



## WRITER'S TALK

David Rundell

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### *Vision or Mirage - Saudi Arabia at the Crossroads*



Despite the significant social and economic reforms taking place there, Saudi Arabia remains an enigma to most Americans. It's role in global oil markets and regional stability remain important to us. Yet, the crackdown on political activists, the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the subjugation of powerful members of the ruling family and the war in Yemen have all strained the kingdom's longstanding partnership with the West.

In his recently published book, David H. Rundell, a former Chief of Mission at the American Embassy in Saudi Arabia, provides a unique and granular analysis of the inner workings of the Saudi Royal family. "Vision or Mirage: Saudi Arabia at the Crossroads" delves into how King Salman governed Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh, for nearly five decades before becoming king in 2015. The book illustrates Salman's long-standing focus on combatting corruption that is now at the core of Saudi reforms.

Club member David Rundell studied Arabic at Oxford and served as an American diplomat for thirty years in Washington, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates. He lives in Dubai and travels regularly to Saudi Arabia.

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