

We affirm.

Contention One is an Arms Race.

Tuttle 08 finds, US arm sales are igniting an arms race in the Middle East. Indeed, he continues, the US and Israel are signed onto the QME, or qualitative military edge agreement, meaning, as the US helps Saudi militarize, they are obligated to give Israel higher quality weapons at the same rate.

This is problematic, as **Washington Post 11** finds when Israel is granted stronger arms, other nations like Iran become more aggressive. This leads **Riedel of the Brookings Institute 18** to conclude the current arms race in the Middle East has been provoked by Israeli military advances, leading Iran and other nations to build up arms as well.

The impact is terrorism.

McKernan 18 finds as Middle Eastern nations build up arms, arms reach terrorist groups as well. This is problematic, as **Neumayer of LSE** finds a 1% increase in arms exports increases terrorism by 109%. Even worse, **Bupat 11** finds US military assistance prolongs the length of terrorist campaigns by 67%. An increase in terror is disastrous, as **The UN** reports it has directly caused over a million displacements per country, leading the **NCBI 16** to find displacement increases mortality by 250%.

Contention Two is the Yemen War.

Alley of the CFR explains, the Yemen war began in 2003 when political movements between the lion's share of Saudis and Houthis clashed. Unfortunately, arm sales have exacerbated the conflict, as **Wezeman 18** writes, there is a causal relationship between a recent spike in Saudi weapon imports and their increasingly aggressive behavior. Unfortunately, **The USG** found just last week, the US has only completed 25% of its intended sales, leading **Wezeman** to continue an increase in Saudi's arm acquisition makes conflict more appealing as they intend to put their money to use.

Even worse, due to neither side calming down, **Haqqani of the American Interest** concludes the conflict is unlikely to end anytime soon, creating a cycle of violence and signaling time for a change.

Fortunately, affirming ends the war in two ways.

Subpoint A is Calming The Houthis.

DePetros of Defense One 18 explains US-Saudi military campaign against the Houthis gives them the legitimacy to claim that they are defending Yemen from outside aggression. This is problematic, as **Stratfor 19** finds as long as the Houthis have a scapegoat, they can continue to preserve their standing and continue conflict. Conversely, he furthers affirming would force the Houthis to shift towards diplomacy as their legitimacy and support would falter if their followers believe they are responsible for prolonging the conflict.

Subpoint B is Saudi Arabia

US arm sales will calm Saudi's side of the conflict in two ways.

First is the government. The Saudi government is influenced by highly-ranked military officials and hardliners who see that a victory in Yemen is a possible option through US arm sales. Specifically, **Thrall of the CATO Institute 17** explains, arming Saudi emboldens these hardliners, encouraging them to pursue military confrontations as they believe they have a chance to win the war militarily rather than peacefully. Fortunately, **Riedel of Brookings 18** finds, because Saudi solely depends on the US for things like spare parts, munitions, training, and refueling, affirming would immediately sideline the Saudis' military capability. This leads **Bazzi of The Atlantic 18** to conclude Saudi is far more likely to accept a peace process if it is clear the US won't provide military assistance as it needs to continue the war.

Indeed, the Houthis have pushed for peace, but **Johnsen of Princeton University 18** finds, Saudi ramping up their own aggression pushes the Houthis away from diplomacy and instead to conflict.

Overall, **Thrall** concludes affirming calms hardliners and rids the Saudi government's incentive to pursue conflict.

Second is private militias. **Elbagir of CNN 19** finds arms sold to Saudi have been transferred to private militias, and other factions waging the war in Yemen. He continues, the Saudis have used US-manufactured weapons as a form of currency, functioning as bribes and political influences. This leads the **WIS 19** to report there are millions of dollars worth of American military items that have reached private militias.

Problematically, these weapons will prolong the conflict indefinitely. Indeed, **Raghavan of the Washington Post 18** finds these militias have started their own wars, posing a great threat to regional stability, "even if the Houthis lay down their arms."

Overall, **UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash** concludes negotiations, not the military offer the best chance to halt the conflict.

The impact to both subpoints is saving lives, as **The UN** reports the conflict is responsible for putting the lives of 22 million at risk.