

# Aff

We Affirm

## Our Sole Contention is ending the war

**Alley of the CFR 15** explains The Yemeni War started in 2003 when the Houthis, a political and religious movement, took up arms against the oppressive Hadi government. **Thrall in 2018** reports for the last 4 years, arm sales from US to Saudi Arabia have led to the world's worst humanitarian crisis, with 50,000 deaths and 2.3 million Yemenis being displaced.

Every day this gets worse. **Almasdar News five days ago** reports Saudi led airstrikes targeted several Houthi bases. **Arab weekly yesterday** furthers the Houthis have continued their recent bombings of the Hodeidah port.

Moreover, Diplomacy has not worked as **The Arab weekly last week** reports recent UN brokered meetings between the two sides are yielding no results.

**Mckernan of the Guardian three weeks ago** reports the UN-brokered ceasefire agreed upon in December has collapsed as both sides have continued to bomb the region. **Reuters confirms last week** troops have not pulled out of the region and aid workers cannot access the crucial port city of Hodeidah.

Fueling this conflict is American weapons as **Caverley of the NY Times in 2018** quantifies more than 60 percent of Saudi Arabia's arms have come from the US. Instead, this has only harmed negotiation efforts by radicalizing the otherwise moderate Houthis. **Riedel of Brookings 17** explains the Houthis were radicalized in 2003 when the Hadi government supported the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Thus, continued intervention only fuels the Houthi narrative of being the victims of U.S. imperialism. **Leaf of War on the Rocks 18** explains the Houthis are currently factionalized and prepared to negotiate, however, indiscriminate Saudi bombings empower radical Houthis while converting moderates, extending the war indefinitely. Thankfully, ending arm sales will pave the way towards progress in three ways.

First is ending air strikes

**Riedel of Brookings in 2018** finds the Saudi Air Force completely depends on American support for its fleet, meaning a halt to US arms sales would end Saudi's air-campaigns. Indeed, **Rogin of the Washington Post 18** continues Saudi's current actions require a constant flow of US munitions, intelligence, and maintenance support. **Caverley furthers** alternative sellers such as China and Russia have never produced the sophisticated aircrafts that Saudi Arabia currently imports from the US. Thus, if the US were to end arm sales, it would decommission Saudi's military for an entire generation. **Beaumont of The Guardian in 2018** finds civilian

deaths in the Yemen conflict have increased by 164% recently, claiming the lives of 166 people a month.

This allows for negotiations as **Al Jazeera in 2019** writes that Houthi rebels have said they will freeze military operations on all fronts in order to reach a peaceful agreement if Saudi Arabia were prepared to do the same. This is why **Feltman of Foreign Affairs in 2018** concludes that the best way to end the war in Yemen is to stop Saudi Arabia's military campaigns unilaterally.

Second pivoting away from Iran

**Johnsen of Security 18** explains, when Saudi Arabia ramps up their aggression, the Houthis seek more support from Iran. However, **Stratford 18** confirms Iran has an incentive to prolong the fighting because it allows them create a proxy militia next to Saudi Arabia. Thankfully, **Leaf** continues the Houthis are increasingly willing to break stride with Iran, because their relationship with Iran is built out of perceived Saudi Aggression. Thus, ending the current aggression will pivot the Houthis away from Iranian influence.

Third is ending political support.

**Bazzi of The Atlantic in 2018** articulates that Saudi Arabia has become emboldened by the Trump administration's unconditional support in stalling negotiations and perpetuating an unwinnable war. As a result, there has been little incentive for negotiations as long as the US remains involved. Specifically, **Thrall in 2017** explains that arming Saudi Arabia emboldens hardliners in the Saudi government, encouraging them to pursue military confrontations because they believe that they have a chance to win the war through brute force and violence over negotiations. Thankfully, **Caverly of the New York Times 18** concludes cutting off the flow of American weapons would effectively cause a change in Saudi policy to negotiations.

Overall, **Hamdani 15** warrants that you can't kill an ideology with sheer firepower. Thus **Gargash, UAE State Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2018** concludes negotiations offer the best chance to end the current crisis. Ending the conflict soon is necessary as the **United Nations** reports 14 million civilians are on the brink of starvation.

Thus we affirm