

Politics of Constructive Engagement: The Foreign Policy of the United Arab Emirates

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Abstract

UAE foreign policy has been able, through constructive engagement, quiet diplomacy, the power of the purse, and commitment to the peaceful settlement of conflicts, to achieve its national goals. The UAE has utilized all means including military, economic, diplomatic, and media to advocate its positions and commitments and achieve its objectives. It has been able to extend its relations to all UN member states and to engage itself in many international issues, including humanitarian causes. In implementing foreign policy orientations it is clear that the four circles—Gulf, Arab, Islamic, and international—are tightly connected and inseparable. However, as a microstate with limited military and human resources confronted by mounting regional threats, it has ended up depending heavily on the US for its security. In the meantime, it seems that the peaceful succession of power to Sheikh Khalifa did not affect the direction of UAE foreign policy.

Bahgat Korany and Ali E. Hillal Dessouki

in *The Foreign Policies of Arab States*

Published by American University in Cairo Press

Published in print July 2010 | ISBN: 9789774163609

Published online September 2011 | e-ISBN: 9781617970375 | DOI:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5743/cairo/9789774163609.003.0014>

- 2010, January