



Model Arab League

Annotated Bibliography for Qatar

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This annotated bibliography was created to serve as a research resource for students taking part in the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Model Arab League Program. With the understanding that research can be intimidating and time consuming, an effort was made to find a set of scholarly articles that give a detailed background and thorough account of the current situation for this League of Arab States member. Included are annotations designed to give a description of the source with the intention of students completing the research on their own. There has been an attempt to focus on more contemporary scholarship, specifically post-9/11 and post-2011 (so-called "Arab Spring") where possible, as these are two phenomena that fundamentally changed politics in the Arab world. These sources should provide students with a solid basis for understanding the country they are representing in both regionally and globally significant issues as well as the interests of other countries within the League of Arab States.

1. Glen Plant, "Maritime Delimitation and Territorial Questions between Qatar and Bahrain (Qatar v. Bahrain)," *The American Journal of International Law*, Volume 96, Number 1 January 2002, pp. 198-210. •• For those students interested in international law, this article gives a thorough account of a territorial dispute between Bahrain and Qatar. Readers are given insight into the arguments presented, technical language, and eventual settlement of this case, and gain an understanding of the workings of a multilateral organization like the International Court of Justice (ICJ). A map within the article illustrates the many international borders present within such a small space.
2. Cassandra M. Guarino and Jeffery C. Tanner, "Adequacy, Accountability, Autonomy and Equity in a Middle Eastern School Reform: The Case of Qatar," *International Review of Education*, Volume 58, Issue 2, April 2012, pp. 221–245. •• In 2004, there were two large international reports outlining aspects of successful education systems, namely adequacy, accountability, autonomy, and equity. Just before these reports were published, Qatar embarked on an ambitious education reform program that closely matched these principles. In following, Qatar was able to fund its schools at a surplus, it allowed parents to choose which school their children attended, the schools mostly had control over their curricula, and female enrolment was on par (and in some cases above) with male enrolment. As perfect as this situation may sound, each aspect had both pros and cons that are explored in this article. The authors conclude by arguing that a better definition of a "successful" school is needed in Qatar.
3. Krista E. Wiegand, "Bahrain, Qatar, and the Hawar Islands: Resolution of a Gulf Territorial Dispute," *The Middle East Journal*, Volume 66, Number 1, January 2012, pp. 79-96. •• Beginning in the mid 1900's, Bahrain and Qatar maintained a territorial dispute which until very recently pitted both countries against each other in a near war-like manner. Finally, with both countries agreeing to go to the International Court of Justice

(ICJ), the case was settled in 2001. Interesting in this case is the fact that Bahrain wanted to stay within an Arab regionalist framework and solve the dispute using Saudi Arabia as a third party mediator. Qatar was suspicious of this because Qatar had an ongoing territorial dispute with Saudi Arabia as well, and therefore thought the Saudi's would be biased. With the ruling of the ICJ, the case was settled non-violently, and proved to be beneficial for both parties economically, but also in ways that were unexpected.

4. Birol Baskan and Steven Wright, "Seeds of Change: Comparing State-Religion Relations in Qatar and Saudi Arabia," *Arab Studies Quarterly*, Volume 33, Issue 2, March 2011, pp. 96-111. •• It is important not to view the Gulf States and region as a homogenous group of Arab actors. Historic developments in both religion and politics have created distinct combinations of outcomes in separate localities. These features are demonstrated well by the nature of religion and state when comparing Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Interestingly, Qatar has adopted a more secular form of state education, in contrast to Saudi Arabia, which was historically defined by Wahhabism. This article shows that Qatar's relative secularism stems from its wish to differentiate itself from Saudi Arabia and maintain autonomy.
5. Mohamed Darwish, Rabi Mohtar, Youssef Elgendy, and Mokhtar Chmeissani, "Desalting Seawater in Qatar by Renewable Energy: A Feasibility Study," *Desalination and Water Treatment*, Volume 47, Issue 1-3, September 2012, pp. 279-294. •• As a country geographically defined by its harsh desert climate, Qatar has almost no freshwater resources and is nearly 100% reliant on desalinization of water for its potable water needs. As the population grows, the demand for water increases and conventional means of desalinization are becoming less viable. For the most part, Qatar uses the multi-stage flash method to desalt seawater, a process that is actually fossil fuel intensive, creating air pollution as well as sea pollution when the brine concentrate of higher temperature and salinity is dumped back into the ocean. This article details the various other methods there are for desalinizing water and suggests that an indirect solar heating system be implemented over other methods in Qatar.
6. Abdulbari Bener, Ahmed Al Mazroei, "Health Services Management in Qatar," *Croatian Medical Journal*, Volume 51, Issue 1, February 2010, pp. 85-88. •• In just over the past decade, the population of Qatar has more than doubled. This rapid growth in population has created the need for more healthcare providers, and as the country becomes more developed, higher quality care as well. According to this report, wise use of oil and gas revenues have contributed to the building of a "sophisticated social and health infrastructure," resulting in "dramatic gains in the health and wellbeing of the people." Despite these noteworthy gains, there is still work to do, and Qatar's proportion of primary care physicians to the population is still relatively low when compared to other

developed countries.

7. Mehran Kamrava, "Mediation and Qatari Foreign Policy," *Middle East Journal*, Volume 65, Number 4, Autumn 2011, pp. 539-556. •• Despite being a very small country within the greater Arab world, Qatar appears to have emerged as a regional mediation powerhouse within the past decade. Possibly in following the creation of the al-Jazeera News Network, Qatar became perceived to be a neutral political actor amongst the antagonistic Arab states. This image of neutrality aided Qatar in being welcomed as a mediating power in various intra-Arab conflicts, namely those in Lebanon, Sudan, and Yemen. At times, Qatar's mediation efforts have come under scrutiny by larger neighbors like Saudi Arabia, but this author argues that the criticism is largely politically motivated. Overall, while Qatar's emergence as a major mediator amongst Arab states is commendable, some of its negotiations appear to have limited sustainability.
8. Andrew F. Cooper and Bessma Momani, "Qatar and Expanded Contours of Small State Diplomacy," *The International Spectator: Italian Journal of International Affairs*, Volume 46, Number 3, September 2011, pp. 113-128. •• Despite being a small state sandwiched between regional the hegemons of Saudi Arabia and Iran, Qatar has successfully leveraged its wealth as an international actor primarily through soft power activities. Critically, Qatar has flexed its soft power in a strangely independent manner, bucking regional and international trends. For example, Qatar has maintained relatively amicable relations with Israel along with Iran, and at times has supported the U.S. and groups like HAMAS and Hezbollah simultaneously. Finally, Qatar is home to the al-Jazeera News Network, which has become a powerful tool in Arab regional policy, and at times Qatar has been accused of manipulating its coverage.
9. M.A. Darwish and Rabi Mohtar, "Qatar water challenges," *Desalination and Water Treatment*, Volume 51, Issue 1-3, January 2013, pp. 75-86. •• Currently, Qatar is vastly overdrawing its groundwater resources multiple times higher than its replenishment rate. Because Qatar is so water-poor, it is almost entirely dependent on water desalination for its fresh water. Desalination is a cost and resource intensive process however, so there is a need to look to other ways of obtaining and/or retaining water in Qatar. There are several ways of achieving this that are laid out in this article. These alternative methods include waste water treatment (particularly attractive because the amount of waste water grows proportionally to population), possible demand-side measures like increasing the price of water (which is currently either 0 or well below its true price because of government subsidies), or redistributing water away from agriculture for efficiency (agriculture currently uses ~60% of Qatar's fresh water but only contributes to less than 1% of GDP).

10. Justin Dargin, "Qatar's Natural Gas: The Foreign Policy Driver," *Middle East Policy*, Volume 14, Number 3, Fall 2007, pp. 136-142. •• Conflict following the end of the oil boom in the 1970's prompted Qatar to pursue a much more independent stance in international politics. Around the same time, Qatar's North Field, extremely wealthy in natural gas was determined to be exploitable, and Qatar needed foreign expertise to develop it. To this end, Qatar tried to appeal to the Gulf Cooperation Council to fund a pipeline project to transport its fresh natural gas reserves, however political jockeying drowned the project. Qatar had to rely almost entirely on itself at this point to exploit and transport its natural gas, and did so successfully. This article argues that the economic and political developments surrounding oil and natural gas forced Qatar to become self-sufficient in a tumultuous region.

11. Uzi Rabi, "Qatar's Relations with Israel: Challenging Arab and Gulf Norms," *Middle East Journal*, Volume 63, Number 3, Summer 2009, 443-459. •• Part and parcel of Qatar's unique foreign policy is its willingness to recognize and deal with Israel. Qatar has even invited Israeli representatives to conferences and summits, much to the chagrin of its Gulf, Arab, and Iranian neighbors. This liberalizing of Qatari foreign policy came directly after the coup in 1995 and the creation of al-Jazeera in 1996. Later benevolent treatment of Israel by Qatar appeared to be directly proportional to Israel's commitment to Arab-Israeli peace and good treatment of the Palestinians. More recently, Qatar was able to "extricate" Lebanon from its own civil war, demonstrating commanding power amongst Arab nations despite its stance on Israel. This author argues that Qatar's rise to political power broker in the region was made possible through an aggressive policy of openness with Israel coupled with the hosting of many and well publicized summits on Middle East peace.

12. Mehran Kamrava, "Royal Factionalism and Political Liberalization in Qatar," *Middle East Journal*, Volume 63, Number 3, Summer 2009, pp. 401-420. •• Following the coup led by Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani in 1995, the Sheikh embarked on attempts at sweeping political and economic reforms. In terms of economic reforms, he was hugely successful, as Qatar now has one the highest per-capita incomes in the world. Political liberalization would prove more difficult however, based on many internal factors. Sheikh Hamad changed the laws of succession to only include his descendants, a sensible move to shore up power and reduce internal divisions post-coup. After achieving power, Sheikh Hamad was able to maintain power through rentier policies as well as the fact that relative to other Gulf states, Qatar was rather homogenous and did not have fundamentalist religious opposition. This article traces the contemporary history of Qatar after the regime change and the progress of democratic reforms in the government.

13. Sharon Nagy, "Making Room for Migrants, Making Sense of Difference: Spatial and Ideological Expressions of Social Diversity in Urban Qatar," *Urban Studies*, Volume 43, Number 1, January 2006, pp. 119–137. •• The population of Qatar is only about a quarter Qatari citizens while the rest is made up of immigrant laborers from vast walks of life. Rapid development led to a quickly increasing need for migrant labor as well as equally fast urbanization. Undoubtedly, these trends had the effect of creating some societal tension between the locals and foreigners, urban dwellers and Bedouin. This article describes the population demographics of Qatar in detail, and provides the reader with a historical progression of immigration law and practice. Interesting to note is that although some immigration laws appear to institutionalize social stratification and in some cases racism, the majority of immigrants are satisfied with their wages and standard of living.
14. Justin Gengler, "The Political Costs of Qatar's Western Orientation," *Middle East Policy*, Volume 19, Number 4, Winter 2012, pp. 68-76. •• Swift economic progress over the past decade has allowed Qatar to become the maverick it is when it comes to its foreign policy. To give a few examples, Qatar maintains relations with both the U.S. and Iran, and supports the Syrian opposition while Iran supports the regime. Some of these political orientations have led native Qataris to be suspect of their own government, feeding conspiracy theories that the U.S. is trying to strengthen Iran in the Gulf. This disposition has begun to show signs of an increasingly conservative native population, averse to foreigners and political reforms.
15. 'Alī Khalīfa Al-Kuwārī, "The Visions and Strategies of the GCC Countries from the Perspective of Reforms: The Case of Qatar," *Contemporary Arab Affairs*, Volume 5, Number 1, January-March 2012, pp. 86-106. •• In the past five years, Qatar has produced both the Qatar National Vision 2030 (QNV) and the Qatar National Development Strategy 2011-2016 (QNDS). Both of these documents were not subject to public referendum and were written by foreign consultants in English. Possibly due to the language barrier, much of the terminology in these documents is vague and undefined, especially when translated into Arabic. This article assesses the drawbacks of both the QNV and the QNDS from various angles including immigration policy, security, and sustainable economic development. Many of the deficiencies will be difficult to address given the proportion of the population in Qatar are expatriates and the pervasiveness of hydrocarbon rentierism.
16. David B. Roberts, "Understanding Qatar's Foreign Policy Objectives," *Mediterranean Politics*, Volume 17, Number 2, July 2012, pp. 233–239. •• As Qatar has assumed its independent role in the greater Arab world, various rumors have circulated about Qatar being a puppet regime to the U.S. or Iran, and Qatar using al-Jazeera as a destabilizing tool in other countries. It appears that a turbulent history in the Gulf region however is

what steered Qatar toward its current foreign policy stance, one which is solely focused on maintaining autonomy and security. Both of these are very difficult to achieve when geography and populations are taken into account, so Qatar has had to aggressively carve out its own niche in terms of international politics. Although at times it may appear impulsive, this article argues that there is a method to Qatari foreign policy.