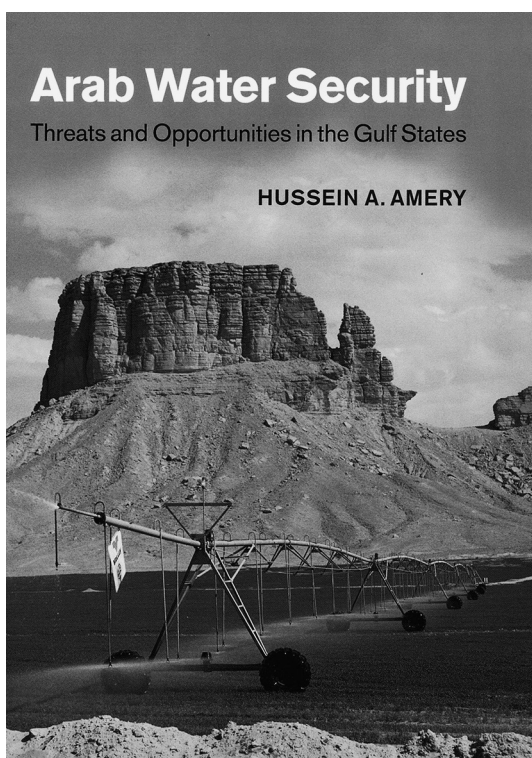


Book reviews

Arab Water Security: Threats and Opportunities in the Gulf States, by Hussein A. Amery, 2015. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge. 178 pages. Hardback, price USD 99.99. ISBN: 9781107042292.



There is an ongoing debate in the Arab region regarding both water and food security. One group believes that we have to own our food in order to ensure will power, while others are of the opinion that, in this age of globalisation, it would be better to import our food items especially those which consume much water during production and conserve the scarce water for other high-value usage. Within the framework of this dilemma, Amery adds a new dimension: belief in technology (desalination) and

care about marginalised people that lose their jobs. The author states literally “Gulf Societies need to find a suitable formulation that will harness local and other scientific knowledge to advance and entrench sustainable water security in the region.”

To understand the problem, Amery emphasized the growing gap between water supply and demand in the Gulf States and outlines potential threats. Moreover, the author introduces an in-depth discussion about the statuesque and potential intervention to manage water resources in a sustainable manner. The book sheds light on Arab culture that has traditionally dealt with water management and new trends following the Arabic Spring.

However, shortcomings of the book are mainly in the methodology used to highlight the problem and a number of case studies that are presented to demonstrate options for water security in the Gulf States. The Gulf States have used their current wealth to secure water and food for their societies. But what will happen after the oil has run out or when the oil price drops, as is the case today?

Fortunately, the book pays attention to water security in arid regions suffering socio-economic and political changes. It deserves to be widely read. Both the author and publisher are requested to add more case studies and a discussion of other potential options to secure water for the next generations in the Arab region, to any future edition of this book.

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