



KLA Solutions

Conflict in Yemen and impact.

Exploring future outcomes,
including the nation's natural
reserves, factions, foreign ties,
and further investments.



KLA Solutions. *Report.*



About.

About KLA Solutions.

KLA Solutions is a European firm focusing on international affairs and the repercussions for your company.

Established in France with representatives in both Germany and Finland.

Whether your objective is Supply Chain Surveillance (SCS), New Market Risk Analysis (NMRA), or Geopolitical Risk Assessment (GRA), we dedicate our time and knowledge to guiding your company through this ever-changing, international environment.

KLA Solutions' entire team is welcoming you aboard and is prepared to answer any questions that you have regarding geopolitics.

About this report.

Since the British withdrawal from Yemen in 1967, a large chain of reactions occurred, notably with the formation of North and South Yemen. During the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Southern and Northern Yemen united in 1990. However, due to many complications and external intervention, the country has remained largely unstable ever since. Notably, with the rise of the Shia Muslim group, the Houthis (Ansar Allah).

Although the countries were united, this doesn't alter the pre-existing religious and geographic divides. Through these divides, lack of natural resources and Yemen's strong geopolitical location, the conflict escalated and is, as of writing this, ongoing.

Throughout this report, we have compiled all the open-source information on this topic to get a clear and unbiased perspective on the nation's administrative change, the current situation in the Yemen, the requirements for each of the nation's factions and the different visions for the future of the Yemen's conduct throughout the world and its role to play on the global stage.

Information provided by human sources of the region can also be used in the report, but they will be appointed as such by the report body.

This report covers an array of essential facts to form a coherent path from the end of the Cold War to its current situation. The last part of the document is dedicated to possible future outcomes. It examines the nation's natural reserves, factions, foreign ties, and further investments.

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III. Current situation.

Following the events that have led up to the current situation in Yemen, there are a number of reasons that this conflict remains unresolved. Although Yemen itself is a country with gold, oil, coffee and other commodities, it is not for that reason that the conflict ensues.

Yemen, placed at the southern tip of the Red Sea, has a small strait that is 26 km wide at the narrowest point, through which a large portion of global traffic must traverse each day. Many countries such as Iran, the US, the UK, Saudi Arabia, The United Arab Emirates and Sudan have all directly or indirectly contributed to the conflict, it continues to this day with US vessels and aircraft striking Houthi outposts, and with the Houthis retaliating with drone and missile strikes against, vessels and infrastructure, notably in Israel.

i. Geopolitical hotspots.

Although Yemen has been known for its conflict and humanitarian situation these past few decades, the true source becomes obvious once you zoom out geographically and understand the larger picture.

Western and Eastern powers have long tried to control Yemen for many reasons; however, the primary reason is the Bab al-Mandab Strait. The Strait is 26 km at its narrowest point, which provides it with a strategic position in the Red Sea. The Red Sea has two major chokepoints on either side: the Suez Canal to the north and the Bab el-Mandab Strait to the south. Closing either one will halt maritime flow with the intent of traversing the Red Sea. This equates to around 12-15% of all maritime traffic and 30% of all container traffic. (International Transport Forum, 2024)

However, there are more factors to be accounted for. The Ansar Allah (Houthis) are backed by Iran, which supplies weapons, support, training and other miscellaneous tools to maintain its presence in the Bab El-Mandab Strait. However, between Iran and Oman sits a strait called the Strait of Hormuz, which can be closed by Iranian Forces.

In the event that both the Bab El-Mandab Strait and the Strait of Hormuz, then not only would they halt a large portion of shipping traffic, which would have to circumvent the continent of Africa. They would equally be able to halt the direct export of Saudi Arabian commodities, such as Oil and gas, to the Asian Market. If Saudi Arabia transports these commodities through the Suez Canal and around the continent of Africa, then the time and costs incurred due to this journey would make these commodities far less competitive.

ii. Primary factions/political divisions.

Today, Yemen is split into 4 primary political divisions. The Ansar Allah movement (Residing over 70.5% of the population), which are often commonly referred to as the Houthis, after the founder: Hussein Badreddin al-Huthi; the Official Yemeni government which is accepted throughout the west as the official government of Yemen, however resides just over one-fifth of the Yemeni people (21% as of 2024); the South Transitional Council, attempting to bring back Southern Yemen (8% of the population); and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), or more commonly known as ISIS(0.5%).

a. Houthis (Ansar Allah).

The Ansar Allah movement originated in the northern mountainous Sa'ada Governorate. They are Shia Muslims (Zaidis), which represents one-third of the Yemeni population, with the other two-thirds being Sunni Muslims.

The movement was founded by a man named Hussein Badreddin al-Huthi in 1992. To represent his people, he became part of the Yemeni Parliament in 1993, but following his support of the Southern Yemen Succession attempt in 1994, his party became an active target of the parliament.

It has been noted that during this time, he fled to Iran, where he developed close ties with Ali Khamenei, the supreme leader of Iran.

Upon his return, he has formed the group: Ansar Allah. This group found its grievances based on the fact that they were a minority being oppressed by the majority Sunni Muslim parliament. ***(for more details, please reference the history of the regime)***

Following the invasion of Iraq by the US, the Ansar Allah movement gained more momentum. Following the Arab Spring, the movement started gathering more followers by highlighting the corruption of their country and that they were being marginalised further, in which they gained more territory, notably the capital of Sanaa.

In 2014, Iran supposedly started supplying the Ansar Allah movement with weapons, which provoked Saudi Arabia to provide the Sunni government with adequate defences. The Houthi movement managed to take the bulk of Yemen's densely populated regions and declared itself the official government of Yemen.

However, these strong movements towards the Sunni Muslim parliament caught the attention of a far-right Sunni Group: Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL / ISIS).

During this long conflict between the Yemeni Government and the Houthis, it eventually reached a standstill. Following the attack on the 7th of October 2023, the Ansar Allah movement vowed to support Palestine by attacking shipping that crosses the Red Sea, and besieging the Taiz region. This region holds the Strait of Bab el-Mandab.

b. The Yemeni Government.

After the unification of Yemen in 1990, the Yemeni government has been the official government. However, following disrest among many communities, notably the Shia minority in the north, the Ansar Allah movement, there have been many protests against this government.

Following these threats, the Yemeni Government leader, Ali Abdullah Saleh, developed close ties with the US, Saudi Arabia and other foreign countries. These ties, however, greatly benefited Saudi Arabia, which allowed the nation to attack the Iranian-backed Ansar Allah movement, without direct confrontation, all the while maintaining a strong ally in the Bab El-Mandab region.

However, as the Arab Spring took place in 2011, Ali Abdullah Saleh stepped down, hoping to avoid a similar fate to his foreign counterparts. He fled to Saudi Arabia, while his vice president, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, took his place. This, however, gave the Yemeni people a glimpse into the amount of money that Ali Abdullah Saleh had embezzled (circa 60 Bil USD). During this time, the Ansar Allah movement captured 3 territories.

To lessen tensions and move towards a more secure Yemen. In 2013, the President at the time: Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi put in place the National Dialogue Conference, to bring all the regions together to understand how to move forward. The Conference agreed that the country should be federalised, which however, had a large opposition from the Ansar Allah movement, which would be penalised due to their geographic situation.

Following this, in 2014, the Ansar Allah movement launched a new offensive while Iran allegedly financed and sent weapons to the Ansar Allah movement; while the official Yemeni government-backed equally received financing and weapons from Saudi Arabia.

However, in 2015, the Ansar Allah movement gained control of the capital, Sanaa, dissolved parliament, and proclaimed itself as Yemen's only legal entity. Despite

these rapid movements, the Yemeni government and the Ansar Allah movement have remained in the same geographical location.

By 2019, the Saudi Coalition forces disbanded, and left Saudi Arabia as the only country directly supporting the Official Yemeni Government.

c. ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant)

In 2015, following the usurpation of Yemen's Sunni-majority government by the smaller Shia minority group Ansar Allah, the situation drew the attention of the Sunni extremist organisation known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/ISIS), a branch of the Al-Qaeda organisation.

The group attacked 4 mosques in Sanaa in March, killing 140 people during prayer, which provoked uproar among the minority Shia group. This equally provoked concerns in the US as to whether or not to attack the Ansar Allah movement, as they had proven effective at targeting and destroying the ISIL movement, where most countries failed.

Today, the ISIL movement remains confined to a few geographic pockets and has not carried out any major attacks in recent years in Yemen.

d. The Southern Transitional Council (STC).

In 2017, after further fighting and the constant bombardment from the Saudi-Coalition **(for more details, please reference the history section)**, another faction emerged: The Southern Transitional Council (STC). This faction has the objective of re-establishing the Southern Yemen from the Cold War Era.

However, their objectives are in direct contradiction to those of the Ansar Allah movement and those of the Official Yemeni Government. Each of the factions, to this day, proclaims that they are the official government of Yemen.

The United Arab Emirates has come to support the South Transitional Government, with the Saudi-Coalition backing the Official Yemeni Government and Iran backing the Ansar Allah movement.

By 2019, it was a stalemate, with all regions trying to claim more territory, with the STC to the south, with Aden under its control.