Preface
Saudi Arabia with its enormous wealth and oil reserves has suddenly jumped into fame from oblivion. Therefore it becomes extremely important to make a detailed study of the religious and political past of its people. In the present thesis entitled A Critical Analysis of the Religio-Political Conditions of Modern Saudi Arabia, an attempt has been made to study the religious and political background of this country from the time the Saudi state was founded in the 19th century.

The thesis is broadly divided into six chapters. The first chapter deals with ideological foundations of Saudi state and the second chapter deals with the establishment of the Saudi State. Attempt has been made to study the life and thoughts of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab and the establishment of the third Saudi - Wahhabi state to its development into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia under `Abd al-Aziz ibn Saud, the founder of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The third Chapter is a study of the political conditions of Arabia from the first quarter of the 19th century to the end of 20th century. It discusses the establishment of modern Saudi state, political reforms, consultative council, and regional government system in a comprehensive and detailed manner.

The fourth chapter entitled “The Interrelationship between Islam and Royalty in the 19th and 20th Centuries” deals in political and religious
developments during this period up to king Fahd’s period of rule (d.2005). It discusses in detail the new government system established by King Fahd i.e. the Shura system.

The fifth chapter entitled “Saudi Arabia and the US: Strategic Compromises” discusses some strategic compromises like the pace of modernization in Saudi Arabia, relationship between Saudi Arabia and the US and its background, the rule of ulama in Saudi politics and policies in detail and is followed by my own conclusions which makes up the sixth and final chapter of the thesis.

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