

QATAR

Continent: Asia

[Population](#): 2,930,524

[Life Expectancy \(at Birth\)](#): 80.7

[Governance System](#): [Hereditary Monarchy](#)

Capital: Doha/Al Dawha

[Area](#): 11,490 km²

Major Languages: Arabic

[GDP \(2021\)](#): \$179,571 US\$ Millions

Select Global Rankings

[Human Development Index](#): 42

[Fragile States Index \(Inverted\)](#): 33

[Soft Power 30 rank](#): NR

[Human Freedom Index](#): 128

[World Happiness Ranking](#): NR

[Good Country Index](#): 109

Elite Sport System Rankings

[Global Cup Ranking](#):

[Per Capita Cup Ranking](#):

[Olympic Medals – Summer '20](#):

[Olympic Medals – Winter '22](#):

Football/World Cup Profile

[FIFA Region](#): AFC

[FIFA Ranking](#): 50

World Cup Appearances: 0

Best World Cup Performance(s): Inaugural appearance

Qualification: Automatic (Host)

[World Cup Group](#): A

Last World Cup Appearance: n/a

Qatar in INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (by Shaza Ahmed)

The [State of Qatar](#) is a sovereign and independent state in Western Asia. It is part of the Middle East and occupies a peninsula located on the Western coast of the Arabian Gulf. Qatar shares a maritime border with Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Iran and a land border with Saudi Arabia to the South.

Qatar has a longstanding [history](#) of Islamic rule, beginning with the Abbasid empire in 14th AD. During this period, Qatar experienced economic prosperity as evidenced by written records and Abbasid architecture in the region. In 16th AD, the Qataris allied with the Turks to defend against Portuguese invasion which later resulted in Ottoman rule over Qatar for four centuries. The Turkish rule declined with the outbreak of World War I and they entered a treaty with Britain for protection of the Qatari people and land. The British authority was mainly supervisory and administrative, Qatar was ruled by the Al-Thani dynasty. Sheikh Mohammad bin Thani was the first sheikh to have actual power over the Qatari peninsula in the mid-nineteenth century. Under his leadership, Doha was established as the capital of the country and the Qatari tribes were united. There have been seven monarchs since. Qatar achieved complete independence from Britain in 1971 and enacted a [constitution](#) that outlines the separation of powers and

reaffirms Qatar's Gulf Arab and Islamic affinity. Qatar is an Islamic state that has laws and customs following Islamic tradition. From 2013, Qatar has been governed by HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani. The Qatari monarch is referred to as Amir or Emir.

According to international standards for political rights and civil liberties, Qatar is [not free](#). Despite a constitution separating the powers, in practice, Qatar's Emir largely holds executive, legislative, and judiciary power. The Emir appoints the Prime Minister, cabinet, and heir apparent. [Elections](#) occur at the municipal level for an advisory council, where women are also encouraged to participate. The national advisory council is supposed to have 30 out of 45 elected members but elections were repeatedly postponed, resulting in appointed members. In 2021, these [elections](#) finally took place. There is no official opposition and political parties are not allowed. There is also media censorship by the state in the form of hefty prison sentences or fines for "false news". Qatari citizens are among the wealthiest in the world but majority of the population consists of non-citizens with few political rights, civil liberties, and limited economic opportunity. Qatari [citizenship](#) is granted by descent if the father is a citizen of Qatar. Citizenship by naturalization requires residency of 20 years. In 2021, the Emir signed two labour laws allowing migrant workers to change employers without permission and established a minimum monthly wage of \$275 for all sectors and nationalities.

Qatar has emerged as one of the world's most important producers of oil and gas. The [European Union](#) group is the most important trade partner of Qatar. Qatar's economy is dependent on international trade, globalization, and interdependence. As such, Qatar's [foreign affairs](#) are led by policies of international cooperation. Qatar is an active member of the United Nations (UN), Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the G77 and China. It especially works to advocate for [Palestine](#) in the Arab-Israeli conflict to achieve peace and security within the region. Qatar also contributes human and developmental aid across the world, particularly for natural disasters. Furthermore, Qatar is signatory to the Paris Protocol for [Climate Change](#) and a founding member of the International Institution for the Green Growth (GGGI) to assist developing countries take climate action measures.

Using the revenues from oil and gas, Qatar is trying to diversify its economy and expand to other sectors such as [tourism](#). Qatar highlights the importance of sports diplomacy in enhancing peace, respect, development, and healthy communities. As a result, Qatar has hosted numerous international sports events. The 2022 FIFA World Cup will be hosted in [Doha](#).