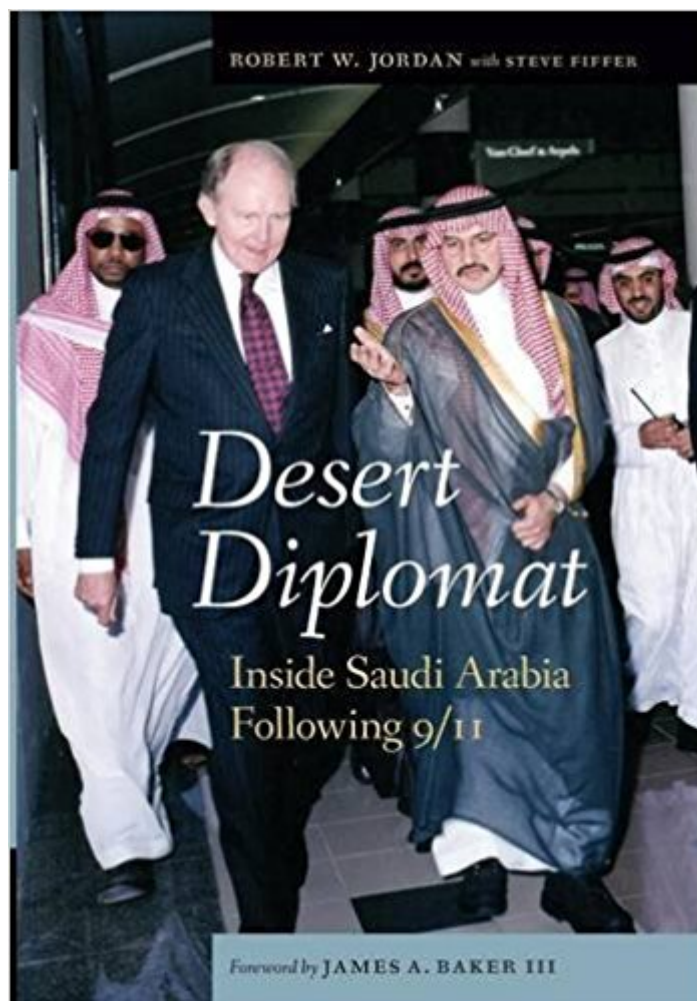


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Desert Diplomat: Inside Saudi Arabia Following 9/11



Synopsis

In the spring of 2001, George W. Bush selected Dallas attorney Robert W. Jordan as the ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Jordan's nomination sped through Congress in the wake of the terrorist attacks on 9/11, and he was at his post by early October, though with no prior diplomatic experience, as Saudi Arabia mandates that the U.S. Ambassador be a political appointee with the ear of the president. Hence Jordan had to learn on the job how to run an embassy, deal with a foreign culture, and protect U.S. interests, all following the most significant terrorist attacks on the United States in history. From 2001 through 2003, Jordan worked closely with Crown Prince Abdullah and other Saudi leaders on sensitive issues of terrorism and human rights, all the while trying to maintain a positive relationship to ensure their cooperation with the war in Afghanistan and the invasion of Iraq. At the same time he worked with top officials in Washington, including President Bush, Dick Cheney, Colin Powell, Donald Rumsfeld, Condoleezza Rice, George Tenet, and Tommy Franks. *Desert Diplomat* discusses these relationships as well as the historic decisions of Jordan's tenure and provides a candid and thoughtful assessment of the sometimes distressing dysfunction in the conduct of American foreign policy, warfare, and intelligence gathering. Still involved in the Middle East, Jordan also offers important insights into the political, economic, and social changes occurring in this critical region, particularly Saudi Arabia.

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Customer Reviews

"Desert Diplomat gives a deep insight into the Saudi-US relations post 9/11. It is a must read for both students and experts of US-Middle East relations. It will also help understand the emerging

dynamics in the Middle East after the Iran-US nuclear deal." [Washington Book Review \(Washington Book Review 2015-08-30\)](#) "No Arab ally of the United States is more important or less understood than Saudi Arabia. Robert Jordan went to Riyadh as our ambassador just after the 9/11 attacks when America was asking which side they were on. His unique personal relationships and superb analyses made it clear that the Saudis stood with us, but we also had to understand them. . . . *Desert Diplomat* tells the story of a critical relationship at a critical time, and how a great diplomat, Robert Jordan, can turn the hinge of history. We are at another turn—may we be as wise as he was in making it." [Ryan C. Crocker, former deputy assistant secretary of state, 2001–03, and former ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Pakistan \(Ryan C. Crocker 2014-12-08\)](#) "Robert Jordan has written a fascinating and insightful book that provides a rare inside view of Saudi Arabia and the Middle East during the events following 9/11. It is a historically significant work from a seasoned diplomat who draws valuable lessons from his experiences and observations that would be wise for our current and future leaders to heed. *Desert Diplomat* should be required reading for all those involved in developing our strategy and policy for the Middle East." [General Anthony C. Zinni \(USMC, Ret.\), former commander in chief of U.S. Central Command, former special envoy to the Middle East, and author of *The Battle for Peace: A Frontline Vision of America's Power and Purpose* \(General Anthony C. Zinni 2014-12-08\)](#) "Jordan invites readers to a front row seat to history through his eyes and in his shoes." [PRWeb \(PRWeb 2015-07-08\)](#) "An up-close and personal glimpse into a tangled situation, sometimes horrendously dysfunctional politics, and the economic and social changes transforming Saudi Arabia at the time, *Desert Diplomat* is as fascinating as it is illuminating, and highly recommended." [Midwest Book Review \(Midwest Book Review\)](#)

Robert W. Jordan is Diplomat in Residence and adjunct professor of political science in the John G. Tower Center for Political Studies at Southern Methodist University. He served as the U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia from 2001 to 2003 and as a partner in the international law firm Baker Botts L.L.P. for many years where he headed Middle East practice in Dubai. Steve Fiffer has written for the New York Times and is the author or coauthor of numerous books, including *Three Quarters, Two Dimes, and a Nickel: A Memoir of Becoming Whole*. James A. Baker III served as the sixty-first U.S. secretary of state.

Desert Diplomat is an engaging inside look at life as an ambassador and a behind the scenes, no

holds barred, look at the conflicts within governments that challenge those who are trying to build relationships. Ambassador Jordan gives us an insightful education in US post 9/11 relations with Saudi Arabia and the dynamics of that area of the world as he shares his personal experiences. His account of his experiences is honest and easy to understand as he takes the readers through the complicated politics of the Middle East.

The two year journey of a non-politician who was appointed ambassador to Saudi Arabia at the time of the 9/11 crisis. A fascinating insight into the Bush administration confirming some of our worst fears, without the political posturing; and it gives us insight into where we are now and helps us pose question regarding where we are going. He does this without being over critical of either Bush or Obama and gives us insight into the complexity of the issues internationally and internally that one has to deal with. Pleasantly surprised with reading it; it was our history book club choice and well worth it.

Fascinating read on the relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia from a front row seat during 911. Ambassador Jordan does a great job explaining the complex relationship between our countries. Must read for those interested in 911 and Saudi Arabian politics.

Superb book, essential for anyone wishing to develop a balanced understanding of the Kingdom and Washington's efforts to sustain an important relationship during a very difficult period.

This book is a well written window into the workings of GW Bush and our Saudi allies.

A great read. Highly recommend to experience the first hand discussion of the challenges of serving as Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Very insightful and well written. Thanks.

He drew an inaccurate image of saudis

Having lived there, attitudes and culture were famiiar to me. Loved his story.

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