

The Impacts of Saudi Arabia's Military Intervention on the Civil War in Yemen in the Era of Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the impact of the military intervention carried out by Saudi Arabia and its coalition aligned with the United States and European to Yemen during the presidency of Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi. The intervention held Saudi Arabia and the alliance impacted on Regional state in the Middle East. The concept to analyze is the regional security complex. Then, the study may reveal that coalition of those countries against Yemen brought some consequences on North Yemen and South Yemen, which continued to be in conflict. Civil war in Yemen consisted of ethnic, cultural, and ideological conflicts that impacted on the broken trust of civil on government. The civil war in Yemen between the Houthi rebels aided by Iran and the Yemeni government aided by the United States has had a devastating impact on Yemeni civilians. International organisations played important role here to make civil survive in the massive destruction. The research method in the research is a qualitative research with secondary data from books, journals, and international websites as research references. Analyses used by the means of conceptual framework of regional security complex to know the impact on neighbor countries of Middle East. Human security been analyzed to know the impact on security of civil of Yemen by the regime Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Keywords: *Yemen Conflict, Saudi Arabia Intervention, Human Security, Regional Security Complex.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Yemen is a state in the Middle East that is directly bordered by Saudi Arabia to the north, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea to the west, Oman to the east, and the Arabian Sea to the south. The area is surrounded by desert plains or Hadramaut which occupied 90% of Yemen's population of Arab. The majority of Yemen's population adheres to Islam, with 55% of the population adheres to Sunni ideology and generally studies the Shafi'i school of thought, some others follow Shia ideology, at last. Shortly, it impacted on continuous civil war between ancient tribes in Yemen who had power in politics. Due to its geographical location, and administrative and social structure, Yemen has been a place of upheaval and conflict that has continued to this day.

Prior to its independence, Yemen was divided into two parts, namely North Yemen (Yemeni Arab Republic) and South Yemen (Yemeni People's Democratic Republic) which

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experienced many wars and conflicts due to different political practices. The civil mostly based on faith by the means of propaganda to Yemeni people's faith on Islam.

The spread of Islam from Mecca and Medina then spread to the Al Hijaz region which caused Yemen to quickly convert to Islam (History Of Yemen, n.d.). North Yemen had a monarchy system that was ruled by Imam Zaydi until 1962 when Mohammed Al-Badr was overthrown and captured by the soldiers of the Zaydi army. North Yemen played an important role in Soviet Union policy due to its geographical proximity to Saudi Arabia. The Soviet Union saw North Yemen as a tool for political pressure on the countries of the Persian Gulf. The Soviet Union cooperated with Libya, Iraq, Iran, and Egypt in assisting the United States during the Cold War.

After North Yemen became independent from the Ottoman Empire, South Yemen was colonized by the British and chose to adopt a Marxist orientation and change the name of the country of Yemen to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Under British rule, the tribes in South Yemen had a different political system compared to North Yemen. The British presence in North Yemen only marked the formal separation of South Yemen from North Yemen. In 1990, South Yemen, which has a communist ideology, finally merged with North Yemen (BBC, 2019). South Yemen is a federation of tribes under the protection of the British Empire.

The separation of the Yemen into two parts created clashes between groups and lead to conflict. Both countries signed an agreement in 1989 to joint explore oil fields. As a result of the on-going negotiations at that time, the draft constitution was agreed upon and with the approval of the two countries' parliaments. The Yemeni Republic, whose capital is Sana'a, declared the Independence Day on May 20th, 1990. The dispute between the two states then resulted on reunited and formed the Republic of Yemen. Cooperation between the two states only lasted until 1994; however, at the civil war between the north and south began, the south became the winner of the civil war.

After winning the war, the Houthis were founded as a largely Shiite Islamic reformist movement in North Yemen, after a decades-long revolution the Houthis became an armed group. Several actors involved in the conflict are state actors, the Yemeni government led by Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi and non-state actors, the Houthi Rebels. In reaction to the rebellion, government of Yemen under the Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi power, need assistance from Arab military power to respond on the rebels.

In 2014, the Houthis asked Hadi to resign and move to Aden and then the capital Sana'a would be taken over by the Houthis (Julia Palik). The protests over Sana'a objected on corruption and economic failure in Yemen. The Houthis consider that Ali Abdullah Saleh stole 60 billion USD in state money or corruption during his 33-year tenure. The conflict continued to 2004 when the Houthi founder and leader Husain Badruddin al-Houthi denounced the government for anti-national and anti-U.S activities. The Houthis desired to win greater autonomy to defend his territory and protection against the Sunni Moslem. (Jamieson, 2016).

Husain Badruddin al-Houthi has an important war in North Yemen and he is a former 1990 member of the pedal parliament affiliated with the Zaydi or Shia sect of Islam. After the Houthi movement insisted wanting to oppose the Yemeni government's decision, Ali Abdullah Saleh sent an arrest warrant for Husain al-Houthi (Al-Batati, 2015).

Saudi Arabia is the other country which involved in the ongoing conflict in Yemen. The conflict in Yemen continued war after past few years. The actors involved in the conflict are the Houthi rebel group against Yemen official government who ask assistance from Arab government. Some airstrikes from Saudi Arabia and its coalition attack left Houthi rebels vanishing and displaced. The Saudi-led coalition began bombing territory across Yemen in 2015. As a result, many casualties from civilians were affected by the bombings of the Saudi Arabian coalitions (Alvis Rahman Basuki, 2019).

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses qualitative research methods that are often used in explaining a social phenomenon in depth. This type of research relies on the quality of data compared to the quantity of data. The data sources used come from the official website of the Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Embassy of the United States, the Embassy of Yemen, and official websites, thesis journal, national and international journal, and books as a form of secondary data sources. This research raises the phenomenon of the ongoing conflict in Yemen caused by the attacks of Saudi Arabia and its coalition. The object of this study is a violation of human security committed by Saudi Arabia due to the process of conducting military intervention in the form of imports of weapons from countries supporting Saudi Arabia which aimed at meeting Saudi Arabia's military interests in intervening in the conflict in Yemen during the reign of Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

After the necessary data has been collected, further stages are needed to produce a complete research study. Qualitative data comes from data collection methods through interviews and anticipatory observations generally in the form of structured and unstructured textual materials. Qualitative data analysis techniques aim to understand things such as Sandakan, events, and actors related to social problems. Data collection that is still not based on the technique, is formulated into a series of descriptions obtained through the interpretation of many collected data. The data analysis technique used is explanatory research which is a study that explains the relationship between research variables that explains the relationship between variables. Explanatory research to test hypotheses between hypothesized variables. In this study, there is a hypothesis that is tested for truth. Saudi Arabia's interest in importing weapons from the Netherlands is to intervene in conflicts in Yemen along with its coalition that is causing a human security crisis in Yemen, by a method of collecting secondary data through a wide variety of literature that can test hypotheses between variables.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. The Impact of Saudi Arabia's Military Intervention on the Civil War in Yemen

The regional level in the Regional Security Complex theory explains that countries that are geographically located can create security interactions from country to country. Yemen's geographical location is adjacent to Saudi Arabia's economic interests which depend on petroleum stored on Yemeni soil. Yemen does not have a big political power, so some oil companies in its country are forced to be processed by other countries. Saudi Arabia has ambitions to lead the countries of the Arabian Peninsula and control the Islamic state that exists in the world because Saudi Arabia is a kingdom that adheres to Islamic teachings that call for peace, justice, equality, and respect for individual rights. Saudi Arabia recognizes that the Houthis are part of Yemeni citizens, and the Houthis have the right to be part of the political process in Yemen. However, it was Houthi ideology that led to this schism.

The intervention led by Saudi Arabia has been ongoing since 2015. Saudi Arabia, assisted by the United States, became the leader of a coalition that has two classifications, namely military support and political support. The aid aims to create peace in the Middle East region, especially in Yemen, which is in the midst of civil war. Saudi Arabia is key in the Yemen conflict as it becomes the leader of an international coalition that supports the official government of Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi against Houthi rebels. The reason Saudi Arabia intervened was that Houthi ideology defied the Islamic legitimacy of the Prophet's time. If the Houthis succeed in fighting the Yemeni government, it will have an effect on the formation of a political regime that will not accept Saudi Arabia's legitimacy on its southern border.

The United States supports Saudi Arabia in two ways: military support and political support. United States military support in the form of logistics and combat equipment in

the fight against the Houthis. The United States' political support is in the form of an agreement by the coalition and the US that explains that military actions by GCC member states aim to defend borders between countries and protect the Yemeni government from falling into Houthi hands. The reason the United States helped Saudi Arabia's intervention was because the United States was a counter-terrorism country and a superpower country that wanted to increase arms sales to coalition member states. Achieving security stability and fighting to avoid radicalism, especially the Houthi communist movement that adheres to Shia ideology can endanger Islamic norms and Islamic culture. Shia ideology did not yet exist in the time of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, but there is a hadith that explains the emergence of Shia. Shia emerged when a Jew claimed to convert to Islam, he was named Abdullah bin Saba'. He announced that he was a lover of Ali bin Abu Talib so excessively that he denounced Abu Bakr dan Umar. Historical hadith Imam Ahmad explained that in the last days there will appear Rafidhahs or Shiites who oppose Islam.

3.2. Economic Impact

The civil war in Yemen between the Yemeni government and Houthi rebels destroyed the economic infrastructure in Yemen, where the elimination of fuel subsidies and fuel price increases arose because of the Houthi protests. During the war, access to foreign currency management and import activities was disrupted due to the Saudi naval blockade of Yemeni ports (2022 Index Of Economy, 2022). During the war, access to foreign currency management and import activities was disrupted due to the Saudi naval blockade of Yemeni ports (Cole, 2019). Hadi's request to Saudi Arabia to help him fight Houthi rebels has spread to several aspects, one of which is his economic situation, Saudi Arabia and Hadi's government have sought to weaken Houthi-owned finances by moving the central bank to Aden. Some foreign aid has been provided from Saudi Arabia and countries on the Arabian Peninsula for Yemen, while the Houthis have nominal support coming from Iran. To restore economic backwardness, Yemen needs to create changes in banking, trade, industry, and agriculture. The state of land and territory in Yemen does not support such changes due to the relentless war. Poverty is increasingly prevalent in Yemen as a result of the ongoing civil war. Almost the entire human population in Yemen lives on less than 3.10 USD per day (Mayne, 2022). The Yemeni government must understand the structural challenges for its country to improve its economic and country stability. Even before the current conflict, many officials were corrupt and depleted oil and water resources, leading to chronic poverty. Depleted oil reserves have an impact on agriculture which is an important role for Yemeni people to get clean foodstuffs.

3.3. Health Security Impact

Since 2020, the UN says that as many as 233.000 people died as a result of the war, and 131,000 people were affected by starvation, not getting health and infrastructure. This conflict has caused tens of thousands of civilian casualties, including children and adults. By 2022, the war has resulted in a human security crisis with more than 24 million people in need of food and health assistance. Health workers have been attacked and medical facilities were taken over by belligerent actors. More than 3 million people have been displaced and more than 200,000 people have fled to neighboring countries (Milikan, 2022). In July 2022, 1,347 children were acutely malnourished and were undergoing outpatient treatment. Since the beginning of the year, 3,204,069 children have been malnourished due to conflict. UNICEF identified as many as 2.2 million affected by malnutrition and malnutrition for children in Yemen (UNICEF, 2022). Nutrition are needed for babies who have to consume protein and carbohydrates according to their needs. As a result, the percentage of malnutrition in infants to children under five years old is 67%. This is very risky for physical development and mental health in infants and children.

3.4. Environmental Impact

An environmental crisis could threaten the existence of Yemen's habitable lands. Civilians are caught in a human security crisis created by two warring sides: Houthi rebels and the Yemeni government that is destroying civilians' neighborhoods. Yemen's poverty makes its people suffer and be exposed to the consequences of continuous carbon emissions from rich countries and even Yemen is one of the contributors to global warming gas (Helen Lackner, 2020). Global warming has also caused sea levels to rise so that it has crossed the watertight line which consequently worsens the supply of clean water for Yemeni civilians in need as well as agricultural production that also needs clean water to continue planting plants.

Yemen's environmental damage is the focus of concern from the United States because Yemen is a country that belongs to America's geostrategic interests. Millions of Yemenis are forced to migrate to neighboring countries only to find a safe and livable environment. The majority of Yemen's population migrates to Saudi Arabia which is a better state of nature. Environmental issues occur because of the complexity of several factors produced by human intervention or the inexperience of God. Landowners who hold power in Yemen's territory drill wells steeply to irrigate high-value fruit crops, while the majority of farmers from remote areas are deliberately impoverished because the wells dug are not so steep that the farmers' small wells dry up and cannot irrigate their farms. This has led to the loss of potential farmers from the area for farming and grazing. The people in power became an opportunity for the Houthis to create fertile land. Yemenis have only about 86 m² of clean water sources in each rural area. People living in Sana'a and Taiz have tap water at most once a week. Jim Yong Kim, president of the World Bank said that the phenomenon of global mapping is inevitable from the earth. Countries that are in the area north of latitude 25°N will be dry, and Yemen is located south of latitude 25°N, so it is likely that Yemen will become wetter due to global warming (Harazi, 2014). Heavy rainfall can cause flooding and bring greater extreme weather that can cause local storms. The Yemeni government has sought to implement a clean water governance framework in a modern way. Clean water is needed by hundreds of thousands of highly independent local households.

3.5. Personal Security Impact

In 2020, the United Nations said that military attacks were aimed at several hospitals and schools it has been proven that there is no personal security for the Yemeni people due to the large number of people killed by the Saudi Arabian-led coalition attacks. A total of 233,000 people was killed including 3,000 children killed in attacks from the Saudi Arabian coalition (Nations, 2020). The Saudi-led coalition deployed military forces, while Houthi rebel forces planted illicit mines unknown to the Yemeni public. In April 2022, the United Nations announced a two-month ceasefire in Yemen. One month after the end of the ceasefire, the death toll of civilians has increased due to shell-firing attacks, and attacks on port facilities that cost civilian's lives (Laurence, 2022). The conflict in Yemen has created a complex personal security issue. Refugees in Yemen reach 3.6 million people. The amount of treatment that is not based on humanity has resulted in some Yemeni communities being subjected to exploitation, harassment, and violence. The majority of victims were children and women forced into marriage until other women were subjected to domestic violence. Many children have lost their safety because some of them have lost their families. The United Nations Human Rights Office verified as many as 11 incidents of sexual violence from 2013 to 2018. UNICEF says as many as 2 million children are out of school due to the impact of the war. Civil war actors in Yemen use schools for military purposes (Roth, 2021).

3.6. Political Security Impact

Yemen's political structure consists of a legislative body with the prime minister as head of government and the president as head of state. Politically Yemen is divided into 3,

namely political affiliation, militia, and tribal line. Yemen remains the country with the highest rates of an enocotomy crisis that is predicted to last for a long time due to unstable political circumstances. Yemen is experiencing a critical war between Sunni Islam and Shia Islam, where Shia Islam is aided by Iran. Yemen's political situation is increasingly disorderly as Riyadh has an interest in maintaining the legitimacy of Hadi's government and maintaining the unity of the war-torn North and South. Iran's main target is not Yemen, but the Sunni Islamist Yemeni people who are Iran's main targets (Karasik, 2019). The political system in Yemen is devise for a permanent crisis. Yemen's weak political situation is caused by weak leadership, as a result of which the ongoing conflict has no sign of the end and does not provide a solution. The crisis for the Yemeni state requires overall humanitarian attention. The Houthis have accepted the negotiations offered by the Yemeni government, but Iran's role cannot be separated as a supporter of the Houthis and until recently it has been difficult to find a political situation.

After the events of the Arab Spring, protests continued to emerge as a result of the political transition. Several countries tied to diplomatic relations with Yemen have now been cut off as a result of Yemen's approval while a member of the UN Security Council in choosing a Security Council resolution on Iraq and Kuwait, rejecting economic sanctions for Iraq. Countries that are on the Arabian Peninsula and conduct diplomatic relations with Yemen restrict and cancel those diplomatic relations. In 2000, Yemen took part in the signing of border agreements with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. This resulted in the re-establishment of Yemen's diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to assist Yemen in financial affairs. Saudi Arabia's intervention is to restore Riyadh's political state, and not to dispute the political situation in South Yemen opposed by the Houthis. Thus, the main purpose of Saudi Arabia's intervention was to weaken the Houthi movement (Kordinov, 2019).

Yemen (Houthirebels group) against the official Government

Yemen has experienced insurgency since 1962 and in 2004 it experienced the peak of civil war in 2015 til now (Ahmed, 2019). In August 2009, the Yemeni army carried out a major offensive that could be called a scorched earth operation. The purpose of the attack was to confront rebel groups fighting the Yemeni government (Khadijah).

The group against the Yemeni government is the Houthi Rebel group. The group, founded by Husein bin Badruddin al-Houthi, does not accept the ideology it has embraced since 1962. The Houthi group has the Itsna Assyrian Shia Ideology or Shia 12 Imams. The ideology is the same as the ideology of extreme movements, that is, a form of ideology that has a belief in illegitimate leadership except for the descendants of Ali ibn Abi Talib. Therefore, the Houthis did not participate in the government's rule and disobeyed it. Not only is it disobedient, but the Houthis have also prepared themselves to confront the government. The group is also assisted by Iran to strengthen its power. In 2004, the Houthis were backed by North Yemen, which accused the Yemeni government of discriminating and marginalizing the economy in the Sana'a region. This conflict is a continuation of the Shia Houthi uprising.

Yemen faces considerable difficulties in maintaining its government. Saudi Arabia has the power of the failure of a political transition that is supposed to bring stability to Yemen post-Arab Spring. A major political transition was held in 2011. When there was a replacement of the President from Ali Abdullah Saleh to Abde Rabbo Mansour Hadi (Dunning, 2018). Saudi Arabia is experiencing concerns with the prospect of the Houthis taking control of Yemen. In 2015, Saudi Arabia and its coalition began airstrikes that aimed at removing the Houthis and restoring Hadi's rule.

The conflict in Yemen is not just a conflict for its own country and internal forces, but also a major problem for the Middle East region and even the international system. This conflict gave rise to a nickname for Yemen, that is, the worst humanitarian crisis (Nihati). One of the contributing factors is that Yemen is a poor country, and the Yemeni

government cannot overcome the country's poverty despite a lot of assistance from other countries and several organizations under the UN. The assistance such as health, education, and food aid are urgently needed by the people of Yemen.

The gun attacks in Yemen were not triggered by religious or ethnic differences (MAutner, 2022). However, the conflict has hurt Yemeni civilians who are experiencing a humanitarian crisis. Not a few of the international communities are making efforts to resolve the ongoing conflict in Yemen. The United Nations of Human Rights Council proposes to recommend an investigation into international human rights abuses by all parties due to the large number of civilians who have lost their rights due to the emergence of airstrikes by a military coalition led by Saudi Arabia to counter Houthi rebels. In the international world, especially in war, there is a need for the law of war, which is a law that is a pile of restrictions by international law that is used for the principles governing the treatment of individuals during arms conflict. The Middle East is the most populous country many receive exports of weapons and military equipment, and Saudi Arabia is the most importing country (Sari).

Yemen and Saudi Arabia are Middle Eastern states and majority Islamic countries, so the ongoing civil war in Yemen is. Geographical proximity plays a major role in this conflict, as each country has regional security that protects its country. Given Saudi Arabia's interest in helping the Government of Yemen fight against Houthi rebels and that policy has had a lot of impact on Yemen, this study will analyze "The Impact of Saudi Arabia's Military Intervention On The Civil War In Yemen During the Reign of Abd Mansour Hadi". With this study, the author would like to convey Saudi Arabia's intentions and objectives in carrying out this intervention in the form of wealth for his country.

Regional Security Complexes analyses

This conflict attracted great attention from the international community, prompting external parties to be present in efforts to solve the conflict. Assistance from other countries, international involvement as well as various external actors can contribute to the worsening of the situation. One of them is the military intervention carried out by the Saudi Arabian-led coalition. The members of the Saudi Arabia-led coalition are all members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) except Oman. In this coalition, Saudi Arabia has contributed most of the armed forces. In addition to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, countries that intervened in the Yemen conflict include Jordan, Sudan, Morocco, and Egypt. Notably, Egypt has played a key role in the maritime zone from the Red Sea patrols and was also involved in the bombing of some Houthi territories by its navy (George, 2020). The military intervention by Saudi Arabia, which is supported by many parties, certainly has a positive side. The positive side of helping Saudi Arabia is the ideology for Middle Eastern countries and other Islamic countries, that they must fight to maintain their survival by believing in the regime and ideology that has been built that refers to the Qur'an that Muslims return to rather than the ideology identified with Sunni Jihadists. Sunni jihadists is as a major factor in instability for Muslims and civilians in Yemen. Therefore, the Yemeni government carried out its attacks on Houthi rebels who have Shia ideology (Neriah, 2015).

International Organization Role on Yemen Conflict

4. CONCLUSION

The securitization process is carried out in the presence of security objects that require special protection such as the state, society, political actors, ideology, and culture that are threatened extensively. The human security crisis is the result of a civil war in Yemen aided by several state actors from regional, interregional and global regions. Humanity continues to assist affected people and minimizes human suffering against the backdrop

of challenges resulting from economic decline, conflict, insecurity, infrastructure destruction, and bureaucratic barriers.

Saudi Arabia, assisted by the United States, intervened against the Yemeni government fighting Houthi rebels. Saudi Arabia and the United States have an interest in oil and gas in Yemen so Saudi Arabia has power as a superpower in the Arabian Peninsula. The suffering felt by civilians is a concern for international organizations under the UN. The UN has called Yemen the worst humanitarian crisis country created by its government. In addition, they must live below the poverty line. The concept of human security explains that the state of the Yemeni state is not spared from the concept of human security. Apart from uninhabitable housing, this civil war has an impact on the state of the Yemeni economy that makes it impossible to provide a defense to its people in the form of food, health, and a safe environment. So the Yemeni people have to live under suffering that is not even the cause of their society but non-state actors. The ongoing identity conflict in Yemen cannot solve a complex problem. Shia Islam is loudly prohibited by the true teachings of Islam by referring to the Qur'an and Hadith. However, the way to defend Sunni Islam by waging war did not solve the problem for the two actors.

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