



Alwaleed: Businessman, Billionaire, Prince

By Riz Khan

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Alwaleed: Businessman, Billionaire, Prince By Riz Khan

There are few individuals as unique, enigmatic, and colorful as Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Alsaud.

This biography of the world's fifth-richest man -- worth around \$24 billion -- tells the story of a businessman who started out with a relatively modest bank loan and built an empire that embraces the best-known brands, from Citigroup and Disney to Apple Computers and the Four Seasons Hotels. Alwaleed, as he's known to most in the Middle East, is the largest single foreign investor in the U.S. economy, with interests in almost everything that touches the American lifestyle. Like investment guru Warren Buffett, Alwaleed became hugely successful through consecutive strategic high-profile investments, earning him the respect of Wall Street.

In this fascinating and uniquely insightful authorized biography, international journalist and broadcaster Riz Khan offers a revealing insider's view of this provocative business genius, focusing on issues including:

- his unique family history
- the origins of his powerful drive to succeed
- his phenomenal success in rescuing beleaguered companies such as America's giant Citigroup
- his investments in top brands including Four Seasons Hotels, Saks Fifth Avenue, and NewsCorp
- his unique approach to investing -- and some of his most lucrative strategies

Beyond the billionaire, jet-set lifestyle, Prince Alwaleed has a close and emotional relationship with the desert and its people. His identity sits on the fence separating the Arab world on one side, with tents, camels, and rifle-toting Bedouins ... and the fast-paced, hungry, pinstripe world of Wall Street, with limousines and designer labels.

Brilliant, charming, and extraordinarily hardworking, this billionaire's personal story unfolds in gripping detail, based on in-depth interviews with the Prince's family, entourage, and closest business associates -- including top names such as Sandy Weill, Rupert Murdoch, and Jimmy Carter.

Alwaleed is a revealing portrait of an unusual individual whose presence in the global economy is unmatched; a twenty-first-century ambassador who could be the ultimate bridge to connect the Middle East and the West.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Though Prince Alwaleed bin Talal came to public attention in the U.S. when Rudy Giuliani rejected his \$10 million donation to the Twin Towers fund, Alwaleed's real significance is as a global financial powerbroker. The Saudi royal is the biggest single foreign investor in the U.S. economy and the world's fourth-richest man, with assets totaling more than \$21 billion. His significant holdings in U.S. companies include Citigroup (which he bailed out with \$590 million in the early '90s), Apple and News Corp., the corporate entity responsible for this "authorized biography." Khan, who has interviewed high-profile figures for CNN International, tags along with Alwaleed and his entourage as they conduct business in Riyadh and Paris, holiday in Cannes and trek into the Saudi desert for a weekend getaway. The resulting reportage has the breezy flavor of a magazine profile awkwardly stretched to book length. There's plenty of praise for Alwaleed's "financial intelligence" and outsized personality, but Khan doesn't probe beyond the admirable surface (though he notes others have tried to dig up dirt with little success). The glowing descriptions seem carefully crafted—and timed—to raise Alwaleed's profile in the West. (Oct.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Khan, independent broadcaster and journalist, offers a unique window into the life and times of His Royal Highness Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (known as Alwaleed), who is described by the *Wall Street Journal* as the "Arab Warren Buffet." Age 50 and U.S.-educated, Alwaleed is currently the fifth wealthiest man in the world. His prominent family ties in Saudi Arabia as well as in Lebanon lead him, a Muslim who identifies with Western ways and champions reform, to serve as a bridge between the Middle East and the West. The most successful investor outside the U.S., he owns vast investment portfolios that include such brand names as Citibank, EuroDisney, and Apple. This is a fascinating tale of a financial giant who gave the author unprecedented access to himself and those who surround him, resulting in a treasure trove of information. However, like all biographies written with the support of the subject, many could question its objectivity. *Mary Whaley*

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About the Author

Riz Khan is a well-known independent broadcaster and journalist. He worked at CNN International for eight years, where he hosted the flagship program Q&A with Riz Khan. On this popular show, he interviewed a long list of world leaders and newsmakers including Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, Hillary Clinton, Kofi Annan, Tom Clancy, Richard Gere, and many others. Prior to his years at CNN, he was a top broadcaster with BBC World TV. As an international journalist, he has been involved in a wide range of documentaries with a strong focus on the Middle East.

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