

Saudi Arabia- The Next Generation

Oxford Analytica Client Conference Call
Tuesday, 26th May 2015, 15:00 UK Time



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In the few months since he came to power King Salman has carried out radical changes to the kingdom's leadership.

Diverting from the path of gradual transition laid down by King Abdallah, Salman has transferred power directly to his chosen successors from the next generation of Saudi princes, his nephew Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef (55) and his favourite son, Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (thought to be in his early 30s).

Centralising power in their hands constitutes a move away from the kingdom's tradition of rule by consensus, sidelines influential branches of the royal family and streamlines Saudi Arabia's unwieldy bureaucracy.

The new leadership's energised, proactive approach has been most visible in the region, with the launch of a military campaign in Yemen, escalated support to Syrian rebels, and the building of a coalition of Sunni states to help strengthen the kingdom's defences against Islamic State group and Iran.

Join our Client Conference Call on May 26 at 15.00 BST to understand the implications of these changes for the kingdom's stability, the energy sector and regional security.

We'll assess the implications for:

- domestic politics and the potential for internal opposition and power struggles within the House of Saud.
- public spending, investment, job creation and economic reform.
- oil policy and Saudi Arabia's role in world markets.
- the security alliance with the United States.
- regional proxy war with Iran.

Chair

Paul Maidment, Director of Analysis and Managing Editor, Oxford Analytica

Panellists will include:

Afshin Molavi, Senior Advisor, Oxford Analytica

Afshin Molavi is a senior advisor at Oxford Analytica and a contributor to the Daily Brief, a senior fellow at the New America Foundation and a former director of the World Economic Roundtable. A former journalist for Reuters and the Washington Post, he has been based in Dubai, Riyadh, Jeddah, Tehran, and Washington.

He has lectured and taught Masters courses on the geopolitics and external relations of the Middle East region for US government agencies for more than a decade. He has also served as an analyst at the International Finance Corporation, the private sector development arm of the World Bank, and as a Middle East risk specialist for Fortune 100 companies.

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David Butter, Contributor, Oxford Analytica

David Butter is an analyst of politics, economics and business in the MENA region, and has been an associate fellow at Chatham House since August 2012. He was previously regional director for the Middle East at the Economist Intelligence Unit, and prior to that worked for MEED magazine, where he was editor between 2000 and 2002. In 2013 Chatham House published his briefing paper on the political economy of Egypt.

Neil Partrick, Contributor, Oxford Analytica

Dr Neil Partrick is a freelance writer and researcher on the Middle East. He is currently completing the writing and editing of a book for IB Tauris on Saudi foreign policy, together with some other contributors. Neil has previously been a politics lecturer in the UAE and in the UK, an editor at the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), headed the Middle East and North Africa Programme at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in Whitehall, London, and worked as an editor and analyst in Jerusalem. His International Relations PhD was obtained from the LSE. His thesis was on Kuwaiti foreign policy.