ADVANCING JEWISH THOUGHT Mosaic

Can Israel Make Peace with Qatar?

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Since Israel's agreement with the United Arab Emirates was announced, there have been intermittent reports and speculation that Qatar might be the next country to follow suit—a move to be accompanied by improved relations with the U.S. This wealthy peninsular emirate occupies a strange position: friendly with Washington and home to a U.S. airbase, but at the same time supporting Islamists (including Hamas), maintaining friendly relations with Iran, and exporting anti-American and anti-Semitic propaganda through its Al Jazeera network. Doha has also allied itself with Turkey and the Muslim Brotherhood against Egypt, Bahrain, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia. Examining these complex circumstances, **Kobi Michael** and **Yoel Guzansky** try to make sense of where Israel's interests lie:

The closer ties between the UAE and Israel . . . allow the former to increase its influence in the Palestinian territories at Qatar's expense, although perhaps not in the short term. Unlike Qatar, the UAE currently lacks leverage in the Palestinian arena because it considers Hamas, an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, an enemy. In addition, the Palestinian Authority leadership is removed from the UAE, mainly due to its support for Mohammed Dahlan, a rival of Mahmoud Abbas for leadership of the PA.

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