

Will Russian-Saudi Relations Continue to Improve?

by [Anna Borshchevskaya \(/experts/anna-borshchevskaya\)](#)

Oct 10, 2017

Also available in

[العربية \(/ar/policy-analysis/hl-ststmr-allaqat-alrwsyt-alswdyt-fy-althsn\)](#)

ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Anna Borshchevskaya \(/experts/anna-borshchevskaya\)](#)

Anna Borshchevskaya is a senior fellow at The Washington Institute, focusing on Russia's policy toward the Middle East.



Articles & Testimony

Putin's recent summit with the Saudi leader is another diplomatic coup for the Kremlin, but it does not mark a fundamental shift in Russia's calculus on Iran or other regional issues.

On October 5, when King Salman became the first ever Saudi monarch to visit Russia, President Vladimir Putin hailed the trip as a "landmark event," and billboards lined city streets welcoming the king in Arabic and Russian. After the summit, Salman and Putin signed a packet of documents on energy, trade, and defense, and agreed to several billion dollars' worth of joint investment. In addition, there are reports that Saudi Arabia agreed to purchase Russia's S-400 air defense system, making it the second U.S. ally to do so. The summit is just one more milestone in the recent trend of warming Russian-Saudi ties. In June 2015, then-Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman attended the annual St. Petersburg Economic Forum -- the first time the prince became publicly involved in energy issues according to press reports at the time -- where he met with Putin...

[Read the full article on the Foreign Affairs website. \(https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/saudi-arabia/2017-10-10/will-russian-saudi-relations-continue-improve\)](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/saudi-arabia/2017-10-10/will-russian-saudi-relations-continue-improve) ❖

Foreign Affairs

RECOMMENDED



ARTICLES & TESTIMONY

How to Make Russia Pay in Ukraine: Study Syria

Feb 15, 2022



Anna Borshchevskaya

[\(/policy-analysis/how-make-russia-pay-ukraine-study-syria\)](/policy-analysis/how-make-russia-pay-ukraine-study-syria)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Bennett's Bahrain Visit Further Invigorates Israel-Gulf Diplomacy

Feb 14, 2022



Simon Henderson

[\(/policy-analysis/bennetts-bahrain-visit-further-invigorates-israel-gulf-diplomacy\)](/policy-analysis/bennetts-bahrain-visit-further-invigorates-israel-gulf-diplomacy)



BRIEF ANALYSIS

Libya's Renewed Legitimacy Crisis

Feb 14, 2022



Ben Fishman

[\(/policy-analysis/libyas-renewed-legitimacy-crisis\)](/policy-analysis/libyas-renewed-legitimacy-crisis)

TOPICS

[Energy & Economics \(/policy-analysis/energy-economics\)](/policy-analysis/energy-economics)

[Gulf & Energy Policy \(/policy-analysis/gulf-energy-policy\)](/policy-analysis/gulf-energy-policy)

REGIONS & COUNTRIES

[Gulf States \(/policy-analysis/gulf-states\)](/policy-analysis/gulf-states)

