

**We negate.**

**Contention 1 is the alliance.**

Currently, Christopher Blanchard of the Congressional Research Service explained last year that the relationship between the US and Saudi Arabia has been defined by arms sales. WJ Hennigan of Time confirms in October that for the last 75 years, the alliance has been built on a simple arrangement: American demand for Saudi oil and Saudi demand for American firepower. Thus, ending American arms sales to Saudi Arabia will destroy two key facets of the US-Saudi relationship, both of which have catastrophic consequences.

First is oil exports.

Saudi Arabia has the ability to control the price of oil. Robert Rapier of Forbes finds in 2018 that Saudi Arabia produces over 12 million barrels of oil per day, roughly 13% of the world's oil production. With this control, they can spike oil prices in two ways.

Subpoint A is withholding oil.

Saudi Arabia has already threatened to increase oil prices if the US ends its arms sales. Javier Blas at Bloomberg explains last October that Saudi Arabia has said they would retaliate to any measures after the killing of journalist Khashoggi with stronger backlash. Historically, Riyadh has not hesitated to follow through with oil cuts in response to perceived aggression. Greg Myre of NPR reported in 2013 that when the US supported Israel in 1973, Saudi Arabia cut oil exports and caused prices to soar. More recently, Dominic Dudley of Forbes found last September that when Germany imposed an arms ban, Saudi Arabia prevented Germany from receiving oil contracts, forcing them to resume arms sales. The same would likely happen to the United States if it ended arms sales. Rapier concludes that if Saudi Arabia withheld even a third of their oil from the market, prices would easily spike to over 200\$ per barrel.

Subpoint B is not filling the gap.

Even if Saudi Arabia doesn't directly withhold oil, they can still hurt prices. CNN business journalist Zahraa Alkhalisi wrote in October that because Iranian sanctions are leaving a hole in Middle Eastern oil exports, all Saudi Arabia would have to do is not increase their production and not fill in the gap to cause prices to increase. Akhalisi furthers that even if no real production or export gaps materialize, just the threat of oil cuts from Saudi Arabia would be enough to raise global oil prices.

Ultimately, oil price spikes are extremely harmful to the US because they have minimal control over the market. Dutch Geoscientist Jilles Van Den Beukel finds in 2017 that because the US is not a swing producer of oil, it doesn't have the capability to fill in for oil export gaps at short notice, and possibly even at all. Matt Egan at CNN Business concludes in 2018 that the US is already maxed out on its oil production capacity.

The impact of rising oil prices is a billion lives. Pat Westhoff at the University of Missouri finds in 2012 that increases in oil prices increase global food prices by causing production and shipping

costs of food around the world to skyrocket. This is problematic, as Pinstруп-Andersen, director of the International Food Policy Research Institute, finds that even temporary blips in food prices risk pushing 1.1 billion people into poverty across the globe.

The second key area of US-Saudi cooperation is counterterrorism.

Michael Knights of the Washington Institute finds in 2018 that another key aspect of the US-Saudi relationship is counterterrorism: Washington provides physical security for the Saudis, while they serve as a cooperative counterterrorism partner. As a result, Professor Nawaf Obaid at the Harvard Belfer Center finds in 2016 that in collaboration with the US, has created one of the largest and most efficient counter-terrorism programs in the world.

However, voting affirmative to end arms sales would seriously damage this partnership, as Breshaun Brown of the Naval Postgraduate School explains in 2018 that arms sales are a key tenet of US-Saudi military cooperation through the International Military Education and Training, or IMET program. Absent arms sales, such cooperation could not occur, which would carry serious consequences for two reasons.

First, there would be more terrorist attacks. US collaboration with Saudi Arabia directly and independently deters terrorist attacks. The US Department of State reported in 2018 that because of US-Saudi collaboration stemming from arms sales and military training “numerous terrorist attempts against Saudi and foreign targets, have been deterred.” As a result, Guy Taylor of the Washington Times finds in 2018 that terrorist attacks are down 20% globally, with a 24% decrease in deaths.

Second, terrorist attacks would be more successful. As Obaid explains earlier, the US-Saudi counterterrorism program is one of the most effective in the world. VOA News reports in 2018 that Saudi intelligence operatives have an unrivaled network of connections in the Middle East that allows them to infiltrate terrorist strongholds and intercept plans. In fact, intelligence obtained from the Saudi Government in Riyadh helped foil a suicide bomb attack in Detroit in 2009 and another in Chicago in 2010. Christopher Blanchard of the Congressional Research Service corroborates in 2018 that Saudi intelligence is invaluable to US counterterror, having stopped 34 attempted terror attacks in one year alone.

## **Contention 2 is Saudi Nuclear Proliferation.**

According to Terrence **Guay** of Penn State University in 2018, Saudi Arabia does not have an arms industry, so it is dependent on foreign support for its security. Thus, the US military support in the status quo is key to ensuring that Saudi Arabia feels secure. However, if the US to pull out, Saudi Arabia would be forced to take matters into their own hands, with devastating consequences.

Yoel [Guzansky](#) of Tel Aviv University writes in 2013 that absent US support Saudi Arabia would be forced to acquire nuclear weapons to deter Iranian aggression and ensure their security. Unfortunately, nuclear proliferation would be easy for Saudi Arabia, as Ali [Ahmad](#) at Princeton University found in 2013 that Saudi Arabia has essentially already paid for its nuclear technology through strategic investments in Pakistani nuclear projects, leading him to conclude that they could obtain nuclear weapons at will if deemed necessary. In fact, **VOA News** reports that just

12 hours ago, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman signed investment deals with Pakistan worth \$20 billion.

Ultimately, the likelihood of Saudi proliferation would be high were they to commit to it. Eric [Edelman](#) at Yale confirms in 2011 that Pakistan would be extremely likely to sell nuclear arms to Saudi Arabia, as they have already offered to do so in the past. Edelman continues that Saudi nuclear proliferation would set off a regional nuclear conflict, as the proximity of states in the Middle East and the short flight times minimizes the time to analyze warnings, triggering policies to “launch on warning,” leading to miscalculation and preemptive attacks.

Thus, in order to maintain the US-Saudi oil relationship and to prevent Saudi proliferation, we negate.