

A large, cylindrical haystack made of dry straw dominates the left side of the frame. The background shows a dark, overcast sky and a simple, dark-colored barn or farm building. The foreground is filled with more straw and hay.

Food Security Strategies in the Gulf Countries: the story of Qatar

Martin Keulertz

WINS-Seminar 23.04.2015

Outline

- The story of Qatari food security strategies
- The drivers
- The actors
- The institutions
- The philosophy at large
- A story of pragmatism, land grabbing, demand-side management, tribalism, global hegemony and water
- The deeply strategic story of food in the 21st century

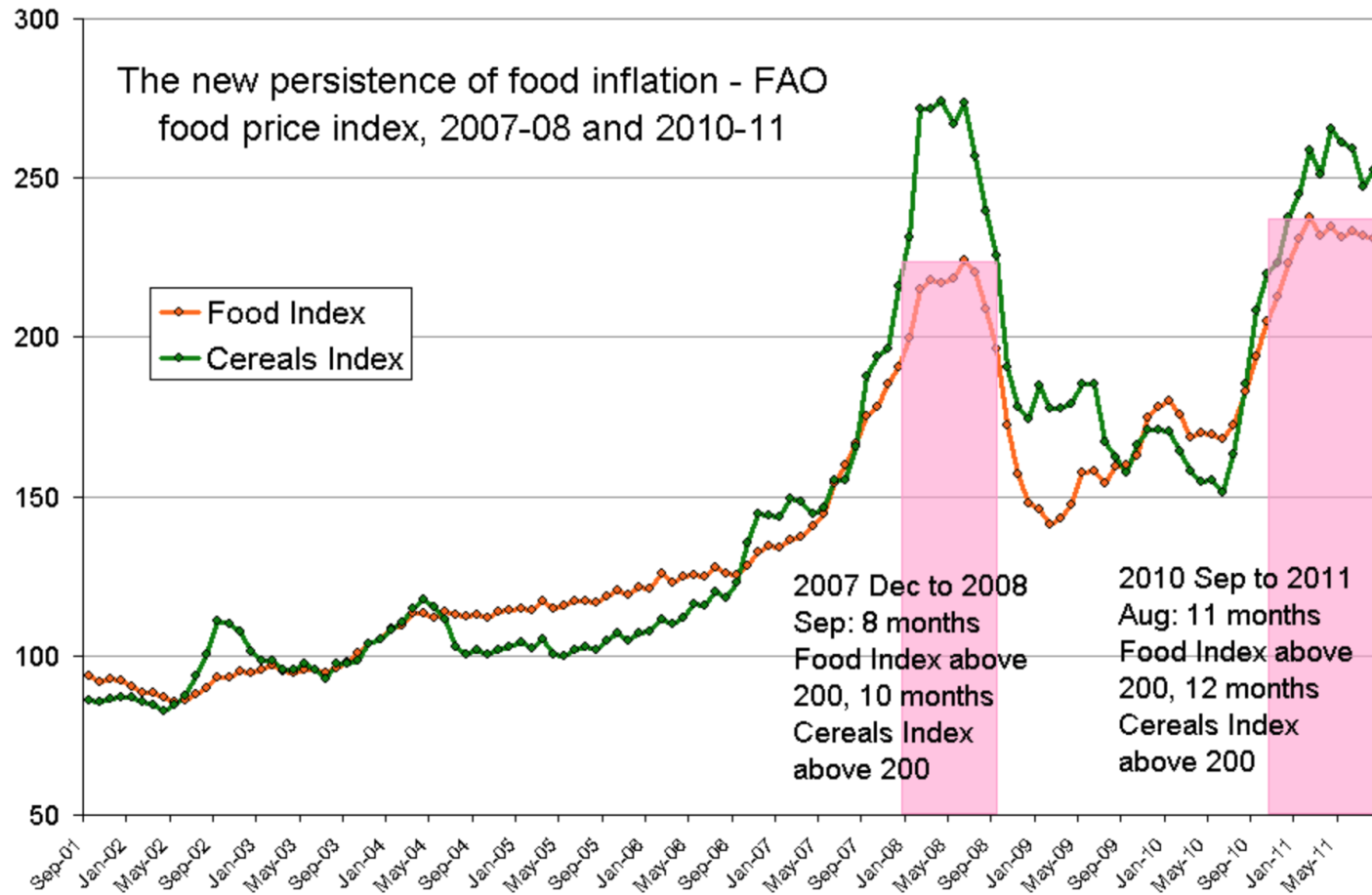
A short history of Qatar

- Bahrain controlled Qatar from 1783-1868
- Al-Thani tribe of Qatar sought for independence from Bahrain
- Great Britain intervened in 1868 to maintain peace in the region because the Gulf was on the road to India
- Ottoman rule from 1871-1916; British protectorate from 1916-1971 (year of independence)
- Roaring 1970s and 1990s set the path for Qatar's unrivalled economic growth

Qatar Facts

- 1.167m hectares
- 74mm of precipitation every year
- 0.056 km³ of renewable groundwater
- 1.7m inhabitants
- \$102,785 per capita GDP (1st globally)
- Approximately 250.000 Qatari citizens plus 1.5 million expats (poor and rich from all over the world)
- Foreign labour is crucial to maintain economic growth

The trigger moment



Impact on Qatar

- Another 70s moment for Qatar (and other GCC countries)
- Like during the OPEC crisis, food security was once again at risk because storage was dramatically low
- It reminded decision-makers at the vulnerability of the whole region with respect to food security
- The key limiting resource: water

Oil and gas but no water

Of the total global water consumption:

about 92%

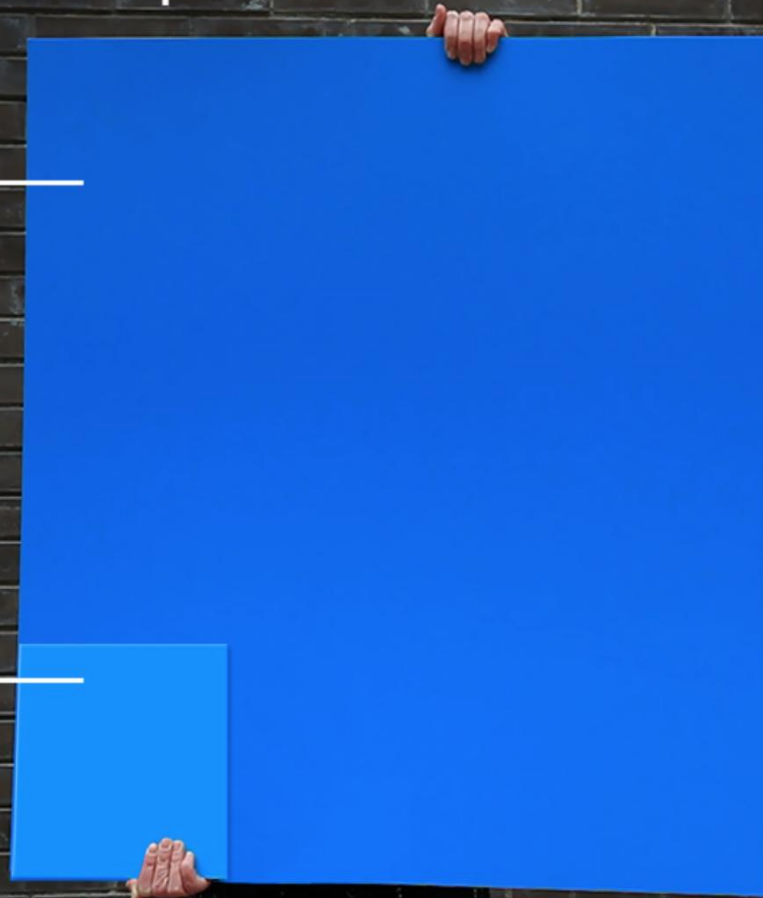
is FOOD-WATER

It refers to the production of food and is managed by the world's farmers.

about 8%

is NON-FOOD WATER

It refers to domestic water use and to the production of industrial products.



Water is an astonishingly complex and subtle force in an economy. It is the single constraint on the expansion of every city, and bankers and corporate executives have cited it as the only natural limit to economic growth.

Margaret Catley-Carlson, Former Chair of Global Water Partnership and Vice-Chair, World Economic Forum Water Resources Committee

Qatar's Food Security Strategy

The Range of
Choice in Water
and Food
Management
In Qatar (White,
1968)

Domestic
politics

Global
Food
Politics

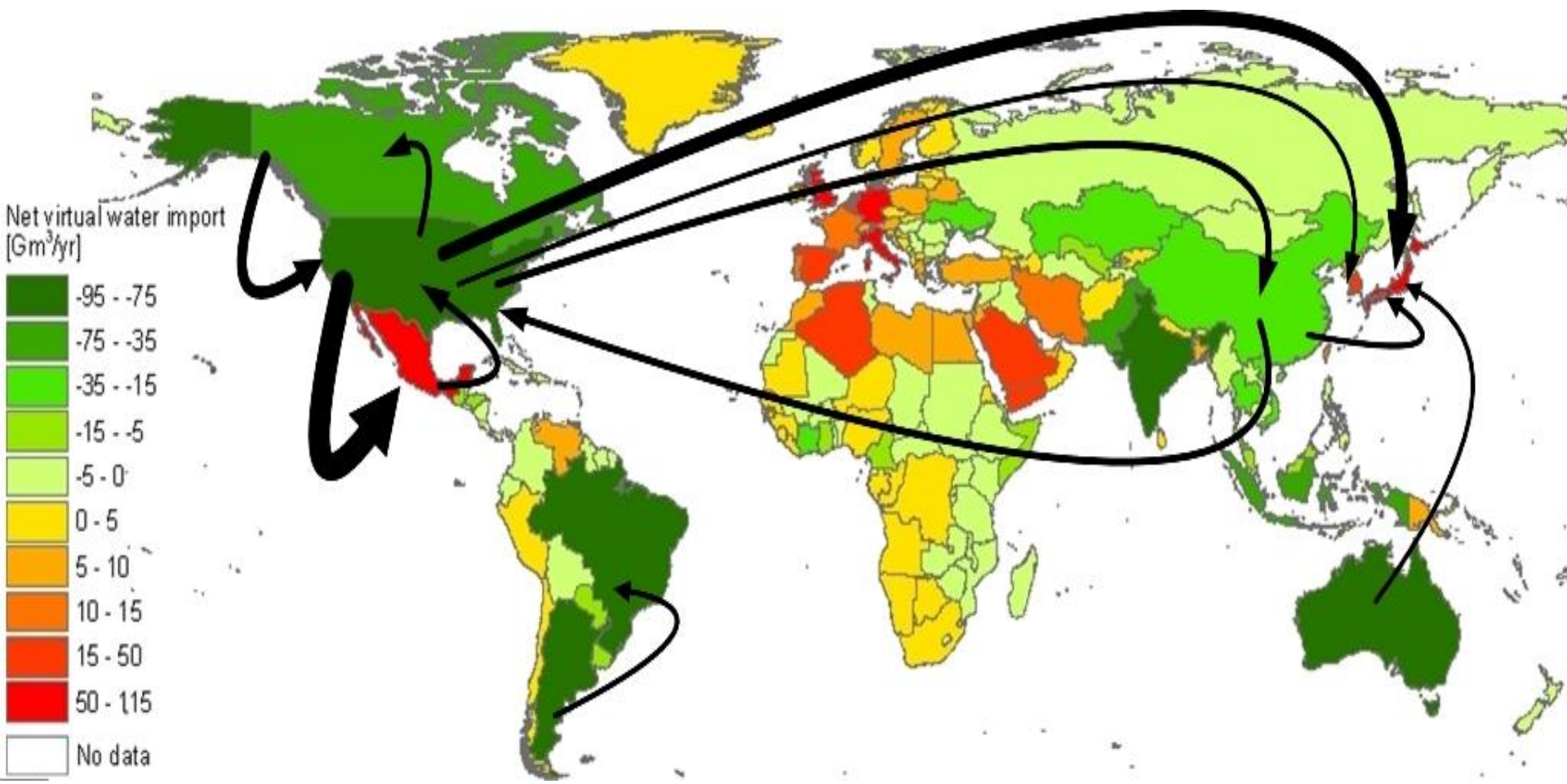
Food
Regimes

Shadow
States

- How to bring safe water to all the world's people as a human right
- How to facilitate peace, through joint water development and management
- How to make geography (in particular) and science (in general) more useful to the world
- How to enable people to coexist with nature and develop sustainably.

Pragmatism as the underlying philosophy

- essence of logic for pragmatists is *inquiry* as opposed to truth or knowledge. John Dewey saw inquiry as a means for objective transformations of objective subject-matter (Dewey, 1933)
- Prior experience leads to active transformation (growth) according to „useful aims“
- power philosophy where humans may become trapped into “cosmic impiety” and even “a certain kind of madness” that lacks an element of humility (Russell 1948: 856)
- “Inventive dwarfs for hire” (Brecht)



The Global Food Regime(s)

1st British-led



1870 – 1930s

The Global Food Regime(s)

1st British-led

2nd US-led



1870 – 1930s

1945-1970s

The Global Food Regime(s)

1st British-led

2nd US-led

3rd Corporate



1870 – 1930s

1945-1970s

1980s-present

After **McMichael**, P., 2009, A food regime genealogy. *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 36.

Keulertz, M. et al, S. Inverse globalisation? The global agricultural trade system and Asian investments in African land and water resources. In: Allan, J. A., Kaulertz, M., Sojamo, S. & Warner, J. (eds.) *Handbook of Land and Water Grabs: Foreign direct investment and food and water security*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Keulertz, M., 2013, *Drivers and impacts of farmland investment in Sudan*, Unpublished PhD, King's College London



BUNGE



U

A

B

C

D + G



N

O

W

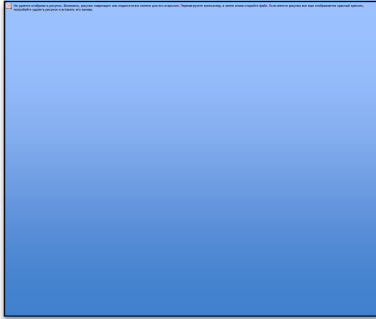
73% market share of traded commodities in 2003

Food Regimes

- Food imports have been used as a strategic foreign policy tool (Woertz, 2013)
- E.g. 70s US food boycott threat <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdAluhgzAZM>
- E.g. Nasser's foreign policy turnaround from Russia in the 1960s
- Regional dependence



Qatar Inc.



Hamad bin
Jassim bin Jaber
bin Muhammad
Al Thani
Prime Minister
and Foreign
Minister from
1995-2013

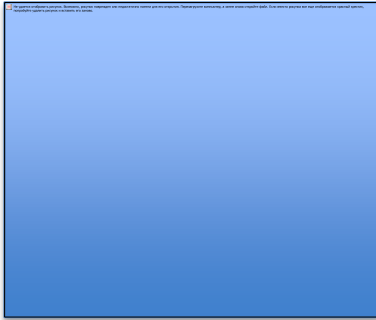


Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani
Emir from 1995-2013



Tamim bin Hamad
bin Khalifa Al Thani
Crown Prince until
2013; now Emir

Qatar Inc.



In charge of
foreign affairs
and Qatar
Authority
(including
Hassad)



Representing the State of Qatar



Qatar National Food
Security Programme

The Strategy

Domestic investment

FDI

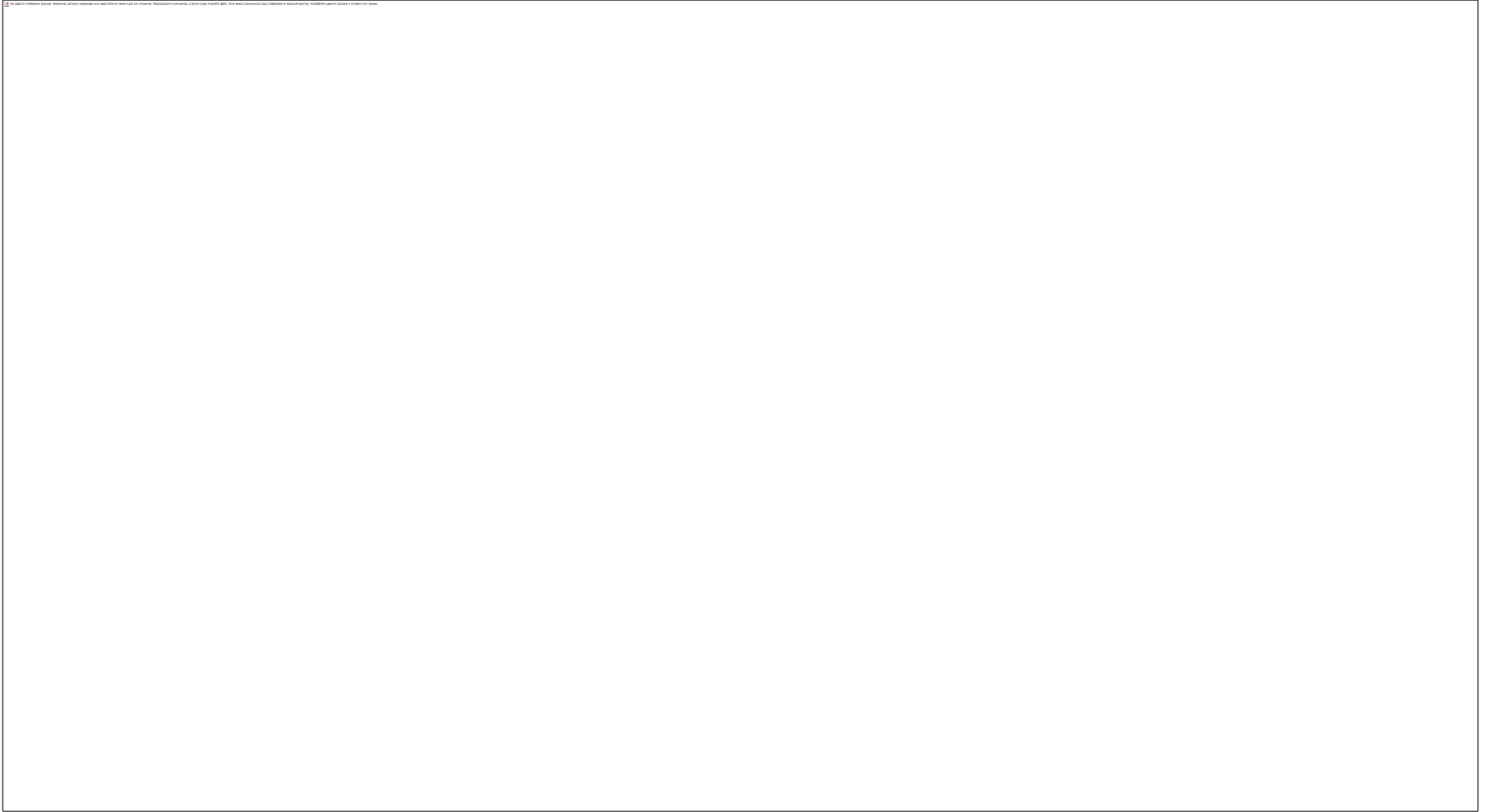
Sustainability Matrix



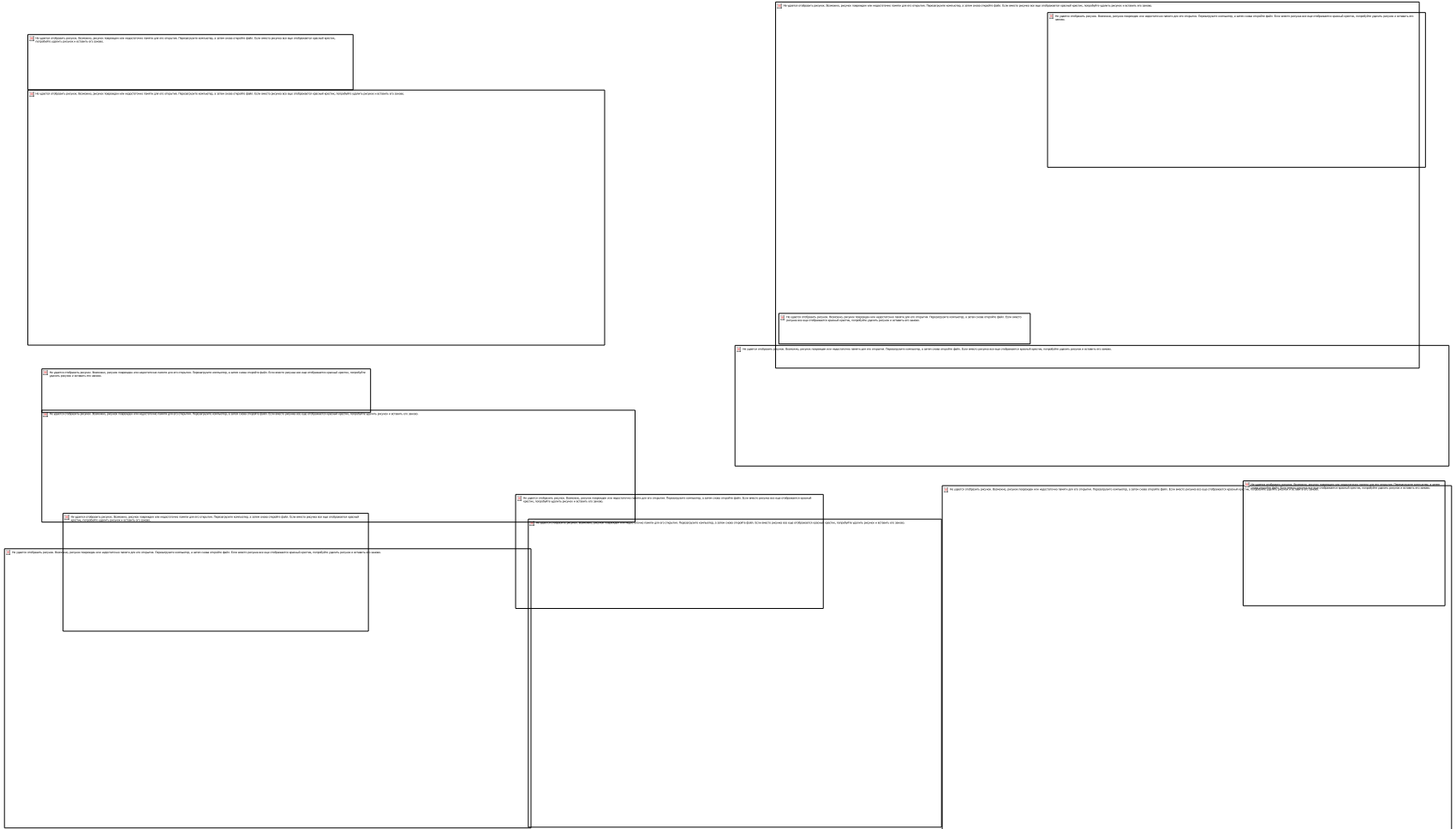
Domestic

- In 2008, QNSFP was established under the leadership of the Crown Prince
- 60% food self-sufficiency by 2022-23 (from 1%!!)
- Managing director close friend of the Crown Prince and member of the second family in the state
- Investment of US\$ 50-100bn envisaged in domestic agriculture through 'closed production systems', bold policy innovations (drastically cutting food waste) and R&D

Domestic



FDI



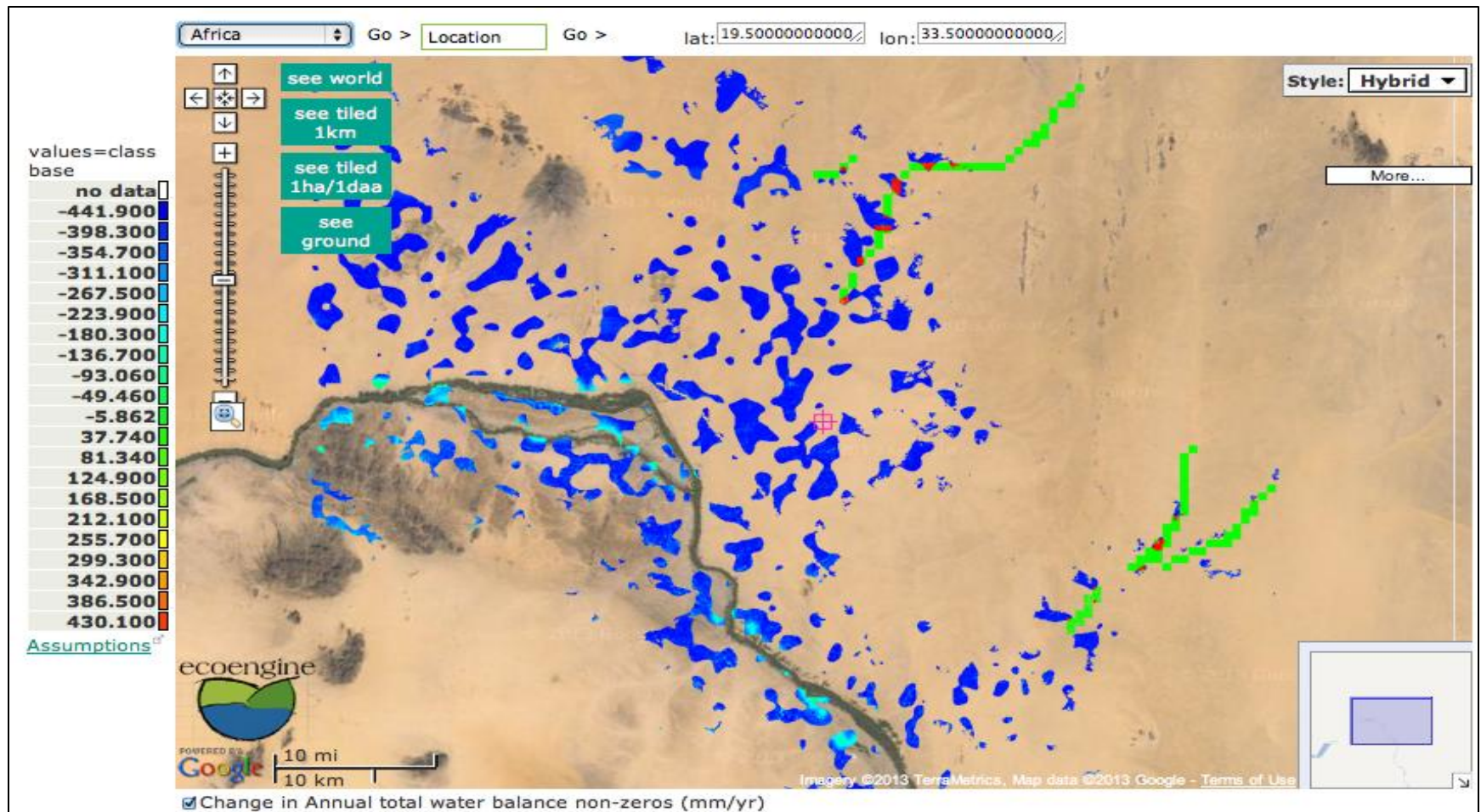
Centre piece: Doha port



FDI

- US\$7.6 port project launched in 2007
- Hassad Food trading was established in 2008 as a wholly owned subsidiary of Qatar Investment Authority
- Investment portfolio includes Australia (wheat and animal feed), Oman (poultry) and Pakistan (rice)
- Plus Sudan...

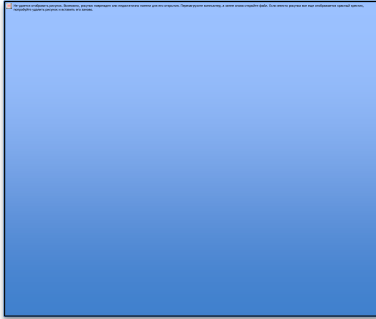
Investment in Sudan (Abu Hamed)



Investment in Sudan (Abu Hamed)

- Wheat: 3.6 tons/ha (year 1)
- Wheat: 5 tons/ha (year 2)
- Wheat: 7 tons/ha (year 4 and thereafter)
- Alfalfa: 18 tons/ha (establishment year)
- Alfalfa: 24 tons/ha (main production years)
- 1bn cm³ of Nile water canal built (1.2% of Nile Water)
- Would have added immense pressure on Egypt, which is overusing its share of the Nile
- However, Sudan ruled by Muslim Brotherhood and within the Qatari sphere of influence.

Qatar Inc.



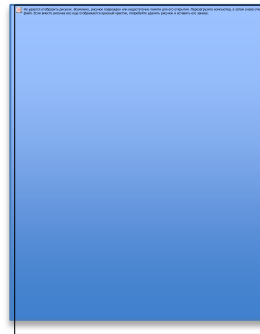
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Tamim bin Hamad
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Crown Prince until
2013; now Emir



Yusuf al-Qaradawi
Cleric and mastermind
behind Political Islam

Another dimension of pragmatism

Break-up of the Food Security Strategy

- In 2012, it became evident the old Emir was suffering from poor health (5 kidney transplantations)
- Thus, the leadership in Qatar braced itself for taking over
- The Crown Prince and his allies used environmental topics to set their mark
- As a result, QNSFP became more political
- Conferences, High Aspirations, Failure, Closure

A failed attempt



- QNSFP crossed into the turf of the PM by establishing a global dryland alliance
- On 25 June, the Emir stepped down officially
- After internal infights, QNSFP was closed down
- GDA was handed over to a senior diplomat close to HBJ
- Abu Hamed has thus far not become operational

Conclusions

- Qatar's range of choice/food security strategies reveal a story of intl politics, tribalism and a highly personalised institutional decision-making
- Food Security was (a minor) part of the internal succession infights
- Qatar has almost completely withdrawn from intl affairs since Tamim attained the highest office in the country
- Land grabbing/water management in investing economies like Qatar is defined by a tribal version of pragmatism