

UDC 327.5(535):327.39

DOI <https://doi.org/10.32782/2707-5206.2025.40.19>

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**MEDIATION AS A TOOL OF QATAR'S DIPLOMATIC SERVICE:
AN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION IN ITS MODERN FOREIGN POLICY**

The purpose of the study is to assess the effectiveness of the mediation tools of Qatar's diplomatic service while implementing its foreign policy. The relevance of the topic is due to the insufficient disclosure of this topic in scientific circles and academic literature. Despite the fact that the role of Qatar in the international arena and the activities of its diplomatic service have repeatedly become the subject of general analysis, the concept of active mediation by this state in global and regional conflicts has not yet been fully explored. In the current conditions of global instability, conflicts, and numerous challenges in international relations, there is a growing need for mediation missions that can contribute to the peaceful settlement of disputes, the development of diplomatic and trade relations, and ensuring stability in strategically important regions. Qatar, one of the most economically developed countries in the Middle East, acts as an important mediator in international affairs, which is of particular relevance for Ukraine in the context of ongoing geopolitical challenges. Despite its small territory and limited military resources, Qatar is actively developing diplomatic relations and strengthening its international authority through the role of a peaceful mediator, ready to help resolve conflicts in various regions. The research on the topic "Mediation as a tool of Qatar's diplomatic service: effective implementation in its modern foreign policy" covers the period from the end of the 20th century to the present day, with a focus on the development of Qatar's foreign policy strategy, its role in international conflicts, and diplomatic initiatives. The work itself implemented several basic research methods, including event analysis, case studies, historical, and functional methods.

Key words: mediation tools, diplomatic service of Qatar, global and regional conflicts, the peaceful settlement of disputes, geopolitical challenges, international authority, peacekeeping processes, diplomatic initiatives.

Introduction. This research paper examines the process of Qatar's increasing role as a mediator in international conflicts and the strategy of its diplomatic service in the modern globalized world. Particular attention is paid to the analysis of the

mechanisms by which Qatar carries out its mediation activities in different regions, as well as the impact of this strategy on international relations in the Middle East and the world as a whole. The reasons and factors contributing to the strengthening of Qatar's position as a peacemaker, as well as the role of its diplomacy, media, and other instruments in ensuring foreign policy goals, are studied. The relevance of this study is due to the fact that Ukraine, which is currently facing complex political and security challenges, is looking for new opportunities for cooperation with international partners capable of supporting it on the global stage. Qatar, with its neutral foreign policy position and experience in mediation, is one of those partners with whom Ukraine can develop both diplomatic and economic relations. Ukraine's interaction with Qatar has potential not only in the political sphere, but also in the spheres of investment, trade, and energy, which can contribute to strengthening the Ukrainian economy, developing infrastructure, and enhancing the country's energy security. Chronologically, the study covers the stages of Qatar's emergence as an important player in the Middle East, in particular the early 1990s, when the country first announced its active role in peacekeeping processes, and the period after the 2000s, when Qatar became one of the main mediators in regional and global conflicts. The current stage of the study focuses on recent years, in particular on Qatar's role in the context of global challenges and its foreign policy initiatives after the 2010s.

Materials and methods. In the process of researching the topic "Mediation as a tool of Qatar's diplomatic service: effective implementation in its modern foreign policy", a number of different sources were used, which allowed for a deeper understanding of how Qatar's foreign policy and its role in international relations have changed. The materials of the study are based on the content of international documents, research papers of international think tanks, articles written by national and international scientists, analytical reviews of the mass media, etc. Some elements of the case study, event analysis, historical, and functional methods were applied to find out how a small Arab emirate has transformed into an active diplomatic, media, and financial intermediary in the Middle East region and other parts of the world.

The aim of the article is to determine the specifics of Qatar's changing role and foreign policy strategy in the regional and global context, with an emphasis on mediation as a key tool of its diplomatic service, as well as to analyze the prospects for the development of cooperation between Qatar and Ukraine.

Results and Discussions. Mediation in international politics is one of the key tools for resolving conflicts between two parties with the help of a neutral third party, which promotes interaction between the parties to the conflict in order to establish dialogue and an acceptable resolution. To assess the effectiveness of mediation, it is necessary to define and understand this process. This tool plays an important role in international relations by preventing the risk of escalation and directing debates in such a way as to achieve agreement between the parties and reach a compromise.

The first criterion for classification is the division of mediation into formal and informal. Formal mediation is implemented with the participation of officially recognized international entities (states, international organizations), which receive a mandate from the international community or directly from the conflicting parties. For example, the United Nations takes on the role of a mediator due to its global legitimacy and support from various countries. "...a United Nations representative is the lead mediator or facilitator; sometimes, there is a joint envoy arrangement with a

regional organization; more frequently, however, the United Nations plays a supportive role in processes led by regional organizations, Member States or, occasionally, a non-governmental organization” (Guterres, 2017, p.11).

Informal mediation, in turn, is carried out by non-governmental organizations, independent diplomats, or private individuals who, although they do not have an official mandate, nevertheless use their knowledge, diplomatic experience, or resources to facilitate the negotiation process. The participation of international peacekeeping organizations in such processes contributes to the involvement of civil society and other social groups in the negotiations, which provides additional support for the peace settlement process.

Another important feature of the classification is the level of involvement of the mediator in the negotiation process. The main forms include:

- Direct mediation, where the mediator actively moderates the negotiations, proposes solutions, and provides communication between the parties to the conflict;
- Facilitation, in which the mediator does not put forward his own solutions, but only supports the communication process, helping the parties to reach an understanding;
- Good services, which involve minimal participation of the mediator, limited to creating conditions for negotiations without direct intervention in the discussions or decision-making.

A key element of successful mediation is the neutrality and dispassion of the mediator, which ensures the trust of the conflicting parties. In particular, dispassion means that the mediator does not show bias; otherwise, his actions can be interpreted as supporting one of the parties. However, absolute neutrality is not always possible, which creates certain ethical dilemmas, especially when the mediator seeks to achieve results in difficult international relations.

Equally important is the legal basis of mediation, which determines the possibilities of states or organizations to intervene in international conflicts in order to resolve them. Some international organizations, such as the UN, have the legal right to initiate peacekeeping missions in accordance with resolutions or international agreements, which consolidates their status and increases the legitimacy of mediation activities at the international level.

Mediation in conflict situations has a number of strategic goals, each of which is aimed at eliminating contradictions between the parties and restoring stability, both at the regional and global levels. Given the diverse and complex requirements for mediation processes, these goals are multifaceted and combine both short-term de-escalation tasks and long-term strategies for maintaining a stable peace. Let us consider these main goals of mediation, revealing their importance and methods of implementation.

1. De-escalation of the conflict and reduction of the level of violence. The initial goal of mediation in any conflict is to reduce the intensity of violent actions and avoid further escalation. At this stage, mediators usually propose measures for a temporary ceasefire or truce, which creates the basic conditions for further negotiations. International practice demonstrates that even a short-term ceasefire allows the parties to reconsider their positions and contributes to a more flexible approach to interaction.

2. Promoting dialogue and building trust. The next stage is the formation of a communication space that contributes to the rapprochement of the positions of the parties to the conflict. Mediation aims to create a safe environment for dialogue, where the parties can exchange their views, analyze the conflict, and try to identify common interests.

3. Developing a peace agreement. The main goal of mediation is to achieve a peace agreement that satisfies the basic interests of the parties to the conflict and contributes to the restoration of stability. A peace agreement should include not only formal agreements, but also implementation and monitoring mechanisms that ensure its long-term effectiveness. Peace agreements may provide for a political settlement, the reintegration of conflict areas, the establishment of guaranteed rights for certain groups, or other measures aimed at ensuring social and political stability. In this regard, mediation plays an important role, in particular in ensuring the participation of interested parties in the development of the agreement, which increases the level of legitimacy of the agreements reached.

4. Preventing re-escalation and long-term stabilization. Another essential goal of mediation is to minimize the risks of a recurrence of the conflict. In this context, mediators contribute to the creation of mechanisms to prevent the resumption of aggression, which may include both political and economic measures. For example, the achievement of political stability can be supported through the development of new legislative initiatives aimed at protecting the rights of all parties to the conflict, as well as through the development of economic projects that will contribute to the restoration of destroyed infrastructure and strengthen the economic potential of the region. In addition, mediators can be involved in international monitoring of the implementation of peace agreements, which provides additional control and contributes to the preservation of peace in the long term.

5. Promoting political and social transformation. Mediation often involves supporting transformational processes that address the root causes of conflict. In some cases, this may mean mediators' involvement in reforming the political system, revising human rights policies, or implementing socio-economic reforms that address inequalities and tensions in society. Such efforts are essential for the long-term stability and peaceful development of post-conflict societies, as they help to overcome the structural problems that are often the preconditions for the emergence of conflict.

In this context, it is considered appropriate to refer to the concept of preventive diplomacy, which is specifically related to diplomatic measures implemented at the initial stage to prevent disputes between parties, prevent existing disputes from escalating into conflict, and reduce the scale of the conflict after it has arisen. The meaning and relevance of preventive diplomacy remain throughout the conflict. This term was first introduced by Dag Hammarskjöld over fifty years ago, and since then, the concept of preventive diplomacy has been developed at the UN. Back in 2011, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, in his report on August 26, called for expanding the arsenal of preventive diplomacy, and considered it a more effective measure in conflict prevention (Lysak, 2015, p. 25).

International mediators play an important role in conflict resolution, but their effectiveness depends largely on the status, influence and individual characteristics of each actor. On a global scale, major powers, such as the United States or the European Union, lend weight and stability to mediation processes through their economic, political, and military potential. They are able to use leverage, including sanctions or security guarantees, to help reduce tensions and help implement peace agreements. Major powers also enjoy a significant share of international authority, which allows them to act as arbiters and defenders of global order, which adds legitimacy to their actions in peacemaking processes.

However, despite these advantages, the participation of major powers does not always guarantee objectivity. Their political interests and strategic ambitions often shape the approach to mediation, sometimes provoking distrust on the part of the parties to the conflict. For example, a large state may be inclined to resolve a conflict based on its geopolitical goals, which can bias the process or even lead to manipulation. For this reason, the importance of neutral mediators has increased in recent decades, among which small states play a special role.

Small states, such as Qatar or Norway, have unique advantages as international mediators, despite their relative lack of major geopolitical influence. Such states usually adhere to a policy of neutrality and constructive engagement, which increases the trust of the parties to the conflict in their mediation initiatives. Since these states do not have direct interests in the conflict zone, their actions are perceived as less biased, which allows them to work more effectively with the parties to the conflict and find solutions acceptable to all. This makes small states ideal mediators in cases where the conflicting parties seek to reach a peaceful agreement, but do not trust large states due to fears of political interference. “For neutral states, which used to enjoy a natural pool position for mediation roles, these developments come as a mixed blessing: an increased influence of norms does not automatically favor the role of neutrality” (Goetschel, 2020, p. 352).

Much of the success of small states in peacekeeping missions is due to their flexibility and ability to maintain informal channels of communication, which allows them to avoid complex diplomatic formalities and act more quickly in crisis situations. For example, Qatar has successfully acted as a mediator in conflicts in the Middle East, providing channels for dialogue between warring parties, as in the cases of Hamas and Israel or between the Afghan government and the Taliban. Neutral status and flexibility in diplomatic approaches allow small states to reach agreements that would be difficult for more traditional international players.

Thus, the roles of large and small states in peacekeeping are not only complementary but also interdependent. The interaction of these two types of mediators allows them to more effectively overcome the complex challenges of international conflict: large states provide international support and the necessary resources, while small states bring trust and flexibility. In today's world, such synergy between large and small mediators is becoming one of the prerequisites for effective conflict resolution and building a lasting peace that meets the interests of the global community. The approaches to mediation of large international actors, such as the US and the EU, differ significantly from the strategies used by smaller states, such as Qatar. Large actors usually apply a comprehensive approach, using a wide arsenal of economic, diplomatic, and military resources to achieve peace. The US and the EU often operate on the basis of normative frameworks and international obligations, emphasizing values such as human rights, democracy and the rule of law. They usually strive for formalized peace processes with strict legal frameworks, which often require long-term commitments from the parties to the conflict. Thus, their approach to mediation usually includes legal guarantees, which have their advantages, but can create significant obstacles to flexibility in negotiations (Weber, 2025, p. 9).

On the other hand, smaller states such as Qatar prefer more informal approaches to mediation. Their strategy often involves informal meetings, confidential negotiations, and avoiding hard commitments in the early stages of the peace process. Qatar,

in particular, actively uses its unique cultural, religious, and geographical advantages to build trust between conflicting parties. It often provides a platform for dialogue and offers a neutral environment for negotiations, which helps to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and reduce tensions. For example, Qatari mediation missions often negotiate with Islamist movements such as the Taliban or Hamas, using religious and cultural factors to ensure greater mutual understanding. A key element of the approach of small states such as Qatar is pragmatism and a focus on reaching short-term agreements as an intermediate step towards a lasting peace. They avoid overly formalized conditions and prefer to create “windows of opportunity” that can become the basis for further development of negotiations. Thus, the Qatari model of mediation is based on minimal interference in the internal affairs of countries and respect for the national interests of the conflicting parties, which allows them to maintain a neutral status.

Thus, the difference between the approaches of large international actors and small states lies not only in the use of resources, but also in the very understanding of the mediation mission. Large states strive for a structured, normative settlement, while small states are oriented towards a pragmatic and adaptive approach aimed at the gradual mitigation of conflicts. Accordingly, both approaches have their strengths and can complement each other, which contributes to a more effective and flexible response to global challenges to peace and security.

A successful mediation mission requires a certain set of qualities from the mediating state that ensure trust from the conflicting parties and the effectiveness of the negotiations. Among the main characteristics of a mediating state are neutrality, financial resources, and diplomatic influence. These qualities are key elements that determine the country's ability to provide conditions for negotiations and contribute to their successful completion.

Neutrality is one of the fundamental conditions for successful mediation. The mediating state should have limited or no direct interest in the outcome of the conflict in order to remain an objective and impartial party in the eyes of all participants in the process. This avoids suspicions of favoritism and strengthens confidence in the solutions it proposes. The neutral position of the mediating state is especially important in the initial stages of negotiations, when it is necessary to reach a basic agreement between the parties. For example, Switzerland and Norway, due to their neutral reputation, act as mediators in many international conflicts. “They engage the conflicting parties and carve up space for the operations while continually adapting to the fluid conditions on the ground” (Fadnes, 2018, p. 166).

Financial resources are also critical for the mediating state, as mediation activities require significant costs. Conducting negotiations, ensuring the security of delegations, as well as financing humanitarian or other initiatives that may arise in the process of conflict resolution, require significant investments. Wealthy countries, such as Qatar, have the financial capacity not only to organize negotiation processes but also to provide material support to the parties to the conflict to strengthen peace-making activities. This not only increases the status of the state as a reliable partner but also gives it additional leverage in peacemaking processes. Diplomatic influence is another important factor that increases the effectiveness of the mediator. Countries with well-developed diplomatic relations and experience in peacemaking can use their connections to attract other international actors, which helps to create favorable con-

ditions for conflict resolution. For example, European Union member states can rely on EU institutions to receive additional support and coordinate actions with other states. A successful mediator should also have experience in multilateral negotiations to ensure a comprehensive approach to resolving conflict issues and take into account the interests of various stakeholders.

In addition to these three qualities, a successful mediator should demonstrate flexibility, the ability to respond quickly to changes in the situation, a high level of communication skills, and respect for the cultural and religious differences of the parties to the conflict. Thanks to these characteristics, the mediating state can ensure an effective and lasting peacemaking process, increasing the chances of achieving sustainable peace and resolving the conflict on the basis of the common interests of all participants.

Trust in the mediator is a crucial factor for a successful mediation process, because only in an environment of trust can the parties to the conflict participate in negotiations without suspicion of impartiality or ulterior motives. To earn the trust of the parties to the conflict, the mediator must adhere to a number of principles, including ensuring neutrality, demonstrating reliability, having a clear understanding of the conflict, and the ability to take into account the interests of all parties.

First, the mediator's neutrality and impartiality are the basis for building trust. The mediating state should remain distant from the conflict, avoiding any steps that could be perceived as supporting one of the parties. Neutrality allows the mediator to remain open to dialogue with all participants, offering objective solutions. A trusted mediator also avoids undue pressure, giving the parties freedom of choice regarding the solutions being discussed. His impartiality can be considered as the ability to maintain non-preferential attitudes and behaviors towards all parties in a dispute (Oberman, 2005, p. 802).

Secondly, an important element is the demonstration of the mediator's reliability and stability. States that have established themselves as responsible and stable partners in the international arena are more likely to gain the trust of the parties to the conflict. Consistent participation in international peacekeeping initiatives and coherence in their foreign policy increase their trust as mediators. For example, Qatar, through its active participation in peacekeeping processes in the Middle East, has built a reputation as a state that is able to provide stable conditions for negotiations.

The third key factor is awareness of the conflict context and the cultural characteristics of the parties. The mediator must demonstrate a deep understanding of the political, historical, religious, and economic aspects of the conflict, which helps him adapt to the needs and expectations of each party. This allows for the creation of a negotiating atmosphere that takes into account the specifics of both parties and reduces the risk of mistrust due to a possible misunderstanding of their interests.

Trust is also strengthened by the transparency of the mediation process. The mediator should clearly define his or her authority, limitations, and the stages and rules of the negotiation process. This includes providing information on how decisions will be made, how the interests of all parties will be taken into account, and what steps will be taken to maintain the agreements in the long term.

Finally, confidentiality and security of the negotiation process are critical to the mediator's credibility. The parties to the conflict need to be confident that their positions, strategic interests, and opinions will not be disclosed or used against them. Pro-

viding a safe environment where the parties can freely express their views promotes open dialogue and reduces concerns about possible leaks of information because the process is strictly constrained to behavioral biases before and during negotiations. Moreover, “the mediation’s outcome is unable to create case law and *opinio iuris* as the mediation sessions and the agreement are bound by confidentiality principles” (Nissioti, 2022, p. 380).

The history of Qatar’s foreign policy demonstrates the transformation of this small but strategically located state into an influential mediator on the international stage. Starting in the 1990s, Qatar gradually developed a diplomatic strategy based on the desire for peaceful coexistence, economic openness, and balanced relations with various countries and regions. The strategic vision of the Qatari leadership was to go beyond the traditional foreign policy of the Persian Gulf countries and create the image of an independent international mediator. One of the first steps Qatar took in developing its mediation role was to actively invest in international organizations and forums, which allowed it to gain respect and influence in world diplomatic circles. Thus, Qatar began to actively engage in the work of the UN, organize international conferences, and come up with initiatives for the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts. As a result, Doha has gradually become an important center of negotiations, open to a variety of stakeholders, from governments to non-governmental organizations and even opposition groups.

Being a relatively small state, Qatar makes continuous efforts to establish its good reputation and presence throughout the international community. A significant step in strengthening Qatar’s position as a mediator was the establishment of new international platforms for mediation and diplomatic influence, the most famous of which is the Al Jazeera television channel. It has become an effective communication tool that has allowed Qatar to cover current issues of international politics and conflicts while maintaining a neutral image. Al Jazeera has contributed to Qatar’s international positioning as an active participant in international relations and has given it the opportunity to gain the trust of broad segments of the population in different regions of the world (Al-Kubaisi, 2023, p. 33).

Over the past decades, Qatar has actively developed a multi-vector foreign policy strategy, which involves balanced relations with both Western countries and regional partners, including Iran and Turkey. This has allowed Qatar to act independently of the influence of major powers and, at the same time, remain an important partner for major actors such as the United States. The desire for independence in foreign policy was a prerequisite for the development of mediation initiatives in complex conflicts, where Qatar could offer its services as a country with no clear interest in the outcome.

Qatar has gained experience in mediating conflicts in various regions, including Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. In particular, its efforts have led to important peace agreements in Lebanon, Sudan, and Yemen. Thanks to its ability to interact with different parties in conflicts and use diplomatic resources to achieve compromises, Qatar has become a recognized partner in peace negotiations. Such actions have significantly strengthened its international status and credibility as an effective peacemaker.

Thus, Qatar’s mediation role is the result of a long-term and thoughtful diplomatic strategy that combines the use of resources, a neutral position, and innovative approaches to conflict resolution.

Qatar's development as an international mediator has gone through several key stages, each of which has defined and strengthened its role in international politics. Each stage reflects the gradual accumulation of experience, the formation of a reputation, and the expansion of Qatar's ability to exert influence on the global stage.

1. Strengthening an independent foreign policy (1990s). At the beginning of its journey, Qatar set itself the goal of pursuing an independent foreign policy, independent of the influence of neighboring Gulf states. In 1995, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, having become the emir, initiated a course of diversifying foreign policy, which allowed Doha to avoid direct confrontations and promote the development of diplomatic relations with various political actors. This laid the foundation for a future mediating role, as Qatar could interact with different parties to conflicts and balance the interests of regional players.

2. Investment in a global media platform (1996). The founding of Al Jazeera was one of the most significant steps on the path to international recognition. Thanks to Al Jazeera, Qatar gained the opportunity to influence public opinion and contribute to the global dissemination of information, often from an alternative point of view. This gave Qatar the status of an influential mediator, capable of creating platforms for free discussion of conflicts and finding solutions, especially in the Arab world.

3. First steps in mediating regional conflicts (2000s). During this period, Qatar began to mediate in regional conflicts. One of the first successful examples of mediation was Lebanon, where Qatar organized negotiations between political factions, which ended with the Doha agreement in 2008. This experience cemented Qatar's reputation as a neutral peacemaker, capable of engaging conflicting parties in a constructive dialogue.

4. Expanding the geography of mediation (2010s). During this period, Qatar increased the scale of its peacemaking activities, going beyond the Middle East. It acted as a mediator in conflicts in Sudan, Yemen, and Afghanistan, contributing to the achievement of peace agreements and local agreements. This was made possible by efforts to accumulate diplomatic capital and strengthen relations with international organizations, in particular the UN. Qatar has demonstrated flexibility in its policies while maintaining its primary role of being a mediator between parties with opposing interests.

5. Supporting international initiatives and expanding diplomatic influence (2020s). Today, Qatar is actively participating in international peacekeeping initiatives, in particular, in the process of conflict resolution in Afghanistan, maintaining ties with the US government and other major players. Qatar is also actively involved in humanitarian initiatives that contribute to the stabilization of situations in post-conflict regions. In addition, thanks to large-scale sporting events, such as the 2022 FIFA World Cup, Qatar has been able to strengthen its international image as a peacekeeping and neutral player (Al-Kubaisi, 2023, p. 34).

Thus, the stages of Qatar's development as a mediator demonstrate a gradual and thoughtful strategy of expanding diplomatic influence and strengthening the country's role in peacemaking processes. Qatar has used its economic and political capital to create an effective mediation platform, which has made it one of the most influential diplomatic players in modern international politics.

An important component of mediation activities is also the policy of neutrality, which Qatar actively supports in its relations with states with different political orientations. Qatar does not participate in conflicts directly, distancing itself from political alliances

that could limit its ability to negotiate. This approach keeps the state out of conflict structures, helps maintain balance in relations with both the West and neighboring countries in the Middle East and reduces the risks of political pressure. Its mediation efforts have helped carve out an image of Qatar as an active neutral state in the multiple national and cross-border conflicts. Simultaneously, Qatar tries to maintain open lines for communication between disparate disputants (Kamrava, 2011, p. 556).

Having seized on its neutral status and geopolitical features, Qatar has focused on mediation in various conflicts, providing a platform for dialogue and cooperation.

Qatar acted as a mediator in negotiations between the United States and the Taliban, creating a neutral territory for official meetings. In 2013, a Taliban office was opened in Doha, which contributed to the gradual formation of a basis for dialogue. After several years of negotiations, an agreement was signed in 2020, under which the United States agreed to a gradual withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan. Thanks to Qatar's efforts, it was possible to create a space for negotiations and trust between the parties, which made a significant contribution to the temporary reduction of tensions.

During the conflict in Darfur, which was accompanied by a humanitarian crisis and numerous human rights violations, Qatar provided financial support and attracted international partners to find a solution. Its mediation contributed to the conclusion of the Darfur Peace Document in 2011. The agreement laid the foundation for political and economic reforms, which contributed to the stabilization of the situation in the region. Qatar's financial resources became an important support for the further development and reconstruction of the destroyed territories, which significantly improved the humanitarian situation.

In Lebanon in 2008, when a political crisis brought the country closer to civil war, Qatar acted as a mediator, providing a platform for negotiations between the opposing political forces. This led to the Doha Agreement, which provided for the formation of a government of national unity. The participants agreed to reform the electoral law, which reduced the risk of conflict escalation and allowed for the stabilization of the internal situation. Qatar's experience in mediation has confirmed its ability to interact with different political groups, providing space for reaching compromises.

These successful cases of Qatar's mediation demonstrate its influence as a mediating state, actively using its own resources to support peace processes and stability.

One of the most important factors in Qatar's successful mediation is its ability to strategically structure negotiations, focusing on the interests and needs of each party. In recent years, Qatar has applied this phased approach in negotiations aimed at resolving conflicts such as in Afghanistan, Darfur, and Lebanon. The consistency and flexibility with which Qatar conducted each stage of the negotiation process contributed to building trust and creating favorable conditions for achieving an outcome.

An example of this approach is Qatar's peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan, where in the first phase Qatar helped to create an open diplomatic channel between the United States and the Taliban. Starting in 2013, Doha became a place where both sides could hold confidential talks in a safe environment. This phase played a key role in building trust between the parties, which made it possible to move on to the next phase, the formalization of the negotiations. On September 12, 2020, the two sides met in Doha to begin talks that the parties decided to describe as the "Afghan Peace Negotiations" (Ayotte, Dunford, Lindborg, 2021, p. 21). The signing of an agreement

in 2020, which enshrined a plan for the gradual withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan, was the logical conclusion of many years of efforts aimed at reducing tensions in the region.

A similar methodological approach was applied by Qatar in the negotiations to resolve the conflict in Darfur. Initially, it focused on holding consultations with all interested parties, which helped to agree on political and economic reforms. The next phase was the negotiations, which resulted in the signing of the Darfur Peace Document in 2011. The agreement provided for demilitarization, economic assistance, and political dialogue, which contributed to the stabilization of the situation in the region. In this case, Qatar also played the role of a financial sponsor, supporting the economic reconstruction of the destroyed territories and creating the prerequisites for a sustainable peace. In Lebanon, where the political crisis of 2008 brought the country to the brink of civil war, Qatar was able to effectively organize the negotiation process between the main political forces, providing them with a platform for dialogue in Doha. The result of these efforts was the signing of the Doha Agreement, which settled the main issues of political representation and stabilized the situation in the country. This agreement not only reduced the risk of escalation of the conflict but also allowed the formation of a government of national unity, consolidating certain concessions from both sides.

Thus, the key stages of Qatari mediation in each of the cases considered were initial consultations, the creation of favorable conditions for dialogue, the formation of a “road map” or mechanisms for conflict resolution, as well as the formalization of the agreements reached through the signing of agreements. Thanks to such a structured and phased strategy, Qatar managed to minimize the risks of failure of negotiations and consolidate its position as a reliable and neutral mediator. One of the most important features of Qatari mediation is its ability to adapt to the cultural and political specifics of each conflict, which makes its approaches unique among international mediators. As a country with strong cultural and religious ties in the Arab world, Qatar uses its influence to create a comfortable space where the parties can find understanding. It applies a culturally oriented approach, avoiding pressure and coercive methods and instead offering negotiation formats that take into account local traditions and sensitivities. This approach, in turn, builds a sense of mutual respect and trust among the participants in the negotiation process.

Another unique feature of Qatar’s mediation is its emphasis on “soft power” and a flexible diplomatic approach. In its mediation missions, Qatar seeks to act without direct conditions or demands, focusing on creating an inclusive negotiation process where each party feels able to be heard. Unlike major powers such as the US or the EU, Qatar does not try to dictate the course of negotiations, which allows it to avoid accusations of interference in the internal affairs of other countries. This gives it the status of a neutral mediator, which provides a significant level of trust and contributes to the success of its missions.

Financial resources also play a significant role in its mediation strategy. Qatar actively uses its oil and gas revenues to finance peacekeeping initiatives, provide economic support to post-conflict regions, and invest in infrastructure projects. For example, in the case of Darfur, Qatar not only facilitated the peace agreement but also funded reconstruction programs, significantly enhancing its image as a reliable partner in the peace process. This also gives the country leverage to further stabilize the situation and demonstrate its commitment to long-term peace. Qatar’s foreign assistance to Darfur

started after the 2008 crisis, and it continued till 2019. Some sources estimate that Qatar has provided an amount of US\$180 million while supporting the peace process in Darfur. The US\$180 million covers projects implemented in Darfur by Qatari and UN organizations such as Qatar Red Crescent, Qatar Charity, and UNDP, but it does not include the exact sums provided by Qatar to the Government of Sudan (Mohamed, 2025, p. 94).

Qatar is also an innovator in the use of so-called “media mediation”, actively using international media to increase transparency and draw attention to key issues in the conflict. For example, the Qatari-funded news channel Al Jazeera plays a role in creating an objective information background, providing coverage of events, and raising public awareness of peace process efforts. This avoids political manipulation and provides understanding of the situation among the international community, which often contributes to reducing tensions and stabilizing conflict regions.

Qatar demonstrates active diplomatic activity within international organizations, in particular the United Nations (UN) and the League of Arab States. What are the main areas of this interaction? Qatar is an active member of the UN and plays an important role in many of its programs and initiatives, supporting peacekeeping missions and providing military and humanitarian contingents in conflict regions. Qatar initiates numerous resolutions in the General Assembly that relate to social development, human rights, and humanitarian assistance, emphasizing the importance of these issues in a global context.

In 2019, Qatar was elected to the UN Security Council, which emphasized its active role in global affairs. Can you point to specific issues that the country is promoting in the Security Council? Qatar has focused on issues of security, stability, and development in the Arab world, emphasizing the need for collective action to overcome regional challenges.

Qatar is an active participant in the League of Arab States (LAS) and regularly engages in discussions on important issues affecting the Arab region. The country supports initiatives aimed at strengthening Arab unity and policy coordination among member states. How have Qatar's relations with the LAS changed in the context of the political isolation that began in 2017? During this period, Qatar has sought to restore its relations with the LAS, emphasizing its commitment to Arab integration. “Much diplomatic maneuvering succeeded in bringing a small state to convert a crisis targeting its leadership and sovereignty and aiming to eliminate its independence, and to successfully deal with economic uncertainty” (Bouoiyour, Selmi, 2019, p. 27).

Qatar advocates for the Palestinian cause, promotes political dialogue among Arab countries, and focuses on economic integration. How does this affect Qatar's role in the Arab world? Through its active participation in the UN and the LAS, Qatar is strengthening its international image and influence, which is consistent with its desire to realize national interests and maintain stability in the region.

Qatar shows significant potential for mediation in the interests of Ukraine, as its diplomatic efforts can contribute to resolving a number of important issues related to Ukrainian politics. The importance of its mediation is due to the numerous challenges that Ukraine faces in the international arena, especially in the context of the conflict with Russia and the threats that arise from an aggressive foreign policy.

The importance of Qatar's mediation in Ukrainian politics is due to the numerous challenges that Ukraine faces in the international arena, especially in the context of the conflict with Russia and the threats that arise from an aggressive foreign policy.

First, Qatar's mediation can cover security issues, as the country has experience in conflict resolution and can facilitate dialogue between Ukraine and international partners. In particular, Qatar is able to initiate platforms for negotiations that would include key players, contributing to the resolution of current political contradictions.

In addition, economic issues are also an important part of Ukraine's interests. In the context of economic instability and the need for foreign investment, Qatar can act as an important partner, able to provide financing for projects in infrastructure, energy, and other strategic sectors. Qatar's investment in Ukrainian assets can not only strengthen economic ties, but also create new opportunities for cooperation within the framework of global initiatives, in particular in the field of renewable energy. "Additionally, any financial pledges by Qatar should serve as investments in the long-term development of areas prone to and affected by conflict, rather than incentives to bring participants to the negotiating table". (Barakat, 2014, p. 3).

Qatar can also play an important role in helping to form international support for Ukraine through its diplomatic partners in the region. Qatar's cooperation with international organizations and influential states can help Ukraine to raise its status on the world stage, in particular by promoting Ukrainian interests within the framework of resolutions considered by the UN and the League of Arab States.

In this context, issues of human rights and humanitarian assistance can also become the subject of Qatar's mediation. The country can act as a mediator in providing humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict in Ukraine, emphasizing its role as a responsible international player ready to help in humanitarian crises. Qatar can initiate joint programs with Ukrainian organizations aimed at restoring destroyed infrastructure, as well as supporting educational and medical projects for the population affected by the conflict.

Given these factors, Qatar's mediation becomes an important element that can contribute to the realization of Ukrainian interests in many areas. Ukraine has the opportunity to use this mediation to strengthen its positions in the international arena, support internal stability, and develop the economy.

Qatar has the opportunity to significantly support Ukraine in the international political arena through active diplomatic activities, strategic partnerships, and the use of its influence in the region. An important aspect of such support is Qatar's role as a mediator in negotiations concerning Ukrainian interests. Qatar can initiate platforms for negotiations involving key international actors, in particular Western European countries, the United States, and Arab states, to discuss issues related to security, economic cooperation, and humanitarian crises. Publicly, Qatar committed to becoming a major humanitarian donor at the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016, where it pledged \$10 billion for assistance over the coming decade. Qatar once again demonstrated its commitment to humanitarian diplomacy in 2018, by increasing significantly its multilateral voluntary contributions to many activities and programs of the UN at all levels and has strengthened partnerships with several UN entities to allow them effectively implement their mandates, especially related to international peace and security, as well as the fight against extremism and terrorism, human rights, and development. (Barakat, 2024).

Intense friendly relations that have been built by Ukraine and Qatar, and Qatar's unique experience as a mediator and negotiator could be beneficial to expand the Emirate's engagement in freeing civilian hostages, in addition to children. The area

of Ukraine and Qatar's interaction can include a number of international organization, like the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Labor Organization (ILO), "and within the UN, especially in the General Assembly voting, to get other countries of the region to vote in favor of Ukraine" (Danylov, 2024, p. 21).

In addition, Qatar has influence on regional political structures, in particular the League of Arab States (LAS), and can initiate resolutions supporting the territorial integrity of Ukraine. Such actions can significantly increase the level of international support for Ukraine, helping to form a common position of Arab countries on the conflict. Qatar can also organize diplomatic meetings to discuss key issues, such as human rights and humanitarian assistance to war-torn populations.

Additionally, Qatar can act as a bridge between Ukraine and the Gulf states, facilitating the development of bilateral relations. For example, it can help Ukraine establish contacts with the UAE and Saudi Arabia, countries that have significant influence on global energy markets. Qatar can use its connections in the region to encourage investment in Ukrainian energy projects, thereby strengthening economic ties between the countries.

From a media diplomacy perspective, Qatar can maintain a positive image of Ukraine in international media and forums, emphasizing the importance of Ukrainian culture, history, and achievements. However, this all involves professional consideration and implementation of the diplomatic corps of Ukraine in cooperation with national political and scientific research circles in the provision of a national strategy to implement media diplomacy and to oppose the destructive influence on the formation of the state's image by other countries. "Creating their own blogs by diplomats, representatives of ministries and agencies is an opportunity to publicize their own opinions and positions on certain international events and to shape the image of the state through their own political image" (Yemets, 2024, p. 142). This can help change the perception of Ukraine, especially, in the Arab world, contributing to a deeper understanding of Ukrainian challenges and needs.

Conclusions. As a result of the study, the stages of Qatar's emergence as an independent entity in international relations after gaining independence in 1971 were analyzed, the transformation of Qatar's foreign policy strategy since 1995, when Emir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani came to power, were tracked, Qatar's role in regional conflicts was exposed, including its mediation efforts in Sudan, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Palestine, Yemen, and Libya, Qatar's institutional and informational tools for influencing foreign policy were investigated, including think tanks, humanitarian funds, and media outlets (in particular, Al Jazeera), and potential areas of cooperation between Ukraine and Qatar in the political, economic, humanitarian, and energy spheres were identified.

This study has identified the unique nature of Qatar's foreign policy strategy as an example of "niche diplomacy" by a small state that has managed to become a key mediator in global conflicts despite limited military resources. Qatar's ability to effectively combine its energy advantage, media influence, humanitarian activities, and negotiating flexibility will allow it to maintain a high degree of autonomy in its interactions with more powerful players in the Gulf region and in the broader international environment. Neutrality and diplomatic mobility have become fundamental values of the state. At the same time, the mediation model used in Qatar has proven to be not only politically but also institutionally sustainable: this model includes think tanks, government structures, charitable organizations, and the media.

The generalization of the conducted research is the understanding of the key mechanisms that underlie Qatar's mediation policy and its active role in the international arena. Qatar, being a state with limited military potential, managed to form its unique diplomatic niche, focusing on the principles of neutrality, political flexibility, and readiness to provide a platform for negotiations. These factors allow the country to play the role of an effective mediator in resolving conflicts on both a regional and global scale, creating opportunities for international cooperation and strengthening its own influence.

Qatar's modern foreign policy is a vivid example of the use of soft power as a means of realizing national interests and strengthening its international image. Through its active participation in the settlement of conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan, Sudan and other hot spots, Qatar demonstrates a high level of diplomatic mobility, the ability to maintain balance in relations with different parties to the conflict and the independence of its own foreign policy decisions. This strategy allows the country to be involved in discussions of important issues on the international agenda, while maintaining the status of a trusted partner by parties that often have antagonistic positions.

The activation of Qatar's mediation role is also due to the state's desire to consolidate its status as a regional leader in the field of peacekeeping. A member of various international organizations, such as the UN and the League of Arab States, Qatar systematically emphasizes its contribution to stabilizing the situation in the Arab world and efforts to maintain peace in conflict zones. In addition, participation in numerous humanitarian initiatives aimed at supporting victims of conflicts further strengthens the country's authority, allowing it to occupy a favorable position in the system of international relations.

Also, having analyzed this topic in detail, it is worth adding the following conclusions that relate to Ukraine:

Economic cooperation between Qatar and Ukraine is an important direction. Qatar is ready to invest in infrastructure and business in Ukraine, as well as finance joint projects through Qatari funds. This opens up opportunities for attracting investment, developing the Ukrainian economy, creating joint ventures, and new jobs. However, this area of cooperation faces certain challenges, in particular competition with other investors, such as Russia or EU countries, as well as political risks for investors that may arise in an unstable political situation.

Qatar actively supports cultural initiatives and educational programs, in particular by providing scholarships for Ukrainian students. This opens up opportunities for Ukrainian citizens to receive education in Qatar, and also contributes to the deepening of cultural ties between the two countries through mutual cultural exchanges. Such cooperation can become an important element of intercultural dialogue and the development of educational opportunities for Ukrainian students. However, this area of cooperation also faces certain barriers, such as language and cultural differences, as well as different approaches to the educational process and cultural traditions, which can create difficulties in interaction.

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Стаття надійшла до редакції 29.07.2025

Дата рекомендації до друку 27.08.2025

Стаття опублікована 10.11.2025

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ПОСЕРЕДНИЦТВО ЯК ІНСТРУМЕНТ ДИПЛОМАТИЧНОЇ СЛУЖБИ КАТАРУ: ЕФЕКТИВНЕ ВПРОВАДЖЕННЯ В ЙОГО СУЧАСНІЙ ЗОВНІШНІЙ ПОЛІТИЦІ

Резюме

Метою дослідження є оцінка ефективності впровадження інструментів посередництва в дипломатичній службі Катару при реалізації її зовнішньої політики. Актуальність статті зумовлена стислим розкриттям цієї теми в наукових колах та академічній літературі. Незважаючи на те що роль Катару на міжнародній арені та діяльність його дипломатичної служби неодноразово ставали предметом загального аналізу, концепція активного посередництва цієї держави в глобальних та регіональних конфліктах ще не досліджена до кінця. У сучасних умовах глобальної нестабільності, конфліктів та численних викликів у міжнародних відносинах зростає потреба в посередницьких місіях, які можуть сприяти мирному врегулюванню спорів, розвитку дипломатичних та торговельних відносин, а також забезпеченню стабільності в стратегічно важливих регіонах. Катар, одна з найбільш економічно розвинених країн Близького Сходу, є важливим посередником у міжнародних справах, що має особливу актуальність для України в контексті поточних геополітичних викликів. Незважаючи на свою невелику територію та обмежені військові ресурси, Катар активно розвиває дипломатичні відносини та зміцнює міжнародний авторитет через роль мирного посередника, готового допомогти вирішити конфлікти в різних регіонах. Дослідження на тему «Посередництво як інструмент дипломатичної служби Катару: ефективне впровадження в сучасній зовнішній політиці» охоплює період з кінця XX століття до наших днів, з акцентом на розвитку зовнішньополітичної стратегії Катару, його ролі в міжнародних конфліктах та дипломатичних ініціативах. Хронологічно дослідження охоплює етапи становлення Катару як важливого гравця на Близькому Сході, зокрема початок 1990-х років, коли країна вперше оголосила про свою активну роль у миротворчих процесах, та період після 2000-х років, коли Катар став одним з головних посередників у регіональних та глобальних конфліктах. У самій роботі реалізовано кілька основних методів дослідження, включно з аналізом подій, тематичними дослідженнями, історичними та функціональними методами.

Ключові слова: інструменти посередництва, дипломатична служба Катару, глобальні та регіональні конфлікти, мирне врегулювання спорів, геополітичні виклики, міжнародний авторитет, миротворчі процеси, дипломатичні ініціативи.