

Saudi Arabia Has Handed the Emir of Qatar an Opportunity to Redirect History

By [Dr. Paul Craig Roberts](#)

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

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Featured image: Emir of Qatar Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani (Source: Flickr)

In the event you have noticed the hullabaloo about Qatar and wonder what it is about, it is about Al Jazeera, a news organization, established by the Emir who rules the oil and gas sheikdom on the Persian Gulf. Al Jazeera is far more professional than any news organization in the West. Al Jazeera's problem is that it covers the actual news and tells the truth. This is unacceptable to the Saudis, the United Arab Emirates, and to Washington.

At the time of the US invasion of Iraq the Crown Prince of the UAE requested that Washington bomb Al Jazeera so that the Arab world would not be inflamed by truthful reporting of the US attack on Iraq. In April 2003 Al Jazeera's Baghdad office in Iraq was struck by a US missile, killing one journalist and wounding another. Of course, Washington claimed it was just a mistake.

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/uae-crown-prince-asked-us-to-bomb-al-jazeera-says-2003-cable/5596718>

Qatar has the highest per capita income in the world—\$129,700 in 2016—a sum to which American per capita income compares very poorly.

Qatar also hosts the largest US military base in the Mideast. This fact makes the list of demands or else that Saudi Arabia has handed to Qatar perplexing. Essentially, the Saudis accuse Qatar of “supporting terrorism” because the Emir permits Al Jazeera to tell the truth. The second demand on the list is that Qatar close down Al Jazeera.

The Emir is proud of Al Jazeera, and he should be. On the other hand Qatar shares a land border with Saudi Arabia. But the Saudis are bogged down as Washington's proxies in a war with Yemen. Does Saudi Arabia want a second front? What would Washington's response be to a Saudi attack on a country that hosts Washington's largest military base in the Middle East?

Is Qatar to be incorporated into Saudi Arabia? If so, the problem returns of the infidel having military troops in the country that protects the holy shrine of Mecca. What is certain is that Washington is not going to let go of its largest base in the Middle East.

Still, Washington hates Al Jazeera. So, can we expect that Washington will pressure the Emir to comply with the Saudi demand? What if the Emir instead ordered Washington out and installed the Russians, or the Iranians with whom the Emir is on speaking terms? If the Emir

could evade the CIA assassination attempts, he could single-handedly change the course of history.

Only the corrupt Saudi monarchy and the idiots in Washington could create such an opportunity for a mere Emir. If I were the Emir, I would be on the telephone with Vladimir Putin.

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