How is media consumed and controlled in Saudi Arabia, and other countries in the region, and why does foreign policy make a difference in how citizens of the United States feel about the Saudi government?

Here's my pseudo-systematic recipe:

**Search term**: journalis* AND "saudi arabia"

**Narrow search**: results by last few years (post "Arab Spring")

**Generally sorted by**: regional treatment of the media, their self-awareness of their environment and freedom, consumers of media, producers of media, etc.

**Databases**: SCOPUS, Communication & Mass Media Complete, PAIS (a public policy database), Sociological Abstracts.

Note: please pardon my citation errors, I quickly churned this through Zotero. -dale

**U.S. long-standing political construction of positive support for Saudi Arabia (2018)**

GIST OF THE ARTICLE

U.S. government policy has provided decades of support for Saudi Arabia, despite some troubling connections to terrorism. Here's a history through the rhetorical lenses of several U.S. news sources from multiple political points of view.

QUOTE FROM THE ARTICLE

"In the 1950s, it was Orientalist tropes about lavish sheikhs that would give expression to markers of difference. But rather than becoming a mechanism of “othering,” it became part of a framework of “benevolent supremacy,” in which US control of Saudi oil placed the United States in a paternalistic position vis-à-vis the “timeless Orient" (p. 1094).”


Link to abstract: [https://bit.ly/2Pa6BcK](https://bit.ly/2Pa6BcK)  Note: I had to get this one from ILL.
Positions of influential political groups in light of new media's influence (2012)

GIST OF THE ARTICLE
There are many groups interested in influencing the policies and laws of the country, but it is subtle and sometimes involves risk of arrest/persecution*. Communication technology has allowed these groups to develop a stronger group identity, and be influenced by democratic states from outside the country. This article does a great job at describing the points of view, religious paradigms and lenses of key groups, both traditional and new.

QUOTE FROM THE ARTICLE
"The presence of local rights groups is an essential feature that distinguishes the current period... The government has not allowed these local groups to act freely and without hindrance, as it fears the creation of overwhelming public pressure from which it may be unable to escape (p. 137)."

Link to Article (open source?): https://bit.ly/2J6tTLp

*example of risks (2015)
Link to article: https://bit.ly/2OuKrm6

Expectations of the State-Run News Channel in Saudi Arabia (2016)

GIST OF THE ARTICLE
In a comparison of 2 news channels in Saudi Arabia (one state-owned and the other independent) practices and techniques for intended outcomes are analyzed. As a side note; while these practices may seem obvious to journalists in the U.S., the risk of being an "aggressive" reporter seems to have evolved since this article was written in 2016 - about one year before the appointment of Mohammad bin Salman.
QUOTES FROM ARTICLE
"examined aggressiveness from four different angles: initiative, directness, assertiveness, and adversarialness. It was found out clearly that questions on al-Arabiya were far more aggressive and challenging than those on al-Ekhbariya (p. 209)"

"...Arab state-owned channels are employed within the public sector as civil servants. Their roles have a very sensitive role to perform, and while, as journalists, they should act as the Fourth Estate and criticize openly the performance of governmental sectors, they are also required to enhance the image of their governmental agencies and maintain the(ir) positive face (p. 221)"


Why does Al Jazeera (banned in Saudi Arabia) matter in all of this? (2017)

GIST OF THE ARTICLE
Qatar is politically and financially independent, with a history of neighboring states attempting disruption to reduce their influence. It is also the home of Al Jazeera, whose influential/independent journalism sometimes deeply offends other government rulers - this article is a background to current tensions with Qatar and the regional impact of Al Jazeera.

QUOTE FROM THE ARTICLE
"The 24/7 coverage provided by AJ during the Arab Spring events, combined with viral social media, online blogging, and mobile telephony, vividly publicised the uprisings. This boosted the spirits of activists and encouraged more resistance and mass defiance. Jordanian Maisara Malass, an opposition activist, described AJ as a ‘media brigade’ whose coverage had helped ‘to spread the revolution from one city to the other’ (p. 119)."

"The role the Internet plays among Arab publics" (2016)

GIST OF THE ARTICLE
If a country with a traditionally strong control over media is suddenly "liberated" with the internet, it doesn't necessarily mean that political activity will immediately follow. Ironically, in this librarian's mind, is that print media (news, books, magazines) usage is a greater indicator of belief in the internet's effectiveness (see quote).

QUOTE FROM THE ARTICLE
"...the correlation here between print media use and efficacy counters one of the central narratives of the so-called Arab Spring, as the use of newspapers, books, and magazines more strongly and consistently correlated with online political efficacy than social media/direct messaging use or overall time spent using the Internet. Reading print media, more so than using social networks, is associated with a belief in the Internet’s political utility."

Link to abstract: https://bit.ly/2J5S8ZY

*Dale Larsen is a librarian at an academic library in the United States of America and produces short literature reviews as a means for scholars and practitioners to get up to speed on a topic using objective, evidence-based research. Contact your academic librarian and ask how to research your own ideas & interests.