Negative Brief: S.A.F.E. Act (Cuts Arms Exports)

By “Coach Vance” Trefethen

***Resolved: Resolved: The United States federal government should considerably decrease its military commitments***

Presidents, most recently Trump, typically use “emergency” exceptions to federal laws on arms exports to bypass Congressional oversight and just get the arms deals done. The SAFE Act (S.1945) restricts the number of countries that can have “emergency” exemptions and restricts the definition of emergencies. The plan enacts a bill proposed in Congress but never enacted. It was specifically directed at Saudi Arabia (the S.A. in “SAFE” stands for Saudi Arabia) but it would also apply to Taiwan as well, since they forgot to put Taiwan on the list of countries exempt from it. The NEG brief is mostly disadvantages to cutting US arms exports to Saudi Arabia and Taiwan.

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Negative: S.A.F.E Act (Cuts Arms Exports)

DEFINITION

Limits emergency authorization of arms exports only to NATO, Australia, Israel, Japan, S. Korea and New Zealand

Summary of the SAFE Act S. 1945. 2019 (Official website of Congress) 15 July 2019 https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1945

Saudi Arabia False Emergencies Act or the SAFE Act
This bill limits the President's authority to waive congressional review of a proposed arms sale through the use of an emergency determination. Specifically, the bill limits the use of emergency authorities to arms exports to only NATO countries, Australia, Israel, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand. In addition, the bill requires the President to issue an individual determination and detailed justification for each proposal. Furthermore, such a determination shall be available for a proposal only if (1) the proposal directly responds to, or counters, a physical security threat; and (2) three-quarters of the arms will be delivered within two months.

TOPICALITY

1. No commitment

Link: SAFE Act does not apply to any arms export commitment. It reduces the President’s power to approve future arms deals that don’t exist yet

Sen. Bob Menendez 2019 (D-NJ; author of the SAFE Act) 25 June 2019 quoted by journalist Rebecca Kheel, THE HILL, “Senate panel advances bill to restrict emergency arms sales” https://thehill.com/policy/defense/450302-senate-panel-advances-bill-to-restrict-emergency-arms-sales

"These changes do not affect the 22 sales, which we dealt with by the resolutions of disapproval last week. But it will hopefully prevent us being faced with future uses of this nature, regardless of whether a Republican or a Democrat is occupying the White House," he [Sen. Bob Menendez] added.

Link: Definition of “commitment”

Dictionary dot com. Copyright 2020 “commitment” https://www.dictionary.com/browse/commitment?s=t

“a pledge or promise; obligation”

Violation: Something that might or might not happen in the future isn’t a “commitment”

This plan is entirely focused on future events, not a pledge or promise anyone has made. If it hasn’t happened yet, then by definition we aren’t committed to it.

Impact: No Affirmative team

No one showed up today to affirm that we should substantially reduce any commitments. So no matter who wins, you should vote Negative.

SAUDI ARABIA DISADS

Big Link to Saudi Arabia – SAFE Act is designed to block arms sales to Saudi Arabia (it’s in its name!)

Rebecca Kheel 2019 (journalist) 25 June 2019 “Senate panel advances bill to restrict emergency arms sales” THE HILL https://thehill.com/policy/defense/450302-senate-panel-advances-bill-to-restrict-emergency-arms-sales

The bill, dubbed the Saudi Arabia False Emergencies (SAFE) Act, comes as a response to [President Trump](https://thehill.com/people/donald-trump)’s decision to use the emergency provision of the Arms Export Control Act in an attempt to muscle through 22 arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf allies without the typical congressional review period.

SAUDI DA #1. Yemen

Link: Ending support for Saudi Arabia would embolden the terrorist organizations that are fueling the Yemen war

Dr. James Jay Carafano 2018. (expert in national security and foreign policy challenges; vice president of Heritage's Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy and a former senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments; PhD from Georgetown Univ, and master's degree in strategy from the U.S. Army War College) “Chaos Will Erupt in the Middle East If U.S. Leaves Yemen.” March 7, 2018. The Heritage Foundation. <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/chaos-will-erupt-the-middle-east-if-us-leaves-yemen>

The greatest threats to Middle East stability and security are Iran and transnational Islamist terrorists groups, principally ISIS and al-Qaida. And it is precisely these forces that are fueling the Yemen war. If Congress forces the administration to abandon our allies, Tehran, ISIS, and al-Qaida would feel emboldened and likely double-down on expanding the war. Meanwhile, Washington would lose its ability to influence how Saudi Arabia and the UAE conduct coalition operations. Without our mitigating presence, the carnage of this vicious war would only increase.[**END QUOTE]** And Russia would be tempted to further complicate the situation. Moscow has already vetoed a draft U.N. Security Council resolution to hold Iran accountable for providing Yemen's rebels with the long-range missiles recently fired at the Saudi capital. Putin would interpret an American withdrawal as a green light for additional Russian meddling – the type that Moscow has brought to the Syrian civil war. [**HE GOES ON TO SAY QUOTE**:] Instead of turning our back on Yemen, the U.S. should focus on ending the war. The longer the conflict persists, the more the chaos benefits terrorist groups in the region and the more the main rebel group, the Houthis, becomes dependent on Iran.

Link: Past U.S. criticism of the Saudis has exacerbated the conflict

Michael Knights, Kenneth M. Pollack, and Barbara F. Walter 2019. (Knights is the Lafer Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Pollack is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute; Walter is Professor of Political Science at the University of California–San Diego’s School of Global Policy and Strategy) “A Real Plan to End the War in Yemen.” May 2, 2019. Foreign Affairs (published by the Council on Foreign Relations, a non-profit and nonpartisan membership) <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/yemen/2019-05-02/real-plan-end-war-yemen>

In fact, U.S. congressional criticism of the Saudis has already encouraged the Houthis who, far from giving up, appear determined to fight on.

The best solution to stop the conflict is to continue support for Saudi Arabia

Michael Knights, Kenneth M. Pollack, and Barbara F. Walter 2019. (Knights is the Lafer Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Pollack is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute; Walter is Professor of Political Science at the University of California–San Diego’s School of Global Policy and Strategy) “A Real Plan to End the War in Yemen.” May 2, 2019. Foreign Affairs (published by the Council on Foreign Relations, a non-profit and nonpartisan membership) <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/yemen/2019-05-02/real-plan-end-war-yemen>

So what can the United States do to stop the fighting? The history of civil war, in Yemen and elsewhere, suggests a counterintuitive approach: increase U.S. support for the Saudi-led coalition, enable it to capture Hodeidah, and then use the resulting leverage to force both sides to end the fighting and sign a power-sharing agreement. Not only is this scenario plausible but it is probably the only near-term solution that could end the civil war, stop the killing, and remove both the Saudi and Iranian presence.

Brink: U.S. support for Saudi Arabia is beneficial to Yemen. May be only way to get a peaceful settlement

Dr. James Jay Carafano 2018. (expert in national security and foreign policy challenges; vice president of Heritage's Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy and a former senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments; PhD from Georgetown Univ. as well as a master's degree in strategy from the U.S. Army War College) “Chaos Will Erupt in the Middle East If U.S. Leaves Yemen.” March 7, 2018. The Heritage Foundation. <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/chaos-will-erupt-the-middle-east-if-us-leaves-yemen>

Rather than pull out, the U.S. should continue to use its presence and influence to establish the conditions that will allow for the delivery of humanitarian aid and the start of real peace negotiations that put the people of Yemen first.[**END QUOTE**] U.S. military activities contribute to both those goals, particularly by supporting counterterrorism operations against ISIS and a-Qaida. In addition to continuing that support, the U.S. should work to diminish Iranian meddling – not just by disrupting its aid to the Houthis, but by broadly attacking Tehran's foreign escapades throughout the region. Pressing the regime overall will strain its capacity to support the rebels in Yemen – and that may lead to all sides in the conflict coming to the peace table sooner rather than later. [**HE GOES ON TO CONCLUDE QUOTE:]** If Congress wants to see an end to the humanitarian suffering in Yemen, then writing off the current U.S. role there ought to be the last thing lawmakers think about. The U.S. cannot be a bystander. In fact, it may be the only actor with sufficient influence to drive the other players toward a peaceful political settlement in Yemen.

Impact: War & carnage prolonged

Dr. James Jay Carafano 2018. (expert in national security and foreign policy challenges; vice president of Heritage's Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy and a former senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments; PhD from Georgetown Univ. as well as a master's degree in strategy from the U.S. Army War College) “Chaos Will Erupt in the Middle East If U.S. Leaves Yemen.” March 7, 2018. The Heritage Foundation. <https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/chaos-will-erupt-the-middle-east-if-us-leaves-yemen>

If Congress forces the administration to abandon our allies, Tehran, ISIS, and al-Qaida would feel emboldened and likely double-down on expanding the war. Meanwhile, Washington would lose its ability to influence how Saudi Arabia and the UAE conduct coalition operations. Without our mitigating presence, the carnage of this vicious war would only increase.

SAUDI DA #2. Regional arms race

Link: US pullout triggers a costly regional arms race with Iran because Saudis will no longer trust the US

James M. Dorsey 2020 (award-winning journalist and commentator on foreign affairs who has covered ethnic and religious conflict and terrorism across the globe for more than three decades) 13 May 2020 “US military drawdown in Saudi Arabia threatens to fuel arms race” https://www.wionews.com/opinions-blogs/us-military-drawdown-in-saudi-arabia-threatens-to-fuel-arms-race-298402

One thing is certain, the recent US military pullback from Saudi Arabia will fuel a brewing arms race in the Middle East at a time when the region, struggling with the public health and devastating economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, can least afford it. It’s a financially costly race that neither Saudi Arabia nor Iran can really afford in an era of economic meltdown. Saudi Arabia is likely to see the withdrawal, despite a seemingly reassuring phone call between Saudi King Salman and President Donald Trump, as further evidence that it cannot fully rely, for its defence, on the United States.

Saudis and Iran cannot afford the high cost of the arms race…

James M. Dorsey 2020 (award-winning journalist and commentator on foreign affairs who has covered ethnic and religious conflict and terrorism across the globe for more than three decades) 13 May 2020 “US military drawdown in Saudi Arabia threatens to fuel arms race” https://www.wionews.com/opinions-blogs/us-military-drawdown-in-saudi-arabia-threatens-to-fuel-arms-race-298402

The reality on the ground, however, is neither of these countries can presently afford the extraordinary financial and technological cost of such militaristic endeavours when their economies are battered by a far-reaching global depression, a collapse of oil prices, and a health pandemic. Iran, moreover, is struggling to grope with US sanctions while Saudi Arabia faces painful fiscal problems and structural reforms.

… but it will happen because Saudis fear Iran

James M. Dorsey 2020 (award-winning journalist and commentator on foreign affairs who has covered ethnic and religious conflict and terrorism across the globe for more than three decades) 13 May 2020 “US military drawdown in Saudi Arabia threatens to fuel arms race” https://www.wionews.com/opinions-blogs/us-military-drawdown-in-saudi-arabia-threatens-to-fuel-arms-race-298402

The risk of an arms race was explicit in Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s warning at the time that Trump was gearing up to withdraw from the nuclear agreement that “Without a doubt, if Iran developed a nuclear bomb, we will follow suit as soon as possible.”

Brink: Arms race is especially dangerous right now because risk of Middle East war is accelerating sharply

[Anthony H. Cordesman](https://www.csis.org/people/anthony-h-cordesman) and Nicholas Harrington 2018. (Cordesman - Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy at Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS); served as a consultant on Afghanistan to the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of State. Harrington – CSIS Program Manager and Research Associate, Transnational Threats Project) 12 Dec 2018 https://www.csis.org/analysis/arab-gulf-states-and-iran-military-spending-modernization-and-shifting-military-balance

The military balance between Iran, its Arab neighbors, and the United States has been a critical military issue in the Middle East since at least the rise of Nasser in the 1950s. The risks this arms race presents in terms of a future conflict have not diminished with time, and many elements of the regional arms race have accelerated sharply in recent years. Clashes with Iran in the Gulf, struggles for influence in Iraq and Syria, and the war in Yemen all act as warnings that new rounds of conflict are possible. The Iranian reactions to the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA nuclear agreement, the growing tensions between the Arab Gulf states, the boycott of Qatar, and the unstable outcome of the fight against ISIS, and the Syrian civil war all contribute to an increasingly fragile and dangerous security environment.

Link: Arms race creates high risk of war

[Anthony H. Cordesman](https://www.csis.org/people/anthony-h-cordesman) and Nicholas Harrington 2018. (Cordesman - Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy at Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS); served as a consultant on Afghanistan to the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of State. Harrington – CSIS Program Manager and Research Associate, Transnational Threats Project) 12 Dec 2018 https://www.csis.org/analysis/arab-gulf-states-and-iran-military-spending-modernization-and-shifting-military-balance

No one can safely dismiss such rhetoric as political posturing due to the fact the U.S. is imposing steadily more serious economic sanctions on Iran. The history of war is as much the history on unintended conflicts and escalation as of deliberate attacks. There have already been far too many such wars in the Middle East, and the current arms race has far too long and dangerous a history to ignore.

Impact: Global economic collapse

Al Jazeera news 2019. Saudi Arabia’s MBS: War with Iran would collapse global economy 30 Sept 2019 https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2019/9/30/saudi-arabias-mbs-war-with-iran-would-collapse-global-economy

[Saudi Arabia](https://www.aljazeera.com/topics/country/saudi-arabia.html)‘s crown prince warned in an interview aired on Sunday that a military confrontation with [Iran](https://www.aljazeera.com/topics/country/iran.html)would collapse the global economy, adding that he would prefer a political and peaceful solution to a military one. Crown Prince [Mohammed bin Salman](https://www.aljazeera.com/topics/people/mohammed-bin-salman.html)told the US-based CBS programme [60 Minutes](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mohammad-bin-salman-denies-ordering-khashoggi-murder-but-says-he-takes-responsibility-for-it-60-minutes-2019-09-29/) that crude prices could spike to “unimaginably high numbers” in case of an armed conflict.

SAUDI DA #3. Strained Relations / Lose Saudi Alliance

Link: Saudi arms embargo would damage relations

Ray Rounds 2019. (a U.S. Air Force F-15E pilot and a Ph.D. candidate at Georgetown University in International Relations.) “The Case Against Arms Embargos, Even for Saudi Arabia.” April 16, 2019 <https://warontherocks.com/2019/04/the-case-against-arms-embargos-even-for-saudi-arabia/>

It is natural to see the horror wrought in Yemen and want to take any actions necessary to stop it. However, I ultimately argue against a Saudi embargo.[**END QUOTE]** This is not because, as the president has argued, it might cost a few billion dollars and some hundreds of defense industry jobs. As others have pointed out, the economic impact of Saudi arms purchases on the U.S. defense industry is relatively small. **[HE GOES ON TO SAY QUOTE:]** Rather, embargoing Saudi Arabia is unlikely to fundamentally alter Saudi policies, but likely to further damage U.S. ties with Riyadh.

Link: US arms sales assist with diplomacy and ensure military assistance

Thomas Frohlich 2019. (Assistant Managing Editor of 24/7 Wall St., a Delaware corporation which runs a financial news and opinion company) “Saudi Arabia buys the most weapons from the US government. See what other countries top list.” March 26, 2019. USA Today. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/03/26/us-arms-sales-these-countries-buy-most-weapons-government/39208809/> (brackets added)

The United States selects its clients based on well-established partnerships, as well as for strategic reasons related to the leverage it could gain during conflicts. Of the 25 countries buying the most weapons from the U.S., 10 are either NATO member nations or part of other alliances formed with the United States since the Cold War. “The US transfers to these countries are meant to ensure allies security, as arms transfers from the US brings with it security guarantees, which basically entail diplomatic and military assistance in case of troubles,” said [Aude] Fleurant [director of the arms and military expenditure program with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute].

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 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.

SAUDI DA #4. Oil Weapon Backlash

Link: Arms cutoff hurts US/Saudi relations. Cross-apply links in DA-3

Link: Arms cutoff endangers critical oil imports from Saudi Arabia

Derek Bisaccio 2018. (Military Markets Analyst for Forecast International, a veteran-owned business whose experienced analysts compile, evaluate, and present accurate data for decision makers in the world’s aerospace and defense markets) “Examining U.S. Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia. October 23, 2018. Forecast International’s Defense & Security Monitor blog. <https://dsm.forecastinternational.com/wordpress/2018/10/23/examining-u-s-arms-sales-to-saudi-arabia/>

These are strong points, but it is worth pointing out that a significant or total shutdown of U.S. arms cooperation with Saudi Arabia would come with its own set of risks.  The most immediate consequence would be jeopardizing American ties with Riyadh, a country that remains influential in the world especially because of its ability to act as a swing oil producer.

Link: Saudis would retaliate Impact: Consumers and US economy harmed by higher oil prices

Rob Davies 2018. (reporter on the business deck for the Guardian) “How much damage can Saudi Arabia do to the global economy?” October 15, 2018. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/15/how-much-damage-can-saudi-arabia-do-to-the-global-economy>

Saudi Arabia enjoys a privileged position both in geopolitical and economic terms. It will have a powerful hand to play if tensions with the US and the west escalate and it follows through with Sunday’s warning of retaliation. **[END QUOTE**] Its vast oil reserves – it claims to have about 260bn barrels still to extract – afford the most obvious advantage. The kingdom is the world’s largest oil exporter, pumping or shipping about 7m barrels a day, and giving Riyadh huge clout in the global economy because it wields power to push up prices. An editorial in Arab News by Turki Aldhakhil, the general manager of the official Saudi news channel, Al Arabiya, offers a hint of what could be in the offing. He said Riyadh was weighing up 30 measures designed to put pressure on the US if it were to impose sanctions over the disappearance and presumed murder of Jamal Khashoggi inside the country’s Istanbul consulate. [**HE GOES ON TO SAY QUOTE**:] These would include an oil production cut that could drive prices from around $80 (£60) a barrel to more than $400, more than double the [all-time high of](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2008/jul/12/oil.commodities) $147.27 reached in 2008. This would have profound consequences globally, not just because motorists would pay more at the petrol pump, but because it would force up the cost of all goods that travel by road.

Impact: 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: 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).

SAUDI DA #5. Iran Threat to Saudi Arabia Increases

Link: Saudi Arabia is critical to defending against Iran and al-Qaeda

Anthony H. Cordesman 2010 (Arleigh A. Burke Chair in Strategy at Center for Strategic and International Studies. He is the author of a wide range of studies on U.S. security policy, energy policy, and Middle East policy and has served as a consultant to the Departments of State and Defense during the Afghan and Iraq wars) quoted by Deborah Jerome. “Is Big Saudi Arms Sale a Good Idea?” September 24, 2010. Council on Foreign Relations <https://www.cfr.org/expert-roundup/big-saudi-arms-sale-good-idea>

Second, U.S. military power is finite, and both the United States and Saudi Arabia face rapidly changing threats. The United States needs allies that have interoperable forces that can both fight effectively alongside the United States and ease the U.S. burden by defending themselves. Iran already poses a massive asymmetric naval-air-assault force threat to the Gulf states. The U.S. invasion of Iraq has left Iraqi forces a decade away from being a counterbalance to Iran; Saudi Arabia is the only meaningful regional power to work with. Additionally, al-Qaeda in the peninsula is based in Yemen, and the threat of terrorism and outside infiltration means highly mobile Saudi forces are critical to the security of Saudi energy and civil facilities. Helping Saudi Arabia create a combination of effective air and naval power also helps ensure the security of tanker and other shipping in the Gulf of Oman and a steadily more unstable Red Sea.

Link: Arms sales to Saudi Arabia present a powerful deterrent to Iran

Dr. Loren B. Thompson 2010 (Chief Operating Officer of the non-profit Lexington Institute and Chief Executive Officer of Source Associates; former Deputy Director of the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University) quoted by Deborah Jerome. “Is Big Saudi Arms Sale a Good Idea?” September 24, 2010. Council on Foreign Relations <https://www.cfr.org/expert-roundup/big-saudi-arms-sale-good-idea>

For Iran, though, the transaction presents a powerful deterrent since there is nothing in Tehran’s current arsenal that can cope with the latest versions of the F-15 fighter or the AH-64 attack helicopter. The radical Shiite regime in Iran constitutes the most serious military threat to Saudi Arabia, so I expect that the pending arms sale will be followed by additional agreements to modernize the Saudi Eastern Fleet in the Gulf and upgrade missile defenses.

Brink: Saudi Arabia is our most important strategic partner blocking Iran

Rebeccah L. Heinrichs 2018 (senior fellow at Hudson Institute where she specializes in nuclear deterrence and missile defense. Rebeccah serves as an 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>

Saudi Arabia is famously the largest customer of American foreign military sales. Unfortunately, this relationship is frequently disparaged as based on greed and nothing more. No doubt American companies and therefore plenty of Americans benefit directly from selling expensive military equipment and weapons to other nations. But the primary reason that the United States invests so heavily in Saudi Arabia is because of its strategic importance. Saudi Arabia is a crucial counterweight to the Islamic Republic of Iran. [**END QUOTE**] Iran is a sworn enemy of the United States and Israel. It is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of American soldiers in Iraq, and for maiming countless other American warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Iran regime oppresses its own people and fails to invest in its own economy, because it has prioritized funding Bashar al Assad’s brutal civil war in Syria, enabling him to repeatedly use chemical weapons on his own people. Iran is a constant destabilizing force, seeking to undermine the governments of sovereign nations like Iraq and Yemen. Although Saudi rightly receives flak for its atrocious (and in many cases, avoidable) civilian casualties in Yemen, that war only exists because Iran is funding and arming the Houthi rebels. It is a proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia, in which Iran is the aggressor and Saudi is the defender. Last, and certainly not least, Iran continues to fund and export terrorism in the Middle East and Europe. **[SHE GOES ON TO CONCLUDE QUOTE:**] It is not too strong to say Saudi Arabia is our most important strategic partner in mitigating and rolling back Iran’s power and malign activities.

Impact: Empowering Iran = terrorism, death & destruction

Rebeccah L. Heinrichs 2018 (senior fellow at Hudson Institute where she specializes in nuclear deterrence and missile defense. Rebeccah serves as an 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>

Iran is a sworn enemy of the United States and Israel. It is responsible for the deaths of hundreds of American soldiers in Iraq, and for maiming countless other American warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Iran regime oppresses its own people and fails to invest in its own economy, because it has prioritized funding Bashar al Assad’s brutal civil war in Syria, enabling him to repeatedly use chemical weapons on his own people. Iran is a constant destabilizing force, seeking to undermine the governments of sovereign nations like Iraq and Yemen.**[END QUOTE]** Although Saudi rightly receives flak for its atrocious (and in many cases, avoidable) civilian casualties in Yemen, that war only exists because Iran is funding and arming the Houthi rebels. It is a proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia, in which Iran is the aggressor and Saudi is the defender. [**SHE GOES ON TO CONCLUDE QUOTE:]** Last, and certainly not least, Iran continues to fund and export terrorism in the Middle East and Europe.

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 = 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.

SAUDI DA #6. Oil Shipping Lanes

Link: Saudi military capabilities critically weakened without US support

Cross apply DA-5 evidence

Link & Brink: Saudis are key to safeguarding oil shipping lanes. Iran and others can threaten shipping

Rebeccah L. Heinrichs 2018 (senior fellow at Hudson Institute where she specializes in nuclear deterrence and missile defense. Rebeccah serves as an 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>

While true that the United States is becoming energy independent, it is still inextricably tied to the global market and our Asian allies remain reliant on Golf petroleum. The stability and diversification of the energy market is a critical factor in matters of war and peace. Iran has repeatedly brandished its ability to affect the energy market by, for example, threatening to close the Strait of Hormuz. Saudi Arabia leads the Gulf coalition in maritime security to keep critical shipping lanes open. And should the United States and allies like Saudi Arabia lose control of the security of those shipping lanes, countries like Iran and its increasingly bold partners — large nuclear powers China and Russia — would be greatly empowered to more effectively blackmail and coerce the United States and our allies.

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. 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). 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.

Impacts: Cross-apply impacts from DA-4

TAIWAN DISADS

Big Link to Taiwan – SAFE Act would block arms sales to Taiwan

**[Referring in context to the SAFE Act]**

Rebecca Kheel 2019 (journalist) 25 June 2019 “Senate panel advances bill to restrict emergency arms sales” THE HILL <https://thehill.com/policy/defense/450302-senate-panel-advances-bill-to-restrict-emergency-arms-sales> (ellipses in original)

Sen. [Mitt Romney](https://thehill.com/people/willard-mitt-romney) (R-Utah) also expressed opposition because it leaves out other partner countries such as Ukraine and Taiwan. “If I were Taiwanese and this became a law,” Romney said, “I would say, ‘How come America’s not willing to send us weaponry … and why are we treated differently than four countries?’”

TAIWAN DA #1. Taiwan absorbed into China by force

Link & Brink: US restraint about defending Taiwan emboldens China to go over the brink and invade Taiwan

Prof. Peter Navarro 2016 (professor at the University of California-Irvine) 18 January 2016 “Is It Time For America to ‘Surrender’ Taiwan?” <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/it-time-america-%E2%80%98surrender%E2%80%99-taiwan-14955>

Fast forward to the 2000s and George W. Bush. After pledging to do “whatever it takes” to protect Taiwan, he went on to publicly rebuke Taiwan’s president in 2003. President Barack Obama has followed in Bush’s footsteps with a similarly weak endorsement of Taiwan—backed up by a refusal to sell advanced weapons systems to the island. Washington’s vacillations and “restraint” are no mystery: The U.S. economy is heavily dependent on trade with China—and many of Washington’s elected officials are just as heavily dependent on massive campaign contributions from American multinational corporations that have a strong vested interest in the growing China trade. To experts like Professor Yoshihara, however, such American restraint spells increasing danger. He fears these signals of American indecision may one day embolden a rapidly militarizing China to make its final invasion push—a possibility that dramatically increased in probability with last week’s election.

Link & Brink: China is investing heavily in weapons systems to invade Taiwan but right now they aren’t strong enough to pull it off

Ian Easton 2019 (research fellow at the Project 2049 Institute, where he conducts research on defense and security issues in Asia; former visiting fellow at the Japan Institute for International Affairs in Tokyo. Previously worked as a China analyst at the Center for Naval Analyses) 6 Sept 2019 “Imagine This: China Starts a War in Asia (And Invades Taiwan)” https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/imagine-china-starts-war-asia-and-invades-taiwan-78411

The good news is that the Chinese military almost certainly could not prosecute a full-scale invasion of Taiwan today and succeed. Even if a few hawkish generals were prepared to roll the dice, the costs and risks entailed by the war would be enormous and potentially fatal for the regime. PLA strategists know they still have a long way to go before they will be able to achieve their objective. The bad news is that China's leaders recognize the roadblocks in their path and will continue to invest heavily in strategic deception, intelligence collection, psychological warfare, joint training and advanced weapons. Barring countervailing efforts, their investments could result in a world-shaking conflict and an immense human tragedy.

Turn: The U.S. should actually increase its military commitment to protect Taiwan

Shay Khatiri 2020 (graduate student of Strategic Studies at Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies. He grew up in Iran and left the country in 2011. He is currently seeking political asylum in the United States.) 9 April 2020 “Treat Taiwan Like the Independent Ally It Is” <https://thebulwark.com/treat-taiwan-like-the-independent-ally-it-is/>

Last year, it was a Pentagon official who visited Taiwan. Next time, a higher-ranking official should visit. Recently, the two militaries held a joint cyber exercise. This is a good start, but they should move toward joint kinetic exercises. Taiwan’s military equipment is mostly American-made, and there is no better teacher on how to use it than the United States—and the Taiwanese military could benefit from joint air and sea exercises. Additionally, the United States can increase the sale of its military equipment to Taiwan. As most experts predict the rise of China to be a naval challenge first and foremost, the U.S. Navy needs to increase its presence in the Taiwan Strait.

Link: China is increasing military drills around Taiwan

Dr. Ted Galen Carpenter 2018 (Carpenter is contributing editor to both the National Interest and American Conservative, serves on the editorial boards of Mediterranean Quarterly and the Journal of Strategic Studies, and is the author of more than 800 articles and policy studies. Carpenter received his Ph.D. in U.S. diplomatic history from the University of Texas.) 20 February 2018 “Will the U.S. Go to War with China over Taiwan?” <https://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/will-us-go-war-china-over-taiwan>

The military maneuvers are especially unsettling. According to Taiwanese media accounts, China has conducted 16 military drills around Taiwan in 2017, compared to just eight in 2016 and even fewer during the years between 2008 and 2016. Chinese military aircraft engaged in exercises near Taiwan’s northern coast in December. Beijing’s naval and air power war games culminated in January 2018, when a flotilla including China’s only aircraft carrier sailed through the Strait. A senior Chinese official, Liu Junchuan, the liaison head of China’s Taiwan Affairs Office, boasted that “the contrast in power across the Taiwan Strait will become wider and wider, and we will have a full, overwhelming strategic advantage over Taiwan.”

Link & Brink: Arms are key to contesting a Chinese invasion

Dr. Scott W. Harold 2019 (PhD; Senior Political Scientist and the Associate Director of the Center for Asia Pacific Policy at The RAND Corporation.  Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service) Making Sense of US Arms Sales to Taiwan 23 July 2019 https://www.institutmontaigne.org/en/blog/making-sense-us-arms-sales-taiwan

Taipei’s arms purchases simultaneously take low-grade coercion off the table and signal determination to defend itself, in essence forcing China to escalate to riskier high-end military options if it wishes to conquer Taiwan. While systems such as the M1A2T may be vulnerable to Chinese air strikes in all-out invasion scenarios, Chinese fighter/bombers would need to approach the island in order to target such mobile systems, at which point they would become vulnerable to Taiwan’s integrated air defense systems. The sale of Stinger Block I-92Fis significant in this regard, since it can be useful against the PLA’s fixed-wing ground attack airframes, rotary-wing transport or attack helicopters, UAVs and cruise missiles. **China has little experience in combat search-and-rescue for downed pilots and the PLA knows any all-out invasion could well fail if the air or maritime domain are contested**, and as some recent surveys have shown, Taiwan is likely to resist vigorously.

Impact: World War III

Ian Easton 2019 (research fellow at the Project 2049 Institute, where he conducts research on defense and security issues in Asia; former visiting fellow at the Japan Institute for International Affairs in Tokyo. Previously worked as a China analyst at the Center for Naval Analyses) 6 Sept 2019 “Imagine This: China Starts a War in Asia (And Invades Taiwan)” https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/imagine-china-starts-war-asia-and-invades-taiwan-78411

It is clearly in the American interest to develop a nuanced understanding of the threat China poses to Taiwan, and to cultivate a strategy that takes this into account. Indeed, it is often the case that only by thinking tragically can tragedy be avoided. It is also true that in the absence of understanding many will buy into Chinese propaganda. Going forward, American policymakers need to realize that North Korea is not the only threat to peace in Asia, nor is it the worst. China is planning to invade a pro-American democracy at the center of the first island chain, something likely to spark World War III.

Impact: Human rights. Taiwanese know that China massively violates human rights – and want nothing to do with it

Prof. Michael Hunzeker and Mark Christopher 2020 (Hunzeker is an assistant professor at George Mason University’s Schar School of Policy and Government. He is also the associate director of the Center for Security Policy Studies. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2000–06 and holds an A.B. from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D., M.P.A., and M.A. from Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School. Mark A. Christopher is a fellow with the Truman National Security Project) 24 February 2020 “It’s Time to Talk About Taiwan” <https://www.defenseone.com/ideas/2020/02/its-time-talk-about-taiwan/163291/>

It makes sense that Taiwanese voters don’t trust Chinese promises and assurances. They are all too aware that Xi has reinforced the Communist Party’s role at the center of Chinese economic and political life, pulled back from market-based reforms, and ruthlessly crushed any perceived challenges to China’s territorial integrity. They have also watched the CCP round up millions of Uyghurs in Xinjiang and put them [in reeducation camps](https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/chinas-repression-uighurs-xinjiang), stonewall [pro-democracy protests](https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2019/12/16/hong-kongs-protest-movement-and-the-fight-for-the-citys-soul) in Hong Kong, and respond to the coronavirus outbreak with [draconian quarantines and Orwellian propaganda](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/06/world/asia/coronavirus-china-wuhan-quarantine.html). The recent election results, in which Tsai received more votes than any president in Taiwanese history, were a resounding rebuke of Beijing’s agenda.

Impact: Freedom and democracy lost. Taiwan has high level of freedom and democracy

Shay Khatiri 2020 (He is a graduate student of Strategic Studies at Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies. He grew up in Iran and left the country in 2011. He is currently seeking political asylum in the United States.) 9 April 2020 “Treat Taiwan Like the Independent Ally It Is” <https://thebulwark.com/treat-taiwan-like-the-independent-ally-it-is/>

Alongside Japan, and perhaps even more than Japan, Taiwan has the most pro-U.S. population in Asia. Taiwan’s regime is, in fact, the most similar to that of the United States in all of Asia. And Taiwan always scores high marks for freedom and democracy in Freedom House’s indexes.

Impact: Economic destruction and famine in Japan. China will wreck Japan if they take over Taiwan

Ian Easton 2019 (research fellow at the Project 2049 Institute, where he conducts research on defense and security issues in Asia; former visiting fellow at the Japan Institute for International Affairs. Previously worked as a China analyst at the Center for Naval Analyses for two years) 6 Sept 2019 “Imagine This: China Starts a War in Asia (And Invades Taiwan)” https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/imagine-china-starts-war-asia-and-invades-taiwan-78411 (ellipses in original)

PLA intentions and plans for a conquered Taiwan are made plain in another internal document, The Japanese Air Self Defense Force, a handbook studied by mid-career officers at the PLA Air Force Command College in Beijing. The stated purpose of the text is to help Chinese pilots and staff officers understand the strengths and weaknesses of their Japanese adversaries. Buried amidst hundreds of pages of detailed maps, target coordinates, organizational charts, weapons data and jet fighter images are the following lines:
As soon as Taiwan is reunified with Mainland China, Japan's maritime lines of communication will fall completely within the striking ranges of China's fighters and bombers...Our analysis shows that, by using blockades, if we can reduce Japan's raw imports by 15-20%, it will be a heavy blow to Japan's economy...After imports have been reduced by 50%, even if they use rationing to limit consumption, Japan's national economy and war-making potential will collapse entirely...blockades can cause sea shipments to decrease and can even create a famine within the Japanese islands.

Taiwan is dedicated to both free markets and civil liberties

Anthony Kim and Ambassador Terry Miller 2019 (Kim - Research Manager in the Center for International Trade and Economics of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy, at The heritage Foundation. Miller – former ambassador to the United Nations and U.S. representative on the U.N.’s Economic and Social Council) 5 Mar 2019 “The Taiwan Relations Act at 40: New Opportunities Ahead” https://www.heritage.org/asia/report/the-taiwan-relations-act-40-new-opportunities-ahead

In its latest edition of Freedom in the World, an annual report that assesses political rights and civil liberties around the globe, Freedom House classifies Taiwan as a “free” nation. On the economic front, The Heritage Foundation’s 25th edition of the Index of Economic Freedom now ranks Taiwan as the 10th-freest economy in the world.

A/T “Taiwan doesn’t have coherent defense strategy, so arms don’t matter” – Taiwan has new, workable strategy

Dr. Scott W. Harold 2019 (PhD; Senior Political Scientist and the Associate Director of the Center for Asia Pacific Policy at The RAND Corporation.  Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service ) Making Sense of US Arms Sales to Taiwan 23 July 2019 https://www.institutmontaigne.org/en/blog/making-sense-us-arms-sales-taiwan

Western defense analysts have long pointed out the desirability of shifting towards a more asymmetric approach, advising a "porcupine strategy" that would turn Taiwan (formally the Republic of China, or ROC) into a ‘hard ROC’, that is to say, make it difficult to conquer and in so doing improve its ability to protract any conflict. Taiwan’s defense strategy has evolved over the years as Taipei seeks to respond to growing PLA military capabilities. **Recently, some observers**have seen hope**in the Tsai administration’s adoption of an Overall Defense Concept that shifts Taiwan’s defense strategy in the direction of force preservation**, making the island’s defenders more agile, concealable, survivable, and lethal.

TAIWAN DA #2. Chinese hegemony / loss of US hegemony in East Asia

Link: Backing away from Taiwan signals lack of support for democracy and abandonment of U.S. leadership

[Yu-Hua Chen](http://chl.anu.edu.au/our-people/details/yu-hua-chen)*2019 (Chen is a Lecturer in the School of Politics and International Relations at the Australian National University, with particular expertise in Chinese foreign and security policy, international relations theories, and the history-security nexus in the Asia-Pacific region.) 21 August 2019 “What Brings the US and Taiwan Close Together?”* <https://theasiadialogue.com/2019/08/21/what-brings-the-us-and-taiwan-close-together/>

Finally, US resolve for maintaining international order based on freedom and democracy cannot be underestimated. Many believed the US would choose to withdraw from Asia when faced with China’s growing material power and proactive behavior, but that is not how the US has written its history. The US sacrificed approximately 500,000 men to fight against Germany in two world wars and rivaled the Soviet Union for 45 years in arms races and proxy wars until the latter collapsed. On what basis can one safely assume that the US will back off when China, without any actual ally except for North Korea, is challenging this US-led order? When US leaders refer to the importance of Taiwan, democracy is often the keyword. For instance, in his remark at the Hudson Institute, Vice President Mike Pence said explicitly “America will always believe Taiwan’s embrace of democracy shows a better path for all the Chinese people.” Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also emphasised, “America will always believe Taiwan’s embrace of democracy is an example to be internationally supported.” Taiwan embracing democracy is the essential reason the US will maintain strong relations with Taiwan.

Link: China wants Indo-Pacific hegemony, wants to replace U.S. in the region

Prof. Oriana Mastro 2019 (Assistant Professor of Security Studies at Georgetown Univ) “The Stealth Superpower” https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/china-plan-rule-asia Jan/Feb 2019

China has no interest in establishing a web of global alliances, sustaining a far-flung global military presence, sending troops thousands of miles from its borders, leading international institutions that would constrain its own behavior, or spreading its system of government abroad. But to focus on this reluctance, and the reassuring Chinese statements reflecting it, is a mistake. Although China does not want to usurp the United States’ position as the leader of a global order, its actual aim is nearly as consequential. In the Indo-Pacific region, China wants complete dominance; it wants to force the United States out and become the region’s unchallenged political, economic, and military hegemon. And globally, even though it is happy to leave the United States in the driver’s seat, it wants to be powerful enough to counter Washington when needed.

Link: China wants to dominate the Indo-Pacific

Ian Easton 2019 (research fellow at the Project 2049 Institute, where he conducts research on defense and security issues in Asia; former visiting fellow at the Japan Institute for International Affairs (JIIA) in Tokyo. Previously worked as a China analyst at the Center for Naval Analyses for two years) 6 Sept 2019 “Imagine This: China Starts a War in Asia (And Invades Taiwan)” https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/imagine-china-starts-war-asia-and-invades-taiwan-78411

The PRC, then, has compelling political, economic and military reasons to want to control Taiwan. In the eyes of Chinese strategists, this island's importance is unparalleled. For historical and practical reasons, the PLA assumes that it will have the leading role in the campaign. Military theorists in the PLA write that, sooner or later, the attack will be ordered and the island invaded and turned into a giant base for projecting China's strength and prestige across the region. They envision a world in which Chinese troops, planes and ships stand watch over this chokepoint, controlling all its activities. They contemplate a future where China dominates the Indo-Pacific.

Link: Maintaining US relations with Taiwan is key to maintaining freedom & democracy in the region

Dr. Edwin Feulner 2019 (PhD; former Chairman of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy (1982-91); served as Public Member (Ambassador) of the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations Second Special Session on Disarmament in New York, as a consultant for domestic policy to President Reagan, and as an adviser to several government departments and agencies) “Helping the United States by helping Taiwan” 27 Mar 2019 https://www.heritage.org/asia/commentary/helping-the-united-states-helping-taiwan

American interests in Asia require more than soaring rhetoric and frequent meetings. They require action. Moreover, American interests are not well served by a partnership with Beijing, particularly not if that partnership flourishes at the expense of other U.S. allies — and not if it undermines the U.S. goal of promoting and protecting freedom and democracy among our allies. U.S. policymakers need to maintain close, secure relations with Taiwan.

Link: China gaining Asian regional hegemony leads to gaining global hegemony, replacing USA

Min-Hyung Kim 2019. (Dept of Political Science and International Relations, Kyung Hee Univ., South Korea) 4 Feb 2019 A real driver of US–China trade conflict: The Sino–US competition for global hegemony and its implications for the future <https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/ITPD-02-2019-003/full/html>

Although China repeatedly claims that it does not seek to replace US hegemony in the world, its behavior revealed by the initiatives of the BRI, the AIIB and Made in China 2015 illustrates that its ultimate goal is to be a global hegemon. This is not surprising because all the rising powers in history invariably sought to first dominate the region they are situated ([Mearsheimer, 2011, 2014](https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/ITPD-02-2019-003/full/html#ref031%20ref032)) and expand their power globally ([Gilpin, 1981](https://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/ITPD-02-2019-003/full/html#ref012)).

Impact: World peace & prosperity at risk without US influence. US hegemony is key to global peace & prosperity

Capt. M. V. Prato 2009 (United States Marine Corps,Command and Staff College, Marine Corps Combat Development Command,Marine Corps University) “The Need for American Hegemony” <http://www.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a508040.pdf>

The world witnessed a vast shift in the polarity of geopolitics after the Cold War. The United States became the world’s greatest hegemon with an unequalled ability to globally project cultural, political, economic, and military power in a manner not seen since the days of the Roman Empire. **[END QUOTE]** Coined the “unipolar moment” by syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer, the disparity of power between the U.S. and all other nations allows the U.S. to influence the world for the mutual benefit of all responsible states. Unfortunately, the United States is increasingly forced to act unilaterally as a result of both foreign and domestic resentment to U.S. dominance and the rise of liberal internationalism**. [He goes on to say later in the same context QUOTE:]** The United States must exercise benevolent global hegemony, unilaterally if necessary, to ensure its security and maintain global peace and prosperity.

Impact: Abandoning Taiwan = less democracy, less freedom, less human rights and more communism

Jansen Tham 2018 (He is a Masters of Public Policy candidate specialising in Politics and International Affairs at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.) 15 June 2018 “Can the United States abandon Taiwan?” <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2018/06/15/can-the-united-states-abandon-taiwan/>

First, the Trump administration has articulated an Asia policy of a ‘Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy’. While the [details of this strategy](http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2017/11/14/freedom-and-openness-in-the-asia-pacific-free-and-open-for-interpretation/) remain unspecified with clarity needed in several areas, the fundamental [premise](https://thediplomat.com/2018/04/trumps-free-and-open-indo-pacific-strategy-needs-clarity/) is to ensure that states straddling the Indian and Pacific Oceans remain free from coercion. Abandoning Taiwan — ostensibly an [Indo-Pacific](http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2018/03/13/asia-pacific-history-trumps-indo-pacific-fantasy/) territory with a vibrant democracy and successive governments that espouse universal [human rights](http://www.eastasiaforum.org/2018/05/29/will-the-trump-administration-get-serious-on-human-rights-in-china/) — would denigrate the credibility of the administration’s Indo-Pacific policy as it runs counter to the principles of deterring coercion and promoting freedom of governance and fundamental rights. This is particularly damaging as the source of coercion is China — a state with communism enshrined in its constitution and a less-than-stellar human rights record.

TAIWAN DA #3. Pacific Security Endangered

Link and brink: The U.S. is a sitting duck in the Pacific

Prof. Peter Navarro 2016 (professor at the University of California-Irvine) 4 December 2016 “Will Guam Be America’s Next Pearl Harbor?” <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/will-guam-be-america-next_b_8725188>

As for America’s “sitting duck” forward bases in the event of such an attack, the Pentagon has bet the strategic farm in Asia on a relatively small handful of large bases arrayed along the First and Second Island Chains of defense. For example, Guam anchors the Second Island Chain and bristles with the best weapons America has in its arsenal. Warns Princeton’s Aaron Friedberg: “China is in the process of developing and deploying new weapons that will soon bring Guam well within range.”

Application: Bases in Japan are vulnerable to Chinese attack

Prof. Peter Navarro 2016 (professor at the University of California-Irvine) 4 December 2016 “Will Guam Be America’s Next Pearl Harbor?” <https://www.huffpost.com/entry/will-guam-be-america-next_b_8725188>

Other key bases anchoring the First Island Chain now firmly in the crosshairs of China’s vaunted Second Artillery Corps include the Sasebo and Yokosuka Naval Bases and Yokota Air Force Base on the home islands of Japan and the Kadena Air Force Base and Torii Station Army Base on Okinawa. Says Friedberg, these bases are “fixed. They’re not going anywhere; and they can conceivably be struck repeatedly by Chinese conventional weapons. So our posture in that part of the world is somewhat precarious; and the strategic policy question is how to make it less so.”

Link: Taiwan is key to US hegemony in the Indo-Pacific

Ian Easton 2019 (research fellow at the Project 2049 Institute, where he conducts research on defense and security issues in Asia; former visiting fellow at the Japan Institute for International Affairs. Previously worked as a China analyst at the Center for Naval Analyses) 6 Sept 2019 “Imagine This: China Starts a War in Asia (And Invades Taiwan)” https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/imagine-china-starts-war-asia-and-invades-taiwan-78411

While not as binding as a mutual defense treaty, the TRA (U.S. Public Law 96-8) makes it clear that Washington is likely to intervene if China uses force. In addition to being a matter of principle and honor, the United States needs Taiwan for geostrategic reasons. It has become increasingly clear to American strategists that China has embarked on a long and intense competition for dominance over the Indo-Pacific. Taiwan is at the geographic and political heart of this competition.

Link: Taiwan is critical for control of the Pacific Ocean

Prof. Peter Navarro 2016 (He is a professor at the University of California-Irvine. He is the author of Crouching Tiger: What China’s Militarism Means for the World (Prometheus Books) and director of the companion Crouching Tiger documentary film series.) 18 January 2016 “Is It Time For America to ‘Surrender’ Taiwan?” <https://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/it-time-america-%E2%80%98surrender%E2%80%99-taiwan-14955>

In thinking about the best answer, it should be noted that it’s not just that the United States has significant moral and ideological stakes in Taiwan’s survival as a thriving democracy committed to free and peaceful trade. There is also this cold geostrategic reality described by Heritage Foundation scholar Dean Cheng: “Taiwan is perhaps the single most developed piece of the First Island Chain once you leave Japan and Okinawa. So to walk away from Taiwan would, in a sense, be to open the gates for China's navy to be able to access the central Pacific with very little in the way of other obstacles.”

Link & Brink: Look at a map—Taiwan is key to US strategy

Dr. Loren Thompson 2019 (the Chief Operating Officer of the non-profit Lexington Institute and Chief Executive Officer of Source Associates. Former Deputy Director of the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University; doctoral and masters degrees in government from Georgetown) 18 Oct 2019 “Why Sell Weapons To Taiwan? Because Washington’s China Strategy Won’t Work Without It.” <https://www.forbes.com/sites/lorenthompson/2019/10/18/why-sell-weapons-to-taiwan-because-washingtons-china-strategy-wont-work-without-it/#5c1e00d9263c>

There are multiple reasons for Washington’s willingness to arm Taiwan despite Beijing’s anger over what it sees as meddling in Chinese internal affairs. From a military perspective, though, the most important reason is that without Taiwan, the Pentagon’s strategy for containing China would be severely weakened and might come completely unraveled. To understand why, all you have to do is look at a map.

Link: Taiwan is part of the “first island chain” and key to blocking Chinese expansion

Dr. Loren Thompson 2019 (the Chief Operating Officer of the non-profit Lexington Institute and Chief Executive Officer of Source Associates. Former Deputy Director of the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University; doctoral and masters degrees in government from Georgetown) 18 Oct 2019 “Why Sell Weapons To Taiwan? Because Washington’s China Strategy Won’t Work Without It.” <https://www.forbes.com/sites/lorenthompson/2019/10/18/why-sell-weapons-to-taiwan-because-washingtons-china-strategy-wont-work-without-it/#5c1e00d9263c>

The People’s Republic is hemmed in to the North, South and West by geographical barriers that make eastward movement—into the Pacific Basin—its most viable path for military expansion. There are over a thousand miles of ocean between the southernmost of Japan’s home islands and the northern tip of the Philippine island of Luzon that would seem to afford easy access to the world’s biggest ocean. However, strung across this expanse is a series of islands from which other countries could potentially block Chinese naval movement eastward, and by far the biggest is Taiwan. Beijing and Washington both view this “first island chain” as the geographic perimeter that must be controlled by outsiders if China’s military is to be contained. For instance, most of the U.S. military forces in Japan are concentrated on the small island of Okinawa, roughly equidistant between Japan’s home islands and Taiwan. This is not a coincidence: from there, U.S. forces can defend Japan, quickly reach Korea, and block aggressive moves the PLA Navy might choose to make in Northeast Asia. Islands to the south of Taiwan stretching across the Luzon Strait could afford a similar defensive position, assuming the under-armed government in Manila was receptive to an outside military presence on its territory.

Link: Arming Taiwan is key to U.S. Pacific strategy

Dr. Loren Thompson 2019 (the Chief Operating Officer of the non-profit Lexington Institute and Chief Executive Officer of Source Associates. Former Deputy Director of the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University; doctoral and masters degrees in government from Georgetown) 18 Oct 2019 “Why Sell Weapons To Taiwan? Because Washington’s China Strategy Won’t Work Without It.” <https://www.forbes.com/sites/lorenthompson/2019/10/18/why-sell-weapons-to-taiwan-because-washingtons-china-strategy-wont-work-without-it/#5c1e00d9263c>

Against that backdrop, the logic of arming the Republic of China becomes strategically compelling. Without Taiwan, the U.S. defensive posture containing China is greatly diminished, and maybe even unworkable. Once you get east of Taiwan and the other parts of the first island chain, there isn’t much to impede Chinese military maneuvers. Washington could further expand its Pacific Fleet and bolster overhead reconnaissance capabilities, but the Pacific is a big place, and China would have many options once it escapes the main geographic barrier blocking its eastward movement.

Link: Losing Taiwan means the U.S. cannot contain China

Dr. Loren Thompson 2019 (the Chief Operating Officer of the non-profit Lexington Institute and Chief Executive Officer of Source Associates. Former Deputy Director of the Security Studies Program at Georgetown University; doctoral and masters degrees in government from Georgetown) 18 Oct 2019 “Why Sell Weapons To Taiwan? Because Washington’s China Strategy Won’t Work Without It.” <https://www.forbes.com/sites/lorenthompson/2019/10/18/why-sell-weapons-to-taiwan-because-washingtons-china-strategy-wont-work-without-it/#5c1e00d9263c>

But without control of Taiwan, this defensive perimeter loses much of its value to China’s rivals. If Beijing were to successfully occupy the Republic of China, it would shatter the U.S. defensive posture in the Western Pacific. As General Douglas MacArthur observed during the early days of the Cold War, Taiwan is an “unsinkable aircraft carrier” – nearly 14,000 square miles of territory, much of it suitable for military bases. The island even has a deepwater port that could host aircraft carriers. If the PLA were able to operate freely from Taiwan’s eastern coast, it would effectively be outside the first island chain that currently is its main obstacle to Pacific access.

Link: Undermines U.S. commitment to its allies

Jansen Tham 2018 (Masters of Public Policy candidate specialising in Politics and International Affairs at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore) 15 June 2018 “Can the United States abandon Taiwan?” <https://www.eastasiaforum.org/2018/06/15/can-the-united-states-abandon-taiwan/>

Second, discontinuing its backing of Taiwan would severely erode the current balance of power in Asia. Beijing’s ongoing moves at consolidating control over its disputed periphery, including militarising its installations in the South China Sea, hint at a paradigm shift in the way it is utilising its new-found national power in the diplomatic, economic and military spheres. While Beijing constantly decries Washington’s ‘Cold War mentality’ in creating spheres of influence in China’s immediate neighbourhood, the reality is that states in the vicinity of the middle kingdom want a choice — instead of bandwagoning to Beijing’s preferences. The United States provides this choice, allowing states to hedge their bets between the global hegemon and Asia’s rising power. But the United States’ role in balancing China in Asia is credible only insofar as it can maintain the trust and confidence of its treaty allies — such as Japan, South Korea and Australia — and partners like India and Vietnam. Abandoning Taiwan to China’s coercion would decimate this trust.

Impact: Apocalyptic consequences if we lose US hegemony

Brook Manville 2018 (principal of Brook Manville LLC, consulting on strategy and organization) 14 Oct 2018 “Why A Crumbling World Order Urgently Needs U.S. Leadership” FORBES https://www.forbes.com/sites/brookmanville/2018/10/14/why-a-crumbling-world-order-urgently-needs-u-s-leadership/#2bb8912f2e61 (brackets added)

The botanical metaphor in [Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Robert] Kagan’s book title began our recent conversation. “We’ve been living in a tranquil garden of largely peaceful practices and liberal expectations across much of the world, ignoring the dark forces of jungle multiplying under the rocks. If we don’t defend civilization’s cultivation—especially American’s guarantee of peace and economic integration across the world—the toxic creatures and weeds will roar back.” Thus China’s determined military rise, Russia’s continuing aggressions, fiery authoritarians on the march in so many once democratic countries. [**END QUOTE]** As [Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Robert] Kagan continued, “Trump has been damaging the system—he too seems to have forgotten what good it has delivered—but actually America’s desire for maintaining the global order has been diminishing for years. After the dissolution of the Soviet empire in the 1990s, people talked about ‘the end of history”—that America didn’t have to worry anymore about war or aggression. History doesn’t end, it simply paused. [**He goes on later in the same context to say QUOTE:]** The ugliest aspects of human nature are surging again.”
**Vanishing Leadership, Vanishing Peace**
Kagan’s apocalyptic message, repeated in other recent writings, is lucid and terrifying, all the more devastating for its relentless use of history. It’s a footnoted plea that “we’ve seen this movie before.” He reminds us that Americans have frequently turned away from defending world order, with regrettably familiar outcomes: to be dragged in later at greater cost (e.g. helping to stop Hitler earlier might have prevented World War II); or, simply hoping that “the problem would go away,” to watch it get ten times worse (e.g. Obama’s policy in Syria). Kagan acknowledges that America has sometimes misstepped (e.g. Viet Nam, Iraq), but he still argues that overall our foreign engagement has produced more peace and prosperity than not. “History shows,” he summarized, “that world order has never been achieved without some constructive force to keep the peace. The relative harmony and fair play we’ve created in the modern world will vanish if the U.S. forsakes international leadership.”