

# Analysis The Reasons for The Drop in Violence at The Qatar Football Cup

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**Abstract.** With the slow decline of the epidemic's influence on people's lives, numerous international sporting events eventually recommenced. Within this particular framework, the Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup has progressively captured the attention of the general public. This event serves as both a recreational activity and a commemoration of liberty, athletics, and well-being. This research focuses on the examination of the fan violence community during the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, with a particular emphasis on dysfunctional fans. This report uses event review and bibliometrics as its research approach. An extensive body of existing research literature was utilized to investigate the factors contributing to the decline in fan violence during the Qatar World Cup. In the end, it was determined that the issue was connected to the British government's prohibition of passports and the implementation of widespread surveillance. Nevertheless, due to the temporal gap of one year after the occurrence and the nascent stage of the research, the derived results lack reliability.

**Keywords:** World Cup; Hooliganism; Identity Fusion; Dysfunctional Fans.

## 1. Introduction

Football research has a lengthy history. Because it is a typical recreational activity, its relevance extends far beyond traditional sports, frequently tying to politics and economics due to its competitive nature. Humans typically attach their emotions to football in order to escape tension or find satisfaction. As a result, impulsive fans will undoubtedly react to hostile behavior by players or opposition fans. In a way, it will disrupt game play by changing consumer-based service quality while consuming a certain degree of security.

Given that the majority of the population in Qatar, the country hosting the 2022 World Cup, is Muslim, there will be limited demand for alcoholic beverages during the tournament. In 1988, Robert Nash Parker and Kathleen Auerhahn discovered a strong link between alcohol consumption and violent behavior. As a result, based on the findings of Robert Nash Parker and Kathleen Auerhahn in 1998, the investigator concludes that the 2022 FIFA World Cup saw a considerable decrease in fan violence due to the restriction of alcohol when compared to prior World Cups [1]. Nonetheless, the question remains: why is there more conflict violence than in 2022 during the World Cup?

In any event, it can be said that the World Cup has steadily turned into a platform for many supporters to express their emotions, with a number of violent occurrences occurring. Thus, the subjects of the article are sports fans who attended the World Cup.

The scarcity and quality of available facts make it difficult to draw definitive judgments about football violence in Qatar and other Arab countries. The vast majority of identified sources have focused on domestic football competitions, and the findings' application to larger international events such as the 2022 World Cup is unclear. There is a significant lack of detailed statistics on the frequency and form of violence and anti-social behavior at football rallies in the region, which impedes a thorough understanding of the issue. Media coverage often highlights dramatic causes and confrontations, exaggerating the riots' scale. As a result, there is an urgent need for additional research and inquiry into the demographics of those involved in football-related violence, as well as the underlying motivations that motivate such behavior. Despite increased interest in the matter, there is still insufficient research to support the causes of violence and anti-social behavior in Qatari football matches. It is crucial to highlight that none of the assessments can give solid proof of the efficacy of programs and strategies for reducing and preventing violence and antisocial behavior in Qatar.

Although current research reveals the distribution and nature of fan violence, it appears to be gradually rising due to the atmosphere of the FIFA World Cups. Furthermore, there is a lack of prior research on the prevalence of violence among sports fans. The overarching goal of the study was to determine what variables contributed to the decrease in sports fan violence in the 2020 FIFA World Cup, taking into account the lack of violence by sports fans as well as cultural distinctiveness. To address the aforementioned issue, this article will examine the instance of Qatar and, ultimately, provide reasons and guidance.

## 2. Case Description

On November 20, 2022, the Al Bayt Stadium hosted the FIFA World Cup for the first time in the Middle East. Viewers who outperformed the global average saw the games live on air. In the following weeks, 3.4 million people packed Qatar's stadiums to witness the most goals scored in World Cup history. Naturally, the fans have pulled off one miracle after another, scoring the most goals and playing the greatest game of all time [2].

Sharia law strictly enforces alcohol control in Qatar, an Islamic country. This has also resulted in disputes between foreign fans and local Muslims, prompting the Qatari government to establish a specific drinking area for spectators, but alcohol remains rigorously controlled. Despite Qatar's comprehensive alcohol policy for the tournament, the applicable rules have not prevented violence. A group of Argentine and Mexican fans battled in Doha just ten hours before the two countries' match. A witness recounted a confrontation that started with both clubs' fans cursing each other, followed by the fans pushing each other and hurling bottles, until police officials intervened to calm the supporters. According to eyewitness accounts, around 100 people were involved in the assault [3].

There was also a fight in another group-stage game. Before the World Cup match between Iran and Wales, fans of the Iranian squad clashed. Interestingly, this is a fight among a fan base. While some supporters see the national team as a representative of Iran and paint their faces in the national flag's colors, others, who are also Iranian, fly a banner they find strange. It originated in the Kingdom of Iran before the foundation of the current Islamic Republic in 1978. Naturally, some supporters disagreed, and the two sides battled. The Qatari police confiscated some flags, primarily to maintain calm and avoid turning the football event into a political dispute. Overall, the police's fast response effectively reduced the violence. Meanwhile, Brussels, a Belgian city, saw mayhem and strife on its streets. Moroccans gathered in Brussels neighborhoods to celebrate their country's FIFA World Cup triumph over Belgium, resulting in major disturbances. Police eventually deployed tear gas and water cannons to disperse the crowd in central Brussels. According to Eddy Wax, football supporters destroyed street furniture, flung projectiles at police, and set fire to at least one automobile.

## 3. Analysis on Problems

### 3.1. Definition

Before the analysis, there are some words this paper needs to make the definition based on previous study.

Riot is defined as a tumultuous disturbance of the public peace by three or more persons assembled together and acting with a common intent. Research has found that a range of economic, political, and demographic factors appear to be associated with the occurrence of riots. In the case of football fans' riotous reactions, national politics made watching football an outlet for them to vent. In the prominence of different cultures, riots are thus formed [4].

Hooliganism is the aggressive and dysfunctional behavior by football fans, usually in the form of arranged fights, confrontations, and other aggressive behavior, used to describe extreme, illegal behavior associated with football fans [5].

Identity fusion is an extreme form of social bonding in which the boundaries between personal and group identities become porous [5]. This phenomenon leads individuals to perceive their personal

and social selves as fused, resulting in increased feelings of agency, invulnerability, and kinship in group contexts. Highly fused individuals are more likely to engage in self-sacrificial behaviors to protect and support their ingroup members when threatened. This concept has been studied in the context of football fandom to understand the psychological underpinnings of extreme fan behaviors, including football-related violence.

### **3.2. Reasons on The Decline in Fan Violence in Qatar**

One of the main reasons why violence has been reduced at the Qatar Games is that the organizers have implemented a number of rules and regulations, the most important of which is that alcohol is not allowed in the stadium.

It is worth noting that the availability and consumption of alcohol at FIFA exhibit significant variations across the region. Interestingly, this particular factor has not been extensively discussed as a catalyst for football-related violence in the region, unlike the comprehensive body of literature that has focused on European countries and their experiences with this issue [6]. References to the influence of alcohol and drugs on football violence can be found in Arabic-language sources that have been identified [3]. For example, a survey conducted in 2014 among sports professionals in Jordan indicated a prevailing belief that the occurrence of football violence in the country is closely linked to the consumption of alcohol [7].

Qatar's approach to the football market in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is, for the most part, aligned with the strategies implemented by other countries within this geographic area. It is predicated upon a multifaceted framework that takes into account the unique characteristics of Qatar, such as its distinct climate, intricate political landscape, and religious factors, which set it apart from the more dominant and established European football market.

In addition to publishing the guidelines, the Qatar tournament administrators have devised a number of incentives and penalties, as well as security precautions. All of this has helped to lessen the amount of violence in sports. In terms of rewards, Qatar uses a positive reinforcement technique to foster a more peaceful and courteous atmosphere in the stadium.

By rewarding individuals who exhibit exceptional behavior, it not only fosters sportsmanship but also inspires others to emulate it. This technique has the potential to enhance general fan behavior and contribute to a more pleasant atmosphere at football events.

Among punitive measures, applying tougher punitive efforts, such as longer bans or greater fines, serves as a stronger deterrent for persons who may be tempted to engage in such behavior. This isn't just about holding people accountable; it's also about sending a clear message that violence will not be accepted, making the event safer and more enjoyable for all spectators.

Qatar has implemented more advanced intelligent security system measures, including artificial intelligence for unmanned aircraft. Security professionals can outfit these unmanned aerial aircraft with cameras and sensors to monitor crowd behavior, identify potential threats, and provide real-time video footage. By utilizing this technology, it can have a more thorough awareness of the stadium and respond more promptly to any issues or disturbances that may arise [8].

## **4. Suggestion**

Violence and antisocial conduct during football events are widely observed phenomena across various global regions. However, an existing research gap in the FIFA Qatar research, posing a challenge in formulating an evidence-based approach for managing the upcoming 2022 World Cup. The deficiency in high-quality research further complicates efforts to develop effective strategies. Specifically, the dearth of data concerning violent and antisocial behaviors at football events in Qatar is a notable concern. The absence of extensive research in this area raises uncertainties regarding the generalizability of findings from other Islamic countries to the context of Qatar [5].

#### **4.1. Improve The Intelligence of The Identity System --- Tesser del Tifoso**

The mandatory fan ID system Tesser del Tifoso is an important part of the complex Italian Anti-Hooligan Model (CHM). Although the system emphasizes the wider impact of increasing state intervention and supervision in the field of football watching, there are still many risks of information leakage and information identification errors in the system, which are easy to lead to problems such as information leakage and abnormal matching, which may affect their civil freedom and personal freedom [9].

In the future events of the same type, a more scientific and secure information system can be upgraded and improved on the basis of this system, and the behavior of fans can be restricted through the data information system to further reduce and prevent the occurrence of violent incidents.

#### **4.2. Developing Infrastructure**

The gaming environment's quality serves as both an indication of the sports players' respect and a metric for evaluating the game's level and the spectator's experience of watching it. A setting that is comprehensive and pleasant has a beneficial impact on the mood of viewers, facilitating the reduction or organization of violence.

The Qatar World Cup has demonstrated significant commitment in this aspect, with a meticulously crafted infrastructure expansion strategy that encompasses the establishment of eight or nine state-of-the-art stadiums and enhancements to hotel amenities to effectively cater to the influx of tourists. Many industries professors regard Qatar's plan to host the World Cup as unique and impressive, as stated by most analysts. Especially, the innovative and nontraditional design of the building structure group, which incorporates the capability to convey one of the stadiums to its destination via water taxi, is highly appreciated by football fans and aficionados [10].

Hence, it is possible for large-scale competitions to incorporate a range of design and management strategies inside the venue amenities and event environment, thereby enhancing the spectators' experience through external environmental stimuli.

### **5. Conclusion**

This study examines the Qatar World Cup as a case study to investigate strategies for mitigating violence during the tournament, taking into account the post-epidemic context. This research examines the factors contributing to the decrease in violence during the Qatar World Cup and suggests effective strategic measures to mitigate violence in major tournaments, drawing on existing studies. This serves as a point of reference for forthcoming events of significant magnitude.

The Qatari government has undertaken substantial measures to address consumer demand and mitigate any social unrest during the Qatar World Cup. Nevertheless, given the nascent stage of research in this field, evaluating the efficacy of these endeavors is a formidable task. The existing body of literature suggests that the investigation of this subject is currently in its nascent phase, characterized by a scarcity of survey replication and sample techniques.

In the future, researchers might look into using a wider range of large-scale events, more sample models and data, and quantitative analytical methods to learn more about what causes violent incidents to happen less often and how to stop them, as well as the programs and interventions that go with them.

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