

Guia de Estudos UNSC

“The Geopolitical Earthquake in Qatar”

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Letter to the Delegates

Illustrious delegates,

Welcome to the thirteenth edition of PoliONU and to the United Nation's Security Council. During this 4-day experience, you will be fully immersed in a dense and complex atmosphere of debates, which will allow you to represent an official political position, regarding the "Geopolitical Earthquake in Qatar". We sincerely hope these four days will bring you lasting knowledge and personal improvement, as well as a deeper connection to the English language.

Due to the difficulty and topicality of this theme, it's of utmost importance that all delegates dedicate their time to attentively read this study guide and the rules of procedure as the initial point of this remarkable experience. Furthermore, the study of other countries' realities, based on other sources, is crucial for an exceptional debate. This committee will focus on the countless barriers Qatar has been facing since the beginning of the diplomatic breakdown in the Gulf. Qatar's only land border was closed and its economy suffered with several sanctions, impairing its citizens and companies. This diplomatic crisis is impacting not only the largest gas field in the world and home of the 2022 football FIFA World Cup, but also its economic and political partners.

Hence, the Chair of the 2018 UNSC expresses its willingness to clarify all doubts on this subject and wishes all present delegates an outstanding simulation.

Yours faithfully,

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United Nations Security Council

Functions and Powers

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the main organs of the United Nations, active since its creation in 1946. The imperative character it was granted reinforces the lead in determining the existence of a threat to peace or an act of aggression, making the council responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Besides that, the Security Council also recommends candidates for Secretary-General, elect the new members of the United Nations and vote, together with the General Assembly, to elect the judges of the International Court of Justice.

This organ is officially formed by five permanent members – China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America –, also known as the P5, which hold veto power over Council's resolutions, and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms. Non-Council Member States may participate in its discussions, but without a vote, with observer status.

Historical Context

Qatar became a British protectorate in 1916 and the influence of the British had only started to vanish after the Second World War, particularly after the independence of India and Pakistan, in 1947. In the 1950s, oil extraction started to replace the pearls and fishing as the main source of income in Qatar. The petroleum revenue started to finance the expansion and modernization of the local infrastructure. The pressure to expel the British from the Arab Emirates hazed during the 50s.

When the United Kingdom declared that after 3 years they would not control the Persian Gulf politically, Qatar joined Bahrain and other seven States in a federation. Quickly, the regional disputes made the UN declare the independence of this coalition, which evolved to become the territory known today as United Arab Emirates. In September 3, 1971, Qatar officially conferred his independence from the

United Kingdom and became a sovereign state. Since then, Qatar became one of the richest countries in the region due to its natural gas and petroleum reserves.

Since the First Gulf War, Qatar has been an important military ally of the United States of America and, presently, the headquarters of the superpower's Central Command is located in Qatar: this headquarters is the main point of access the United States have to the Middle East.

Today, the state of Qatar is a traditional monarchy governed by an emir, the equivalent of a prince, who is presently Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani. The population are estimated at 1.9 million people, but only 250 thousand were born in Qatar, the remaining are foreign workers. Qatar is one of the rare countries in the world where citizens don't pay taxes.

Qatar's international relations inside the Gulf have always been fragile, since many experts point out that its government has no intentions of being submissive to the regional "pillar" country, the Saudis.

As time passed, many contradictory actions were taken by the Qataris, such as supporting different groups in conflicts that were backed by its allies. Such actions sparked a certain rivalry within the gulf region, resulting in many political and diplomatic issues along the way.

As recent studies show, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain planned a failed coup against the Qatari government as a result of their dissatisfaction with Qatar. The conflict's roots are still alive today, but with new colors – the blockade.

1. Terrorism

Qatar was accused of supporting terrorism several times, as it is one of the main funders of the Muslim Brotherhood and also because the country has supported the former Islamist president Mohamed Mursi, who is a member of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Qatar also shelters the leaders of the first active cell of the Muslim Brotherhood, which is considered a terrorist group by Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

Qatar was pointed a lot of times for not being persistent in the fight against the financial by means of private funds of "terrorists" organizations. In 2010, in an American official diplomatic note, Qatar was considered the "worst in the region", referring to the Washington cooperation to cut the financing of extremist groups.

The Al-Jazeera issuer has been considered an editorial in favor of Islamists, and in 2016, Iraqi authorities closed down an Al-Jazeera office located in Baghdad for making a news coverage favorable to the Islamic state and for being hostile towards the Shia majority in the country.

The Geopolitical Conflict

Bahrain accused Qatar of interfering repeatedly, trying to destabilize the situation, jeopardizing the safety of Bahrain, provoking the media and supporting terrorism. Consequently, Bahrain discontinued its relations with Qatar, and almost at the same time Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates and Yemen also announced their rupture with the Arab nation.

The tension in the region was even higher because the Qatari emir, who came to power in 2013, developed straight ties with Iran. This was a time when the nations in this region were choosing allies (Iran or Saudi Arabia), what could generate conflicts between countries. Iran and Saudi Arabia are considered two influencers in the region, and after the movement known as Arab Spring, when dictatorships in several countries were taken down, the region ended up in a chaotic situation, leaving a breach to Iran and Saudi Arabia to try to establish their supremacy.

The Al Jazeera network has generated discontentment in several countries in the region for a long time for supporting anti-government protests. When those countries cut their relations with Qatar, one of the first things they did was to withdraw this station off the air.

After two weeks of blockade, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt and Bahrain proposed a list of thirteen demands to end the Gulf crisis. However, Qatar did not accept it because it would interfere with its national sovereignty. Their demands were the following:

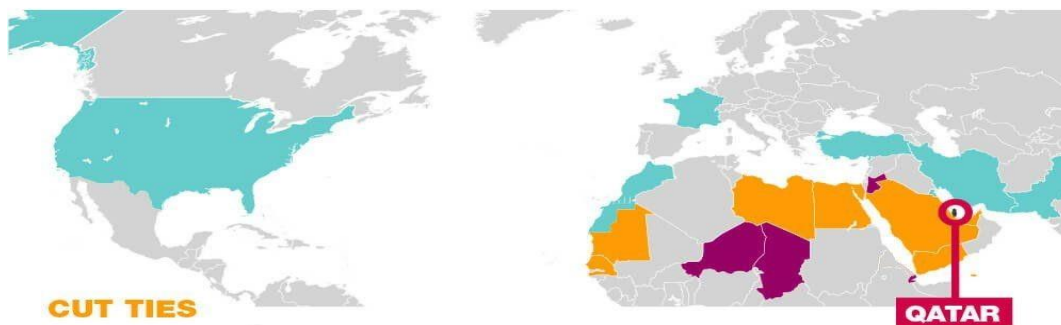
- Curb diplomatic ties with Iran and close its diplomatic missions there. Expel members of Iran's Revolutionary Guard and cut off any joint military cooperation with Iran. Promote trade and commerce with Iran only if it complies with U.S. policies, and international sanctions will be permitted.

- Sever all ties to “terrorist organizations”, specially the Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic State, al-Qaida and Lebanon’s Hezbollah. Formally declare those entities as terrorist groups.
- Shut down al-Jazeera and its affiliate stations.
- Shut down news outlets funded directly and indirectly by Qatar, including Arabi21, Rassd, Al-Araby Al-Jadeed and Middle East Eye.
- Immediately terminate the Turkish military presence in Qatar and end any joint military cooperation with Turkey inside Qatar.
- Stop all means of funding for individuals, groups or organizations that have been designated as terrorists by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, Bahrain, the U.S. and other countries.
- Hand over “terrorist figures” and wanted individuals from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain to their countries of origin. Freeze their assets, and provide any desired information about their residency, movements and finances.
- End interference in sovereign countries’ internal affairs. Stop granting citizenship to wanted nationals from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain. Revoke Qatari citizenship for existing nationals where such citizenship violates those countries’ laws.
- Stop all contacts with the political opposition in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain. Hand over all files detailing Qatar’s prior contacts with and support for those opposition groups.
- Pay reparations and compensation for the loss of life and other financial losses caused by Qatar’s policies in recent years. The sum will be determined in coordination with Qatar.
- Consent to monthly audits for the first year after agreeing to the demands, then once per quarter during the second year. For the following 10 years, Qatar would be monitored annually for compliance.
- Align itself with the other Gulf and Arab countries militarily, politically, socially and economically, as well as on economic matters, in line with an agreement reached with Saudi Arabia in 2014.
- Agree to all the demands within 10 days of the date they were submitted to Qatar, or the list becomes invalid.

After a meeting, the anti-Qatar alliance decided to change its demands to a list of six 'principles' Qatar should follow:

- Commitment to combat extremism and terrorism in all forms and to prevent their financing or providing havens;
- Suspending all acts of provocation and speeches inciting hatred or violence;
- Full compliance with the Riyadh Agreement of 2013 and the 2014 follow-up agreement;
- Adherence to all the outcomes of the Arab Islamic American Summit held in May 2017 in Riyadh;
- Refraining from interfering in the internal affairs of states and from supporting illegal entities; and
- Confront all forms of extremism and terrorism as a threat to international peace and security.

GCC rift: Where do countries stand?



CUT TIES

Bahrain, Comoros, Egypt, UAE, Maldives, Mauritania, Libya*, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Yemen*

*Libya: House of Representatives based in the eastern city Tobruk

*Yemen: the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi

DOWNGRADED TIES

Chad, Djibouti, Jordan and Niger

OFFERED MEDIATION

France, Iran, Kuwait, Morocco, Pakistan, Turkey and USA

*An earlier version of this graphic incorrectly stated Eritrea severed ties with Qatar. Eritrea denies this.

June 2017 | SOURCE: Al Jazeera



1. Consequences to Qatar

1.1. Supplies

Because of the blockade, the country started experiencing a lack of supplies in all of its territory, such as food and water. Turkey and Iran verified to send everyday airplanes full of fruits and meat, Pakistan is also helping with water supplies.

Qatar is currently working on constructions that are planned to be used in the World Cup of 2022, but because of the social crisis, some materials are scarce because they came from Saudi Arabia. As a result, the materials cost more than usual, and those constructions may be delayed.

1.2. Deportation

After the rupture was declared, every person with the Qatari nationality who lived in one of the countries that cut relations with it, or were there as tourists, had to leave and move back to Qatar within 2 weeks. At the same time Saudis, Egyptians, Emirati and Bahraini citizens were disable to travel to Qatar.

2. Media Coverage of the Gulf Crisis

Al Jazeera, literally “The Island”, owned by the Qatari government and one of the biggest news corporations in the world, is also a frequent target of criticism. The network, which has already been accused of antisemitism and bias, is now deeply involved in the Gulf Crisis: Al Jazeera is the main news company to broadcast the crisis around the world.

Known by the Arab governments for supporting the Arab Spring, its news’ power is capable of everything, including dethroning the strongest leaders of the Gulf countries. With this regional and international influence and visibility, the network is hated by every single enemy of Qatar.

However, for holding its own position about the conflict, the anti-Qatar alliance does not accept that Al Jazeera represent the entire Gulf. For this reason, it carried out an international boycott against the network. The organization has already been

banned and prohibited from operating in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan and Israel.

IV. The Gulf Cooperation Council

1. Founding

1.1. Context

After the Iranian Revolution (1979) took down the country's monarchy which has ruled the country since its foundation. Consequently, neighboring countries (that were also monarchies) started to fear a coup d'état in their own territories.

The Iranian Revolution also started the second oil crisis as a consequence of the country's instabilities, which has affected the whole world as the oil prices more than doubled per barrel.

1.2. The GCC

While seeking political and economic stability, Arab countries united, establishing the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council). Formed in Riyadh (1981), the union already had a lot in common, based on their political and cultural identities, and it strove for a simple goal: achieving unity among its members.

The GCC has been made up of 6 countries ever since it was established: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain – even though a few other nations have shown their interest in joining (Morocco and Jordan).

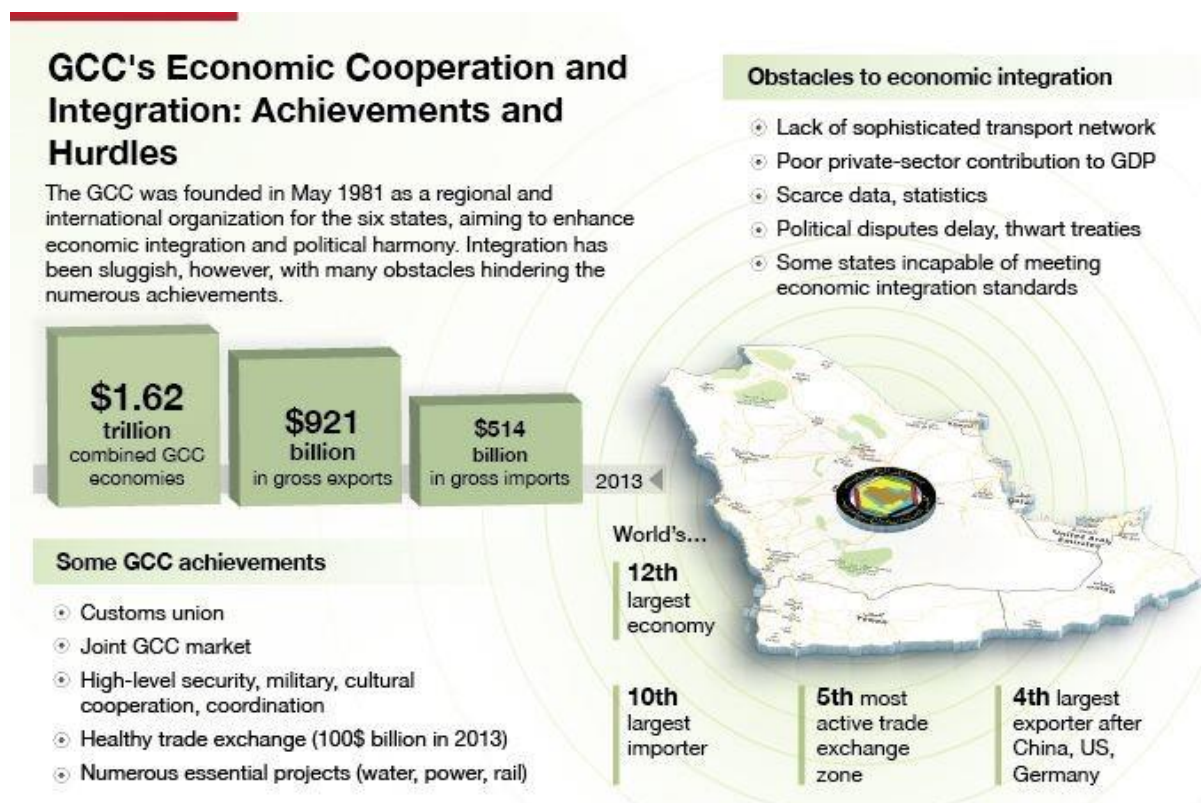
2. Objectives

When the council was founded, their goals were made clear as the countries strived for success and agreements over economic, technological and transportation matters were made. Naturally, they aimed at the perfect alliance with a customs union, a common market and a common currency.

A customs union takes place when the trade block has reached a free trade area and a common external tax policy; a common market is in place when it has a free movement of capital and services (individuals) along with tariff reduction; and a common currency is when all countries manage to use the same currency (for example, the euro in the EU).

Later, by December 2001, a signed agreement was reached in Muscat, which served as a great incentive to the union's goals. With this agreement they got to build deadlines to reach their objectives: the customs union was to be reached by January 2003, the common market by 2007, and the common currency by 2010.

Although their objectives got delayed as time went by, the first one was accomplished in 2008, putting the joint market in action only by that time. Differently from the previous goals, the common currency was not made into reality because not all allies had the resources or wished to do so. Oman declared that would not be able to reach the requirements to join, and the UAE (United Arab Emirates) withdrew from the agreement as a result of Riyadh being the host of the GCC Central Bank (with their propose of transferring the Central Bank to Abu Dhabi neglected).



Source: Al Jazeera

3. Economy

Four out of the six countries in the GCC are members of the OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) and together they sum up to almost 40% of the world's natural oil reserves, making their economies based on oil exports.

GCC Oil Production

The four GCC nations that are also members of OPEC tend to act in concert in the production of oil, which generates the vast majority of their revenue. The GCC accounts for 58% of OPEC's oil production, including lease condensate.

THOUSANDS OF BARRELS PER DAY



Source: BP Statistics 2016; Bahrain NOGA

Copyright Stratfor 2016 www.stratfor.com

Source: Stratfor

This large oil reserve leads to a great economy, as all of the six countries are at least in the top 50 in the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) index per capita, with Oman occupying the last position among the members (position 46 worldwide) and Qatar the first (3rd worldwide). These countries have also shown a high position at the HDI (Human Development Index) and GDP, compared to other nations.

Saudi Arabia is the biggest influencer in the GCC because it owns more than 60% of the union's products and has 70% of its population.

3.1. Internal market

- Among the countries in the GCC, only 7% of all their trades take place within the union. The percentage may seem low compared to other trading blocks, but this happens because of the region's small market, scarce population and the limited number of members participating in the union. Compared to the

EU, after adjusting both markets to their actual sizes, trade between member states in the GCC is higher than within the EU.

4. Structure

The GCC is basically structured in three main organs: the Supreme Council, the Ministerial Council and the Secretariat-General, with equal power to make decisions and manage organizational resources for the whole union.

4.1. The Supreme Council

Formed by the heads of the Member States, the Supreme Council is the highest authority in the GCC and solely exists to make decisions regarding the union.

4.1.1. Functioning of the Supreme Council

The members meet in an ordinary session every year, but an extraordinary session can be arranged with the request of a Member State seconded by another Member State, but they are only valid with the presence of two thirds of its members. Each member has only one vote and decisions are made depending on the matter: if procedural, by the majority, and if substantive, through unanimous approval.

The Supreme Council Consultative Commission is composed by 30 people that are chosen to work with matters of the Supreme Council, with essentially five people from each country.

4.2. The Ministerial Council

This organ is responsible for achieving coordination among the Member States, supporting cooperation between the six countries. The decisions are sent to the Supreme Council as a form of recommendation, so they can be approved. It is also in control of the preparation concerning the Supreme Council meetings and its agenda.

4.2.1. Functioning of the Ministerial Council

The only difference in this Council is frequency of meetings, which are held every 3 months, with similar rules as the Supreme Council. The Ministerial Council is composed of the Foreign Ministers of all Member States or the ministers appointed to the Council.

4.3. The Secretariat-General

They are responsible for studies, reports, coordination and budgets. Furthermore they make decisions within their authorities and implement the ones that were approved by the higher ups.

4.3.1. Functioning of the Secretariat-General

The Secretariat-General is basically composed of: the Secretary-General, Eight Assistant Secretary-Generals and the Director-Generals, with all other subordinate employees of the organization.

- The Secretary-General is appointed by the Supreme Council after the recommendation of the Ministerial Council and holds a 3-year mandate.

- The Eight Assistant Secretary-Generals are appointed by the Ministerial Council and are nominated by the Secretary-General.

- The Director-General, with all other subordinate employees of the organization, are appointed by the Secretary-General.

5. Present-day

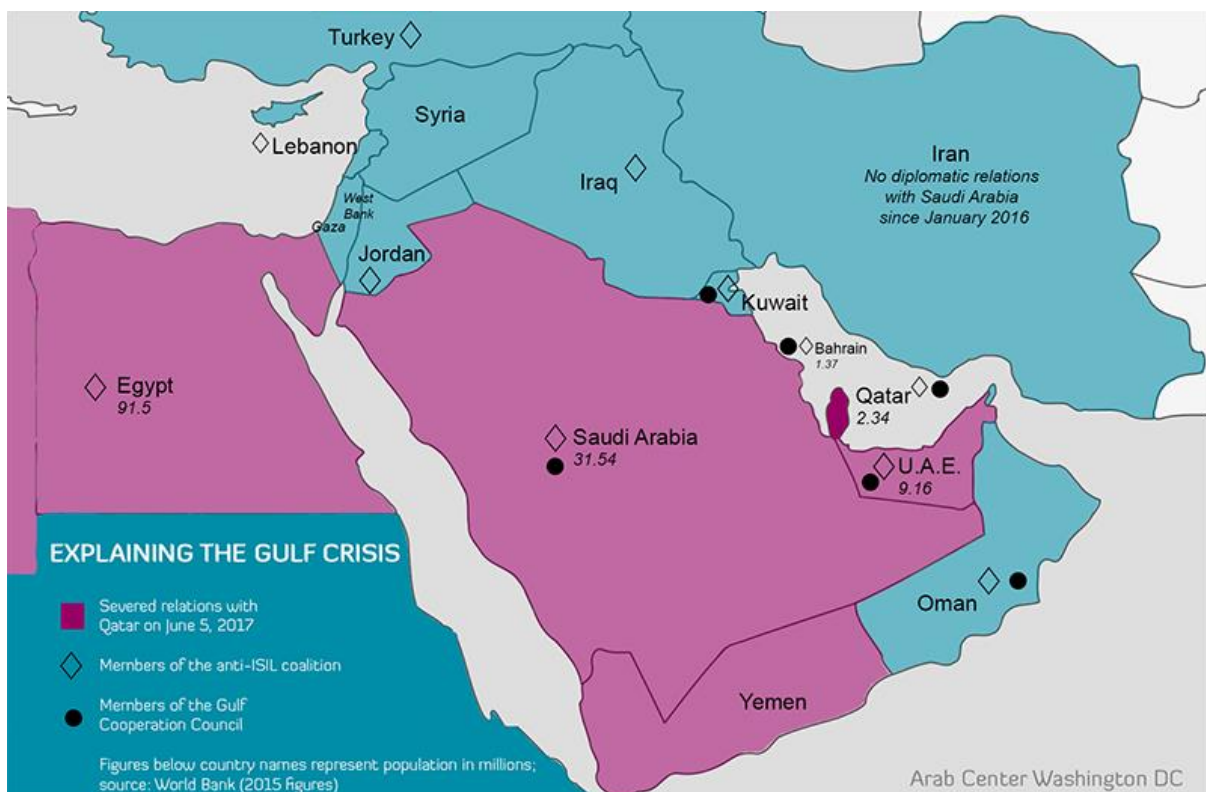
With Qatar being accused of sponsoring terrorism and tensions rising, the GCC found itself in a critical position. Immediately after, the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Egypt cut economic and political ties with Qatar, forcing the country to rely on other countries to import basic supplies, such as food and water, since June 2017.

The action taken by Qatar made matters worse: it became an ally of Iran, which is a political enemy of Saudi Arabia.

After weeks, impossible demands were made from Saudi Arabia, and its allies, to Qatar to cease the conflict, but not all demands were doable, pushing Qatar into a corner.

After the demands, the first boycott took place in a GCC meeting: the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain did not send their leaders to discuss their current relations. Not only that, but the UAE and Saudi Arabia announced an economic and military partnership apart the Gulf Cooperation Council.

During this time, Kuwait and Oman pledged to solve this matter diplomatically with other countries of the UN, though it was not effective.



5.1. The future of the GCC

With the Qatar crisis being the first step to the disintegration of the GCC – the unity that used to exist turned into tensions – as many experts pointed out, its termination is just a matter of time.

Qatar is in search of new economic partners in this troubling moment, the UAE and Saudi Arabia strengthen their bond, so a new future without the GCC is not hard to foresee. However, based on its purpose, the Gulf Cooperation Council has worked to maintain stability in the Middle East, but its objectives can no longer be taken for granted.

V. Economy

1. Qatar's base economy

1.1. Context

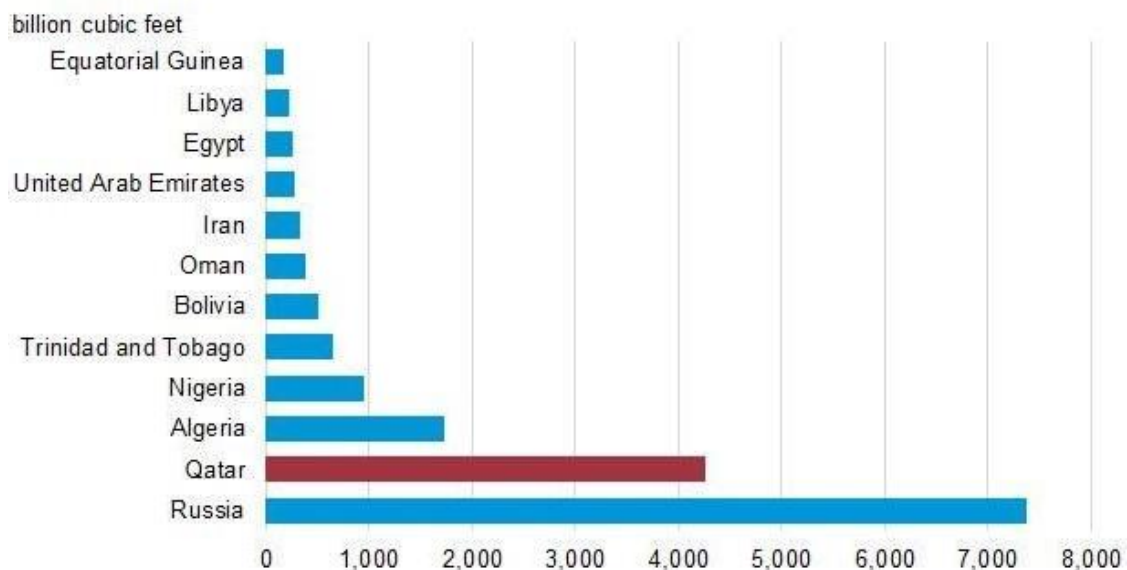
In the 8th century, Qatar used to benefit mostly from its pearl trading and strategic position, where gulf countries would often stop by on their way to China or India. Much later, by 1940, the first onshore oil field was discovered, but exploration was delayed due to the World War II. After the war ended, in the 1950s, oil and natural gas started to replace Qatar's main source of income and from then on the resource exploration only grew further and further. By 1950, Qatar produced 33800 "bopd" (barrels of oil per day) and, four years later, production actually tripled.

1.2. Recent years

Nowadays, Qatar's main economic pillars are the oil and natural gas exports. Holding the third largest gas reserve and having more than 25 million barrels of oil proven to be part of its reserves, both of these products sum up to 70% of government revenue and 85% of export earnings.

Even though the country still relies on energy sources, it is searching and investing on different sectors of the economy so it can manage the surplus of petroleum and natural gas.

Exports of natural gas by members of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, 2012



Note: Venezuela did not export natural gas in 2012.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *International Energy Statistics*

1.2.1. The Qatar Investment Authority

The QIA (Qatar Investment Authority) is a governmental agency created in 2005 to look for new areas of investment, so that in the future, the Arab country doesn't fall into a recession from relying on energy sources that have an unstable future in the market.

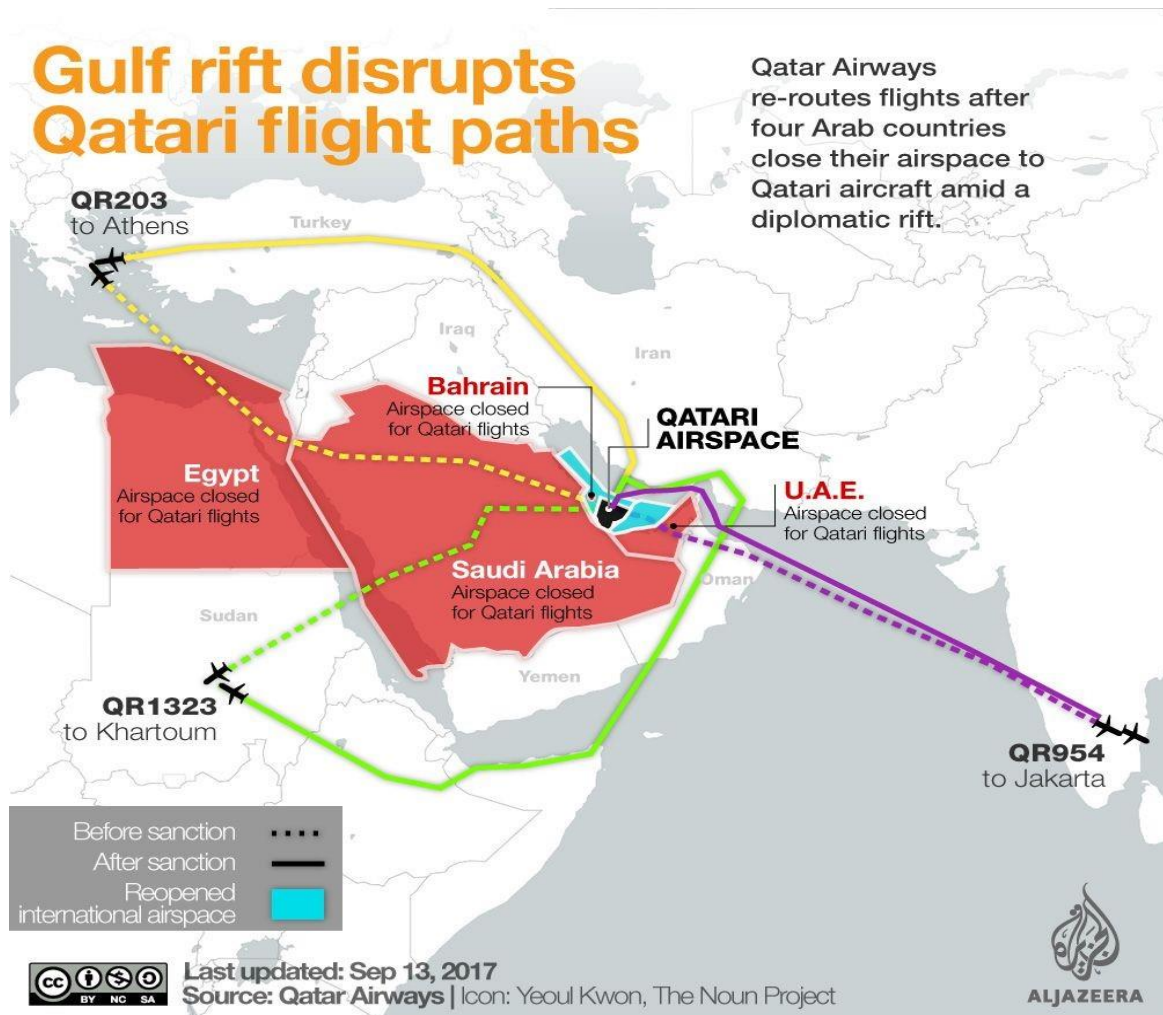
To minimize Qatar's dependency on energy prices, the QIA invests in international markets like the U.S., Europe and Asia-Pacific. It has already put billions of dollars in companies like Volkswagen and properties around the world.

2. Qatar Airways

Qatar Airways was founded in November 22, 1993, and by May 2014 was fully owned by the government. Nowadays, it is a huge flight company that employs more than 40,000 people (only 24,000 work directly for it), so it has an enormous influence in the economy.

After the blockade, any flights that passed through countries adhering to it had to take a detour. This necessary action caused the planes to spend much more fuel and

time to reach their destination, meaning more expenses for the company, which affected the whole economy. Not only it made expenses rise but it also gave room for competitors like Emirates.



3. Qatar's Economic Partners

Qatar's top export countries are:

- Japan;
- South Korea;
- India;
- China;
- UAE.

The top import countries are:

- United States;
- UAE;
- Germany;
- United Kingdom;
- France.

3.1. Changes Caused by the Crisis

Even though the imports from other countries may seem like a big number, the actual trade (proportioned to the GCC size) between the Gulf countries is even higher than within the EU.

When the crisis broke out, thousands of food-transporting trucks were paralyzed at the borders of the UAE and Saudi Arabia, depriving Qatar from its food sources. The country even stated that it was thinking of going as far as Brazil in search of a food source. The food sector was not the only one affected, since the countries participating in the blockade actually have borders with Qatar, which makes it a challenge to import any kind of material, thus increasing the market price of products inside the country.

Nowadays, Qatar imports from air or from sea, impairing new Qatari projects like the 2022 FIFA World Cup, or new investments in infrastructure for tourism.

VI. Official Positions

Bahrain

As the first country to declare the blockade, Bahrain has tense relations with Qatar.

The island country, which has closed its sea borders and banned all Qatari citizens is now claiming territory. According to Bahrain, the dispute judged by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) isn't over and it considers that part of Qatar belongs to Bahrain.

Bolivia

Despite the fact that Bolivia is far from the geopolitical earthquake, it has a lot of economic involvement in the Gulf Cooperation Council crisis. As a member of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, Bolivia negotiates frequently with Arab countries, and it considers any conflict a bad idea to its business.

China

China is one of the few countries that agrees with the Taliban office in Doha. Keeping the same position with Hamas, in Palestine, China thinks it can represent people's ideas, but disagrees with any act of terrorism, suggesting a counter-terrorism cooperation. Besides, it holds a neutral position in regards to the Gulf crisis – encouraging both sides to work their differences.

Maintaining the “One Road, One Belt” strategy, China wants every single Arab country together, having commercial relations with its economy just as Qatar, which has recently bought military weapons and sold gas to that country. For China, a free trade agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council would increase the technological influence of Asia.

Egypt

Egypt was one of the first countries to cut ties with Qatar. Its government has appointed the country as a terrorism financier and a source of instability, clarifying the reasons beyond the blockade. Now, without any contact with Qatar, Egypt states that it won't backtrack its decisions and will keep distance until Qatar refrains from its proximity with groups known for acts of terrorism.

Equatorial Guinea

Due to the recent discoveries of oil and natural gas, the economy of Equatorial Guinea was boosted and the country is now a member of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum. It has no official position about the blockade.

Ethiopia

With the blockade, Ethiopia has become closer to Qatar, attempting to gain an ally in its several conflicts. The Ethiopian government has accused Egypt of supporting separatist movements in its territory.

France

France has claimed the end of the blockade as fast as possible. According to Emmanuel Macron, all members of the Gulf Cooperation Council should reconcile with Kuwait's help and start a collective fight against terrorism, instead of accusing neighboring countries of funding it.

Iran

Iran relations with Qatar has completely changed after the blockade - Qatar, which has removed its ambassador from Iran for political moves, is now one of the big partners of Iran. With the food aid, their trades had grown up more than 100%, bringing together the two countries sharing the largest gas field in the world. This friendship is so strong that cutting relations with Iran was one of the thirteen demands made by the anti-Qatar axis.

Ivory Coast

In 2017, Alassane Ouattara, the President of Ivory Coast, was invited by Qatar's Emir, to a working visit to Qatar. During the visit, they have signed agreements in specific fields to solve the numerous crisis in Africa, making the continent more cohesive. Both countries agreed on the importance of improving the field of civil aviation, maritime transport; culture, youth, sports and, in the future, regulating the labor force at Ivory Coast.

Kazakhstan

After the blockade, Kazakhstan – observer member of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum – has outlined a stronger tie with Qatar. Both countries are doing meetings to negotiate in financial areas, trying to merge their private increase.

Kuwait

As a neutral Gulf Cooperation Council member, Kuwait claims a bilateral and fast resolution where the GCC keeps working and growing, but its efforts haven't been successful during the last months.

Despite the rift, its government affirms that the Council won't freeze due to the blockade. According to Kuwait, this dispute is temporary and cannot be solved individually, being against the creation of new economic and military partnerships, apart from GCC.

Netherlands

Netherlands has commercial relations with all Gulf Cooperation Council members, being an observer member of the Gas Exporter Countries Forum. In addition, it hasn't cut ties with any country after the diplomatic breakdown, maintaining strong bilateral relations with Qatar, focused on agro-businesses.

Oman

Oman, one of the six Gulf Cooperation Council members, hasn't made any public comment about the crisis, maintaining its historic role of political neutrality in such a volatile region. Without picking a side, Oman wouldn't agree with any resolution different than a bilateral agreement.

Peru

As an observer member at the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, Peru has recently created embassies at the Arab world, but it hasn't commented about the Gulf Cooperation Council diplomatic rift.

Poland

In a negotiation with the Qatar delegation, Joanna Wronecka, Deputy Minister of Poland, guaranteed that Poland won't cut ties with any Gulf Cooperation Council member and supported the mediation carried out by Kuwait.

Qatar

With the blockade, Qatar has changed all logistics to keep its economy flowing. The country, which used to import almost 80% of its food from partners of Gulf Cooperation Council, is now importing food from Iran and Turkey, which is helping the small peninsula militarily.

Being the Arab country that is most willing to trade with non-Islamic states is helping Qatar to expand its allies. Even without ex-partners and only its land border, Qatar is still exporting its gas and building its infrastructure.

The country already affirmed that it won't follow any of the demands made by Saudi Arabia, Emirates Arab United, Bahrain and Egypt and that can survive the embargo as long as it lasts.

Russia

Despite the fact that Russia has had a terrible past relationship with Qatar because of Syria, the largest country in the world offered fast and effective help in the first days of the blockade, making it possible to keep all Arab countries together. Thus, it could keep negotiating gas, with Qatar, and oil, with Saudi Arabia and the Emirates Arab United.

Russia, as well as the United States, stated its readiness to mediate a possible negotiation between the Gulf Cooperation Council members, but would like to see Kuwait taking the lead to solve the blockade, for having more relations with all main countries.

Saudi Arabia

Having the only Qatar's land border is essential to Saudi Arabia. After cutting ties with the small peninsula, accusing it of funding terrorism, closing its border has made Qatar completely unprepared to deal with the acquisition of basic supplements, like water and food. Now, Saudi Arabia won't lift the blockade without having every single topic of its demands.

Sweden

Sweden consider Qatar as a “priority country” in the economic trade. As the majority of the Europe Union, Sweden would like to see Kuwait taking the lead in a possible negotiation between Gulf Cooperation Council members.

Turkey

Turkey has been on the same side as Qatar in many geopolitical conflicts, like the ones in Egypt, Syria, Libya and its own failed coup attempt. However, both countries have never been as united as in this diplomatic breakdown. Turkey is sending food and soldiers to Qatar, becoming one of the enemies of the anti-Qatar alliance. To lift the blockade, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain and Egypt want the end of this economic and military friendship.

UAE

Accusing Qatar of terrorism, the United Arab Emirates cut ties with the country on July 5th. Despite the fact of closing all of its borders to Qatar, the UAE is being accused of keeping a member of the Qatari Royal family and invading Qatar’s airspace. On the other hand, the United Arab Emirates affirm that two civilian aircrafts had been intercept by Qatari jets.

UK

The United Kingdom supports that the negotiation should be mediated by Kuwait. With that, every change would be fair to all Gulf Cooperation Council members. Besides that, nearly a third of UK gas exportations comes from Qatar – the quantity is expected to increase in the next years.

USA

The United States of America are expected to bring all Gulf Cooperation Council members together to discuss the blockade. Its vast economy keeps the country linked to all main nations involved in the diplomatic breakdown, turning every rupture unfortunate. Because of that, the U.S. hope that Kuwait will mediate the negotiations, with a fair and impartial resolution.

It has criticized both sides harshly, depending on the moment, but always tending to the anti-Qatar alliance. Donald Trump, U.S. President, has already accused Qatar of funding terrorism, but it has recently praised its counter-terrorism program. Qatar states that it does not support any kind of terrorism, highlighting the fact that it holds the first and biggest American military base in the Middle East, built in its territory.

The FBI has concluded that Russian hackers have been paid to hack Qatar and send the messages responsible for the crisis in the Gulf. The Russian and the Saudi Arabian governments have denied their involvement. It is believed that freelancers were paid to start the geopolitical earthquake.