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Neo-rentier theory: The case of Saudi Arabia (1950-2000)

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift

Neo-Rentier Theory: The Case of Saudi Arabia (1950-2000)

Islam Yasin Qasem

- 1) Relations of oil dependence condition rentier states' internal and external security strategies.
- 2) Patterns of dependence are determined by the opportunity costs of altering a trade relationship between two countries.
- 3) Without examining current and capital expenditures separately, one cannot accurately diagnose the mechanism of buying off legitimacy.
- 4) Dependence on oil imports can constrain consuming countries' foreign policy, but denying market access can also provide a powerful foreign policy instrument.
- 5) Changing oil suppliers does not end consuming countries' dependence on Middle Eastern oil producers.
- 6) To mitigate economic and political vulnerability, an effective strategy for consumers is to diversify sources of oil imports, and for producers to diversify oil clients.
- 7) Despite efforts to diversify away from oil and increase efficiency, oil will remain the most important source of energy for the near future.
- 8) Trade relationships do not always involve relations of dependence.
- 9) For explaining the stability of authoritarianism, the political economy approach is a powerful alternative to reductionist political culture arguments.
- 10) The Middle East is not *sui generis*, but can provide a fertile ground for international relations scholars to develop and test theories.
- 11) History is not always a reliable guide for judging the present.
- 12) Living between cultures is challenging but also culturally and intellectually stimulating.