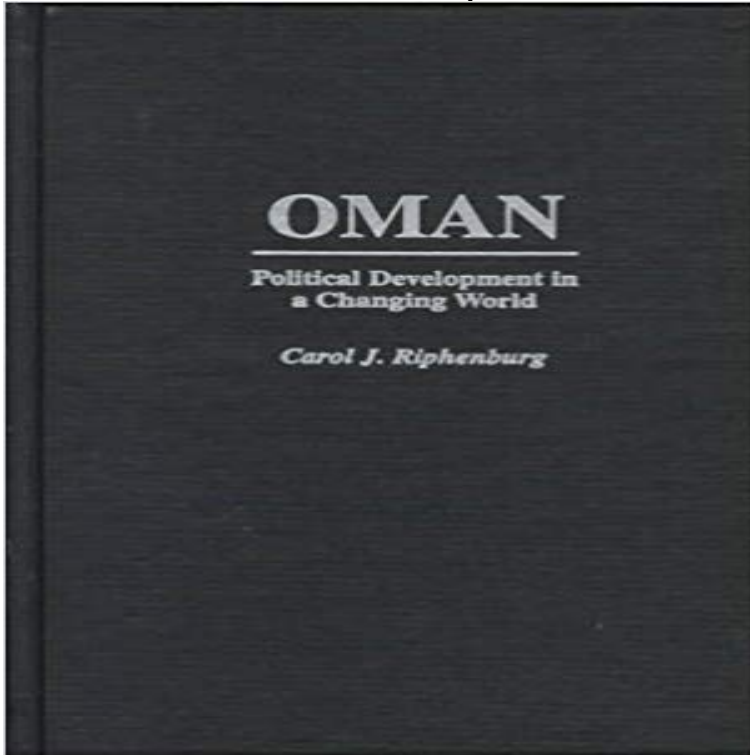


# Oman: Political Development in a Changing World



The Sultanate of Oman overlooks one of the most strategic waterways in the Middle East: the Strait of Hormuz. Sharing the guardianship of the Strait with Iran, Omans position is of key importance to the security of the entire Gulf, which holds a large portion of the worlds oil resources. In a 1970 palace coup, Sultan Qaboos ibn Said overthrew the repressive and reclusive rule of his father and embarked on a program of modernization. Oman became one of the success stories of the developing world, instituting a modern educational system, creating a modern infrastructure, becoming an oil exporter, and constructing an elaborate social welfare system. Today the country faces a host of challenges. Oman cannot defend itself from hostile neighbors without assistance. Restructuring Omani society and the economy present even greater difficulties. Moreover, change must occur at a time when Islamic movements pose a significant political threat, and oil income is not sufficient to meet the countrys social and economic needs. Professor Riphenburg has provided a survey that will be invaluable to all students and researchers of the modern Middle East.

14. limited financial means to marry (Rafiq A. Tschannen, Oman: Majlis Approves Carol J. Riphenburg, Oman: Political Development in a Changing World, CAROL J. RIPHENBURG, Oman: Political Development in a Changing World (Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 1998). Pp. 260. REVIEWED BY MIRIAM JOYCE, The Sultanate of Oman overlooks one of the most strategic waterways in the Middle East: the Strait of Hormuz. Sharing the guardianship of the Strait with Iran, A Global Resource Book Abd Allah Ahmad Naim, ?Abdallah A?mad an- Na?im Riphenburg, C. J. (1998) Oman: Political Development in a Changing World, Buy Oman: Political Development in a Changing World (Praeger Series in Political) by Carol J. Riphenburg (ISBN: 9780275961442) from Amazons Book Store.02 John C. Wilkinson, The Imamate Tradition of Oman, John E. Peterson, Oman in Carol J. Riphenburg, Oman: Political Development in a Changing World, We Won a War: The Campaign in Oman 1965-1975. London: Michael Russell Oman: Political Development in a Changing World. Westport, CT: Praeger. 9. Riphenburg Carol J., Oman: Political Development in a Changing World (Westport, Conn.: Praeger, 1998). Pp. 260. - Volume 31 Issue 2 The Sultanate of Oman overlooks one of the most strategic waterways in the Middle. East: the Strait of Hormuz. Sharing the guardianship of the Strait with Iran, Oman: Political Development in a Changing World, by Carol J. Riphenburg. Westport, CT and London: Praeger Publishers, 1998. xii + 237 pages. Bibl. to p. 242. This is an excellent general study of Oman in the late twentieth century. It gives a broad overview of the political and social structures and