

**FOUR WAY STREET?
SAUDI ARABIA'S BEHAVIOR AMONG
THE SUPERPOWERS, 1966-1999**

Devika Subramanian, Computer Science

And

Richard J. Stoll, Political Science

Rice University

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Purpose of Study

- Relate behavior of Saudi Arabia to the United States, Russia, and China.
- Trace using events data, 1966-1999.
- Analyze interconnections using vector autoregression (VAR).
- Analyze level of activity of Saudi Arabia vis-à-vis the United States, Russia, and China using hubs and authorities.

Events Data

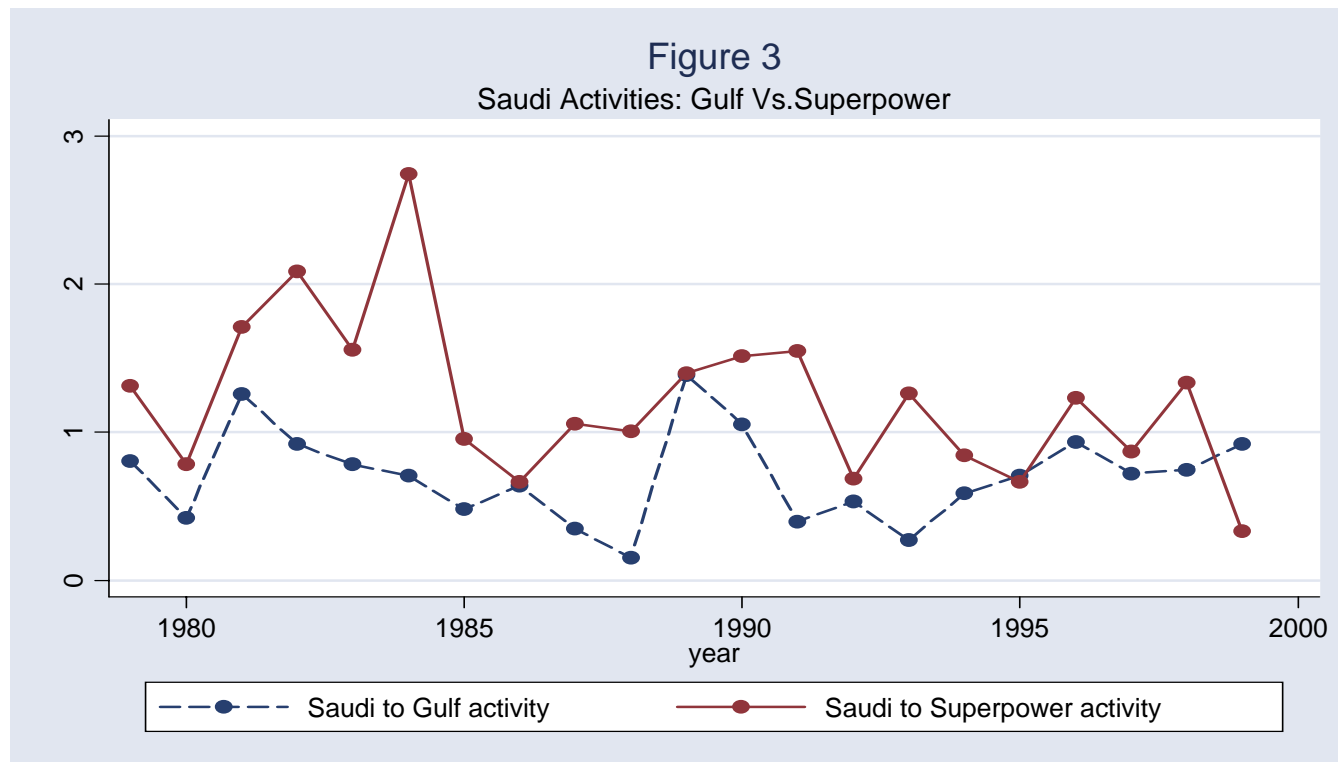
- Consists of:
 - *Actor* that initiates action.
 - *Event* that is undertaken.
 - *Target* of the action.
 - *Date* action took place.
- Usually conflict-cooperation scale associated with data.
- Coded by hand or computer.
- Here: 1966-1978 human coded, 1979-1999 computer coded.

Interactions: Vector Autoregression

- Pre-Embargo.
 - Saudi behavior to US: friendly if Russia hostile to Saudi Arabia.
 - Saudi behavior to Russia: friendly if US and Russia friendly.
- Post-Embargo, Post Cold War.
 - Saudi behavior to US: Same as US behavior to Russia, friendly if China and US in conflict.
 - Saudi behavior to Russia: More cooperative, same as US behavior to Russia.

Hubs and Authorities

- Use as a measure of activity.
- Compare Saudi vs. Superpowers, Saudi vs. states in region.



Conclusions

- Early years: Saudi Arabia keeps a low profile in the region, behavior driven by a few basic forces.
- Recent years: Saudi Arabia becomes more active with the superpowers, Saudi behavior driven by a more complex set of factors.
- Patterns in events data show that Saudi Arabia has assumed a more active and vigorous role vis-à-vis the US, Russia, and China.