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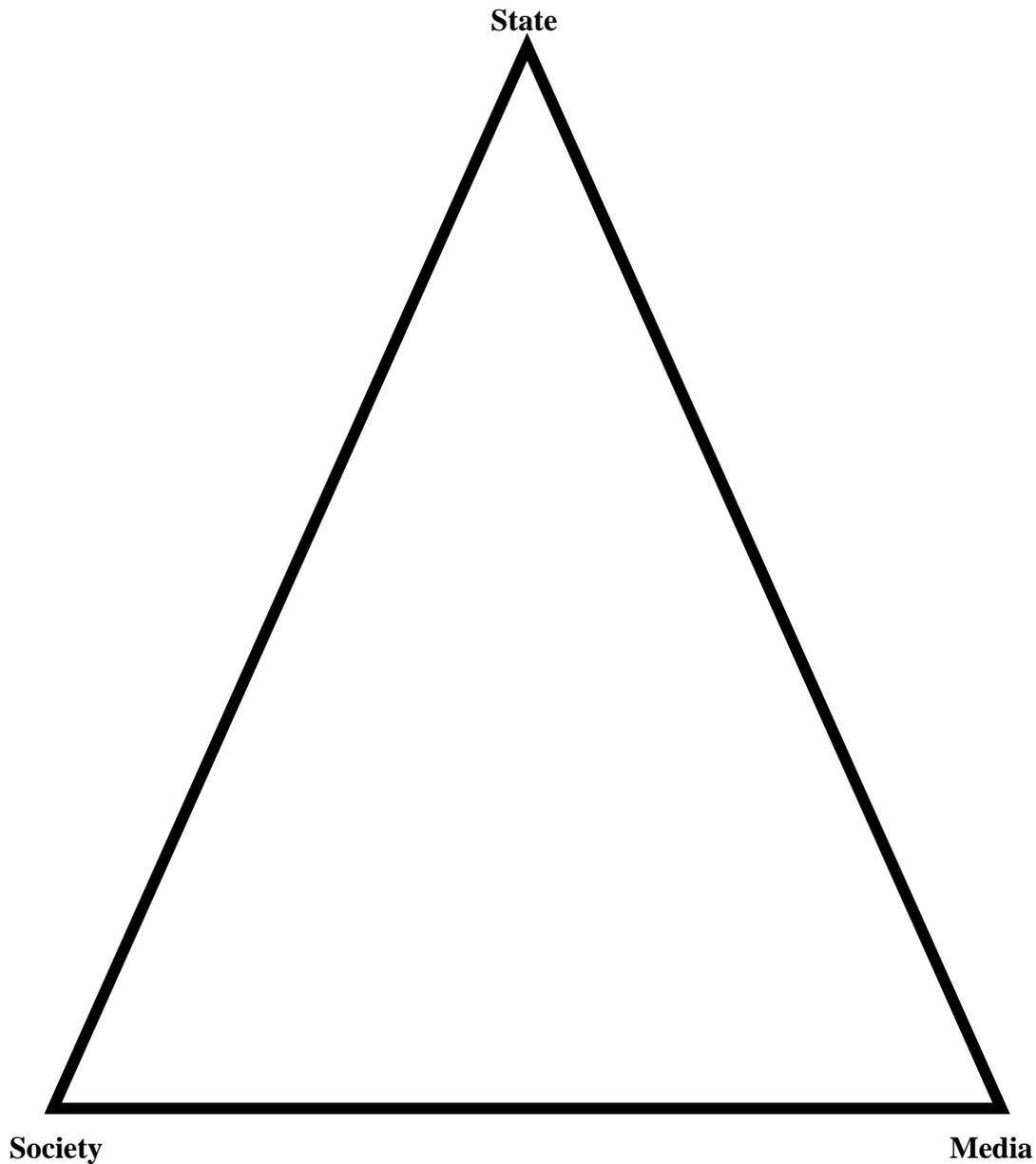
Title of the Thesis: Media and the Political Development in the Gulf Cooperation Council States

In the GCC States the media, over the past two decades, has significantly evolved from a just a vestigial attachment of the State into one of the most commanding and principal apparatus of governance. Mediated political development has turned into a fundamental ingredient of political and public life in the contemporary Gulf society. The culture of mediated political development is, too fast catching up in the Gulf States. The rentier nature of the state in the GCC has compelled the states to ensure centrality of mediated political communication.

The emergence of vibrant civil society in the Gulf States as a strong force during the past two decades influencing many a policy decisions concerning the media has forced the State to restructure the media contents. The GCC States follow the policy of differentiated contents for the Arabic, English and other language (international and vernacular) press and television channels. Content-wise, also the media – over the years – has shown remarkable improvements and is now breaking free from ‘protocol journalism’.

There are at least seven major factors that affect the framing of news regarding the political development in the GCC States (a) *Integrity of Royal Family*: It is the most important factor while framing the news. No undue criticism and or/news that undermines the authority of the monarch is permitted; (b) *Tribal Affiliations*: news item/editorial is published/broadcast that harms the reputation or damage the character of the tribe to which the owner of the news media outlet belong; (c) *Government Subsidies*: Government extend subsidies to the media outlets. This has a bearing on the framing of news; (d) *Media Ownership Patterns*: It is the will and the wish of the media owner that determines which political development is to be reported in the news and also how it is to be framed as a news item. This aspect is most visible in the print media (e) *Efficacy of Civil Society Civil Society*: It provides the mechanism for checks and balances for framing of media contents related to the political developments. (f) *Public Good and Social Order*: Political development news are framed in such a way that it serves in the

interest of the public and does not disturb the prevailing social order; (g) *Rentier Economy*: The political developments are a product of state's media policies rooted in rentierism. In the GCC States there exists a dynamic relationship between the state, society and media which can be represented by a diagram.



State-Media-Society Dynamic Relationship

(412 Words)