

Rationality, the Secret of Qatar Development in Less than Three Decades

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Abstract

In this article, we present the first reflection of our work on the past, present and future of the countries of the Middle East region which have high potential and an unprecedented opportunity for economic development, in this regard, we will interpret and analyze Qatar's privileged development model in detail.

Keywords: Middle East, Economic Development, Structural Change, Qatar.

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Introduction

The challenge of progress, development and political stability still continues in the Middle East, while Qatar has found its way and horizon, other countries in the Middle East are immersed in their own intellectual and political systems, interestingly so many countries of the Middle East have begun proposing theoretical issues of progress and development before Qatar; but these countries have not been really organized and spend their national resources, time and their intellectuals and ideological energy on satisfying each other. It seems that these countries don't learn from the past and the global evolutions don't have stable effect on their nature and collective conscience; because they don't recognize international issues well. They are pushed from one religious trend and intercourse to another one and they change their guideline repeatedly; perhaps they don't like organization and settlement, because organization bothers a lot and they prefer to live with excitement. Oil incomes guaranty the least survival of the oil-rich countries in this region, thus, only and only survival matters for them in this framework. However, some of these governments live a bit better than their neighbors, but in fact, they have not achieved collective cognition, collective definitions and collective solutions to what they are and they have to be. Some of these governments have good lecturers and theoreticians and they are well lecturing and theorizing, but they have not been able to transform these lectures and thoughts into system, evidently, they enjoy thinking more than acting.

In postmodernism world, most Middle Eastern governments want to generalize their own ideology to other neighbors, they want to get all people involved in their religious thoughts but they don't understand that there is one unique religion by the Almighty God and each of these ideologies and isms is a kind of imposition to public people. They don't want to understand that a society needs every class of people; ascetic, open-mind, native, non-native and lots of other types... as you know, human homogenization is so harmful and takes independency from them, in the diverse and turbulent world, freedom means that everyone obtains his own cultural belonging and acts upon it without the aggression and oppression of others and government; also in a wider social and political framework, he

is a law-abiding and effective citizen thinking about the growth and development of his society. In the whole world, public people love to live well and freely and are escaping from imposed homogenization; most statesmen of the Middle East governments have modern thoughts but they have a long way in behavior, deeds, temper and obtaining real civil character. Yes! They have a decorated appearance but weak nature. According to different field studies specially on the sidelines of Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup by field researchers, it was revealed that the essence of political and social system of Qatar is compatible with its citizens' tempers and Qatar citizens are strongly interested in living civilly based on freedom, justice and Quranic honesty (but not fake), on the other hand, exploring the space of most Middle Eastern countries shows that unlike what Islam has thought them, they don't have compassion with each other and removal, destruction and jealousy are so popular among them and they don't communicate with each other based on kindness, tenderness, consultation and sympathy. Such societies look for reasons, problems and origins of troubles outside themselves. Once they blame communism and the other time capitalism and they are always accusing other Islamic trends and groups. They consider criticizing others more scared than criticizing themselves. The challenge of the writer of the current study beings from this point; the main problem of Middle East countries underdevelopment is not their thoughts, but the underdeveloped character of their social system. The problem is in their inability to make system, because in such a society where people are so repulsive to each other, it is impossible to make a dynamic and developed social system. It is two methodological pillars of western civilization that is organization and formation on one hand and the openness to criticism of people on the other hand that almost all Middle Eastern countries are weak in both of them. Naturally, such weak points may be modified, on the condition that there is a space for their modification. Non-civil tempers of Middles East countries are not innate, but it is the result of wrong political, social and economic structures accumulated in their history; if these countries don't establish structures leading to character evolution and don't create communicative and cooperative attractions among themselves, they will still fail in making structures leading to economic, social and political development.

Therefore, it is necessary to soon make changes in their own characters besides proposing their thoughts.

This study is the result of several year investigations over reasons, factors and challenges of development in the Middle East. Recognizing intellectual and social-political texture of Qatar has been and is still the most important challenge of the writer. In this difficult intellectual process, lots of scientists have criticized me and have helped me purify and mature these thoughts. With this introduction, the reflection of rationality in the current brilliant position of Qatar is investigated and is introduced to other Middle East countries mainly owing rich natural resources, it is hoped that without any misunderstanding, the Middle Eastern countries try to model this localized developed pattern in passing the path of progress and facilitating it. As you know, with low vastness and population, Qatar is located in the Middle East, but its role during one decade ago has been beyond its small location and size. Governed by House of Al Thani, Qatar exited from England guardianship and achieved independency. During the independency of this country (the current Emir of Qatar's grandfather) Sheikh Khalifa took the governance and governed Qatar for around 23 years. The period of Sheikh Khalifa's governance was faced with economic recession due to challenges remained from England dominance over their country's affairs, therefore, until membership in GCC, Qatar was not a develop nation.

In 1995, Sheikh Hamad (Father Emir) took control and formed that power paradigm of Qatar; with the beginning of Sheikh Hamad governance and statesmanship, Qatar observed important evolutions and developments domestically and regionally. Along domestic and regional development, Qatar has also paved a new stage to enter global role-playing. Regionally, this country has played intermediary role during recent years after playing serious and different roles than other Middle East countries.

Domestically, this country has created lots of political, social and economic reforms, also in the field of media, the beginning of Al Jazeera Channel activity has really caused a revolution in the field of media in this region and in the world to create a free political and dissidence space. Also the rulers of this country have caused thought-provoking economic developments by planned, rational and logical natural resources exports, considering the importance of this country's evolutions and behaviors, this study refers to

the special position of Qatar from political sociology, political economy and international affairs point of view besides investigating the role of rationality in the process of evolutions and behaviors of this country and its important instances in national and foreign fields. Since the writer of this study seeks to mention the reasons and factors of Qatar development, therefore the statistics, numbers and digits, diagrams and economic indices have been ignored in this study; because it is so easy and fast to have access to such data in international scientific resources in free Information Age for young readers and researchers. Therefore, it has been attempted to investigate the forward movement of Qatar on one hand, and the lack of this advantage for other Middle Eastern governments on the other hand, using a comparative and critical approach. Since according to the opinion of most sociologists, to achieve development, one must go forward step by step with constructive comparison and criticism.

Qatar Position & Behavioral Origins

Qatar is the third owner of the world's gas reservoirs, this small but wealthy country possesses more than one hundred thousand dollars' per capita income considering its small vastness and few native population, its government has taken domestic, regional and international steps towards representing behaviors which are analytically so important. Right now, according to political economy opinions, this country has turned into a regional model and leader in development, and this has made this country play a global role much beyond its volume and Doha will become the unrivaled diplomacy capital in the region in a near future.

Qatar Evolutions & Domestic Issues

After the governance of Sheikh Hamad in Qatar, this country took fundamental measures and steps to evolve domestic conditions and consider it in development circuit, among the fields considered by Qatar government in domestic field which has had typically a brilliant reflection in international system, are economic, social, education fields and media evolutions and measures.

Qatar Economy

Historical investigations show that Qatar's economy was traditionally based on pearl exports but with the appearance of oil and gas, now the economy of this country is mostly based on oil and gas industries. A very important and considerable point about Qatar's economy is GDP per capita which ranks this country among the wealthiest Islamic World countries with an income around four fifth of developed European countries. Unlike global economic recession and its negative effects on the growth of most GCC countries, Qatar's economy has been less influenced by this harmful economic storm.

According to this state, some economic scientists propose this idea that the economic development scene of GCC members is now transferring from Dubai to Doha, because Qatar is looking for a specific pattern of development in which industrial development is so serious and is considered the competitor of luxurious or commercial development of neighboring countries. Economic stability and investment risk minimum for foreign investors is also considered as another advantage and attraction of this country's economy which has been able to allocate a good ranking to itself in the field of attracting foreign capital; also this country has been able to obtain more fame than its third ranking in the field of productivity and gas exports and this has turned Doha as the headquarter of Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF).

Qatar Social Reforms

According to the different development pattern followed by Qatar government, activities and measures in social, media and education fields complete the economic efforts of this country. Qatar government has tried to create a free political and social space rather than to other neighbors which has been considered by global society. As mentioned in the introduction, most statesmen of the Middle East governments have civil thoughts, but they have a very long ahead way to achieve a real civil character in behavior, deeds and tempers. They have a decorated appearance but a weak nature; while the essence of political and social system of Qatar government is compatible with its citizens' tempers and citizens of this country are strongly interested to live civilly and based on freedom, justice and Quranic honesty (not fake). Therefore, this country has been able two receive two international prizes in the field of reforms and democratization in the region so far. In

the field of education, also Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser Al-Missned (Emir of Qatar's mother) who is a sociologist has established six academic complexes in an educational city and this has attracted lots of Arab-speaking students to this region. In the field of art, Sheikha Al-Mayassa (Emir of Qatar's sister) who has studied political sciences has been able to turn Qatar into the biggest place of classical and modern fine arts of the world that the establishment and good management of Qatar museums network by her is an evidence for this claim. Another important measure of Qatar rulers in social field is the creation and development of Al Jazeera TV channel with regional and international coverage; as you know Al Jazeera Channel is considered the main axis of Arab-speaking media in the region, this channel has influenced the performance of other Arabic media and public thoughts of Arab world and also the global society, this channel has imposed high political costs to Qatar government with different programs in different time intervals, however, Qatar rulers have protected the different global position of this channel by tolerating and accepting these costs and this has turned this channel into a global brand.

Qatar Foreign Policy and Its Role in International System

As you know, according to Qatar Landscape Document, this country is looking for increasing its international role, this rational and optimal goal itself has caused challenge for the governance of this country; as well as following up, this country has taken a different method rather than other Middle Eastern and neighboring countries in the field of domestic and foreign policy and a different and specific regional and global strategy, Qatar can be considered as the only country in the Middle East which has taken neither negative balance nor positive balance but regional and global constructive interaction policy in its foreign policy strategy, Qatar has no red line or taboo in this foreign policy strategy and tries to show its leadership in development by expanding the network of relations and reinforcing associations with international system actors. Although some of the neighbors of this country try to consider Qatar foreign policy measures contradictory and opposite, Doha statesmen were and are trying to create balance and equilibrium in their foreign policy and progressively aim at playing their active international role in their landscape. Even in boundary and territorial issues and disagreements, Qatar has also tried to act peacefully and based on international law scales, rules and norms with its

neighbors. For example, in territorial disagreements with Bahrain, this country accepted International Arbitral Award to transfer a part of disagreed islands to Bahrain. Totally, Qatar follows a different and specific pattern in the field of foreign policy and presence at global order which finally aims at an active role-playing in the global society. As mentioned before, following the rational and optimal goal of acting in international system scene has caused challenges for the governance of this country which are briefly discussed here. It is obvious that the writer of this study considers Qatar development and its foreign relations with a special thought which is called “the humanistic perspective of Qatar society rulers”, a perspective which focuses on Qatari praised identity and considers originality on the development of human ethics and values and is not trapped by ethnic and religious biases. While the claimants of the world big civilization and headmasters of power and wealth all believe that their interests won't be achieved unless violating other nations and countries, with a humanistic approach, Qatar has turned from a small actor into a regional actor with global radius during three recent decades, during this three decades, with the increase of its capacity, this country has been able to develop its penetration into Middle East and global field as a mediator by making an optimal economic and social background and communicative instruments. As a result, due to the promotion of Qatar global role, some interventionistic behaviors of its neighbors have been observed so far and will be observed, too. This interventionistic behavior of its neighbors highly depends on Doha pragmatic approach regionally and globally and this has caused dissatisfaction and jealousy of some of Qatar's neighbors. Qatar is the only actor possesses all power elements and this has made some of its neighbors consider its role harmful to themselves in international system. Instead of modeling developed Qatar (that up to 2025, the value of its national currency will be ranked the first in the world with parity factor 4) these neighbors have tried, are trying and will try to plan and perform idiotic scenarios to destroy the international character of this country, although these scenarios have failed so far. However, in foreign policy strategy, Qatar has always tried to organize its relations with all regional and transregional countries based on mutual respect and is going to promote it moment by moment. Considering the achievements and developments of Qatar in three recent decades, it is possible to say that Qatar has passed a very strange development period rapidly and rationally and therefore the neighboring

countries politicians and rulers can tolerate it. Sometimes, the rulers of other Middle Eastern countries are worried about the super fantastic development of Qatar and since Qatar is a country completely different from its neighbors, this has made them worried. Some of the countries which claim that they are the origin of Islam in the Middle East are afraid of Qatari identity and culture export to their country and collaboratively try to seriously challenge Qatar in its development path. Also, while some of wealthy countries of this region spend the income surplus on supporting terroristic groups, Qatar is trying to develop its international role-playing with the potential of its income surplus, for example 2022 FIFA World Cup. Statistical investigations show that this country will turn into an ideal and fantastic territory to maximally attract elite from around the world in the near future and the surplus of this country's income will be spent on the education of elite and consequently global stable development.

Conclusion

In the Middle Ages and during church-imposed suffocation on European societies, those involved in church believed that following and obeying reason in religion is something vain and useless. Church cardinals and bishops used to say that whatsoever religion has stated, has to be accepted without question and no one is allowed to state an opinion or idea against religious scales even with reasonable confirmation. When church started fighting with reason and rationalism with such terms, the wise and scholar men of science also separated their path from church and religious affairs; therefore, among the events happened during Renaissance was that scientists and philosophers told "we cannot make the world with religious affairs and guide humankind to the stages of growth and evolution and also guide society to development".

Although church lords have accepted this obligatory, they told: "the basis of our work is paying attention to heart not paying attention to reason".

Gradually and as a result of such illogical challenges, divine teachings have been brought for years by prophets (peace be upon them) for the fortune of the world and humankind were forgotten and ignored.

The logical development of researchers in different fields such as psychology, sociology, economics, and politics has also separated religious rituals from the intellectual and theoretical frameworks of civilized systems of those times; as you know this confrontational approach never exists in Islam between reason and revelation and the scholars of Kalam and Usuli in Islam call the companion between reason and religion “companionship rule”, they say: “whats ever reason rules, religion also rules upon that”. The Holy Quran also addresses the Holy Prophet: **“Say, this is my way. I summom to Allah with insight”**. So according to Islam, reason has to witness the existence of the Almighty God and confirm Him, also in school of Islam, reason and revelation accompany each other in achieving wisdom.

The Holy Quran also permitted using reason, rationalism and knowledge instruments to achieve the real meaning of obedience and monotheism.

The important property of a Muslim is the cognition and wisdom of Almighty God, considering rational sentences and correct underrating; divine rules become obligatory after God rational acceptance; therefore, the root of civilization and development of Islamic societies is confirmed by rational principles; as mentioned before, the writer takes a special thought to the development of Qatar which may be called “Qatari humanistic perspective”, thus, the objective of this perspective is concentration on rationality on the path of progress and development. A perceptive which not only focuses on “Qatari praised identity” but also bases originality on human ethics and values not to be involved in ethnic and religious biases. Although Qatar has not been a developed nation three decades ago, after the governance of Sheikh Hamad and Sheikh Tamim, using a rational approach, this country tried to pass the path of evolution and development in different fields. Therefore, following social, political and economic reforms in domestic field, Qatar government has shone well in international politics, too.

Rationality-based measures and plans of Doha government has caused a distinguished promotion, so that this country has gone beyond its small size and Qatar has found readiness and potential to win global peaks in 2030 that sure by making the members of global village more aware of the rational modeling of Qatar, the challenges of this government will be less and less in the future.

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Further Comparative Research Study

<https://www.worlddata.info/country-comparison.php>