

Webinars

Conflict and its Consequences: Gulf and Global Impact of the U.S.- Israeli War on Iran

March 15, 2026

Speakers:



Dr. Khaled Al Jaber
Executive Director of the
Middle East Council
on Global Affairs



Dr. Aisha Al Rashid
Director of the International
Affairs, CAS, QU



Dr. Rashid Al Mohanadi
Nonresident fellow at the Middle
East Council on Global Affairs



Dr. Maryam Al-Kuwari
Director of the Gulf Studies Center
CAS, QU

The Gulf Studies Center hosted a webinar on March 15, 2026 titled “Conflict and Its Consequences: Gulf and Global Impact of the U.S.-Israeli War on Iran” to examine the regional and international implications of the escalating conflict. Discussions focused on regional security, energy markets, economic stability, and the strategic responses of the GCC states.

Speakers highlighted the consequences of the conflict. Dr. Al Jaber noted that the war may signal broader shifts in the global balance of power, suggesting that “we are witnessing the collapse of empires such as the United States, with beneficiaries including China and similar states.” Addressing the Gulf’s position, Dr. Al Rashid stated that “all GCC countries are unified in their refusal to be a part of this war.” The discussion also underscored the global significance of Gulf energy and industrial production. Dr. Al Mohanadi highlighted the world's dependence on Gulf exports, noting the importance of products such as helium and chemical fertilizers alongside traditional energy supplies. From a societal perspective, Dr. Al Kuwari explored the broader human dimensions of war, arguing that the conflict is producing social, psychological, and political transformations that may reshape concepts of social resilience and community solidarity.

The webinar concluded by emphasizing the importance of informed academic dialogue in understanding the political drivers of the conflict, its implications for regional and international security, and the strategies Gulf states are adopting to preserve stability amid growing uncertainty.

Geopolitics and Regional Security in the Gulf

March 26, 2026

Speaker:

H.E. Shiekh Nawaf bin Mubarak Al Thani



On 26 March, the Gulf Studies Center hosted a webinar on Geopolitics and Regional Security in the Gulf, featuring H.E. Sheikh Nawaf bin Mubarak Al Thani, former Director of Qatari Defense Intelligence Operations and former Defense Attaché to the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The webinar explored the role of Qatar and the Gulf states as peacebuilders through humanitarian assistance and diplomatic engagement in conflict-affected regions,

highlighting humanitarian diplomacy as a key instrument for exercising influence, building legitimacy, managing conflicts, and supporting post-conflict stability.

Sheikh Nawaf discussed the evolving security landscape in the Gulf and the region's growing geopolitical significance. He noted that "being at the center of the conflict gives the Gulf a new aspect of strategic vulnerability," emphasizing the challenges posed by rising regional tensions and instability.

The discussion also highlighted the Gulf's critical role in sustaining global infrastructure and economic stability. Sheikh Nawaf pointed out that "one in five global desalination plants are located in the GCC," underscoring the strategic importance of protecting vital resources and infrastructure. He further warned that "maritime disruption is used as a tool of warfare by Iran," drawing attention to the security of key maritime routes and their implications for regional and international trade.

Reflecting on national resilience and security preparedness, Sheikh Nawaf stressed the importance of local capabilities, stating that "it is Qatari hands defending Qatari lands." The webinar provided valuable insights into the intersection of humanitarian diplomacy, regional security, and peacebuilding, while highlighting the role of Gulf states in promoting stability and addressing emerging geopolitical challenges.

Gulf Perspectives on the US–Israeli War on Iran

April 8, 2026

Speakers:



Dr. Nafja Al-Kuwari
Assistant Professor
of International Relations
CAS, QU



Dr. Bader Al-Saif
Assistant Prof. of History
Kuwait University



Dr. Mira Al Hussein
Associate Fellow,
Alwaleed Centre
University of Edinburgh



Dr. Mohammed Al Sudairi
Lecturer, Politics &
International Relations
Australian National
University



Dr. Abdullah Al Otaibi
Assistant Professor
of International Affairs
CAS, QU

On 8 April, the Gulf Studies Center hosted a webinar titled “Gulf Perspectives on the U.S.–Israeli War on Iran” to examine the political, security, and economic implications of the ongoing conflict from a Gulf perspective. The discussion explored how the GCC states have responded to a rapidly evolving security environment.

Speakers highlighted the broader geopolitical consequences of the war and its impact on regional and international power dynamics. Dr. Al-Kuwari argued that U.S. influence now reflects a form of “constrained hegemony,” shaped by growing strategic, political, and economic limitations. Addressing regional diplomacy, Dr. Al-Saif stressed the importance of Gulf engagement in shaping the future of regional security, noting that Gulf states should pursue an independent diplomatic channel with Iran while also participating in ongoing U.S.–Iran negotiations. The discussion also examined competing narratives surrounding the conflict. Dr. Al Hussein observed that the chronology of events has increasingly been framed around Iranian strikes on Gulf states rather than the U.S.–Israeli military campaign against Iran, highlighting the role of narrative construction in shaping regional perceptions of the war. Looking beyond the immediate conflict, Dr. Al Sudairi challenged assumptions regarding shifting global alliances, arguing that China does not seek a strategic diplomatic role in the region despite perceptions promoted by Washington. Meanwhile, Dr. Al Otaibi cautioned that significant obstacles remain to rebuilding trust among the parties involved, raising concerns about the durability of the current ceasefire and prospects for long-term stability.

The webinar underscored the importance of informed dialogue and Gulf-based expertise in understanding the conflict’s evolving dynamics, its implications for regional security, and its potential impact on global energy markets and economic stability.

Regional and International Responses to the U.S. – Israeli War on Iran, and it's Implications for the Gulf

April 20, 2026

Speakers:



Prof. Saban Kardas
Research Professor,
Gulf Studies Center
CAS, QU



Dr. Amna Sadiq
Assistant Professor,
Gulf Studies Program
CAS, QU



Dr. Nikolay Kozhanov
Research Associate
Professor,
Gulf Studies Center
CAS, QU



Ms. Haya Al-Nuaimi
Lecturer, Department of
International Affairs,
CAS, QU

On 20 April, the Gulf Studies Center hosted a webinar titled “Regional and International Responses to the U.S.–Israeli War on Iran and Its Implications for the Gulf.” The discussion examined how the conflict has evolved beyond a military confrontation into a broader geopolitical crisis with significant implications for regional stability, global energy markets, maritime security, and international trade.

Prof. Kardas argued that Gulf states’ assessment of the conflict and its impact on relations with the United States extends beyond security concerns, carrying broader implications for political economy and regional development. Dr. Sadiq noted that while the war is a significant event, it is unlikely to fundamentally alter the structure of the GCC. Instead, the conflict has activated existing GCC mechanisms in ways that reinforce national sovereignty while supporting collective responses to emerging challenges. Dr. Kozhanov observed that although Russia may derive short-term benefits from the U.S.–Iran crisis, regional and international constraints limit its ability to translate these gains into long-term strategic influence. Ms. Al-Nuaimi highlighted how smaller Gulf states actively shape and adapt strategic narratives about Iran to advance evolving political, economic, and diplomatic objectives.

The webinar concluded by emphasizing the importance of informed dialogue and expert analysis in understanding the competing interests, alliances, and perceptions that continue to shape the conflict and its consequences for the Gulf region.

Energy in the Crossfire: Force Majeure and the Energy Security Challenges in the Gulf

April 26, 2026

Speakers:



Dr. Faisal Al Habbabi
Assistant Dean for Research
and Graduate Studies College
of Law, QU



Dr. Maryam Al-Kuwari
Director of the Gulf
Studies Center, CAS, QU



Dr. Mohammed Hafez
Researcher at the Arab Center for
Research and Policy Studies



Dr. Khalid Abaalzamat
Associate Professor
at the Department of
Humanities, CAS, QU

On 26 April, the Gulf Studies Center hosted a webinar titled “Energy in the Crossfire: Force Majeure and the Energy Security Challenges in the Gulf.” The discussion examined the legal, economic, and geopolitical implications of attacks on oil and gas infrastructure amid escalating regional tensions involving Iran, the United States, and Israel.

Speakers addressed the legal status of attacks on energy infrastructure and their implications under international law. Dr. Al Habbabi emphasized that attacks on oil facilities constitute attacks on civilian objects under the 1977 Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions and therefore represent a clear violation of international humanitarian law. Dr. Al-Kuwari stressed the importance of economic diversification, noting that the objectives of Qatar National Vision 2030 help reduce vulnerability to disruptions affecting oil and gas facilities, while also providing protection against market shocks and sharp price fluctuations. Dr. Hafez underscored the role of international maritime law in safeguarding global trade routes, arguing that the rules governing the law of the sea were established to prevent vital waterways from becoming instruments of political pressure. Focusing on the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz, Dr. Abaalzamat noted that recent Iranian actions disrupting maritime activity in the waterway are not unprecedented, pointing to similar incidents in 1981 and 2019. He argued that addressing such challenges requires long-term strategies aimed at protecting regional security and ensuring the uninterrupted flow of energy supplies.

The webinar concluded by emphasizing the growing interconnection between legal frameworks, geopolitical tensions, and energy security in the Gulf, highlighting the need for coordinated regional and international approaches to safeguard critical infrastructure and maintain stability in global energy markets.

Joint Webinar with the Diplomatic Institution Gulf Perspectives on the US–Israeli War on Iran

April 8, 2026

Speakers:



Dr. Aisha Al-Rashdi
Director of the International
Affairs, CAS, QU



Dr. Amna Sadiq
Assistant Professor
Gulf Studies Program, CAS, QU



Dr. Abdullah Al-Otaibi
Associate Professor
International Affairs, CAS, QU



Dr. Ahmed Azm
Associate Professor
International Affairs, CAS, QU



Mr. Mohammed Al Marri
Lecturer
International Affairs, CAS, QU



Dr. Maryam Al-kuwari
Director of the
Gulf Studies Center, CAS, QU

The Gulf Studies Center, in collaboration with the Diplomatic Institute, hosted a joint webinar titled “Gulf Perspectives on the U.S.–Israeli War on Iran.” The session examined recent developments in the conflict and their implications for the Gulf region from political, economic, security, and energy perspectives.

Organized as part of ongoing efforts to provide an academic and analytical assessment of current regional developments, the webinar explored the broader consequences of the conflict, including its impact on energy markets, regional stability, and the political and social landscape of the Middle East. Particular attention was given to the potential implications for Qatar, the Gulf states, and the wider region. The discussion brought together experts, academics, and practitioners to analyze the evolving regional and international environment, assess the strategic calculations of key actors, and evaluate the challenges facing Gulf states amid heightened tensions. Participants also examined the implications of the conflict for energy security and regional cooperation, while considering possible future scenarios and their impact on the Gulf.

The webinar aimed to enhance strategic understanding of ongoing regional and international developments, support diplomatic and analytical capacities in addressing current challenges, encourage the exchange of perspectives among specialists, and contribute to informed discussions on the future trajectory of the region.

Publication Title	Author	Date of Publication
Gulf Insights		
Beyond Geopolitics and Economics: The Socio-Political Dimensions of War in the Gulf	Maryam Al-Kuwari	Apr 2026
ما وراء الجيوسياسية والاقتصاد: الأبعاد الاجتماعية-السياسية لتداعيات الحرب في الخليج	مريم الكواري	Apr 2026
What Qatar Teaches About Societal Resilience in Times of War	Cihat Battaloglu	Apr 2026
Is a Post-American Gulf Possible	Simon Coppieters	Mar 2026
Transit in Limbo: When the Gulf Aviation Hub Becomes a No-Fly Zone	Sharique Umar	Mar 2026
The Strait of Hormuz amid a Turbulent Gulf Region: From a Crucial Water Passage to a Destabilizing Factor to Global Energy Market	Said Albimani	Mar 2026
GCC responses to the US-Israeli War on Iran: between fear of entrapment and deterrence	Saban Kardas	Mar 2026
Policy Briefs		
نحو آلية إقليمية لضمان نفاذ النظام القانوني الدولي في مضيق هُرمز	فيصل مسفر الحبابي	Apr 2026
Containing Escalation: Why Strategic Restraint Has Become the Gulf's Regional Doctrine	Nayef Al- Nabet	Mar 2026
Succession in the Shadow of Conflict: The Future of Islamic Republic	Nikolay Kozhanov	Mar 2026
Gulf Studies Report		
Gulf Studies Report 6- The U.S./Israel War against Iran and its Implications on GCC Security.	Sinem Cengiz, Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu, Farah Al Qawasmi	Mar 2026
Translation: تقرير دراسات الخليج 6 الحرب الأمريكية-الإسرائيلية على إيران. وتداعياتها على أمن دول مجلس التعاون الخليجي	Translated by: سامي عرار	
Gulf Comments		
The Escalation Ladder Trap	H.E. Sheikh Nawaf bin Mubarak Al Thani	Mar 2026
Translation: فخُّ "المعرج" الدامي	Translated by: سامي عرار	

Book Publication

The Gulf Studies Center's first edition of Almanac titled:

A Region in Transition: Survey of Socio-Economic, Cultural and International Relation Trends in the Gulf Region

Editor: Professor Saban Kardas

Publisher: Ethics Press, UK



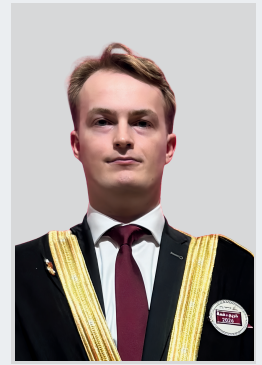
Chapters	Contributors
Introduction Contextualizing the Transitions in the Gulf Region: Explorations in Economics, Culture and Security	Saban Kardas & Thouria Mahmoud
Chapter 1 The Path to Economic Diversification in GCC States: Challenges & Prospects	Maryam Al Kuwari
Chapter 2 Energy Under Pressure: GCC–Central Asia Hydrocarbon Cooperation in an Era of Global Volatility	Nikolay Kozhanov
Chapter 3 From Policy to Practice: How Qatar and UAE Drive Nationalization of their Workforce in the Private Sector	Sanaa Shour
Chapter 4 Digitalizing Qatar: Aligning National Vision 2030 with Global Frameworks	Pınar Akpınar & Ghada Mohammed S J Efaifa
Chapter 5 An Appraisal of the GCC's External Action Plan	Amna Sadiq
Chapter 6 Foreign Policy Dynamics in the Gulf Subregion after the 2011 Arab Uprisings	Ömer Faruk Aydemir
Chapter 7 Maritime Security and the GCC: Prospects for Partnership with NATO	Şaban Kardaş & Nesibe Hicret Battaloglu
Chapter 8 Qatar's NATO Partnership: A Case of Security Layering?	Simon Coppieters
Chapter 9 Mediation as a State Security Tool: Qatar's Strategic Use of Conflict Mediation in the Gulf Region	Abdulla Banndar Al-Etaibi
Chapter 10 Family Research in the Arab Gulf States: An Appraisal	Md Mizanur Rahman
Chapter 11 Women and Diplomacy: Case of Qatari Women's Role in the Palestinian Cause	Farah al Qawasmi & Sinem Cengiz
Chapter 12 Nationalism and Tribalism in Qatar: Evolving Dynamics since the 2017 Gulf Crisis	Haya Al-Mannai



Simon Coppieters, MA

Saudi Interventionism in Yemen:
A Neoclassical Realist Analysis

Supervisor: Prof. Saban Kardas



Sara Al- Naimi, PhD

The Power of Sport and Small States:
Sports Diplomacy and International Relations in Qatar

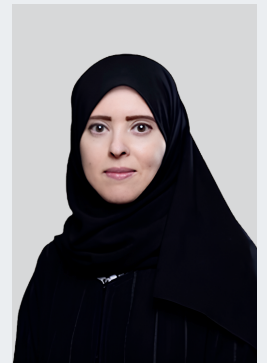
Supervisor: Dr. Mahfoud Amara
Co-Supervisor: Prof. Youcef Bouandel



Ghada Al-Kuwari, PhD

Empowering Seniors Through a Sustainable Model in Qatar:
The Third Age University Initiative

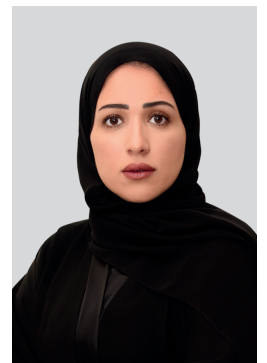
Supervisor: Prof. Sanaa Ashour
Co-Supervisor: Prof. Abdullah Abu-Tineh



Ghoson Al-Obaidly, PhD

Sustainable Finance and The Issue of Green Financing in Qatar

Supervisor: Dr. Nikolay Kozhanov



Sameer Al-Shamaileh, PhD

Evolution of China's Relations with GCC Countries 2000-2020:
The Case of Qatar

Supervisor: Prof. Hassan Al Barari
Co-Supervisor: Dr. Mohammed Salman



Abdulrahman Al-Thani, PhD

Qatar's Size and Enterprise: A Geopolitical Study

Supervisor: Dr. Ahmad Hamad



Moustafa Ali, PhD

Development of Research and Innovation Ecosystem in the GCC States: A Case Study of Qatar

Supervisor: Prof. Mizanur Rahman



Gulf Studies Center Visitors



Prof. Daisaku Higashi
Sophia University in Tokyo

February 8, 2026



H.E. Ambassador of Kazakhstan
Arman Issagaliyev

April 14, 2026



Mr. Sanjar Valiev
Director of the Center for Foreign
Policy Research and Initiatives (CFPRI)
under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Uzbekistan

May 3, 2026
