



Global Affairs Center
Shoreline Community College
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HUMAN MIGRATION PATTERNS: QATAR AND PERSIAN GULF



Great Migrations

National Geographic, November 2010

“What is it that makes animal migration such a magnificent spectacle for the eye and the mind?One biologist has noted the ‘undistractibility’ of migrating animals. A nonscientist, risking anthropomorphism, might say: Yes, they have a sense of larger purpose.”



Quiet Qatar Quest



The State of Qatar



Gulf Migration History

- **5th – 4th Centuries BC** : Barter-based trading system between the settlements at Qatar and Mesopotamia exchanged mainly pottery and dried fish.
- **1st – 20th Centuries AD**: Main sources of wealth were pearling, fishing, and trade. At one time, Qataris owned nearly one-third of the Persian Gulf fishing fleet.
- **Medieval times**: Qatar was a participant in Persian Gulf-Indian Ocean commerce. Many races and ideas were introduced into the peninsula from the sailors of East Africa, South and Southeast Asia and Malay Archipelago.
- **18th Century**: Migratory tribes from neighboring areas of Nejd, Al-Hasa , and Gulf emirates settled the Qatari peninsula.
- **December 18, 1878** : The diplomatic response of the British to Bahraini aggression set into motion the political forces that would result in the founding of the state of Qatar .
- **1916**: Official Qatar standing as a British Protectorate for the intermediary vantage point *en route* to India. The discovery of petroleum in the early 20th century re-invigorated UK interest.
- **1968**: Britain officially announced political disengagement in three years.
- **September 3, 1971**: Qatar resigned from the original emirate coalition due to border disputes and became an independent sovereign state.
- **Twenty First Century**: Foreign workers comprise as much as 85% of the total population and about 90% of the total labor force. Most expatriates are South and Southeast Asians, Egyptians, Palestinians, Jordanians, Lebanese, Syrians, Yemenis, and Iranians. About 8,000 U.S. citizens reside in Qatar

Al Thani Family

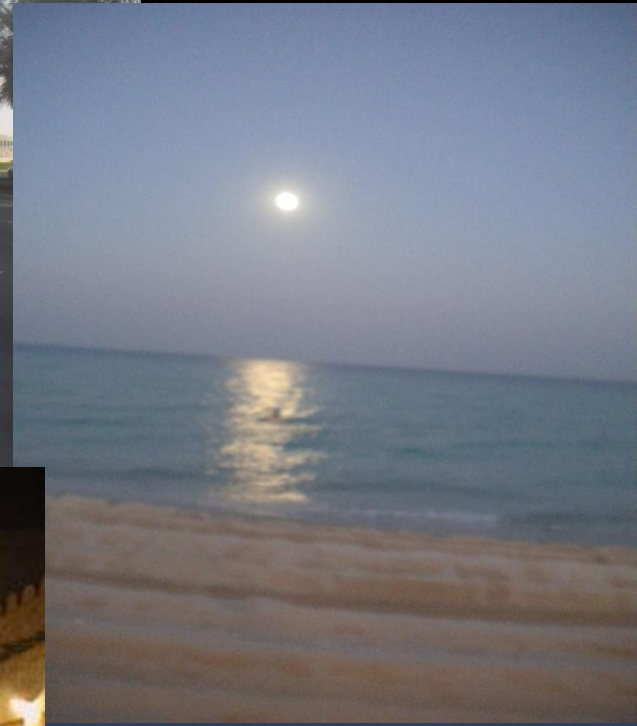
- **Al Thani family:** continued to hold power following the declaration of Qatar independence in 1971. The head of state is the Emir, and the right to rule Qatar is passed on within the Al Thani family.
- **Elected Legislature:** Qatar is evolving from a traditional society to one based on more formal and democratic institutions to meet the requirements of social and economic progress. The constitution formalizes the hereditary rule of the Al Thani family, but also makes government ministers accountable to the legislature.
- **Accessible Monarchy:** In current practice, the Emir's role is influenced by continuing traditions of consultation, rule by consensus, and the citizen's right to appeal personally to the Emir.
- **Islamic Law:** The Emir, while directly accountable to no one, cannot violate the Shari'a (Islamic law), thus in practice must consider the opinions of leading families and the religious establishment.



Global Energy Giant

- **Population:** 1.4 million population (UN, 2009)
 - **Capital:** Doha
 - **Size:** 11,437 sq km (4,416 sq miles); smaller than Connecticut
 - **Life expectancy:** 75 years (men), 77 years (women)
 - **Currency:** 1 Riyal = \$3.60
 - **Economy:** Highest per-capita income in the Arab world (IMF) and second highest GDP per capita in the world (CIA World Fact Book).
 - **Trade:** Proved oil reserves of 15 billion barrels should enable continued output at current levels for 37 years.
 - **Natural Resources:** Natural gas reserves are 14% of the world total and third largest in the world.
 - **Knowledge Economy:** Education City, Science, Technology Park and CCQ; sports recognition with Asian Games, 2020 World Cup Bid and future Tourism Economy
 - **Vision 2030:** reliance on expatriate workforce reduced to less than 50% in 20 years
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Migratory Contrasts



Ancient Dhows



Modern Yachts at the Pearl



Modern Malls



Tradition & Modern Majilis



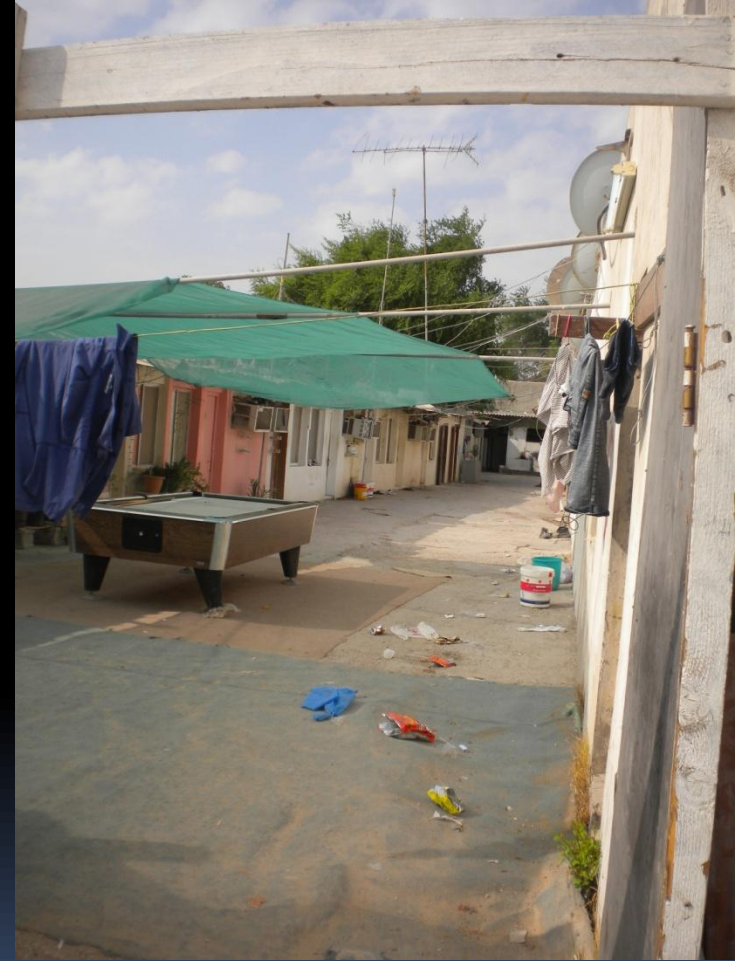
Modern Migration

- **Destination** for South and Southeast Asia workers.
- **Accountability for movement:** Islamic Law base for on sponsorship laws for all employees, consequences for violations.
- **Sponsorship laws** mean that a worker (not a tourist) may not enter the country without having a sponsor, leave without permission (an exit permit must first be awarded by the sponsor); and the sponsor has the right to ban the employee from entering Qatar within 2–5 years of his first departure. Sponsors have the right to transfer sponsorship employee to another sponsor.
- **Human rights:** New human rights standards include Barwa Village for workers and laws to protect sudden change in sponsorship.
- **Gender equity:** Women can legally vote and drive in Qatar; strong emphasis on equality and human rights

Sponsored Workers



Immigrant Life




Community College of Qatar





Migration Stories

- Hierarchy among expatriates
 - Indian Immigrants
 - Philippino Nurse
 - CCQ Seconded Professionals
 - Working in a Muslim country
 - Dress
 - Gender expectations
 - Ramadan
 - Eid al-Adha "Festival of Sacrifice"
 - Cultural subtleties among Arabic countries
 - Color
 - Islamic tradition
 - Diplomatic delegation to America
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Thank You!

