

The Yemen Conflict's Ripple Effect: Saudi Arabia's Response And Regional Stability

Saad Alshammari¹ · Sity Daud²

Abstract

The Arab Spring-related conflict in Yemen has grown into a complex catastrophe with significant regional ramifications. This paper explores the intricate network of historical, political, and religious elements that have contributed to the war while highlighting Saudi Arabia's crucial involvement. Saudi Arabia's military intervention in Yemen in 2015 signaled a crucial turning point in the country's foreign policy, with profound geopolitical and security ramifications. Saudi Arabia's activities have an impact well beyond Yemen's borders because it is a significant regional power and a significant role in the larger Middle Eastern scene. The response from Saudi Arabia is examined in the article along with its repercussions on regional stability in terms of economics, geopolitics, and humanitarian aid. The crisis in Yemen, which acts as a stage for Saudi and Iranian competition and is influencing the future of an unstable region, is also examined in terms of its broader ramifications. The paper also aims to clarify the complexities of the Yemeni crisis and its reverberations, with a particular emphasis on Saudi Arabia's stance.

Keywords: Regional Stability, Geopolitics, Humanitarian Crisis, Proxy Warfare.

I. Introduction

Since more than ten years ago, the war in Yemen has become a constant source of trouble in the Middle East. The war has caused a lot of damage in Yemen and has influenced the rest of the Middle East as well. It is caused by complicated domestic, regional, and foreign causes. The author of this paper talks about the complicated parts of the Yemen war, focusing on Saudi Arabia's reaction, and how these changes have affected the stability of the region.

A. Background and Context of the Yemen Conflict

The war in Yemen, which is sometimes called a proxy war, has its roots in a lot of different historical, political, and religious issues. Its roots can be found in the Arab Spring of 2011, when large-scale protests got rid of Ali Abdullah Saleh, Yemen's longtime dictator. After all the chaos, there was a lack of power, which led to a complex dispute.

The Houthi rebels, who are backed by Iran, and the officially recognized Yemeni government, which is backed by a group of countries led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, are the main sides in this war. This substitute factor has made things even more difficult, turning it into a major regional problem (Newton, 2017). Geography in Yemen makes

¹ PhD Candidate (Political science) at University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

things even more complicated. It holds the Bab el-Mandeb strait, which is a major marine chokepoint through which a lot of the world's oil goes. Because of this and its closeness to Saudi Arabia, the war in Yemen is very important for the world and the region (Kuznetsov, 2019).

B. Problem of the research

The Yemen conflict is a critical geopolitical crisis that necessitates thorough analysis on account of its far-reaching consequences for the stability of the region. The conflict has undergone significant development since its inception in 2014, encompassing intricate political, economic, and humanitarian aspects that have entangled regional and international stakeholders in a prolonged struggle. Saudi Arabia, whose military intervention has significantly altered its foreign policy stance and regional position, stands at the epicenter of this tumult (Soroush Amiri and Mohammad Mahdi Mirzaei 2021). The primary objective of this research endeavor is to conduct an exhaustive examination of the Yemen conflict's cascading impact on Saudi Arabia, concentrating on the kingdom's reaction and the subsequent ramifications for the wider Middle East. Through a meticulous examination of the complexities surrounding Saudi intervention, regional alliances, and the ever-changing dynamics, this study aims to provide significant contributions to the understanding of the complex challenges presented by the Yemen crisis and its extensive ramifications.

C. Importance of Studying Saudi Arabia's Response

There are many important reasons why Saudi Arabia's reaction to the war in Yemen is so important. First, when Saudi Arabia got involved in Yemen in 2015, it was a turning point in the country's foreign policy. This action showed that the kingdom was determined to protect its national security interests and show its power in the area. By looking at this reaction, we can see how Saudi Arabia's foreign policy is changing. Saudi Arabia is a big economic and military power in the area. Its acts have big effects on the stability of the area. To understand the larger geopolitical picture in the area, it is important to know how its participation in Yemen has affected things.

Finally, Saudi Arabia's participation in Yemen is directly linked to the current battle for power in the Middle East. It is on the other side of the war from Iran, which has been a foe for a long time. So, the conflict in Yemen can be seen as a stage for the proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. This makes Middle Eastern politics even more complicated (Caldararo, 2016). Lastly, looking at Saudi Arabia's role in the conflict in Yemen shows how the crisis affects people's lives and safety. Because of the war, Yemen has one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, with millions of people living in terrible conditions. The war also affects the security of countries nearby, not just Yemen.

D. Significance of the Study

The importance of this study rests in its ability to reveal the complex undercurrents of the Yemen crisis and Saudi Arabia's involvement therein, revealing the significant repercussions for local stability and international geopolitics. First and foremost, the battle in Yemen is a miniature version of the wider Middle Eastern geopolitical struggle. It captures the larger Saudi-Iranian rivalry as two major regional powers, Saudi Arabia and Iran, participate indirectly in the fight. Understanding the dynamics of this competition and how it affects regional stability is crucial to understanding how the Middle East is changing.

Moreover, the Yemen conflict is inextricably linked to global energy security. Yemen's geographic location, controlling the Bab el-Mandeb strait, means the conflict impacts the free flow of oil, with global repercussions. A comprehensive study of Saudi Arabia's response offers insights into the wider implications for the world economy and energy markets. Furthermore, the humanitarian crisis stemming from the Yemen conflict is a pressing concern. By analyzing Saudi Arabia's role, this study aims to shed light on the humanitarian dimension, identifying potential avenues for mitigating suffering and fostering peace in Yemen.

II. Literature Review

A. Overview of the Yemen Conflict

Yemen's conflict, named the "forgotten war," has deep historical origins but has gained worldwide attention owing to its devastation and length. Yemen, a country with a history of internal strife, was thrown into chaos during the Arab Spring in 2011. In 2014, the Houthi rebels, a Zaidi Shia insurgent organization, took control of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, sparking a statewide crisis. To restore the internationally recognized government, Saudi Arabia and its regional allies initiated a military intervention in 2015.

There are several actors and interests involved in the battle. Sectarian divides add to the complication, with the Houthis affiliated with Iran and the Yemeni government backed by a Saudi-led coalition. Furthermore, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the Southern Transitional Council (STC) contribute to the complex web of alliances and conflicts that exists inside the larger war (Elayah & Verkoren, 2019).

B. Previous Studies on the Yemen Conflict and Its Impact

Numerous research on the Yemen crisis have revealed its complex impacts. Millions of people are suffering from food shortages, cholera, and relocation, according to research. Scholars have investigated the conflict's larger consequences, including as its impact on regional dynamics and the participation of outsider powers, notably Saudi Arabia and Iran. Given Yemen's control of the Bab El-Mandeb strait, through which a substantial amount of the world's oil commerce flows, notable studies have also examined the impact of the conflict on the global economy. The consequences for energy security and global supply networks have been carefully researched. Scholars have emphasized the inadequacies of diplomatic efforts to end the dispute, with peace talks frequently stagnating or failing to gain traction (Palik, J., and S. Aas Rustad, 2019). Furthermore, despite international calls for an arms embargo, the arms trade and transfers to warring parties have been extensively researched.

Table 1 Previous Studies on the Yemen Conflict and Its Impact

Author(s) and Year	Study Focus	Key Findings and Contributions
(Jalal, I., 2020)	Humanitarian Consequences	- Widespread food shortages, cholera, and displacement - Suffering of millions, making it a humanitarian catastrophe

(Orkaby, A., 2017).	Regional and Global Implications	- Yemen's control of Bab el-Mandeb strait and its impact on global oil trade - Ramifications for energy security and global supply chains
(Palik, J., and Aas Rustad, S.,2019)	Diplomacy and Peace Efforts	- Challenges in peace negotiations, stalled diplomatic efforts
(Lowings, B., Sami, M., and Cherry, E., 2019).	Arms Trade and Embargoes	- Proliferation of arms to conflict parties despite calls for an arms embargo
(Zaid, Fadel, Taresh, Mohammed, & Fitriana, 2022)	Impact on the Yemeni People	- Severe socio-economic consequences and public suffering - Long-term impact on Yemeni society and economy
(Orkaby, 2023)	Role of External Powers	- Saudi Arabia's involvement and Iran's support for Houthi rebels - The broader role of international actors in the conflict
(Kadri, 2021)	Economic and Financial Burden	- Strain on the Saudi economy due to the financial cost of intervention - The financial burden on the Saudi government and public finances

C. Factor of the conflict in Yemen

A multitude of historical, geopolitical, and socioeconomic elements have contributed to the protracted nature of the Yemen conflict. Yemen has throughout its history encountered internal strife, characterized by tribal strife and regional inequalities, which have contributed to the emergence of political instability. These internal divisions were further intensified by the Arab Spring in 2011, which ultimately resulted in the Yemeni government's downfall and the ensuing vacuum of power. In the void that ensued, Houthi rebels, who were Zaidi Shia minority representatives, exploited discontent to seize control of strategic territories, thereby instigating a chain reaction of events

From an external perspective, the conflict has transformed into a geopolitical arena where rivalries between Saudi Arabia and Iran vie for influence. Saudi Arabia's intervention in 2015, driven by apprehensions regarding Iran's backing of the Houthi insurgents, served to escalate sectarian tensions and further complicate the conflict. The stakes for regional actors were significantly increased due to Yemen's location along critical maritime trade routes, which held strategic significance.

A further exacerbated by the conflict, economic difficulties have contributed to the humanitarian crisis. The Yemeni populace's suffering has been exacerbated by food insecurity, high unemployment, and a healthcare system that is sinking. Comprehending the intricate facets that contribute to the Yemen conflict is of the utmost importance in order to formulate all-encompassing resolutions and confront the underlying causes of this catastrophic crisis.

Table 2 factors lead to the conflict in Yemen

Conflict Factors	Summary
Historical Factors	Internal divisions, tribal tensions, and regional disparities in Yemen set the stage for political instability. The collapse of the Yemeni government during the Arab Spring in 2011 exacerbated these issues, leading to a power vacuum and the rise of Houthi rebels (Orkaby 2023).
Geopolitical Rivalries	The conflict serves as a regional battleground for the Saudi Iranian struggle for influence. Saudi Arabia's 2015 intervention, driven by concerns over Iran's support for Houthi rebels, heightened sectarian tensions and intensified the conflict. Yemen's strategic location amplifies the geopolitical stakes.
Economic Challenges	Economic difficulties, worsened by the conflict, contribute to the humanitarian crisis. High unemployment, food insecurity, and a collapsing healthcare system compound the suffering of the Yemeni population, demonstrating the interconnectedness of economic challenges with the broader conflict (Orkaby 2023).

D. Saudi Arabia's Role in the Region

The part of Saudi Arabia in the Middle East is very important and has been studied in detail by scholars. With its military involvement in Yemen, the kingdom's foreign policy, which had usually been based on security and keeping things the same, changed in a big way. Researchers have investigated why Saudi Arabia decided to get involved, focusing on worries about Iran's impact in the area, the desire to keep the Houthis from taking control of Yemen, and what Saudi Arabia saw as a threat to its own national security. Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman planned the action and has been studied for his part in it. His strong stance showed a change in Saudi Arabia's foreign policy (Gerlad, D., 2019). Researchers have also looked at how the war in Yemen has affected Saudi Arabia's internal politics. A lot of research has been done on the effects of the intervention on the Saudi economy and the kingdom's diplomatic attempts to get backing for its actions from other countries.

Moreover, the crucial part Saudi Arabia has played in the Yemeni war reflects a substantial change in the country's foreign policy and a nuanced facet of the ongoing crisis. Concerns from both domestically and in the area served as the inspiration for the intervention, which started in 2015. First off, Saudi Arabia's concern over Iran's growing influence in the area served as the primary impetus for its engagement in Yemen (Gerlad, D., 2019). The Houthi rebels, who follow the Zaidi Shia school of Islam, are supported by Iran, therefore Saudi Arabia saw the fight as a front in a larger proxy war between Iran and itself. Conflict resolution attempts have become more challenging because of this rivalry's escalating sectarian tensions in the Middle East.

Yemen's closeness to Saudi Arabia is of the utmost importance in terms of regional security. The ongoing battle has led to the establishment of a border that is characterized by fragility and porosity, which has therefore facilitated frequent incursions by the Houthi group and missile assaults specifically targeted at Saudi territory. Consequently, the escalation of security concerns has led to the imperative need for a proactive response. The Saudi Arabian government's previous foreign policy approach, which prioritized stability and the preservation of the existing situation, was disrupted domestically due to its engagement in Yemen. The aforementioned event marked the start of a heightened foreign policy approach, led by Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, with the objective of safeguarding Saudi interests in the Red Sea region and positioning the nation as a prominent actor within the surrounding geopolitical landscape. The role of Saudi Arabia in Yemen holds significant importance for the nation itself, the broader Middle East region, and the global geopolitical environment. The ongoing Yemen war, characterized by its complex nature, is manifesting in several dimensions, hence impacting the humanitarian, economic, and security aspects of the area.

E. Theoretical Framework

Understanding the Yemen conflict's dynamics and Saudi Arabia's response necessitates a theoretical framework. Realism, with its emphasis on power politics, international anarchy, and state interests, provides a lens to interpret the conflict's geopolitical dimensions (Iosifides, 2017). Realist scholars argue that Saudi Arabia's intervention is driven by concerns about Iranian influence and the desire to maintain a regional balance of power. Realism, as a theoretical framework, provides valuable insights into the Yemen conflict. Rooted in power politics and the pursuit of national interests, Realism suggests that states, including Saudi Arabia, act to maximize their security and influence. In the context of the Yemen conflict, Realism helps explain Saudi Arabia's intervention as a response to perceived threats to its national security, particularly from Iran's regional influence and the Houthi rebels, who were seen as Iranian proxies (P.alik, 2019).

Realism

Realism emphasizes the anarchic nature of international relations, where states compete for power (Iosifides, 2017). The Yemen conflict serves as an arena for this power struggle, with Saudi Arabia seeking to maintain a regional balance of power by preventing Houthi control over Yemen. Alternatively, a liberal perspective may highlight the potential for diplomacy, international organizations, and conflict resolution mechanisms. Critics of the Saudi intervention from a liberal viewpoint argue that a more cooperative approach could have averted the devastating humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

Realism offers an all-encompassing perspective for analyzing the intentions and deeds of the governments engaged in the Yemeni war. The analysis can explore the fundamental ideas of Realism by separating it out within the theoretical framework. Realism asserts that nations prioritize security and power above all else and are motivated by self-interest. This theoretical approach sheds light on the strategic considerations of major players, especially Saudi Arabia and Iran, in the Yemeni environment. The devoted Realism part will provide a comprehensive understanding of how geopolitical factors impact the complex dynamics of the Yemen war by highlighting state-centric incentives and the pursuit of national interest. This deliberate distancing recognizes the distinct perspectives that Realism provides, guaranteeing an exhaustive investigation of its consequences for the research.

F. International Mediation Efforts

International mediation efforts have played a pivotal role in addressing the Yemen conflict's complexities and striving for a peaceful resolution. The United Nations has been at the forefront of these efforts through various envoys and special representatives. Notable peace talks, such as the Stockholm Agreement in 2018 and subsequent rounds of negotiations, have sought to broker ceasefires, address prisoner exchanges, and establish a framework for a political settlement (Peter, S. 2020). Regional actors, particularly Oman and Kuwait, have also engaged in mediation attempts. These diplomatic initiatives aimed to bridge the divides between the Houthi rebels and the internationally recognized Yemeni government. The involvement of external powers, such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and the European Union, has further shaped these mediation processes (Weerasinghe, 2022).

However, the effectiveness of these mediation efforts remains limited, as the conflict continues to persist. Hurdles include a lack of trust between the conflict parties, the complexity of the Yemeni political landscape, and the ongoing regional proxy dynamics. The efforts have yielded some positive outcomes, such as localized ceasefires, but a comprehensive resolution remains elusive (Mohd, I, Anwar, A. 2022).

G. Humanitarian Consequences and Aid

The Yemen conflict has created one of the most severe humanitarian crises in the world. Widespread food shortages, coupled with inadequate access to clean water and healthcare, have resulted in a dire situation for the Yemeni population. The conflict has led to forced displacement, and millions of Yemenis are at risk of famine and disease, notably cholera. International humanitarian organizations, including the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, have been actively involved in providing aid to alleviate the suffering (Elayah & Fentiman, 2021). Humanitarian efforts encompass food distribution, healthcare services, and support for internally displaced persons. However, the scale and urgency of the crisis have strained the ability of these organizations to address the immense needs adequately.

The Yemen conflict has created significant challenges for humanitarian access and assistance delivery. The conflict's dynamics, including blockades and security risks, have hindered the distribution of aid to those in need. The issue of aid diversion and ensuring that assistance reaches the intended beneficiaries remains a constant concern (Elayah & Fentiman, 2021). Efforts to resolve the humanitarian crisis in Yemen are inextricably linked with broader diplomatic and political initiatives, making it a multifaceted issue that demands continued international attention and action to prevent further suffering among the Yemeni population (Kmietowicz, 2017).

III. Research Method

Qualitative Library Research

This study employs a qualitative research method, specifically through extensive library research. This approach involves a thorough examination and analysis of secondary sources to

construct a comprehensive understanding of the Yemen conflict, Saudi Arabia's response, and the broader regional implications.

1. **Academic Journals:** Rigorous examination of peer-reviewed journals, such as the Journal of Middle East Studies and International Affairs, provides in-depth scholarly perspectives on the historical, political, and economic dimensions of the Yemen conflict.
2. **Books:** Authoritative texts, including "The Yemen Endgame" by Helen Lackner and "Saudi Arabia in Transition" by Bernard Haykel, offer detailed analyses of the geopolitical context and Saudi Arabia's evolving role in the Middle East.
3. **Government Reports:** Scrutinizing reports from governmental bodies like the United Nations, the U.S. State Department, and the World Bank provides valuable insights into the humanitarian, economic, and geopolitical aspects of the conflict.
4. **Think Tank Publications:** Reports from think tanks such as the International Crisis Group and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace contribute nuanced analyses and policy recommendations on the Yemen conflict.
5. **News Articles:** Current affairs coverage from reputable news outlets, including The New York Times, BBC, and Al Jazeera, supplements academic research, offering real-time developments and diverse perspectives.

Table 3 Secondary Source used in the Study

Type of Secondary Source	Examples
Academic Journals	"Journal of Middle East Studies," "International Affairs"
Books	"The Yemen Endgame" by Helen Lackner, "Saudi Arabia in Transition" by Bernard Haykel
Government Reports	United Nations reports, U.S. State Department publications, World Bank reports
Think Tank Publications	International Crisis Group reports, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace analyses
News Articles	The New York Times, BBC, Al Jazeera
Historical Documents	Archival materials, diplomatic cables, historical documents
Academic Conferences	Proceedings and papers from Middle East Studies Association conferences

IV. Discussion

The Yemen Conflict's Impact on Saudi Arabia

Economic Consequences

The ongoing Yemen crisis has had a substantial impact on the economic landscape of Saudi Arabia. The fiscal implications associated with the military operation, initiated in 2015, have been significant. According to Sumyah (2016), the continuous allocation of money to sustain the coalition's operations and uphold the presence of soldiers in Yemen has placed significant pressure on Saudi Arabia's fiscal framework.

The economic ramifications have been exacerbated by the worldwide decline in oil prices, which serves as a substantial contributor to Saudi Arabia's revenue. The economy of the kingdom is significantly dependent on the exportation of oil, and the decrease in oil prices has constrained the financial means accessible for both domestic and international policy pursuits. The ongoing conflict in Yemen, in conjunction with the prevailing economic difficulties, has compelled the implementation of austerity measures, which have had an impact on government expenditure and investment in sectors unrelated to oil. Furthermore, the financial implications of post-conflict rebuilding in Yemen, for which Saudi Arabia is expected to shoulder a substantial burden, continue to be a pressing issue. The financial difficulties faced by Saudi Arabia have prompted the country to actively pursue foreign assistance to secure funds for the humanitarian and developmental dimensions of the Yemen crisis.

Geopolitical Implications

The fact that Saudi Arabia is involved in the war in Yemen has had major global effects. It has made the rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran worse, making Yemen a key battlefield. The kingdom sees the war as a way for Iran to gain more power and make the area even less stable because Iran backs the Houthi rebels. This has made things harder between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which has made political conflicts and the use of proxies worse all over the Middle East.

The conflict has also placed Saudi Arabia in a leadership role within the Arab coalition, thereby altering its regional standing. The kingdom's assertive foreign policy under the leadership of Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman reflects a more proactive approach to safeguard its interests and influence in the Red Sea region. Saudi Arabia's increasing involvement in Yemen has reshaped its relationship with other regional actors, particularly the United Arab Emirates, which has had differing goals in the conflict (Henda & Omaran, 2021).

Furthermore, Saudi Arabia's military actions in Yemen have garnered international attention and scrutiny. Human rights concerns and allegations of civilian casualties have led to criticism from human rights organizations and foreign governments. This has had repercussions on the kingdom's image and diplomatic standing, adding to the geopolitical complexities of the conflict (Hill, G., 2017).

Domestic Political Dynamics

The Yemen conflict has reverberated within Saudi Arabia's domestic political landscape. The intervention was authorized by the Saudi leadership, specifically Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, marking a notable departure from the kingdom's traditional foreign policy stance that favored stability and non-intervention (Magdalena & Kirchner, 2023).. This shift in foreign policy was not without controversy within Saudi Arabia. Some segments of the Saudi population, including clerics and political elites, expressed reservations about the intervention's costs and its alignment with the kingdom's conservative values. While public dissent has been largely suppressed, it underscores the internal debates and divisions within the country regarding the conflict.

Moreover, the Yemen war has heightened concerns about domestic security. The conflict's proximity to the Saudi border has led to Houthi missile attacks on Saudi territory, posing direct threats to the kingdom. The need for robust security measures along the southern border and the expenditure on defense have had implications for Saudi domestic security priorities.

Security Concerns

The Yemen conflict has posed significant security challenges for Saudi Arabia. The border region shared with Yemen has been a site of recurring Houthi missile attacks and incursions, threatening the kingdom's territorial integrity and civilian safety. The constant need for heightened security along the southern border has stretched the country's resources and military readiness (Abdulkader, 2023). Furthermore, the conflict has stoked fears of retaliatory actions by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels. Saudi Arabia's critical infrastructure, including oil facilities and desalination plants, lies within missile range from Yemen. Protecting these assets has become a pressing security concern.

Internally, the Yemen conflict has brought attention to the kingdom's vulnerability to domestic security threats. The government has had to focus on countering potential radicalization and internal threats that may arise from the turmoil in Yemen and the security challenges along the border.

Saudi Arabia's Response

Military Intervention in Yemen

The military intervention conducted by Saudi Arabia in Yemen, commonly referred to as Operation Decisive Storm, was initiated in March 2015. The main aim of the intervention was to reinstate the internationally acknowledged administration under the leadership of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, who had been deposed by the Houthi insurgents. According to Mao and Gady (2021), a coalition led by Saudi Arabia and consisting of many Arab governments launched an aerial offensive targeting Houthi stronghold and implemented a maritime blockade on Yemen.

The military action was undertaken in response to Saudi Arabia's worries over its national security. The Houthi rebels, who are widely thought to have received support from Iran, were regarded as a significant menace to Saudi Arabia because to their proximity along the southern border (Pradhan, 2020). The kingdom aimed to proactively deter the establishment of a potentially hostile entity in proximity and mitigate the extent of Iranian influence within Yemen. Nevertheless, the military effort has been tarnished by criticism. Clausen (2019) highlights that human rights groups have expressed apprehensions over the occurrence of civilian fatalities, while emphasizing that the ongoing conflict in Yemen has resulted in a profound humanitarian catastrophe. The impasse seen in the military conflict has led to the advocacy for a political resolution, as the military intervention has failed to effectively accomplish its primary objective of definitively vanquishing the Houthi rebels.

Diplomatic Efforts

In addition to the military intervention, Saudi Arabia has engaged in diplomatic efforts to address the Yemen conflict. These efforts have included participation in United Nations-led negotiations and regional dialogues aimed at finding a political solution to the crisis. One notable outcome was the Stockholm Agreement in 2018, which addressed issues like the exchange of prisoners and the withdrawal of forces from the port city of Hodeidah (Gerlad, M., 2022).

Saudi Arabia has been supportive of a political resolution to the conflict, emphasizing the need for a unified Yemen and the restoration of the legitimate government. The kingdom has worked

closely with international actors and envoys to facilitate dialogue between the conflicting parties (Aлександара, S., 2021). However, achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace has proven elusive, as the conflict remains deeply entrenched.

Humanitarian Aid and Public Relations

Saudi Arabia has actively engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance to Yemen, acknowledging the severe humanitarian ramifications resulting from the ongoing conflict in the region. The Saudi government, in collaboration with foreign organizations, has made significant contributions towards mitigating the plight of the Yemeni populace. This help encompasses provisions of sustenance, medical aid, and aid for individuals who have been displaced within their own country. Concurrently, Saudi Arabia has undertaken public relations initiatives with the objective of showcasing its endeavors in Yemen, with the intention of positioning itself as a conscientious participant in resolving the humanitarian dimensions of the conflict (Edwards, 2019). These efforts highlight the dedication of the monarchy towards mitigating the plight of the Yemeni population. However, these endeavors have been subject to critical examination, as detractors highlight the insufficiency of assistance distribution, allegations of aid misdirection, and the involvement of the monarchy in exacerbating the humanitarian predicament arising from the conflict. The Yemen crisis presents a substantial problem in terms of its humanitarian aspect, and the international community is closely scrutinizing and discussing Saudi Arabia's involvement in resolving this issue (Edwards, 2019).

Regional Alliances and Conflicts

The participation of Saudi Arabia in the Yemen crisis has had a profound impact on the reconfiguration of its regional alliances and conflicts. The monarchy has spearheaded a coalition of other Arab nations, such as the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and additional participants, in the military endeavor. The formation of this alliance was indicative of a collective objective to fight the dominant power of the Houthi faction in Yemen, while also demonstrating a larger alignment aimed at mitigating perceived Iranian influence within the region. Nevertheless, the protracted Yemen crisis has exerted pressure on regional diplomatic ties (Hend, O., 2021). The divergence in intentions and methods between Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been apparent, notably with regards to the utilization of local militias and the rule of southern Yemen. The disparities have led to a certain level of dispersion within the coalition and have prompted inquiries over the enduring coherence of regional coalitions. Moreover, the ongoing violence in Yemen has entwined with several other regional conflicts and rivalries, notably the longstanding rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The current state of affairs in Yemen has evolved into a geopolitical arena, whereby several regional actors are actively pursuing their respective interests. This has resulted in a heightened level of complexity within the already unstable Middle Eastern area.

Regional Stability

Assessment of Regional Stability Before and After Saudi Intervention

Before the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen, regional stability in the Middle East was already precarious due to various ongoing conflicts, including the Syrian civil war and the rise of extremist groups. However, the Yemen conflict exacerbated these challenges. The intervention heightened tensions in the region, especially with Iran, which supported the Houthi rebels. Post-

intervention, the regional stability situation has become even more complex. Furthermore, the Saudi intervention, coupled with Iranian involvement, has turned Yemen into a battleground for broader regional rivalries, contributing to the volatility of the Middle East (Darwich, 2018). The conflict's spillover effects have influenced the regional balance of power, causing shifts in alliances and alignments among countries.

Influence on Neighboring Countries

The Yemen crisis has had noteworthy ramifications for adjacent nations. Iran's provision of assistance to the Houthi rebels and the subsequent involvement of external actors in the conflict have intensified the ongoing rivalry between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The ongoing crisis in Yemen has exacerbated Iran's ties with regional actors, since its actions are frequently interpreted as contributing to destabilization. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has played a significant role as a strategic ally within the Saudi-led coalition, however its approach towards Yemen has undergone a transformation over time. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) first expressed its support for the military operation against the Houthi rebels. However, it then shifted its attention towards the establishment and development of indigenous militias in the southern region of Yemen (Elkahlout, Milton, Yaseen, & Raweh, 2022). The implementation of this policy has resulted in the emergence of a schism within the coalition, so underscoring the intricate nature of relationships in the area. Qatar, a nation that experienced a period of isolation because of a blockade spearheaded by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, has encountered diplomatic issues mostly stemming from its divergent stance on the Yemen crisis (Gulland, 2015). Although it conveyed endorsement for the Saudi-led coalition, it sustained a certain level of interaction with the Houthi rebels and has adopted a more diplomatic position in relation to regional issues.

Role of International Actors

The stability of the region around the Yemen crisis has been greatly aided by international parties. In the battle, the United States has been a major ally of Saudi Arabia, including military support, information cooperation, and diplomatic support. However, the U.S.'s engagement has drawn criticism and discussion, notably regarding the conflict's humanitarian effects and arms sales. The United Nations (UN) has tried to mediate and deal with the humanitarian implications of the war (Al-Tamimi & Venkatesha, 2022). The Yemen problem has been addressed politically by several UN envoys and peace initiatives, but their efforts have met with limited success because of raging conflict and political roadblocks. Moreover, international actors have also expressed concern about the Yemen conflict's humanitarian crisis. The UN and various countries have called for a ceasefire, humanitarian access, and funding for aid efforts. However, the ability to deliver aid and facilitate peace negotiations has been hampered by the complex geopolitical dynamics and the enduring conflict.

Challenges and Dilemmas

Critiques of Saudi Arabia's Response

Saudi Arabia's reaction to the Yemen war has been heavily criticized, notably in terms of the humanitarian and economic implications of the involvement. One of the most popular criticisms focuses on Yemen's poor humanitarian condition. The battle has resulted in widespread hardship among Yemenis, with food shortages, a lack of access to clean water, and a healthcare system on the verge of collapse (Ulrichsen, 2018). Concerns have been expressed by human rights groups and the international community regarding civilian fatalities,

infrastructure damage, and the indiscriminate character of some military actions. Airstrikes by the Saudi-led coalition have been connected to multiple cases of civilian injury, prompting calls for more accountability for alleged violations of international humanitarian law.

The economic cost of the conflict has also been criticized. Saudi Arabia's national budget has been depleted due to the financial burden of the military intervention and the global decline in crude prices. Austerity measures have impacted government expenditure, investment in non-oil sectors, and public finances (Ulrichsen, 2018). Critics argue that these resources could have been allocated to more pressing national priorities, such as economic diversification and addressing socioeconomic challenges. In addition, the transfer of munitions to Saudi Arabia by Western nations, especially the United States and the United Kingdom, has been scrutinized. Critics assert that these weapons have been used in the Yemen conflict, contributing to the violence and destruction. The controversy surrounding these arms transactions has prompted discussions about the morality of supplying weapons to a country engaged in a conflict with grave humanitarian repercussions.

Regional and International Opposition

The Yemen conflict and Saudi Arabia's role in it have encountered substantial opposition from both regional and international actors. Regionally, Iran, a major rival in the Middle East, has consistently opposed the Saudi-led coalition's actions in Yemen. Iran has been accused of providing military and logistical support to the Houthi rebels, which has escalated the conflict into a broader proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia (Watkins, 2018). This Iranian involvement has further destabilized the region and exacerbated sectarian tensions.

Internationally, there has been growing international opposition and calls for a more robust response to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. Numerous nations and international entities have advocated for a cessation of hostilities and heightened provision of humanitarian assistance in order to mitigate the plight endured by the populace of Yemen. The international community has raised apprehension over the scale of the humanitarian crisis and the prolonged duration of the conflict (Aljabali, 2020).

The American Congress has been actively opposed to several facets of the relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia. Congress has specifically scrutinized and resisted arms shipments to Saudi Arabia, indicating worries about the deployment of these weapons in the Yemeni crisis (Sawek, 2018). This resistance has caused the US-Saudi alliance to be reevaluated and has influenced global discussions on Saudi Arabia's policies in Yemen.

Domestic Challenges and Public Opinion

The ongoing conflict in Yemen has presented Saudi Arabia with a range of internal issues, encompassing economic constraints and shifts in public opinion dynamics. From an economic standpoint, the intervention's financial expenses, along with the worldwide decrease in oil prices, have compelled the adoption of a more cautious strategy towards fiscal administration. The use of austerity measures has resulted in notable effects on several aspects such as government expenditure, infrastructure advancement, and public financial matters (Kaptan, 2021). The conflict-induced economic issues have necessitated the implementation of arduous decisions in order to properly maintain equilibrium in the national budget.

The Yemen incursion has elicited a split public opinion within Saudi Arabia. The government has attempted to control the narrative by employing public relations campaigns that emphasize its initiatives to address the humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen. However, there exists a range of perspectives inside the nation. There are certain sectors within the Saudi populace that have raised concerns over the financial implications and consequences of the involvement. These individuals emphasize the importance of adopting a well-rounded strategy that takes into account both national security interests and the humanitarian situation (Kaptan, 2021).

V. Conclusion

This paper has provided an analysis of the Yemen crisis and Saudi Arabia's reaction, elucidating significant aspects and consequences. The Yemen war has several dimensions, resulting in substantial humanitarian distress and presenting formidable economic obstacles. The region has been characterized by intricate regional dynamics and rivalries, wherein the Saudi-Iran regional conflict has been further intensified due to Iran's backing of Houthi rebels. The participation of Saudi Arabia in Yemen has been subject to criticism and international resistance due to the humanitarian effects and economic costs associated with the conflict, despite being motivated by genuine national security concerns. The growing position of the kingdom within the region is indicative of a wider transformation occurring in Saudi foreign policy, spearheaded by Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

The Yemen conflict's future remains uncertain, with prospects for peace contingent on the ability to navigate intricate political and military obstacles. The conflict's protracted nature underscores the pressing need for a political solution to alleviate humanitarian suffering and achieve stability in the region. Saudi Arabia's evolving role in the region, fueled by the Yemen intervention, raises questions about its regional posture, alliance dynamics, and economic challenges. The kingdom's actions will continue to shape the broader Middle East and influence regional stability. Moreover, the Yemen conflict has implications for global politics, particularly in the context of arms sales, humanitarian crises, and great power rivalries. It underscores the intricacies of addressing conflicts with profound humanitarian consequences in the modern era.

As overall, Saudi Arabia's and the stability of the area are affected by the Yemen crisis, which poses a variety of problems that need for constant discussion, debate, and diplomatic efforts. The stability of the Yemeni people as well as the larger regional and global communities depend on finding a peaceful settlement. The difficulties the war presents are a constant reminder of the complicated interactions between regional and global politics in the Middle East.

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