

It can be said that *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom* is a work whose true potential has not yet been discovered. That the work presents itself to be of greater value than may have previously seemed goes without question. However, during the more than eighty years of its existence, it was the author and not the work that created major interest in the academic world. The complicated character of T.E. Lawrence offered itself to psycho-analyst interpretation and most critiques have been built on these premises. Other works have concentrated on major historical events in Lawrence's life creating thorough biographies and numbers of fascinating approaches, some more, some less misleading were created. However, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom* (from henceforth "Seven Pillars") foremostly survived in the shadows of David Lean's film "Lawrence of Arabia" and it was only during the late seventies, that concentration on the Seven Pillars as a text had begun to be cultivated. Additionally, it has only been during the past few years that works by writers such as Gertrude Bell, T.E. Lawrence or Charles M. Doughty have begun to gain a larger public interest. The aim of this work, however, is not to analyse the historical purpose of Lawrence's presence in the Middle East, nor to align the Seven Pillars with historical facts. Such studies have already been made by varying authors such as Michael Asher or Lawrence James. Instead the text shall be approached by examining the different potential ways of analysing the Seven Pillars in the mode of post-colonial discourse. This work shall set out to try and reveal the true potential of the work as a text of post-colonial value. The term "post-colonial" has been used for the following reason: *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom* is not a text that would strictly fall under the term "colonial literature", although such a claim is often made. The Middle East, though of interest to Britain, never became a British colony as in the manner that, for example, India had. In this sense, the Seven Pillars has greater latitude in becoming something of an early, "pre'-post-colonial" text of some potential.