



The American vision of Qatar's status and role in the Middle East since 2003

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Abstract :-

The idea of strengthening the strategic partnership between two or more countries is one of the levels of measuring the relationship between them and at various levels, and this is one of the axioms of countries' work in foreign policy that necessarily outlines the features of the strategic progression in political, economic and military action. This is also the case in the US-Qatari relationship. The U.S. which cooperates in various fields according to the levels of interest of both parties, especially since work within the spaces of international politics today has become complex and intertwined based on the trends and transformations that the system is witnessing between rising powers and weak ones. Therefore, the idea of strengthening status and dominance and maintaining levels of power and protection, as well as Building capabilities within spaces and paths that can achieve goals within strategic paths based on a shared vision of opportunities and challenges regionally and globally.

Keywords: Strengthening partnership - levels of measuring the relationship - strategic progression - levels of power.

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Introduction :-

The research is based on indicators and data that necessarily mapped and determined the levels of effectiveness of the strategic partnership between of Qatar and the United States, which indicate the possibility of increasing and strengthening this partnership in the future by reading the study and analysis of the Qatari roles and their effectiveness, which was able through its ability to respond and determine its strategic paths in terms of Dealing with the events is to establish an experience in which the standards of power that are conceived differ from the standards of traditional power that were measured according to the Qatari strategic directions and paths that were activated in light of the transformations taking place in the brands of the Qatari decision maker, and which the United States was keen to invest in the contemporary stage. And the future aims to achieve its interests and enhance its position, which makes the statement that the development of the partnership and its strengthening at the level of future employment be reflected in a high level of validity and acceptability.

The importance of the research:-

The significance of the study comes from clarifying the most prominent data that lead to increasing the strategic partnership between the U. S. and Qatar, and analyzing its trends and outcomes, as well as the extent of the interests, mutual needs, and goals between the two parties.

The research problem:-

The problem of the research stems from the main question next (Which are the criteria by which the levels of advancement are measured within the framework of building the future strategic collaboration

between the U.S. of America and Qatar?) Within the structure of this general problem, the sub-questions of the studies are divided into: -

1- What are the paths of the strategic partnership between both U. S. and Qatar?

2- What's the American vision of Qatar's political, economic and cultural status?

Research hypothesis: The research assumes that the American-Qatari strategic partnership will increase in the future according to the current data of cooperation and mutual needs in several files and issues at the regional and international levels.

Research methodology: The research methodology is represented by the use of the descriptive and analytical approach by describing and analyzing the research variables, which are the data of the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Qatar. The forward-looking approach was used to study the future dimensions of the strategic partnership between the two countries.

Future strategic partnership data

In searching for data that influence and determine the paths of the future strategic alliance between the State of Qatar and the United States , it is necessary to point out the Qatari components that worked or helped to create a clear picture of the American vision that worked to strengthen and sustain the partnership, in advanced stages according to different lines and paths of Qatari performance. In security, economic and political needs and in several files and issues at the regional and international levels, it led to strengthening cooperation, exchange, and trust between the two parties. These indicators outlined the American vision towards Qatar, which was documented in the signing of both the U.S. and Qatar on a memorandum that of understanding that establishes a strategic dialogue to be held in a manner that... An annual agreement between them, which indicates the depth of American interest in the Qatari role and the extent of Qatar's influence on American strategic perception and paves the way towards advanced levels of partnership, the most important outcomes of which will be the Qatari model in American strategic employment. With regard to the strategic dialogue, the meaning it indicates and the interpretations it contains, the stages of the dialogue have witnessed significant development to also express future trends that give Qatar a distinguished position in the future strategic thinking of the U. S. . The strategic dialogue witnessed several versions and stages as follows:

The first phase: The first Qatari-American Strategic Dialogue was held on January 30, 2018 at the US State Department in Washington, marking an important milestone in the strategic partnership between the two countries. We must point out that the Qatari-American Strategic Dialogue is the first forum of its kind between the two parties and represents an extension of levels of Cooperation and strategic interconnection between the two countries, and the dialogue witnessed the participation of senior American and Qatari officials (**Steinberg, 2023 , P.17**). See Table 1

United States of America	State of Qatar
Rickstelerson, US Secretary of State	Qatar's Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani
Jim Mattis, US Secretary of Defense	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs of Qatar, Khalid bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah
James R. Perry, US Secretary of Energy	Mohammed bin Saleh Al-Sada, the Minister of Industry and Energy for Qatar
Weiblor L. Ross Jr." US Secretary of Commerce	The Minister of Trade and Economy of Qatar, "Ahmed bin Jassim Al Thani"
Steven T. Mnuchin, US Secretary of the Treasury	Ali Sharif Al-Emadi, Qatari Minister of Finance

The table was prepared by the researcher based on the following sources:

Details of the joint statement of the US-Qatari strategic dialogue, Al-Arab newspaper, January 31, 2018, date of visit 4-3-2024, at the link <https://s.alarab.qa/n/1296658> , also: Qatar: Governance, Security, and U.S. Policy, Congressional Research Service, version 43, R 44533, 11 February 2019, P.p.16

Among the outcomes of the strategic dialogue is the signing of many agreements and memorandums of understanding between the two countries and identifying the most important areas addressed by the dialogue, which are:

1- Political cooperation: The two countries announced enhancing the level of bilateral relations and expanding their scope. They also stressed the study of the Gulf crisis due to the need to find a quick solution that respects Qatar's sovereignty, and, as the statement said, in a way that upholds the Gulf Cooperation Council's coherence to handle regional threats and provide a healthy and promising future for the peoples. The two discussed about security and stability in the region, comprising disputes and conflicts throughout numerous of the region's nations, the roles and coordinated activities to destroy ISIS, and other issues and files relevant to the region (Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs , 2018).

2- Defense: The U.S. and Qatar stressed the significance of security and defense collaboration between them for the stability and security of the region. The two countries discussed the military sales programs between them amounting to approximately \$24.7 billion, which Qatar used to purchase the latest American weapons and military equipment. Along with the United States, they also talked about strengthening its fighting capability in a number of areas. The US highlighted Qatar's role in bolstering the significant US military presence at the Al Udeid base, as well as in the joint statement that Qatar's purchases of military air defense systems led to the creation of more than 110,000 American jobs and the preservation of important American military capabilities. (**Qatar: Governance, 2019 , P.16**)

A joint agreement was signed to improve ways of military and security cooperation, and according to a statement by the Defense Minister of Qatar Khaled Al-Attiyah, "Qatar Vision2040," which calls for military collaboration with the US of America comprises a strategy to increase the Al-Udeid base, and that the American weapons that Qatar purchased include C-17 and F-17 fighter planes. 15, C130, Apache attack aircraft, cargo aircraft and Patriot missile systems, along with the U.S. pledges to guarantee the security and safety of Qatar in the face of any external threats. (**Lederman, 2018**).

Qatar is building new seaports that can accommodate American warships," stated Khalid Al-Attiyah, "while a U.S. Air Force spokesman stated, "The suggested Qatari Enhancements indicate a shift from an exploratory setting with makeshift amenities to a base with permanent infrastructure that can continue to operate for a long time, which is This will compete with Bahrain as the headquarters of the US Fifth Fleet in the region, as well as for ports in the Emirates used by American battleships."(**WEISGERBER, 2018**)

3- Trade and investment: The work between them witnessed the strengthening of the field of investment and trade relations. A letter of intent was signed in 2018 in the field of Economic ties between the two nations to enhance and expand trade cooperation. "Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani" claims that Qatar invests in the American economy in various projects, including American banking services. Technology markets, healthcare and infrastructure projects, as well as an agreement of comprehension for collaboration in the energy sector.

4- Trade and investment: The work between them witnessed the strengthening of the field of investment and trade relations. A letter of intent was signed in 2018 in the field of Economic ties between the two nations to enhance and expand trade cooperation. According to "Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani", Qatar invests in the American economy in various projects, including American banking services. Technology markets, healthcare and infrastructure projects, As well as an agreement of acceptance for collaboration in the energy domain.(The Peninsula newspaper , **2020 , P.2**)

All the agreements and issues that were reviewed in the US-Qatari strategic dialogue were to improve working practices between the two countries and ensure the achievement of the goals and interests sought by both countries and to make the US-Qatari strategic dialogue an annual event, and this is what actually happened the adoption of the U.S. and the Qatar of a memorandum of understanding that transformed the dialogue, An annual dialogue that takes place once a year in one of the two countries' capitals is the result of the strategic dialogue between the two nations.

The second phase: The US-Qatari strategic discussion had its second session in Doha in 2019. This edition aimed to strengthen cooperation with the important American ally and evaluate the overall Qatari-American relations, headed by the foreign ministers of the two countries. The dialogue included a high-level discussion in a number of political, economic, defense and cultural fields. (Youssef, 2019)

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo headed the US delegation participating in the second US-Qatari strategic dialogue (Lusail Newspaper, 2019 January 10). The dialogue discussed several files and achievements, including:

1-Continuing strategic partnership: This dialogue resulted in a strategic framing of the strength and durability of the ties between the United States and Qatar, which means continuing to strengthen the strategic partnership and establishing a future vision for Qatar's role within the boundaries of the American strategic partnership. Sheikh "Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani", Vice President of Qatar, said: The Cabinet and the Qatari Minister of Foreign Affairs said in a joint press conference held on January 13, 2019 with Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State of the U. S., that Qatar's partnership with the United States is a solid partnership based on solid foundations and built on mutual understanding and interests, and the Qatari-American strategic dialogue reflects historical relations. Between the two countries and the alliance that was built during the previous decades". According to the joint statement issued by the two countries, the second strategic dialogue witnessed the holding of seven sessions, which included the countries discussing several areas of partnership, and the two sides signed three memorandums of understanding and a statement of intent (The second Qatari-American strategic dialogue, 2019 January 13).

2-The Gulf Crisis:-

The Gulf Crisis of 2017 was discussed. The dialogue came in light of the continuing crisis between Qatar and the four countries (Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt), which broke out with their boycott of the State of Qatar and the imposition of a blockade on it on June 5, 2017. Qatar expressed its appreciation for the constructive role that the United States of America plays in supporting the mediation efforts undertaken by the Emir of the State of Kuwait, Sabah Al-Ahmad, and the The Foreign Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Nasser Al-Sabah, to end the crisis. (Al-Malik , 2021 , P. 41-42)

3-Regional Cooperation:- The Secretary General of the Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs is "Ahmed bin Hassan Al Hammadi.", and Timothy Lenderking, US Deputy State Secretary for Arabian Peninsula and regional relationships, discussed possible mechanisms to confront regional challenges, including the Middle East's formation Strategic Alliance (MESA) between the U. S. and the United States. The United States and its partners in the Middle East (Forward together , 2019), and the two countries additionally talked about regional security, cooperative efforts to destroy the "ISIS terrorist organization," and finding a long-term resolution to conflicts and disputes in Yemen, Libya, Syria, Sudan, Afghanistan, political developments in Iraq, and the attempts to address the (Israeli) conflict. On Palestine (Badawi , 2019).

The U.S. praised the humanitarian role played by Qatar at the both multilateral and bilateral levels, via the work and activities of United Nations agencies, and its announcement to provide aid worth about \$500 million, including \$8 million annually between the years 2019-2023 to provide assistance the displaced population and assist refugees. Among the primary beneficiaries of Qatar's support are the United Nations Development Programme, UNICEF, the Special Purpose Trust Fund, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee, the World Food Program, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Department of Political Affairs, and other organizations. Other(Al-Watan newspaper ,2023).

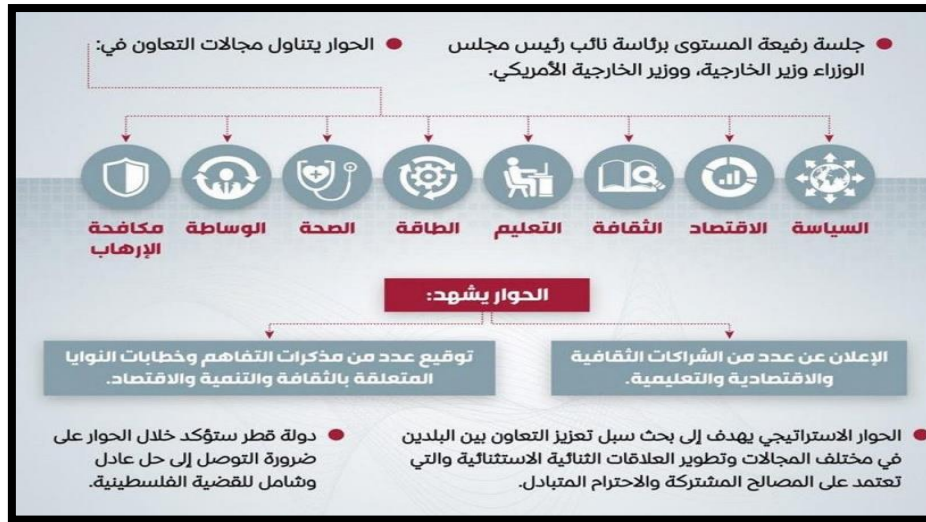
In addition to these areas, the files that were raised in the first strategic dialogue were discussed and developed. In terms of defense cooperation, Brigadier General Pilot Fahd Hamad Al-Sulaiti, “Chairman of the International Military Cooperation Authority,” and Jennifer Zakirsky, “Principal Director for Middle East Policy in the Office of the US Secretary of Defense,” participated in the dialogue sessions. On cooperation in the field of defense, as for education and culture” Ibrahim Saleh Al Nuaimi”, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, and Mary Royce, Assistant Secretary of State for Cultural and Educational Affairs in the United States” participated and signed a statement of intent to enhance cultural understanding between the two peoples. The two sides also welcomed the role of American companies in the development of Qatar. The role of Qatar’s investment in the United States in supporting companies and creating jobs in order to foster collaboration in the areas of investment, trade and energy. The two countries reviewed the positive progress on combating terrorism, including the “Joint Action Plan” for 2018 to implement provisions related to the exchange of information, border security, combating terrorist financing, and aviation security. Combating money laundering, cybersecurity, and judicial capacity building.

The third phase: The third edition of the strategic dialogue was launched in Washington on September 14 and 15, 2020. This round was chaired by the foreign ministers of Qatar and the U. S. of America, in the presence of a number of ministers and officials from both countries, to confirm the close Qatari-American partnership in a number of vital areas of cooperation, encompassing the political and economic spheres. Combating terrorism and promoting culture, education, energy, health, and mediation .The third dialogue witnessed a number of important American-Qatari initiatives, including an announcement from NASA and the Qatar Foundation for Education and Science about initial cooperation to explore desert waters, as well as memorandums of understanding for cooperation with prestigious American institutions, including Smithsonian Fulbright, to enhance cultural cooperation and develop relations in the fields of education, scientific research, and student exchange. The goal of the conversation is to explore strategies for strengthening bilateral ties and fostering outstanding cooperation between the US and Qatar in a number of areas between the two countries, which are based on mutual respect and common interests. **(CONCLUSION OF THE THIRD U.S.-QATAR STRATEGIC DIALOGUE, 2020).**

“Lulwah bint Rashid Al Khater”, the official spokeswoman for the Qatari Foreign Affairs Ministry, said: “Unlike the first and second editions of the dialogue sessions, the third strategic dialogue sheds light on cultural, economic and development relations that serve the interests of the Qatari and American peoples, as it witnessed the announcement of a several agreements in the fields of education, culture, and development, as well as the signing of several memorandums of understanding and letters of intent” and the two countries signed a declaration of intent that designated 2021 as the US-Qatari Year of Culture .(Mahdi , 2020)

The U. S. and Qatar stressed their support for security for the world's health and freedom from the dangers of infectious diseases like COVID-19, that endanger both countries' security and prosperity. Qatar indicated its commitment to providing 88 million US dollars to help more than 80 nations worldwide respond to the Covid-19 epidemic. World, the U. S. indicated its commitment to provide \$20.5 billion for the global response to the Covid-19 epidemic, and the US and Qatar intend to collaborate to enhance capacity building in risky nations by holding seminars at joint US-Qatar conferences **(Joint Statement , 2020 , P.3)** See Figure 1.

Figure (1) The Third Qatari-US Strategic Dialogue 2020



Source: Ibrahim Badawi, The launch of the Qatari-American strategic dialogue...today, Al Raya newspaper, September 14, 2020, date of visit 3-13-2024, at the link <https://www.raya.com/2020/09/14/>

-The fourth stage: In evidence of the development of the partnership and progress in joint cooperation, the fourth edition of the Qatari-American strategic dialogue was held in Washington on November 12 and 13, 2021, headed by the foreign ministers of both countries, during which several agreements were signed and a group of strategic issues and files were discussed.

1- Regional and international affairs: The Afghan issue and arrangements for protecting the United States' interests in Afghanistan and the Qatari role in this aspect and Qatari mediation and the effectiveness of Qatari performance and its results were discussed, as well as the challenges it faces in the framework of cooperation on regional issues and global affairs. They discussed exceptional teamwork. Regarding the transfer of about 60,000 American citizens, legal permanent residents, and holders of special immigrant visas, as well as vulnerable Afghans, to The US to settle through the Qatar within the framework of an official strategic partnership with the United States US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said about the Qatari role in Afghanistan. "Qatar's support for Operations at Kabul Airport have made it possible for humanitarian relief to enter Afghanistan from around the globe, including many flights from the World Health Organization that delivered vital medical supplies to almost two million Afghans. The two countries discussed political developments including Syria and the Middle East. Africa, Yemen and Palestine. (Joint Statement ,13 November 2021).

2-Human rights issues: - With regard to human rights and labor issues, both Qatar and the U.S. have recognized the progress made by Qatar in promoting labor rights and combating human trafficking. The United States also welcomed "Mohammed Hassan Al-Obaidli," Assistant Undersecretary at the Ministry of Labor, who launched The US State Department named him a "Trafficking in Persons Report Champion," and they discussed human rights and welcomed each other's election to the Human Rights Council.(Anatolia , 2021)

3- Joint commitments: Announcing the commitment of the Qatar and the U. S. to expand close cooperation between specialized security and economic agencies. As a first step, the U.S. of America unveiled the drawings of the new American embassy complex, which will be built in Qatar, and within the framework of military cooperation, security, economy, culture, education, health, and change. Climate and Trade The two countries affirmed their commitment to what was stated in the previous dialogue sessions to strengthen the strategic partnership between them and that their relationship is stronger than ever before (Al-Arab newspaper, 2021).

-The fifth stage: On November 23, 2022, the fifth edition of the joint strategic dialogue was conducted in Doha, and the foreign ministers of both countries talked about the political issues of the day and how to enhance cooperation between them. The opening session addressed 12 major regional and international issues: defense cooperation, combating terrorism, regional stability, the Ukrainian-Russian crisis, combating terrorism and human trafficking, economic cooperation, strategic investment, public health, human rights, energy efficiency, humanitarian aid, climate change, Cultural and educational exchanges, and other issues of common interest. (ALINGAL , 2022)

The research also included the trade file between the U.S. and Qatar, one of the main and important files on the discussion table throughout the conversation. Collaboration in education and the potential to increase the number of Qatari students enrolled in US universities were discussed, which contributes to strengthening the two people's' relationships. The US expressed admiration for Qatar's roles as it provided economic aid to the Palestinian people and Lebanon, and mediated peace in Chad (Qatar News Agency, 2022).

According to the Qatari Foreign Minister, The two nations talked about developments regarding Iran's nuclear program. program, the Iraqi issue, Libya, Afghanistan, and the Palestinian issue, and the US Secretary of State expressed this stage, describing it as the culmination of the American-Qatari partnership that has been going on for five decades between our two countries on every issue that concerns the two countries. (ALINGAL , Ibid.)

"The US strategic dialogue with Qatar is a model not only for the region but for the world," US Ambassador "Timmy T. Davis" reportedly stated in an interview with the Gulf Times. "The strategic dialogue will help the United States and Qatar develop a trade plan to encourage investment in both countries." "quoting the Qatar National objective 2030 and outlining how trade and commerce will enable the United States to contribute to this objective. A trade and economic cooperation session was held between the United States and Qatar on February 20, 2023, as one of the outcomes of the Fifth Strategic Dialogue in Doha. The Special Representative for Trade and Commercial Affairs at the US State Department, "Delwar Sayed," opened and chaired the session, and the delegation of the State of "Sultan bin Rashid" Al Khater, Undersecretary of the Minister of Commerce and Industry was headed The two nations addressed long-term bilateral involvement in a number of areas, including Qatari investment in the United States and investment potential for American companies in Qatar, and ways to enhance trade and economic cooperation through information technology, communications, and women's economic participation. (ALAGOS, 2022)

The sixth stage: The sixth dialogue session was held in Washington on March 5, 2024. The dialogue focused on the depth of the American-Qatari relations that lasted 50 years, starting with security, economic and technological cooperation and strengthening ties between cities and communities between the two countries. The dialogue aims to discuss the most important global developments and challenges, Foremost among these is the role of Qatari mediation and international partners in seeking to reach a permanent ceasefire in Gaza .(The peninsula , 2024).

1- Global and regional cooperation:- US and representatives from Qatar talked about important topics like Venezuela, Palestine, and Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa, Ukraine, Yemen, global humanitarian aid and development. The US Secretary "Blinken" conveyed his gratitude for Qatar's ongoing efforts in the area and its mediation efforts to secure the release of hostages and enable the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza's civilian population. The United States conveyed its appreciation to the State of Qatar for its ongoing commitment in safeguarding its citizens as well as American interests in Afghanistan. The two countries expressed their concern Regarding instability in the African continent, the deteriorating humanitarian conditions, and the continued fighting in Sudan. As for Lebanon, The two countries stressed the importance of pressuring Lebanese leaders to put an end to the crisis and carry out economic changes. The United States of America conveyed its profound gratitude to Qatar for its commitment to donate \$100 million in humanitarian help to Ukraine. (Qatari Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 6March, 2024).

2-Education and Culture:- In January 2024, the Qatari Ministry of Higher Education announced plans to increase academic, professional, and research exchanges between the two countries and to increase the enrollment of Qatari students in American higher education institutions. The two sides also signed a memorandum of understanding in 2014 to open the first "American Corner" in the State of Qatar at the Community College of Qatar.

3- Emerging technology: High-level discussions regarding emerging technology were held between the United States and Qatar. This strategic dialogue with a regional partner is the first of its type. The two sides talked on the advantages and disadvantages of artificial intelligence (AI), as well as how critical it is to create logical barriers. The two nations agreed to look into ways of deep cooperation regarding emerging technologies in order to improve global health, education, energy, food security, and fight climate change. This was done in order to expand and develop artificial intelligence in a secure and trustworthy manner. The United States of America and the State of Qatar emphasized at the end of the discussion the significance of maintaining the strategic alliance and cooperation on important issues on the regional (Embassy of the State of Qatar in Washington, March 7, 2024).

4- Trade and investment cooperation: Qatar and the U.S. focused on strong economic and trade cooperation between them and discussed areas of investment and trade exchange ,as well as strengthening collaboration in the fields of sustainable energy, critical minerals, innovation, technology, and information and communications security.

5- Partnership in combating terrorism, law enforcement and security:- Qatar and the U. S. affirmed their robust bilateral security alliance and conveyed their intention to enhance further cooperation and capabilities in the field of aviation, information exchange, border security, combating combatting terrorism, opposing violent extremism, and in order to deepen cooperation. The bilateral cooperation is in the hands of both countries in the field of law enforcement and combating terrorism. Both the Qatari Ministry of Interior and the US Federal Bureau of Investigation have resolved to execute a fresh memorandum of understanding regarding the exchange of biometric data

Thus, the American-Qatari strategic dialogue is comprehensive and brings together all areas of cooperation, partnership, and joint work that guarantees interests and achieves strategic goals. In this way, what emerges from the dialogue and its outputs of data and analysis certainly indicates that the partnerships between the two parties will continue and will include broader channels and greater strategic frameworks at an increasing pace and in detail. This indicates the depth of the mutual interdependence and also indicates a future trend towards strengthening relations, which will be strategically reflected in the American employment of the Qatari role in active issues. Which means that the partnership will continue in the future and be strengthened because the size of the relationships, interests and goals are constantly progressing and that mutual needs impose themselves within the framework of the interaction between the two parties, and this in turn establishes the foundation for a future of permanent partnerships. And analyze its outputs separately from the size of the mutual needs, interests and goals between the two parties.

Conclusion:-

The State of Qatar has excelled in demonstrating the ability, capacity, and willingness to play a regional role that contributes to the situation required by American interests, foremost of which is managing the axes of conflict formed in the region. For Qatar to be able to continue to play this role, this requires the United States to reconsider its procedures and adopt a new approach to dealing with... Despite the Qatari approach ability, the United States appears many times unable to show sufficient flexibility in formulating its foreign policy, which gives Qatar the responsibility to move with American employment.

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