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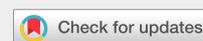
SPECIAL SECTION: China and the Arab Gulf: Developing a Multidisciplinary Approach

The Gulf's Eastward Turn: The Logic of Gulf-China Economic Ties

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Abstract

This article traces some of the patterns of investment and financial flows between China and the Arab Gulf states. Building on an emerging literature of Gulf-China relations, and Middle East-China relations more generally, it identifies specific flows of investment in the Gulf states, export destinations of Gulf energy products, and the institutional networks of development finance between the Gulf and China. Based on the specific demands of the Arab Gulf states and their shared efforts to diversify their economies away from oil and gas dependency, the research suggests that the current orientation toward China, and Asia more broadly, is a bridge strategy to create a next-generation energy market and future market access in expected areas of consumer growth. The Gulf and China need each other, but the strategies developing now are also oriented toward future growth in India and the Horn of Africa and in transport and

trade flows. This future growth will cement the Arab Gulf states as central to developing economies and our shared global economy.

Keywords:

China Gulf Cooperation Council GCC China-GCC trade relations oil and gas market

Notes

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