



RESEARCH PAPER

US Role in Yemen Conflict: Implications for Regional Stability and Global Leadership

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ABSTRACT

The United States' role in the Yemen conflict has a significant impact on the Middle Eastern region as well as on the world. The Yemen conflict has emerged as a proxy war between regional powers, with the US supporting Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to counterbalance the influence of Iranian backed Ansarullah (Houthis) in Yemen. This study explores the role of US in Yemen conflict and how its military and political involvement has implications for regional stability and US's global leadership. This research applies qualitative research method, examining various research papers, newspapers, books, and policy reports. The US involvement in Yemen conflict is interpreted with the help of two basic theories, Realism and the Hegemonic Stability Theory. The key findings of this paper show that the US policies towards Yemen crisis have intensified regional rivalries and have exacerbated humanitarian crisis, making region more unstable. Moreover, the challenge of US to secure global trade through Red Sea and the rise of emerging global powers in the Middle East signal a threat to US global role as a sole hegemon. The study concludes that a re-evaluation of U.S. policy is crucial for ensuring long-term regional stability and to maintain its global hegemonic position.

KEYWORDS Yemen Conflict, USA, Russia, China, Middle East, Regional Stability, Global Hegemon

Introduction

The role of the US in the Yemen conflict is driven by her motive to stabilize the Middle Eastern region and to act as a global leader. However, this intervention has not been affective as the conflict has failed to de-escalate. Moreover, on a global level, the hegemon has not been successful in securing the global trade routes as Houthi rebels continue to attack global ship cargo to date. The Yemen conflict has also devastatingly affected human rights, and it has risen to prominence for its dreadful humanitarian crisis the world has seen (United Nations Population Fund [UNPF], 2024). The US arms sale to the Saudi coalition and counterterrorism attacks have exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in the region, which is paradoxical to its global role as a human rights advocate and a supporter of democracy. Growing regional instability has created many challenges for US realist goals, that is to counter Iran's growing influence and to serve its self-interest. From the perspective of hegemonic stability theory, the inability of the US to secure global trade routes and how China has shown growing involvement in the Middle East have implications for the changing world order (Danish Institute for International Studies, 2025).

The Yemen conflict is viewed not only as a civil war and a sectarian struggle but also a result of a proxy war between Iran and KSA (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia). The conflict traces back to its inception in 2011 when the Arab Spring inspired thousands of Yemenis to come out and demand political stability and economic reforms. As a result,

power was transferred from President Ali Abdullah Saleh to President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi's globally acclaimed government. However, a growing instability in Yemen, created room for various militant divisions, including IS (Islamic State) and AQAP (Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula) to assert an influence. In 2014 the Houthis Rebel group, officially known as Ansar Allah, from their north stronghold expanded towards the south and captured Saana, the capital of Yemen. The growing influence of Iran-backed Houthi rebels is seen as a threat by KSA and other neighboring states. As a result, the Saudi-led coalition of Arab states including Qatar, Morocco, Sudan, Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait and the UAE, initiated a military intervention in 2015 to re-establish the globally acknowledged government of Hadi (Shawhati, 2023). An involvement of China together with Russia in the region to fulfil the power vacuum is also notable, as Moscow and Beijing can be seen increasing their diplomatic, defense and economic engagements in the region. This whole conflict has grave impacts not only in the form of the humanitarian crisis, but these impacts can also be seen as rising instability in the region and maritime trade routes.

This research aims to dissect the US role in starting off a conflict in Yemen on two levels: firstly, how the US role in the Yemen conflict is posing a threat to territorial stability, and secondly, how the US leadership at the global level is at stake. At the regional level, under the realist lens, the US by assisting KSA is trying to balance the developing impact of Iran. The hegemon is trying to secure international trade routes and is also a flag holder of human rights on the global stage.

Theoretical Framework

To explain the US role in the Yemen conflict and its implications for regional stability and American global leadership, this paper applies two basic theories. Realism explains the strategic goals of the US behind its involvement in the Yemen conflict. The Hegemonic stability theory can be applied to interpret the deep-rooted impact of China and Russia in the region the failure of the US in securing global trade routes and the failure to uphold international norms (Minor, 2024).

Realism refers to the most prevalent school of thought in international relations. Realism argues that states act as rational actors, pursuing their self-interests in terms of power and authority when it comes to foreign affairs. In the scenario where US is creating an impact in the Middle Eastern region, this theory clearly explains the rationale behind US involvement in the Yemen Conflict. Yemen by controlling Bab el Mandeb is controlling a significant amount of trade flow through the Red Sea. It is estimated nearly 12% of global trade by connecting Europe, North America, and the Persian Gulf. More than 30% of the worldwide oil supply is shipped via this strait, making it an important checkpoint for global energy supply and trade (Vikramaditya, 2024). From a realist perspective, it becomes clear how this aligns with US interests. Another factor is the geography and its impact on international relations and Yemen serving as a field for proxy war between Iran and KSA. US by supporting KSA is trying to counterbalance the growing influence of Iran, this exhibits the phenomenon of balance of power (Hazinia, Nezamipoor, & Kalantari, 2024). This further highlights the anarchy existing in the international world where non-state actors are pursuing their agendas when a central authority is lacking.

Hegemonic stability theory was established after the Great Depression, primarily by Charles Kildberger. He claimed that the economic chaos resulted when Britain (hegemon) declined, and the power vacuum was created leading to instability

(Kindleberger, 1973). The key principles of hegemonic stability theory define a hegemon as one who controls economic structure, offers security and stability to the globe, enforces international norms and lastly can prevent the rise of competing powers. When this theory is applied to the US role in the light of the Yemen conflict, it becomes clear how the US is facing challenges in maintaining its global hegemony in terms of the inability to secure global trade routes, the worsening humanitarian crisis, and the growing interest of rising powers I.e. China and Russia in the region (Yom, 2020). This is challenging the credibility of the US as a global leader.

Material and Methods

This research has employed a qualitative research approach, bringing historical context into the frame. For data collection, different primary resources and secondary resources have been consulted. This study has critically evaluated scholarly literature, policy papers, reputable websites, and relevant news articles. Various international organizations and think tanks have also been accessed for deep insight into the conflict. The news articles have helped in exploring the political and social landscape of the conflict. To better understand the role of the US and its impact on regional stability and global leadership different theoretical lenses have been applied.

This research has aimed to critically evaluate the US role in the Yemen conflict and the strategic goals behind actions taken by the US. The study has further explored the intervention of other global and regional powers into the Yemen conflict and their implications for the future.

US Role in Yemen Conflict

The US is playing a significant role in the Yemen conflict to serve its strategic goals. It supports the KSA and Saudi-led coalition, which aligns with their interest in counterbalancing Iranian influence in the region. The US has offered extensive support to the Saudi coalition through intelligence services, logistic assistance, and arms sales. The weapons are used by Saudis to attack Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen and raise concerns regarding growing regional tensions and the intensification of the Iran-Saudi proxy war (Ostovar & Stein, 2024). The US involvement in the conflict has made the region more hostile rather than stabilizing it (Hazineia, Nezamipoor, & Kalantari, 2024).

Beyond regional stability, securing global trade routes is another reason for US involvement in regional proxy wars. Bab el Mandeb is 20 miles wide, 70 miles strait between Africa and the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, controlling a significant amount of oil and commercial trade passing through the Red Sea. The ships passing through this key position are often targeted by Houthis. Most often the targeted ships are US arms and commercial ships, and Israel-linked ships. These attacks in the wake of the Israel-Palestine conflict have increased, and this strikes a strategic and symbolic blow to US-led maritime security efforts such as Operation Prosperity Guardian and Operation Aspides. This has led to a 42% decrease in Suez Canal traffic (Oral, 2024).

These attacks have serious repercussions for global trade, affecting oil prices, commercial cargo delays, and endangering the lives of crews. Recently, Houthi's attack on US ships is making the Trump 2.0 administration aggressive as the US has launched airstrikes on Houthis (Cursino, 2025).

The inconsistency in US foreign policy exhibits the US's failure to cope with the situation smoothly. Trump administration in contrast to the Biden administration has adopted a more offensive approach while the Biden administration tried to focus on the humanitarian aspect by limiting arms sales to KSA (Yaseen, Ghayoor, & Zafar, 2024). The Yemen conflict and US unsuccessful involvement continue to create new challenges for US foreign policy towards Gulf States and make it difficult for the US to find a strategic way out (Derbenev, 2024). The situation indicates challenges for the US in achieving its realist goals as Houthis continue to attack global trade routes and Iran continues to support militant groups in the form of Hamas, Hezbollah, and Houthis in the Middle East.

Another facet of the US's involvement in the Yemen crisis is international human rights organizations condemning the US participation in human rights violations. Human rights watch reports condemn the US's continued military arms sale to KSA despite documented civilian casualties. Moreover, US arms manufacturers are also criticized for selling arms that are costing millions of lives (Kumar, 2017).

Yemen Crisis and key regional actors

This section focuses on the involvement of different regional actors and their implications for Yemen crisis. Yemen crisis has been unfolded as a regional proxy war between Iran and Saudi Arabia, with different regional actors playing important roles. The involvement of these regional powers has determined and is still determining the outcome of Yemen war.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's role in the conflict is backed by its quest for regional dominance and regional security. Riyadh's involvement in Yemen can be understood in terms of their strategic interests. Yemen is neighbor to KSA in term of border sharing, and the rise of Iranian influenced Houthi rebels in the South of Saudi Arabia is a threat for Saudi government. In 2015, Saudi-led coalition launched operation decisive storm in a response to Houthi's capture of Yemen's capital Saana. This military operation was aimed to restore internationally recognized government of Hadi (Salim, 2022). KSA had been supported in this invention operation by USA, UK, and France as well. This was considered as first of its type as previously KSA had been hesitant in intervening in Yemen directly. But the rise of Houthis alarmed Saudi government as Houthis was seen as Iran's proxy and that too adjacent to Saudi Arabia's border (Stenslie, 2015).

The Sunni countries coalition consisting of KSA, UAE, Egypt, Sudan, and Bahrain worked collectively to prevent Houthi expansion. Thousands of airstrikes by Saudi government on Houthi settlements in Yemen have been largely criticized for drastic civilian casualties. Moreover, to prevent Iranian arms smuggling into the Yemen territories for Houthis KSA opted for naval blockade on Yemeni ports like Hodeida, which further exacerbated the crisis by intensifying famine. These naval blockades were assisted by US intelligence services given to KSA in monitoring smuggling routes (Paes, Beales, Hinz, & Ribe, 2024).

The things at this point of time are seen shifting from a hard approach to soft power in the year 2023 between Iran and KSA. With the involvement of China, peace talks between Iran and KSA happened (BBC News, 2023). This reproachment has given rise to many future speculations regarding Riyadh-Tehran relations. One of these

speculation focuses on strategic pressure on Iran for future sanctions and domestic unrest, while other focuses on implications of this reproachment for European countries (Bianco, 2024). In the same year 2023, peace talks were held between Houthis and KSA while Oman played role in mediation process (Al Jazeera, 2023).

Iran

The relationship of Iran to Yemen conflict can be interpreted as a state fighting proxy war with its rival power in the region. Iranian support for Houthis to rebel against internationally engineered regimes and against Saudi Arabia is self-explanatory of the fact that Iran does not want to see KSA as a rising power. This counterbalance approach indicates the realism paradigm in international relations where; a state must maximize its security to meet the opponent's strength. This is often referred to as Thucydides trap where both powers compete for dominance, one is rising power while other is dominant power (Bassett, 2023). In addition to control KSA's regional domination, gaining access to Bab el Mandeb is another strategic goal for Iran. Through this port, Iran can exert influence on global trait moving through the Red Sea. If one analyzes the situation critically, one can see the attack on ships by Houthi's by using weapons and arms provided by Iran is indirect control of global trade route by Iran (Al-Goidi, 2024).

Ansarullah (Houthis) is not the only Iranian backed militia operating in Middle East. But Iran also makes sure its regional presence beyond its border in the form of other militant groups such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Palestine. The influence exerted by Iran beyond borders has raised concerns for KSA's regional dominance (Irvine, 2024). Axis of Reference refers to Iran's coalition with other state and non-state actors to cope with Israel and US's growing domination. This coalition uses military, economic and ideological narratives to strengthen their goals. This deterrence strategy creates a multi-front approach for Iran, limiting the US and Saudi dominance (Schulz, 2024).

Iran's arms and weapon supply to Houthis is a kind of open secret. In the year 2019, Houthis accepted launching of airstrikes on Saudi petroleum facilities located at Khurais and Abqaiq. The attack on these facilities who were closest sites to the Yemeni border was declared Iran backed by US state secretary Pompeo (Cordesman, 2019). However, Iran officials deny provision of weapons to Houthis, but US, UK and Saudi intelligence reports reveal otherwise (Al-Goidi, 2024). In addition to military support, Iran also provides advisory support to Houthis. The Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and Hezbollah provide training and technical support to Houthi network (Levitt, 2021).

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

For thorough description of UAE's role, it is important to discuss the Southern Transitional Council. STC was founded in 2017 when Saudi influenced Hadi's government in Yemen dismissed UAE backed Yemeni officials including the governor of Aden, Aidarus al-Zoubaidi. The motto of this council is to demand a separate Southern Yemen, free from Houthi threat (Radman, 2022). This establishment of a parallel body in Yemen was not encouraged by Saudi Arabia and Hadi's government. President Hadi claimed UAE is behaving more like an occupier rather than liberator, and the tensions between Saudi Arabia and UAE grew (Middle East Eye, 2017). The support provided by UAE to STC holds strategic importance for UAE. In the year 2019, UAE withdrew its troop from Yemen which had been stationed under Saudi-led coalition and talked about

diplomatic solution of war. However, UAE did not withdraw completely, it has its presence through its proxy within proxy, the STC (Dorsey, 2019).

The desire to control global trade routes is equally important for all regional and international key players, and UAE is in the list too. The focus from oil has now quite diverged towards controlling of ports by the gulf states. UAE is seen investing in the port infrastructure, building of military facilities on Socotra islands to control key route can be taken as example (Ardemagni, 2018). UAE has positioned itself along Bab el Mandeb Strait, ensuring influence over global trade routes, particularly oil flows from the Gulf to Europe, Asia, and North America.

Through the lens of soft power use in foreign relations, UAE is seen sending humanitarian aid in STC controlled territories in Yemen (South24, 2024). These strategies help UAE to exert influence in Yemen and determining the outcome of conflict at hand. In a nutshell, shifts in UAE-Saudi relations from situation to situation and UAE's strategic developments to control water reflects changes in geopolitical landscape of Middle East.

The UAE's efforts for power in the region were further made easier by US's support towards UAE. UAE received military and technical support from US. The support from US was given primarily to protect UAE's territory from Houthi's aggression. In the year 2022, US sent advanced military equipment including aircrafts and missile destroyers (VOA, 2022). US has also employed its personnel in UAE's airbases. One of these is Al Dhafra airbase where, around 2000 US military trainers and personnels are stationed. In the same year when Houthi's launched a missile attack on Al Dhafra airbase, it was intercepted by US and UAE's military (CNN, 2022). These incidents show that US's support to UAE is not welcomed by Houthi's, and they show their aggression by launching attacks and thus, endangering the regional stability.

Chinese and Russian interests in Middle East

In context to realist paradigm, the global rising world powers; China and Russia are also seen getting involved in Middle Eastern chessboard. Moscow and Beijing's collaboration with Gulf countries can be seen at different economic, diplomatic and military levels. These collaborations have made various US and European officials alert and vigilant (Mogielnicki, 2024). The situation in the Middle East can be interpreted a reflection of a bigger picture unfolding on the global stage.

The Chinese interest in Middle East reflects valuable strategic goals of China. China's engagement with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) focuses on region's rich oil supply as commodity. China has also broadened the economic investment with GCC through BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) and is keen to explore future opportunities (Mustafa, Al Shawwa, & Kļaviņš, 2025). Yemen is a part of China's BRI project, but ongoing conflict limits direct investment. China also makes sure its maritime presence in the region to monitor global trade route closely. There was also 10% increase in China's oil imports from Gulf States (Mustafa, et al, 2025). Moreover, BRICS+ and membership of Gulf States is challenging for western economic dominance. The thing which needs to be specially focused within the scope of this research is the role of China in Yemen conflict. After the Houthi delegation's visit in Beijing in 2016, the shift in China's non-vocal policy is more prominent, and its role is often viewed as facilitator (Stimson Center, 2024). This shift in China's policy made it vocal about its siding with KSA. China has been involved and has been talking about peace talks among the stakeholders to resolve

the conflict and bringing stability to the region. In 2023, China brokered Iran-Saudi deal, a step which raised eyebrows in Washington. This is described as 'post-American Gulf era' (Abdulla, 2021). The shift of Iran in maintaining good relations within the region and that too with the help of China as a mediator has a lot to say about diminishing US influence in the region. The recent attacks by US on Houthis is condemned by China in United Nations for igniting the regional escalation. The concern of China regarding war escalation is not solely humanitarian crisis but also the consequence of conflict escalation on peace talks initiated by China (Cafiero, 2024). This surge in China's interest in middle east is seen by many as a shift in regional power dominance while other see it as shifting world order from unipolarity to multipolarity (Askari, 2025). In either case, US status as a sole hegemon is on stake.

Thorough research on Russia's presence in Middle East will show that Russia's presence in Middle East has been centuries old driven by its goals to secure its hassle-free access to global markets and countering rivals in the region. The special focus of Russia in Middle East is to counter US influence in the region. Moscow's approach towards this region is having alliances with key actors of the region including Iran, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. Key activities in this region include Moscow's energy deals, arms sale and diplomatic maneuvering to stay relevant. However, the avoidance of Russia for large-scale commitments aims at its focus on influence without responsibility Rumer and Weiss (2024). Russia maintains its local influence through arms sales, military relations, and paramilitary activities across the region. This helps Russia not only at local level but also helps in boosting its anti-Western strategic goals (Borshchevskaya, 2024).

To discuss Russia's diplomatic relations, we see unlike cold war era Russia now maintains good relations with nearly every authoritarian government in Middle East for achieving its goals smoothly. In return, many authoritarian governments are also believed to trust Moscow more than Washington. Russia has tried to re-establish itself as a key power in Mediterranean and Middle East through military interventions in Libya and Syria in 2015 and through diplomatic flexibility. Russia maintains diplomatic relations with key US allies in the region (KSA, Israel and UAE) and supports Iran. However, its influence in the region is challenged by China and US's growing economic and security commitments (Katz, 2024). Since Russia's invasion in Ukraine in 2022, Russia is seen advancing its ties with Iran and both countries continue to engage in arms trade. In 2025, Russia and Iran have signed a 20-year 'strategic partnership' treaty which covers multiple areas such as energy, technology, defense, and increasing trade. Iranian President Pezeshkian commented that Iran and Russia are now entering in a new chapter of bilateral relations (Plummer, 2025). Both countries also criticize US for serious human right violations caused by her miscalculated moves in the Middle East.

In the light of above-mentioned data, this paper exhibits how China and Russia's involvement is creating alternative opportunities for Middle Eastern countries and is undermining US's regional as well as global leadership.

Implications of Yemen Proxy War

The Yemen conflict has many implications for region as well as for international world. This section of the paper focuses on how US involvement in the conflict has caused regional instability and one of the most horrific humanitarian crises in the recent times. This persistent maritime trade routes insecurity and rise of extremism has serious implications for global stability.

Regional Instability

The Yemen conflict has proved to be a key agent in destabilizing the Middle Eastern region. The US's attacks on Iran are also derived by the fact that Houthis are backed by Iran. But the fact to be understood here is at some points when it comes to aggressive measures especially, Houthis and Iran are sometimes on different pages. So, if US thinks that attacking Houthis is one of the ways to bring Iran on negotiating table is merely a miscalculation and it leads to further escalations in the region (Al-Muslimi, & Juneau, 2025). The situation in Yemen has been deteriorating since US intervention in conflict as Yemen has been used as a playground for global and regional actors (Hazbun, 2018). This clearly shows how US involvement in the conflict has done little to bring stability in the Middle East.

The cross-border attacks between Saudi Arabia and Houthis do not allow the region to stabilize for a long period. The attack by Houthis on Saudi oil facilities and retaliatory attack by Saudis on Houthi settlements inside Yemen spark tensions among various regional actors (BBC, 2025). The series of conflict between Houthi and Saudi Arabia escalate the regional tensions and encourages US to intervene by supporting its ally i.e. Saudi Arabia against Houthis. The inconsistencies in US foreign policy towards Middle East has direct implications for region. The US militarization of trade routes has backfired by strengthening Houthi's military capabilities and a continued threat to marine routes (Nasser, 2024).

Sectarian Rifts

This proxy war has increased tensions between two major regional powers namely; Iran and Saudi Arabia. This intensification of rivalry between both have polarized the region by creating Sunni and Shia alliances. This Shia-Sunni divide is not only at regional level but transcends deep into the local level of Yemen as well. Where Shia backed Houthis use their extremist tactics to target Sunni majority on southern Yemen (Al-Muslimi, 2015). The religious rhetoric used by opposite sides gains mass following by emotionally targeting people. The US's take on this sectarian division is a biased one. The foreign policy of US in Middle East has been pro-Sunni, and all their alliances with Sunni majority states. US has been seeing Middle East from a Sunni-lens and neglected Shia point of view of the Middle Eastern affairs. This alienation towards Shia states have embedded the seed of rebellion in Shia states, especially Iran (Peek, 2020). Today, sectarian division is a major driving force behind political instability. Researchers often argue that this sectarian divide may not be the actual cause behind the proxy, but it has been developed as a major happening specially after Arab Spring in 2011. The Saudi government has repeatedly portrayed Houthis as an Iranian backed Shia militant group, neglecting the differences in the ideology of Iran and that of Houthis. This portraying of Houthis as an Iran's efforts for expansionism in Middle East has done its work by bringing Western powers and USA into the conflict (ISPI, 2018). So, the political conflict is turning into a sectarian conflict where Saudi-led Sunni coalition with the help of US and western alliances are struggling against the Iranian backed Houthis threat.

Humanitarian Crisis

The Yemen conflict has devastating impacts for Middle East and Yemen specifically. United Nation has declared it as largest crisis of humanitarian kind in the world with 80% Yemeni population in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Around 3

million people have been displaced resulting in a massive refugee crisis (UNFPA, 2023). There is no exact record of how many innocent people have lost their lives and are still losing till date. The US faces serious criticism for its arms sale to US led coalition which resulted in destruction of homes, schools, hospitals and contributing to thousands of deaths. After almost a decade of ongoing conflict nearly 5 million people have been displaced from their homes and 20 million people are dependent on foreign aids for their basic human need such as food, shelter, health, and education (Belbeisi, 2025).

In a more disastrous move the US administration under Trump 2.0, has cut aids. This abrupt and sudden aid cut will leave Yemen in a miserable condition where millions of people are dependent on aid for their basic life necessities (Amnesty International, 2025). The proxy of regional powers in Yemen has plunged Yemen into one of the worst humanitarian crises of the world with widespread hunger, disease spread and civilian lives being targeted (Robinson, 2023).

Maritime Trade Route Insecurity

Yemen conflict is not only affecting regional stability but is also responsible for the creation of global challenges. The strategic positioning of Yemen on global trade routes significantly attracts attention of global powers. Yemen controls key port named, Bab el Mandeb from where 12% of global trade and more than 30% of oil supply is transported daily (Vikramaditya, 2024). This is the reason that global powers feel the urgency to jump in. The attack on USA shipments by Houthis is a way of showing their aggression or resistance towards US's certain policies. Recent attack on US shipment by Houthis was claimed to be in response of humanitarian crisis ongoing in Gaza by Israel supported by US. This made Trump 2.0 administration quite furious, and they attacked Houthis just a few months after holding the office. The conflict is escalating as US is seen continuously sending its arms and warplanes in Hodeida region of Yemen (Al Jazeera, 2025). The key point here is to understand that it is important for the world to keep Red Sea safe from armed conflicts, and to ensure hassle-free transportation of world commodities. The maritime security is being challenged not only by drone strikes and missiles but also through hijackings, smuggling operations and threat to naval forces in the Red Sea (ICT, 2025). The US involvement in the conflict is considered a failure for securing this key trade route as the conflicts have failed to be eroded, posing a threat to maritime security.

Conclusion

The Yemen conflict continues to be a significant challenge to regional security as well as to global stability. This research has evaluated the US's role in the conflict and its implications for the world. The US involvement has exacerbated regional tensions by intensifying the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and by increased political tensions in the region. The US foreign policy in Middle East and more specifically towards Yemen, has resulted in threat for global trade routes by continued attacks on world commercial ships passing through red sea. It has also exacerbated the regional instability because of security and political issues.

The research found that US inability to bring peace in the region has created room for other world powers to step in, as seen by growing interests of China and Russia in the Middle East. This growing influence can be seen as a depiction of global stage where the China and Russia are seen competing US. In addition to implying a threat to US global hegemonic position, the US role in conflict has also contributed to regional

instability. The humanitarian crisis in Yemen is worsening and the regional security is being threatened by Houthis. Houthis show their retaliation to the US hard power approach in an aggressive way. In a nutshell, US involvement in the Yemen conflict has serious implications for its global leadership and regional stability.

Given these implications, it is necessary for the US to review its foreign policy in the Middle East and to adopt the use of soft power. The US must focus on humanitarian aid, multilateral conflict resolution, and its military involvement. This can not only bring regional stability but can also help the US to focus on emerging world powers, China and Russia. The regional actors should also make the political environment more negotiable and refrain from further military engagements in the Yemen conflict. The conflict cannot be de-escalated given the ongoing military engagements of regional and global actors.

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