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Middle east country: Qatar:

1. Introduction:

Qatar is the country of the Middle East and it is also a Gulf country that is inhabited in a small desert named Qatar peninsula which is extended to the larger Arabian peninsula. Qatar is situated in Western Asia. It shares borders with Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf. Saudi Arabia is located in its west whereas the United Arab Emirates is located in its south. It shares marine borders with Bahrain, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. Qatar has an absolute monarchy and is ruled by the Al Thani family since Mohammad Bin Thani made an agreement with the British state in 1868 in which Qatar become an independent state. The government system of Qatar is an emirate where the Sheikh or Amir is head of state and the prime minister is the head of the country. The official name of Qatar is the State of Qatar. Its capital is Doha. Its currency is Qatari Riyal(QAR) and the official language is Arabic. The official religion of Qatar is Islam and most of them are Sunni Muslims. Qatar covers a total area of 4473 kilometers the estimated population of Qatar in 2020 is 2,881,053. The country is mostly barren and full of deserts. The weather here in summers is very hot and dry whereas in winter it becomes mild and pleasant. Qatar is a member of the League of Arab states and the gulf cooperation council.

The barriers Qatar has passed to gain independence.

2. History of the country starting 1850-1918:

Before 1867 Qatar was governed by the Sheikhs of Bahrain. But a war started there, between monarchs and its citizens. To maintain the peace in the region, the British appointed Mohammad Al Thani who was the head of the ruling Thani family, a ruler of this region. Due to the heavy military and political pressure from Ottoman leaders, Al Thani gave in before the ruler of the Ottoman in 1871. Local tribes showed disapproval but Al Thani kept on assisting the Ottoman ruler. The Ottoman government tried hard to merge the areas of Qatar

into an empire. They inflicted revolutionary measures included taxation and land registration. But the relations between Qatari-Ottoman leaders started to become fester soon. In 1882 it becomes worse when Ottoman refused to assist Al Thani in his voyage of Abu-Dhabi inhibited Khawr al Udyad. In 1888 Ottomans also supported his citizen Muhammad bin Abdul Wahab who tried to replace Al Thani and to become the Deputy Governor of Turkey. Which made Al Thani become an agitator against Ottoman. In 1892 Al Thani resigned as the deputy governor of Turkey and stopped paying taxes to Ottomans. In 1893 Mehmed Hafiz Pasha came to Qatar in search of unpaid taxes and the Ottoman Turks invaded Qatar in 1893 but the leader successfully stopped them. In 1916 the ruler gave permission that Qatar becomes British territory. An agreement was signed between British and Sheikh Abdul Thani in 1916 and Qatar came under the British Trucial system of administration. Al Thani signed this treaty so that in return they can have British protection from land and sea attack This agreement becomes terminated when Qatar becomes an independent and sovereign state on September 3, 1971.

3. Events after 1918:

Oil reserves were being found in Qatar in 1939 and become a major source of revenue for them. Oil brought wealth to the country in the 1950s and 1960s Qatar got independent on September 3, 1971, after the British announced separation from gulf countries. Qatar refused to become a part of the United Arab Emirates. Khalifa bin Hamad al Thani got hold of power in Palace in 1972 and remain changed after a discord in the ruling family. When Iraq attacked Kuwait in 1990 to occupy it. Qatar helped it because they have this idea that if Qatar doesn't defend Kuwait foreign countries will be started to attack their soil too. Later Qatari armed forces had also played their part in the release of Kuwait. In 1995 Sheikh Khalifa was thrown by his son Sheikh Hamad without bloodshed due to a disagreement over oil revenues. Al Jazeera channel and newspaper was launched by the Emir of Qatar in 1996. It is mainly a

Qatar-based channel but covers and broadcast the news of the whole Arab. The first local elections were held in Qatar in 1999 after the independence in 1971. In 2001 Qatar allowed the US to use its airbase for US operations in Afghanistan. In 2002 US materialize Qatar for a possible war against Iraq. The US central command base which is Qatar based was served as a nerve center in the US military campaign in Iraq. The first written constitution of Qatar came into effect in June 2005. In 2008 Qatar and Saudi Arabia agreed to the sharing of borders. Before 2009 Qatar had ties with Israel but they cut it after over Gaza attacking. The global military operations in Libya were joined by Qatar in March 2011. The first-ever head of any state who visits Gaza was Sheikh Hamad Al Thani in 2012. After the retirement of Sheikh Hamad Al Thani his son, Sheikh Tamim becomes the emir (head of the state). Sheikh Abdullah ibn Nasser ibn Khalifah Al Thani becomes the new prime minister. In 2017 diplomatic crises happened when Saudi Arabia leads to air, land, and sea barriers to cut Qatar's terrorism connections from Iran. Qatar leaves Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in December 2019.

4. Westernization and impact of European intrusion on the country:

Western norms and actions are slowly being transmitted to Qatar and slowly becoming the accepted patterns. Westernization has had a remarkable effect on Qatar's culture. Traditionally Qatari culture sticks to Arabic legacy but the country is slowly moving towards westernization. Qatar has always been a well-known Islamic country like others in the region but to host FIFA world cup 2020 Qatar build new infrastructure which has opened employment opportunities for the people from other countries. (Seddiqi, 2012). westernization is the main threat to the national language (Arabic) of Qatar. As it has a negative effect on the writing and spoken of Arabic. Westernization harms the people of Qatar and their values, traditions, and customs. It has a notable negative effect on the teachings and spreading of Islam.

European invasion allowed Qatar to restore their political status and to have better relations with Britain. As before and during world war 1 Qatari Emir worked as a Governor for ottoman Turks but later on the Ottoman empire, and Qatar had conflict over unpaid taxes. British gave them a chance to come under British protection by becoming British territory. Qatar accepted this offer so in return, they can have safety from sea and land attack. Qatar became a solid part of Britain's non-formal empire. This agreement allows British officials to give Al Thani unsolicited advises about the decisions of the internal government of Qatar.

5. Relations with other countries:

I. EGYPT: Egypt, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates cut ties with Qatar in 2017 by accusing Qatar of having links with terrorism. But Qatar had denied these accusations and allegations. These GCC countries asked Qatar to stop the broadcasting of Al Jazeera but Qatar refused to do so.

II. Lebanon: Qatar and Lebanon share historical commitment. Qatar has always been its leading donor after crises. Lebanon is one of the most indebted states. Arab, economic, and social meeting was hosted by Beirut, Lebanon to collect funds from Arab countries. Many of the leaders did not show up at the meeting but Qatar's ruler Sheikh Tamim was the one out of two Arab leaders who showed up at the meeting. It showed that Qatar was willing to support Lebanon when other countries were not interested. After this meeting, Qatar also announced to invest \$500 in Lebanon. Qatar supports Lebanon financially and diplomatically.

III. Syria: In 2019 speaking in a conference Foreign minister of Qatar said that they not looking forward to maintaining relations with Syria, they have no plan on opening Embassy in Damascus, Syria because according to the Qatari government Syrian president has relations with war criminals. Qatar has no plans to normalize relations with Syria in near future.

IV. Palestine: Some of the middle east countries were normalizing relations with Israel by ignoring Palestine Issue. On the other hand, Qatar would leave no efforts in providing all help needed to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians until they get their legitimate rights. Qatar was selected by an easy alphabetic selection procedure to take action while following Article VI of the tenets of the process of the Arab League Council.

Palestinians are involved during a harsh existential struggle; they are confused about the purpose of these rulers of the member countries of the Arab League, and what's the benefit of Arab League existence.

V. Jordan: In 2019 Jordan and Qatar restore their diplomatic ties with the exchange of official Ambassadors between Doha, Qatar, and Amman, Jordan. After the boycott of 2017 with other Arab countries. Jordan wants to have strong relations with Qatar to weaken its economic enemies. The visit of Qatar's Emir to Amman was an indication that ties between both countries are going to strengthen. Both countries were looking forward to bilateral cooperation. Jordan was anxious to restore economic ties with Qatar. Because according to IMF, Jordan is facing economic difficulties and challenges. Doha, Qatar has unfolded working opportunities for Jordan workers and professionals.

VI. Iraq: The president of Iraq visited Qatar in 2019 which showed the eagerness and determination of the leaders of both countries to improve two-sided relations in every field. In the meeting, both countries focused on removing barriers that used to come between their relations. Ministry of trade Iraq announced that Iraq and Qatar admitted starting economic and trade ties. Iraqi foreign minister confirmed that both Iraq and Qatar started to co-operate with each other and there would be investment and trade soon. A new shipping line in Qatar will transmit goods from Iraq to Qatar which is the main step in improving bilateral relations between both countries. After a drone attack in Iraq Qatari foreign minister met with the Iraqi foreign minister for alleviating tension due to the ongoing situation in Iraq.

6. Economic political and cultural status today:

I. Economic status:

Qatar got independence in 1971 and has become one of the world's richest countries due to its huge reserves of oil and gas. After coming into power in 2013, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani has assisted improvements in infrastructure, health care, and education, also the proliferation of Qatar's manufacturing, construction, and financial services sectors. The govt has accelerated large infrastructure projects which contain roads, light rail transportation, a replacement port, stadiums, and other sporting facilities. Before oil reserves were being found in Qatar the occupations of Qatari people was fishing and trade. Private companies also play their important role in Qatar's economy.

The economic freedom score of Qatar is 72.3, ranking its economy at 31st number in the 2020 Index of economic freedom. Which has decreased by 0.3 points. Qatar is at number 3 out of 14 countries in the North Africa region and the middle east, and its total score is more than the averages of other countries in the region. The unemployment rate here is only 0.1% only and the inflation rate is 0.2%.

On the 10th anniversary, the economy has not much risen. During the past five years, GDP has recorded the slightest increase The "Arab Quartet" ban's effected Qatar in a way that has to decrease the economic process. The government was being forced to take care of a high level of paying. Institutions of the state have taken some steps which were aimed towards transforming and localizing different features of operations, so the economy can become more effective in the coming years.

Most of Qatar's economy is dependent on oil and gas reserves and their revenues. To lessen their dependency on oil Qatar has been trying to develop the resources of natural gas since 1990. Qatari government has also started to give interest free loans to citizens or farmers so

they can advanced agriculture sector. But as most of the land Qatar has is barren therefore they are left with Hobson's choice to import food.

II. Political status: Qatar is a constitutional monarch it is ruled by the Al Thani family since Qatar gained independence in 1971. Qatar is an emirate. Its head of state is called emir and the head of the government is the prime minister. Qatar does not have any political parties. Emir appoints the prime minister and deputy prime minister. Emir also appoints a cabinet of prime minister. The current Emir of Qatar is Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and the current prime minister is Abdullah bin Nasser bin, Khalifa al-Thani. Citizens can choose their local representatives through municipal elections every four years. A citizen of 18 years can vote.

III. Cultural status: Qatar has always been populated with immigrants as the Qatari government has a liberal attitude on faith. Hospitality is a notable attribute of Qatari culture. People from other religions can perform their religious activities freely. The guests used to be seated on cushions on the floor in Majilis but now it has changed with a furnished room with all the electronics like television, Play station, etc in it. The most popular support of the country is Football. Some of the traditional sports in Qatar includes falconry, horse and camel racing. The foreign workers are mostly from Pakistan and India.

Citizen of Qatar live in urban areas, the ratio of the people living in rural areas is just 1 percent or even less than this. Doha is the largest city and capital of Qatar and almost half of the population lives here. Women of Qatar have utmost freedom than the women of Saudi Arabia.

Conclusion:

To cape it all off Qatar has faced many obstacles to gain independence in 1971.

Following are the lessons I have learned or one could learn from Qatar and its history

- A country should not bow down to only one empire the way Qatar did to Ottoman first and then before the British. A country should have equal relations with others.
- Leadership plays a greater role in a country's foreign policy, especially for small states.
- Qatar and UAE should have friendly relations because they both are located in the same region not having friendly relations is harmful to them.
- There should be an effective governance structure in Qatar for policy making for the foreign countries interested in investment. Which can forecast climate change and can control its effects on the economy.
- Qatar has heavy industry from which it can have heavy gains. Efficient government is needed to handle these and to have the utmost gains from industries.

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