



## Cities of Salt

*By Abdelrahman Munif*

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## Cities of Salt By Abdelrahman Munif Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #100867 in Books
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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Originally published in Beirut in 1984, this multipage epic brings to life many of the political issues that have plagued the Mideast for most of this century. Set in an unnamed gulf country that could be Jordan sometime in the 1930s, the novel relates what happens to the bedouin inhabitants of the small oasis community of Wadi al-Uyoun when oil is discovered by Americans. Seen through the eyes of a large and varied cast of bedouin characters, the upheaval caused by the American colonization is shown in various manifestations, from the first contact with the strange foreigners ("Their smell could kill birds!" observes Miteb al-Hathal, who later leads a rebellion of Arab workers when the village of Harran has been made into an American port city) to confused and suspicious descriptions of the sinister "magic" tools brought by the Americans which are in fact bulldozers, automobiles, radios and telephones. The story unfolds at a stately pace over a timespan of many years and provides an endless stream of characters and events, each connected to the next by many threads of plot. Theroux's sensitive translation conveys the subtleties of ambiguity and nuance inherent to the Arab language and culture. Banned in several Mideast countries including Saudi Arabia, this is the first volume of a planned trilogy by a Paris-based Jordanian novelist who holds a law degree from the Sorbonne and a Ph.D. in oil economics from the University of Belgrade. Despite the Lawrence of Arabia setting, Munif writes from a unique vantage point; English-language readers have been given few opportunities before now to look at this situation through native eyes.

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From Library Journal

Banned in several Middle Eastern countries, this novel records the encounter between Americans and Arabs in an unnamed Gulf emirate in the 1930s. As oil exploration begins, the destruction of an oasis community amounts to "a breaking off, like death, that nothing and no one could ever heal." The promise inherent in the creation of a city divided into Arab and American sectors provides the novel's most striking revelation: here not merely two cultures, but two ages, meet and stand apart. Alternately amused and bewildered by the Americans and their technological novelties, the Arabs sense in their accommodation to modernity the betrayal of their own traditions. Highly recommended, if only for its cross-cultural insights. L.M. Lewis, Eastern Kentucky Univ., Richmond

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Review

"The only serious work of fiction that tries to show the effect of oil, Americans and the local oligarchy on a Gulf country."--Edward W. Said

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Ellen Jorge:**

Information is provisions for anyone to get better life, information today can get by anyone from everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even restricted. What people must be consider when those information which is in the former life are challenging to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one typically the resource are convinced. If you obtain the unstable resource then you understand it as your main information you will see huge disadvantage for

you. All of those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take Cities of Salt as the daily resource information.

**Meredith Daugherty:**

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, then why you don't try thing that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not feeling tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition details. Even you love Cities of Salt, you could enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still want to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't obtain it, oh come on its named reading friends.

**Jennifer Pittman:**

Cities of Salt can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort that will put every word into joy arrangement in writing Cities of Salt however doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource details that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information could draw you into brand new stage of crucial thinking.

**James Fitzpatrick:**

A lot of people said that they feel bored when they reading a reserve. They are directly felt the item when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the book Cities of Salt to make your own reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading ability is developing when you like reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the impression about book and looking at especially. It is to be very first opinion for you to like to open a book and go through it. Beside that the reserve Cities of Salt can to be your brand new friend when you're really feel alone and confuse using what must you're doing of the time.

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