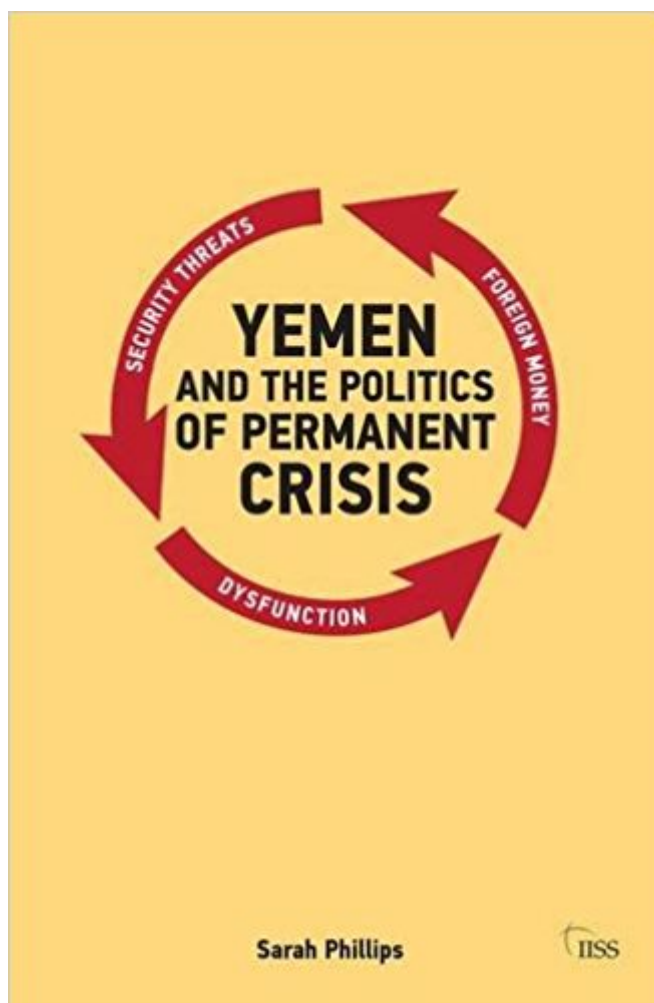


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The Middle East is in the midst of considerable and unpredictable changes, but deeply patrimonial political systems do not change overnight and neither do the international and regional structures that have helped them to endure for so long. The informal rules that guide Yemeni society and its dysfunctional political settlement look set to endure, in spite of unprecedented protests. Entangled in a narrative of acute crisis and possible state failure, the country still relies on foreign assistance to prop up its ailing economy. Fearing the threat from al-Qaeda on Yemeni soil as well as the crisis of the Houthi insurgency and the southern secessionist movement, regional and Western powers have continued to bankroll the regime without taking significant steps to address the underlying causes of instability and threat. Drawing on research carried out on the ground in Yemen, this Adelphi examines the shadowy structures that govern political life and sustain a network of social elites predisposed against any far-reaching systemic reform. It looks behind the scenes at the regime's opaque internal politics, at its entrenched patronage system and at the unwritten rules of the game that will shape the behaviour of the post-Saleh rulers, to offer insights for how the West may better engage within that game

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Customer Reviews

Sarah Phillips is a lecturer at the Centre for International Security Studies, The University of Sydney

This was a great book on how former president Saleh and his inner circle exploited and engineered,

amplified and manufactured crises in Yemen to make money. The book takes beyond the headlines of the news and gives you a glimpse as to how that regime operated and how it "managed" never ending crises of the country of Yemen. The book did not go into verbose details but gave a very good overview of the major issues it tackled.

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