

Identifying and explaining the main drivers affecting the Yemeni crisis

Alireza Sahraie*

Department of Political Science, Faculty of Law and Politics Studies, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Mashhad, Iran.

Article Info	Abstract
<p>Original Article</p> <p>Main Object: Politics Scope: Yemen</p> <p>Received: 16 January 2025 Revised: 03 February 2025 Accepted: 11 February 2025 Published online: 15 March 2025</p> <p>Keywords: Houthis, Islamic Republic, main drivers, Saudi Arabia, Yemen crisis.</p>	<p>Yemen's internal developments have attracted the attention of observers, researchers, countries in the Middle East, and also extra-regional powers. This issue is also important from another perspective; after Saudi Arabia's attack on Yemen, this country has gained a pivotal role in the fight against one of the regional rivals of the Islamic Republic of Iran, namely Saudi Arabia. Due to its multidimensional dimensions, the Yemeni crisis has become one of the most important crises in the Middle East, which is increasing in complexity day by day and has put the regional order on the brink of behavior. Yemen is strategically of particular importance in the spread of the ideas of the Islamic Revolution in West Asia. Therefore, understanding the factors affecting the future of Yemen is very vital for the strategic planning of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this country. The present study was conducted to identify and explain the driving forces affecting the Yemeni crisis in the new conditions of the Iran-Saudi Arabia agreement. The research method in this article is a mixed method with an exploratory approach, and its statistical population purposefully includes 19 experts and scholars in the Yemeni field. Data collection was carried out using the library method and holding expert panels, using the brainstorming technique and questionnaire tool. The result was the extraction of 10 main driving forces, which were used to verify the validity of the driving forces using specific SPSS software tests, one-sample T-test, Kendall's coefficient of agreement, and Cronbach's alpha. Subsequently, using the futures research software Mikmak and applying the interaction matrix effect analysis, the most effective driving forces in the research area were identified, counted, and explained.</p>

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Extended Abstract**Introduction**

Yemen's internal developments have attracted the attention of observers, researchers, countries in the Middle East, and also extra-regional powers. This issue is also important from another perspective: after Saudi Arabia's attack on Yemen, this country has gained a pivotal role in the fight against one of the regional rivals of the Islamic Republic of Iran, namely Saudi Arabia. Due to its multidimensional dimensions, the Yemeni crisis has become one of the most important crises in the Middle East, which is increasing in complexity day by day and has put the regional order on the brink of behavior. Yemen is strategically of particular importance in the spread of the ideas of the Islamic Revolution in West Asia. Therefore, understanding the factors affecting the future of Yemen is very crucial for the strategic planning of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this country.

Yemen has always been subject to interference from regional and extra-regional powers throughout history due to its special geopolitical and geostrategic location and has become a chessboard for powerful players in the world. Yemen is an important country in the international system with its various islands and ports in the world's strategic seas, such as the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, as well as its control of the Bab al-Mandab Strait; in such a way that developments in this country affect many world events such as energy supply and shipping security, and consequently global markets. In the meantime, with the outbreak of the Arab uprisings in late 2010 and the spread of these developments to Yemen, this country became the focus of regional and even global crises. A crisis that has not only not ended after more than a decade, but has also intensified with the intervention of foreign powers, especially the Arab coalition.

Aims

The purpose of the present study was to identify and explain the driving forces affecting the Yemeni crisis in the new conditions of the Iran-Saudi Arabia agreement. In this regard, it seems that by using the conceptual model of the Bircher crisis with an emphasis on the crisis reduction stage and using a mixed method, it is possible to identify the drivers and factors affecting the crisis and measure the extent of the impact of this agreement on crisis reduction. Also, in order to answer the question that also has a future-oriented nature in its research, the present study is not a hypothesis test, but seeks to discover the variables affecting the reduction of the Yemeni crisis.

Methods

The research method in this article is a mixed method with an exploratory approach, and its statistical population purposefully includes 19 experts and scholars in the Yemeni field. Data collection

was carried out using the library method and expert panels, using the brainstorming technique and questionnaire tool. The result was the extraction of 10 main driving forces, which were used to verify the validity of the driving forces using specific SPSS software tests, one-sample T-test, Kendall's coefficient of agreement, and Cronbach's alpha. Subsequently, using the futures research software Mikmak and using the interaction matrix effect analysis, the most effective driving forces in the research area were identified, counted, and explained.

Results

Table 1 lists the variables selected to investigate and their possible impact on reducing the Yemeni crisis in the future. It is worth noting that all variables in the researcher-made questionnaire have a futures research approach.

Table 1. Name and symbol of extracted variables

Variable identifier	Variable
VAR01	The effect of the withdrawal of the Saudi military coalition on reducing the Yemeni crisis
VAR02	The effect of the formation of a national government in Yemen with the participation of all groups on reducing the Yemeni crisis
VAR03	The effect of the lifting of international resolutions against Yemen on reducing the Yemeni crisis
VAR04	The effect of reducing Saudi Arabia's traditional influence on Yemen on reducing the Yemeni crisis
VAR05	The effect of reducing poverty and unemployment among the Yemeni people on reducing the Yemeni crisis
VAR06	The effect of the security of the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Red Sea for Saudi Arabia and world energy exports on reducing the Yemeni crisis
VAR07	The effect of Yemen's benefit from huge oil and gas reserves as well as the transit of goods and fisheries on reducing the Yemeni crisis
VAR08	The effect of the influence and proliferation of the Islamic Revolution in Yemen and the region on reducing the Yemeni crisis
VAR09	The effect of strengthening and developing the axis of resistance against the arrogant current of the West in the region, especially the Zionist regime, on reducing the Yemeni crisis
VAR10	The effect of reducing the presence and activity of terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS in Yemen on reducing the Yemeni crisis

Conclusion

Based on the research findings, the variables VAR06, VAR04, VAR03, VAR02, VAR01, namely the withdrawal of the Saudi-led coalition, the variables of the formation of a comprehensive national government in Yemen, the lifting of international resolutions against Yemen, the reduction of Saudi Arabia's traditional influence on Yemen, and the security of the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Red Sea, have a greater

impact and will play a key role in the analysis. This is because the country's military attack on Yemen in 2015 caused the crisis to spread and turned the internal crisis in the country into a regional crisis, and reforming the structures and forming a national government in this country faced a new problem. Currently, the lack of tangible progress in the peace talks between Saudi Arabia and Yemen has prolonged the process of reducing the crisis in the country. However, these developments indicate the importance of the risk variables mentioned in this study because the failure to form a national government in Yemen and the lack of security in Bab al-Mandab will exacerbate the crisis in the region. With the new developments in Syria and the fall of the Assad government, it may weaken the influence of the resistance axis in favor of Saudi Arabia and the UAE and prevent the formation of a comprehensive national government. As a result, Saudi Arabia and the UAE will strengthen their influence over the Southern Transitional Council and expand their projects in southern Yemen, such as controlling strategic ports and islands. This will lead to the loss of control over the strategic Bab al-Mandab Strait from Ansar Allah and the axis of resistance.

Conflict of interest

The author declared no conflicts of interest.

Ethical considerations

The author has completely considered ethical issues, including informed consent, plagiarism, data fabrication, misconduct, and/or falsification, double publication and/or redundancy, submission, etc. This article was not authored by artificial intelligence.

Data availability

The dataset generated and analyzed during the current study is available from the author on reasonable request.

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