

## V. Timeline

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### Select Developments in Foreign Policies of GCC States since 2010

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#### 2010

May: Iraq sends its first ambassador to Kuwait since the First Gulf War.

May 26: Bahrain and the US agree to expand the US naval base in Mina Salman Port. The project is expected to cost \$580 million and will be completed in 2015.

September: The US secures a \$60 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia. The deal is the largest US arms sale of its kind and includes \$30 billion for purchase of new fighter jets.

December: Qatar wins its bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup and is set to become the first Arab country to host the prestigious football tournament.

#### 2011

March 12: All member states of the Arab League agree to ask the UN Security Council to impose a no-fly zone over Libya. The meeting was chaired by Oman's foreign minister, Yousef bin Alawi bin Abdullah.

March 14: Saudi-led GCC troops enter Bahrain amid protests calling for reforms in the kingdom.

March 26: The UAE announces that it will deploy 12 warplanes to enforce the no-fly zone over Libya.

#### 2012

March 14: Saudi Arabia withdraws its diplomatic mission from Syria following an escalation in the country's uprising.

October 23: The Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa makes a historic visit to Gaza and pledges \$400 million for development projects.

September 18: The UAE strengthens bilateral ties with Canada with a nuclear cooperation agreement. The agreement comes as Abu Dhabi moves forward with its nuclear program which will rely on Canadian supplies.

#### 2013

April 15: The Palestinian Embassy in Kuwait reopens. The embassy was shut down in 1990 during the First Gulf War.

June 20: The Afghan Taliban opens a Doha office, its first official overseas office. The office is meant to facilitate peace talks with the US.

July 18: The United Arab Emirates sends \$3 billion in aid to Egypt, with Saudi Arabia promising to send an additional \$2 billion.

October 18: Saudi Arabia rejects its seat at the UN Security Council shortly after being elected to it. The move is meant to show displeasure with Washington over its Middle East policies.

October 24: Kuwait and Turkey hold their first Joint Committee for Cooperation meeting, a ministerial-level initiative established in 2008 to improve dialogue and cooperation.

November: Dubai wins its bid to host the World Expo 2020.

December: The GCC announces the formation of a joint military command and police.

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### 2014

March 5: Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates recall their ambassadors from Qatar. Qatar voices “regret and surprise” but does not pull its own diplomatic staff in response.

October 9: The UAE’s first female fighter pilot, Mariam Al Mansouri, leads an airstrike mission against the Islamic State in Syria.

November 9: Oman hosts key negotiations over the Iran nuclear program. If no deal is secured by November 24, an earlier interim agreement becomes void.

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### 2015

January 20: Qatar and Turkey agree to establish the High-Level Strategic Council, which is aimed at enhancing bilateral relations between the two countries.

January 23: King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud ascends to the Saudi throne. Major changes to the country’s foreign policy ensue.

March: Saudi Arabia brings together a coalition including the GCC states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE for its air campaign in Yemen. Only Oman declines to participate in the Saudi-led Operation Decisive Storm.

March 15: Kuwait hosts the third International Pledging Humanitarian Conference for Syria. Kuwait hosted both the first and second conference in 2013 and 2014.

September 4: Forty-five Emirati soldiers were killed fighting Houthi insurgents. This marks the deadliest day of fighting for the UAE since Operation Decisive Storm began.

October 26: Oman’s foreign minister makes a surprise trip to Syria, meeting with President Bashar al-Assad in an attempt to reopen Omani-led mediation efforts regarding the Syrian war. This marks the first time an Arab foreign minister arrived in Syria since 2011.

November 1: The UK and Bahrain hold a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of construction for a permanent Royal Navy base in Bahrain. The ceremony is part of a wider defense agreement between the UK and Bahrain.

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### 2016

January 3: Saudi Arabia and Bahrain sever their diplomatic relations with Iran following an attack on the Saudi embassy in Tehran one day earlier. The UAE also downgrades its diplomatic presence in Iran.

February 8: Bahrain’s king visits Russia and meets with President Vladimir Putin to discuss economic cooperation as well as peace negotiations in Syria.

August 6: UN-sponsored Yemen talks held in Kuwait come to an end. The talks began on April 21 earlier this year.

October 13: Turkey and the GCC hold the fifth instalment of the High-Level Strategic Dialogue, which was first established in 2008. All parties emphasize the need to relaunch negotiations for a free trade agreement.

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September: At a UN summit, the UAE announces that it will welcome 15,000 Syrians over the next five years.

December 7: UK Prime Minister Theresa May attends the 37th annual GCC Summit. Plans to develop closer security, military and trade ties between the UK and GCC are announced.

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### 2017

January 24: The NATO-Istanbul Cooperation Initiative opens a new regional center in Kuwait. The center aims to boost security and military relations among GCC countries.

May: The EU and GCC establish a trade and investment dialogue.

June 5: Egypt, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE sever ties with Qatar, beginning what is now referred to as the “Gulf crisis.” Qatari citizens are given 14 days to leave the Gulf countries.

July 11: Qatar and the US sign an agreement to combat terrorism funding. The deal follows Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the UAE severing their diplomatic relations with Qatar and accusing the country of supporting terrorism.

August 24: Qatar restores full diplomatic relations with Iran. Qatar had downgraded its relations following the January 2016 attacks on the Saudi Embassy in Iran.

September: President Trump meets with the Emir of Kuwait at the White House, saying the two leaders have a “great relationship.”

November 4: Bahrain makes territorial claims with regards to Qatar, reopening a border dispute that had previously been settled by the International Court of Justice in 2001. Bahrain also begins imposing visa requirements on Qatari nationals.

November 4: Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri announces his resignation from Riyadh. Hariri strongly criticizes Iran and Hezbollah in his address, and alludes to a recent assassination plot against him.