



# **The 2022 World Cup. Geopolitical issues and tensions.**

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**Geopolitics of Europe in a Changing World**

## Summary

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## INTRODUCTION:

Football is the most popular sport in the World. Indeed, football is the sport that brings people together and has the most impact at the international level<sup>1</sup>. This enormous impact was the first objective of Qatar for the 2022 World Cup. Qatar participation in the biggest event of the world offers an enormous opportunity to showcase their country internationally. However, this had the opposite effect for Qatar because this World Cup turn out to be a scandal in the eyes of the other countries.

### I. Problems of the 2022 World Cup

The 2022 world cup is the most criticized world cup in the history. The decision to hold the World Cup in Qatar was made by the FIFA in 2010 in Europe, but the decisions-makers had no idea of the ecological disaster and human tragedy would entail. Indeed, these two points are the biggest problem of this World Cup. According to estimates, for the total duration of the event, CO2 emissions are expected to reach over 3.6 million tons of CO2<sup>2</sup>, a World Cup record. In addition, many foreign workers (mostly from South Asia and Africa) died during the construction of the stadiums. According to official sources, at least 6500<sup>3</sup> people have died. Furthermore, Qatar is a country where human rights are very controlled: LGBT + people risk prison, freedom of speech is limited, and the rights of women are clearly inferior to those of men.

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<sup>1</sup> "The Routledge Handbook of European Integrations", 2021, Chapter 3 "Football and European Integrations"

<sup>2</sup> L'équipe, 16/11/2022, "QATAR L'ERANCE D'ARABIE"

<sup>3</sup> Le Monde, 14/11/2022, "Qatar 2022 : pourquoi il est très difficile d'estimer le nombre de morts liés aux chantiers de la coupe du monde", [https://www.lemonde.fr/les-decodeurs/article/2022/11/14/qatar-2022-pourquoi-il-est-tres-difficile-d-estimer-le-nombre-de-morts-lies-aux-chantiers-de-la-coupe-du-monde\\_6149784\\_4355770.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/les-decodeurs/article/2022/11/14/qatar-2022-pourquoi-il-est-tres-difficile-d-estimer-le-nombre-de-morts-lies-aux-chantiers-de-la-coupe-du-monde_6149784_4355770.html)

## II. Boycott and geopolitical problems

In this context, all these problems are denounced by the countries of the whole world and in particular by Western European countries. For instance, Football Danmark<sup>4</sup> team supports LGBT +, women and other causes concerned with human rights. For this, the desire to wear a “Human Rights for All” jersey was significant. However, FIFA is not in agreement with this and have strictly prohibited all teams from wearing shirts defending this type of cause. France and the Germany are two other examples. Indeed, these two countries have decided to not broadcast the matches on a giant screen in fan zone. Berlin, Paris, Strasbourg, Marseille<sup>5</sup>... have decided to boycott this World Cup. These decisions are a very strong message sent by two of the greatest European powers.

### CONCLUSION:

To conclude, Western European countries are those who oppose the World Cup is such an important event that it can cause tension like between Europe and Qatar. In my opinion, it's better that the World Cup takes place in a “land of football” like Brazil, England, or France. It's a shame to award the World Cup to a country like Qatar and this decision probably hides corruption between Qatar and FIFA.

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<sup>4</sup> Ouest France, 14/11/2022, “Le Danemark a décidé de se concentrer sur le foot” <https://www.ouest-france.fr/sport/coupe-du-monde/coupe-du-monde-2022-le-danemark-a-decide-de-se-concentrer-sur-le-foot-selon-le-selectionneur-3c1a8524-6466-11ed-9eef-273910f6f2a4>

<sup>5</sup> Le Monde, 14/11/2022, “Mondial 2022 au Qatar : L'indignation de l'occident ne s'étend pas au reste du monde” [https://www.lemonde.fr/sport/article/2022/11/14/mondial-2022-au-qatar-des-polemiques-a-geographie-variable\\_6149710\\_3242.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/sport/article/2022/11/14/mondial-2022-au-qatar-des-polemiques-a-geographie-variable_6149710_3242.html)

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