

AFFIRM!

CFL Stuff

Ridge affirms (Resolved: The US should halt all arms sales to Saudi Arabia).

Our First Contention is a Middle Eastern Arms Race

[AsiaNews 18](#) reports that arms sales to Saudi Arabia have fueled panic by countries all across the middle east as they see an increasingly aggressive, assertive, and powerful Saudi Arabia fueled by US arms. As a result, the Middle East has plunged into an arms race with The Guardian indicating that [spending on militaries across the region reaching an all time high](#) in 2018 due to countries such as Israel, Iran, and Saudi Arabia.

This is extremely problematic as countries across the middle east Such as [Saudi Arabia and Qatar](#), or [Saudi Arabia and Iran](#) have historic deep rooted rivalries, which an excess of military spending and aggression could cause to spark into warfare. Indeed, by increasing aggression and making geopolitical systems more fragile, [Rider of Texas Tech University](#) empirically finds that arms races increase the chance of war by 331%.

Our Second Contention is Amputation

[Walsh 18 of The New York Times](#) indicates that the current war in Yemen has no escape. Fighter jets commanded by Saudi Arabia, armed with American weapons and bombs, have hit weddings, funerals and school busses. Saudi Warships destroy anything off the Yemeni coast, from fishermen to traders.

Halting arms sales allows us to end this war in 2 ways.

Subpoint A: Smothering The Fire

[The Guardian 18](#) reports that many of the weapons that the US sells Saudi Arabia which includes dozens of F-15 fighter jets, Patriot missile-defense systems, Apache attack helicopters, hundreds of armored vehicles and thousands of bombs and missiles are all being used to inflict massive civilian casualties in yemen.

These weapons are the lifeblood for Saudi Arabia's war in yemen as [Tufts University](#) indicates that more than 2/3rds of Saudi Arabia's aircraft and most of their munitions come from the united states of America, concluding that without continual US weapons arms sales and support Saudi Arabia would find it very hard to continue the war in Yemen.

Subpoint B: Sending a Message

[Caverley 18 of the New York Times](#) reports that Saudi Arabia really needs US arms - indeed, 60 percent of its arms deliveries over the past five years came from the United States. The Saudi military relies on American tanks, planes and missiles as well as a daily supply of maintenance, training and support, such as intelligence and refueling from America.

As a result, Caverley concludes that the best way to pressure Saudi Arabia is by cutting off its weapons supply, it is the only signal that they will listen to in order to change their behavior.

[McDonnell of The LL Institute](#) concludes that cutting off arms sales is the best way to send a message to the entirety of the middle east that human rights violations and the perpetuation of conflicts like Yemen simply will not be tolerated.

The impact of ending the war in Yemen is twofold

First - Ending The Crisis

[The Washington Post 18](#) reports that the war has prevented vital food and water resources from reaching Yemen, the instability along the vital shipping lane in the area has put global trade at risk, and a lack of antibiotics has directly lead to a devastating cholera outbreak, which is why 22 million people have been put at risk of starvation due to the conflict. All in all, [Fang of the Intercept](#) quantifies that the conflict in Yemen has killed over 10,000 civilians, creating one of the worst humanitarian crises of the century.

Second - Inhibiting Terrorism

[Wilderson](#) writes that al-Qaeda's Yemeni branch, or AQAP, is thriving off state collapse and sectarianism in the Yemeni Civil War, and the Saudi coalition is even [openly supporting](#) them in order to hurt the Houthis. In fact, the [SouFan Group](#) quantifies that the military campaigns in Yemen have resulted in a quadrupling of AQAP's strength, and they are now operating at 4,000 members strong as of two years ago. Alarming, Wilkerson concludes that AQAP serves an even more direct threat to the US than ISIS, because it specifically seeks to bring down major US airliners and has nearly succeeded twice.

Contention 3: American Hatred

[Victoria Liu 18 of Georgetown](#) indicates that US arms sales to Saudi Arabia has lead to people across the middle east blaming Saudi aggression and human rights abuses on America, she furthers that terrorists manipulate this rhetoric to end up advancing their cause and gain support. Unfortunately, [The Heritage Foundation](#) indicates that anti American sentiment amplifies the rallying cries for terrorists and makes them more powerful.

Insomnia Cookies

Ridge affirms (Resolved: The US should halt all arms sales to Saudi Arabia).

Contention 1: Halting Instigation

[The National Interest 18](#) reports that Saudi Arabia wants to drag the United States back into the Middle East in order for Washington to reestablish its military dominance in favor of Saudi Arabia. In order to do this, Saudi Arabia wants to create a permanent state of conflict between America and Iran. What this means is that Saudi Arabia wants more conflict with Iran, and wants more tension to get America's attention.

Indeed, [Kinzer of Politico](#) indicates that Saudi Arabia has been manufacturing crises against and picking fights with Tehran in order to force America to finally choose a side and make a move against Iran. For example, Saudi Arabia cut all foreign ties with Iran in 2016, and even the entire Yemen conflict is meant to combat Iranian influence. Luckily, ending arms sales disincentivizes Saudi Arabia from continuing its manufactured aggression.

Time Magazine 18 explains that the removal of US arms sales sends the ultimate message to Saudi Arabia that America fundamentally no longer wishes to protect them or defend their alliance, destroying any point in increasing American influence in the middle east. Moreover, Tufts University 18 finds that if Arms sales end, Saudi Arabia literally wouldn't have the capability to instigate any new conflict, as the vast majority of their weapons and armament capabilities come from America.

This is crucial, as USNews reports that there are no lines of communication between America and Iran or Saudi Arabia and Iran, making it very easy for small skirmishes or clashes to escalate into full out conflict. Indeed, the Atlantic 18 writes that if America was ever forced to intervene against Iran, high tensions would make it very easy for a war to break out, which would kill millions of people

Contention 2: Shifting Alliances

[Weise 18 of Politico](#) indicates that Turkey and Saudi Arabia are facing an ever growing rivalry in the middle east, as they have clashed over rival interests and competed for influence in the region. However, while they have been fighting with each other more and more, they are both still allies of the United States of America. **This can no longer continue.** Indeed, [Davison 18 of UC Berkeley](#) indicates that America must make a choice - it can either continue the alliance with Saudi Arabia or continue with Turkey.

However, [Reuters 18](#) indicates that the fact that America did not take any action against Saudi Arabia after the killing of Jamal Khashoggi has symbolized that we have chosen the Saudis over the Turks, which is why for the first time the [Jpost](#) finds that Turkey has begun to criticize America, and [Gulf News](#) reports that the US Turkish relationship is in free fall with Turkey sending signals that it will be looking to other countries instead of the US to forge new alliances.

Luckily, [Caverley 18 of the New York Times](#) writes that halting arms sales to Saudi Arabia will send a real signal that America disapproves of their behavior and no longer supports them, making sure that turkey gets a very clear message that America does not choose Saudi Arabia. **Turkey is a preferable ally to Saudi Arabia when it comes to deterring Iran.** [Hokayem 18 of the New York Times](#) explains that Saudi Arabia has absolutely no idea how to deal with Iran, and is outclassed by Iran on every level when it comes to strategy, patience, and tactical capabilities.

Meanwhile [Singh 18 of Foreign policy](#) indicates that Turkey is the best country in the middle east to balance against iran due to its geographic location, greater military capabilities, and overall influence in the region, but can only do so if backed by the power of the United States. Indeed, [Cinar 18 of RCW](#) finds that the only way to prevent Iran from destabilizing the middle east is with a US-Turkey alliance.

This is critical as [The Crisis Group 18](#) finds that Iran's primary goal in the middle east is to maximize power, which is why Mark 18 of Louisiana University finds that the last time US power relative to Iran in the middle east declined back in 2007, Iran used the opportunity to ramp up weapons exports and terrorist support, killing tens of thousands and igniting conflict across the region.

Contention 3: American Hatred

[Victoria Liu 18 of Georgetown](#) indicates that US arms sales to Saudi Arabia has led to people across the middle east blaming Saudi aggression and human rights abuses on America, she furthers that terrorists manipulate this rhetoric to end up advancing their cause and gain support. Unfortunately, [The Heritage Foundation](#) indicates that anti American sentiment amplifies the rallying cries for terrorists and makes them more powerful.

[The Brookings Institute](#) --- Turkey wants to deter IRan

<https://www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/2018/08/27/in-familiar-dance-turkey-warms-to-russia-as-us-ties-unravel/>

Associated Press -- Turkey shifting to Russia as ties w US falter

[FPIF](#) → Turkey wants to forge alliance w Russia + Iran because US relations down

NDF Hire Me Plz

Ridge affirms (Resolved: The US should halt all arms sales to Saudi Arabia).

Our first contention is Ending The War.

[The Washington Post 18](#) Indicates that the Saudi led war in Yemen has killed 50,000 people. The UN indicates that 24 million people - close to 80% of the population - are in need of direct aid because the conflict has destroyed clean water infrastructure, limited food, and limited healthcare. **Fortunately, ending arms sales helps us end the conflict in 3 ways.**

First, disincentivizing militarism. [Thrall of Newsweek finds in 2017](#) that by selling Saudi Arabia weapons, the United States has emboldened war hawks in the Saudi government to pursue more militaristic options rather than looking towards diplomatic solutions. As a result, [Bapat of the University of North Carolina explains in 2011](#) that US military aid uniquely causes receiving regimes to quote: “to become less democratic more repressive more belligerent toward their neighbors.” [Skyrocketing the length of the conflict by 67%.](#)

Second, by bringing peacemakers to the table. [Dorsey 19 of ModernDiplomacy](#) indicates that Saudi Arabia has been very explicit that if America Damages the alliance, Saudi Arabia will turn away from the United States and to Russia. [Alkadil 18 of AlJazeera](#) concludes that if America cuts off arms sales Saudi Arabia will forge an alliance with Russia. [Russia is critical for peace in the region.](#) [Fenton-Harvey of the New Arab explains in March](#) that Russia has quote, “positioned itself as a leading mediator in the crisis because they have bilateral (issues) like energy deals in Saudi Arabia, but also provide aid to the Houthi rebels.” History proves this right. [Picard of the Yemen Peace Project contends in March](#) that Russia supported South Yemen in the 1967 war while retaining good ties with the North, which is why it could facilitate talks and end the conflict entirely. Russia has been successful recently as well. [Ramani of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace articulates in October](#) that Russia has been able to de escalate tensions between the Hadi government and Southern rebels underscoring their efficacy as a mediator. [Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov](#) confirms that Russia aims to end the Yemen crisis by quote, “moving from a political military scenario to a political diplomatic dialog.”

Third, halting militarism. It is US arms sales fueling this conflict on every single level. For example, [Ridel 18 of the Brookings institute](#) indicates that without spare parts from the US the Saudi Air Force which has killed [16.000 civilians](#) would instantly be grounded. Moreover, a [Marine Corps assessment](#) finds that without US arms sales the Saudi Navy would break apart as its fleet wouldn't have the necessary support for maintenance and logistics, the same fleet which [Reuters](#) indicates is blockading yemen, reducing food and vaccine shipments [killing 150,000 children](#) in months.

Contention 2: Terror

[Victoria Liu 18 of Georgetown](#) indicates that US arms sales to Saudi Arabia has lead to people across the middle east blaming Saudi aggression and human rights abuses on America, she

further that terrorists manipulate this rhetoric to end up advancing their cause and gain support. Unfortunately, [The Heritage Foundation](#) indicates that anti American sentiment amplifies the rallying cries for terrorists and makes them more powerful. On net, [Diwan of The Hoover Institute](#) indicates that US arms sales make terrorism worse and costs more innocent lives.

Contention 3: Halting Instigation

[The National Interest 18](#) reports that Saudi Arabia wants to drag the United States back into the Middle East in order for Washington to reestablish its military dominance in favor of Saudi Arabia. In order to do this, Saudi Arabia wants to create a permanent state of conflict between America and Iran.

[Kinzer of Politico](#) indicates that Saudi Arabia has been manufacturing crises and picking. Luckily, ending arms sales disincentivizes Saudi Arabia from continuing its manufactured aggression. Time Magazine 18 explains that the removal of US arms sales sends the ultimate message to Saudi Arabia that America fundamentally no longer wishes to protect them or defend their alliance, destroying any point in increasing American influence in the middle east.

This is crucial, as USNews reports that there are no lines of communication between America and Iran or Saudi Arabia and Iran, making it very easy for small skirmishes or clashes to escalate into full out conflict. Indeed, the Atlantic 18 writes that if America was ever forced to intervene against Iran, high tensions would make it very easy for a war to break out, which would kill millions of people

Our Sole Contention is Geopolitics.

American Arms Sales Enable conflict in the middle east for three reasons

First --- The Cold War

[Thrall 18 of The Cato Institute](#) indicates that arms sales often create tension, whether because the American role in the region threatens others or because American clients feel emboldened. Indeed, [Goldenberg 18 of Foreign Policy](#) finds that US support of Saudi Arabia through arms sales a) gives Saudi Arabia the perception it can do whatever it wants and act with impunity because it will always be backed by the world's most powerful nation and b) gives Iran the perception that its historical rival - [America - is a western imperialist power meddling in the region.](#)

This means that on net arms sales both make Saudi Arabia and Iran more aggressive. This is critical, as [The Guardian](#) indicates that Iranian - Saudi Arabia aggression fuels all conflict in the middle east through the proxy war they engage in to gain more power, citing their aggression as the root cause behind conflicts in areas like Syria and Yemen where hundreds of thousands of people have died.

Second --- The Forgotten War

[The Washington Post 18](#) Indicates that the Saudi led war in Yemen has killed 50,000 people and put 8 million on the brink of starvation. It is US arms sales fueling this conflict on every single level. For example, [Ridel 18 of the Brookings institute](#) indicates that without spare parts from the US the Saudi Air Force which has killed [16,000 civilians](#) would instantly be grounded. Moreover, a [Marine Corps assessment](#) finds that without US arms sales the Saudi Navy would break apart as its fleet wouldn't have the necessary support for fleet maintenance and logistics, the same fleet which [Reuters](#) indicates is blockading yemen, reducing food and vaccine shipments [killing 150,000 children](#) in months.

Third --- The Arms War

[AsiaNews 18](#) reports that arms sales to Saudi Arabia have fueled panic by countries all across the middle east as they see an increasingly aggressive, assertive, and powerful Saudi Arabia fueled by US arms. As a result, the Middle East has plunged into an arms race with The Guardian indicating that [spending on militaries across the region reaching an all time high](#) in 2018 due to countries such as Israel, Iran, and Saudi Arabia.

This is extremely problematic as countries across the middle east Such as [Saudi Arabia and Qatar](#), or [Saudi Arabia and Iran](#) have historic deep rooted rivalries, which an excess of military spending and aggression could cause to spark into warfare. Indeed, by increasing aggression

and making geopolitical systems more fragile, [Rider of Texas Tech University](#) empirically finds that arms races increase the chance of war by 331%.

Contention 2: Stabilization.

Ending Arms Sales Stabilizes The Middle East for 3 reasons.

First --- Stopping Terror

[Victoria Liu 18 of Georgetown](#) indicates that US arms sales to Saudi Arabia has lead to people across the middle east blaming Saudi aggression and human rights abuses on America, she furthers that terrorists manipulate this rhetoric to end up advancing their cause and gain support. Unfortunately, [The Heritage Foundation](#) indicates that anti American sentiment amplifies the rallying cries for terrorists and makes them more powerful. On net, [Diwant of The Hoover Institute](#) indicates that US arms sales make terrorism worse and costs more innocent lives.

Third --- Halting Instigation

[The National Interest 18](#) reports that Saudi Arabia is [continually provoking conflict](#) and aggressing against Iran in hopes that it will eventually get America's attention to force the US back to the middle east to deal with Iran. Luckily, Time Magazine indicates that ending arms sales would finally send the message to Saudi Arabia that America is no longer going to support it, and that its aggression will do nothing but hurt itself. This is critical as USNews reports that the lack of communication lines means that small acts of aggression can quickly spiral into war between the Saudis and iran, killing millions.

Bronx V2

Ridge affirms (Resolved: The US should halt all arms sales to Saudi Arabia).

Our Sole Contention is The Forgotten War

Bazzi of New York University indicates that the war in Yemen has become the world's worst humanitarian crisis. **Ending arms sales reduces the severity of the war in the short term in 3 ways.**

First --- Smashing Strength

It is US arms sales fueling this conflict on every single level. For example, [Ridel 18 of the Brookings institute](#) indicates that without spare parts from the US the Saudi Air Force which has killed [16,000 civilians](#) would instantly be grounded. Moreover, a [Marine Corps assessment](#) finds that without US arms sales the Saudi Navy would break apart as its fleet wouldn't have the necessary support for fleet maintenance and logistics, the same fleet which [Reuters](#) indicates is blockading Yemen, reducing food and vaccine shipments [killing 150,000 children](#) in months.

Second --- Bending Beliefs

[Bulos of the LA Times](#) quantifies in June that US weaponry is behind all 17,000 airstrikes committed by the Saudi-led coalition. But even worse, [Bazzi continues](#) that instead of using arms sales as leverage, the US has provided unconditional support for Saudi actions through arms sales have eliminated any incentive to negotiate or prevent civilian casualties because they believe so long as America gives them support they can win any war.

Third --- Promoting Pacifism

[Thrall of Newsweek finds in 2017](#) that by selling Saudi Arabia weapons, the United States has emboldened war hawks in the Saudi government to pursue more militaristic options rather than looking towards diplomatic solutions. As a result, [Bapat of the University of North Carolina explains in 2011](#) that US military aid uniquely causes receiving regimes to quote: "to become less democratic, more repressive, and more belligerent toward their neighbors." [Skyrocketing the length of the conflict by 67%.](#)

[The Washington Post 18](#) Indicates that the Saudi led war in Yemen has killed 50,000 people. The UN indicates that 24 million people - close to 80% of the population - are in need of direct aid because the conflict has destroyed clean water infrastructure, limited food, and limited healthcare. **Luckily, ending arms sales not only reduces the severity of the war, it ends the war in two distinct ways in the long term.**

Subpoint A: No Means No!

[Caverley 18 of the New York Times](#) reports that Saudi Arabia really needs US arms - indeed, 60 percent of its arms deliveries over the past five years came from the United States. The Saudi military relies on American tanks, planes and missiles as well as a daily supply of maintenance, training and support, such as intelligence and refueling from America.

As a result, Caverley concludes that the best way to pressure Saudi Arabia is by cutting off its weapons supply, it is the only signal that they will listen to in order to change their behavior.

[McDonnell of The LL Institute](#) concludes that cutting off arms sales is the best way to send a message to the entirety of the middle east that human rights violations and the perpetuation of conflicts like Yemen simply will not be tolerated.

Subpoint B: Diplomacy, Soviet Style

[Dorsey 19 of ModernDiplomacy](#) indicates that Saudi Arabia has been very explicit that if America Damages the alliance Saudi Arabia will turn away from the United States and to Russia. [Alkadil 18 of AlJazeera](#) finds that if America cuts off arms sales Saudi Arabia will forge an alliance with Russia and increase their influence in areas like Yemen.

Even though Stratfor finds that it would take Saudi Arabia up to a decade to shift to Russian weapons, and Saudi Arabia's asymmetric capabilities like its air force and navy would still be destroyed if the US ended arms sales, Saudi Arabia signaling a shift gives the russians an open door into Yemen.

A shift to Russia is very good. [Fenton of the New Arab explains](#) that Russia has quote, "positioned itself as a leading mediator in the crisis because they have bilateral (issues) like energy deals in Saudi Arabia, but also provide aid to the Houthi rebels. History is on our side, as Fenton indicates that it was Russia who intervened and ended the last yemeni civil war in 1967 by acting as a mediator.

These short term incentives will ultimately lead to peace, as [Bazzi 18 of the Atlantic](#) finds that Saudi Arabia is likely to go through with negotiations absent US weapons. Unfortunately, because of US arms and the resulting Saudi Arabian aggression, [Abdulkareem of MPN News](#) finds that Saudi Arabia has no incentive for peace, as they broke the last ceasefire with unprovoked ground invasions and air strikes.

Montvillian Affirmative

We affirm (Resolved: The US should halt all arms sales to Saudi Arabia).

Contention 1: Halting The Marathon of Death.

[AsiaNews](#) reports that arms sales to Saudi Arabia have fueled panic by countries all across the middle east as they see an increasingly powerful Saudi Arabia fueled by US arms, plunging the middle east into an arms race with The Guardian indicating that [spending on militaries across the region are reaching an all time high](#) by nations like Israel and Iran. Tragically, by increasing aggression and making geopolitical systems more fragile, [Rider of Texas Tech University](#) empirically finds that arms races increase the chance of war by 331%.

Contention 2: Stopping the Haters.

[Victoria Liu of Georgetown](#) indicates that US arms sales to Saudi Arabia has lead to people across the middle east blaming Saudi aggression on America, finding that terrorists manipulate this rhetoric to end up advancing their cause and gain support, increasing destruction.

Contention 3: Yeeting Out of Yemen.

5 years ago, tired of being persecuted and marginalized by government corruption, the Houthis of Yemen revolted against their tyrannical rulers. However, rather than seizing control for themselves, the Houthis decided to negotiate a political settlement that would give every group in Yemen recognition and a place in government.

But when all looked well, the situation in Yemen quickly destabilized and rather than a lasting peace the nation spiraled into one of the worst wars in human history. This is because, just as the negotiations were reaching their finale Saudi Arabia decided to intervene and invaded Yemen sparking the greatest humanitarian disaster in the past 75 years.

[The Washington Post](#) contextualizes that the Saudi led war in Yemen has put 24 million people - close to 80% of the Yemeni population in need of direct aid because the conflict has destroyed clean water infrastructure, limited food, and eliminated healthcare.

Tragically, It is US arms sales fueling this conflict on every single level. [Caverley 18 of the New York Times](#) explains that 60 percent of Saudi arms deliveries over the past five years came from the United States. The Saudi military relies on American tanks, planes and missiles as well as a daily supply of maintenance, training and support, such as intelligence and refueling from America, **concluding that without American arms sales Saudi Arabia cannot continue the war in Yemen.**

For example, [Ridel 18 of the Brookings institute](#) indicates that without spare parts from the US the Saudi Air Force would instantly be grounded. The same Saudi air force which has already killed 16,000 civilians. Moreover, The Economist finds that without US arms sales the Saudi

Navy would break apart as it wouldn't have the necessary support for fleet maintenance, the same fleet which has blockaded yemen, limiting food supply and vaccines [killing 150,000 children](#) a month

In the end however, it is not the physical properties of US arms sales that make this conflict so bad, but also their symbolic value.

Professor Bazzi of New York University explains that arms sales send the message to Saudi Arabia that no matter what the US will always support them. This gives Saudi leadership what they perceive as a security guarantee, that no matter what they will not lose this war because America is always going to be there for them. As a result, Saudi Arabia now no longer has any incentive to minimize civilian casualties or negotiate an end to the conflict, rather they will always keep on fighting until they finish off Yemen because they believe that they cannot lose.

Conversely, ending US arms sales would have the opposite effect, sending a clear signal to Saudi Arabia to end the war in yemen. Indeed, The New York Times finds that the best way to pressure Saudi Arabia is by cutting off its weapons supply as it is the only signal that they will listen to in order to change their behavior. [McDonnelled of The LL Institute](#) concludes that cutting off arms sales is the best way to send a message to the entirety of the middle east that human rights violations and the perpetuation of conflicts like Yemen will not be tolerated.

Because 24 million lives are worth saving we strongly urge an affirmative ballot.

NEGATE!

4 Minutes of History V2

Ridge negates the resolution.

Our First And Sole Contention is The Historic Alliance

We have always supported Saudi Arabia and should continue to do so with arms sales.

[Premier Historian Jonathan Sloan](#) explains the history of Saudi Arabia and America, The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, founded in 1932, traces its roots to an alliance between the Saud family and the religion of Islam, founding at that time, the only independent country in the entirety of the middle east. However, the alliance between the US and the Saudis never fully took shape until the cold war. Rejected by Iran, and faced with Soviet puppets everywhere else, America turned to the one country in the region it knew it could rely on: Saudi Arabia.

Since then the US and Saudi Arabia have cooperated on numerous issues throughout history. In the first gulf war, the US and Saudi Arabia worked together to expel Iraq from Kuwait, with over 500,000 american troops being stationed in Saudi Arabia. The US and Saudi Arabia worked together to combat the soviet invasion of afghanistan. All the while, the US has been selling arms, [The Council of Foreign relations](#) notes that the US has sold Saudi Arabia a total of 900 billion dollars of weapons since 1950.

Arms Sales have 3 benefits we must maintain.

First --- Restraining Carnage

[Pierre 18 of the CFR](#) contextualizes that due to arms sales both the current Saudi government as well as Saudi governments for the next fifteen to twenty years a strong incentive to work with the United States. Indeed, Saudi Arabia will need continuing support from America during the entire lifecycle of every major system sold, and no future Saudi government can ignore this fact.

[Chollette 18 of Foreign Policy](#) explains that as a result American leverage on Saudi Arabia through our vital arms restrains them, as they can't afford to anger America or else we can cut them off. He explains that eliminating this restraint will cause them to escalate aggressiveness in conflicts against countries like Yemen in an attempt to showcase their defiance to America.

Simultaneously, they will turn to countries like Russia in order to supply them with weapons, the difference being that Russian weapons are not only less accurate than American weapons, but also much much more devastating, ensuring that the maximum amount of civilian lives will be lost whenever the Saudis want to go into conflict.

Second --- Deterring Aggression

[Jerome 18 of the CFR](#) explains that the US arms trade with Saudi Arabia provides a powerful deterrent against Iran since there is nothing in Tehran's current arsenal that can cope with the latest version. This is critical as [the New York Times](#) reports that currently Saudi Arabia and Iran are deep and bitter rivals, and they counter each other by aiding various dangerous and horrific groups such as the Syrian government or Houthi rebels in order to attack one another. US arms sales keep Iran in check, deterring them from taking a step too far and escalating conflict.

Indeed, [Vest 18 of the UPI](#) indicates that Iran has recently been restraining itself and looking to placate regional actors such as withdrawing and moving back troops in Syria. However, [Mark from Louisiana State university](#) reports back in 2007 when the US decreased its support for allies in the middle east Iran responded by increasing weapons exports such as missiles and guns and funding for terrorist groups like Hezbollah and even sending in its own troops to counter and attack Americans in Iraq, increasing instability and killing tens of thousands.

Third --- Maintaining Strength

[Knights of The Washington Institute](#) elucidates that The U.S.-Saudi strategic relationship is built on a simple premise: Washington provides physical security for the Saudi state, while Riyadh serves as a cooperative counterterrorism partner and an apolitical, responsive supplier to global energy markets. Arms sales are integral to this relationship as the task of maintaining the large Saudi military binds Washington and Riyadh together.

If the US cuts off our end of the alliance by halting arms sales, Saudi Arabia will end their side of the bargain by stopping cooperation in the fight against Terror. This is horrible, as [The Washington Post](#) 18 explains that Saudi Arabia gives the US reliable and important intel on terrorism, while also simultaneously directly aiding us in the war against terror. In fact, [Cordesman 18 of The Hill](#) indicates that Saudi Arabia is the single most important US ally in the Middle East.

This is critical, as [Johnson 18 of Foreign policy](#) writes that terrorist groups like ISIS are plotting a comeback, and the last time we let a terrorist group run rampant in the middle east [18,000 people died in 6 months, and 3.2 million people were displaced.](#)

Crepes

Ridge negates (Resolved: The US should halt all arms sales to Saudi Arabia).

Contention 1: Geopolitics

Sub A: Jelly Donuts

[Juneau 18 of the MEPC](#) finds that contrary to popular belief, US power in the middle east is increasing. As our allies in the region get stronger and stronger. [Reuters 18](#) indicates that at the center of all these alliances is the regions leader - Saudi Arabia - who acts as the lynchpin for America's strategy.

[Hennigan 18 of Time Magazine](#) indicates that the US Saudi Arabian relationship is built on one fundamental premise - Saudi Arabia lends their support to America insofar as the US can provide them with firepower and protection. If arms sales end, the alliance will crumble as America fails to accomplish its end of the deal.

Tragically, [The National Interest 18](#) indicates that if America loses its domination over the middle east the region would spiral into a free for all as foreign powers try and fill the power vacuum that America leaves behind. [Beaumont 18 of The Guardian](#) implicates that this will amplify conflicts as nations all compete for domination of the region.

Sub B: Offshore Balancing

The [CSIS](#) indicates that currently the US is utilizing the strong Saudi Arabia in order to counter Iranian influence in the region. In order to achieve this objective, [Wezeman 18 of the SPR](#) explains that America has used Arms Sales to strengthen Saudi Arabia. **If you end arms sales, the perception of the Saudi's as a strong ally against Iran will collapse and America will be forced to deal with Iran on its own.**

This perception will be backed by reality, as [Tufts University](#) finds that due to high dependency on the US, the halting of all arms sales will cripple Saudi Arabia's military for a decade.

Tragically, [The Atlantic 17](#) finds that if America was forced to increase aggression against Iran it will be very easy for confrontations and small escalation to spiral out of control and lead to all out war, which could kill millions. Indeed, [USNews](#) indicates that there is no communication between Iran and America making the chance a small miscalculation sparks conflict very probable.

Contention 2: Weapon System Stability

Sub A: Missile Development

In the status quo, [Heady 18 of The National Interest](#) finds that Iranian missile development is posing a major threat to Saudi Arabia and other gulf countries, forcing them to take action. **In order to deal with Iran's missiles the Saudis have a choice, it can either insulate themselves from Iranian missiles and keep itself safe, or it can develop missiles of its own in order to deter Iran.**

Luckily, Saudi Arabia has chosen the defensive rather than the offensive option focusing on missile defense development to defend against Iran as [Ghoshal 18 of the Belfer Strategic Defense center](#) finds that Saudi Arabia has turned towards strengthening their missile defense architecture which has many holes right now to ensure complete protection using US missile defense systems.

Ending arms sales to Saudi Arabia, forces them to pivot away from missile defense towards offensive capabilities, making them fight fire with fire through their own missile program. Unfortunately, [Saab 18 of Georgetown University](#) finds that Missiles are inherently destabilizing weapons because of their potential to quickly escalate conflicts, as their flight times can be very short, and they are very lethal, citing that Saudi Arabian missile development will amplify conflicts in the region.

Sub B: Nuclearization

[Paton 18 of Newsweek](#) indicates that Saudi arabia is willing to build a nuclear arsenal in order to gain the ultimate edge on iran, but [Tamimi of George Mason University](#) finds that insofar as they perceive US commitment to protect them to be strong they will not build such a weapon. However, [Caverly 18 of The New York Times](#) indicates that ending arms sales sends a strong signal that the US no longer supports Saudi Arabia, forcing them to look towards the nuclear option. In fact, [Sokoloski 18 of Foreign Policy](#) finds that Saudi Arabia can enrich enough Uranium to construct its first nuclear bomb in as little as one year.

However, rather than security, this will only bring more chaos as [Kroenig of Georgetown University](#) finds that nuclear weapons increase instability while also making countries more confident and arrogant: increasing the chance of conflict. Moreover, [Thayer 18 of Uchicago](#) finds that rapidly nuclearizing states often cut corners, making accidents and inadvertent detonations or launches very likely. On net Trager 15 concludes that nuclear proliferation increases the chance of war by 950%.

Already, [Wadham of Bloomberg News](#) reports that Saudi Arabia secured a 15 billion dollar missile defense deal with the US 2 months ago, with [Reuters 18](#) reporting that Saudi Arabia will be conducting many arms deals with America in the future to secure its web of missile defense.

Harvard Accept Me Plz

Ridge negates (Resolved: The US should halt all arms sales to Saudi Arabia).

Our First And Sole Contention is Stabilization

Arms Sales Stabilize the Middle East for four reasons

First --- Using the Reins

[Jerome 18 of the CFR](#) furthers that arms transactions represent a powerful deterrent to Iran since nothing in their arsenal can cope the latest US weaponry, she explains that this has the psychological effect of making Saudi Arabia more credible with regional elites making countries like Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraq more confident in backing Saudi Arabia rather than Iran.

If you end arms sales, this multilateral coalition that is deterring Iran disappears. [Mark from Louisiana State university](#) reports that the last time Iran saw opportunity for power, it increased missiles and guns and funding for terrorist groups like Hezbollah, increasing instability and killing tens of thousands. **This escalation in aggression however, will not only limit itself to short term spikes in instability, indeed,** [The Atlantic 17](#) finds that because there are no quick means of communication between many regional actors and Iran, it will be very easy for confrontations and small escalation to spiral out of control and lead to all out war, which could kill millions.

Second --- Less is More and More is Worse

The [CSIS](#) indicates that currently the US is utilizing a strong Saudi Arabia in order to counter Iranian influence in the region. In order to achieve this objective, [Wezeman 18 of the SPRI](#) explains that America has used Arms Sales to strengthen Saudi Arabia. **If you end arms sales, the perception of the Saudi's as a strong ally against iran will collapse and America will forced to be deal with Iran on its own.**

This perception will be backed by reality, as [Tufts University](#) finds that due to high dependency on the US, the halting of all arms sales will cripple Saudi arabia's military for a decade. Unfortunately, USnews concludes that a lack of direct communication lines between American and Iran means that any escalation by Iran makes conflict and war very likely.

Third --- Burritos

[Juneau 18 of the MEPC](#) finds that contrary to popular belief, US power in the middle east is increasing. As our allies in the region get stronger and stronger. [Reuters 18](#) indicates that at the center of all these alliances is the regions leader - Saudi Arabia - who acts as the lynchpin for America's strategy.

However, if arms sales end, the alliance will inevitably crumble from its very foundation, as [Mason 18 of the MEPC](#) finds that a cornerstone to the US-Saudi Arabian relationship is the fundamental premise that Saudi Arabia lends their support to America as long as the US provides them with firepower and protection.

Tragically, [The National Interest 18](#) indicates that if America loses its domination over the middle east the region would spiral into a free for all as foreign powers try and fill the power vacuum that America leaves behind. [Beaumont 18 of The Guardian](#) implicates that this will amplify conflicts as nations all compete for domination of the region.

Fourth --- Explosions

In the status quo, [Heady 18 of The National Interest](#) finds that Iranian missile development is posing a major threat to Saudi Arabia and other gulf countries, forcing them to take action. **In order to deal with Iran's missiles the Saudis have a choice, it can either insulate themselves from Iranian missiles and keep itself safe, or it can develop missiles of its own in order to deter Iran.**

Luckily, Saudi Arabia has chosen the defensive rather than the offensive option focusing on missile defense development to defend against Iran as [Ghoshal 18 of the Belfer Strategic Defense center](#) finds that Saudi Arabia has turned towards strengthening their missile defense architecture to ensure complete protection using US missile defense systems.

Ending arms sales to Saudi Arabia, forces them to pivot away from missile defense towards offensive capabilities, making them fight fire with fire through their own missile program. Unfortunately, [Saab 18 of Georgetown University](#) finds that Missiles are inherently destabilizing weapons because of their potential to quickly escalate conflicts, as their flight times can be very short, and they are very lethal, citing that Saudi Arabian missile development will amplify conflicts in the region.

Montvillian Negative

Ridge negates (Resolved: The US should halt all arms sales to Saudi Arabia).

Contention 1: Counter Iranian Operations

Subpoint A: The Bigger Stick

[Jerome of the CFR](#) writes that arms transactions represent a powerful deterrent to Iran since nothing in their arsenal can cope with the latest US weaponry. Moreover, she explains that arms sales have psychological effect of making Saudi Arabia more credible with regional elites making countries like Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraq more confident in backing Saudi Arabia rather than Iran.

If you end arms sales, Saudi Arabia loses credibility allowing for an opening that Iran can exploit. [Mark from Louisiana State university](#) reports that the last time Iran saw opportunity for power, it skyrocketed missile and gun exports as well as funding for terrorist groups like Hezbollah, increasing instability and killing tens of thousands.

This escalation in aggression however, will not only limit itself to short term spikes in instability, indeed, [The Atlantic](#) finds that because there are no quick means of communication between many regional actors and Iran, it will be very easy for confrontations and small escalation to spiral out of control and lead to all out war, which could kill millions.

Subpoint B: Forward Deployment

The [CSIS](#) indicates that currently the US is utilizing a strong Saudi Arabia in order to counter Iranian influence in the region. In order to achieve this objective, [Wezeman 18 of the SPRI](#) explains that America has used Arms Sales to strengthen Saudi Arabia. **If you end arms sales, the perception of the Saudi's as a strong ally against iran will collapse and America will forced to be deal with Iran on its own, directly intervening in the region rather than using Saudi Arabia as a conduit.**

This perception will be backed by reality, as [Tufts University](#) finds that due to high dependency on the US, the halting of all arms sales will cripple Saudi arabia's military for a decade. Unfortunately, USnews concludes that a lack of direct communication lines between America and Iran means that any escalation between the 2 nations makes conflict and war very likely.

Contention 2: When Life Gives You Yemens, Make Yemenade

5 years ago, a dangerous and radical group known as the Houthis revolted against the Yemeni government, turning a prospering and peaceful country into a warzone. Indeed, the Houthi rebels are guided by what they consider a religious mission to impose a monarchical dynasty over yemen and eliminate all other religious groups.

Funded by state sponsors of terror like Iran, they quickly established dominance and took 85% of the land in Yemen. Luckily, afraid of the instability that a Houthi controlled nation would cause, and backed by American arms sales, Saudi Arabia intervened with the goal of freeing Yemen from this dangerous group

However, with or without US support the Saudi intervention in Yemen is not likely to end, as [Stratfor](#) indicates that even if the US cuts off arms sales Saudi Arabia would still have ground troops and a navy in order to continue waging the war. The critical difference however, is the loss of airstrikes. [Ridel 18 of the Brookings institute](#) indicates that without spare parts from the US the Saudi Air Force would be grounded overnight.

Unfortunately, this Air Force is needed to end the war. [The Washington institute](#) indicates that airstrikes are crucial for Saudi Arabia to hold territory and [take cities](#). For example, Startfor finds that the capture of the port city Aden away from Houthi control would have taken much much longer without airstrikes.

The dichotomy here is very simple, no matter what, the war continues, but with US arms sales Saudi Arabia can capture cities very rapidly, without US arms sales Saudi Arabia turns towards alternatives like ground troops, transforming a relatively clean and fast military campaign into a long war of bloody attrition.

The faster and more effective Saudi Arabia is the better, as [The Atlantic](#) finds that when they capture a city the Saudis immediately fix infrastructure, bring in water and food, restore economic prosperity and increase trade, bringing stability back to Yemen one city at a time.

Thus we strongly urge a negative ballot.

Already, [Wadham of Bloomberg News](#) reports that Saudi Arabia secured a 15 billion dollar missile defense deal with the US 2 months ago, with [Reuters 18](#) reporting that Saudi Arabia will be conducting many arms deals with America in the future to secure its web of missile defense.

Frontlines for Missiles

[Gould, July 18](#) (should postdate most ev) = proposal for missile sales didn't go through Senate, democrats against it.

Sub B: Nuclearization

[Paton 18 of Newsweek](#) indicates that Saudi Arabia is willing to build a nuclear arsenal in order to gain the ultimate edge on Iran, but [Tamimi of George Mason University](#) finds that insofar as they perceive US commitment to protect them to be strong they will not build such a weapon. However, [Caverly 18 of The New York Times](#) indicates that ending arms sales sends a strong signal that the US no longer supports Saudi Arabia, forcing them to look towards the nuclear option. In fact, [Sokoloski 18 of Foreign Policy](#) finds that Saudi Arabia can enrich enough Uranium to construct its first nuclear bomb in as little as one year.

However, rather than security, this will only bring more chaos as [Kroenig of Georgetown University](#) finds that nuclear weapons increase instability while also making countries more confident and arrogant: increasing the chance of conflict. Moreover, [Thayer 18 of UChicago](#) finds that rapidly nuclearizing states often cut corners, making accidents and inadvertent detonations or launches very likely. On net Trager 15 concludes that nuclear proliferation increases the chance of war by 950%.

Ridge Negates The Resolution

Our First Contention is Destabilization.

Ending Arms Sales would Destabilize The Broader Middle East in two ways.

Subpoint A: Burritos

[University of Ottawa 18](#) finds that contrary to popular belief, US power in the middle east is increasing. [Paul 18](#) indicates that Saudi Arabia is the lynchpin of the American strategy in the Middle East because it serves as the leader of all of United States' Middle Eastern allies.

However, if arms sales end, the alliance will inevitably crumble from its very foundation, as [Mason 18 of the MEPC](#) finds that a cornerstone to the US-Saudi Arabian relationship is the fundamental premise that Saudi Arabia lends their support to America as long as the US provides them with firepower and protection.

Tragically, [Goudsouzian 18 of Al Jazeera](#) indicates that if America loses its domination over the middle east the region would spiral into a free for all as foreign powers try and fill the power vacuum that America leaves behind. [Peter 18 of The Observer](#) implicates that this will amplify conflicts as nations all compete for domination in the region.

Subpoint B: Pew Pew Boom

Currently, [Headly 18 of The National Interest](#) observes that Iranian missile development is a major threat to Saudi Arabia and other gulf countries, forcing them to take action. **In order to deal with Iran's missiles the Saudis have a choice, it can either shield themselves with defense or deter Iran with offense.**

Fortunately, Saudi Arabia has chosen defense, as [Debalina 18 of the BESA Center](#) finds that Saudi Arabia has bought many systems from the United States in an attempt to complete their anti-missile defense web. **Ending arms sales cuts off these systems, forcing Saudi Arabia towards offensive capabilities, making them fight fire with fire through their own missile program.** Unfortunately, the [Middle East Institute 18](#) concludes that the speed and lethality of missiles can quickly escalate conflicts, making the Middle East even more violent.

Our Second Contention is Offshore Balancing

[Tufts University](#) finds that due to high dependency on the US, the halting of all arms sales will cripple Saudi arabia's military for a decade. **This forces America to directly intervene against Iran for 2 reasons.**

First --- Saudi Strength.

The [CSIS](#) indicates that currently the US is utilizing the strong Saudi Arabia in order to counter Iranian influence in the region. In order to achieve this objective, [Wezeman 18 of the SPRI](#) explains that America has used Arms Sales to strengthen Saudi Arabia, ending arms sales signifies mission failure and forces America towards alternate strategies.

Second --- Multilateral Strength.

[Stratfor 16](#) indicates that the Gulf Cooperation Council, otherwise known as the GCC is a coalition of Arab countries held together and unified under the military leadership of Saudi Arabia in order to deter Iran - concluding that without this central power, the organization would fall apart. However, [Al-Jazeera 18](#) indicates that America sees a unified gulf as critical to deterring Iran, fracturing the GCC forces us to take our own steps against Iran.

Even if Saudi Arabia's military does not actually collapse, when America pulls out it sends a signal that Saudi Arabia has lost critical military power, creating the perception of a weak Saudi Arabia forcing America to take deterring Iran into its own hands.

Tragically, [The Atlantic 17](#) finds that because there is absolutely zero communication between the two, if America was forced to increase aggression against Iran it will be very easy for confrontations and small escalation to spiral out of control and lead to all out war, which could kill millions.

Our Third Contention is Stabilization.

There are two ways arms sales can stabilize the middle east.

First --- Stopping Terrorism

[Dorminey 18 of UNC Chappelle](#) writes that arms sales shift the capabilities between the recipient and its neighbors to promote stability and deter adversaries from uprising. Absent arm deals, terrorist groups like al-Qaeda and ISIL get the green light to run the entire region. Thus, [Young of American University](#) quantifies a one standard deviation increase in military aid reduces the number of terrorist attacks by 32%.

Second --- Stopping Iran

[Jerome 18 of the CFR](#) furthers that arms transactions represent a powerful deterrent to Iran since nothing in their arsenal can cope the latest US weaponry, she explains that this has the psychological effect of making Saudi Arabia more credible with regional elites making countries like Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraq more confident in backing Saudi Arabia rather than Iran. Tragically, [Mark from Louisiana State university](#) reports that the last time Iran saw opportunity for power, it increased missiles and guns and funding for terrorist groups like Hezbollah,

increasing instability and killing tens of thousands. Tragically, USnews concludes that a lack of communication means that any escalation by Iran makes conflict and war very likely.

This leadership is maintained by the US as [Majumdar 17 of the National Interest](#) indicates that US arms sales to Saudi Arabia have turned it from a minor power into a military juggernaut, and will continue expanding its power into the coming decade. **However, ending arms sales halts the Saudi Ascension in its tracks, destroying its military capabilities.**

Contention 2: Iranian Deterrence.

The Crisis Management Group finds that Iran seeks to maximize power in the middle east; Arms sales prevent that from happening on 2 fronts.

First --- The Gulf Cooperation Council [Stratfor 16](#) indicates that the Gulf Cooperation Council, otherwise known as the GCC is a coalition of Arab countries held together and unified under the military leadership of Saudi Arabia - concluding that without this central power, the organization would fall apart. However, because Saudi Arabia is so heavily dependent on the US for everything from maintenance to upgrades to the very hardware itself, Tufts University finds that if Arms Sales were halted Saudi Arabia's military would be crippled which would be terrible as Stratfor indicates that the GCC provides a strong unified deterrent against Iran.

Second --- Naval Power. [Trettevik 18 of UC Berkeley](#) indicates that US arms Sales are providing a massive boost to the Saudi Navy, not only allowing for Saudi Arabia to expand its naval power with new ships, but also modernizing their ships. Even without this huge project, a [Marine Corps assessment](#) finds that without US arms sales the Saudi Navy would break apart as its fleet wouldn't have the necessary support for fleet maintenance and logistics. TheDrive 18 indicates that Saudi Arabia's navy is crucial in power projection across the Persian Gulf in order to deter Iran from making big moves.

Deterring Iran is Crucial. [Mark from Louisiana State university](#) reports that whenever Iran becomes more relatively powerful, it sees it as opportunity and increases aggressiveness, finding that the last time this happened was back in 2007 when Iran dramatically boosted arms and funding for terrorist groups killing thousands of people. Moreover, a more powerful aggressive Iran that believes it can act with impunity makes regional war very likely, as USNews reports that a lack of communication in the region means that small acts of aggression can spiral into an all out war that kills millions very easily.

Contention 3: Proliferation.

[Paton 18 of Newsweek](#) indicates that Saudi Arabia is willing to build a nuclear arsenal in order to gain the ultimate edge on Iran, but [Tamimi of George Mason University](#) finds that insofar as they perceive US commitment to protect them to be strong they will not build such a weapon. However, [Caverly 18 of The New York Times](#) indicates that ending arms sales sends a strong signal that the US no longer supports Saudi Arabia, forcing them to look towards the nuclear option. In fact, [Sokoloski 18 of Foreign Policy](#) finds that Saudi Arabia can enrich enough Uranium to construct its first nuclear bomb in as little as one year. However, rather than security, this will only bring more chaos as [Kroenig of Georgetown University](#) finds that nuclear weapons increase instability while also making countries more confident and arrogant: increasing the chance of conflict by 950%.

There is a battle for influence in the middle east as Eastern powers such as Russia and China look to expand their influence, and the US must win. At the center of all of this is Iran. Indeed, [The Century Foundation](#) indicates that Iran acts a key stepping stone for Chinese influence in the middle east both due to its geographic location and position as the only major power in the region not allied with the US. Moreover, [the ECFR 18](#) details that Iranian Russian cooperation in the middle east has amplified the power of moscow throughout the region.

However, what

- Offshore Balancing
 - Other countries pull their weight so we can divert our resources elsewhere
 - If no Saudi we will have to push towards middle east rather than other areas
- Defense Industrial Base; MIC
- Russia + China arms sales take over
- Politics/DoD tradeoff: will cause Trump to lash out in another way or not pass a bill
- Missile Defense = tracking + interceptors; specific scenario
- Arms end up in bad places