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**Title: Dynamics of Political Reforms in Saudi Arabia and Qatar:  
Implications for Indian Foreign Policy**

## **ABSTRACT**

The study of political reforms in Saudi Arabia and Qatar aids in developing a broader understanding of the political dynamics taking place in the region. This dynamics leaves open the possibility of many interesting questions that require detailed study. The questions revolve around the pattern and success of political reforms initiated by Saudi Arabia and Qatar over a period of last two decades; what are the ramifications of them domestically and regionally; how do the people respond to each initiative; and how do the ruling dynasties themselves negotiate their identity in the context. There is also a significance in understanding India's changing policy options as there is an issue, and of course, a political stake in it, how India's image is produced and subscribed to and what is really its image; major exporter of manpower, provider of scientific and technical know-how or a reliable military partner.

The thesis addresses the above questions in a detailed manner and is divided into seven chapters which are further categorized into several subsections. The first chapter understands the theoretical relevance of foreign policy and the different approaches to foreign policy taking cues from various theories fitting into the context of research. The second chapter highlights India's foreign policy in Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and the existing gaps in

political, economic and labour relations. Chapters' three to five deals with the domestic politics and politics reforms in Saudi Arabia and Qatar mainly reforms of the Consultative Council and municipal council, with an emphasis on the participation of women and religious minorities. Nationalism has been chosen to understand the dynamics and undercurrents of the political reforms since 2000. Also, a major impact of these political reforms in shaping the minds of the locals and the State towards their foreign policy and migrant population is also studied. Parts of chapter five focusing on political reforms in Qatar have been published in an edited book titled *Policymaking in the GCC: States, Citizens and Institutions*, (I B Tauris: 2017) and in the *MAP Series Policy Analysis*, (Middle East Institute, Washington D.C: December 4, 2018). The concluding chapter presents a summary of the arguments made in the previous chapters and how each argument has been substantiated, has also been discussed in this chapter.