Negative: Yemen

By Rebecca Sumner & “Coach Vance" Trefethen

***Resolved:* *The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.***

About 10 years ago, Yemen underwent a political transition and changed presidents. Many Yemenis opposed it and a civil war broke out. Houthi rebels (loyal to the former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh) took control of the capital, Sana, and much of the rest of the country. After taking interest in the outcome of the civil war in 2015, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates began bombing the rebels with support from the United States and several other countries.

Affirmative argues it’s time for the United States to stop backing Saudi Arabia against Yemen with US weapons sales. The war allegedly increases the threat of terrorism and contributes to one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world. Saudi forces are bombing Yemeni citizens, with massive amounts of human rights violations. AFF is also concerned about diversion of US weapons to militias and terrorists, as well as Iran.

Negative will show that US coalition support reduces, not aggravates, the suffering in Yemen. And fighting the rebels in Yemen is a good thing because they’re really bad guys and create serious threats. Supporting Saudi Arabia and UAE is the best policy both for Yemen and the rest of the world.

Negative: Yemen 4

MINOR REPAIR – More training 4

Provide more training to the Saudis on how to reduce civilian casualties 4

INHERENCY 4

1. A/T “Civilian Casualties” #1 – US training reduces 4

Training to minimize civilian casualties is underway in the conflict in Yemen 4

It’s working: Saudi Arabia takes measures to protect civilians 4

HARMS/SIGNIFICANCE 5

1. No constitutional problem with Presidential war powers 5

Trump was right to veto the congressional resolution that tried to stop activities in Yemen. There’s no constitutional violation in US policy in Yemen 5

3. Weapons are net beneficial 5

Gen. Votel says cutoff would have net harmful impact. Investigation of weapons leakage is underway, but it doesn’t justify cutoff 5

4. US & Saudis not responsible for the suffering – the rebels are 6

Rush to blame Saudis ignores the rebels creating the conditions that led to the humanitarian crisis and stealing the relief supplies 6

5. Protects US interests and citizens 6

US support for Saudis is in America’s best interest and protects our citizens 6

6. Fighting Al Qaeda 6

US-supported coalition is defeating Al Qaeda in Status Quo 6

7. A/T “Weapons leakage” 7

Weapons leakage isn’t happening, press is misinformed 7

8. A/T “Khashoggi” 7

Khashoggi’s death in the Saudi embassy doesn’t justify change in US/Saudi alliance 7

Vote to withdraw US support for Yemen isn’t the right way to punish Saudis for Khashoggi 7

Ending support for the coalition in Yemen over Khashoggi isn’t the proper solution 8

SOLVENCY 8

1. US pull-out won’t solve the suffering 8

Withdrawing support for Saudis in Yemen won’t end the humanitarian suffering, only prolong it 8

2. War will continue, regardless 8

War will continue with or without US support, and condemning the Saudis will only make things worse 8

The U.K. supplies a significant amount of arms to Saudi Arabia and Egypt 8

France is Egypt’s biggest supplier, and a major supplier to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco, and the UAE 9

Germany has licensed significant quantities of military equipment to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE, and Kuwait 9

Italy has helped Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates 9

Sweden has given a large license to the UAE, which could play a significant role in an air campaign 9

Spain supplies arms to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Morocco 10

Impact: The war will continue with or without the U.S. 10

DISADVANTAGES 11

1. No negotiated settlement 11

Link: US pull-out would make a negotiated settlement much more difficult 11

Link: US pull-out would make Saudis drop efforts to reach a cease fire 11

Brink: Saudi Arabia and Houthi rebels are engaged in serious efforts to end the war, but they could implode 11

Impact: Turn AFF harms of Yemen war 11

2. Red Sea shipping endangered 12

Link: Red Sea threat. Iranian-backed rebels with missiles threaten international shipping in the Red Sea 12

Link: Yemen’s strategic position on key oil shipping route means disruptions would raise oil prices 12

Link: Attacks have already begun. Yemen rebels hit 2 oil tankers, and oil shipments were suspended 12

Backup Link: Yemen / Red Sea are critical zones for world oil shipments 12

Backup Link: Disruptions of oil shipping raise oil prices 13

Impact 1: Consumers harmed. Higher oil prices = higher gasoline prices, which leaves less money for the rest of the things you want or need 13

Impact 2: Global economic damage. 13

3. Increased Civilian Casualties 14

Withdrawing US support means increased, not decreased civilian casualties 14

Thousands more die: US involvement is the only thing stopping Saudis from bombing thousands more civilians 14

Saudis would increase targeting of civilians if American intervention stops 14

Restrictions on U.S. military support would make everything worse 14

4. Subverts Democracy 15

US and Saudis are supporting the democratically elected and internationally recognized government of Yemen 15

5. Harms alliance with Saudi Arabia 16

Link: Dropping support for Saudis in Yemen will seriously damage US/Saudi relations 16

Brink: The U.S. supported the war to keep from losing alliance with Saudi Arabia 16

Impact: Terrorism. US alliance with Saudi Arabia is key to fighting terrorism 16

Impact: Reduced US national security. The Saudis greatly enhance America’s security 16

Impact: American lives. Good relationship with Saudi Arabia saves American lives by stopping terrorist attacks 17

Backup Link: The U.S. relies on Saudi Arabia’s help in going after al Qaeda and Islamic State 17

Backup Brink: Impossible to fight Islamic terrorism anywhere in the world without Saudi Arabia’s help 17

6. Internal Saudi security threat 18

Link: If Saudis lose the war, anger could result in big wave of domestic terrorism 18

Brink: Saudi royal family is crumbling, vulnerable to new wave of terrorism. Could be the next failed state. 18

Impact: Saudi Oil Collapse = Massive economic damage 19

7. External Saudi threat 20

Link: The reason Status Quo hasn’t removed support is that Saudi Arabia is threatened by the Houthis’ takeover of Yemen 20

Link: Saudi Arabia has endured major Yemeni-originated attacks 20

Link: Iran = existential threat to Saudi Arabia 20

Impact: Saudi Oil collapse. 20

Works Cited 21

Negative: Yemen

MINOR REPAIR – More training

Provide more training to the Saudis on how to reduce civilian casualties

Melissa G. Dalton, Hijab Shah, and Timothy Robbins 2018 (**Dalton**—Senior fellow and deputy director of the International Security Program and director of the Cooperative Defense Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C. **Shah**—Research associate at CSIS; **Robbins**—intern with the CSIS International Security Program) 23 Mar 2018, “U.S. Support for Saudi Military Operations in Yemen,” <https://www.csis.org/analysis/us-support-saudi-military-operations-yemen>

What alternate measures to those outlined in the proposed legislation can the United States take to temper the unintended effects of the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen? A4: Though the questions and concerns raised by critics of the Saudi-led operations in Yemen are valid and vital, cutting off all U.S. assistance may not be the best solution to the crisis. The United States should consider alternative methods to mitigate civilian casualties and alter Saudi and wider coalition behavior in the conflict that may achieve more enduring results. Following the international outcry against Saudi Arabia’s aerial campaign in Yemen last year, Saudi Arabia reportedly [invested](https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/03/yemen-us-weapons-saudi-arabia-uae.html)$750 million in a training program through the U.S. military in helping mitigate civilian casualties. The United States may consider apportioning a greater percentage of its assistance portfolio to trainings such as these, as well as combined scenario-based planning and exercises for its security partners navigating complex civil-military environments.

INHERENCY

1. A/T “Civilian Casualties” #1 – US training reduces

Training to minimize civilian casualties is underway in the conflict in Yemen

US State Department 2020. “U.S. Security Cooperation With Saudi Arabia” 8 Apr 2020 <https://www.state.gov/u-s-security-cooperation-with-saudi-arabia/>

The United States continues to work with the Saudi-led Coalition to minimize civilian casualties in this conflict. The Saudi government is taking measures to improve its targeting processes and also adopted mechanisms for investigating alleged incidents of civilian casualties and addressing them operationally, as appropriate. The Saudis received and will continue to receive training from U.S. forces on Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC), air-to-ground targeting procedures, and best practices for mitigating the risk of civilian casualties. Future bilateral and multilateral training is designed to improve the Saudi security forces’ understanding of identifying, targeting, and engaging correct targets while minimizing collateral damage and civilian casualties.

It’s working: Saudi Arabia takes measures to protect civilians

Dion Nissenbaum 2018 (national security reporter for The Wall Street Journal; graduated from Univ of California, Berkeley) 18 Mar 2018, “In a Saudi War Room, Generals Grapple With Ways to Protect Civilians in Yemen” <https://www.wsj.com/articles/in-a-saudi-war-room-generals-grapple-with-ways-to-protect-civilians-in-yemen-1521370801>

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—Maj. Gen. Abdullah Al-Ghamdi stands in the middle of Saudi Arabia’s war room and points to a white truck driving across a live drone feed from Yemen nearly 1,000 miles away. “Look,” he says as the truck silently kicks up dust while passing a small compound, “there is a group of fighters hiding right there that we are watching, but we let him drive away. We’ll watch for hours, days sometimes, and not strike to protect civilians.”

 HARMS/SIGNIFICANCE

1. No constitutional problem with Presidential war powers

Trump was right to veto the congressional resolution that tried to stop activities in Yemen. There’s no constitutional violation in US policy in Yemen

James Phillips 2019 (senior research fellow for Middle Eastern affairs at The Heritage Foundation) Trump’s Veto of Yemen War Resolution Protects U.S. Security Interests 18 Apr 2019 <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/trumps-veto-yemen-war-resolution-protects-us-security-interests>

Trump clearly had strong legal, constitutional, and policy reasons for exercising his veto. For starters, his statement challenged the use of the War Powers Act as a basis for the legislation, S.J. Res. 7, because U.S. military forces were not directly engaged in hostilities in Yemen apart from occasional military operations against al-Qaeda and associated forces, which were explicitly exempted from the legislation. As the president said:
This joint resolution is unnecessary because, apart from counterterrorism operations against al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and ISIS, the United States is not engaged in hostilities in or affecting Yemen.
Trump also sought to protect his constitutional authority as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, as have many past presidents confronted with war powers challenges. His veto statement declared:
S.J. Res. 7 is also dangerous. The Congress should not seek to prohibit certain tactical operations, such as in-flight refueling, or require military engagements to adhere to arbitrary timelines. Doing so would interfere with the president’s constitutional authority as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, and could endanger our service members by impairing their ability to efficiently and effectively conduct military engagements and to withdraw in an orderly manner at the appropriate time.

3. Weapons are net beneficial

Gen. Votel says cutoff would have net harmful impact. Investigation of weapons leakage is underway, but it doesn’t justify cutoff

CNN 2019 (journalists Eliza Mackintosh and Ryan Browne) 5 Feb 2019 US general expresses support for Saudi coalition after CNN report on weapons in Yemen <https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/05/middleeast/yemen-us-centcom-weapons-intl/index.html>

The top United States military commander in the Middle East suggested Tuesday that America would continue to back its allies waging war in Yemen, despite new evidence of arms deal violations [uncovered by a CNN investigation](https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2019/02/middleeast/yemen-lost-us-arms/). Gen. Joseph Votel, the head of Central Command (CENTCOM), told a Senate hearing on Tuesday that withdrawing US support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen would remove the "leverage we have to continue to influence them" and could further endanger Americans in the region. Votel said the military was "looking more closely at the allegations" in CNN's report, published Monday, which revealed that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates had transferred US-made weapons to al Qaeda-linked fighters, hardline Salafi militias, and other groups on the ground.

4. US & Saudis not responsible for the suffering – the rebels are

Rush to blame Saudis ignores the rebels creating the conditions that led to the humanitarian crisis and stealing the relief supplies

Madyson H. Posey and James Phillips 2018. (Posey – Research and Administrative Assistant, Heritage Foundation. Phillips – Senior Research Fellow, Heritage Foundation) 6 Dec 2018 “Ending U.S. Military Support for Saudi Arabia in Yemen Would Trigger Dangerous Consequences” <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/ending-us-military-support-saudi-arabia-yemen-would-trigger-dangerous>

The war in Yemen is complex. Those who rush to blame Saudi Arabia entirely for the suffering of the Yemeni people ignore the war crimes and heavy-handed treatment meted out by the Houthis to their opponents and the ruthless role that Iran plays in supporting the Houthi Ansar Allah (“Supporters of Allah”) movement, a Shia Islamist extremist group. The Saudis are rightly criticized for not doing more to prevent civilian casualties as they target Ansar Allah positions. But the Houthis should not be given a free pass for deliberately targeting civilian targets in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates with increasingly sophisticated Iranian ballistic missiles. Ansar Allah also deserves criticism for its violent role in destabilizing Yemen and creating the conditions that led to the current humanitarian disaster. Ansar Allah regularly attacks the Saudi border, launches missiles strikes into Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and diverts international medical and food aid to favor its own supporters and sell on the black market.

5. Protects US interests and citizens

US support for Saudis is in America’s best interest and protects our citizens

Rebecca Kheel 2019 (journalist) THE HILL 29 Apr 2019 “Pompeo defends US support for Saudis in Yemen as 'in America's best interest'” <https://thehill.com/policy/transportation/441117-pompeo-defends-us-support-for-saudis-in-yemen-as-in-americas-best-interest>

Secretary of State [Mike Pompeo](https://thehill.com/people/mike-pompeo) on Monday defended U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen’s civil war as the Senate prepares to take a vote on [President Trump](https://thehill.com/people/donald-trump)’s veto of a resolution to end that support. “Airplanes flying through King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh are at risk, and the United States has an obligation to protect our citizens,” Pompeo said at The Hill’s Newsmaker Series event, referencing rebel missile attacks that have hit the airport. “So the support we’re providing to the Saudis as they attempt to engage these dangerous missiles systems is in America’s best interest.”

6. Fighting Al Qaeda

US-supported coalition is defeating Al Qaeda in Status Quo

Embassy of Saudi Arabia in the U.S. 2019. “Saudi-led Coalition Denies Supplying Houthis, AQAP With U.S Weapons in Yemen” 12 Feb 2019 <https://www.saudiembassy.net/news/saudi-led-coalition-denies-supplying-houthis-aqap-us-weapons-yemen>

The Coalition has cooperated with allies and partners in identifying and targeting a number of lethal AQAP terrorists, and Coalition countries have cleared AQAP from a number of cities they controlled due to the power vacuum created by the Houthi coup. As a result of those and other successful operations with the United States support, AQAP no longer holds any territory in Yemen. The Coalition remains committed to vigorously countering AQAP and will continue to work with international partners in this regard.

7. A/T “Weapons leakage”

Weapons leakage isn’t happening, press is misinformed

Embassy of Saudi Arabia in the U.S. 2019. “Saudi-led Coalition Denies Supplying Houthis, AQAP With U.S Weapons in Yemen” 12 Feb 2019 <https://www.saudiembassy.net/news/saudi-led-coalition-denies-supplying-houthis-aqap-us-weapons-yemen>

The Coalition to restore legitimacy in Yemen has viewed with concern media reports alleging the transfer of US military weapons to the Iranian backed Houthi militia and AQAP in Yemen. Coalition spokesman Colonel Turki Al-Malki strongly denied those claims, and stressed the Coalition countries’ commitment to confront and defeat the illegal Houthi takeover of Yemen, in addition to decisively confronting other terrorist groups, such as ISIS And AQAP, rendering the idea of supplying weapons to these groups illogical. Colonel Al-Malki said that what was shown in media reports were military vehicles that were damaged and were evacuated. (155) vehicles have been evacuated, and the other (55) are being prepared for evacuation out of Yemen, stressing that the Coalition takes seriously any claims of any other party obtaining any weapons of any kind.

8. A/T “Khashoggi”

**[Jamal Khashoggi was a Saudi journalist (who had a green card and lived in the U.S.) who was killed inside a Saudi embassy in Turkey, theoretically because the Saudis didn’t like his published opinions]**

Khashoggi’s death in the Saudi embassy doesn’t justify change in US/Saudi alliance

Rebeccah L. Heinrichs 2018 (senior fellow at Hudson Institute where she specializes in nuclear deterrence and missile defense; adjunct professor at the Institute of World Politics where she teaches nuclear deterrence theory) “Why Breaking With Saudi Arabia Over Khashoggi Would Hurt America.” October 23, 2018) <https://www.hudson.org/research/14636-why-breaking-with-saudi-arabia-over-khashoggi-would-hurt-america>

The death of Saudi national and Washington Post opinion writer Jamal Khashoggi should not result in a change in the U.S.-Saudi alliance. The United States shouldn’t even formally inflict a severe punishment on the Saudi government. Devising a calibrated, proportional response that preserves the strength of the U.S.-Saudi alliance is both wise and moral. After changing its story a few times, the Saudi government has finally admitted that Khashoggi died at the hands of Saudi officials in a Saudi consulate in Turkey. The Saudis also said 18 individuals, including senior ranking officials, will be held accountable for what they say was an operation that was not ordered by the young crown prince Mohammed bin Salman but went awry and resulted in Khashoggi’s death. The media, led by The Washington Post, has provided significant coverage of the matter. The picture media reports paint of the Saudis is cruel and sociopathic. The truth is, Saudi Arabia is often cruel and does not tolerate dissent. The young crown prince has ordered extrajudicial killings and rounded up and jailed or killed many of his enemies. Saudi citizens who convert to faiths outside of Islam are guilty of capital crimes, women are abused without anywhere near the legal protections of men, and I could go on. But, despite the Saudi government’s lack of some of the principles of justice Americans hold dear, the Turkish government has provided no proof to contradict Saudi claims that the death of the Saudi national was an accident. And the flurry of media reporting has largely been sourced by anonymous Turkish individuals.

Vote to withdraw US support for Yemen isn’t the right way to punish Saudis for Khashoggi

James Phillips 2019 (senior research fellow for Middle Eastern affairs at The Heritage Foundation) Trump’s Veto of Yemen War Resolution Protects U.S. Security Interests 18 Apr 2019 <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/trumps-veto-yemen-war-resolution-protects-us-security-interests>

It is no secret that many in Congress saw the vote as a means of punishing the Saudi government for its [involvement](https://www.heritage.org/global-politics/report/congress-must-address-saudi-human-rights-issues-without-undermining-us) in the death of Jamal Khashoggi last October. But the measure would have punished not just Saudi Arabia, but also the government of Yemen, and other countries fighting against the Houthis in the Saudi-led coalition: the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal, and Sudan.

Ending support for the coalition in Yemen over Khashoggi isn’t the proper solution

Madyson H. Posey and James Phillips 2018. (Posey – Research and Administrative Assistant, Heritage Foundation. Phillips – Senior Research Fellow, Heritage Foundation) 6 Dec 2018 “Ending U.S. Military Support for Saudi Arabia in Yemen Would Trigger Dangerous Consequences” <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/ending-us-military-support-saudi-arabia-yemen-would-trigger-dangerous>

The killing of Khashoggi was certainly abhorrent, but ending U.S. support for the multinational coalition in Yemen is not the proper solution. It risks dangerously conflating two separate issues and would inevitably trigger unintended consequences that would undermine U.S. national security interests in the region.

SOLVENCY

1. US pull-out won’t solve the suffering

Withdrawing support for Saudis in Yemen won’t end the humanitarian suffering, only prolong it

Madyson H. Posey and James Phillips 2018. (Posey – Research and Administrative Assistant, Heritage Foundation. Phillips – Senior Research Fellow, Heritage Foundation) 6 Dec 2018 “Ending U.S. Military Support for Saudi Arabia in Yemen Would Trigger Dangerous Consequences” <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/ending-us-military-support-saudi-arabia-yemen-would-trigger-dangerous>

Those who advocate withdrawing support for Saudi Arabia apparently believe that they can somehow end the current conflict in Yemen through a one-sided strategy that penalizes allies and boosts Ansar Allah, a group that chants “Death to America” and looks more like Hezbollah, Iran’s Lebanese proxy group, every day. Never mind that Saudi Arabia is supporting the internationally recognized government of Yemen in this effort. Never mind that leaving Ansar Allah to run amuck will not bring an end to the humanitarian suffering, but only prolong it.

2. War will continue, regardless

War will continue with or without US support, and condemning the Saudis will only make things worse

Madyson H. Posey and James Phillips 2018. (Posey – Research and Administrative Assistant, Heritage Foundation. Phillips – Senior Research Fellow, Heritage Foundation) 6 Dec 2018 “Ending U.S. Military Support for Saudi Arabia in Yemen Would Trigger Dangerous Consequences” <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/ending-us-military-support-saudi-arabia-yemen-would-trigger-dangerous>

The Yemeni government and Saudi Arabia will continue to fight this war with or without U.S. support. Those who would connect two unrelated issues, condemn Saudi involvement, and ignore Iran’s hostile role inside Yemen will only do more harm to innocent Yemeni civilians and empower Iran and its Yemeni proxies.

The U.K. supplies a significant amount of arms to Saudi Arabia and Egypt

Dr. Samuel Perlo-Freeman 2018 (Fellow at the World Peace Foundation, and Project Manager for WPF project on Global Arms Business and Corruption. He was previously Senior Researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); was head of the SIPRI Military Expenditure project from 2009-2016; former Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of the West of England; PhDs in Mathematics and Economics) 28 Feb 2018 “Who is arming the Yemen war? (And is anyone planning to stop?)” <https://sites.tufts.edu/reinventingpeace/2018/02/28/who-is-arming-the-yemen-war-and-is-anyone-planning-to-stop/>

The *UK* is the second largest supplier to Saudi Arabia, who are the UK’s largest customer by far. British Tornado and Typhoon aircraft are a major component of the Saudi Air Force, active in Yemen. The UK has also licensed significant quantities of arms to Egypt.

France is Egypt’s biggest supplier, and a major supplier to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco, and the UAE

Dr. Samuel Perlo-Freeman 2018 (Fellow at the World Peace Foundation, and Project Manager for WPF project on Global Arms Business and Corruption. He was previously Senior Researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); was head of the SIPRI Military Expenditure project from 2009-2016; former Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of the West of England; PhDs in Mathematics and Economics) 28 Feb 2018 “Who is arming the Yemen war? (And is anyone planning to stop?)” <https://sites.tufts.edu/reinventingpeace/2018/02/28/who-is-arming-the-yemen-war-and-is-anyone-planning-to-stop/>

*France* is the biggest supplier of arms to Egypt, with $2.8 billion-worth delivered in 2015-16, including a frigate, 2 Mistral helicopter carriers, and 24 Rafale combat aircraft. France is also a major supplier to Saudi Arabia, with deliveries of over 2 billion dollars including armored vehicles, air defense systems, and aircraft subsystems; and also has significant orders and/or deliveries to Kuwait, Morocco (another small-scale buyer, to whom France had the largest financial value of deliveries), and the UAE.

Germany has licensed significant quantities of military equipment to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the UAE, and Kuwait

Dr. Samuel Perlo-Freeman 2018 (Fellow at World Peace Foundation, Project Manager for WPF project on Global Arms Business and Corruption; previously Senior Researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); former Senior Lecturer in Economics at Univ. of the West of England; PhDs in Mathematics and Economics) 28 Feb 2018 “Who is arming the Yemen war? (And is anyone planning to stop?)” <https://sites.tufts.edu/reinventingpeace/2018/02/28/who-is-arming-the-yemen-war-and-is-anyone-planning-to-stop/>

*Germany* plays a lesser role, but has made significant deliveries (based on SIPRI data) to Egypt (armored vehicles and submarines), and has licensed significant quantities of military equipment to Saudi Arabia (including naval patrol craft), Egypt, the UAE, and Kuwait.

Italy has helped Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates

Dr. Samuel Perlo-Freeman 2018 (Fellow at World Peace Foundation, Project Manager for WPF project on Global Arms Business and Corruption; previously Senior Researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); former Senior Lecturer in Economics at Univ. of the West of England; PhDs in Mathematics and Economics) 28 Feb 2018 “Who is arming the Yemen war? (And is anyone planning to stop?)” <https://sites.tufts.edu/reinventingpeace/2018/02/28/who-is-arming-the-yemen-war-and-is-anyone-planning-to-stop/>

*Italy* agreed a deal in 2016 to sell 28 Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft to Kuwait for EUR7.8 billion, accounting for the export license figure quoted. They also make significant supplies to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Sweden has given a large license to the UAE, which could play a significant role in an air campaign

Dr. Samuel Perlo-Freeman 2018 (Fellow at World Peace Foundation, Project Manager for WPF project on Global Arms Business and Corruption; previously Senior Researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); former Senior Lecturer in Economics at Univ. of the West of England; PhDs in Mathematics and Economics) 28 Feb 2018 “Who is arming the Yemen war? (And is anyone planning to stop?)” <https://sites.tufts.edu/reinventingpeace/2018/02/28/who-is-arming-the-yemen-war-and-is-anyone-planning-to-stop/>

*Sweden’s* large license to the UAE comes from a $1.3 billion deal in 2016 for two Erieye Airborne Early Warning and Control systems, which could potentially play a significant role in an air campaign.

Spain supplies arms to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Morocco

Dr. Samuel Perlo-Freeman 2018 (Fellow at World Peace Foundation, Project Manager for WPF project on Global Arms Business and Corruption; previously Senior Researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); former Senior Lecturer in Economics at Univ. of the West of England; PhDs in Mathematics and Economics) 28 Feb 2018 “Who is arming the Yemen war? (And is anyone planning to stop?)” <https://sites.tufts.edu/reinventingpeace/2018/02/28/who-is-arming-the-yemen-war-and-is-anyone-planning-to-stop/>

*Spain* joins most of the others on the Saudi bandwagon, as well as being a significant supplier to Egypt and (relatively speaking) Morocco. Spain’s major arms supplies to Egypt and Saudi consist of transport aircraft.

Impact: The war will continue with or without the U.S.

There are far more countries involved in the war than just the U.S.

DISADVANTAGES

1. No negotiated settlement

Link: US pull-out would make a negotiated settlement much more difficult

James Phillips 2019 (senior research fellow for Middle Eastern affairs at The Heritage Foundation) Trump’s Veto of Yemen War Resolution Protects U.S. Security Interests 18 Apr 2019 <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/trumps-veto-yemen-war-resolution-protects-us-security-interests>

The Trump administration has already stopped the aerial refueling of Saudi warplanes involved in the Yemen conflict and called for a negotiated settlement. But the United States cannot afford to desert its allies and hope for the best. Undermining the Yemeni government and the Saudi-led coalition would make U.N.-brokered efforts to reach an acceptable political settlement much more difficult.

Link: US pull-out would make Saudis drop efforts to reach a cease fire

Tom Rogan 2018 (commentary writer for the Washington Examiner and a senior fellow with the Steamboat Institute) 28 Nov 2018 “Ending US support for Saudi Arabia would make things much worse in Yemen” <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/ending-us-support-for-saudi-arabia-would-make-things-much-worse-in-yemen>

So it's understandable that senators want to end to the Saudi campaign against Iranian-supported Houthi rebels in Yemen. They believe that pulling American support will put immense pressure on Riyadh to accept a rapid cease fire. But the problem is that the senators are wrong. If the U.S. pulls its functional support for the Saudi alliance, two negative consequences will immediately follow. First, the Saudis will lose all the inhibitions about accurate targeting of Houthi formations that American intervention has forced. Second, Riyadh will lose interest in energetic efforts by Washington to reach a durable cease fire.

Brink: Saudi Arabia and Houthi rebels are engaged in serious efforts to end the war, but they could implode

WASHINGTON POST 2020. (journalist Sudarsan Raghavan) 25 Feb 2020 “As Yemen’s war intensifies, an opening for al-Qaeda to resurrect its fortunes” <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/as-yemens-war-intensifies-an-opening-for-al-qaeda-to-resurrect-its-fortunes/2020/02/24/6244bd84-54ef-11ea-80ce-37a8d4266c09_story.html>

[Saudi Arabia and the Houthis](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/saudi-arabia-and-yemens-rebels-were-making-rare-progress-in-peace-talks-then-new-violence-flared/2020/02/03/85f3bf64-4464-11ea-99c7-1dfd4241a2fe_story.html?itid=lk_inline_manual_11) have recently engaged in their most significant efforts yet to end the war, including prisoner exchanges and a Saudi decision to permit medical evacuation flights from the Yemeni capital, Sanaa. For more than three months, Saudi Arabia had reduced its airstrikes, and the Houthis had halted missile and drone assaults on the kingdom. But the clashes that resumed last month have prompted top U.N. officials to warn that peace efforts could implode, especially those centering on [the strategic port city of Hodeida.](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/in-pivotal-yemeni-city-scarred-by-war-and-cholera-a-fragile-ceasefire-is-tested/2018/12/20/c89c1eee-fe36-11e8-a17e-162b712e8fc2_story.html?itid=lk_inline_manual_12)

 Impact: Turn AFF harms of Yemen war

The war goes on longer if we don’t reach a negotiated settlement, so the harms get worse with an AFF ballot

2. Red Sea shipping endangered

Link: Red Sea threat. Iranian-backed rebels with missiles threaten international shipping in the Red Sea

Jean Abinader 2018 (international development consultant working on change issues, and he offers advisory services to organizations and companies in transition to define growth solutions and build internal team capabilities) 13 July 2018 What’s at Stake in Yemen? <https://www.fairobserver.com/region/middle_east_north_africa/houthi-iran-yemen-war-arab-world-news-this-week-39010/> (brackets in original)

In Secretary of State Mike Pompeo’s follow-up to the US withdrawal from the deal, he [mentioned](https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2018/05/282301.htm) Iran’s role in Yemen. “In Yemen, Iran’s support for the Houthi militia fuels a conflict that continues to starve the Yemeni people and hold them under the threat of terror,” Pompeo said. “The IRGC [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps] has also given Houthi missiles to attack civilian targets in Saudi Arabia and the Emirates and to threaten international shipping in the Red Sea.”

Link: Yemen’s strategic position on key oil shipping route means disruptions would raise oil prices

Madyson Hutchinson Posey 2017 (research and administrative assistant for the Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy at Heritage Foundation) 10 Aug 2017 Why the Crisis in Yemen Matters to the United States <https://www.heritage.org/homeland-security/commentary/why-the-crisis-yemen-matters-the-united-states>

Yemen’s geo-strategic importance cannot be ignored either. The country borders two U.S. allies and sits at the convergence point of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, overlooking the Bab el Mandab Strait—a key trade route, particularly [for oil](http://www.businessinsider.com/map-of-the-day-oil-shipping-lanes-2011-4)**. [END QUOTE]** A daily [4.7 million barrels](http://index.heritage.org/military/2017/assessments/operating-environment/middle-east/) of oil are transported through that strait. At its most narrow point, the Bab el Mandab is only 18 miles wide, meaning that ships must pass closely together, usually only two at a time. **[SHE GOES ON TO SAY QUOTE:]** [Serious disruptions](https://www.csis.org/analysis/america-saudi-arabia-and-strategic-importance-yemen) of this route could constrict the flow of Persian Gulf oil to Europe and the western hemisphere and raise world oil prices.

Link: Attacks have already begun. Yemen rebels hit 2 oil tankers, and oil shipments were suspended

Reuters news service 2018. “Egypt voices concern over Red Sea security after Houthi attack” 13 Aug 2018 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security-egypt/egypt-voices-concern-over-red-sea-security-after-houthi-attack-idUSKBN1KY1XQ>

Egypt’s president said on Monday Cairo was deeply concerned about security in the Red Sea following an attack by Yemen’s Houthis on two oil tankers that forced Saudi Arabia to suspend crude shipments temporarily through the strait of Bab al-Mandab.

Backup Link: Yemen / Red Sea are critical zones for world oil shipments

Reuters news service 2018. “Egypt voices concern over Red Sea security after Houthi attack” 13 Aug 2018 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security-egypt/egypt-voices-concern-over-red-sea-security-after-houthi-attack-idUSKBN1KY1XQ>

Although Saudi Arabia resumed oil shipments through the strait several days later, the incident has highlighted the volatility of the situation in the area, where fighting between the Houthis and supporters of Hadi’s government has been raging since 2015. Yemen lies along the southern end of the Red Sea, one of the most important trade routes in the world for oil tankers. The tankers pass near Yemen’s shores while heading from the Middle East through the Suez Canal to Europe.

Backup Link: Disruptions of oil shipping raise oil prices

Robin Mills 2016. (nonresident fellow for Energy at the *Brookings* Institution Doha Center ) April 2016 “Risky Routes: Energy Transit in the Middle East” <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/en-energy-transit-security-mills-2.pdf>

The economic impacts of a disruption vary from trivial to severe and from regional to global. [**END QUOTE]** The impacts would depend on the nature of the disruption, its extent and duration, the energy source affected, how quickly normal transit could be restored, and on counter-measures and mitigation actions (for example the use of strategic stocks). [**HE GOES ON LATER TO SAY QUOTE:]** The costs of a disruption are divided between the energy exporters, whose shipments are reduced or halted, and the energy importers, whose energy supplies are either reduced or become more expensive. Given the global nature of the oil business in particular, and the gas industry to an extent, these losses affect consumers everywhere.

Impact 1: Consumers harmed. Higher oil prices = higher gasoline prices, which leaves less money for the rest of the things you want or need

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco 2007. “What are the possible causes and consequences of higher oil prices on the overall economy?” Nov 2007 <https://www.frbsf.org/education/publications/doctor-econ/2007/november/oil-prices-impact-economy/>

As a consumer, you may already understand the microeconomic implications of higher oil prices. When observing higher oil prices, most of us are likely to think about the price of gasoline as well, since gasoline purchases are necessary for most households. When gasoline prices increase, a larger share of households’ budgets is likely to be spent on it, which leaves less to spend on other goods and services. The same goes for businesses whose goods must be shipped from place to place or that use fuel as a major input (such as the airline industry). Higher oil prices tend to make production more expensive for businesses, just as they make it more expensive for households to do the things they normally do.

Impact 2: Global economic damage.

Adam Vaughan 2018. (journalist) 25 Sept 2018 THE GUARDIAN (British newspaper) “Rising oil prices fuel fears of damage to global economy” <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/sep/25/rising-oil-prices-fuel-fears-damage-global-economy> (PetroMatrix is an oil industry research group)

The global economy could be damaged if oil prices return to $100 (£76) a barrel, experts have warned, after crude prices hit a four-year high of $82.16. Some market watchers have predicted prices between $90 and $100 by the year’s end after [Opec](https://www.theguardian.com/business/opec) last weekend rebuffed Donald Trump’s demands for the oil cartel to rein in prices by expanding production. Now after Tuesday’s high a leading analyst has said that if prices climbed to $100 – a level not seen since September 2014 – growth in oil demand would be “annihilated” and demand would fall sharply. Moreover, PetroMatrix said, emerging economies’ growth could suffer because of steep crude prices causing inflationary pressures that lead to interest rate rises. Those countries could also be forced to cut oil taxes, widening budget deficits. Any slowing in emerging markets would add to the recent economic challenges [facing countries including Turkey and Argentina](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/sep/08/emerging-economies-crisis-looms-shadow-america-boom-interest-rates).

3. Increased Civilian Casualties

Withdrawing US support means increased, not decreased civilian casualties

Jordain Carney 2018 (Reporter for the Hill, previously worked as a defense reporter for National Journal, as staff writer for the Hotline, columnist for the Arkansas Traveler. B.A. in Journalism and English from Univ of Arkansas -Fayetteville. Mitch **McConnell**—Senate Majority Leader; senator from Kentucky) 20 Mar 2018, “Senate sides with Trump on providing Saudi military support,” [brackets added] <http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/379392-senate-sides-with-trump-on-providing-saudi-military-support>

GOP leadership publicly lined up against the resolution ahead of Tuesday’s vote. “Withdrawing U.S. support would increase, not decrease, the risk of civilian casualties. And it would signal that we are not serious about containing Iran or its proxies," [Senator Mitch] McConnell said.

Thousands more die: US involvement is the only thing stopping Saudis from bombing thousands more civilians

Tom Rogan 2018 (commentary writer for the Washington Examiner and a senior fellow with the Steamboat Institute) 28 Nov 2018 “Ending US support for Saudi Arabia would make things much worse in Yemen” <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/ending-us-support-for-saudi-arabia-would-make-things-much-worse-in-yemen>

And although the Saudis are still too capricious with their use of force, American guidance has helped them target Houthi formations rather than entire city blocks with a few Houthis somewhere inside those blocks. Again, motivated by their historic, cultural, and theological blood feud with Iran, the Saudis would care little about killing thousands more civilians if they believed it might win the war. America is the only check on them at this moment.

Saudis would increase targeting of civilians if American intervention stops

Tom Rogan 2018 (commentary writer for the Washington Examiner and a senior fellow with the Steamboat Institute) 28 Nov 2018 “Ending US support for Saudi Arabia would make things much worse in Yemen” <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/ending-us-support-for-saudi-arabia-would-make-things-much-worse-in-yemen>

So it's understandable that senators want to end to the Saudi campaign against Iranian-supported Houthi rebels in Yemen. They believe that pulling American support will put immense pressure on Riyadh to accept a rapid cease fire. But the problem is that the senators are wrong. If the U.S. pulls its functional support for the Saudi alliance, two negative consequences will immediately follow. First, the Saudis will lose all the inhibitions about accurate targeting of Houthi formations that American intervention has forced.

Restrictions on U.S. military support would make everything worse

Melissa G. Dalton, Hijab Shah, and Timothy Robbins 2018 (Dalton—Senior fellow and deputy director of the International Security Program and director of the Cooperative Defense Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Shah—Research associate at CSIS; Robbins—intern with the CSIS International Security Program) 23 Mar 2018, “U.S. Support for Saudi Military Operations in Yemen,” <https://www.csis.org/analysis/us-support-saudi-military-operations-yemen>

In his letter to Congress, Secretary Mattis warned that restrictions on U.S. military support could have the opposite of the intended effect of increasing civilian casualties, undermine counterterrorism efforts, and reduce U.S. influence with Saudi Arabia, thereby impairing U.S. and international ability to ameliorate humanitarian suffering and mitigate the effects of the civil war.

4. Subverts Democracy

US and Saudis are supporting the democratically elected and internationally recognized government of Yemen

Madyson H. Posey and James Phillips 2018. (Posey – Research and Administrative Assistant, Heritage Foundation. Phillips – Senior Research Fellow, Heritage Foundation) 6 Dec 2018 “Ending U.S. Military Support for Saudi Arabia in Yemen Would Trigger Dangerous Consequences” <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/ending-us-military-support-saudi-arabia-yemen-would-trigger-dangerous>

Senators must remember that Saudi Arabia is not the only belligerent in Yemen. A cutoff of U.S. support would also hurt the elected and internationally recognized government of Yemen, which was ousted by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in 2015 in a bloody coup that violated a [U.N.-brokered ceasefire](https://www.cnn.com/2014/09/21/world/meast/yemen-prime-minister-resigns/index.html).

5. Harms alliance with Saudi Arabia

Link: Dropping support for Saudis in Yemen will seriously damage US/Saudi relations

Melissa G. Dalton, Hijab Shah, and Timothy Robbins 2018 (Dalton—Senior fellow and deputy director of the International Security Program and director of the Cooperative Defense Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Shah—Research associate at CSIS; Robbins—intern with the CSIS International Security Program) 23 Mar 2018, “U.S. Support for Saudi Military Operations in Yemen,” <https://www.csis.org/analysis/us-support-saudi-military-operations-yemen>

The passage of restrictions on U.S. support to the Saudi-led coalition would almost certainly have a markedly negative impact on U.S.-Saudi relations, as well as with the UAE. The debate surrounding the proposed legislation was raised in parallel to Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman’s visit to the United States, a source of tension for the Trump administration. Officials from the Departments of Defense and State met with senators in a classified briefing on Capitol Hill, [warning](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/18/us/politics/trump-saudi-yemen.html)them of the implications of the proposed legislation on the conflict in Yemen and on U.S.-Saudi relations.

Brink: The U.S. supported the war to keep from losing alliance with Saudi Arabia

Farah Najjar 2017 (online producer at Al Jazeera English covering the Middle East region) 13 Nov 2017, “Why the United States will never leave Yemen,” <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/11/united-states-leave-yemen-171112191346249.html>

Luciano Zaccara, a Gulf politics researcher at Qatar University, said that the US' involvement in Yemen complied with the "long-term strategic alliance" it has with Saudi Arabia. "The US was forced to support the war during Obama times due to the increasing sentiment of abandonment expressed in the GCC, on the benefit to Iran after the signing of the JCPOA," Zaccara said, referring to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or the Iran nuclear deal.

Impact: Terrorism. US alliance with Saudi Arabia is key to fighting terrorism

Deborah Amos 2018 (International Correspondent for National Public Radio (NPR). She covers the Middle East for NPR News; degree in broadcasting from the Univ. of Florida) 19 Mar 2018 “Saudi Arabia: The White House Loves It. Most Americans? Not So Much,” <https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2018/03/19/595018861/trump-may-love-saudi-arabia-but-many-americans-do-not> [brackets added]

Backers of a close U.S.-Saudi relationship note that Riyadh has been a strong strategic partner for decades thanks to oil and regional politics. Saudi Arabia serves as counter-balance to Iran and the Saudis have helped the U.S. battle extremism. The U.S. needs Saudi assistance in a battle of ideas against al-Qaida and ISIS, says [professor of international affairs at Texas A&M, F. Gregory] Gause: "Liberal democracies are not going to talk them out of what they are doing. The Saudis can rebut them with their own language." "If the Saudis don't succeed, what does it mean for the region?" asks [retired intelligence officer who served with the CIA in the Middle East, Norman] Roule. He believes Saudi Arabia is too big to fail. "To me the answer is clear. We have to do everything we can to support him."

Impact: Reduced US national security. The Saudis greatly enhance America’s security

Thomas J. Barrack Jr. 2016 (International private equity investor and the founder and executive chairman of Colony Capital. He is also foreign policy and economic advisor to GOP U.S. President Donald Trump), 22 Oct 2016, “What the Middle East Needs Now from America,” <http://fortune.com/2016/10/22/middle-east-isis-syria/>

Through the safeguarding of the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina, which remain open to tens of millions of foreign visitors and differing Islamic beliefs, the Kingdom has a unique window into the actions and motivations of radical fundamentalists who pass in and out of those always accessible cities. By sharing that intelligence, the Saudis greatly enhance America’s security.

Impact: American lives. Good relationship with Saudi Arabia saves American lives by stopping terrorist attacks

Frank G. Wisner 2016 (Former ambassador to Zambia, Egypt, the Philippines and India. He served as Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and as Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs. He is chairman of the board of the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington) 5 May 2016 “America Still Needs Saudi Arabia,” <https://nationalinterest.org/feature/america-still-needs-saudi-arabia-16074>

As the world’s largest swing producer of crude oil, Saudi Arabia fuels the economies of our key trading partners in East and South Asia. It is an essential partner in our global counterterrorism effort; on more than one occasion, Saudi intelligence has enabled us to thwart terrorist attacks designed to kill American citizens in large numbers. It wields enormous influence across the Muslim world and can help determine the outcome of conflicts in places like Syria and Iraq—and ensure that key countries like Egypt remain stable. The relationship we maintain with Saudi Arabia provides us an opportunity we simply wouldn’t have otherwise to shape this influence.

Backup Link: The U.S. relies on Saudi Arabia’s help in going after al Qaeda and Islamic State

Dion Nissenbaum 2018 (national security reporter based in Washington for The Wall Street Journal. He covers the defense industry and the Pentagon. Previously, he was based in Kabul, Afghanistan as a senior correspondent for The Wall Street Journal; graduated from the Univ of California, Berkeley) 18 Mar 2018, “In a Saudi War Room, Generals Grapple With Ways to Protect Civilians in Yemen,” <https://www.wsj.com/articles/in-a-saudi-war-room-generals-grapple-with-ways-to-protect-civilians-in-yemen-1521370801>

The U.S. relies on Saudi Arabia’s help in going after al Qaeda fighters in Yemen and Islamic State forces across the region. Prince Mohammed is working closely with White House adviser Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump’s son-in-law, on a new Middle East peace plan. And Riyadh has emerged as Washington’s most reliable ally in containing Iran’s influence across the Middle East.

Backup Brink: Impossible to fight Islamic terrorism anywhere in the world without Saudi Arabia’s help

Thomas J. Barrack Jr. 2016 (International private equity investor and the founder and executive chairman of Colony Capital. He is also foreign policy and economic advisor to GOP U.S. President Donald Trump), 22 Oct 2016, “What the Middle East Needs Now from America,” <http://fortune.com/2016/10/22/middle-east-isis-syria/>

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been our longest and strongest ally and, to many Westerners’ amazement, it is impossible for the US to move against any hostile Islamic group anywhere in the world without Saudi support. Almost two billion Muslims look to Mecca and Medina as their spiritual heartland and challenging any faction of Islam without the support of its guardian, Saudi Arabia, would be foolhardy.

6. Internal Saudi security threat

Link: If Saudis lose the war, anger could result in big wave of domestic terrorism

Dr. Madawi Al-Rasheed 2017 (v*isiting professor at the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore.* ) 3 Jan 2017 “2017: A Saudi existential crisis” <https://www.middleeasteye.net/columns/2017-saudi-existential-crisis-185025494>

Eighteen months of war have seen little progress and produced international criticism, including from patrons in Washington and London, for its excessive and disproportionate use of deadly weaponry. Moreover, without an imminent victory in Yemen, the Saudi leadership will worry about its domestic Islamists who expected a swift godly victory against the Houthis who have been dubbed the blasphemous stooges of Iran. The war on Yemen embodies a new Saudi militaristic nationalism that has inflamed the imagination of the Islamists but risks backfiring on King Salman and his son, Mohammed.
New wave of terrorism?
Should domestic Islamists combine their frustration with their leadership with the anger of those returnee militants from Syria and Iraq, Saudi Arabia will plunge into a new wave of terrorism, similar in its devastation to that which started in 2003, after Saudi militants returned from Afghanistan.

Brink: Saudi royal family is crumbling, vulnerable to new wave of terrorism. Could be the next failed state.

Daniel Lazare 2018. (journalist) 4 Oct 2018 “Is Saudi Arabia the Middle East’s Next Failed State?” <https://consortiumnews.com/2018/10/04/is-saudi-arabia-the-middle-easts-next-failed-state/>

In 2009, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton [confided in a diplomatic memo](https://wikileaks.org/plusd/cables/09STATE131801_a.html) that “donors in Saudi Arabia constitute the most significant source of funding to Sunni terrorist groups worldwide.” More than three thousand Saudis have [traveled to Syria and Iraq](http://soufangroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/TSG-Foreign-Fighters-in-Syria.pdf) to join up with al-Qaida, ISIS and other Islamist forces. Once they return home, such jihadis might constitute a fifth column threatening the royal family as well. A crumbling royal family could fall like a ripe date into their outstretched palm. Could Saudi Arabia become the Middle East’s next failed state?

Impact: Saudi Oil Collapse = Massive economic damage

[James Phillips](https://www.heritage.org/staff/james-phillips) , Michaela Dodge, Dr. Ariel Cohen and Dr. Kreutzer 2012. (Phillips - senior research fellow for Middle Eastern affairs at The Heritage Foundation. Dodge - Senior Policy Analyst, Center for National Defense, Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy. Cohen - Ph.D., is Senior Research Fellow in Russian and Eurasian Studies and International Energy Policy in the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies, a division of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies, at The Heritage Foundation. . Kreutzer - Ph.D., is Research Fellow in Energy Economics and Climate Change in the Center for Data Analysis at The Heritage Foundation. ) 9 Apr 2012 Thinking the Unthinkable: Modeling a Collapse of Saudi Oil Production <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/report/thinking-the-unthinkable-modeling-collapse-saudi-oil-production> (brackets added)

Saudi Revolution: The Economic Impacts
The Saudi Kingdom is the largest oil producer in the world—occasionally surpassed by Russia—and essentially dominates the oil market due to its large excess production capacity, which it can ramp up to 12 mbd [million barrels per day]. A prolonged and massive disruption of Saudi oil production would significantly affect global energy markets and economic activity. [**END QUOTE]** However, for this economic analysis we look only at the effects on the United States. The impact in Asia, a principal customer of Saudi oil, would likely be much worse. It is difficult to calculate the magnitude of the panic in the global capital market that such a scenario would cause.We modeled total cessation of Saudi oil production, an 8.4 million-barrels-per-day reduction, for one year followed by a two-year recovery. For the purpose of this exercise, we optimistically assumed that repairing destroyed and damaged facilities and gradually restoring oil exports to the previous level would take approximately two years. In reality, the repairs and production recovery could take much longer. Even though withdrawals from strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs)—emergency oil stores in the U.S. and Europe and to a lesser degree in China and Japan—start immediately, SPRs cannot compensate for such a massive disruption. **[HE GOES ON TO CONCLUDE QUOTE:]** We would expect to see the following impacts over the three-year course of production loss and recovery:
Gasoline prices jump to more than $6.50 per gallon,
Petroleum prices jump from $100 per barrel to more than $220 per barrel,
Employment losses exceed 1.5 million jobs, and
Gross domestic product (GDP) drops by nearly $450 billion.

7. External Saudi threat

Link: The reason Status Quo hasn’t removed support is that Saudi Arabia is threatened by the Houthis’ takeover of Yemen

Adam Baron 2017. (visiting fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations and an International Security Program fellow at New America) quoted by Farah Najjar (online producer at Al Jazeera English covering the Middle East region) 13 Nov 2017, “Why the United States will never leave Yemen,” <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/11/united-states-leave-yemen-171112191346249.html> [ellipses in original]

"At the end of the day, Saudi Arabia is a key US ally and their security was threatened by the Houthis' takeover of Yemen," he added. "I'd say that was the primary reason that the US backed the coalition … I'd be surprised if the bill passes Congress."

Link: Saudi Arabia has endured major Yemeni-originated attacks

Jordain Carney 2018 (Reporter for the Hill, previously worked as a defense reporter for National Journal, as staff writer for the Hotline; B.A. in Journalism and English from Univ of Arkansas. Bob **Menendez**—Senator for New Jersey) 20 Mar 2018, “Senate sides with Trump on providing Saudi military support,” <http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/379392-senate-sides-with-trump-on-providing-saudi-military-support> [brackets added]

[Senator Bob] Menendez noted the Foreign Relations Committee, where he is the top Democrat, “has the jurisdiction over the questions of the use of force.” “As we consider this resolution, we must fully grasp the situation on the ground and the scope of the attacks on one of our traditional security partners. Saudi Arabia has endured Yemeni-originated attacks inside its territory on a scale that no American would accept,” he said.

Link: Iran = existential threat to Saudi Arabia

Armida van Rij and Dr. Benedict Wilkinson 2018 (Rij - Research Assistant at the Policy Institute, King's College London. Wilinson – PhD; Senior Research Fellow in the Policy Institute at King’s College, London.) Sept 2018 “Security cooperation with Saudi Arabia: Is it worth it for the UK? “ <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/policy-institute/assets/uk-saudi-arabia-report.pdf> (brackets added)

Saudi Arabia’s foreign policy under MBS [Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman] is predominantly focused on the threat posed by Iran, itself seeking to expand its influence in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia views this as an existential threat, one that must be curbed by consolidating its position as a regional power, including in countries with Shia populations such as Lebanon, Iraq and, crucially, Yemen.

Impact: Saudi Oil collapse.

Cross apply the impacts of DA #6. This is another way that can lead to those same impacts.

Works Cited

1. Melissa G. Dalton, Hijab Shah, and Timothy Robbins 2018 (**Dalton**—Senior fellow and deputy director of the International Security Program and director of the Cooperative Defense Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C. **Shah**—Research associate at CSIS; **Robbins**—intern with the CSIS International Security Program) 23 Mar 2018, “U.S. Support for Saudi Military Operations in Yemen,” https://www.csis.org/analysis/us-support-saudi-military-operations-yemen
2. US State Department 2020. “U.S. Security Cooperation With Saudi Arabia” 8 Apr 2020 https://www.state.gov/u-s-security-cooperation-with-saudi-arabia/
3. Dion Nissenbaum 2018 (national security reporter for The Wall Street Journal; graduated from Univ of California, Berkeley) 18 Mar 2018, “In a Saudi War Room, Generals Grapple With Ways to Protect Civilians in Yemen” https://www.wsj.com/articles/in-a-saudi-war-room-generals-grapple-with-ways-to-protect-civilians-in-yemen-1521370801
4. James Phillips 2019 (senior research fellow for Middle Eastern affairs at The Heritage Foundation) Trump’s Veto of Yemen War Resolution Protects U.S. Security Interests 18 Apr 2019 https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/trumps-veto-yemen-war-resolution-protects-us-security-interests
5. CNN 2019 (journalists Eliza Mackintosh and Ryan Browne) 5 Feb 2019 US general expresses support for Saudi coalition after CNN report on weapons in Yemen https://www.cnn.com/2019/02/05/middleeast/yemen-us-centcom-weapons-intl/index.html
6. Madyson H. Posey and James Phillips 2018. (Posey – Research and Administrative Assistant, Heritage Foundation. Phillips – Senior Research Fellow, Heritage Foundation) 6 Dec 2018 “Ending U.S. Military Support for Saudi Arabia in Yemen Would Trigger Dangerous Consequences” https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/ending-us-military-support-saudi-arabia-yemen-would-trigger-dangerous
7. Rebecca Kheel 2019 (journalist) THE HILL 29 Apr 2019 “Pompeo defends US support for Saudis in Yemen as 'in America's best interest'” https://thehill.com/policy/transportation/441117-pompeo-defends-us-support-for-saudis-in-yemen-as-in-americas-best-interest
8. Embassy of Saudi Arabia in the U.S. 2019. “Saudi-led Coalition Denies Supplying Houthis, AQAP With U.S Weapons in Yemen” 12 Feb 2019 https://www.saudiembassy.net/news/saudi-led-coalition-denies-supplying-houthis-aqap-us-weapons-yemen
9. Rebeccah L. Heinrichs 2018 (senior fellow at Hudson Institute where she specializes in nuclear deterrence and missile defense; adjunct professor at the Institute of World Politics where she teaches nuclear deterrence theory) “Why Breaking With Saudi Arabia Over Khashoggi Would Hurt America.” October 23, 2018) https://www.hudson.org/research/14636-why-breaking-with-saudi-arabia-over-khashoggi-would-hurt-america
10. Dr. Samuel Perlo-Freeman 2018 (Fellow at the World Peace Foundation, and Project Manager for WPF project on Global Arms Business and Corruption. He was previously Senior Researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); was head of the SIPRI Military Expenditure project from 2009-2016; former Senior Lecturer in Economics at the University of the West of England; PhDs in Mathematics and Economics) 28 Feb 2018 “Who is arming the Yemen war? (And is anyone planning to stop?)” https://sites.tufts.edu/reinventingpeace/2018/02/28/who-is-arming-the-yemen-war-and-is-anyone-planning-to-stop/
11. Tom Rogan 2018 (commentary writer for the Washington Examiner and a senior fellow with the Steamboat Institute) 28 Nov 2018 “Ending US support for Saudi Arabia would make things much worse in Yemen” https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/ending-us-support-for-saudi-arabia-would-make-things-much-worse-in-yemen
12. WASHINGTON POST 2020. (journalist Sudarsan Raghavan) 25 Feb 2020 “As Yemen’s war intensifies, an opening for al-Qaeda to resurrect its fortunes” https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\_east/as-yemens-war-intensifies-an-opening-for-al-qaeda-to-resurrect-its-fortunes/2020/02/24/6244bd84-54ef-11ea-80ce-37a8d4266c09\_story.html
13. Jean Abinader 2018 (international development consultant working on change issues, and he offers advisory services to organizations and companies in transition to define growth solutions and build internal team capabilities) 13 July 2018 What’s at Stake in Yemen? https://www.fairobserver.com/region/middle\_east\_north\_africa/houthi-iran-yemen-war-arab-world-news-this-week-39010/
14. Madyson Hutchinson Posey 2017 (research and administrative assistant for the Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy at Heritage Foundation) 10 Aug 2017 Why the Crisis in Yemen Matters to the United States https://www.heritage.org/homeland-security/commentary/why-the-crisis-yemen-matters-the-united-states
15. Reuters news service 2018. “Egypt voices concern over Red Sea security after Houthi attack” 13 Aug 2018 https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security-egypt/egypt-voices-concern-over-red-sea-security-after-houthi-attack-idUSKBN1KY1XQ
16. Robin Mills 2016. (nonresident fellow for Energy at the Brookings Institution Doha Center ) April 2016 “Risky Routes: Energy Transit in the Middle East” https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/en-energy-transit-security-mills-2.pdf
17. Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco 2007. “What are the possible causes and consequences of higher oil prices on the overall economy?” Nov 2007 https://www.frbsf.org/education/publications/doctor-econ/2007/november/oil-prices-impact-economy/
18. Adam Vaughan 2018. (journalist) 25 Sept 2018 THE GUARDIAN (British newspaper) “Rising oil prices fuel fears of damage to global economy” https://www.theguardian.com/business/2018/sep/25/rising-oil-prices-fuel-fears-damage-global-economy
19. Jordain Carney 2018 (Reporter for the Hill, previously worked as a defense reporter for National Journal, as staff writer for the Hotline, columnist for the Arkansas Traveler. B.A. in Journalism and English from Univ of Arkansas -Fayetteville. Mitch **McConnell**—Senate Majority Leader; senator from Kentucky) 20 Mar 2018, “Senate sides with Trump on providing Saudi military support,” [brackets added] http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/379392-senate-sides-with-trump-on-providing-saudi-military-support
20. Farah Najjar 2017 (online producer at Al Jazeera English covering the Middle East region) 13 Nov 2017, “Why the United States will never leave Yemen,” https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/11/united-states-leave-yemen-171112191346249.html
21. Deborah Amos 2018 (International Correspondent for National Public Radio (NPR). She covers the Middle East for NPR News; degree in broadcasting from the Univ. of Florida) 19 Mar 2018 “Saudi Arabia: The White House Loves It. Most Americans? Not So Much,” https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2018/03/19/595018861/trump-may-love-saudi-arabia-but-many-americans-do-not
22. Thomas J. Barrack Jr. 2016 (International private equity investor and the founder and executive chairman of Colony Capital. He is also foreign policy and economic advisor to GOP U.S. President Donald Trump), 22 Oct 2016, “What the Middle East Needs Now from America,” http://fortune.com/2016/10/22/middle-east-isis-syria/
23. Frank G. Wisner 2016 (Former ambassador to Zambia, Egypt, the Philippines and India. He served as Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and as Under Secretary of State for International Security Affairs. He is chairman of the board of the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington) 5 May 2016 “America Still Needs Saudi Arabia,” https://nationalinterest.org/feature/america-still-needs-saudi-arabia-16074
24. Dr. Madawi Al-Rasheed 2017 (visiting professor at the Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore. ) 3 Jan 2017 “2017: A Saudi existential crisis” https://www.middleeasteye.net/columns/2017-saudi-existential-crisis-185025494
25. Daniel Lazare 2018. (journalist) 4 Oct 2018 “Is Saudi Arabia the Middle East’s Next Failed State?” https://consortiumnews.com/2018/10/04/is-saudi-arabia-the-middle-easts-next-failed-state/
26. James Phillips , Michaela Dodge, Dr. Ariel Cohen and Dr. Kreutzer 2012. (Phillips - senior research fellow for Middle Eastern affairs at The Heritage Foundation. Dodge - Senior Policy Analyst, Center for National Defense, Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy. Cohen - Ph.D., is Senior Research Fellow in Russian and Eurasian Studies and International Energy Policy in the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Studies, a division of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies, at The Heritage Foundation. . Kreutzer - Ph.D., is Research Fellow in Energy Economics and Climate Change in the Center for Data Analysis at The Heritage Foundation. ) 9 Apr 2012 Thinking the Unthinkable: Modeling a Collapse of Saudi Oil Production https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/report/thinking-the-unthinkable-modeling-collapse-saudi-oil-production
27. Adam Baron 2017. (visiting fellow at the European Council on Foreign Relations and an International Security Program fellow at New America) quoted by Farah Najjar (online producer at Al Jazeera English covering the Middle East region) 13 Nov 2017, “Why the United States will never leave Yemen,” https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/11/united-states-leave-yemen-171112191346249.html
28. Armida van Rij and Dr. Benedict Wilkinson 2018 (Rij - Research Assistant at the Policy Institute, King's College London. Wilinson – PhD; Senior Research Fellow in the Policy Institute at King’s College, London.) Sept 2018 “Security cooperation with Saudi Arabia: Is it worth it for the UK?" https://www.kcl.ac.uk/policy-institute/assets/uk-saudi-arabia-report.pdf