

Recent high oil prices have brought a ^{意外的收获} **windfall**. Aramco, the state-owned Saudi giant, posted a record \$161bn profit last year, up from \$110bn in 2021. It plans to expand its capacity by 1m ^{/ˈbærəlz/ 桶} **barrels** a day (roughly 10%) over the next three years. The uae has a similar target. It has also made itself a transit point for Iranian and Russian oil, which are subject to Western ^{制裁、处罚} **sanctions**. Qatar, already the world's biggest exporter of ^{液化天然气} **lng**, plans to boost production by 63% by 2027.

windfall : 意外之财；被风吹落的果子
例：We thought they were a **windfall**. (我们以为那是一场意外之财。)
post a record: 创下记录。post 作为动词可以表示发布、公布、记录、宣布或张贴信息的行为
roughly : 粗糙的、概略地
boost: 推动、促进，使增长
be subject to : 受制于
sanction : 制裁；处罚

The ^{收入、收益} **proceeds** are being poured into new industries. Instead of parking its ^{石油美元} **petrodollars** in American ^{国库、大量珍品} **treasuries**, as it once did, Saudi Arabia is snapping up everything from European footballers to ^{赌注} **stakes** in electric-car firms. This summer the kingdom struck a \$2.6bn deal with Brazil's largest ^{采矿、采矿业} **mining** firm, part of a plan to spend \$170bn on the industry by 2030.

proceeds: 收入，收益
snap up : 迅速抢购或获得某物
例：The concert tickets were **snapped up** within minutes of going on sale. (音乐会门票在上市几分钟内就被迅速抢购一空。)
post a record : 表示发布、公布、记录、宣布或张贴信息
Stuck a deal : 成功达成一项协议或交易
例：After several rounds of negotiations, they finally **stuck a deal** on the merger. (经过几轮谈判，他们最终就合并达成了一项协议。)

美国在中东的经济地位也在下降。根据国际货币基金组织的数据，过去 30 年来，中东出口到中国和印度的份额从 5% 上升到 26%，而出口到欧洲和美国的份额则从 34% 下降至 16%。这主要反映了亚洲对石油的不断增长需求，而石油是该地区的主要出口产品。在上世纪 90 年代，中国对沙特阿拉伯的原油出口份额不到 1%，印度不到 3%；而到 2021 年，这些数字分别增至 28% 和 12%。

石油是能源市场的第二次变革的核心。该地区正致力于成为石油和天然气市场上更为重要的力量，以实现从碳氢化合物能源向其他能源的转型，尽管这听起来有些矛盾。近期高油价带来了一笔收入。沙特阿拉伯国有巨头阿美公司去年实现了创纪录的 1,610 亿美元利润，较 2021 年的 1,100 亿美元增长。该公司计划在未来三年内将产能扩大 100 万桶/日（约占目前产能的 10%）。阿联酋也有类似的目标。该国还成为了伊朗和俄罗斯石油的中转点，而这些石油受到西方制裁。卡塔

尔已经是全球最大的液化天然气出口国，并计划到 2027 年将产量提高 63%。

这些收入正在被投入到新兴产业中。沙特阿拉伯不再像过去那样将石油收入投资于美国国债，而是购买欧洲足球运动员甚至在电动汽车公司中购买股份。今年夏天，该国与巴西最大的矿业公司达成了一项 26 亿美元交易，这是其计划到 2030 年在该行业投资 1,700 亿美元计划的一部分。

The final shift is in ^{态度、看法} attitudes. Surveys show that Arabs view the economy as their top concern. About a third of young Arabs say the cost of living is the region's biggest problem and another third cite unemployment; almost half say it is hard to find a job in their country. Asked whether stability or ^{民主} democracy is more important, 82% choose the former. Growing numbers believe that democracy is bad for economic growth.

Citizens have lost interest in political Islam, too. Islamist parties have been forced out of government by Tunisian voters and Egyptian soldiers. Armed Islamists failed to take control of Iraq, Libya and Syria. Widespread protests in Iran last year were a sign of popular frustration with its ^{宗教的} religious rulers.

The leaders of the Gulf countries, too, seem to have a new outlook. Over the past decade they had sought to use force to change the region. They tried to impose a friendly government on Yemen; Saudi Arabia sent weapons to Syrian rebels; the uae attempted to install Khalifa Haftar, a ^{军伐} warlord, as Libya's leader. Each effort failed.

shift : (n)转变。(v)移动、转移

night shift: 夜班; 夜班工人

view as : 把...看作

cite : 引用、引证

例: Can you **cite** another case like this?
(你能举另外一个像这样的实例吗?)

force out : 强制驱逐

例: The company is planning to **force out** all the employees who are over 60 years old.(公司计划强制驱逐所有年龄超过60岁的员工。)

take control of : 控制

例: If you do, you need to **take control of** your feelings and stop getting angry so easily. (如果你这样做了, 你需要控制你的情绪, 不再那么容易生气。)

outlook : 人们对未来的预期或看法, 也可指某人的心态或态度

例: The **outlook** for the economy is positive, with experts predicting steady growth.(这个城市的发展前景非常乐观, 我对它的outlook感到非常乐观)

impose : 强制实施

At least for now, the era of **macho** foreign policy is over. The most unexpected diplomatic shift was the deal between Saudi Arabia and Iran. They have been **at odds** since the **latter's** Islamic revolution in 1979, fighting a proxy war that eventually spread to Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. With a **nudge** from China, though, they agreed in March to reopen their **embassies**, which had been closed since 2016, to **tone down** **criticism** of one another in state-backed media and to boost economic ties. They are hardly friends, but the deal has reduced the chance of conflict in the Gulf.

macho: / m t o / 大男子气概的
例: Don't Be A Macho Man (不要去逞能; 别做逞能硬汉; 别逞能硬汉)
odds: / d z / (事物发生的)可能性, 机会; 困难
at odds with: 与...不合
nudge: / n d / 劝说, 鼓励
例: He can work hard but he needs a nudge now and then. (他能够努力工作, 但偶尔需要督促一下)
tone down: 缓和; 减弱; 使柔和; 放松
例: Another appropriate step would be to tone down the criticism until we know more. (另一项合适的举措就是, 在我们了解更多的情况之前, 将批评的语气放缓和一点)
state-backed media: 官方媒体

最后一个转变发生在态度上。调查显示, 阿拉伯人将经济视为他们最关心的问题。大约三分之一的年轻阿拉伯人表示生活成本是该地区最大的问题, 另三分之一提到失业; 近一半的人表示在本国找工作很困难。当被问及稳定和民主哪个更重要时, 82%的人选择了前者。越来越多的人认为民主对经济增长不利。

市民对政治伊斯兰主义也失去了兴趣。伊斯兰主义政党被突尼斯选民和埃及军队赶下台。武装伊斯兰主义者未能在伊拉克、利比亚和叙利亚取得控制权。去年伊朗的广泛抗议活动显示了人们对宗教统治者的不满。

海湾国家的领导人似乎也有了新的眼光。过去十年, 他们一直试图使用武力改变该地区的局势。他们试图在也门强行安插友好政府; 沙特阿拉伯向叙利亚反叛者提供武器支持; 阿联酋试图将战争贵族哈夫塔尔安插为利比亚领导人。然而, 每一次努力都失败了。

至少目前来看, 强硬的对外政策时代已经结束。最令人意外的外交转变是沙特阿拉伯和伊朗之间的协议。自从1979年后者的伊斯兰革命以来, 他们一直处于对立状态, 进行着一场最终波及伊拉克、黎巴嫩、叙利亚和也门的代理战争。然而, 在中国的推动下, 他们在今年三月同意重新开放自2016年以

来一直关闭的大使馆，减少官方媒体上对彼此的批评，并加强经济联系。虽然他们并非朋友，但这项协议降低了海湾地区发生冲突的可能性。

The most **unsavoury** shift is Mr Assad's **reintegration**. He did nothing to earn it: after destroying Syria to keep power, he has made no gestures towards **reform** or **reconciliation**. But in May the Saudis let him **reclaim** Syria's seat at the Arab League.

The easing of **tensions** has **nonetheless** brought a **measure** of calm, which may help explain the improving economic **outlook**. The imf expects the non-oil **portion** of the Gulf states' economies to **grow** by 4.2% this year (unchanged from last year), even as the **oily** bit **expands** by just 1.9% (**down from** 10.3% in 2022). The region attracted 6% of global flows of foreign direct investment last year, **up from** 3% in 2019.

Capital markets are booming. Firms in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the uae, **accounted for** 14% of the world's ipos in the first quarter of 2023. **Goldman Sachs**, a bank, estimates that foreign ownership of Middle Eastern equities **climbed from** 2% in 2017 to 10% last year. It sees the region's **weight** in **emerging-market** indices rising to 10% in the next few years, from 7% today.

Big **domestic** reforms are making **headway**: 31% of Saudi women were employed in the first quarter of this year, compared with 16% at the same point in 2017. Gulf states are also trying to be more **exacting** when **doling out** aid. Some still comes with few strings attached: Tunisia, for instance, secured a surprise \$500m **bail-out**.

unsavoury : 难吃的；没有香味的；令人讨厌的；可耻的
例：The politician's **unsavoury** actions have caused outrage among the public. (这个人的行为非常不道德，很多人都对他的行为感到厌恶。)

reclaim :

1、收回或取回：重新获得或索回已经失去或被占有的东西。

例：The company **reclaimed** the stolen equipment from the thieves.

2、恢复或修复：使某物重新变得可用或合适。

例：They **reclaimed** the old warehouse and turned it into a trendy art gallery.

3、环境治理：修复或恢复土地、水域或生态系统的健康状态。

例：Efforts are being made to **reclaim** the polluted river and restore its natural habitat.

4、自我提升：通过努力或改变来提高自己的形象或地位。

例：She **reclaimed** her self-confidence after going through a difficult period in her life.

5、回收再利用：将废弃物或废料进行处理和再利用。

例：We should all make an effort to **reclaim** and recycle plastic waste.

a measure of calm : 指一种平静的程度或水平

Goldman Sachs : 高盛银行

emerging-market : 新兴市场

headway : 某个领域或任务中前进的程度、进展或取得的进步

例：We are making significant **headway** in our efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

doling out : 分发、分配或施舍

例：The local government has been **doling out** emergency supplies to the victims of the natural disaster. (当地政府一直在向自然灾害的受害者提供紧急救援物资。)

exacting : 表示要求严格或苛求

例：The job requires an **exacting** attention to detail and a high level of accuracy. (这份工作需要对细节要求严格，要求高度准确。)

bail-out : 政府或其他金融机构对面临破产或严重财务困境的公司或银行提供紧急财务援助的行为

(most of it loans) from Saudi Arabia in July. But Egypt is having to raise money by selling stakes in state-run firms to sovereign-wealth funds from Qatar and the uae.

最令人不悦的转变是阿萨德的重新融入。他没有为此付出任何努力：在为了保住权力而摧毁叙利亚之后，他对改革或和解没有作出任何姿态。然而在五月份，沙特阿拉伯让他重返阿拉伯联盟。

尽管紧张局势有所缓和，但这也带来了一定的稳定，这或许可以解释经济前景的改善。根据国际货币基金组织的预测，海湾国家非石油部分经济今年预计将增长 4.2%(与去年持平)，而石油部分仅增长 1.9%(低于 2022 年的 10.3%)。该地区去年吸引了全球 6% 的外国直接投资流入，较 2019 年的 3% 有所增加。

资本市场正蓬勃发展。今年第一季度，阿联酋首都阿布扎比的企业占据了全球 IPO 的 14%。高盛银行估计，中东股票的外国持有比例从 2017 年的 2% 上升至去年的 10%。预计该地区在新兴市场指数中的权重将在未来几年内从目前的 7% 上升至 10%。

重要的国内改革也在取得进展：今年第一季度，沙特女性就业比例达到了 31%，而在 2017 年同期仅为 16%。海湾国家在提供援助时也更加苛求。虽然一些援助仍然没有太多限制，例如突尼斯在今年七月从沙特阿拉伯意外获得了 5 亿美元的援助（其中大部分是贷款），但埃及则不得不通过向卡塔尔和阿联酋的主权财富基金出售国有企业的股份来筹集资金。

Optimists muse about where this could lead. A calmer Middle East would mean fewer risks to global trade and energy flows, and fewer refugees (the region accounts for over 8m of the world's 35m). As Western firms seek to diversify supply chains, a youthful Middle East could become a new manufacturing base. Morocco's thriving

Optimists: 乐观主义者

pessimist : 悲观主义者

supply chains: 供应链

thriving : 繁荣、兴盛、昌盛、蓬勃发展、蒸蒸日上

例：The company is thriving and expanding its market share. (这家公司兴旺发展，并扩大了市场份额。)

car industry, which produces around 700,000 vehicles a year and **sustains** 220,000 jobs, shows what is possible.

The region could also do more business with itself. Trade within the Middle East is equivalent to only 2.9% of the region's gdp, compared with 22% within the eu. Researchers at Majid al-Futtaim, an Emirati **retail giant**, and McKinsey, a **consultancy**, estimate that dropping **barriers** to trade could boost the region's gdp by \$230bn (5%). If Saudi Arabia and Israel buried the hatchet, commercial ties with the Middle East's most dynamic economy would become possible.

Infrastructure could be **stitched** together as well. The gcc countries have long **mooted** **integrating** their railways, which could easily be connected to those of Iraq, Israel and Jordan, too. Pipelines could bring low-cost Saudi **hydrogen** across the **Mediterranean** to consumers in Europe; **upgraded** **transmission lines** could allow a **sun-baked** region to export **solar** power.

It is an **alluring** vision, but there are many **pitfalls**. The first is that the economic progress of the past few years has been **uneven**. The Middle East has long been **riven** with political **schisms**, between revolutionaries and **royalists**, nationalists and Islamists, Sunnis and Shias. Today, though, the most important distinction is economic, between the **prosperous** states and the **penurious** ones.

Unfortunately, most of the Middle East is penurious. Even in a time of regional calm, **dire** economies threaten these countries' **stability**. In the past five years alone,

sustain: 维持、持续、提供支持或帮助
例: We need to take actions to **sustain** economic growth. (我们需要采取措施来维持经济增长。)

be equivalent to: 与...相等

retail giant: 零售巨头

McKinsey: 麦肯锡

dropping barriers: 打破壁垒、降低障碍。

例: The government is committed to **dropping barriers** to international trade. (政府致力于打破国际贸易壁垒)

hatchet: /hæt t/

短柄斧头, 扩展的意思是象征性地表示解决问题或结束争执

dynamic economy: 具有活力的经济体

stitch: 缝合、拼接、组合、结合

例: The team worked tirelessly to **stitch** together a comprehensive proposal for the project. (团队不辞辛劳地将全面的提案组合起来, 以应对这个项目。)

moot: (adj) 无意义的、"无关紧要的"
(v) 提出...进行辩论

例: The proposed plan is moot because it lacks sufficient funding. (该提议的可行性不大, 因为缺乏足够的资金。)

例: The proposal was mooted during the meeting and received mixed feedback. (这个提案在会议上被提出并得到了不同的反馈。)

alluring: 描述某事物或某人具有吸引力、迷人或诱人的特质, 使人产生兴趣或被吸引

例: She has an **alluring** smile that captivates everyone around her. (她拥有一副迷人的笑容, 吸引着周围的每个人)

pitfall: 陷阱、危险

例: It's important to be aware of the potential **pitfalls** before making a major investment. (在进行重大投资之前, 了解潜在的陷阱是很重要的)

rive: 撕开、劈开、分裂

例: The war has **riven** the country, causing a deep divide among its citizens. (这场战争撕裂了这个国家, 导致公民之间产生了深刻的分歧。)

prosperous: 繁荣的

penurious: /p n ri s/ 贫困的

dire: 极其严重、可怕、紧急或不幸的情况

例: The hurricane caused **dire** damage to homes and infrastructure. (飓风给房屋和基础设施造成了严重的破坏。)

since Prince Muhammad first began talking about a regional ^{复兴}renaissance, there have been big ^{抗议、游行}protests in Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Sudan.

乐观主义者对这种发展可能带来的影响进行了深思。一个更为平静的中东意味着对全球贸易和能源流动的风险减少，同时也意味着难民数量的减少（该地区占全球 35 百万难民中的超过 800 万）。随着西方企业寻求供应链的多样化，年轻的中东地区有望成为一个新的制造基地。以摩洛哥繁荣的汽车产业为例，每年生产约 70 万辆汽车，支撑着 22 万个就业岗位，这展示了中东地区所具备的潜力。

此外，该地区还可以通过加强内部贸易来实现更多商业合作。相较于欧盟内部贸易占其国内生产总值的 22% 而言，中东地区内部贸易仅相当于该地区国内生产总值的 2.9%。阿联酋零售业巨头 Majid al-Futtaim 和咨询公司麦肯锡的研究人员估计，消除贸易壁垒有望将该地区的国内生产总值增加 2300 亿美元（相当于 5%）。如果沙特阿拉伯和以色列能够化解矛盾，与中东地区最具活力经济体之一建立商业关系将成为可能。

此外，中东地区的基础设施建设也具有重要意义。长久以来，海合会国家一直在研究整合铁路系统的可能性，这些铁路系统还可以与伊拉克、以色列和约旦的铁路系统连接起来。此外，输油管道可以将低成本的沙特阿拉伯氢气输送到地中海，进而为欧洲消费者提供能源，而升级的输电线路则有助于中东地区向外界出口太阳能电力，充分利用这个阳光充足的地区的优势。

这个愿景无疑吸引人，但其中也存在一些挑战。首先，过去几年的经济进展并不均衡。中东地区长期以来一直存在政治分裂，包括革命派与君主派、民族主义者与伊斯兰主义者、逊尼派与什叶派之间的矛盾。然而，如今最重要的区别在于经济方面，即富裕国家与贫穷国家之间的差距。