

GCC Security Issues, as Their Publics See Them: A Rare Look at Real Data

by [David Pollock](#)

Dec 12, 2019

Also available in

[Arabic](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[David Pollock](#)

David Pollock is the Bernstein Fellow at The Washington Institute, focusing on regional political dynamics and related issues.



Articles & Testimony

Polling results from five Gulf countries show where citizens and their leaders converge and diverge on Iran, U.S. relations, and other crucial foreign policy matters.

The following is an excerpt from a chapter in the October 2019 Gulf International Forum book *The Dilemma of Security and Defense in the Gulf Region*, edited by Dr. Khalid Al-Jaber and Dania Thafer. The book's eleven chapters discuss the changing status of defense and security in the Gulf region between the maintenance of regional security and the preservation of domestic interests. Download the PDF above to read the full chapter; visit [Google Books](#) or [Amazon](#) to access the entire volume.

Contrary to conventional wisdom, GCC publics and governments are broadly in line with each other on many key foreign policy and security issues. This is especially true, and especially counterintuitive, regarding the containment of Iran and its regional proxies, like Hezbollah and the Houthis. This consensus augurs well for internal GCC stability, but it will likely face tough tests soon amidst the rising tensions in the region.

On one highly salient issue, however, GCC publics generally diverge from official policies: the widespread popular desire for intra- GCC rapprochement. The irony of course is that greater progress on this problem would undoubtedly help with the problem of Iran. This may therefore be one important case where the wisdom of the followers could usefully guide the leaders, rather than the other way around... ❖



[View/Print Page as PDF](#)

SHARE



EMAIL ALERTS



[Sign Up](#)



TO TOP

RECOMMENDED

BRIEF ANALYSIS

Iran's Military Establishment Doubles Down on "Revolution"

May 5, 2021

Farzin Nadimi



BRIEF ANALYSIS

An Expanded Agenda for U.S.-Israel Partnership: New Technologies, New Opportunities

May 5, 2021

Henry "Trey" Obering III,
Samantha Ravich,
Michael Eisenstadt,
David Pollock

BRIEF ANALYSIS

Profile: Ahd Allah Islamic Movement

May 5, 2021

Hamdi Malik

TOPICS

[Arab and Islamic Politics](#)

[Democracy and Reform](#)

[Energy and Economics](#)

[Gulf and Energy Policy](#)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

[Iran](#)

[Gulf States](#)

STAY UP TO DATE



[SIGN UP FOR EMAIL ALERTS](#)



THE
WASHINGTON INSTITUTE
for Near East Policy

1111 19th Street NW - Suite 500
Washington D.C. 20036
Tel: 202-452-0650
Fax: 202-223-5364

[Contact](#)

[Press Room](#)

[Subscribe](#)

The Washington Institute seeks to advance a balanced and realistic understanding of American interests in the Middle East and to promote the policies that secure them.

The Institute is a 501(c)3 organization; all donations are tax-deductible.

[About TWI](#) /

[Support the Institute](#)



© 2021 All rights reserved.

[Employment](#) /

