

This PDF was generated on 18/01/2022 from online resources of the **Qatar Digital Library**

The online record can be viewed at:

http://www.gdl.ga/en/archive/81055/vdc 10000000833.0x0003cc

It contains extra information, high resolution zoomable views and transcriptions.

'El Katr, 1908-1916'

Holding Institution British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers

Reference IOR/L/PS/18/B402

Date(s) 5 Sep 1928 (CE, Gregorian)

Written in English in Latin

Extent and Format 1 file (1 folio)

Copyright for document Open Government Licence



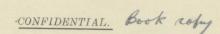
About this record

Memorandum covering: the status and governance of El Katr [Qatar], relations with His Majesty's Government, and treaties with and affecting El Katr during the period 1908-28.

Written by John Gilbert Laithwaite of the India Office.

'El Katr, 1908-1916' [52r] (1/2)





INDIA OFFICE B. 402. P 4804/28.

EL KATR, 1908-16.

1. The El Katr (or Qatar) Peninsula, which is governed by the Sheikhs of the Thani family, lies south of Ojair, in the district of Qatif, the most southernly point to which, with the exception of Koweit, His Majesty's Government prior to the War of 1914 recognised continuous Turkish influence. It lies, on the other hand, north of El Odeid, to which the Trucial Sheikh of Abu Dhabi was allowed to assert his rights of possession in 1878, and which prior to 1916 formed the western boundary of the territories of the Trucial Sheikhs. The status of the Peninsula formed the subject of lengthy discussion in the period prior to 1908, details of which will be found in the Foreign Office Memorandum of 1908.

2. The vexed question of the status of El Katr was finally disposed of in the Anglo-Turkish negotiations of 1912–14. Under the unratified Anglo-Turkish Convention of 29th July 1913, the Ottoman Government renounced all rights to the Peninsula, which was, as in the past, to continue to be governed by the Sheikhs of the Thani family, while His Majesty's Government engaged not to permit the Sheikh of Bahrein to interfere in the internal affairs of El Katr, to threaten its autonomy or to annex it. A supplementary article reserved the rights of the inhabitants of Bahrein to visit the island of Zakhnuniyah for fishing purposes, as in the past. Zakhnuniyah for fishing purposes, as in the past.

3. A new situation arose with the conquest of Hasa by Ibn Saud in the course of 1913. El Katr, like the Oman coast, formed, in his view, part of his ancestral domains, to which he could therefore prefer a claim as of right. But the Amir was warned at the end of the year that non-interference with El Katr was a condition of the maintenance of friendly relations with His Majesty's Government, † and no difficulty in consequence arose. The conclusion of a formal treaty between El Katr and His Majesty's Government, this which, other considerations apart, was in the immediately pre-war period of much importance in connection with the arms traffic, was postponed until the final ratification of the Anglo-Turkish Convention, and so had not been disposed of on the outbreak of the European War. disposed of on the outbreak of the European War.

4. In common with the rulers of the other States in the Gulf, the Sheikh § Lr. from Pol. Res. of El Katr was notified by the Political Resident of the outbreak of war with Sept. 1 1914, P. 4140, Turkey in November 1914, § and throughout the period of the war maintained 4302.

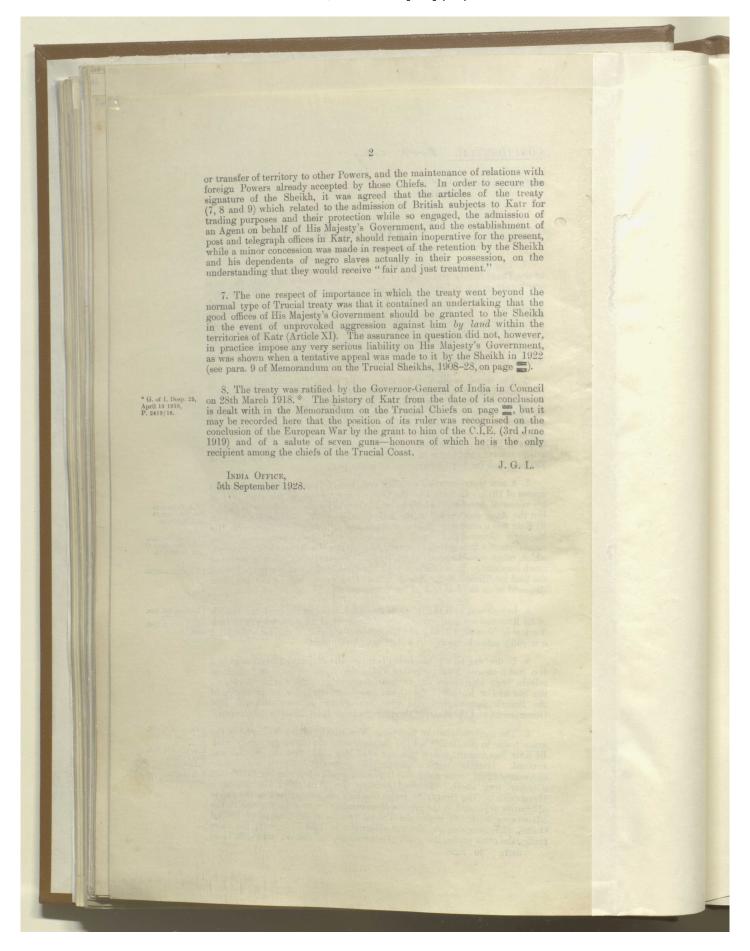
5. Under the treaty concluded between His Majesty's Government and Ibn Saud on the 26th December 1915, the Ruler of Nejd undertook to refrain from aggression on, or interference with, "the territories of . . . the Sheikhs of Katr and the Oman coast, who are under the protection of the British Government, and who have treaty relations with the said Government, and the limits of their territories shall be hereafter determined."

6. The outbreak of the European War, which led to a falling off in the arms traffic in the Gulf, rendered the conclusion of a definitive treaty with P. El Katr less urgent, and it was not until May 1915 || that the question was revived. Lengthy negotiation proved necessary before a satisfactory agreement could be reached, and it was not until 3rd November 1916 || that a treaty was finally concluded between the Sheikh and His Majesty's Government. The treaty, the terms of which are summarised in the precise of treaties appended to the present Memorandum, secured to the Sheikh the advantages conferred under the Trucial treaties on the Sheikhs of Trucial Oman, while imposing on him the obligations in regard to piracy, the slave traffic, the arms traffic, the grant of concessions, the cession, sale, gift, lease



'El Katr, 1908-1916' [52v] (2/2)





Reference: IOR/L/PS/18/B402. Copyright for this page: Open Government Licence

View on the Qatar Digital Library: http://www.qdl.qa/en/archive/81055/vdc_100029521419.0x0000003