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Analyzing the Negative Consequences of the Qatar Blockade on the Gulf Region from Qatari Citizens Perspective

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Abstract

This study undertakes a comprehensive exploration of the multi-dimensional ramifications of the Qatar blockade on both Qatari citizens and the broader Gulf region. Employing a robust structural model, the study elucidates the substantial impact of negative social dimensions in shaping citizens' perceptions of the blockade's consequences, underscoring the influential role of sociocultural factors. The economic analysis reveals nuanced influences, particularly with economic pressure exerting a noteworthy effect on both Qatar and the wider Gulf region. In the political domain, the study accentuates the significance of political dimensions, with stability status emerging as a primary predictor of perceived consequences. These findings deepen our comprehension of the intricate interplay between geopolitical events and public perceptions, providing insights into the complex dynamics that mold responses to regional crises. In doing so, this research makes a valuable contribution to the broader academic discourse on crisis perception and its diverse dimensions.

Keywords: Qatar Blockade, Social Impact, Economic Impact, Political Impact, Stability Impact

Introduction

The Qatari foreign policy, evolving since the 1990s, marked a robust beginning on regional and global fronts (Al-Attiyah 2013). Rooted in constitutional principles, it prioritizes international peace, exemplified by the establishment of a significant US military base and diplomatic ties with various regional powers, despite contradictions (Al-Attiyah 2013). Leveraging "soft policy tools," Qatar utilized media and diplomacy, notably through Al Jazeera, to foster good relations in the Gulf Region (Mohammadzadeh 2017). During the Arab Spring, some Arab nations attributed significant responsibility to Qatari media, leading to tensions (Nuruzzaman 2015). The subsequent counter-revolutions by the UAE and Saudi Arabia intensified, resulting in a nine-month dispute, including the withdrawal of ambassadors from Qatar in 2014 (Mohyeldin 2017). The situation was temporarily alleviated due to regional concerns over the second Obama administration's policies. With Donald Trump's presidency, Saudi Arabia and the UAE formed a robust alliance, initiating an offensive media campaign

against Qatar (Kenyon 2017). This culminated in the unprecedented diplomatic and economic blockade on June 5, 2017, by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt, accusing Qatar of supporting terrorism (Peninsula 2018). The measures included the closure of outlets and restrictions on movement, causing negative economic, political, and social impacts in the Gulf region (Al-Khater, Qader, and Al-Kubaisi 2017; Guardian 2017).

The blockade, purportedly a response to Qatari violations, was seen as coercive and punitive, violating international principles and prompting Qatar to explore political and judicial procedures against the blockading nations (Al-Attiyah 2013). Consequently, it is discernible that the primary goal underpinning the imposition of the blockade is to exert coercive measures on Qatar, with the intent of compelling the relinquishment of its sovereign prerogatives, compromising the autonomy of its political determinations, and fostering submission to the overarching influence of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) as indicated by several reports (Al-Attiyah 2013; Mohammadzadeh 2017; Nuruzzaman 2015; Mohyeldin 2017; Al-Jazeera 2017; Kenyon 2017; Peninsula 2018; Al-Khater, Qader, and Al-Kubaisi 2017; Guardian 2017). The impracticability of adhering to the blockade's stipulations, reminiscent of terms analogous to those imposed upon Germany by the Allies post-World War I, underscores the infeasibility of a constructive response. Undoubtedly, this has precipitated adverse consequences of an economic, political, and social nature within the Gulf region, thereby creating a milieu conducive to external interventionism and opportunistic endeavors for self-aggrandizement. Consequently, the primary impetus of this scholarly inquiry is to systematically investigate the deleterious ramifications incurred by the Gulf region consequent to the imposition of the blockade upon Qatar.

Literature Review

Qatar Blockade

The Qatar blockade, initiated on June 5, 2017, by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and other nations, involved cutting diplomatic ties and imposing a series of conditions on Qatar. The demands included severing military and intelligence ties with Iran, closing the Turkish military base in Qatar, and ending cooperation with Turkey. Qatar was also asked to cut ties with various terrorist organizations, including ISIS, the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, Taliban, al-Qaeda, Jabhat al-Nusra, and Hezbollah. The blockading countries imposed additional conditions, such as reparations, compensation, and the closure of Al-Jazeera Channel. Despite Qatar's rejection of these demands, the blockade continues until Qatar changes its policies (Al-Jazeera 2017; Al-Khater, Qader, and Al-Kubaisi 2017). This blockade is a pivotal event in Qatar's history, with profound political, economic, and social impacts. To understand the Qatari perspective and its implications, a study is proposed to analyze the crisis's effects on political, economic, and social aspects. The research aims to identify trends and developments among Qataris and provide recommendations for decision-makers, viewing the crisis as a culmination of longstanding contradictions and conflicts within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (Al-Khater, Qader, and Al-Kubaisi 2017)

Social Impact

Since the discovery of oil in the Gulf, the Gulf States, united under the Gulf Corporation Council, experienced significant social and financial prosperity, fostering harmony and integration (Akkas and Camden 2020). The 2017 crisis resulted in a social impact by forcefully separating families due to political conflicts. Blockading parties demanded the immediate

return of their citizens and removal of Qatari residents, intentionally rupturing the social fabric (Al-Najjar 2019). Integrated families faced dissolution, contributing to social fragmentation and hostility among individuals from Gulf States and their family members in Qatar (Sadiki and Saleh 2020). The blockade went beyond diplomatic measures, uniquely preventing any human contact with Qatar. This unprecedented crisis shattered the strong bonds among Gulf families, causing extensive repercussions in social, psychological, health, educational, and financial aspects, affecting the cohesiveness of Gulf families (Alkaabi and Soliman 2017).

Accordingly, citizens of Qatar were given 14 days to leave the three Gulf countries, leading to the dispersal of hundreds of families. The decisions violated various human rights and humanitarian principles, affecting freedom of movement, education, work, opinion, residence, and ownership. Over 13,314 people were directly affected, with 480 cases involving the dispersal of Gulf families (Alkaabi and Soliman 2017). The National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) reported 3,961 social violations by blockading countries. These violations encompassed dimensions such as education, property, family restrictions, cross-border movement, health, religious rites, work, and residency. Cross-border violations constituted the highest number, followed by property and family restrictions. The experiences resulting from the blockade, including leaving the country, family separation, education disruption, property loss, and withdrawal of nationalities, had profound negative repercussions on family welfare and quality of life. Families faced challenges in dealing with trauma experiences and mental health disorders (NHRC 2018).

Economic Impact

The economic impact of the blockade on Qatar has been profound, with estimates suggesting potential annual losses of around $5 billion if the embargo persists over the long term (Rehman, FathiyaAl-Kharusi, and Kaitibie, 2017). Despite the robustness of Qatar's economy, heavily reliant on commodity exports totaling $22 billion annually (Rehman et al., 2017), the blockade has forced the nation to confront challenges. Qatar's strong dependence on imports, encompassing almost all daily necessities, became apparent as shortages occurred immediately in the Qatari market following the blockade. Furthermore, the crisis shed light on the vulnerability of Qatar's economic structure, particularly its heavy reliance on imports for daily necessities such as food, medicine, and building materials (Rehman et al., 2017). The shortage of goods in the Qatari market highlighted the necessity for diversification and resilience in the face of geopolitical challenges. The blockade prompted Qatar to explore new markets and establish alternative air and sea corridors to ensure a consistent supply of essential goods. This economic strain underscored the importance of developing domestic capabilities and reducing dependency on neighboring countries for critical imports.

Additionally, the impact extended to the agricultural sector, particularly in camel breeding farms, as blockading countries violated customs and laws (Rehman et al., 2017). This prompted the establishment of the Compensation Committee to monitor effects and address legal measures. The financial sector also felt the repercussions, with Qatari investors facing restrictions on financial transfers and account management in blockading countries. Besides, tourism and aviation sectors faced disruptions, with losses incurred by tourism companies relying on Umrah revenues (Rehman et al., 2017). The suspension of direct flights and increased costs for transit flights caused confusion within the tourism and aviation industries.

The blockade not only disrupted business activities but also severed family relations and affected trade relations. Overall, the economic impact of the blockade highlighted vulnerabilities in Qatar's economic structure and underscored the need for strategic measures to enhance resilience and reduce dependency on neighboring countries for critical economic activities.

Political Impact

The political impact of the Gulf crisis is deeply rooted in historical tensions and regional conflicts among Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members. Historical events, such as border conflicts and previous disputes, have contributed to the strained relations between Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt. The severing of diplomatic ties and the imposition of a blockade in 2017 were prompted by allegations of Qatar supporting terrorist organizations, claims that Qatar vehemently denies. The situation has evolved from geographical conflicts to political differences, with Qatar's foreign policy choices and regional alignments being a source of contention. The blockade nations cited national security concerns, but the lack of concrete evidence raises questions about the legitimacy of their claims (Al-Khater, Qader, & Al-Kubaisi, 2017; Miller, 2018). The crisis reflects a complex geopolitical landscape and underscores the challenges of maintaining unity within the GCC.

Stability Impact

The stability impact of the blockade on Qatar extends beyond regional tensions and geopolitical dynamics, reaching into the realm of economic resilience and political cohesion. Despite its small size, Qatar's strategic importance, particularly in the hydrocarbon sector, has granted it significant influence on the global stage (Freer and Courtney, 2018). The blockade has prompted Qatar to assert its issue-specific power, as seen in its ambitious international policies, including support for rebel groups in Syria, leading to strained relations with neighboring Gulf states (Barakat, Milton, and Elkahlout, 2019). The political risks emanating from the crisis have influenced alliances and geopolitical strategies in the Middle East and Africa, reshaping regional dynamics (Asisian, 2018). The impact on Qatar's political landscape has been profound, with the closure of national boards, forced displacement, and the return of Qatari employees from the blockading countries (Moretti, 2019). Despite expectations of Qatar succumbing to pressure, its leadership has demonstrated resilience, implementing measures such as stockpiling staples and enhancing food security (Lefèvre, 2017). Additionally, the blockade has spurred a surge of patriotism and support for the Qatari government, countering the intended weakening of the system by the blockading parties (Aviles, Rieger, and Goncharova, 2020). As the Gulf crisis unfolds, the long-term ramifications for Qatar remain uncertain, with potential repercussions on the unity of the Gulf Council and broader regional stability (Rashid and Naseer, 2019; Eksi, 2018). The shifting priorities of regional powers and internal developments, particularly in Saudi Arabia, add complexity to the evolving dynamics in the Middle East.

Methodology

This study systematically adopts a deductive reasoning strategy. It commences with hypotheses and theories, progresses through phases of data collection and observation, and culminates in a meticulous analysis of data. This aligns with the deductive method, enabling a nuanced exploration of relationships within established theoretical frameworks and hypotheses. The initial phase involves identifying the research problem, formulating

questions, and establishing objectives. Preliminary data is sourced from international agencies, local government reports, published papers, and books. A comprehensive literature review identifies variables, leading to the proposal of a conceptual framework guiding the development of a questionnaire. Convenience sampling is employed, with the sampling scope contingent upon the total population. The population size of 75,840 employees in five pivotal authorities affected by an unjust blockade is considered. Convenience sampling is chosen due to the known population size, as per Krejcie and Morgan's formula (1970).

$$n = \frac{\mathrm{N}\, Z^2\, p\, (1-p)}{(\mathrm{N}-1)E^2 + Z^2\, p\, (1-p)}$$

Where, *n* represents the required sample size, *N* signifies the total population size , *Z* denotes the standard normal deviate corresponding to the desired confidence level, *p* represents the estimated proportion of the population with the attribute of interest and *E* is the desired margin of error. The formula yields a sample size of approximately 382 respondents. During data collection, an e-form with comprehensive options ensures the absence of missing data. Microsoft Excel is used for coding. The Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) technique, facilitated by Warp PLS 7.0, is employed for data analysis. Descriptive analysis defines respondent profiles and constructs. Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) via Partial Least Squares (PLS) analysis is executed, involving critical parameter computation like Constructs Weights, P value, Variance Inflation Factor (VIF), and Full Collinearity. Statistically insignificant items are removed. Path Coefficient and P values assess the conceptual framework and hypotheses, contributing to refinement. The effect size (f2) quantifies the impact of independent variables (Social, economic, political, stability consequences) on the dependent variable (Qatar blockade impact on Gulf Region). Model fit is evaluated through Goodness of Fit values.

Results

The evaluation of the reflective measurement model for Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) involved rigorous tests of both indicator reliability and construct reliability. Indicator reliability was scrutinized based on the loading of each indicator on its corresponding latent construct, with a loading threshold set at 0.7, as suggested by Hair et al. (2014) and Sekaran (2003). Table 1 provides an overview of the indicator loadings on their associated latent variables (LVs) before incorporating second-order LVs.

Table 1
Loadings of Latent Variables

	Variables	Items	Loading	Cronbach's alpha	CR	AVE
Social Dimensions	Qatar's Social Impact	SC3 SC5 SC7 SC9	0.653 0.837 0.806 0.767	0.768	0.852	0.592
	Gulf's Social Impact	SC2 SC6 SC8 SC12	0.635 0.804 0.782 0.655	0.716	0.812	0.523
Economic Dimensions	Qatar's Economic Impact	EC1 EC3 EC5 EC7 EC9	0.723 0.703 0.759 0.737 0.662	0.765	0.841	0.515
	Gulf's Economic Impact	EC6 EC8 EC10 EC12	0.708 0.749 0.776 0.741	0.730	0.832	0.553
Political Dimensions	Sovereignty and Foreign inference on Qatar	PCC1 PCC3 PCC4	0.743 0.891 0.859	0.785	0.871	0.694
	Sovereignty and Foreign inference on GCC	PC1 PC3 PC4 PC5	0.670 0.770 0.840 0.704	0.735	0.835	0.561
Stability Dimensions	Qatar's Stability Impact	RSC1 RSC2 RSC3	0.737 0.836 0.795	0.702	0.833	0.625
	Gulf's Stability Impact	RSCC1 RSCC2 RSCC3 RSCC4 RSCC5	0.803 0.774 0.870 0.842 0.792	0.875	0.909	0.667
Qatar Blockade Impact on Gulf Region	Social Consequences Economic Consequences Political Consequences Stability Consequences	SOC ECC POC STC	0.621 0.717 0.783 0.759	0.701	0.813	0.522

The study demonstrates reliability (Cronbach's alpha) values ranging from 0.716 for Gulf's Social Impact to 0.875 for Identification. Composite reliability (CR) values range from 0.812 to 0.909 for the same variables, as indicated in Table 1. All reliability and composite reliability constructs surpass the recommended threshold of 0.60 (Hair et al., 2014). Convergent validity in Smart-PLS is confirmed when items exhibit high loadings, typically exceeding 0.70 or 0.60

in exploratory research (Hair et al., 2018). Items with lower outer loadings (below 0.60) are considered for removal, provided their elimination does not diminish the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) value. In the full measurement model, 36 items were retained out of 47, with loadings ranging between 0.635 (SC2) and 0.891 (PCC3), as delineated in Table 1. All constructs maintain an AVE of at least 0.5 and a CR above 0.70, ensuring robust convergent validity (Chin, 1980). For measurement values, all constructs satisfy the minimum estimation criteria: 0.70 for Cronbach Alpha, 0.50 for Average Variance Extracted (AVE), and 0.60 for Composite Reliability (CR) (Hair et al., 2014).

The subsequent assessment in the evaluation of the measurement model pertains to discriminant validity. Discriminant validity is affirmed by comparing the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) values with the squared correlations for each set of constructs. Additionally, ensuring that the square root of the AVE for a given construct is greater than the absolute value of the correlation square with any other factor (AVE > correlation square) is crucial (Fornell and Larcker, 1981). Tables 1 and 2 exhibit the square root of the AVE for all constructs, surpassing the correlations between the given construct and others in the model. Furthermore, the examination reveals that the correlation values among independent variables are below 0.85, as recommended by Hair et al. (2018). The correlation matrix, illustrated in the table below, validates the discriminant validity.

Table 2
Discriminant Validity for Latent Variables

Variable	GEI	GST	QSF	GSF	QB	QEI	QST	GSI	QSI
GEI	0.743								
GST	0.358	0.722							
QSF	0.101	-0.137	0.831						
GSF	0.489	0.121	0.228	0.749					
QB	0.681	0.444	0.486	0.666	0.723				
QEI	0.703	0.455	0.021	0.322	0.627	0.718			
QST	0.529	0.498	0.082	0.453	0.571	0.347	0.769		
GSI	0.232	-0.038	0.629	0.272	0.654	0.144	0.136	0.818	
QSI	0.462	0.146	0.230	0.648	0.665	0.319	0.439	0.366	0.787

Note: QST: Qatar's Social Impact, GST: GCC's Social Impact, QEI: Qatar's Economic Impact, GEI: GCC's Economic Impact, QSF: Sovereignty and Foreign interference on Qatar, GSF: Sovereignty and Foreign interference on GCC, QSI: Qatar's Stability Impact, GSI: GCC's Stability Impact, QB: Qatar Blockade Impact on Gulf Region

In this present study, the squared multiple correlations (R2) values for the dependent variable, Qatar Blockade Impact on Gulf Region, were found to be R2=0.902. This implies that the four latent variables representing social, economic, political, and stability dimensions collectively accounted for 90.2% of the variance in the Qatar blockade impact on the Gulf region among citizens in Qatar. Figure 1 visually represents the result of Structural Model of study dimensions, prominently featuring social, economic, political, and stability dimensions. This graphical representation delineates their direct and indirect influences on both the Qatar blockade and the encompassing Gulf Region. The figure additionally provides critical statistical information, including P-values, Beta Values, T Statistics, and Standard Deviation (SD) values for each relationship.

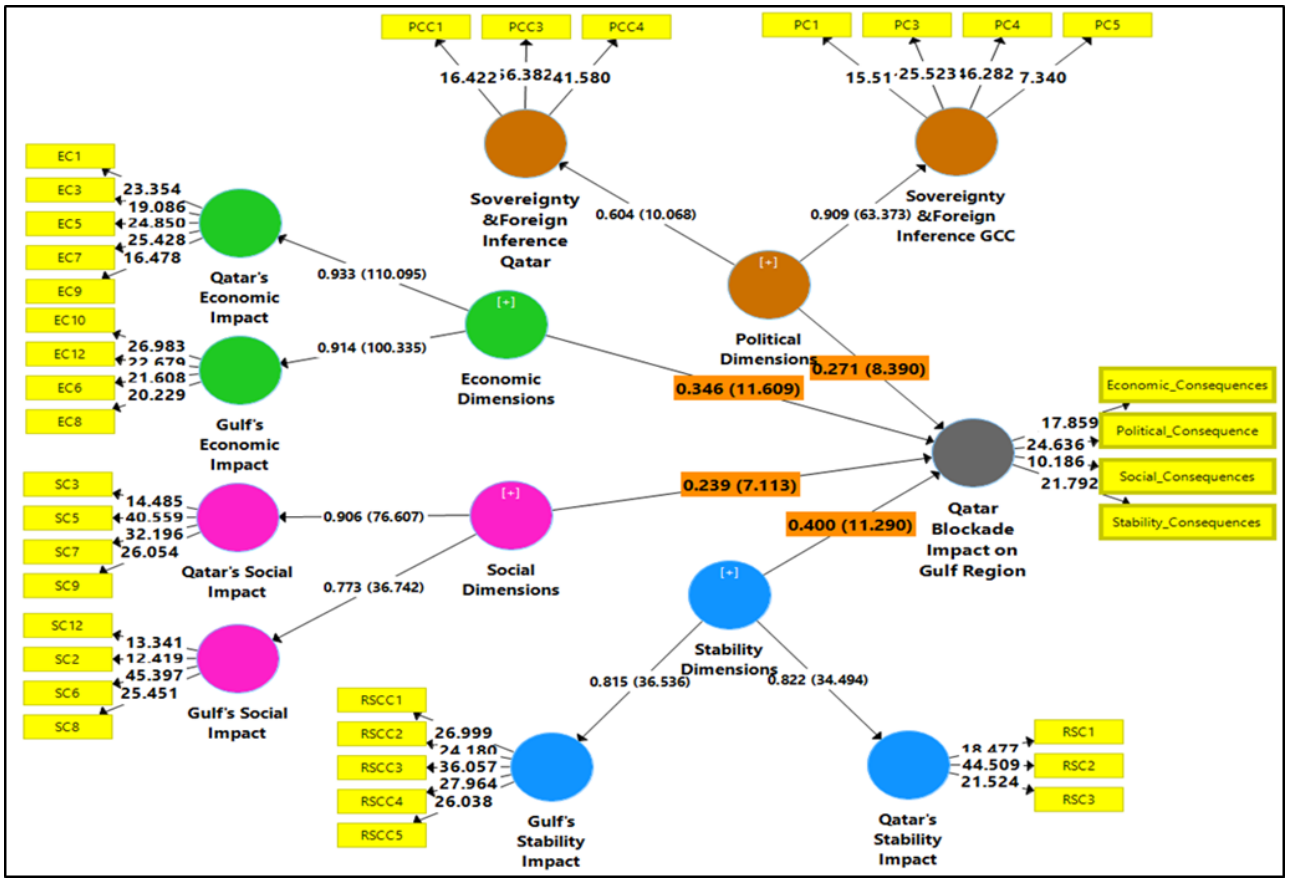

Figure 1: Structural Model Results

Table 3 presents a comprehensive overview of the main hypotheses results, elucidating the relationships between different dimensions, specifically social, economic, political, and stability, and their direct and indirect impact on both the Qatar blockade and the broader Gulf Region. The findings are discussed in detail below:

Table 3

Summary of Structural Model for Main Hypotheses Results

Hyp. No	The relationship	Original Sample (O)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics (|O/STDEV|)	P Values	Result
H1	Social Dimensions -> Qatar Blockade Impact on Gulf Region	0.239	0.034	7.113	0.000	Supported
H2	Economic Dimensions -> Qatar Blockade Impact on Gulf Region	0.346	0.030	11.609	0.000	Supported
H3	Political Dimensions -> Qatar Blockade Impact on Gulf Region	0.271	0.032	8.390	0.000	Supported
H4	Stability Dimensions -> Qatar Blockade Impact on Gulf Region	0.400	0.035	11.290	0.000	Supported

The first hypothesis, H1, posited that there are negative social dimensions in the impact of the Qatar blockade on the Arab Gulf Region. The results indicate a statistically significant influence (β= 0.239, t = 7.113, P < 0.001), supporting H1. This signifies that an increase in negative social dimensions is associated with a proportional increase (0.239 standard deviations) in the impact of the Qatar blockade on the Gulf Region. The second hypothesis, H2, examined the negative economic dimensions in the impact of the Qatar blockade on the Arab Gulf Region. The results reveal a statistically significant influence (β= 0.346, t = 11.609,

P < 0.001), supporting H2. The path coefficient of 0.346 indicates that an increase in negative economic dimensions corresponds to a 0.346 standard deviation increase in the blockade's impact on the Gulf Region. Moving to the third hypothesis, H3 investigated the negative political dimensions in the impact of the Qatar blockade on the Arab Gulf Region.

The findings demonstrate a statistically significant influence (β= 0.271, t = 8.390, P < 0.001), supporting H3. The path coefficient of 0.271 suggests that an increase in negative political dimensions is associated with a 0.271 standard deviation increase in the blockade's impact on the Gulf Region. While the fourth hypothesis, H4, focused on the negative stability dimensions in the impact of the Qatar blockade on the Arab Gulf Region. The results indicate a statistically significant influence (β= 0.400, t = 11.290, P < 0.001), supporting H4. The path coefficient of 0.400 signifies that an increase in negative stability dimensions leads to a proportional increase (0.400 standard deviations) in the blockade's impact on the Gulf Region.

To assess the model, warp PLS 7.0 incorporates two crucial indices, namely the Average Variance Extracted (AVE) and the Average R-squared, for evaluating the model fit. The primary objective of the goodness-of-fit measure is to explicate the variance extracted by both the measurement model and the structural model (Chin, 2018). The Goodness of Fit (GoF) can be determined using the formula:

$$Gof = \sqrt{(\overline{R^2} \times \overline{AVE})}$$

In the context of this study, the GoF value for the model was calculated as 0.685, derived from the equation:

$$\text{Gof} = \sqrt{(0.902 \times 0.522)} = \sqrt{0.470}=0.685$$

To contextualize the GoF value obtained in this study, a comparison was made with the threshold values proposed by Wetzels et al. (2009), where 0.10 represents a small fit, 0.25 indicates a medium fit, and 0.36 signifies a large fit. Consequently, the model's GoF value of 0.685 suggests a large fit, indicating the adequacy of the global Partial Least Squares (PLS) model validity.

Discussion

The study aimed to assess the social consequences of the Qatar blockade on Qatar and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), focusing on Qatari citizens' perceptions. The mean scores revealed a significantly higher average impact in Qatar (84.45 ±SD 0.70852) compared to the broader GCC region (67.18 ±SD 0.95304). The strong correlation (R^2 = 0.902) emphasized that 90.2% of the variance in Qatari citizens' perceptions could be attributed to social dimensions, highlighting the paramount role of societal factors in shaping their views. The study's pivotal finding demonstrated that as negative social dimensions intensified, Qatari citizens' perception of the blockade's impact on the Arab Gulf Region increased significantly (β = 0.239, t = 7.113, p < 0.001), underlining the robustness of this relationship. The study's results aligned with prior research, such as Bloomberg (2017) and Al-Sayed et al. (2017), emphasizing the adverse impact of familial restrictions during the blockade. The limited variance among various social dimensions across Qatar and blockading countries highlighted their

indistinguishably important role in shaping the consequences, despite a significant difference in the R^2 value (0.902). Additionally, studies by Smith et al. (2019), Al-Mannai (2018), Gentz (2020), Akkas and Camden (2020), and Matar & Al-Tamimi (2018) supported the interconnectedness of sociocultural factors in influencing perceptions and experiences during geopolitical events, providing a comprehensive understanding of the Qatar blockade's multifaceted impact on the Arab Gulf Region.

The analysis of economic dimensions reveals the substantial influence of Economic Pressure, with a positive path coefficient and large effect size (ES=0.160), indicating a discernible directional relationship. This aligns with literature suggesting a positive impact on the Gulf region (Brown, 2021). Financial Inflation, while smaller in effect size (ES=0.047), maintains a positive path coefficient, highlighting its distinct impact. The Import and Export dimension, with a substantial effect size (ES=0.135), closely mirrors Economic Pressure, emphasizing its significance. The Tourism and Aviation dimension, though smaller in effect size (ES=0.072), plays a pivotal role, reinforcing the multifaceted nature of the blockade's economic consequences. Statistical analysis supports the relationship between Economic Dimensions' impact on Qatar and its consequences on the Gulf Region, with low Standard Deviation (STDEV), high T Statistics (|O/STDEV|), and a low P-value (0.000), confirming the statistical significance and validating hypothesis H2. These findings resonate with prior studies by Johnson (2019) and Anderson (2020), emphasizing the financial burden of the blockade.

The analysis of the political dimension impact reveals significant disparities in how Qatari citizens and respondents in the broader GCC region perceive the Qatar blockade. Qatari citizens attribute a higher impact within the political domain, with a mean score of 4.2196 (±SD 0.6436), compared to the slightly lower mean score of 3.8137 (±SD 0.8234) among respondents in the broader GCC region. The Structural Model, addressing the third research objective, demonstrates a robust fit with an R^2 value of 0.902, indicating that political dimensions account for 90.2% of the variance in Qatari citizens' perceptions of the blockade's impact on the Gulf region. This aligns with prior research emphasizing the central role of political dimensions in understanding the blockade's consequences, as highlighted by Bouoiyour & Selmi (2017), Barakat et al. (2019), and Aldien (2020). The Effect Size (f^2) for political impact dimensions is 0.423, indicating a large effect on both Qatar and the Gulf Region. Notably, the Gulf Region experiences a more pronounced impact (ES=4.682) compared to Qatar (ES=0.575). The statistical analysis further supports the relationship between negative political dimensions' impact on Qatar due to the blockade and its consequences on the Gulf Region, with low Standard Deviation (STDEV), high T Statistics (|O/STDEV|), and a low P-value (0.000), affirming the statistical significance. The findings also validate research hypothesis H3, emphasizing the substantial and positive influence of negative political dimensions on the Arab Gulf Region during the blockade. These results align with empirical studies by Asisian (2018) and Eksi (2018), collectively providing substantial evidence supporting the premise that negative political dimensions play a pivotal role in shaping perceptions of the blockade's consequences in the Gulf Region.

The Structural Model with a substantial Coefficient of Determination (R^2) of 0.902, aptly explains 90.2% of the variance in Qatari citizens' perceptions, highlighting stability status as the most influential predictive variable with a large effect size (f^2) of 0.937. This underscores stability status's preeminent role in shaping perceptions of the blockade's impact on both

Qatar (ES=2.087) and the Gulf region (ES=1.983). The robust findings, supported by low Standard Deviation (STDEV), high T Statistics (|O/STDEV|), and an infinitesimal P-value (0.000), affirm the statistical significance of the relationship. Negative stability dimensions significantly influence the Arab Gulf Region during the Qatar blockade (β= 0.400, t = 11.290; P <0.001), validating hypothesis (H4). The theoretical underpinnings from Waltz (1979), Mearsheimer (2001), Jervis (1978), and Fearon (1995) contribute to understanding stability's enduring impact on state behavior in the international system, providing a theoretical backdrop for interpreting the significance of stability in regional dynamics during geopolitical crises like the Qatar blockade. The findings align seamlessly with earlier research emphasizing the paramount importance of stability status within political contexts, as demonstrated by Brown's (2017) longitudinal analysis and White's (2019) cross-national analysis. This alignment not only reinforces the observed relationship's robustness but also contributes to the broader scholarly discourse on the intricate interplay between stability status and public perceptions during complex geopolitical events.

Conclusion

This paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the multifaceted consequences of the Qatar blockade on Qatari citizens and the broader Gulf region. Through a meticulous examination of economic, political, and stability dimensions, as well as the influence of demographic factors, this research contributes valuable insights into the complex interplay of perceptions during the crisis. The economic analysis reveals nuanced relationships, with economic pressure exhibiting a substantial direct impact on Qatar and reverberating across the Gulf region. The political dimension analysis underscores the heightened significance of political factors in shaping perceptions, with negative political dimensions exerting a substantial and statistically significant influence on the Arab Gulf Region during the blockade. Moreover, stability status emerges as a crucial factor influencing perceptions, with a substantial effect size highlighting its preeminence. Hence, this work enhances our understanding of the Qatar blockade's impact, emphasizing the interconnectedness of economic, political, and also stability dimensions. The findings contribute to both theoretical frameworks and practical policy considerations, underscoring the importance of a holistic approach to crisis analysis and response strategies.

Finally, the research on the social consequences of the Qatar blockade provides significant theoretical and contextual contributions to the existing body of knowledge. By focusing on Qatari citizens' perceptions, the study highlights the profound impact of social dimensions, with a strong correlation. This underscores the critical role of societal influences in shaping views on geopolitical events. The findings align with prior research, such as Bloomberg (2017) and Al-Sayed et al. (2017), which emphasize the adverse effects of familial restrictions during the blockade. The study also reveals that as negative social dimensions intensify, Qatari citizens' perception of the blockade's impact on the Arab Gulf Region increases significantly, demonstrating the robustness of this relationship. Additionally, the research supports the interconnectedness of sociocultural factors in influencing perceptions during geopolitical crises, as evidenced by studies from Smith et al. (2019) and Al-Mannai (2018). This comprehensive understanding of the blockade's multifaceted impact contributes to the broader discourse on the social dynamics within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) during periods of political tension.

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