

ABDULRAHMAN AL-ZAMIL



Biographical Review

Dr. Abdulrahman al-Zamil was born in the town of Onizah in central Saudi Arabia, but spent most of his youth in the Eastern Province, and was educated in schools in that area and in Bahrain. Dr. al-Zamil holds a degree in law from the University of Cairo, and was awarded an M. A. and Ph. D. in International Relations from the U. of Southern California.

Dr. al-Zamil is the author of many books on Saudi Arabia and the Arab world. He has other aspects of the Arab world. A class written about the rise of the middle

in Saudi Arabia, the role of the Arabs in the United Nations in the last twenty years, Saudi Arab behavior regarding the law of the seas, and the planning of the Saudi Arab economy. His book, The Effectiveness and Credibility of Arab Propaganda

in the USA, has been widely praised throughout the Arab world and will appear in an English translation sometime next year. At present Dr. al-Zamil is at work on a book about the role of U. S. educated Saudis in Saudi Arabia's development.

Since 1972, Dr. al-Zamil has served as Chairman of the General Studies Department of the College of Petroleum and Minerals (CPM) in Dhahran, one of the most modern schools of engineering in the world today. He is also coordinator of the consortium committee of twelve universities which form an advisory board to this rapidly expanding college of engineering and science.

An area of particular interest to al-Zamil is the CMP Gulf Data Bank, of which he is director. The data bank will eventually incorporate all available data and studies related to economic factors, human resources, law, technical data and historical information about the area. When complete, the data bank will be open to all who wish to conduct research on the Arabian Gulf area.

OIL AS INSTRUMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN POLICY:

"AN ARAB VIEW"

Abdulrahman al-Zamil

ABSTRACT

Traditionally oil has been the source of funds needed for socioeconomic development. Producing countries, for many reasons, did not wish to jeopardize this vital source of income. But the political circumstances at long last forced the Arab producing countries to use it as an instrument of foreign policy. Oil's new role was spelled out by HM King Faysal in 1974 when he stated, "Production decisions are not at all compelled by my country's revenue needs; every added barrel of production might then be viewed as a sacrifice of my country's resources to serve the energy needs of the oil-importing world, and thus I shall expect something in return."

Oil in its new role was used mainly as a sanction against those opposing the producing countries' national goals and aspirations and also as a means of granting preferential treatment to friendly nations. The action very clearly brought home to everyone (including those producing countries that did not take part in this action) how effective a leverage, short of force, oil can provide in obtaining national goals.

The lecture discusses the impact and implications of this action for both the producing and consuming countries: whether or not the producing countries will use oil again in the same manner; whether or not the consuming countries will be ready and able to accept it; and whether or not oil ever will be liberated from politics and play only its traditional role as the earner of funds.