

## **Qatar**

Vanderbilt

Qatar is coded as authoritarian from independence in 1971 until 2008. Qatar is missing Geddes regime type coding, but it should be considered a monarchy with an emirate-type government in which political power is assumed on a hereditary basis. According to the U.S. Department of State (2010) Qatar is a constitutional monarchy. As such, SOLS changes are coded using monarchy coding rules. There were three Kings (Emirs) from independence to present. They are all from a same royal family: Al Thani.

Ahmed Ath-Thani of the Al Thani dynasty (Morby 2002) ruled at independence. There is no SOLS change at independence. In 1972 Ahmed was deposed by his cousin Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani with the support of many members of the family. Department of State Background Notes: "In February 1972, the Heir Apparent, Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad, deposed his cousin, Amir Ahmad, and assumed power. Key members of the Al Thani family supported this move, which took place without violence or signs of political unrest." (U.S. Department of State 2010) This is not a SOLS change. In 1995 Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani deposed his father and assumed power. A counter-coup failed and father and son are now reconciled. This is not a SOLS change. Hamad ruled through 2008. All rulers were members of the Al Thani dynasty which has ruled Qatar since World War I and the constitution actually requires rulers to come from the Al Thani family. The Department of State also points out that: "The Amir, while directly accountable to no one, cannot violate the Shari'a (Islamic law) and, in practice, must consider the opinions of leading families and the religious establishment."

### References:

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