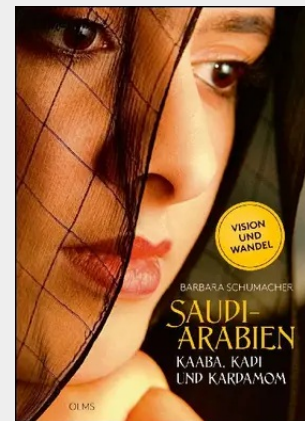


Saudi-Arabien

Kaaba, Kadi und Kardamom. Menschen - Kultur - Wirtschaft.

„Saudi-Arabien“ – oft löst die Nennung des Namens dieses arabischen Golfstaates Angst und Abneigung aus, oder auch Neid auf Prinzen, die im Luxus schwelgen. Folglich erntet die Ankündigung, das Land besuchen zu wollen, blankes Entsetzen: die westlichen Medien haben ganze Arbeit geleistet. In diesem Buch geht es nicht um Politik, Waffengeschäfte, Verletzungen der Menschenrechte, Hinrichtungen oder ähnliche Themen, die keineswegs beschönigt werden. Vielmehr geht es um Themen wie Wirtschaft, Bildung, Kunst und Kultur – vor dem Hintergrund der im April 2016 veröffentlichten, in den Augen der erzkonservativen Wahhabiten revolutionären Vision 2030 des Kronprinzen Mohammed bin Salman. Diese Vision, die alle Bereiche des Lebens betrifft, wird ohne Zweifel den Wandel des Königreichs – vor dem Hintergrund schwindender Öleinnahmen – zur Folge haben. Ministerien, wichtige Institutionen, staatliche Unternehmen, die gestärkte Privatwirtschaft und die junge Bevölkerung unterstützen die Vision 2030. Dabei spielen die neuen Hoffnungsträger eine wichtige Rolle - sie werden von höchster Stelle gefördert: die saudischen Frauen. Das Buch wendet sich an alle, die einen beträchtlichen Teil der Realität des Landes und ihrer gastfreundlichen, aufgeschlossenen Bewohner kennenlernen wollen, einen Bereich, den die Welt ignoriert. Wie das großartige Land so ist auch dieses Buch: anders als alle anderen. *****'Saudi Arabia' – often the mere mention of this Arab Gulf state triggers fear and antipathy, or even jealousy of thousands of princes, swimming in black gold and wallowing in luxury. Consequently the announcement of a planned visit to the country is received with sheer horror: the western media has done its work. This book is not concerned with politics, arms sales, human rights offences, executions or similar topics, although these are in no way glossed over. But the main concern is with the themes of the economy, education, art and culture – in the context of the 'Vision 2030' programme published in April 2016 by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and seen as revolutionary by the arch-conservative Wahhabis. This vision, which affects all aspects of life, will undoubtedly bring about a change in the Kingdom, against a background of falling oil income. Ministries, important institutions, state concerns, the strengthened private sector and the young population support Vision 2030. Playing an important role in this, and being challenged at the highest level are the new bearers of hope: Saudi women. This book is addressed to all those who want to get to know a large part of the reality of Saudi Arabia and its hospitable and open-minded inhabitants, an aspect ignored by the wider world. The book is like this great land itself: different from anything else.

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