

MEDIA EDUCATION FOUNDATION

60 Masonic St. Northampton, MA 01060 | TEL 800.897.0089 | info@mediaed.org | www.mediaed.org

Blood and Oil

Discussion Guide

1. What parts of the film did you find most striking or surprising? Why does that part stand out?
2. What are some of the ways oil has become an essential part of American way of life?
3. The United States now relies on foreign countries for two-thirds of its oil-supply. Why does Michael Klare consider this to be a weakness?
4. Why did Franklin Roosevelt meet with the King of Saudi Arabia in 1945? What have been some of the outcomes of that meeting?
5. Did you find it surprising that both parties, Democrats and Republicans, have committed to upholding FDR's Middle East policy?
6. Why is there such a stark difference between the US–Saudi relationship and other countries in the region, like Iran, Syria, or pre-invasion Iraq?
7. What was the Carter Doctrine? What is the importance of the Carter doctrine?
8. How did George H.W. Bush's administration justify military action in the Persian Gulf War in 1991? How did their reasoning differ from that of George W. Bush's administration in the lead-up to the invasion of Iraq in 2003? What are similarities?
9. According to his speech to the Veteran's of Foreign Wars in 2002, why did Vice President Cheney consider Saddam Hussein a threat?
10. Do you think Americans would support the use of force if leaders were honest about the objective of protecting access to Middle East oil? When is it appropriate for US leaders to use force?
11. With plans for the establishment of an African Command, or Africom, do you think the coming decades will see similar US military involvement in Africa as we've seen in the Persian Gulf?
12. If the Americans cut back on oil consumption, do you think US foreign policy will change? How?

www.bloodandoilmovie.com