
An updated edition of an earlier work with two new chapters, this small but theoretically informed book reports the author's research on women's status and organizations in male-dominated Kuwaiti society, where women are subordinated to a system of male domination based on social class, tribal culture, kinship, social traditions, gender politics, and religious ideology. The author shows how gender has been at the center of politics, class relations, nationalism, and religious revivalism. Though social policies personalizing the decision to veil and allowing female participation in society have helped women to have a stronger presence in civil society, they have failed to give them control over their sexuality—a control perpetuated through both arranged marriages and the family honor system. Demonstrating that Kuwait is a society controlled by a ruling family and its affiliated merchant class, al-Mughni argues that women belonging to these two groups have no desire to change their status. Change in gender relations jeopardizes these women's protected socioeconomic status. Most women's organizations that developed in the past decade are either controlled by these elite women or marginalized in terms of their activities and presence. A sophisticated analysis by an author intimately familiar with Kuwaiti politics, culture, and society. Undergraduate collections and above.

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