Country: Qatar

Year: 1971

Leader: Ahmed Ath Thani

Ideology:

Description: CHISOLS identifies leader party as none. Perspective monde does not identify leader’s party.

Years: 1972-1994

Leader: Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani

Ideology:

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies leader party as none. Perspective monde does not identify leader’s party. Lawson (1999) notes that “citizens who demanded unionization or nationalization of the workforce were co-opted during the boom years of the 1970’s.” Encyclopedia Britannica (2020a) writes, “His economic policy was to diversify the economy by vastly expanding the agricultural sector and by building fertilizer plants and other new industries. Although political parties and labour unions were banned in 1976, Khalifah ruled by decree within the framework of a written constitution and Islamic law.”

Years: 1995-2012

Leader: Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani

Ideology:

Description: CHISOLS identifies leader party as none. Perspective monde does not identify leader’s party. Political Handbook of the World (2015) notes that “Sheikh Hamad had gained broader support from the populace and continued to promote his liberalized administration as a potential model for other countries in the region where long-standing regimes have resisted political and economic reform.” Wadood (2001) notes “The oil exports, which secured the country an unprecedented economic growth, have mitigated the political disputes. The ruling family and the population were never asked to share any burden in the form of taxes or charges… Since 1995 the regime has thus moved towards political and economic liberalization.” Encyclopedia Britannica (2020b) writes, “Hamad . . . succeeded in returning to the government a portion of the estimated $3 billion-$7 billion in gas and oil profits his father had held in personal bank accounts. By 2000 Hamad had instituted a number of policies that transformed the country. He moved to allow Qataris to participate more actively in the government and to promote greater equality for women. After becoming ruler he announced plans to establish an elected parliament, appointed a committee to draft a permanent constitution, largely abolished censorship of the press, and in 1999 held the country’s first open general elections for a municipal council.” Doherty (2012) writes, “Though led by a ruling family viewed as highly progressive by Gulf standards, the fact remains that most Qataris are very conservative.” Kamrava (2009:406) writes, “This extensive patronage network has directly undermined the potential emergence of an autonomous, politically independent Qatari civil society. . . To begin with, thanks to substantial rent revenues, the Qatari state [used interchangeably in the article as referring to the Amir] has institute a comprehensive social welfare system . . . in fact the state goes far above and beyond merely providing for its citizens’ basic needs.” Kamrava (2009: 417) writes, “Shayk Hamad has tried as much as possible to spread the wealth around and to ensure that all Qataris, especially those closer to the ruling inner circle, benefit materially from the country’s rapid development.” Ortiz de Zarate (2017) writes, “Hamad debuted at the head of the Emirate with a reputation as a reformist and energetic sheikh, the least similar to several of his apathetic predecessors, including his father, who had started out willfully, like him, to end up ignoring the daily government. This raised great expectations of changes, economic and political, in this peaceful Gulf monarchy, ultraconservative and dictatorial […] In a very comfortable economic context, with rising growth and investment rates and falling inflation (until it expired in the fiscal year 2001), the new government adopted favorable provisions for private businesses, such as the possibility that foreign companies could own up to 100% of the shares in the new companies.” Kamrava (2009) writes “When Shaykh Hamad overthrew his father, he did so out of frustration with the country's comparatively slow pace of economic and industrial development and the state's laissez-faire attitude toward progress. This innate conservatism was mirrored in the mind set of many other members of the ruling family, most of whom represented an older generation of Al Thani”.

Years: 2013-2020

Leader: Tamim ibn Hamad Al Thani

Ideology:

Description: CHISOLS identifies leader party as none. Perspective monde does not identify leader’s party. World Statesmen (2020) does not identify leader’s party. Kechichian (2015) writes, “Many analyists viewed [Tamim] as a broadly populist leader who was sharply aware of the need to please conservative elements within the population. Others praised his policies to cut dead wood and increase fiscal transparency, both of which implied more liberal preferences, though he was probably a realist.” Wasserman (2017) writes, “Unlike the ruling family in Saudi Arabia constrained by its alliance with Wahhabi clerics, Qatari rulers have determinedly pushed their traditional society toward globalization and westernization. If allowed, they will continue to do so.” Walsh (2018) writes, “In their reach for global influence, the Thanis have pursued ambidextrous, sometimes contradictory policies—preaching the virtues of peace, education and women’s rights while bankrolling Islamist extremists in Syria and hosting the biggest United States military base in the Middle East.” Bak (2020) writes, “Sheikh Tamim has largely continued the policies of his father Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, though with a slightly more conservative emphasis.” Kerr (2013) writes, “Politically, Sheikh Tamim may emerge as a more politically conservative, risk-averse figure than his father, attuned to the traditional forces that run deep in society while aware of the need to update the country’s outdated bureaucracy and encourage locals into the poorer-paid private sector.”

References:

Bak, Mathias. 2020. Report. Transparency International. Accessed October 19, 2020. doi:10.2307/resrep24898.

Doherty, Regan. 2012. “Qatar’s modern future rubs up against conservative traditions.” Newspaper article for Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-qatar-modernism/qatars-modern-future-rubs-up-against-conservative-traditions-idUSLNE88Q00D20120927> last checked 9/13/2020.

Kamrava, Mehran. 2009. “Royal Factionalism and Political Liberalization in Qatar.” *Middle East Journal* 63, no. 3 (2009): 401-20. [www.jstor.org/stable/20622928](http://www.jstor.org/stable/20622928). Accessed September 13, 2020.

Kechichian, Joseph A. 2015. “Succession Challenges in the Arab Gulf Monarchies” (pp. 39-50). Asan Institute for Policy Studies. [www.jstor.org/stable/resrep20925.7. Accessed 4 Sept. 2020](http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep20925.7.%20Accessed%204%20Sept.%202020).

Kerr, Simeon. June 25, 2013. “New emir seen as savvy and affable but untested at the top.” *Financial Times.* https://www.ft.com/content/ca3c97de-dd66-11e2-892b-00144feab7de

Ortiz de Zarate, Roberto. 2017. “Hamad Al-Thani.” *Barcelona Centre for International Affairs.* Checked 10/10/20. https://www.cidob.org/en/biografias\_lideres\_politicos\_only\_in\_spanish/asia/qatar/hamad\_al\_thani

The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. 2020. “Sheikh Hamad ibn Khalifah al-Thani.” Encyclopedia Britannica article. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sheikh-Hamad-ibn-Khalifah-Al-Thani>. Last checked on August 27, 2020.

The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. 2020. “Sheikh Khalifah ibn Hamad al-Thani.” Encyclopedia Britannica article. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Shaykh-Khalifa-ibn-Hamad-Al-Thani>. Last checked on August 27, 2020.

Wadood, Sherif In: Nohlen Dieter, Florian Grotz, and Christof Hartmann (eds.). 2001. *Elections in Asia and the Pacific: A Data Handbook: Volume 1: Middle East, Central Asia, and South Asia*. Oxford.

Walsh, Declan. 2018. “Tiny, Wealthy Qatar Goes Its Own Way, and Pays for It”. Newspaper article for The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/22/world/middleeast/qatar-saudi-emir-boycott.html>, last checked September 13, 2020.

Wasserman, Gary. 2017. “The Truth About Qatar.” Newspaper article for The Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/global-opinions/wp/2017/08/18/the-truth-about-qatar/>, last checked September 13, 2020.

Lawson, Fred. 1999. State of Qatar. In: Kaple, Deborah A. and Delury, George E. World Encyclopedia of Political Systems and Parties. 919-921.

[Rulers.org](http://Rulers.org). 2020. Khalifa ibn Hamad Al Thani, Sheikh. <http://rulers.org/indexk2.html#khalif> (last checked on May 1, 2020)