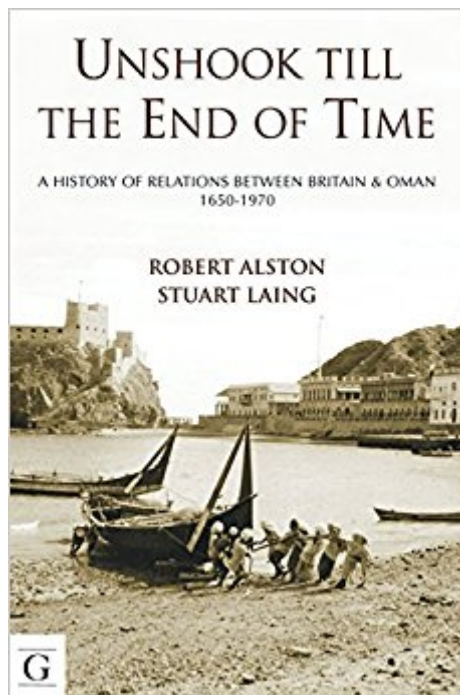




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Unshook Till The End Of Time - A History Of Britain And Oman, 1650-1975



Synopsis

A landmark book that will be vital to historians of Oman and analysts of the geopolitics of the Persian Gulf. Draws on previously unpublished Foreign Office archive materials. Oman's location at the mouth of the Persian Gulf, pinching oil flows with Iran, is of huge strategic importance and makes it the focus on increasing political interest.

Book Information

Hardcover: 300 pages

Publisher: Gilgamesh Publishing (March 18, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 190853107X

ISBN-13: 978-1908531070

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.4 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #3,506,886 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in [Books > History > Middle East > Oman](#) #408 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Treaties](#) #5896 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Middle Eastern](#)

Customer Reviews

Stuart Laing was British Ambassador to Oman (2002-2005) and Kuwait (2005-2008) before moving into academia and taking on the role of Master at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. His wife, Sibella Laing, a fellow Cambridge graduate, played a central role in the research and preparation of material for this book. Robert John Alston, CMG, QSO, DL served as British Ambassador to Oman from 1986-1990 before going on to become British High Commissioner to New Zealand and subsequently Governor to the Pitcairn Islands.

This book is extremely well written. The authors maintain the forward flow without getting bogged down in details only of interest to the specialist. They take care, in fact, to explain terms and relationships that may not be familiar to readers not already well-grounded in the history of the Arabian Peninsula. It draws on a wealth of British and Indian Office archives to paint a clear picture of the complexities and frustrations confronting British government officials over the centuries as they attempted to safeguard British interests in India and the Arabian Gulf, while minimizing their

involvement in the internal affairs and disputes of the Arabian peninsula--an objective that became increasingly difficult after the discovery of oil. While maintaining that Sultan Qaboos's overthrow of his father in 1970 took place with "tacit British support", the details presented in the book suggest that the support may have been just a bit more than "tacit." Though the sub-title suggests that the narrative stops at 1970, two good chapters at the end summarize the origins of the Communist-supported war in Dhofar (1965-75) and its successful conclusion following the accession of Sultan Qaboos. This is an excellent book for anyone wanting to know more about Oman's history, including the gradual assertion of control by the sultan over the interior areas of the country during the latter half of the 20th century, and the British role over more than 300 years.

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