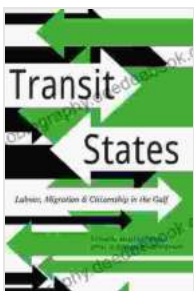


# Labour Migration and Citizenship in the Gulf: A Long and Winding Road

Labour migration has been a defining feature of the Gulf region for centuries. However, the region's rapid economic development in recent decades has led to a significant increase in the number of migrant workers, who now make up a majority of the population in some countries. This has raised a number of challenges, including how to integrate migrants into society and ensure their rights.

## The History of Labour Migration in the Gulf

The Gulf region has a long history of labour migration. In the early days, migrants came from neighbouring countries such as Yemen and Oman. However, as the region's oil wealth grew, so too did the demand for foreign workers. By the 1970s, migrants from South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa were streaming into the Gulf.



## Transit States: Labour, Migration and Citizenship in the Gulf by Omar AlShehabi

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1831 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
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Print length : 282 pages

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Today, there are an estimated 25 million migrant workers in the Gulf. They make up a majority of the population in some countries, such as Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. These workers play a vital role in the Gulf's economy, filling jobs in a wide range of sectors, from construction to healthcare.

## **The Challenges of Labour Migration**

The large number of migrant workers in the Gulf has created a number of challenges. One of the most pressing challenges is how to integrate migrants into society. Many migrants live in segregated communities, and they often face discrimination and prejudice. This can make it difficult for them to access essential services, such as healthcare and education.

Another challenge is how to ensure the rights of migrant workers. In many Gulf countries, migrant workers are not covered by the same labour laws as citizens. This means that they are often subject to exploitation and abuse. They may be forced to work long hours for low pay, and they may not have access to basic benefits such as health insurance or paid leave.

## **The Future of Labour Migration in the Gulf**

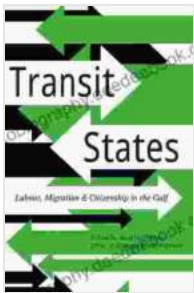
The future of labour migration in the Gulf is uncertain. Some experts believe that the region will continue to rely on migrant workers for its economic growth. Others believe that the Gulf countries will eventually need to reduce their dependence on migrant labour and invest in developing their own workforce.

Whatever the future holds, it is clear that the Gulf countries need to do more to address the challenges of labour migration. They need to develop

policies that promote the integration of migrants into society and ensure their rights. They also need to work with their partners in the global community to find ways to reduce the number of migrant workers who are forced to leave their homes in search of a better life.

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Labour migration is a complex issue with no easy answers. However, it is a issue that the Gulf countries must address if they want to continue to grow and prosper. By working together, the Gulf countries can find ways to manage labour migration in a way that benefits both migrants and citizens.



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