**We negate.**

**Our First Contention is The Lesser Evil.**

*The Houthi rebels are breathing their last breath in Hodeidah.*

Charai of the National Interest explains that recent military advances by the Saudi Arabian coalition have caused the Houthis to lose crucial territories and become internally divided, leading many fighters to jump ship.

Thus, Hudson of Real Clear Politics concludes that Saudi Arabia is on the verge of a major victory that could push the Houthis out of Hodeidah, a key port city. Knights of the Washington Institute confirms that because many Houthi fighters are flipping sides and the few remaining Houthis are outnumbered, the next Saudi gain will inevitably be this key port.

*Unfortunately, ending arms sales would reverse this progress.*

Riedel of the Brookings Institution finds that ceasing arms sales would directly undermine the Saudi Arabian coalition fighting in Yemen.

As a result, Alyahya of the Hill adds that abandoning our support for the Saudi coalition would leave Yemen in the rebels hands.

***If the Houthis get control, there will be two catastrophic consequences.***

**First is Famine.**

*Currently, the UN* *finds that 17 million people are at risk of famine in Yemen.*

Lamki of CNN explains that the Houthi rebels steal aid and sell it on the black market for inflated prices to enrich their leaders.

Removing the Houthis from Hodeidah is key, as Carboni of the ACLED finds that 75 percent of all food aid goes through the port of Hodeidah.

Thus, Alyemany of New Europe concludes that winning back the port will allow for international organizations to provide humanitarian relief in *all areas of Yemen*, allowing for an end to the famine.

Conversely, Alyahya writes that expanding Houthi control would allow them to cut off international aid shipments.

**The Second Impact is Civilian Crackdowns.**

Alyahya writes that if the Houthis got control of Yemen, they would march on coalition-liberated areas and exact a bloody toll on the populations of major cities with the same ruthlessness to which they already subject many Yemeni cities.

Indeed, Matthews of the Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies reports that in the areas they already control, the Houthis have started to hunt down peaceful minority groups.

Holistically, Tobin of the National Review reports *this afternoon,* that Saudi Arabia is the lesser of two evils, concluding that Houthi control over Yemen would spur far *more* acts of violence against innocent civilians.

**Our Second Contention is Igniting Iran.**

*Currently, Saudi Arabia and Iran are locked in a regional rivalry.*

Oscavar of Foreign Policy explains that Iran prefers to challenge regional authority by stirring up proxy wars across the Middle East. Fortunately, the US-Saudi defense relationship is keeping Iran contained, as Oscavar furthers this alliance deters Iran from directly escalating conflicts given the risk that it might draw the US to fight alongside Saudi Arabia.

Moreover, Rosenfield of the Institute for Defense explains that arms sales to Saudi Arabia decreases low-level aggression by Iran, as empowering Saudi’s military capability causes Iran to fear escalating a conflict with a strengthened enemy.

*However, ending the arms trade creates a power shift by significantly reducing Saudi Arabia's military capabilities.*

Indeed, Vakil of the Hoover Institute finds that historically, during events such as the Gulf War and the Syrian Civil War, Iran only went on the offensive when its opponents were weakened. As such, Rosenfield confirms that ending arms sales to Saudi Arabia would embolden Iran to increase its support for its proxies across the Middle East.

Unfortunately, Byman of the University of Chicago explains that Iranian involvement always makes existing conflicts bloodier. For example, as the Iran-funded Hezbollah entered Syria, the war’s trajectory shifted, doubling the number of refugees to 150,000 in areas they controlled.

*This would undermine the stability of the Middle East.* Newsweek quantifies that there are currently six flashpoints across the region where Iran could escalate its proxy war with Saudi Arabia.

**Thus, we negate.**