J. E. Peterson

Saudi Arabia and the Illusion of Security

Adelphi Paper 348
## Contents

5 **Introduction**
- Why is Saudi Arabia important? 6
- What is important in Saudi Arabia? 8
- Towards a viable Saudi strategy for Gulf security 10

13 **Chapter 1**  
**Saudi conceptions of national and Gulf security**
- Saudi security horizons: regional threat assessments 15
- Oil security and defence 27
- Saudi foreign policy 30
- Saudi Arabia and the West: divergent security expectations 35
- The regional framework: GCC collective security 39

43 **Chapter 2**  
**The internal dimensions of Saudi security**
- Changing society 44
- The political framework and emerging strains 48
- Defence issues and the social compact 51
- Saudi citizens’ concerns 54
- National security and relations between rulers and ruled 56

59 **Chapter 3**  
**The impact of 11 September 2001**
- Saudi Arabia and Islamic extremism 60
- A new campaign of Saudi-bashing and the Saudi response 63
- The Saudi-American relationship: the circle and the square 70
Conclusion

- *A policy of inclusion, not exclusion* 79
- *The health of Saudi-US relations* 81

Notes