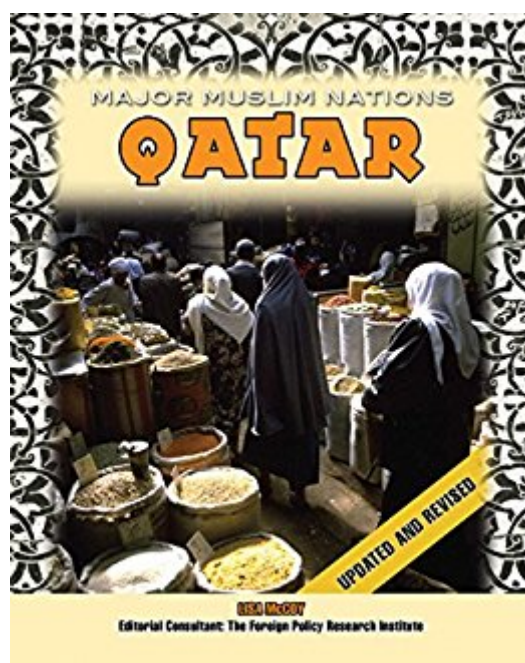


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# Qatar (Major Muslim Nations)



## Synopsis

Throughout history tiny Qatar (pronounced "cutter" or "gutter") has at times been overlooked or forgotten. Today, however, this small country, located on a peninsula that juts into the Arabian Gulf, has become an important strategic partner of the United States. In recent years Qatar has gained international stature in part because of its vast reserves of oil and natural gas. Since coming to power in 1995, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani has made Qatar one of the more liberal Gulf states. Though the country is by no means a democracy in the Western sense, Qatar appears to be moving slowly in that direction. One day Qatar may provide a successful example of democracy for the Arab world. Discusses the geography, history, economy, government, religion, people, foreign relations, and communities of Qatar.

## Book Information

File Size: 19905 KB

Print Length: 111 pages

Publisher: Mason Crest; Updated and Revised ed. edition (October 21, 2014)

Publication Date: October 21, 2014

Sold by: Simon and Schuster Digital Sales Inc

Language: English

ASIN: B00P04YTA8

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,206,387 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #12

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