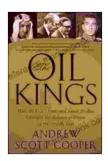
# How Iran and Saudi Arabia Changed the Balance of Power in the Middle East

#### **Historical Roots of the Rivalry**

The rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia has its roots in a long history of religious, political, and economic competition. Iran is a predominantly Shi'ite Muslim country, while Saudi Arabia is a Sunni Muslim country. This religious divide has been a major source of tension between the two countries, as Shi'ites and Sunnis have often been at odds with each other throughout history.

In addition to religious differences, Iran and Saudi Arabia have also competed for political and economic influence in the Middle East. Iran has long sought to be the dominant power in the region, while Saudi Arabia has tried to counter Iran's influence and maintain its own position as a regional leader. This competition has often played out in proxy wars, in which Iran and Saudi Arabia have supported opposing sides in conflicts in other countries.



## The Oil Kings: How the U.S., Iran, and Saudi Arabia Changed the Balance of Power in the Middle East

by Andrew Scott Cooper

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.5 out of 5 Language : English File size : 18183 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled : Enabled X-Ray Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 546 pages



#### **Current Manifestations of the Rivalry**

The rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia is currently manifested in a number of ways. One of the most visible manifestations is the ongoing conflict in Yemen. Iran supports the Houthi rebels, who are fighting against the Yemeni government, which is backed by Saudi Arabia. The conflict in Yemen has caused a humanitarian crisis, with millions of people displaced and facing food shortages.

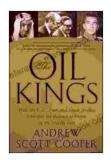
Another manifestation of the rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia is the ongoing arms race in the Middle East. Both countries have been spending heavily on military equipment, and this has led to an increase in regional tensions. The arms race is also a major drain on the economies of both countries.

#### **Potential Implications for the Future**

The rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia is likely to continue to have a major impact on the Middle East in the years to come. The conflict in Yemen is likely to continue, and it is possible that it could spread to other countries in the region. The arms race is also likely to continue, and this could lead to a major conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia is a major challenge to the stability of the Middle East. It is important for both countries to find a way to resolve their differences peacefully. Otherwise, the region could face a major conflict that could have devastating consequences.

The rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia is a complex and long-standing issue that has had a profound impact on the balance of power in the Middle East. This rivalry is likely to continue to shape the region for years to come. It is important for both countries to find a way to resolve their differences peacefully. Otherwise, the region could face a major conflict that could have devastating consequences.

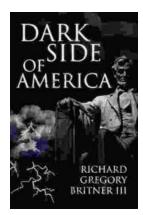


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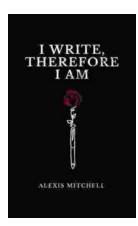
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