Brownies And Kalashnikovs A Saudi Woman S Memoir Of American Arabia And Wartime Beirut

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the awacs debate represents one of the most critical and controversial events in the history of american diplomacy and legislative politics it locked the reagan administration and opponents of the awacs sale in a fierce and pitched battle over american policy in the most economically and strategically vital region in the world the middle east accordingly laham finds there are at least five political lessons to be drawn from the debate first contrary to the arguments of its critics in congress the pro israel lobby does not control american policy in the middle east second the senate tends to defer to the authority of the president on matters of foreign policy and national security third while remaining a passive president overall reagan was among the most active of chief executives on issues involving the economy and national security fourth given the enormous contribution the awacs sale made to the vital

economic and national security interests of the united states reagan s masterful handling of this politically explosive issue provides evidence that he displayed attributes of presidential greatness but much further study of the other major foreign and domestic policy issues reagan confronted during his tenure in office will be required before any definitve judgment can be rendered concerning where he stands in the ranking of america s 42 presidents fifth the awacs debate shows that the united states need not sacrifice its special relationship with israel in order to forge stronger ties with saudi arabia this analysis will be of particular interest to scholars students and policy makers involved with national security issues presidential politics interest groups and middle east studies

in this provocative and readable volume eleven leading constitutional authorities challenge business as usual in american foreign policymaking for far too long they contend americans have acquiesced to presidential claims to sweeping executive powers in foreign affairs thanks to imperial minded presidents a weak willed congress and neglectful scholars these authors forcefully argue that the president is not the supreme crafter of foreign policy and that congress must provide more than a rubber stamp for the president s agenda unilateral presidential control of foreign relations they warn can pose a grave threat to our nation s welfare and is simply without constitutional warrant combining constitutional theory with keen historical insights these authors illuminate the roots of presidential abuse of executive power and remind us of the past and potential costs of such disregard for our unique system of checks and balances an essential guide for all concerned citizens and members of congress this volume should help revive a proper understanding of this crucial dimension of american democracy

this meticulously researched book provides a timely and absolutely indispensable guide to the nations of the persian gulf on which the west s security and oil supplies critically depend their political regimes and policies their economies and the mind sets of their leaders but it does more than that dr kelly one of the world s leading authorities on the modern history of arabia and the gulf for the first time tells the full story of how the west s supine policies deliberately pulled us out of the region and thus led inevitably to the dangerous power vacuum that now exists in the world s most important strategic area the author also shows that one cannot fully understand the dangerous situation in which the west now stands with regard to its oil supplies without understanding the nature of the regimes in power in the arabian peninsula from book jacket

containing full pedigree of all the imported thorough bred stallions and mares with their produce

of all the countries in the world that are vital to the strategic and economic interests of the united states saudi arabia is the least understood by the american people saudi arabia s unique place in islam makes it indispensable to a constructive relationship between the non muslim west and the muslim world for all its wealth the country faces daunting challenges that it lacks the tools to meet a restless and young population a new generation of educated women demanding opportunities in a closed society political stagnation under an octogenarian leadership religious extremism and intellectual backwardness social division chronic unemployment shortages of food and water and troublesome neighbors today s saudi people far better informed than all previous generations are looking for new political institutions that will enable them to be heard but these aspirations conflict with the kingdom s strict traditions and with the house of saud s determination to retain all true power meanwhile the country

wishes to remain under the protection of american security but still clings to a system that is antithetical to american values basing his work on extensive interviews and field research conducted in the kingdom from 2008 through 2011 under the auspices of the council on foreign relations thomas w lippman dissects this central saudi paradox for american readers including diplomats policymakers scholars and students of foreign policy

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