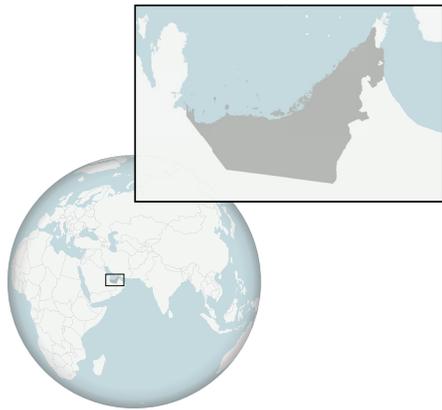


The United Arab Emirates

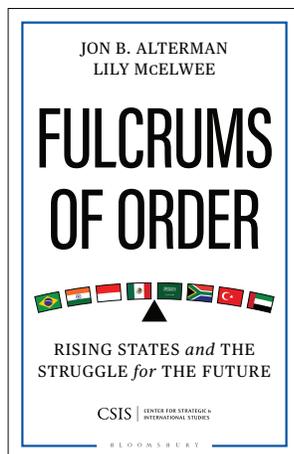
From Footnote to Sophisticated Global Partner



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OVERVIEW

The UAE sees itself as completely globally networked and tries to make itself as an essential partner of the United States, China and Russia simultaneously.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- The UAE faces no bitter colonial legacy to overcome.
- The UAE has developed more slowly than many regional peers, and has sought to learn from its mistakes.
- The dual-engine economy, with Dubai as a global trading hub and Abu Dhabi as an energy hub, has created economic diversification before other Gulf peers.

FOREIGN POLICY VISION

- The UAE balances strong U.S. ties with strategic partnerships with China and Russia.
 - It hosts U.S. forces at Al Dhafra Air Base and remains a key partner in counterterrorism and the Abraham Accords.
 - China is its largest trading partner; and there exists deep tech collaboration despite U.S. pressure to decouple.
 - Russian ties have expanded with the outbreak of the war in Ukraine; money and immigrants have flowed in, while UAE has been a mediator in prisoner swaps.
- The UAE is increasingly ambitious in regional affairs.
 - There is an active effort to marginalize movements associated with political Islam.
 - The UAE views economic competition with Saudi Arabia as of growing centrality.

DOMESTIC CONTEXT

- Decisionmaking is highly centralized, with broad legitimacy rooted in stability and prosperity.
- Emiratis are a stark minority in their own country, and they feel strong loyalty to leadership.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- As the UAE becomes increasingly consequential, hedging on key issues will grow harder.