

Zach and I affirm

Our Sole Contention is tHe StOrY oF YeMEEn

Subpoint A is Ending the Conflict

Guay '18 indicates that Saudi Arabia does not have an arms industry, and as a result are largely reliant upon the US. This reliance upon American Arms has uniquely worsened the conflict in 2 ways.

First, Fueling the Conflict

Weber '18 of George Washington University found that the weapons used in fueling the conflict are made and sold by the US for Saudi consumption.

McCarthy '18 of Forbes confirms that “arms sales from America to Saudi Arabia is the pillar of onslaught upon the Yemeni people.”

Second, Entanglement

As the US invests more into the conflict it becomes invested in the outcome making it harder to pull out. Thrall '18 of George Mason University found as the United States has sold more arms, it has even been willing to commit its own troops to the region to take action in various interventions.

Both of these reasons, are why Wilson '18 of JE found that “if the US stopped selling weapons to Yemen then the bombings and drone strikes would end, peacefully ending the proxy war that has left 22 million people starving.”

Subpoint B is Preserving the Peace

Pillar '18 of Georgetown writes that although the Houthis represent a very small threat to the US and Saudi Arabia, US policy towards Saudi arms sales is driven by an obsession to stop Iran. He explains that Iran backs the Houthis and the US backs the Saudis, causing for conflict to actually be essentially a proxy war rather than any real issue that Saudi Arabia has with the Houthis.

Pillar explains that Saudi Arabia in reality “seems [increasingly] distracted and flummoxed by its misadventure in Yemen.”

Thus an end to unquestioned US support for the war opens the possibility of peace.

Bazzi '18 of the Atlantic explains that Saudi Arabia and its allies are more likely to accept a peace process if it is clear that the United States won't support an open-ended war in Yemen and won't provide the military assistance required to keep the war apparatus going.

Bazzi furthers that this is because continuing arms sales signals to Saudi and Emirati leaders that a clear military victory in an unwinnable war remains possible. As long as the coalition believes it can crush the Houthis, there's little incentive for it to negotiate.

This is why ultimately Pillar explains that "an end to U.S. military aid to the Saudi-Emirati war effort would encourage the Saudis and Emiratis to find ways to extricate themselves from their quagmire and to attempt to sponsor a Yemeni peace settlement rather than an indefinite war."

The impacts are twofold

First, Ending the Famine

Mundy '17 of the London School of Economics writes that the Saudi coalition deliberately targets and destroys local farms, leaving residents starving.

Indeed, Hinck '16 of Time Magazine writes that food shortages have sharply increased the price of food by five or ten times.

Humanitarian assistance isn't an option, in the Status Quo. Zeyad '18 of Farsnews writes that U.S.-backed soldiers steal any food aid that makes it in the country, leading to the starvation of eighty five thousand children since the war began.

The United Nations explains that three quarters or 22 million people within Yemen's population are in desperate need of humanitarian aid with the entire country being "one step away from famine."

Second, Violence against women

Madhok '17 of UNICEF finds that eighty percent of Yemeni families have fallen deep into debt as a result of the conflict, and half of the population lives on less than two dollars a day.

This has eroded critical progress. Prior to the war, Raghavan '16 of the Washington Post writes that human rights advocates had made unparalleled progress in reducing child marriages.

Now, facing poverty, Raghavan explains that this progress has been erased as parents increasingly choose to marry off their daughters young for a dowry.

Indeed, Madhok confirms that seventy-three percent of Yemeni girls are now married before the age of eighteen, and almost half of all girls before they're fifteen.

Critically, World Vision '18 explains that girls who are forced to marry at a young age are robbed of their chance to get an education or work, guaranteeing their children will also be married off early and beginning the cycle all over again.

Overall, Madhok thus finds that gender-based violence has increased by sixty-three percent since the beginning of the war.

To give the people of Yemen a chance, please affirm.