

## **CLEIMUN19**

“Collaboration in a Polarized World: Hope for the Future?”

A Research Report

COMMITTEE: Political

QUESTION OF: Addressing the Role of Foreign Actors in the Conflict in Yemen.

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### **Introduction & Background**

The Yemen Crisis is largely caused by the creation of a power vacuum which has in turn created one of the largest humanitarian crisis in history stemmed entirely from political means.

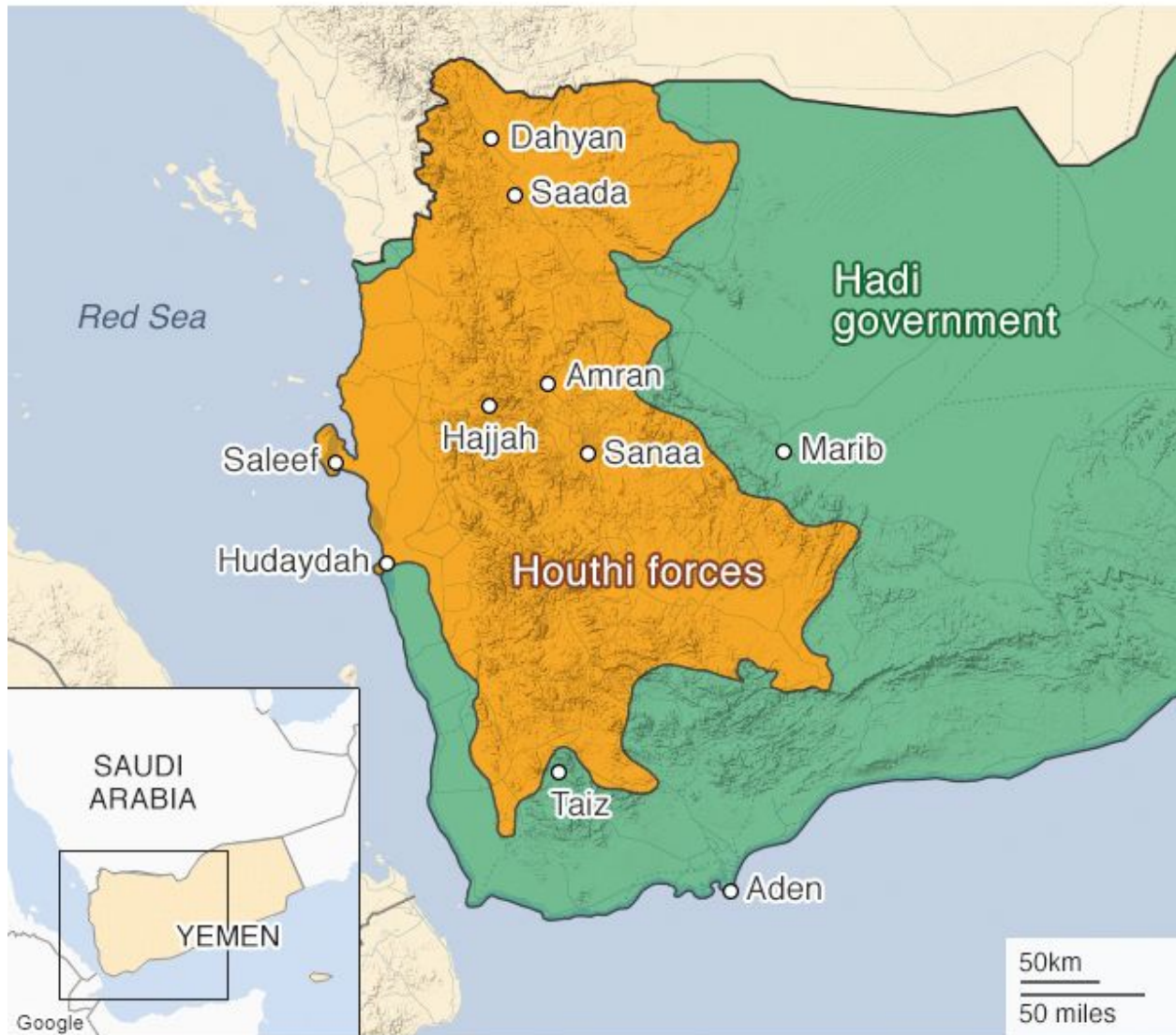
Following the unification of both South Yemen and North Yemen Ali Abdullah Saleh or President Ṣāliḥ became the first president of Yemen. Ṣāliḥ ended up standing as president for nearly three decades and inspired by pro democratic revolts in the Middle East and North Africa the Yemen uprising demanded Ṣāliḥ end his untenable term in 2011 through 2013. In order to attempt to placate the pro democratic revolution Ṣāliḥ announced that he would not attempt reelection in 2013. This among some economic reformation did not satisfy the uprising which noted that Ṣāliḥ had gone back on his reelection promises in 2006. In a desperate last attempt to maintain power Ṣāliḥ announced that he would draft a new constitution that would strengthen the balance of powers which would be voted on later in the year. After much military conflict between Ṣāliḥ supporters and the pro democratic revolutionaries the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) a coalition of middle eastern countries proposed a plan that Ṣāliḥ eventually agreed to in exchange for a controversial grant of political immunity from prosecution for his patronage

and untenable term. Before the 30 day transition period, Ṣālīḥ suddenly withdrew his support for the proposed solution. His sudden refusal to the solution was met violently by the democratic revolutionaries and after multiple violent protests Ṣālīḥ was severely injured by a bomb that was planted in the presidential palace. Ṣālīḥ was transported out of the country for medical attention and arrangements for ‘Abd Rabbuh Maṣṣūr Hadī, to serve as president until his return were put into place. The pro democratic revolutionaries took this time to negotiate another transfer of power and on November 23rd power was officially transferred to Hadi through a single candidate election.

Hadi proved to be an ineffective president, however, and lack of food and unemployment continued to be a problem in Yemen, while government personal continued to be loyal to Saleh. This political instability allowed the Houthi’s a Shia Muslim movement to gain control of the North Saada Province. The Houthi’s opposed the US invasion of Iraq and criticized Saleh’s relationship with the U.S and by extension felt marginalized by Hadi’s presidency. Due to the failure of the presidency transition the Houthi Movement gained many supporters throughout Yemen and successfully gained control of the entire country forcing Hadi to flee in 2015. Saudi Arabia who believed the Houthi’s to be supported by Iran began the operation of an air campaign in order to effectively destroy Houthi resistance and reinstate Hadi’s power thus starting the Yemen war. The war has now raged on for four years and much of the south has been reclaimed, although the administration is very weak and is struggling to stay afloat while Houthi forces remain strong in northwest Yemen. Hadi still remains in exile and the transition of power that

was meant to bring stability and an end to corruption in Yemen has catastrophically failed.

## Areas of control in Yemen



Source: IHS Conflict Monitor, 9 August 2018

BBC

### Effects of the Conflict

The conflict raging in Yemen has created one of the largest politically caused humanitarian crisis in recent history. The Saudi Arabian led coalitions attack on the Red Sea Port

in Yemen destroyed the food source of two thirds of Yemen's Population despite warnings from the U.N showing a precedent for both parties willingness to ignore U.N attempts at negotiation. Since the conflict started 60,000 Civilians and combatants have been killed and nearly 20 million Yemenis have been labeled as food insecure or lacking a reliable amount of food in order to sustain life. The conflict has also caused a refugee and IDP crisis of nearly 3 million. The political instability has also allowed organizations such as al-Qaeda and the IS obtain territory in Yemen. An anti Hadi separatist movement has also begun looking to de unify Yemen seeing the unification as linked to the many issues the country has had. The movement is also backed by the United Arab Emirates. While Saudi Arabia is largely seen as the cause of the Yemen conflict the UAE now has more ground troops than Saudi Arabia in the country. The Yemen Conflict has transformed from a intranational power dispute to a multinational conflict that cannot be ignored by the international community. It now serves as a proxy for the religiously based Saudi Arabian and Iranian Rivalry, a potential stage for terrorist organizations and one of the most catastrophic humanitarian crisis in current events.

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### **Questions to Consider**

- ❖ With the crisis raging on how much humanitarian effort should be emphasized, or is it an useless endeavor without an effective solution to the conflict?
- ❖ Can the conflict be solved militarily?
- ❖ What international issues that form the undercurrent of the Yemen crisis are related to my country? How does this form my countries stance on the issue?
- ❖ Of what use is the UN in this conflict? What powers does the political committee have that would be useful in facilitating peaceful negotiations?

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