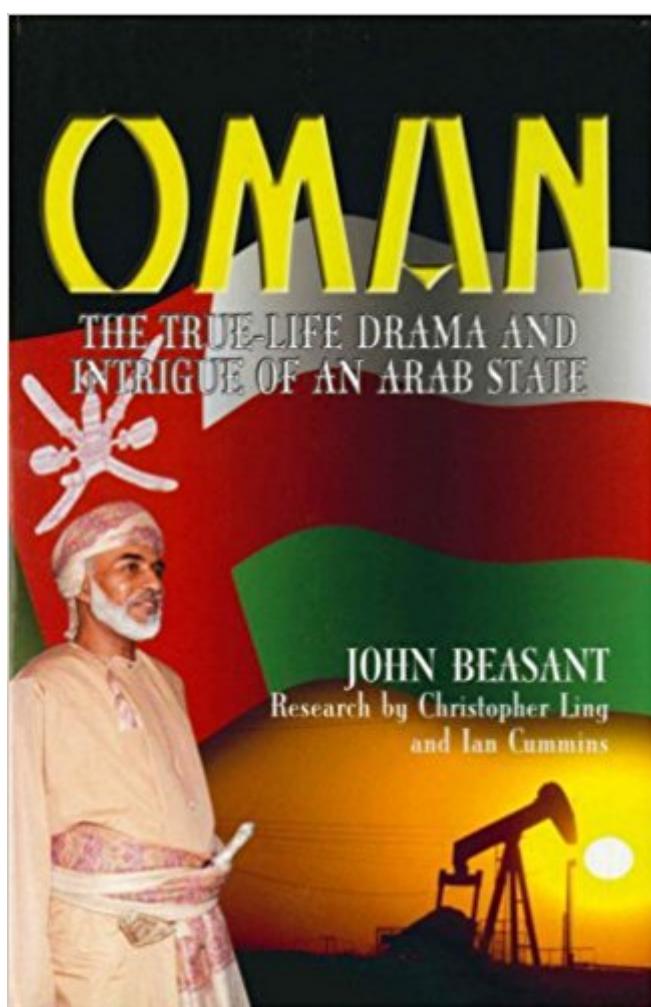


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Oman: The True Life Drama & Intrigue Of An Arab State



Synopsis

The Sultanate of Oman is a country often described as one of the most secretive in the world. Following ten years' residency there, John Beasant began to delve into the country's little-documented political history, paying particular attention to the Palace Coup of 1970 and the events which followed - a story which Edward Heath once commented would 'not be told in our lifetime'. Beasant's research proved that Oman's much-touted period of 'Renaissance', peddled so furiously by the Sultanate's spin doctors, was merely a cosmetic facade of high-rise buildings and new roads, made possible by high oil revenues. A veil of self-serving secrecy concealed the reality that the governance of the Sultanate continued to be conducted along autocratic, medieval lines. The royal court contained a cabal of ex-military officers who not only fashioned a hold over the country's new ruler with a dominance that resembled their imperial predecessors', but also enriched themselves to such a degree that their conduct threatens to have a destabilising effect on the nation itself. Beasant reveals a web of exploitation woven through all manner of political and commercial interests. He casts light on the dark practices so often involved in the sale of arms to Middle Eastern states and illustrates the political use to which the sale of 'black gold' - oil - can be put. Oman is very much a parable of our times, detailing rivalry and intrigue between people in high places. It is one of the most dramatic tales in Arab history: a chronicle of personal pride, rapacious greed and undiluted lust for power.

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Customer Reviews

'One of the most enduring and compelling mysteries of the Second World War.' Mail on Sunday 'It reads like the plot of a thriller... strongly recommended.' Focus

John Beasant is a former press secretary to two Commonwealth Prime Ministers and a Head of State in the Islamic world. While writing Oman he was expelled from the Sultanate after rejecting a bribe not to proceed with publication. His previous works include The Santo Rebellion and Stalin's Silver and he is the writer of the planned Channel 4 series Orphans of Empire.

After a trip to Oman where so much history could not be revealed in either guidebooks or by locals, this book put it all into perspective for me. Great read and completes my journey to Oman

Oman is a country where very little is known. This was a very good book for learning about the history of Oman. It was very informative, as well as entertaining. Anyone who wants to begin the process of learning about Oman, this book will be a good start.

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