

Qatar's Role in Afghanistan: An Analysis of Afghan Peace Process (2013-2022)

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Abstract

Qatar's sincerity and neutrality give it a unique position in the Afghan struggle stated by Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman, the country's prime minister and minister of foreign affairs. State Minister Al Khater went on to explain the remarks, stating that because Qatar has good relationships with all parties concerned, it has the freedom to communicate with all of them and the elasticity that other peacekeepers do not have as shown by Qatar. The consultant at UNDP who serving as a mediator in complicated situations like Afghanistan comes at a high cost, but the advantages are enormous for a country like Qatar, the mediation role might give the essential geostrategic depth. Since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, Qatar has surely attained an international reputation as a mediator in the Afghan peace process.

Key Words: Qatar, Afghan Peace Process, Mediation, Doha Agreement

Introduction

Qatar played a significant role in the Afghan peace talks between Taliban and USA by ending the longest war of the history. After the withdrawal of USSR from Afghanistan 1989 the country faced the experienced of civil war that led to the sudden rise of Taliban in 1994 and in short span of time the Taliban controlled vast area of Afghanistan and established government in Kabul in 1996. The 9/11 event and protection to Osama bin laden paved way for USA and invaded Afghanistan as well as toppled the Taliban regime and installed their own government in Kabul. In this situation a new era of war started between the Taliban and USA which made the Afghan land from bad to worse condition. In 2010, Qatar emerged as a neutral and third partner for mediation between the opposing groups. In 2013 a political office opened in Doha for Taliban and a series of talks begins that led the situation to peace treaty in 2020. The USA withdrawal its troops from Afghanistan and Taliban once again controlled the Afghan land. In the whole process of dialogues Qatar provided its land for mediation as well as humanitarian and diplomatic support for the peace agreement. This paper explains the analysis of the data collected by the researcher regarding the role of Qatar in mediating the Afghan peace talks. The researcher collected the data through semi structured interviews and purposive sampling technique was adopted for the interviews with expert in Afghan affairs who have great information regarding the research topic. This chapter also describes and answers both the research questions regarding Afghanistan that how Qatar resolved the Afghan disputes and what fundamental principles of foreign policy were adopted by Qatar during the mediation process. For the analysis of the collected different theories and concepts were used such as the theory of soft power and diplomacy as well as the concept of mediation and small states. During the analysis and transcribing the collected data the following different themes came into existence.

Qatar's role as a third party in Afghanistan initiated to take settlement at the US's request and with Taliban support. Since 2011, Taliban representative gathered in Qatar to discuss peace

strategies. In 2012, eight top Taliban commanders flew to Doha on formal business to open an office. As Ayman (2016) asserts, it is critical to note that the Afghan government granted permission for the office to open. The Afghan government demanded that the head office should be run by the Afghan High Peace Council. The Obama government supported the office on the American side in order to ensure a smooth exit of US soldiers via Afghan-to-Afghan talks (Katzman, 2019). A few weeks later, the Taliban called the structure the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" and split the former Taliban government flag, sparking controversy. Similarly, the US government requested that the head office is not functioning as a Taliban delegation. As a result of the disagreement, the office was closed, and the negotiations were continually postponed. Despite this, Qatar continued to serve as a go-between for the Taliban and the US, as well as the Afghan government and the Taliban. Blanchard (2014) witnessed a recommencement of negotiations between the US and the Taliban, with multiple meetings focusing on prisoner exchanges. According to Director at Eurasian studies, Qatar was a speaker with the Tahreek Taliban Afghanistan, specifically in terms of the prisoner discussion. Donald Trump, the president of the United States, emphasized the worth of resolving the crisis in Afghanistan and announced a new plan to end all US military operations abroad in 2017. As a result, Trump chose a special representative to begin negotiations with the Taliban. The United States and the Afghan Taliban reached an agreement in Doha in February 2020 after multiple rounds of discussions. One of their main demands was that American and other forces leave Afghanistan completely, as well as that the Taliban stop protecting international terrorists (Jones, 2020). The treaty is widely recognized as a famous episode since it gave the opposing parties a definite plan for ending military conflict within a certain time limit. It also contributed to the end of the prolonged military operation in the world history. According to Ayman (2013), opposing parties had great trust on Qatar's ability to act as a mediator in the Afghan peace process and has been critical to the success of Doha's efforts.

Saudi government and the United Arab Emirates made many attempts to take Qatar's role in Afghan peace dialogues but all in vain because Qatar was recognized by the Taliban and the Afghan régime its role as a mediator has been strengthened since 2011, and even earlier owing to hidden negotiations (Ayman, 2013). Furthermore, by hosting the US military base, Qatar has boosted its reputation in the eyes of Taliban and USA. After American soldiers departed Afghanistan in August 2021, the Afghan Taliban seized the administration of the Afghanistan along with the Presidential House (Zucchini, 2021). Barkat (2021) states that "the immediate and suddenly withdraw of the president was a new surprise" (p. 6). As a result, the Afghan soil plunged into disorder, with hundreds fleeing via the Kabul airport or the desert border and foreigners also attempted to exit the country. Qatar's role as a mediator reached extraordinary heights at this stage in the Afghan conflict. According to Lulwa Al Khater, the Minister of Qatar for the State of International Cooperation (Al Araby, 2021), Doha's negotiation struggles in Afghanistan might be separated into two main ways: prior to the US departure and post-US withdrawal. Since the Taliban assumed control, Qatar helped with the mass flight of Afghan citizens and foreigners from the unfortunate land of Afghanistan. It was regarded as the biggest and most widespread evacuation process in the world history by Joe Biden during phone call with the Emir of Qatar, Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. In addition, some consulates transferred from Kabul to Doha after August 2021 to be in a connecting position with the negotiating process (Al Araby, 2021).

The Involvement of Qatar and the Doha Agreement 2020

Since 2004, Qatar has been involved in mediating process in various issues such as Palestine war, Yemen crisis, Lebanon civil war, Darfur conflict and Afghan peace process. The faculty member at UOM expressed in detail, in Afghanistan the situation was very complex due to two dimensions, on one side Qatar was involved between the Taliban and the USA and on the other side between the Taliban and Afghan government. In 2013, Qatar involved in the Afghan peace dialogue and firstly opened the political office for the Taliban after the great efforts to set both

the parties on the single table for negotiation. Qatar has provided its own land for dialogues along with diplomatic, logistical and humanitarian support. Qatar has also helped in the evacuation process, including NATO forces, foreign nationals and Afghans at threats from Taliban. Consequently, Qatar played a neutral and active role in Afghan peace dialogues and ended the eighteen years of war by signing the Doha Documents in 2020 (Al Jazeera, 2021). The fight in Afghanistan began after the 9/11 attacks when the United States of America launched a "Global War on Terror" to secure its territory and allies, as discussed in the preceding section. According to academician at GPGC argued, as it became clear that a military victory in Afghanistan was unlikely, the US sought a neutral place for talks with the Taliban. Similarly, Chairman at IPS concluded that Afghan land was an unsuccessful attempt for the US, so it opted to pull out its soldiers and settle the issue with Afghan Taliban and as a result of the attack on the World Trade Centre they became the non-state actor of their own homeland. The Consultant at UNDP stated that the US urged Qatar to mediate the Afghan situation in 2001. This was also related to Director at Eurasian studies comment that the Afghan issue always needed to be resolved, therefore the US needed a third person to come and interfere to find the ultimate solution for the eighteen years of war between the USA and the Taliban. Being a small and neutral country and a great approach to a certain group were likely to be the main cause for choosing Qatar in particular at the time, although the exact reasons were unknown. The Taliban welcomed Qatar since the movement's then-leader put specific conditions on any country trying to act as arbitrator. The experience was the only Islamic country, not being Afghanistan's close neighbor of Afghanistan, having no military involvement there, not being a NATO member or providing logistical aid to the alliance and having no experience with the Taliban before the mediation. As a result, Qatar is subject to all of these criteria. Nevertheless, as faculty member of Swabi University noted, Qatar was regarded as a suitable mediator between Afghans and Americans. Because not everyone at the time talked with the Taliban, he believed Qatar's support in the case was effective. Because of its strategically balanced contacts with both the USA and the Taliban, Qatar had a good reputation of participating in the process and resolving the complex issue. Similarly, the largest American military facility in the Middle East, Al Udeid, is in Qatar. Thus, it may be said that Qatar has a distinct connection with both the United States and the Taliban. As a result, by the consent of both conflicting parties Qatar was involved as a third partner and provided an impartial role in the whole peace process. First, in 2011 Qatar's participation began to emerge through concealed talks. As states Rutting (2014) real and promising channels to the Taliban leadership were initiated in 2011, to find the solid and concrete solution for the situation in Afghanistan and to ensure peace and security in the region because Afghanistan was the epicenter of the proxy wars. According to faculty member at Islamic International University Qatar has hosted certain Taliban officials since 2011. In 2012, eight top Taliban commanders flew to Doha on formal business to establish a Taliban office. As Ayman (2016) points out, it is critical to note that the Afghan government authorized the office's establishment. The Obama government assisted the office in facilitating a successful intra-Afghan settlement and the departure of US soldiers (Katzman, 2019). The Obama government emphasized that the facility should not be used as a Taliban embassy. The office was closed as a result of the differences, and negotiations were continually postponed between 2013 and 2018 (Ardemagni, 2021). After a short span of time the Taliban takeover Afghan soil once again in the history of wars and established a new administration. The Taliban called the entity the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" and used the previous Taliban government flag (Yousaf & Jabarkhail, 2021).

Qatar, on the other hand, continued to serve as a contact between both disputing parties that is, Taliban and the United States on one side, as well as between the Ashraf Ghani government and the Emarat Islami. According to Chairman at IPS, the US government and Emarat Islami restarted discussions in Doha in 2014, and many meetings were scheduled to discuss the prisoners return. According to Blanchard (2014), Qatar remained "a speaker" with the Taliban, notably in prisoner exchanges. However, in 2017, Donald Trump announced a new strategy that called for an end to

the "crisis" in Afghanistan and ended military activity abroad (Blanchard, 2014). To begin discussions with Taliban leaders in Doha, Trump appointed Zalmay Khalilzad a special representative and sound diplomat in September 2018. According to faculty member at NDU commented that, in 2018, a Taliban official phoned him and specified that the negotiations and meetings would be moved to the United Arab Emirates. Qatar accepted this initiative as long as the sessions provided the desired results, which were primarily focused on achieving peace and ending the battle. In 2019, negotiations resumed in Doha between the Taliban and Afghans on the one side, and the US on the other. It is perceiving that without identifying a nation, that other GCC countries had attempted to serve as mediators in this scenario but he believed no one had done so as successfully as Qatar. Qatar maintained great touch with everyone, hosted a Taliban office and was already hosting the American officials, which served to connect all parties participating in the conflict. In order to consider producing a united final declaration as a "first step toward peace," under the supervision of Qatar-German sponsorship the Afghan Peace Conference were held for two days in Doha in July 2019 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019). Hundreds of officials from various Afghan groups, including the Taliban, attended the summit which began in Doha to explore ways to resolve the country's conflict. The seminar concurred with the seventh round of discussions between the USA and the Afghan Taliban (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019). Every individual has great consent to this magnificent initiative of peace and security issues in the region, according to Dr Mutlaq Al Qahtani, Qatar's Foreign Minister's Special Envoy for Combating Terrorism and Mediation in Dispute Settlement, who delivered the conference's closing remarks. According to him, "the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." Among the various key issues discussed in the final statement was the conference participants' agreement that full conversations on Afghanistan were the best way to achieve long-term peace in the country. Afghanistan is the homeland for all the Muslim ethnicity and races with Islamic identity" it went on to say. The members' support for the current peace discussions in Qatar was also expressed in the closing statement. As a consequence, Doha pronounced the opening intra-Afghan summit a success (Reuters, 2019). The central character of the Afghan issue would not have been achieved at the same bench of dialogue if the Taliban Political Office had not been established in Qatar.

Misunderstandings between the sides frequently interrupted meetings between the Taliban representative and the United States, making a political settlement in Afghanistan difficult to achieve. Furthermore, despite many attempts by various parties to control this role, such as Saudi Arabia wanted to impede the mediating role of Qatar by several attempts and provided a political office in Saudi Arabia after the opening of the political office of the Taliban in Doha for intra- and inter-Afghan dialogue (Poornima, 2022). We observed a promptness between various regimes to set both the United States and Taliban on a single table for negotiations, argues Barakat (2020). The UAE and Saudi Arabia wanted to arrange it but they were eventually successful in Qatar. This competition hindered the peace movement by wasting time and money while also delayed the talks. If attempts to limit Qatar's involvement had not been made, thousands of lives would have been saved and the 2020 agreement would have been reached to its end. However, the apex of Qatar's mediation efforts occurred in February 2020, when the United States and the Taliban signed an agreement in Doha after three years of negotiation. According to Hodali (2021), both parties trust in Qatar's mediator's honesty, as well as the country's track record of successful mediation efforts, enabled Qatar to demonstrate its ability to secure the historic deal. One of the agreement's main components was the complete withdrawal of American and other forces from Afghan land, as well as Emarat Islami promise not to keep militant groups (Jones, 2020). The peace treaty was widely regarded as historically significant because it provided the opposing parties with a definite plan for ceasing military activities within a short period of time. It brought the longest dispute in history to an end and avoided further disturbance from the Afghan land. According to the Chairman of IPS, Qatar overcame all difficulties and won the file due to its elastic diplomacy.

USA Withdrawal and the Taliban Takeover in Afghanistan

When the remaining American troops departed Afghanistan in August 2021, the Islamic Emarat of Afghanistan controlled the whole country along with the house of the president (Zucchini, 2021). Barkat (2021) describes the circumstances as “the immediate and sudden exit of Ashraf Ghani was very unpredictable” (p. 6). The Afghan Taliban show relaxation in attitude for the Afghan government to run and stable the land of Afghanistan. In the takeover of Afghanistan they faced slight confrontation and in short span of time the whole territory came to their control. The Afghan forces avoid fighting and surrenders for negotiation. The President Biden considered the withdrawal of USA and ending of military operations in Afghanistan as good decision but blame the Afghan security forces for failing to surrender and displaced the Taliban from Afghanistan (Reuters, 2024). The US army left Afghanistan and left the country under the control of Taliban. Afghanistan has the history of wars and conflicts since four decades such as the invasion of USSR in 1979 up to 1988, the Afghan civil war in 1990, the 9/11 incident and the invasion of NATO in Afghanistan. As the Director of Eurasian studies highlighted that the land of Afghanistan was greatly affected by long history of wars and military operations but at last the Afghan Taliban faced great challenges and once again controlled the land and established their government. The takeover of Taliban was made easy by the Qatari efforts and long mediation process between the Taliban and US government by signing the Doha Documents in 2020 (Yousaf & Jabarkhail, 2022). After the controlled of Afghan soil the Taliban administration faced multifaceted challenges such as the issue of international recognition, the Afghan funds were freezed by the great powers, lack of fund to run the administration, weak education and health sector and ratio of unemployment and poverty were increased. As a result, the Afghan soil plunged into disorder with hundreds of the people fleeing via the Kabul airport or the desert border. Several foreigners also attempted to exit the country. At this juncture in the Afghan conflict, the Qatar emerged as donor and mediator for the Afghan land played a significant role. As stated by Lulwa Al Khater, Qatar's State Minister of Foreign Affairs the mediating peace process in Afghanistan may consist of two phases: before and after the US exit (Al Araby, 2021).

Qatar's Economic and Diplomatic Support

Subsequently, with the final withdrawal of American troops and the Taliban's assumption of power, Qatar's role as a mediator took on new responsibilities and provides various aid to the Afghan soil. As part of its position as a peacemaker, Qatar granted various types of economic aid to Afghanistan in an effort to help the country succeed in the years after the US invasion. The donation of Qatar started in 1984 at the time of civil war in Afghanistan by the Qatar Committee for Orphan Sponsorship (Bowman & Dale, 2009). The Consultant of UNDP argued that the state of Qatar opened the office by the name of Qatar Charity for the supplying of aid to Afghanistan and all of the aid and contributions were provided under the supervision of UN agencies. Since 1984 to present day Qatar provided various aid for the Taliban new government.

Humanitarian Aid

Besides the mediation process the state of Qatar provided several aid to the Afghanistan before and after the signing of Doha Agreement in February 2020. During the period of 2019 to 2021 the state of Qatar provided US\$32 million for various developmental projects (Milton & Elkahlout, 2025). Additionally, the Qatar Fund for Development issued US\$1 million for relief and other services. After the Taliban takeover the supply of aid increased by the state of Qatar due to multifaceted challenges to the Taliban regime. In the winter season the emergency aid was also provided to the poor families of Afghanistan such solar lights and blankets by the Qatar Fung for Development (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2022). The faculty member of Buner University commented that the state of Qatar provided about US\$0.6 million for the health sector in Afghanistan, US\$75000 for the education sector and US\$73000 for the vocational institutions. Qatar guaranteed US\$50 million in donations to Afghanistan during the "Donor's Conference" arranged by UNO in Geneva in September 2021 for humanitarian assistance and economic

development in Afghanistan. Qatar offered an extra US\$25 million for humanitarian aid to new Afghanistan regime as a co-sponsor of the 2022 Afghanistan Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2022). Furthermore, since 2019, the "Digital Citizen Fund" has received support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD). A number of girls with science skills from the funded group were evacuated and offered scholarships at Qatar Foundation universities. The American University of Afghanistan, the Qatar Foundation, and QFFD have signed an agreement to teach Afghan students in Qatar's Education City. The agreement states that Afghan students would be permitted to complete their studies in Qatar. In November 2023, Qatar arranged a session in Afghanistan for future education, as part of Qatar's regular help to the Afghan people (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2023).

Evacuation Process

Qatar arose as a significant player after the withdrawal of USA and NATO forces from Afghanistan and played a key role in evacuating ten thousands of people from Afghanistan. Because, being a small country of the region and in the presence of big neighbours, the unexpected process made easy the prominent diplomatic efforts of Qatar. After the control of the Taliban in Afghanistan, the US government asked for support in the evacuation of thousands of people from Afghanistan in an uncontrolled and turmoil situation. About 75,000 refugees were evacuated by Doha from Afghanistan in August 2021, responding to hundreds of appeals for peaceful flight, including those from Afghan students, academics, advocates and doctors. Many people refer to it as the largest evacuation effort ever. Qatar also made it simpler for workers from many international organizations and nationals from various countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, and Norway (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2022).

Repairing of Airport

The Taliban regime requested Qatar for the restoration of Hamid Karzai airport, Qatar accepted the request and sent the professional team to Afghanistan, as well as to ease the flow of passengers and foreign aid. Certainly, this enabled and encouraged the delivery of directly needed supplies to Afghanistan. In just nine days, the professional team rebuilt the airport and prepared the runways for operations (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2022). Qatar prepared the airport for usage on September 9, 2021, after the restoration of the airport the first flight occurred to Doha since the withdrawal of the USA. The Qatar Airways operated the flight and transported 112 passengers safely. Qatar, as part of its diplomacy, attended the G7 and G10 meetings on Afghanistan at the request of the relevant states. It is the global endeavors and main contribution of foreign countries to protect human rights, maintain peace and security and to contest terrorism in the Afghan soil, especially after the US departure. Other countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Japan temporarily displaced their embassies from Kabul to Doha. According to Hodali (2021), Qatar has become a base for regional diplomacy, with all Western embassies transferring there. On the other hand, on November 12, 2021, the United States and Qatar reached an agreement mandating Qatar to protect American and Afghan diplomatic interests. Furthermore, Qatar's logistics abilities were useful throughout this period of the Afghan crisis. Hamad International Airport and the Al Udaid American base in Doha were critical to the civilian evacuation attempt. The Al Jazeera Network was essential in supplying the world with the first photos of the Afghan crisis, specifically after the occupation of Kabul by the Afghan Taliban (Sofuoglu, 2020). The time at which Qatar's mediation role achieved a new high as a result of the evacuation process in which it participated increased Doha's importance, especially when majority of the consulates moved from Afghanistan to Qatar. Qatar was able to protect a peaceful evolution regardless of the accidental that things may have turned out much worse owing to their position and confidence. Regardless of the Taliban's efforts to incorporate other parties, he believed Qatar was still important. This relates to faculty member of GPGC claim that Qatar's involvement remains critical even after the 2020 agreement is signed because the office of the Afghan Taliban and the consulates of Afghanistan are still working in Qatar,

resulting in both official and informal contacts. Several embassies of the European countries displaced from Afghanistan to Qatar, strengthening and confirming the position of Qatar in national as well as in global politics. In a similar spirit, Barkat (2021) observes that Qatar acts as a channel for Western access to the Taliban. Several governments outside of the United States, like the UK, accept as true that Qatar's role in the Afghan war is decisive for sustaining contact with the Taliban. The prime minister and foreign minister of Qatar Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, stated that the country's neutrality and honesty got it a particular position in the Afghan peace process. Al Khater went on to remark that due to its strong relationships with everyone, Qatar was able to interact with all conflicting groups. As academicians of Islamia College Peshawar asserts, it benefits from flexibility that other mediators may not possess. As a consequence, the international virtual conference organized by USA to discuss the US withdrawal from Afghanistan attended by Qatar which was the single Arabic country in the conference. (Ardemagni, 2021), indicating the success of Qatar's nomination and mediation strategies in Afghanistan.

In addition, various human rights violations occurred when the Taliban took control of the country. Qatar has frequently expressed great concern and disappointment with the Taliban's current laws, particularly in relation to women's rights to employment and education. These practices will have negative implications on human rights, developments, and the economy of Afghanistan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2021). As Poornima (2022) state that Qatar being a small country has faced a large number of challenges in the Afghan war. As the Director of Eurasian studies said that Qatar's mediation of the Afghan dispute between the opposing parties was challenging. The faculty member of Islamic International University believes that the 2020 agreement will still be beneficial as a context that may be developed while taking local conditions into consideration. Consultant at UNDP believes that Qatar was effective in mediating the disagreement by taking the opposing parties to the bench of mediation and signing the treaty. Similarly, when asked to assess the Taliban's first year in power, former Afghan President Hamid Karzai stated as follows: The Taliban regime concluded the longest war of the history to an end but Afghan citizens did not find themselves in the country administration as well as the economic condition was severely disrupted (Barkat, 2022). The primary purpose of Qatar's cooperation was to get American soldiers out of Afghanistan. In exchange, the Taliban agreed to stop attacking the United States from Afghanistan, which they have already done. According to him, the ensuing events might be seen as an internal Afghan competition, implying that Qatar's goal has proceeded to a new stage. Qatar is working to direct Afghans about the current situation of individual rights, but the international community cannot compel the leadership of the Taliban to follow the certain policies of human rights because that is a question of autonomous domestic ruling. The global community must remember that Afghanistan has been in conflict for forty years and that returning to the normal situation would take a lengthy period. The following has been recognized and revealed with respect to Qatar's mediation participation in the Afghan peace process: First, the war in Afghanistan lasted 18 years after the US declared a "Global War on Terror" in response to the 9/11 attacks. Second, Qatar's history of mediation efforts has given it the ability and reputation as a true colleague to be involved in Afghanistan, one of the most complex situations on the map of the world. As a result, all parties involved in the crisis concluded that Qatar was the best strategic option. Third, the involvement of Doha in this situation consisted of two attempts: one between two interior factions (the Emarat Islami and the Afghan government) and one between an external global power (the US) and an inside faction (the Taliban as a non-state entity). Fourth, Qatar's mediation efforts will go in two stages: in the presence of USA in Afghanistan and after the departure of USA. Finally, unlike in past cases, Qatar led the greatest evacuation in history and hosted the embassies of foreign countries that displaced from Afghanistan to Qatar, in addition to mediating and organizing agreements between the parties involved.

Conclusion

This study examined the mediating role of Qatar in Afghan peace process. The research's purpose was to use the Afghan peace process as a case study for Qatar's engagement from 2013 to 2022. The study consisted of two major questions. First, what role did Qatar play in resolving the Afghan conflict and second, why has Qatar preferred negotiation as the fundamental principle of its foreign policy specifically Afghanistan? Chapter two addressed the literature review of the thesis, as well as the reasons for its choice to make mediation a major pillar of its foreign policy. Qatar has employed unique techniques to overcome its small size since it is recognized as one of the world's smallest states. First, Qatar made media investments by depicting an image of being open to expressing opposing viewpoints, which aided Qatar in becoming a respected and neutral mediator. In other words, whereas other Arab networks had the confidence to do so, Qatar was able to address sensitive Arab issues via its well-known network, Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera helped Qatar's reputation as a state that values democracy, justice, and human rights. Second, Doha has been investing in sports and hosting of foremost international session, which assisted the minor nation's globalization. Hosting big events has helped to strengthen Qatar's brand and image out of the country. Third, LNG has helped Qatar gain a good advantage in both regional and worldwide markets. The mediation method is one of the strategies discussed. According to this perspective, the state began a history of mediation 23 years ago, using all of the aforementioned tools, which overlap. In the peace process in Afghanistan, the Qatar diplomatic role was very reliable by using the tools of soft powers and mediation process, significantly strengthening its international relations and establishing a global image. As in Afghanistan, which is viewed as a complex conflict involving both internal and external parties, mediation was critical to Doha's external relations and to resolve several issues among the conflicting parties peacefully. Certainly, the fruitful and effective mediating strategy of Qatar resolved the eighteen years of dispute between Washington and the Islamic Emarat of Afghanistan since 2011. Qatar has been the single and most effective Arab country during the Afghan peace process.

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