



IYC 2023 Group of Fourteen

STUDY GUIDE

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Letter from the Chair

Greetings Delegates!

On behalf of the entire executive board, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the most stimulating and exhilarating committee at IYC 2023. This year, we at G14, seek to see you de-escalate imminent threats to national and global peace while safeguarding your respective nation's interests. Unlike other committees, we discuss and resolve issues in a more holistic manner to prevent the eventual repercussions of it on the existence of the human race.

This study guide is just a starting point for research and gives a background to the committee's futuristic setting. We encourage every delegate to be well-versed in the agenda at hand and have comprehensive knowledge about their country's diplomatic positions.

While MUN experience always helps in terms of familiarity, talent and passion will form the cornerstone of your performance as a delegate. We are actively promoting your ability to solve problems creatively in the most dynamic committee at IYC 2023 while simultaneously defending allegations thrown at you in an attempt to sabotage your nation's sovereignty by your enemies and allies alike.

This year's G14 committee is certainly not a committee for the weak-hearted, with the inclusion of the everchanging constant crisis, we seek to play out scenarios that test your ability to collaboratively work with other nations in order to best resolve the conflicts at hand, keeping in mind your foreign policy. Rather than having a single resolution for this committee, we instead have a collection of rapidly changing crises that become the lifeblood of this committee's success in achieving its agenda.

To excel in this riveting committee, you must possess a wide variety of skills, ranging from persistence, critical thinking, oration and most of all, thinking out of the box. We recommend each delegate be aware of their country's stance on a wide range of topics to ensure that you can accurately and effectively represent them during the wide variety of conundrums that you will be plagued with throughout the committee. We wish you all the very best and hope to see you putting your best foot forward at the conference!

Regards,

Arnav Popley, Chair of G14

Mira Doshi, Vice- Chair of G14

An Introduction to the Yemen Civil War

The Yemen Civil War is an ongoing conflict that began in 2014 between two main factions: the Yemeni government, led by President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, and the Houthi rebel movement, also known as Ansar Allah. The conflict escalated in March 2015 when a coalition led by Saudi Arabia and backed by several other countries intervened to support the Yemeni government.

The roots of the Yemen Civil War can be traced back to the 2011 Arab Spring protests in Yemen, which led to the ousting of longtime President Ali Abdullah Saleh. President Hadi assumed power with the goal of leading a political transition and addressing the country's challenges, including economic instability, corruption, and sectarian tensions. However, Houthi rebels, who belong to the Zaidi Shia Muslim sect and had long felt marginalised, capitalised on the political instability to seize control of the capital, Sanaa, in September 2014.

The conflict intensified when the Houthi rebels advanced towards southern Yemen, prompting President Hadi to flee to Saudi Arabia and seek international support. In response, a coalition of Arab states, primarily led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, launched a military intervention to restore the internationally recognized government and counter what they perceived as Iranian influence through the Houthis.

The Saudi-led coalition conducted airstrikes and imposed a naval and air blockade on Yemen, which significantly impacted the country's infrastructure and exacerbated the humanitarian crisis.

The war has had devastating humanitarian consequences, with Yemen facing one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. The conflict has resulted in widespread displacement, food insecurity, disease outbreaks, and a lack of access to healthcare and clean water. The United Nations has described the situation in Yemen as a "man-made catastrophe." Efforts to reach a negotiated political solution to the conflict have been ongoing, but progress has been slow. Several rounds of peace talks have been held, including the Stockholm Agreement in 2018, which aimed to de-escalate the conflict in the city of Hodeidah. However, the situation remains highly volatile, and a lasting resolution has yet to be achieved.

Background and History

1962-1970:

The Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) undergoes a civil war between republican forces and royalists, establishing a new socialist government.

1970-1990:

North Yemen experiences political instability, economic challenges, and intermittent conflicts.

The Zaidi-Shia group Ansar Allah—or the Houthis—gradually gained power; the group’s rise has the tacit support of President Saleh.

1990:

North Yemen and the Marxist People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) merge to form the Republic of Yemen.

1994:

Tensions between the northern and southern factions erupt into a brief civil war, resulting in the defeat of southern forces and the consolidation of power by President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

2000:

President Saleh's rule continues as he wins an election to extend his term.

June-September 2004:

Saleh's government arrests hundreds of Houthi members and issues a reward for the arrest of Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi. Fighting continues until al-Houthi is killed in September.

March-June 2005:

Intense fighting between the Houthis, led by Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, and government forces resulted in hundreds of deaths. A ceasefire agreement is reached, leading to the surrender of the Houthis' top military commander.

2005-2006:

Sporadic clashes between the government and the Houthis persist. Saleh granted amnesty to 600 Houthi fighters in March 2006. Saleh won the 2006 election.

January-June 2007:

Houthi rebels and Saleh's government engage in renewed conflict. After five months of fighting, a ceasefire agreement was reached with the help of Qatar.

April-July 2008:

Fighting erupts again, but Ali Abdullah Saleh declares an end to the hostilities in the Houthi-dominated Saada governorate by July.

2009-2010:

Operation Scorched Earth - In August 2009, the Yemeni military launched Operation Scorched Earth to suppress the Houthi rebellion in Saada. Houthi rebels also clash with Saudi forces.

A ceasefire agreement was eventually reached in February 2010, and Operation Blow to the Head targets both rebels and al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

September 2010:

Government forces besiege the governorate of Shabwa in southeast Yemen to combat Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) militants.

2011:

Arab Spring protests began in Yemen, calling for political reforms and the resignation of President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

Saleh's government responded with violence, leading to significant casualties.

2012:

A political transition plan known as the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative is signed, and Vice President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi takes over as president.

Houthi rebels, who belong to the Zaidi Shia sect, start gaining strength in the north and protest against Hadi's government.

2014:

The Houthi rebellion, led by the Houthi movement (officially known as Ansar Allah), begins in northern Yemen. The Houthis, belonging to the Zaidi Shia sect, protest against Hadi's government, accusing it of corruption and marginalisation.

2015:

The Houthi rebels capture the capital city of Sana'a, forcing President Hadi and his government to flee to Aden.

In March, a coalition led by Saudi Arabia and supported by several Arab states launched a military intervention in Yemen to restore Hadi's government.

The conflict escalates into a full-blown civil war between Houthi rebels and pro-Hadi forces, backed by the Saudi-led coalition.

The Houthi rebels, with support from forces loyal to former President Saleh, advance southward towards Aden.

In September, Hadi's government relocated to Saudi Arabia.

2016:

Peace talks mediated by the United Nations (UN) take place in Kuwait but fail to reach a lasting resolution.

The conflict intensifies, leading to widespread destruction and a worsening humanitarian crisis.

2017:

Saleh announces a split from the Houthi rebels, signalling a potential shift in the conflict dynamics.

However, the alliance between the Houthi rebels and forces loyal to Saleh collapses, resulting in his death in December.

2018:

The Saudi-led coalition launches an offensive to retake the key port city of Hodeidah, which serves as a major entry point for humanitarian aid.

Efforts for a political settlement resume with UN-led talks in Sweden, resulting in the Stockholm Agreement. The agreement includes a ceasefire in Hodeidah and the establishment of a humanitarian corridor.

2019:

Despite the ceasefire agreement, sporadic fighting and violations persist, hampering the peace process.

The humanitarian situation deteriorates further, with millions of people facing famine and disease outbreaks, and a collapsing healthcare system.

2020:

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbates the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, straining the already fragile healthcare system.

2021:

The conflict continues with no significant breakthrough in peace negotiations.

International pressure mounts for a peaceful resolution and increased humanitarian assistance.

2022:

Ongoing fighting and airstrikes continue, leading to civilian casualties and further destruction.

The UN continues to facilitate peace talks, but progress remains limited.

2023 (*as of June*):

The Yemen Civil War remains ongoing, with no clear resolution in sight. The conflict has caused immense suffering for the Yemeni population and has been labelled as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Major Stakeholders

Yemen

Yemen, a nation already grappling with poverty and political divisions, faced a further deterioration of its social fabric due to the civil war. The conflict resulted in widespread displacement of civilians, disruption of basic services like healthcare and education, and destruction of critical infrastructure. Yemen's already weak economy suffered as trade routes were disrupted, and foreign investments and aid dwindled amid security concerns. Political tensions deepened, hindering a peaceful resolution and stable government. A severe humanitarian crisis emerged, with food insecurity, malnutrition, and disease outbreaks. Yemen's cultural heritage suffered damage, and international involvement heightened regional tensions. The war inflicted deep psychological trauma, especially on children recruited as soldiers or forced into early marriage and child labour due to economic hardships.

Iran

Iran has been a significant factor influencing the conflict's dynamics. Iran has been accused of providing military support to the Houthi rebels, which has contributed to the prolongation of the war and heightened regional tensions. This support includes weapons, training, and financial aid to the Houthis, who are one of the main factions in the conflict. As a result of Iran's involvement, the Yemeni Civil War has become more complex and intensified, with both internal and external actors fueling the conflict. This has further hindered efforts to find a peaceful resolution and stability in Yemen. Iran's involvement in the Yemen Civil War has strained relations with other Gulf countries, especially Saudi Arabia, deepening regional rivalries and complicating the broader Middle Eastern geopolitical landscape. While Iran has faced internal challenges and occasional protests, there is no Iran Civil War. Nonetheless, its participation in conflicts like Yemen can impact regional stability and domestic affairs.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia has been leading a military coalition in support of the internationally recognized Yemeni government. The Saudi-led coalition, which includes several Arab states, launched a military intervention in 2015 to counter the Houthi rebels. Saudi Arabia has conducted airstrikes, provided military assistance to the Yemeni government forces, and imposed a blockade on

Yemen's ports. Saudi Arabia imposed a naval and air blockade on Yemen, aiming to prevent the flow of weapons to the Houthi rebels. However, the blockade has also severely impacted Yemen's economy and humanitarian situation. It has limited the importation of essential goods, including food, medicine, and fuel, leading to widespread shortages and exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. Saudi Arabia perceives the Houthi rebels as an Iranian proxy and views their growing influence in Yemen as a direct threat to its national security. The Saudi government is concerned about Iran's alleged support for the Houthis and the potential for the conflict to spill over into its own territory.

United States

Initially, the U.S. provided logistical and intelligence support to the Saudi-led coalition, including refuelling coalition aircraft. It has also conducted counterterrorism operations against Al-Qaeda in Yemen. The U.S. has also supplied weapons to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), both of which are leading members of the coalition. However, in recent years, there has been increasing scrutiny and criticism of the U.S.'s role due to concerns about civilian casualties and human rights violations.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has been another key supporter of the Saudi-led coalition. It has provided arms sales which is leading the military coalition in Yemen. The UK's support of arms sales to Saudi Arabia has faced criticism from human rights organisations and lawmakers, who have raised concerns about the potential use of these weapons in violations of international humanitarian law. It has provided military advice and assistance to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as part of their involvement in the Yemen conflict. It has been involved in diplomatic efforts to seek a political solution to the Yemen civil war. It has participated in international discussions and initiatives aimed at finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict. It has supported United Nations-led peace processes and has called for a cessation of hostilities. Similar to the United States, the UK's involvement has faced criticism for potential violations of international humanitarian law.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The UAE was one of the key members of the Saudi-led coalition that intervened in Yemen in 2015 in support of the Yemeni government and provided significant military assets to the coalition's efforts, including troops, aircraft, and naval vessels. The coalition's main goal was to restore the Yemeni government and push back the Houthi rebels, who had taken control of the capital, Sana'a, and other parts of the country. Emirati forces were involved in ground operations and airstrikes targeting Houthi positions in Yemen. In addition to this, the UAE also took measures to combat terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), which had gained strength in Yemen amid the ongoing conflict. The UAE has provided support to Southern separatist groups, like the Southern Transitional Council (STC), which seeks the secession of southern Yemen. This support has sometimes led to tensions within the Saudi-led coalition, as Saudi Arabia officially supports the unity of Yemen. In mid-2019, the UAE announced a partial withdrawal of its troops from Yemen. The decision was attributed to concerns over the coalition's military strategy and a desire to shift towards a more diplomatic approach. However, the UAE maintained a military presence in the strategic port city of Aden and continued to exert influence through local proxies.

Areas of Discourse (these may be discussed in moderated caucuses)

Explore the underlying causes of the conflict:

- Political grievances
- Sectarian tensions
- Economic challenges
- Competition for power and resources.

Discuss the immediate triggers that led to the escalation of violence:

- The Houthi takeover of the capital Sana'a
- The intervention of Saudi Arabia and its coalition in support of the Yemeni government
- Subsequent military operations.

Humanitarian Crisis:

- Address the devastating humanitarian impact of the conflict, including widespread displacement, food insecurity, lack of access to healthcare, and a cholera outbreak.
- Discuss the challenges faced by humanitarian organisations in delivering aid and the need for international support to alleviate the crisis.

Regional and International Dimensions:

- Analyse the regional dynamics of the conflict, including the involvement of Saudi Arabia, Iran, and other Gulf states, and their respective interests and objectives.
- Examine the role of international actors, such as the United Nations, the United States, and European powers, in diplomatic efforts, peace negotiations, and humanitarian assistance.

Human Rights and War Crimes:

- Discuss the human rights violations and war crimes committed by different parties, including attacks on civilians, recruitment of child soldiers, and restrictions on media and freedom of expression.

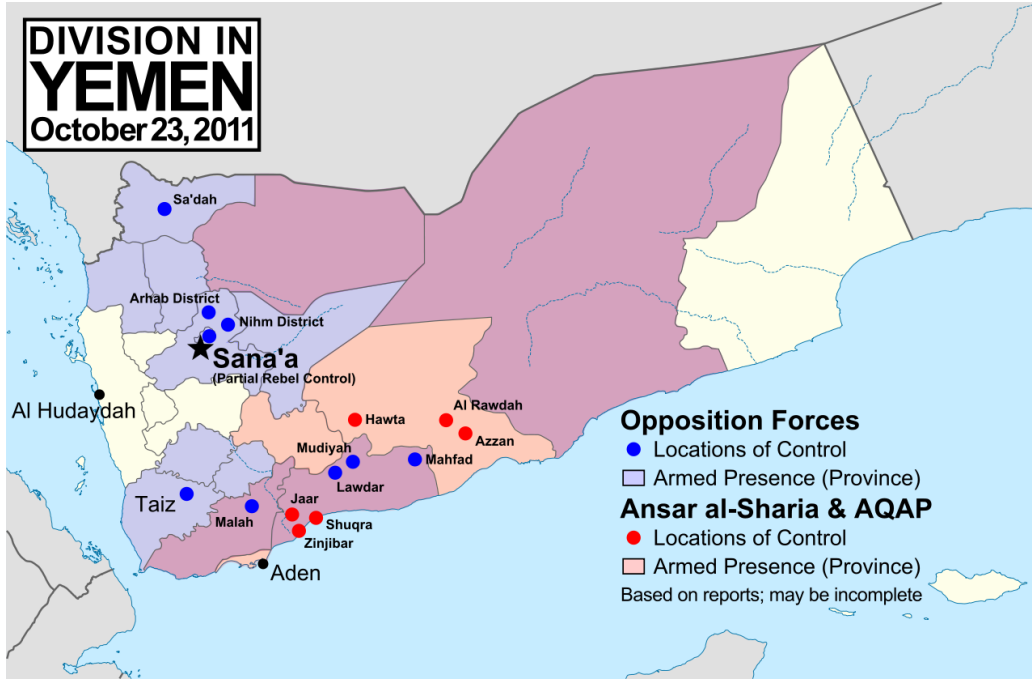
- Highlight the need for accountability and justice for these violations and the challenges in achieving them.

Peace Efforts and Prospects for Resolution:

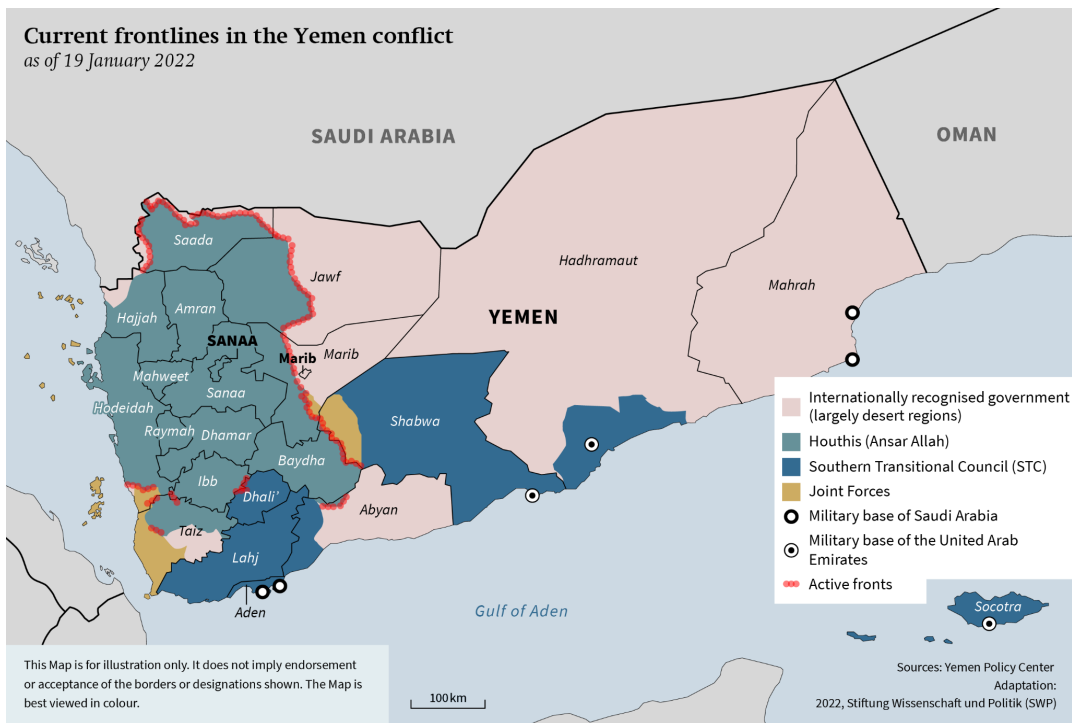
- Examine past and ongoing peace efforts, including UN-led negotiations and ceasefire agreements.
- Assess the challenges and prospects for a sustainable resolution, including the need for inclusive dialogue, trust-building measures, and the addressing of underlying grievances.
- Regional and Global Implications:
- Analyse the broader implications of the Yemen civil war on regional security, particularly the impact on neighbouring countries and the potential for destabilisation.
- Discuss the implications for international security, including the threat of terrorism, the spread of extremist ideologies, and the risk of proxy conflicts.

Key Charts

Maps 1, 2 and 3: Division of power in Yemen



Map 1

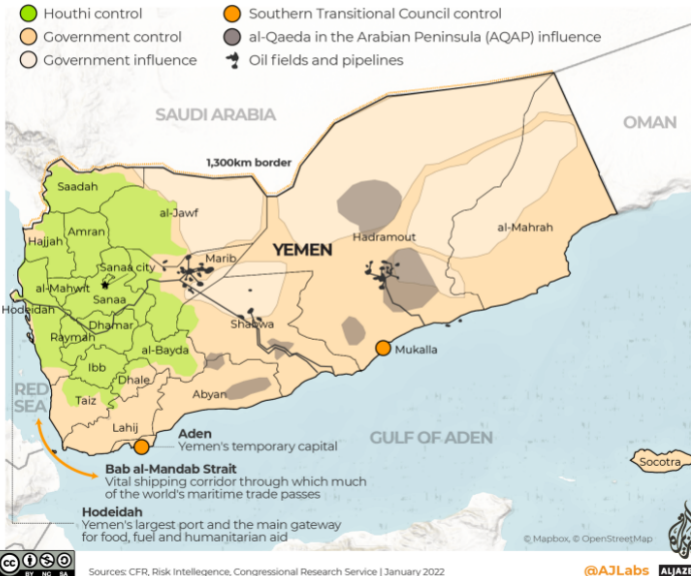


Map 2

YEMEN

Who controls what

Seven years since the launch of the Saudi-led campaign, the bulk of Yemen's northern highlands, as well as the capital city of Sanaa, remain under the control of Houthi rebels.

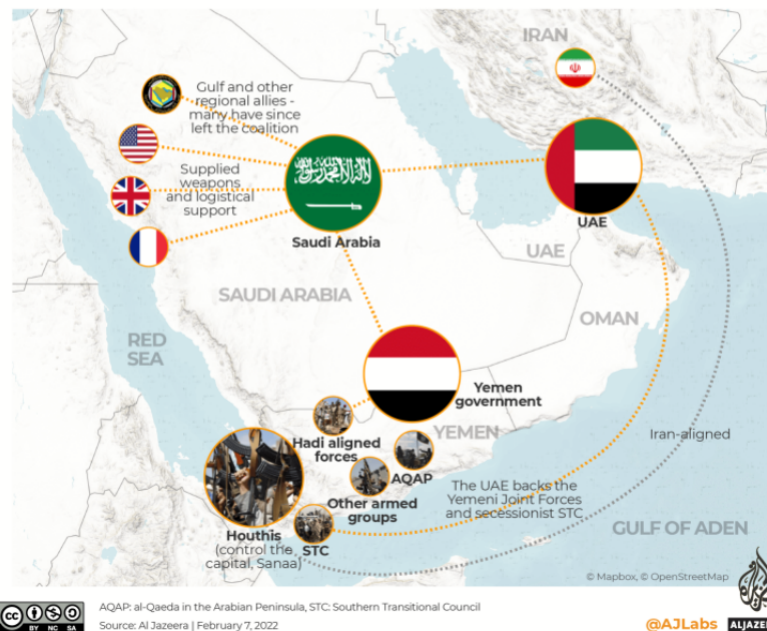


Map 4: Major stakeholders of the Yemeni civil war

YEMEN

Key players in the conflict

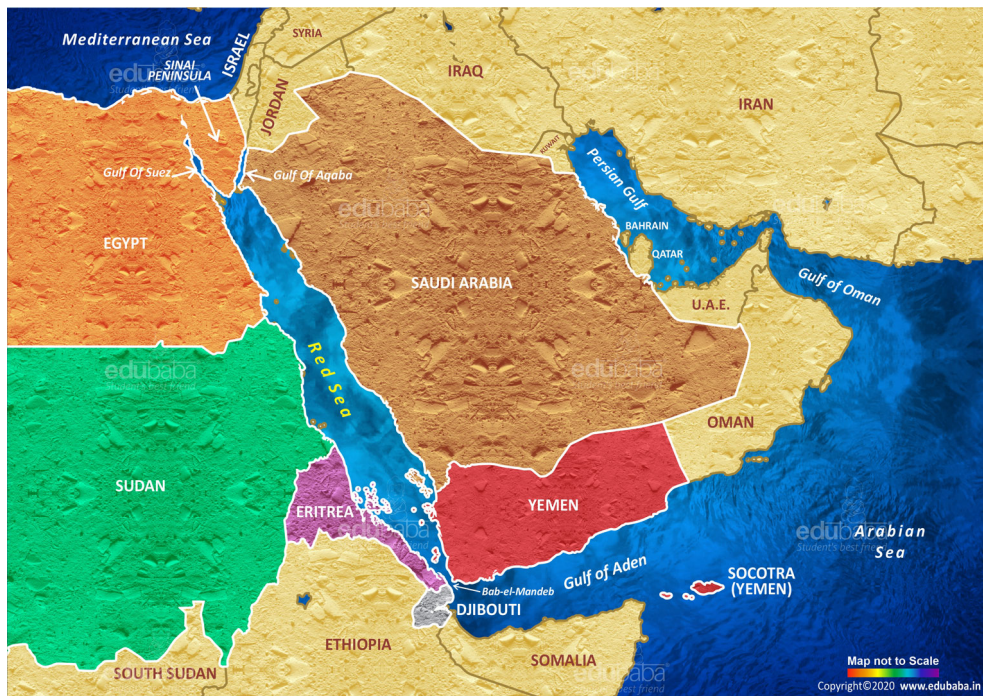
In March 2015, a Saudi-led coalition – backed by the US – intervened militarily in Yemen in a bid to fight the Houthis, restore Hadi's government, and reverse what they say is growing Iranian influence in the region.



Map 5: Political Map of Yemen



Map 6: Yemen and its neighbouring countries



Summary

- Yemen has a long history of political divisions, and the conflict between the Houthi rebels and the country's government dates back to 2004. The Houthi rebels belong to the Shia Muslim Zaidiyyah group, while most of the country's Muslims are Sunni. The Houthi rebels have long accused the government of Yemen of discrimination, corruption and cooperation with Saudi Arabia and the United States.
- The Houthi rebels are supported by Iran, which is competing with Saudi Arabia for power in the region. Saudi Arabia wants to prevent a takeover by the Houthi rebels, also because it would strengthen Iran's influence in the region.
- The Arab Spring led to a change of power in Yemen in 2011 when President Ali Abdullah Saleh was forced from power. The former vice president, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, took over the presidency, but dissatisfaction with his government led to the increasing number and influence of Houthi rebels. In 2014-2015, the rebels took over the capital of Yemen, Sana'a, and forced President Hadi into exile. A coalition led by Saudi Arabia, including Bahrain, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Senegal and Sudan, entered the conflict on the side of the government. Qatar was previously included in the coalition. Since 2015, a full-scale civil war has been raging in Yemen.
- The Security Council has condemned the actions of the Houthi rebels and has taken a position in support of the government. The Security Council has imposed an arms embargo on the rebels and targeted sanctions against leading rebel representatives. The Saudi coalition and the government of Yemen receive strong support from France, the UK and the United States, all of which are permanent members of the Security Council. The rebels receive support from Iran, and according to the UN's Expert Panel for Yemen, Iran is breaking the arms embargo imposed by the Security Council by providing the rebels with weapons.

- The conflict is known around the world as the “world's worst humanitarian crisis”, and one of the biggest problems in Yemen is the lack of food. In January 2019 it was stated that more than 24 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance – correlating to 80% of the Yemeni population. In 2020 an additional threat reached Yemen – the virus COVID-19. WHO confirmed 2,013 cases and 583 deaths as of 13th of September 2020.
- In 2018, the situation in Yemen had deteriorated, especially since the war threatened the port city of Hodeidah. Yemen is dependent on imported food and approximately 70% of imports come via the port of Hodeidah. The UN estimates that the threat to food supplies means that the risk of mass famine in Yemen is imminent.
- In September 2018, peace talks between the government of Yemen and the rebels were due to take place in Geneva at the UN, but the representatives of the rebels did not turn up to the negotiations, which were therefore cancelled. New negotiations were scheduled for December 2018 in Sweden, where delegations from both parties attended and the ‘Stockholm Agreement’ was signed. As of 2020, the agreement has not been fully implemented, but the UN has stated it as a modest success.

Questions a Resolution should Answer

- How can the international community ensure the immediate cessation of hostilities in Yemen to bring about a durable and sustainable ceasefire?
- What measures can be taken to address the urgent humanitarian crisis in Yemen, including providing access to essential food, medical supplies, and clean water for affected populations?
- How can the international community support the implementation of a comprehensive and inclusive peace process in Yemen, involving all relevant stakeholders, to achieve a long-term political solution?
- What steps can be taken to counter the proliferation of arms and prevent the flow of illicit weapons into Yemen, which fuels the conflict and exacerbates instability?
- How can the United Nations and other international organisations facilitate the reconstruction and development of Yemen's infrastructure and economy, post-conflict, to foster stability and prosperity?
- What measures can be adopted to hold all parties accountable for human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law committed during the conflict in Yemen?
- How can neighbouring countries and regional actors collaborate to support Yemen's stability and prevent any spillover of violence and extremism across borders?
- What innovative approaches can be taken to address the root causes of the Yemeni civil war, including socioeconomic disparities, political grievances, and sectarian tensions, to prevent future conflicts?

Bibliography & Useful Resources

[Yemen | UNOCHA](#)

[Yemen Civil War Explained | The Guardian](#)

[Yemen Crisis Timeline | Arab Center Washington DC](#)

[Yemen Crisis Humanitarian Response | UN Foundation](#)

[Yemen Civil War Maps and Charts | Al Jazeera](#)

[Role of the USA | Vox](#)

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