

QATAR CRISIS



"Qatar, having had a rebellious, youthful spirit, developed a defiant and extraordinary foreign policy steeped in a pragmatic, survival-based notion that the more friends we have the smaller the possibility of an invasion by a powerful neighbour." – Zeenat Adam

QUICK FACTS

LOCATION

Arabian Peninsula in the Middle East, bordering Saudi Arabia



POPULATION

2.3 million (only 12% Qatari)

GOVERNMENT

- Absolute monarchy
- Ruled by the Al Thani family since the mid-1800s
- Consultative Assembly approved in 2003 but elections have yet to be held



ECONOMY

Wealthiest country in the world (per capita)



World's 3rd largest gas reserves

RELIGION

Muslim 78%

Other 13%

Christian 9%

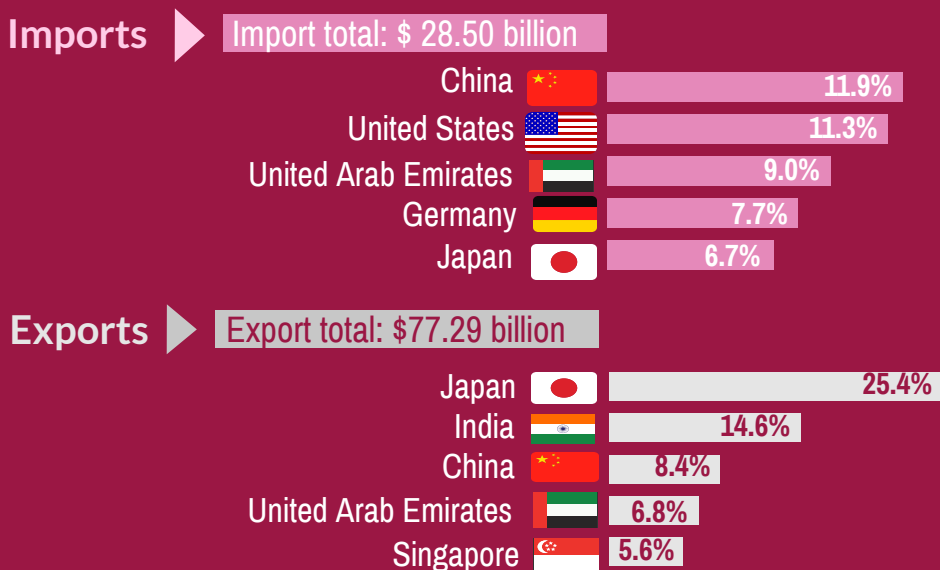
Unreached People Groups 14

A BRIEF HISTORY



QATAR'S FOREIGN TRADE

Most important foreign trade partners by share of trade volume (2015)



Source: https://infographic-statista.com/normal/chartoftheday_9679_qatars_foreign_trade

2017 DIPLOMATIC CRISIS

- 23 MAY**: Website of Qatar News Agency reportedly hacked. Publication of inflammatory statement falsely attributed to emir of Qatar, Sheikh Al Thani
- 4 JUNE**: Hacked emails of UAE ambassador reveal efforts to undermine the image of Qatar
- 5 JUNE**: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE and Bahrain (followed by Yemen, Libya and Maldives) severed ties with Qatar. US President Donald Trump echoed accusations against Qatar in tweets and statements

KEY ISSUES IN THE CRISIS

TERRORISM TIES

Qatar has been called "the Club Med for terrorists"

Allegations of support for Islamist extremists including:



Muslim Brotherhood



Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State



Hamas

INFLUENCE OF STATE-FUNDED TV

Al Jazeera TV channel has wide regional and international influence



ALJAZEERA

Regional closure of branches and operating licences withdrawn:

Egypt (closed months ago)

Saudi Arabia

Jordan



IRAN TIES



Vast underwater natural gas field shared with Iran

Saudi Arabia and Bahrain accused Qatar of supporting Iranian-backed Shiite militant groups in their countries

Qatar allegedly paid numerous ransoms to Iranian-backed Shiite militia in Syria and Iraq for the release of hostages



FALLOUT OF THE CRISIS

LAND, SEA AND AIR BLOCKADE



4 cargo planes of food sent in to Qatar from Iran

100 daily tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables promised by Iran

EVICCTIONS

Gulf governments ordered their citizens to leave Qatar within two weeks



100s of mixed-citizenship couples facing possible separation

ECONOMIC IMPACT

7%+ fall in Qatar's main stock index

BUT \$335 billion in assets could keep prevent economic crisis

"It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,...who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness." (Isaiah 40:22a, 23)