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A2 Syria

1. Literally only in Syria because the United States asked them to go n.

Tara Copp, 10-28-2018, "If US, Saudi Arabia split over journalist's murder, will troops ever be able to leave Syria?," Military Times,

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2018/10/27/if-us-saudi-arabia-split-over-journalists-murder-will-troops-ever-be-able-to-leave-syria/>

The U.S. needs Saudi Arabia in order to maintain what Mattis described as “twin imperatives” in the region — working with Saudi Arabia to [stop Yemen's civil war](#), and to get it to increase its role in Syria to relieve demands on the U.S. — while simultaneously seeking justice for the murder, Mattis said.

“The United States' shared security interests with our Arab and Israeli partners remain, and our respect for the Saudi people is undiminished,” he said. “We maintain our strong people-to-people partnership, knowing that with our respect must come transparency and trust.”

On Saturday, Mattis also reiterated that the U.S. is committed to staying in Syria.

WHY DID WE LOSE WEIGHING

Naser Al, 2-3-2019, "Yemen rebels violated Hodeidah ceasefire more than 700 times in January," National,

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/yemen-rebels-violated-hodeidah-ceasefire-more-than-700-times-in-january-1.821137>

Yemen's Houthi rebels committed more than 700 violations of the UN-brokered ceasefire in Hodeidah in the past four weeks, causing dozens of deaths, the government and the allied

Arab military coalition said.

In a letter seen by The National, the governments of Yemen and coalition members Saudi Arabia and the UAE called on the Security Council to increase international pressure on the Houthis in light of their continued violations.

According to a detailed list included in the letter, the rebels killed 48 and wounded 371 in 702 attacks since January 3. In total, the rebels violated the ceasefire in the Red Sea port city and surrounding areas 970 times since it went into effect on December 18, causing 71 deaths.

Many of the violations came from heavy artillery fire aimed at pro-government "national resistance forces", the letter says, but the rebels have also used mortar shelling, RPG fire and sniper attacks.

"We call upon members of the United Nations Security Council to do everything in their power to demand the Iran-backed Houthis comply with the terms of the Stockholm Agreement," the letter said, referring to the ceasefire deal reached at talks in Sweden between the rebels and government in December.

The ceasefire requires the rebels to withdraw from Hodeidah's ports and for both sides to move their forces out of the city. But the Houthis are reinforcing their military positions among the civilian population and digging trenches in the city in preparation for clashes, the letter says.

The majority of Yemen's food and humanitarian relief is shipped through Hodeidah and the UN considers the ceasefire there a priority to ensure aid reaches 14 million Yemenis on the brink of famine. It is also seen as a first step to ending more than four years of conflict.

The rebel failure to abide by the truce deal has prompted UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr Anwar Gargash, to warn that the coalition was "prepared to use more calibrated force to prod Houthi compliance with Stockholm Agreement".

The Arab Coalition has not ceased its attacks on the Houthis, but says it is pursuing its military campaign outside the area covered under the ceasefire deal. The goals of these attacks, the letter said, "is to apply carefully calibrated pressure and convince the Houthis to reconsider their options and start engaging seriously in the process agreed to in Stockholm".

Qasim Abdul-Aziz Works With The Next Century Foundation, A Think Tank and Track II Diplomacy Organisation That Operates In Various Conflict Zones, Primarily The Middle East. Holds A Bachelors In Law And Masters Degree In Political Theory From The University Of Birmingham., 1-20-2019, "Yemen – Hopeful Ceasefire in Hodeida," Global Risk Insights, <a class="vgnlk"

href="https://globalriskinsights.com/2019/01/yemen-hopeful-ceasefire-in-hodeida/">

On 6 December 2018, UN-brokered talks brought together warring factions for the first talks in two years. After a week of negotiations in Sweden, UN Security General Antonio Guterres announced the ceasefire agreement between the Iranian-backed Houthis and the Yemeni government. UN Special Envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths outlined the main achievements of the agreement as; President Abdu Rabbuh Mansour Hadi agreeing to pay the salaries of civil servants in Houthi-controlled areas, the exchange of prisoners between warring groups and most importantly, a ceasefire in Hodeida, which gives the UN control of the strategic port, allowing crucial humanitarian aid to reach Sana'a and other affected parts of the country. Troops are set to

withdraw first from Hodeida, and then from the wider city. The agreement came to fruition amidst mounting international pressure to mitigate the crisis. **The attendance of**

both Houthi spokesperson Mohammed Abdul-Salam and the Yemeni FM Khaled Al-Yamani was an important indicator that the ceasefire initiated a long-term peace

process. On Friday 21 December, a resolution was unanimously passed by the UNSC, authorising the UN Secretary General to deploy a monitoring team to Yemen to oversee the preliminary ceasefire. Despite the willingness of key players such as Saudi Arabia and Iran to back the UN agreement at this stage, the progress is tenuous. Whilst both sides have largely stuck to the ceasefire, there have been accusations of breaches by both parties. On 10 January 2019, a drone attack by the Houthis on a military parade killed numerous government soldiers and seriously jeopardizes the prospects of further peace talks. However, **the growing international outcry for humanitarian concerns in**

Hodeida, as well as support from the UN in the form of a new resolution to support the Hodeida agreement (UNMHA), provide strong incentives for the Houthis and the government to cooperate. The initial willingness of the factions, as well as regional players such as Saudi Arabia and Iran, to back the initial UN agreement, signals that peaceful progress is possible. If all parties remain committed and cooperate with the UN monitoring team, then a broader regional ceasefire is possible.

The Saudi-backed government of Yemen lost control of the port city Hodeida to Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in 2015, and it is no coincidence that the tides of peace are shifting as Saudi Arabia's standing in the international community has been challenged. The future of Yemen is closely tied to Saudi geopolitics, and recent political events impacting the powerful kingdom are increasing the likelihood of a tenable peace for its warring neighbour. The killing of

Jamal Khashoggi is an example of a recent event that has contributed to Saudi Arabia's threatened stature. U.S. senators have made it known that they believe that the crown prince is complicit in the murder of Khashoggi. The murder also focused the world's attention on the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, something that had previously been ignored. The Saudi narrative explaining the death of Khashoggi has been widely criticised and diminished their public credibility, casting further doubt on the Saudi interpretation of the war in Yemen. This partly explains Saudi Arabia's decision to opt for diplomacy with the Houthis and their support for the ceasefire. The U.S. Senate's recent vote to end its involvement in the war also signals that Saudi Arabia is falling out of favour, sending a clear message to MBS that he no longer has unconditional support. This will not compel Saudi Arabia to drastically change its foreign policy, as both the Kingdom and the U.S. have many common regional interests, including quelling the threat of Iran. However, Saudi Arabia will be well-served by changing its strategy in Yemen if it is to win back support from figures in the U.S. Winding down the war and embracing the ceasefire will do that. Beyond the U.S., the broader international community has largely supported the war through arms sales and have overlooked the humanitarian crisis raging in Yemen. However, with this public condemnation of MBS, a number of countries have indicated their intentions to cut weapons exports to Saudi Arabia. Germany, Norway, and Denmark have all suspended new licenses for arms exports, specifically citing their concerns over their use in the war in Yemen. In order to salvage their reputation and their standing amongst the international community, Saudi Arabia may follow the path laid out by the UN and cease hostilities in the near future. The reputational damage caused by Khashoggi's murder should not be underestimated, with Saudi Arabia facing increasing international pressure. However, if the Saudi-led coalition

were to leave the conflict, this would not completely end the fighting in Yemen – indeed, the existing conflict between the Houthis and the government require complex negotiations. With that said, the Hodeida ceasefire is still a noteworthy step towards lasting peace. The willingness of the Houthis and the government to come to the table demonstrates a newfound desire to achieve peace. The UN, by way of its Special Envoy Griffiths, needs to act quickly to sustain the agreement and support the peace process on the ground.

FRIDAY NIGHT

A2 NEG - Yemen 2015

1. Their cards are pretty miscut about what is going on in 2015. In 2015, Obama signed the Iran nuclear deal, which ticked off Saudi Arabia because they strongly wanted the US to continue crippling Iran's economy through sanctions. That's really key, because US has cut back our arms deals in the past, and you haven't seen like way more Yemens. Even in the squo, Congress is actively starting to vote against Saudi Arabia, and Saudi Arabia isn't reacting.
2. Delink - Saudi Arabia's primary interest is to stay alive so the chances of them going against Iran without US weapons is minimal. In the past, the examples my opponents give, Saudi Arabia still had arms allowing them to go into other countries and do these things, but in aff world, no longer have the capability.

Reuters Editorial, 5-8-2018, "Saudi Arabia says backs U.S. decision to withdraw from Iran nuclear...", U.S.,

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-gulf/saudi-arabia-says-backs-u-s-decision-to-wit-hdraw-from-iran-nuclear-deal-idUSKBN1I92SH>

RIYADH (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia welcomed President Donald Trump's decision on Tuesday to withdraw the United States from the international nuclear agreement with Iran and to reimpose economic sanctions on its arch-foe Tehran.

The kingdom, a key U.S. ally, said it would work with the United States and the international community to address Iran's nuclear program as well as its ballistic missile program and support of militant groups in the region.

“Iran used economic gains from the lifting of sanctions to continue its activities to destabilize the region, particularly by developing ballistic missiles and supporting terrorist groups in the region,” according to a Saudi Foreign Ministry statement.

A2A2 Parts aren't arms

Chatham House, "Russia's Role as an Arms Exporter The Strategic and Economic Importance of Arms Exports for Russia", March 2017,

https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/research/2017-03-20-russia-arms-exporter-connolly-sendstad.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2TRMJCYBfaHIjaONtcHNyVi_LDZs8bxRMFL9JjpTQ9vz_YH08rwdzpu4

Matters are complicated by the fact that not all countries report their arms transfers each year, and that the definitions of what constitutes an arms transfer vary between countries and sources. For instance, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) defines arms transfers quite narrowly, as encompassing the exchange of major conventional weapons and components, but excluding the transfer of services, technology, support equipment and small arms.¹¹ By contrast, the definition used by the US Congressional Research Service (CRS) and the US Department of State covers ‘all categories of weapons and ammunition, military spare parts, military construction, military assistance and training programs, and all associated services’.¹²

A2A2 Stockpiling planes

1. Telegraph ‘15 - 100% of planes are used in combat on an almost daily basis

Con Coughlin, Defence Editor¹⁰, 5-5-2015, "Saudis' UK-made war jets outnumber RAF's," Telegraph.co.uk,

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/defence/11584269/Saudis-UK-made-war-jets-outnumber-RAFs.html>

Saudi Arabia has twice as many British-made warplanes at its disposal for its bombing campaign in Yemen than those that are available for the entire Royal Air Force, The Telegraph can disclose.

British-made Tornado GR4 ground attack fighters and Eurofighter Typhoons are playing a central role in the Royal Saudi Air Force's bombing campaign against Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Saudi military sources say they have an estimated 100 combat warplanes taking part in bombing operations against Houthi positions on an almost daily basis.

Current status of negotiations

AFF - Negotiations are failing

1. National writes just yesterday that Yemen's president has refused new rounds of talks due to the lack of implementation of the peace deal agreed to prior.
2. Macmillan reports just a week ago that the ceasefire in Yemen has ended again without any final agreement. The reason peace has yet to be reached is simple. Williams explains in 2019 that Saudi Arabia won't settle for anything less than total defeat so we would argue they use negotiations to stall and persuade the US that it is taking action, but when push comes to shove Saudi Arabia will not reach a deal.

Mina Aldroubi, 2-11-2019, "Yemen president refuses new round of talks until implementation of Sweden deal," National,

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/yemen-president-refuses-new-round-of-talks-until-implementation-of-sweden-deal-1.824921>

Yemen President Abdrabbu Mansour Hadi said on Tuesday that progress must be made on a peace deal reached in Sweden before a new round of talks can be held.

UN special envoy to Yemen, Martin Griffiths, arrived in Riyadh on Tuesday to meet with Yemeni government officials, having earlier travelled to Sanaa for talks with Houthi leaders.

The international body has been pushing for the implementation of a ceasefire and troop withdrawal from Hodeidah, the main entry port for Yemen's goods and humanitarian aid.

It stipulates that a new security force will be taking over the city, a critical move to prevent famine and to open humanitarian corridors.

The deal was reached during UN-led talks in Sweden in December.

But Yemen's government has accused the Houthis of endangering the deal.

"We need to have reassurance from the UN that the agreement reached in Sweden is fully implemented by the Houthis before a new round of talks can take place," Mr Hadi told the UN envoy.

Mr Griffiths planned to hold a further round of talks this year designed to make progress on a long-term political settlement to end the nearly four-year-long civil war.

NEG - Negotiations doing well

1. According to The Guardian on the 30th of January, the UN says Saudi Arabia is, for the first time, intent on reaching a negotiated end to the civil war. Furthermore, Reuters reports a week ago that Yemen's warring parties have reached a preliminary compromise on how to implement a truce in Yemen. The National reports just yesterday that it is possible that Hodeidah will be cleared in the next few days and that a four-country meeting on Wednesday could lead to a breakthrough in the situation. This is crucial because it means peace is near and the reason we are at this point is thanks to the US. As our Lang evidence from case says, the reason Saudi Arabia is negotiating right now is due to US pressure, which we lose when we take away arms sales in an aff world.

Mina Aldroubi, 2-14-2019, "Yemenis deny role in Benjamin Netanyahu's apparent PR stunt at Warsaw summit," National,

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/yemenis-deny-role-in-benjamin-netanyahu-s-apparent-pr-stunt-at-warsaw-summit-1.825996>

He spoke of his concern that the Stockholm agreement wasn't completed months after it was sealed. He said the four-country meeting convened on Wednesday evening could yet lead to a breakthrough.

"The basic situation is that it's possible that Hodeidah could finally be cleared if Houthi troops withdraw in the next few days and that will be an important step forward in the implementation of the Stockholm agreement," he said.

"However if it that doesn't happen there is real frustration and impatience that it is taking so long. So this is really a crunch moment in the Yemen process."

A peace agreement, brokered through UN-led talks in Sweden between Yemen's internationally recognised government and Houthi rebels, calls for a truce and the withdrawal of all forces from the city and its ports.

WEEK BEFORE TOURNAMENT

CARD How Lockheed Martin works

1. Just false. Lockheed Martin sells planes through a letter of offer/acceptance to do government-to-government sales of planes but separately writes up a memorandum of understanding to maintain the planes in the country. I'd argue that if the US ended arms sales.. Uhh
 - a. Aff analysis - They're going to stop so that they don't get on the wrong side of the USFG

- b. Neg analysis - They are gonna keep maintaining independent of the USFG

Lockheed Martin, 5-20-2017, "Lockheed Martin Plays Major Role In Strengthening United States And Kingdom Of Saudi Arabia Ties To Bolster Global Security," No Publication, <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/lockheed-martin-plays-major-role-in-strengthening-united-states-and-kingdom-of-saudi-arabia-ties-to-bolster-global-security-300461094.html>

Letters of Offer and Acceptance and a Memorandum of Intent covering government-to-government sales of Lockheed Martin programs to include integrated air and missile defense systems, multi-mission surface combatant ships, radar systems, surveillance systems, tactical aircraft and rotary wing programs.

A Letter of Intent, between Lockheed Martin and Taqnia, to form a joint venture to support final assembly and completion of an estimated 150 S-70 Black Hawk utility helicopters for the Saudi government. The program supports work for more than 450 U.S. jobs including in Connecticut at Sikorsky and throughout the U. S. supply chain and also supports KSA's Vision 2030 by creating an additional 450 jobs in the Kingdom, developing local capabilities through technology and skills transfer, thus enhancing the U.S.-Saudi global security partnership.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Lockheed Martin and Saudi Arabian Military Industries for the parties to work together to build defense capabilities in the KSA to support Vision 2030 and provide for localization efforts associated with Multi-mission Surface Combatants and Aerostats.

Once fully realized, the programs in this announcement will support more than 18,000 highly skilled jobs in the U.S. and thousands of jobs in Saudi Arabia as part of maintaining and modernizing these platforms over the next 30 years. These programs help the Saudi government realize its Vision 2030 objective of building its domestic technology capabilities and skilled workforce.

SATURDAY NIGHT

A2 AFF - Gets more aggressive

1. Literally the biggest example of Saudi Arabian aggression in the status quo is Yemen, which our Pollack card says was caused by declining US presence in the region. That's why prior to 2015, Saudi Arabia wasn't doing anything offensive.

A2 Qatar blockade

1. Qatar's economic minister said the blockade is a blessing because it has encouraged Qatar to enter into markets that had been ignored before, leading Qatari exports to rise by 19% and global trade to climb by 16%.

Saudi Arabia, xx-xx-xxxx, "Qatar says neighbours' embargo a 'blessing'," Straits Times, <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/middle-east/qatar-says-neighbours-embargo-a-blessing>
Since the boycott began, Qatari exports have risen 19 per cent, while its global trade climbed 16 per cent, Sheikh Ahmed Bin Jassim Bin Mohammed Al Thani told Bloomberg in a TV interview in Berlin.

Economic growth this year is forecast to be the fastest in the Gulf, at around 2.9 per cent, the minister said, citing World Bank estimates.

"The blockade on Qatar from an economic point of view is behind us," the minister said. "We are doing excellent. In fact, from an economic point of view, it's a blessing."

After the blockade, Qatar ventured into markets that had been ignored before, he said. "If we lost around a 110-million market, we opened a 400-million market" in countries including Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Pakistan and Iran, as well as Central Asia, he added.

A2 AFF - Turkey

1. The Washington Post reports in 2019 that "Turkey now sees itself as emerging from America's shadow as an independent geopolitical actor that owes fealty to no one." The future of the Turkish-U.S. relationship can only be transactional

Asli Aydintasbas, January 15 2019, "The U.S. and Turkey have bigger problems than their erratic leaders", Washington Post

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/01/15/us-turkey-have-bigger-problems-than-the-ir-erratic-leaders/?utm_term=.9ef565a09766

What is that new reality? **Turkey now sees itself as emerging from America's shadow as an independent geopolitical actor that owes fealty to no one. Erdogan makes no secret of the fact that he wants to oversee the rebirth of the Turkish empire. He views Turkey's traditional ties with the West, including NATO, as unequal and at times unfavorable to his interests.** He sees the world as an arena of great power competition, with Turkey standing alongside China, Russia, Europe and the United States. That's an exaggerated view of Turkey's power and capacity — but not to Erdogan. Washington, for its part, refuses to acknowledge that its effort to draw down in the Middle East and to attend to issues at home comes at a cost in terms of America's alliances. Demanding that Turkey accept its traditional role as junior partner in a "strategic relationship" makes little sense as the United States becomes an increasingly distant power. Erdogan can see and smell that the United States is on its way out. He has no desire to humor policies that prevent his own regional hegemony. This means **there is no longer a basis for the traditional type of strategic partnership between the United States and Turkey that marked the postwar period. They can and do still work together when**

interests align, such as with the Islamic State and Afghanistan, or work around each other when interests diverge, as in the case of U.S. support for Syrian Kurds. But their effort to hold each other to the standard of their traditional relationship can cause only disappointment, recrimination and even confrontation. The future of the Turkish-U.S. relationship can only be transactional — devoid of the emotional baggage about strategic partnership and NATO camaraderie. The Trump-Erdogan telenovela is not the cause of U.S.-Turkish problems, and it will not provide the solution either. At the moment, there are reportedly 80,000 [Turkish troops lined up on the Turkish-Syrian border](#) threatening an incursion into areas held by Syrian Kurdish forces, which are still backed up by U.S. special forces. Given their star-crossed history, it is hard to have confidence in Trump and Erdogan's capacity to negotiate a new settlement in northern Syria that allows the United States to withdraw and avoids further confrontation and violence.

W - NEG (A2A2 Ridge)

A2A2 America's back

1. Their link is that Saudi Arabia starts wars to get the attention of America. But the reason we'd contend Saudi Arabia wants American attention is to have security. However, if the US ends arms sales, Saudi Arabia loses any sense of security they had, which is why Pollack tells you, that when the US got our military out of the region in 2015, Saudi Arabia responded by taking matters into their own hands and attacking Yemen in order to pre-empt any threat from Iran. Thus, the only world where you see Saudi Arabian aggression increase is in the affirmative.

A2A2 China/Russia make them feel safe

1. There's a difference between selling arms and actually having a country's back in a war. We'd contend that since Russia and China have Iran's back, Saudi Arabia does not trust that they would come to Saudi Arabia's defense in the case of an attack.

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/07/25/moscow-and-beijing-have-tehrans-back/>

As the Trump administration moves to reimpose sanctions on Iran—which had been suspended since the signing of the 2015 nuclear agreement—it aims to “build a global coalition to put pressure on Iran to stop [its nefarious] behavior.” As the U.S. administration sees it, it can achieve a bigger and better deal with Tehran if it exerts maximum pressure on the regime—exemplified by President Donald Trump's own furious tweeting on July 22.

But Trump will fail. Not only are the United States' European allies opposed to his decision to leave the nuclear agreement and reintroduce sanctions, but Russia and China also won't allow

Iran to be isolated again. In fact, Beijing and Moscow were Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif's first ports of call on his mini-diplomatic tour to ensure the nuclear agreement's continued implementation after U.S. withdrawal, continuing a long Iranian tradition of looking to the two as a bulwark against Western unreliability.

W - AFF Strength of link and clarity of impact

1. We outweigh cleanly on probability and strength of link. The likelihood Saudi Arabia [insert their impact] is very small. Voting affirmative means that you are 100% sure that Saudi Arabia's ability to airstrike is severely limited. Thus, affirming means that you can be sure that the conflict will decrease to some degree whereas the negative world requires a long chain of events with low probability to reach their nebulous impact.

W - AFF started the fire

1. At the end of the day, the neg case is just solving for a problem that they created. The reason Saudi Arabia was able to enter into the war in Yemen was because they had US arms that gave them the capacity to do so (aircraft, bombs, etc). What that means is that the neg only solves for a problem that their world helped created. That in of itself is a reason to affirm.

FRIDAY NIGHT

W - Food shortages

1. The New York Times writes for every child killed by bombs and bullets, dozens more are starving to death. At the end of the day, of all the tragedy in Yemen, the current famine is the one touching nearly everyone in the country, and if we can solve back for it, we can help the most people in today's round.

Palko Karasz, 11-21-2018, " 85,000 Children in Yemen May Have Died of Starvation," No Publication,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/21/world/middleeast/yemen-famine-children.html>

"For every child killed by bombs and bullets, dozens are starving to death — and it's entirely preventable," Tamer Kirolos, Save the Children's country director in Yemen, said in the statement. "Children who die in this way suffer immensely as their vital organ functions slow down and eventually stop." The statement said that 85,000 was a conservative estimate of how many children under the age of 5 had starved between April 2015, when Saudi Arabia began its air war, and this October. In addition to the airstrikes, Saudi Arabia has imposed economic sanctions and blockades on Yemen, contributing to the deepening humanitarian crisis.

A2A2 We don't maintain the planes

1. It's literally a part of the deal. Khazan writes in 2013 that, for instance, when we give a country a F-16, we guarantee that Lockheed Martin will help them maintain them.

Olga Khazan, 8-20-2013, "What Would Happen If We Did Cut Off Aid to Egypt?," Atlantic, <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/08/what-would-happen-if-we-did-cut-off-aid-to-egypt/278856/>

We also help them keep their weapons operational: When we give them a new F-16, for example, we also guarantee that Lockheed Martin will help them maintain it.

"If the U.S. company won't provide that service, these things might not one able to fly," said David Schenker, director of the program on Arab politics at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

A2A2 NPR card is so unwarranted



Bruce Riedel



American expert

Bruce O. Riedel is an American expert on U.S. security, South Asia, and counter-terrorism. He is currently a senior fellow in the Saban Center for Middle East Policy at the Brookings Institution, and a professor at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. [Wikipedia](#)

Born: 1953 (age 66 years), Queens, New York City, NY

Education: Brown University, Harvard University

A2A2 Houthis will fight harder

1. Outweigh - The greatest damage in Yemen is being caused by the famine. If we can solve back for that by getting rid of Saudi airstrikes, we can save more people.

A2A2 Peace talks help Hodeidah

1. This is pretty much like if a robber came into your house, took all your possessions, and then offered you part of your food back. If we can get rid of the root cause of the famine, which is Saudi air strikes, there isn't a need for negotiations to give back food city by city.

A2A2 Houthis causing food shortages

1. (Call for the card) The Houthis are redirecting food aid, but the reason Yemen needs food aid in the first place is because of Saudi Arabian air strikes. If we can end the air strikes, we can prevent the famine.

CARDS - Current status of negotiations

AFF - Hodeidah ceasefire didn't work

1. Save The Children reports just yesterday that fighting near Hodeidah is putting Yemen at risk of plunging further into famine. MacMillian furthers that the ceasefire in Yemen has been repeatedly broken, not protecting the port city at all. The ceasefire has been a failure.

Areeb Ullah, 2-8-2019, "Yemen could plunge into 'further famine' if Hodeidah is cut off," Middle East Eye,

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/yemen-could-plunge-further-famine-if-hodeidah-cut>

Yemen is at risk of plunging further into famine if fighting continues near the port city of Hodeidah, a major aid agency has warned as peace talks continue.

Speaking at a press conference in London, Save the Children's Yemen director Tamer Kirolos painted a bleak picture of the humanitarian situation inside Yemen.

"If Hodeidah is cut off, then it will lead certain pockets of the country to famine," Kirolos told Middle East Eye.

AFF - Negotiations are failing

1. Macmillan reports just yesterday that the ceasefire in Yemen has ended again without any final agreement. The reason peace has yet to be reached is simple. Williams explains in 2019 that Saudi Arabia won't settle for anything less than total defeat so we would argue

they use negotiations to stall and persuade the US that it is taking action, but when push comes to shove Saudi Arabia will not reach a deal.

Arab News, 2-10-2019, "UAE blasts Houthis for disregarding Hodeidah ceasefire and blocking Yemen aid access," <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1449096/middle-east>

DUBAI: The UAE has accused the Houthis of disregarding a Yemen ceasefire agreement after the UN slammed the militants for blocking access to vast food supplies.

The Red Sea Mills in Hodeidah contains enough grain to feed 3.7 million people for a month, but aid officials have been unable to access the stores since September, despite Yemen's desperate food shortages.

Houthi militants have blocked the UN from reaching the food and last month destroyed some of the stores with shelling.

Mark Lowcock, under-secretary of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), on Thursday implored the Iran-backed Houthis to allow access to the stores.

Anwar Garagsh, the UAE's minister of state for foreign affairs, said on Friday that the UN's plea for access to the stores showed that "the Houthi's are the real impediment to peace in Yemen."

Arthur Macmillan, 2-7-2019, "Talks on Yemen ceasefire break off without final agreement," National, <https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/talks-on-yemen-ceasefire-break-off-without-final-agreement-1.823064>

One part of a twin-pronged UN effort to push forward peace in Yemen failed to break the deadlock on Thursday as talks in Hodeidah broke off without any final agreement on how to redeploy rival forces as part of a stumbling ceasefire. The head of the UN monitoring mission in Hodeidah, Major General Michael Lolloesgaard, this week chaired discussions between government and Houthi representatives to try and preserve the limited truce, which has been **undermined by numerous and persistent breaches by the rebels during the six weeks it has been in force.** A spokesman for UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said plans were being made for more talks between the two sides as although "challenges remain, not least because of the complex nature of the current frontlines" in Hodeidah, a compromise had been agreed in principle. The details, which were not disclosed, would now go to government and Houthi leaders for approval.

NEG - Negotiations are a success

1. According to The Guardian on the 30th of January, the UN says Saudi Arabia is, for the first time, intent on reaching a negotiated end to the civil war. Furthermore, Reuters reports just a day ago that Yemen's warring parties have reached a preliminary compromise on how to implement a truce in Yemen. This is crucial because it means peace is near and the reason we are at this point is thanks to the US. As our Lang evidence from case says, the reason Saudi Arabia is negotiating right now is due to US pressure, which we lose when we take away arms sales in an aff world.

REUTERS 19'; February 7, 2019

file:///Users/19kselig/Downloads/U.N._%20Yemen%20warring%20parties%20agree%20preliminary%20compromise%20on%20Hodeidah%20_%20Reuters.pdf

DOHA (Reuters) - Yemen's warring parties have reached a preliminary compromise on how to implement a truce and troop withdrawal accord in the port of Hodeidah, although the deal has not yet been finally agreed, the United Nations said on Thursday.

The United Nations is trying to implement an accord in Hodeidah, the main entry point for most of Yemen's imports, as part of efforts to end a war that has killed tens of thousands and left millions on the brink of starvation.

"A preliminary compromise was agreed, pending further consultation by the parties with their respective leaders," the United Nations said in a statement following three days of talks this week aboard a U.N. vessel moored in Hodeidah.

GUARDIAN '19; Wintour, Wed 30 Jan 2019, The Guardian

file:///Users/19kselig/Downloads/Yemen%20ceasefire%20looks%20dire%20but%20is%20holding,%20says%20UN%20envoy%20_%20World%20news%20_%20The%20Guardian.pdf

Yemen's fragile ceasefire is holding and Saudi Arabia remains intent on reaching a negotiated end to the four-year-old civil war, Martin Griffiths, the UN special envoy for the country, has said. Admitting the state of the ceasefire looked dire from the outside, he nevertheless said the key metric for the UN was the absence of offensive military operations to take territory and the end of Saudi airstrikes in the area. Griffiths has been in Yemen's capital, Sana'a, and the Red Sea port of Hodeidah this week to discuss blockages to agreements reached in UN-led talks in Stockholm in December. Yemen has been gripped by civil war between Iranian-backed Houthi rebels and the Saudi-backed – and UNrecognised – Yemen government of Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi since 2015

A2 AFF - Warplanes

1. [MAINTENANCE] When we sell a weapon to Saudi Arabia, we also guarantee that Lockheed Martin will maintain it, which is why we're currently locked into plane maintenance until 2023.

2. [SPARE PARTS] Roblin of Georgetown University in 2019: there are plenty of nations that can produce spare parts for the F-16 like India who Saudi Arabia has really good relations with. Rodolfo of AN News finds in 2016 that 60% of spare parts are produced in Saudi Arabia. More and more are being produced locally, as such Al Arabiya writes that in 7 years there was a 2980% increase in the number of parts manufactured locally.
3. [INTEROPERABILITY] Telegraph - UK supplies 50% of planes to Saudi Arabia which they fly alongside US planes, indicating that interoperability is not an issue.
4. Russia can fill the void. The Jamestown Foundation explains in 2017 that for instance, the Russian MIG-29, a highly advanced warplane, is easier to maintain than an American one and cheaper as well. In fact, the Atlantic explains that in 2013, the US assumed that Egypt would suffer if the US cut off their supply of airplanes and plane maintenance. Unfortunately, what happened instead, was that Insinna writes in 17 that Egypt now just buys Russian planes. In fact, Russian planes have proliferated over the middle east, which is why Insinna reports that countries like Egypt, Qatar, and Algeria are buying Russian-made fighter jets.

Rodolfo C., Arab News, 2-2-2019, ["60% of military spare parts manufactured by Saudis", <http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/news/887086, 2-1-2019>]jzl

60% of military spare parts manufactured by Saudis

RIYADH: Saudi nationals have been able to manufacture about 60 percent of the spare parts and tools used in the military sector, National Guard Minister Prince Miteb bin Abdullah said recently.

“The local production resulted in saving billions of riyals for the Kingdom that could be spent on importing military spare parts and tools,” he said.

Prince Miteb was speaking during his visit to the week-long Armed Forces Exhibition for Diversification (AFED), which started here last Sunday.

“This is good news for Saudi Arabia. It means the Kingdom is making further progress in developing its downstream industries,” said an exhibition visitor.

Al Arabiya, "Saudi Arabia says it produces nearly 65 million military spare parts locally - Al Arabiya English", <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/business/economy/2018/01/30/Saudi-Arabia-says-it-produces-nearly-65-million-military-spare-parts-locally.html>

He further pointed out that total number of the local manufactured parts in the past years did not exceed 182 items in 2010, but through the direction and support of the government, the number of products manufactured locally reached about 5,427 items in 2017, more than 65 million pieces of these items were made with more than 12 local projects in Saudi Arabia.

Verocy News, "Saudi Arabia's MBS steps up implementation localization defense industry SAMI - VEROCY", April 11, 2018,

<https://verocy.com/saudi-strategic-upd/saudi-arabias-mbs-steps-up-implementation-localization-defense-industry-sami/>

The increased pressure put on defense contractors, manufacturers and suppliers, by

Riyadh is clear and at present effective.

The mission of setting up a top class domestic defense and security industry, in a country formerly known as one of the world's largest arms buyers, is feasible but will need to take a long-term approach. Even that MBS has stated in public that this is needed to diversify the economy, the challenges will be immense. With the new strategy, Saudi Arabia will try to change the fact that until now 99% of the Saudi defense spending is outside of the country, which is annually between \$50-70 billion. The drivers are clear, the outcome not yet. For Riyadh not only economics are playing a role. MBS's entourage clearly understands that the Kingdom is currently facing severe regional threats while its military engagement in Yemen, Syria and other places, are potentially threatening arms deals with Western countries. In addition to US Congress, European governments, such as UK, Germany or France, are being pressured by NGOs and politicians to block arms deals with Saudi Arabia or other regional players. With a highly developed local defense industry, part of these dangers could have been mitigated. Even that **Riyadh could be hitting the arms bazars of China, India, South**

Africa or Russia (or FSU members),

there still is a preference for US-European weapons-systems or technology. The combination of setting up a new high-profile defense organization SAMI, in combination with access to UAE defense contractors, decreases the need to go Full Monty to Moscow. In addition to SAMI, which is led by Andreas Schwer, former head of combat systems at Germany's Rheinmetall AG, Riyadh also has set up the General Authority for Military Industries. GAMI is a government body with broad powers in military procurement as well as research and development. SAMI and GAMI are both fully able to clear the mind of international defense contractors in way that on all minds will be the fact "that if they want to continue selling to one of the world's top military spenders, they will have to locate more manufacturing in Saudi Arabia." At the same time, **the Saudi**

defense industry is already working to develop its own technology. King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), the government's R&D arm, has 40 engineers working on short-range ballistic missiles and laser-guided bombs. More is likely to follow.

Rodolfo C., Arab News, 2-2-2019, ["60% of military spare parts manufactured by Saudis", <http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/news/887086, 2-1-2019>]jzl

60% of military spare parts manufactured by Saudis

Sebastien Roblin, Warisboring, 1-4-2019, ["Why an Indian F-16 Fighting Falcon Will Be Such a Big Deal", <https://warisboring.com/why-an-indian-f-16-fighting-falcon-will-be-such-a-big-deal/> , 2-1-2019]jzl

While it is easy to dismiss this danger by insisting that IFF technology and proper management of the battle space will keep track of which side the aircraft belong to, historically plenty of warplanes have been shot down due to misidentification by friendly forces—even when they weren't flying the same type of plane. On the other hand, moving the F-16 production line to India could allow New Delhi to cut off the supply of vital spare parts for Pakistani F-16s. However, in reality **many F-16 components are already built by different sub-manufacturers dispersed across the globe, so it's not clear how effective an Indian F-16 embargo would prove.**

Con Coughlin, Defence Editor10, 5-5-2015, "Saudis' UK-made war jets outnumber RAF's," Telegraph.co.uk,

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/defence/11584269/Saudis-UK-made-war-jets-outnumber-RAFs.html>

Of these about 50 per cent are British-made Tornados and Eurofighters that have been sold to the Saudis over the past 30 years as part of the controversial al-Yamamah arms deal negotiated with BAE Systems, which makes the aircraft.

The Saudis have also spent an estimated £2.5 billion upgrading their fleet of 73 Tornados, which have been at the forefront of the bombing campaign using their British-made Paveway IV and Storm Shadow bombs.

By contrast, British military experts estimate that the RAF, which has seen the number of front line combat squadrons cut from about 30 at the time of the First Gulf War to seven, could muster just 36 Tornado GR4 bombers if it had to undertake a similar air campaign.

Olga Khazan, 8-20-2013, "What Would Happen If We Did Cut Off Aid to Egypt?," Atlantic, <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2013/08/what-would-happen-if-we-did-cut-off-aid-to-egypt/278856/>

But losing America's support would cost the Egyptian military two critical factors: training and maintenance, which together make up about a third of the value of our aid. Other than simply offering them more helicopters and guns, the U.S. invites Egyptian military officers to come stateside for training and development, which ostensibly helps them do things like fight terrorists in the Sinai peninsula. We also help them keep their weapons operational: When we give them a new F-16, for example, we also guarantee that Lockheed Martin will help them maintain it. "If the U.S. company won't provide that service, these things might not be able to fly," said David Schenker, director of the program on Arab politics at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Valerie Insinna, 11-9-2017, "Middle East fighter jet sales to surge over the next 5 years," Defense News, <https://www.defensenews.com/digital-show-dailies/dubai-air-show/2017/11/09/middle-east-fighter-jet-sales-to-surge-over-the-next-5-years/>

Egypt has been diversifying its fighter inventory over the past several years, and it's currently taking delivery of the Dassault Rafale from France and the MiG-29 from Russia, said Bisaccio, who noted that a buy of 12 to 24 more Rafales was likely. In late October, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi met with French leaders in an effort to push the deal forward. **Qatar** has also greatly expanded its fighter force, buying 24 Rafales in 2015 and signing a deal for 36 F-15s earlier this year. Most recently, the country signed a letter of agreement in September for 24 Eurofighter Typhoons, but that order now appears to be shaky, Bisaccio said. "I think the crisis with their neighbors has kind of shaken them a bit," he said. "They're not terribly concerned about a supplier for fighter jets, but just having these three separate ones ... means they do hedge against problems down the road." **Algeria** typically buys Russian-made aircraft and is likely to continue that trend, said Sobolev. Russian media outlets have claimed that Algeria plans to buy 12 Sukhoi Su-34s — an order that could expand to 40 aircraft — but War Is Boring reported late last year that Russia has no plans to export the Su-34 to Algeria. Avascent also predicts Morocco could invest in four or more fighter jets to keep up with its neighbor Algeria. It currently flies the F-5 and the F-16, which could point to an order for more F-16s.

Anna Borshchevskaya, 12-20-2017, "The Tactical Side of Russia's Arms Sales to the Middle East," Jamestown, <https://jamestown.org/program/tactical-side-russias-arms-sales-middle-east/> Another practical consideration is that many local military personnel in the MENA region have trained on Russian weaponry and feel comfortable operating it. As one American source familiar with the situation explained it, "If you have an AK-47, why change to an M-16?"[xvi] For example, helicopters are especially crucial to Egypt's anti-Islamist campaign; and according to first-hand pilot accounts, Russia's less expensive helicopters fit Egypt's needs well. Overall, Russian attack helicopters are not necessarily superior technologically, but they bring heavy firepower to a fight. They may fare worse in a contested air space, but the Sinai airspace is not contested. The Russian MiG-29 is a highly advanced aircraft, easier to maintain than an American one, and cheaper than an F-22[xvii] (which the US is currently not even exporting).

A2 NEG - Regional power vacuum

1. A power vacuum only occurs if Saudi Arabia loses military strength. This is crucial, because voting off only means future arms sales don't occur, leading to Saudi Arabia not becoming stronger. If Saudi Arabia sits on their current supply of arms, that means no power vacuum will form. Saudi Arabia will not spend their stockpiles. Henningan of TIME explains that Saudi Arabia uses its arms to deter Iran, which is crucial, because they lose their deterrent by spending their stockpile, making it is more likely Saudi Arabia would scale back their engagement in Yemen instead.

CARD - Apathy lead to Saudi anti-Iran campaign

Shalom Lipner, 11-28-2017, "How Obama and Trump left a vacuum in the Middle East," Brookings,

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/markaz/2017/11/28/how-obama-and-trump-left-a-vacuum-in-the-middle-east/>

A new cooperative spirit in the region, born of American apathy, has emboldened pro-Western governments to unite in promoting their interests more aggressively than ever before. A young generation of Saudi royals is stepping up to the plate. **Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman leads the charge on Iran, pushing back against its influence in**

Yemen and Lebanon. The Saudi-encouraged (or engineered, depending on whom you ask) resignation of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri was a bold move designed to challenge Iran's Hezbollah proxy and expose its control over the Lebanese state. The full consequences of these actions—including a massive purge of Saudi princes—are yet unclear, but Trump seems perfectly comfortable as their enabler.

A2 NEG - Stockpiles

1. Freeman reports that Saudi Arabia uses air strikes not ground troops in Yemen, which is key because Chatzky from case says Saudi planes are US dependent during their life

cycle for maintenance, which goes away in the aff world. Stockpiles don't matter without the planes to use them.

2. Henningan of TIME explains that Saudi Arabia uses its arms to deter Iran, which is crucial, because they lose their deterrent by spending their stockpile, making it is more likely Saudi Arabia would scale back their engagement in Yemen instead.
3. Weighing - Even if you buy their stockpiles argument, voting aff at least makes the war effort unsustainable, unlike continued sales to Saudi Arabia, which allow war to continue indefinitely.

W.J. Hennigan, 10-18-2018, "What Makes the U.S.-Saudi Relationship So Special? Weapons, Oil and 'An Army of Lobbyists'," Time,

<http://time.com/5428669/saudi-arabia-military-relationship/> The arrangement falls under the U.S. Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia, which is led by a two-star American general. The mission is primarily designed to bolster Saudi Arabia against arch-rival Iran in order to assert power and influence in the Middle East. "We have other very good allies in the Middle East, but if you look at Saudi Arabia: They're an ally and they're a tremendous purchaser of not only military equipment, but other things," Trump said Wednesday in the Oval Office. It was the President's latest attempt to trumpet \$400 billion in business deals that his administration signed in May 2017 during a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia. The eye-popping figure includes \$110 billion in military sales, which analysts point out is misleading because it represented letters of interest and not firmed-up contracts.

Airplanes not ground troops Samuel Perlo-Freeman, xx-xx-xxxx, "Who is arming the Yemen war? (And is anyone planning to stop?)," No Publication,

<https://sites.tufts.edu/reinventingpeace/2018/02/28/who-is-arming-the-yemen-war-and-is-anyone-planning-to-stop/> Saudi Arabia leads the coalition, and appears to conduct the majority of the air strikes, and lead the naval blockade of Yemen that is a major factor in the growing humanitarian catastrophe. However, Saudi Arabia does not have a significant presence of ground troops in Yemen, although some are present in Aden. The Saudi government stated at the beginning of the campaign in March 2015 that they were deploying 100 warplanes to the conflict, but more recent figures for the number of men, warplanes and naval vessels committed are not readily available.

CARDS - Iran has little influence

<http://americandiplomacy.web.unc.edu/2019/02/americas-yemen-policy/>

There are several problems with Saudi policy. First, Riyadh asserts that Yemen is a threat to the kingdom because Iran is providing direct support to the Houthis as Shiite coreligionists hostile to the Sunni Saudis. However, Houthis are Zaydi Shiites, quite different from Iranian Shiites. In practice they are quite tolerant, often worshipping together with Sunnis. Moreover, despite Saudi claims, there is little evidence that Iran has provided any significant military assistance to the

Houthis. The Saudis have imposed a naval blockade on Yemen, so, for example, the rockets that were fired on Riyadh by the Houthis and identified as Iranian probably were supplied before the conflict and captured by the Houthis.

As outsiders it is difficult to understand fully what motivates Saudi thinking about Yemen today, but we can make a few assumptions. The Saudis probably find it useful to support their Yemen intervention by claiming material Iranian support for the Houthis when it probably does not exist. That fits nicely into the Saudi narrative demonizing Iran in the Middle East. But Riyadh must be intensely frustrated by the failure of its punitive air strikes to force the Houthis to surrender. The young Crown Prince is committed to “win” in the Yemen war, since it is part of his ambitious strategy to reshape Saudi policy, foreign and domestic. Moreover, as outsiders we may regard as exaggerated and unrealistic Saudi paranoia about Iranian “encirclement” and fear of anti-Sunni forces on its southern border, and assume they simply cover Saudi attempts to justify their aggressive Yemen policy. But the Saudi leaders in Riyadh may actually believe that these threats are existential.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/05/16/contrary-to-popular-belief-houthis-arent-iranian-proxies/?utm_term=.c45a1ffb936b

The Houthi’s takeover of Sanaa, Yemen’s capital, in September 2014 prompted Iran to increase its support. It now appears that small numbers — perhaps dozens — of Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) officers, with assistance from Lebanese Hezbollah, have set up a [train and equip](#) program for the Houthis. There have also been reports of [intensifying shipping activity](#) between Iran and Yemen.

This assistance, however, remains limited and far from sufficient to make more than a marginal difference to the balance of forces in Yemen, a country [awash with weapons](#). There is therefore no supporting evidence to the claim that Iran has bought itself any significant measure of influence over Houthi decision-making.

A2 AFF - Russia won’t sell because of Iran

1. Bodner ‘17 - Russia is opportunistically pursuing arms sales in the Middle East because its traditional clients are turning to greater domestic production, which is why it is now selling to Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Libya, and Algeria
2. Kirpatrick ‘17 - Russia literally just sold Saudi Arabia \$3 billion worth of missiles. They’re fine with selling Saudi Arabia offensive capabilities.
3. Russia and China are seeking “to fill in perceived gaps in U.S. interest by increasing defense cooperation and sales of their equipment to our regional partners,” General Joseph Votel, the head of U.S. Central Command, [told](#) the House Armed Services Committee on Feb. 27.

4. The United States sells arms to both Israel and Saudi Arabia, two sworn enemies of each other.
5. Putin looks the other ways when making deals. For example, back in 2012, Russia sold the C-300 missile system to Saudi Arabia and then sold the exact same system to Iran.

David D. Kirkpatrick, 11-30-2017, "In Snub to U.S., Russia and Egypt Move Toward Deal on Air Bases," No Publication,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/30/world/middleeast/russia-egypt-air-bases.html>

Russia has sought to make inroads with American allies as well. In September, it agreed to sell \$2 billion worth of advanced missiles to Turkey, a NATO member that previously clashed with Russia over its Syria policy. In October, Russia agreed to sell \$3 billion worth of missiles to Saudi Arabia, another close American ally on the other side of the Syrian conflict.

With Washington seemingly in retreat, “very few if any of the states in the region are willing to rely solely on alliance with the United States and depend on the United States as the insurance policy for their security,” said Gamal Abdel Gawad Soltan, a scholar at the Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, a state-financed research institute in Cairo.

Matthew Bodner, 11-9-2017, "Sales target: Russia sets its sights on the Middle East," Defense News,

<https://www.defensenews.com/digital-show-dailies/dubai-air-show/2017/11/09/sales-target-russia-sets-its-sights-on-the-middle-east/>

With arms exports plateauing as traditional clients like India and China pursue evermore domestic production, or customers like Venezuela go broke, Russia is actively pursuing all opportunity it can find in the Middle East.

In many ways, Russia’s approach to the Middle East arms market is opportunistic. As ties between the U.S. and Egypt, for example, strained in 2014, Russia swept in with a \$3.5 billion arms deal to fill the void. Since then, Russia has been working to expand or restore arms sales to Soviet-era regional partners like Iraq, Iran, Libya and Algeria.

Glen Carey, March 2 2018, “Saudis Want to Make Their Own Weapons. Russia Is Eager to Help”, Bloomberg

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-02/saudis-want-to-make-their-own-weapons-russia-is-eager-to-help>

One of those people just delivered a warning to Congress on precisely this issue.

Russia and China are seeking “to fill in perceived gaps in U.S. interest by increasing defense cooperation and sales of their equipment to our regional partners,” General Joseph Votel, the head of U.S. Central Command, told the House Armed Services Committee on Feb. 27.

Russia's [influence in the Middle East](#) has soared since 2015, when its military intervention in Syria swung the civil war in President Bashar al-Assad's favor. China's economic role in the region is expanding, as it signs [deals](#) with Iran and seeks to get involved in [rebuilding Syria](#).

Oliver Carroll, October 5 2017, "Russia and Saudi Arabia 'sign \$3bn arms deal' as King Salman visit shows how much relations have changed", The Independent

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russia-king-salman-visit-saudi-arabia-moscow-vladimir-putin-a7985161.html>

Defence is one of few technological sectors where Russia can still claim to be a world leader, with over a fifth of all arms deals in 2016. But with China and India, Russia's biggest markets, looking to move towards military self-sufficiency, Russia is with increasing urgency looking to open new markets.

The Saudi partnership comes at the end of several years of courtship – and off the back of a tetchy relationship.

Russia first announced that it had brokered a \$20m (£15m) deal back in 2012. But that deal had several strings attached, namely a demand that the Kremlin could not sell the C-300 missile system to Iran, the Saudis' major regional rivals. Then, President Putin looked the other way, signing off on a new arms contract with Tehran worth \$1bn (£762m).