



## Invitation

**Thursday, 3 December 2015, 4 pm**

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### **Oman's Maritime Relations in Modern History**

Lecture by **Prof. Dr. Mohammed Al Muqadam**

#### **Venue**

Freie Universität Berlin  
Fabeckstraße 23-25  
Room 2.2051  
14195 Berlin

Oman history dates back to the ancient times. Oman lies at a strategic pivotal point on the Gulf of Oman, which connects the Arabian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, with the Indian Ocean, the Indian Subcontinent, East Africa, and the Far East. The geography and historical ties that have linked Oman with the old civilization and the modern powers has shaped and enabled the condition for Oman's relations with countries to develop throughout the centuries. In modern history Oman was once the dominant maritime power in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean. The Omani empire under the Al Busaid Rule (1744-till now) reached its zenith in the mid-19th century with control of the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, and Bandar Abbas in Iran, Gwadar province in Pakistan, and the coast of East Africa. Oman's relations with the Ottomans, Persia, the Saudi, and the new Arab sheikhs on the Arab side of the Gulf have been complicated, especially with the Saudi expansion policy and the Rise of the Qawasim.

On the coming of his Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said in 1970, a new era of Oman's contemporary history began. Oman has maintained good relations with all the States in the Gulf. Oman became a member in the GCC and maintained a policy of relative neutrality. Oman played a mediator role between the GCC States, USA, and Iran. Oman hosted last USA, Europe and Iran negotiation meeting in Muscat Nov 9-11, 2014. Oman continues with its GCC partners to Pursue diplomatic solutions to the conflicts in Syria and Yemen. The success of the Omani diplomatic role is part of his Majesty's great achievements in Oman's contemporary history.

**Prof. Dr. Mohammed ben Saad Al Muqadam** is Head of the History Department at Sultan Qabus University in Muscat, Oman. He specializes in Oman's external relations. His PhD, obtained in 1996 from Exeter University, discussed "Oman's Relations with Persia (1737-1968)", while his MA from Portland University treated Oman-American Relations in Zanzibar (1827-1856).



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