

We negate that the United States should end its arms sales to Saudi Arabia.

Our sole contention is the final chapter.

The majority-Sunni Muslim kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the home of Shia Islam, Iran, have been at war in Yemen over geopolitical influence for years.

[Byman '18](#) explains that the roots of Yemen's civil war trace back to the early 2000's, when Houthi insurgents rebelled against the former administration, hoping to gain influence in the government. Taking advantage of chaos in the region, Houthi rebels conquered the Yemeni capital and other cities. Fearing that Iran would use the Houthis to gain a foothold in Yemen, Saudi Arabia entered the war in 2015, with Iran soon following.

However, the supply of highly advanced US weapons has created a strategic power imbalance: Saudi Arabia is winning the war, and the Houthis are losing. [Knights '18](#) confirms since 2015 the Saudi coalition has seized half of the Yemeni coast and critical energy pipelines. He adds the Houthis will soon lose the rest of the coast and their capital if the coalition offensive continues.

This is because [Al Sherbini 2018](#) reports, Houthi officials have defected from the organization and the rebels are no longer able to recruit fighters. He concludes that if airstrikes continue on their current trajectory, the rebels will lose.

Thus, [Nazer '18](#) explains that the war is in its final stages and it's only a matter of time before the Houthis lose *all* their territory.

Indeed, [Gulf News '18](#) reports that the President of the Hadi Government in Yemen has declared that victory over the Houthi rebels is imminent, and that Saudi Arabia's offensive in Hodeidah will be the final step in a decisive, overwhelming defeat of the Houthis.

To prevent these losses the Houthis have begun to negotiate. [Palmer '18](#) writes that the most recent ceasefire agreement in Yemen is likely to hold because the alternative, a merciless continuation of the country's civil war, is too awful to bear for either side.

In fact, [Sanchez of the Telegraph](#) writes just *last week* that according to Yemen, negotiations look the best they ever have. He credits the success of the current ceasefire to the Saudi-US alliance, and isolates specifically for the military relationship as the force for peace.

Indeed, [Reuters '19](#) reports that, under the UN ceasefire, relief agencies were finally able to deliver food aid and food vouchers to more than 9.5 million hungry people in Yemen for the first time, due to significant decreases in violence.

Unfortunately, ending arms sales would break this peace, and reignite fighting in Yemen for two reasons.

First, giving up US leverage.

Strong relations with America are key to regulating Saudi Arabia's involvement in Yemen. [Snyder '16](#) writes that as a condition of every foreign military sale, the US State Department monitors how the Saudis use US-made weapons through efforts such as refocusing training for the Saudi air force. This reduces civilian casualties.

More broadly, US military assistance was able to moderate Saudi Arabia's participation in the civil war. [Nissenbaum '18](#) finds that American generals denied Saudis the military and strategic support needed for the fight over the port of Hodeidah, the country's main gateway for humanitarian aid. That pushback played a key role in forestalling the Emirati offensive and helped create vital diplomatic space to help the cease-fire take hold.

Second, emboldening Iran.

Yemen is incredibly important to Iran's wider regional geopolitical goals. [Roule '18](#) explains, Tehran is seeking a regional foothold in Yemen through the Houthis, in order to establish strategic oil chokepoints and control over the Arabian peninsula. Thus, they have been the rebels' sole ally, intervening in the conflict just like they did in Lebanon and Syria.

Unfortunately, Iran will view ending arms sales as an American exit from the region and double down on their presence in Yemen. [Burns '18](#) writes that an end to U.S. support would be counterproductive by emboldening Iran to increase its support for Houthi rebels and break the ceasefire.

Indeed, [Tobin '19](#) confirms that ending US support for Saudi Arabia would only hand Iran a victory in Yemen and give the Houthis a leg up in their efforts to topple the government.

Tehran cannot be a part of any lasting solution. [Torromah '18](#) reports Iran supports the Houthis through arms exports and military training – directly prolonging the conflict and radicalizing the rebel movement.

Thus, [Anvi '18](#) concludes that conceding Yemen to Iranian interests would only create an “even worse regional catastrophe.”

The impact is prolonging suffering.

Impeding the track to peace would be devastating, as the [UN](#) reports that due to the eruption of violence and subsequent blockages of aid, 14 million people could soon reach the brink of starvation.

Please negate.