“Houthi Rebellion in Yemen." In *Global Issues in Context Online Collection*. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2018. *Global Issues in Context* (accessed March 18, 2019). <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CP3208520486/GIC?u=nort32991&sid=GIC&xid=1857c309>.

Article 1 - Reference

**Crisis**

* Social – famine, cholera, humanitarian crisis – no food!
* Economic – no economy
* Political – civil war (Saudis vs. Houthi rebels supported by Iran)
  + 6000 dead by Feb. 2016

**Political Chronology**

* 2014 Houthis took power
* President Hadi left office in 2015
  + He asked Saudis for support
    - They used air fire against the ‘rebels’

**Split Yemen as Background**

* North Shia, South Sunni (fought in 1994 civil war)
* Yemeni Shia are Zaydi (more in common with Sunnis)
* Some felt left out of central gov’t and became activists, including Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi.
  + He also became anti American and anti-Israel after the US intervention in Iraq in 2003
    - Yemeni president disliked this as an ally of the US

**2007-2010 Series of Attacks and Ceasefires**

* Houthi groups attacked central gov’t on and off, with ceasefires that never held

**2011 Arab Spring’s Effects on Yemen**

* President Saleh said he’d leave office (his VP Hadi succeeded him)
* Meanwhile, Houthis tried to gain more northern territory
  + By 2014 they held 4 governorates (provinces?)

**New Enemies**

* Houthis were also fighting Al Quaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) – a Sunni Islamist group
* AQAP interested in the south, so as Houthis moved south, they came into conflict

**2014-15 Conflict in the Capital**

* Houthis in Sanaa protested government economic policy (end of fuel subsidies)
* They had accepted a new PM but rejected him eventually
* Declared themselves a new gov’t but southern rebels seceded from united Yemen

**Saudis Enter the Fight**

* After ISIS bombed Shiite sites in the capital, President Hadi apparently asked Saudis to intervene
* They began a bombing campaign supported by other Arab allies (and with the US in an advisory role) (began March 29, 2015)
  + US direct attack on Houthi territory in 2016
* Nov. 2017 Houthis tried to send a ballistic missile to Saudi and they intercepted it, then blockaded Yemen – furthered the humanitarian despair

**No Peace Talks**

* Started and stopped
* Execution of Saleh by Houthis in Dec. 2017

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“Yemen”, Britannica School, accessed March 20, 2019, https://school.eb.com/levels/high/article/Yemen/110511

Article 2 – encyclopedia

**History of Yemen**

* Zaydi Islam in the 800s CE, named after Zayd ibn ʿAlī
* Coffee beans ‘discovered’ and popularized in the 1400s, brought attention to the region for trade
  + Leading to conflict between Egypt, Ottoman Empire and various European powers [theme idea]
  + But only lasted until the 1700s
* British controlled Aden starting in 1839
* Ottomans in North Yemen

**Suez Canal**

* Opened in 1869
* Brought more attention to the Red Sea area
* Both British and Ottomans expanded out from the centres of their territories
  + Border issues ensued
  + Were eventually determined by non-Yemenis (an issue in the future - theme)
* Even as tribes showed some allegiance to Britain, they didn’t like a lot of the modern policies of Aden (including a lot of foreigners)
* Following an int’l trend, Britain announced it would leave Aden for it to become independent

**Northern Yemen**

* Ottomans defeated in WWI and North became independent
* Zaydi Imam gained political power: [Yaḥyā Maḥmūd al-Mutawwakil](https://school.eb.com/levels/high/article/Ya%E1%B8%A5y%C4%81/77716) – tried to modernize by sending people to Iraq to learn new military methods
* Had some interest in expanding territory, including into historically Yemeni areas, and into Saudi Arabia (that old border decided by non-Yemenis wasn’t seen as legitimate to them), and of course this threatened the south
* But Yahya wasn’t popular and was assassinated in 1948
* His son (Ahmad) took power claiming to be different, but he continued along the same ‘repressive’ lines
* Many of the smaller regions felt that it was better to cooperate with British because under Ahmad’s rule their power would be reduced
* After Ahmad’s death in 1962, his son took power but was soon overthrown with the establishment of North Yemen (Yemen Arab Republic)

**Southern Yemen**

* British also tried to expand and consolidate their control, especially by bringing warring tribes under control
* Many inspired by North Yemen’s independence
  + But there was much division (including physical fighting), mainly between National Liberation Front (NLF) (radical) and Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (FLOSY)
* Britain handed over South Yemen to NLF in 1967

**North Yemen**

* Led by Abd Allāh al-Sallāl
* Allied with Egypt
* Meanwhile, the imam came under Saudi protection
* Civil war – republicans vs. religious royalists loyal to the imam
  + Egypt and USSR supported the republicans
  + Saudis, Iran and Jordan supported the royalists
* Compromise of 1970 (everyone saw that cooperation would have to come eventually)
  + Republican gov’t with some positions held by royalists
  + Imam sent into exile in Britain and not to have power
* By 1974, unhappy with the pace of reforms, military and some tribal elements took over and created a military gov’t that tried to create state institutions
  + Not everyone happy and there were assassinations of 2 presidents

* [Alī ʿAbd Allāh Ṣāliḥ](https://school.eb.com/levels/high/article/%CA%BFAl%C4%AB-%CA%BFAbd-All%C4%81h-%E1%B9%A2%C4%81li%E1%B8%A5/342913) managed to make some economic improvements and modernizations

**South Yemen**

* People’s Republic of South Yemen formed 1967
* Became closely aligned with the USSR (who were looking for influence in the Middle East)
* Under Marxist influence it became the People’s Democratic Republic of Yemen in 1970

**Talk of Unification**

* Both sides talked but did little
* In fact, both sides sponsored rebel movements inside the other
* Both sides also had major internal conflicts and factionalism

**Unification of the 2 Yemens**

Reasons for 1990:

1. Discovery of oil in both regions – why bother going to war that would destroy the resource both sides wanted?
2. USSR stopped funding eastern bloc countries who funded South Yemen.

* The new state was supposed to be a democracy with the capital in Sanaa, and economic focus in Aden.
* Transition didn’t go as planned and popularity not that high due to serious economic conditions going back to the **Gulf War** (Yemen didn’t join the US-Saudi side and Saudi sent many Yemeni foreign workers back and stopped supporting Yemen) – huge loss of income for the new state
* Even with these troubles, elections for the new unified parliament were held in 1993 with a coalition gov’t being the result
* But conflict didn’t go away – there was a 3-month War of Secession in 1994
* Gov’t became more repressive in the face of internal dissent and division
* President Salih was gaining power
* He wanted to have greater stability for Yemen and sought better relations with Saudis
  + But border was still an issue – didn’t sign an agreement on it until 1995
* Economic reforms were tried, and reform measures from the international community were implemented, but economy was still very weak
* Economically, Yemen became an oligarchy, enriching a few at the expense of the many

**Yemen’s Relations with the US**

* After Sept. 11, 2001 World Trade Centre bombing, Salih tried to express his support for the US, but many in Yemen were Islamist or nationalist and didn’t like his cozying up to the US
  + Many of these were former mujahedeen in Afghanistan who had fled to Yemen after the defeat of the USSR

**Widespread Discontent with the Gov’t**

* Houthi Rebellion in the north: June 2004 rebels who felt Yemen was too close to the US rose up
* In the south, military officials and other civil servants dissatisfied with gov’t protested
* Some starting to question the unified country and Salih

**Effect of the Arab Spring**

* 2011 spread to Yemen were there was already so much discontent with the gov’t
* Protestors called for democracy
* Salih committed to some reforms, including not running again, but it didn’t satisfy the protestors
* They wanted him out of office, especially as security forces started using a heavier hand against protestors
* It got so heavy that some army commanders joined with the opposition
* Salih just would not go
* Troops came from the regions into the capital
  + This left a vacuum in the regions that militants began to fill

**Continuing Divisions**

* AQAP gains power in the south
* A plan was made for Salih to resign but he backed out at the last moment
* Violence increased
* A bombing injured Salih, who went to Saudi for treatment for a few months
* VP Hadi became president in an agreed upon formula
* National Dialogue Conference did go ahead, but conditions were pretty much similar to the past

**Ramping Up Houthi Rebels – Civil War**

* Houthi rebels went to Sanaa and sought a voice in gov’t (the UN did help with a deal to give them a voice in Hadi’s gov’t)
* Seized power in 2015 (UN was against this because it contravened the National Dialogue Conference finding)
* Hadi fled to Saudi, and the Saudis then sent military support against the Houthis
* Salih had come back and briefly aligned with the Houthis, but then he withdrew his support and thus fighting began between Houthis and Salih’s supporters
* UN attempted to broker cease fire (2018)

Arab Spring." In *Global Issues in Context Online Collection*. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2018. *Global Issues in Context* (accessed March 21, 2019). <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CP3208520388/GIC?u=nort32991&sid=GIC&xid=8967ae86>.

Article 3 – reference

**Origins**

* Began in Dec 2010 in Tunisia
* A lone protest led to a widespread revolt against local gov’t but it grew to be against Tunisian gov’t
* Driven by dire economic conditions (common in many Arab countries just a few years after the 2008 financial crisis)
* Political repression in many of the countries also spurred large public protests to oust corrupt, autocratic and repressive dictators

**Spread to Egypt**

* Jan. 2011 people start protesting Hosni Mubarak in Tahrir Square in Cairo
* Mubarak resigned Feb. 2011

**Yemen**

* Salih started to put down protests in Jan. 2011
* Concerns about the growth of Al Queda during this time (as attention turned elsewhere)

Sharkey, Heather J. "British Colonialism, Middle East." In *Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism since 1450*, edited by Thomas Benjamin, 151-159. Vol. 1. Detroit, MI: Macmillan Reference USA, 2007. *Global Issues in Context* (accessed March 21, 2019). <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX2587300068/GIC?u=nort32991&sid=GIC&xid=e13d0b77>.

Article 4 – encyclopedia (specialized)

**Economic Benefits of Imperialism to Britain**

* Britain involved heavily in Middle East trade primarily of its imperial products (tea and sugar) and coloured cottons
* Britain used the Suez route (through the isthmus to the Red Sea) before there was a Suez Canal – which is why it annexed Aden in 1839
* When Suez Canal created this increased its trade even more
* Britain tried to help stabilize a declining Ottoman Empire because it didn’t want to see the big European powers compete for the leftovers of the Ottoman Empire
* They even created a deal in Egypt to create the Muhamad Ali dynasty
* 1875 Egypt had to sell its share (44%) of the Suez Canal stocks to Britain
* Oil began to power the British navy in 1912 (interest in Iran first: British in the south, Russia in the north)

"Saudi Arabia." In *Global Issues in Context Online Collection*. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2019. *Global Issues in Context* (accessed March 21, 2019). http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CP3208530145/GIC?u=nort32991&sid=GIC&xid=7d3a5d5a.

Article 5 – reference

**History of Conflict Between Saudi Arabia and Iran**

* Goes back to the succession to Muhamad
  + Sunnis supported Muhamad’s son in law (majority in Saudi)
  + Shiites supported Ali, his father in law (majority in Iran)

**2016 Conflict**

* Shia advocate Nimr al Nimr was executed by Saudi, accused of being a terrorist
* Protests resulted in Tehran
* SA and Iran cut diplomatic ties

**Yemen War**

* Iran supports the Houthis
* Saudi military has bombed Yemeni targets and massive civilian deaths resulted
* Kashogji (murdered Saudi expat and journalist) was critical of the war with Yemen

European Council on Foreign Relations, Mapping the Yemen Conflict, Accessed March 26, 2019, <https://www.ecfr.eu/mena/yemen>

Article 6 – website (specific source)

**Southern Movement**

* Various groups that want the south to be more independent (since 2007) and have been forming armed groups to fight for this goal
* Supported by Gulf states because they fight against the Houthi
* But major players in the region still want Yemen to stay unified so there is no real progress on secession

**National Dialogue Conference**

* A proposal was made to create federal districts in Yemen in 2014
* Some, such as the Southern Movement, feel this would give more of a say to each of the regions (in contrast to the central government)
* However, both the Houthis and the Southern Movement don’t like its particular way of dividing up the regions

BBC News, “Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, power behind the throne,” BBC News, Oct. 22, 2018, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40354415>

Article 7 – website (news source)

* MBS is the son of the current king (Salman, aged 79) who came to power in 2013 but is considered the main power
* Became defence minister in 2015 and began attacks on Houthis in Yemen
* He sees Houthis as puppets of Iran

Wintour, Patrick. “Yemen ceasefire: new UN resolution seeks to save agreement.” The Guardian. Jan. 16, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/16/yemen-ceasefire-un-urgently-tries-to-prevent-collapse-of-agreement>

Article 8 – News Article

Wenner, Manfred W. "Yemen." In *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa*, 2nd ed., edited by Philip Mattar, 2385-2391. Vol. 4. New York, NY: Macmillan Reference USA, 2004. *Global Issues in Context* (accessed March 27, 2019). http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3424602909/GIC?u=nort32991&sid=GIC&xid=8f19b9cb.

Article – Encyclopedia (was repeat of other info I already have)

Filkins, Dexter. “A Saudi Prince’s Quest to Remake the Middle East.” *The New Yorker*. April 9, 2018. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/04/09/a-saudi-princes-quest-to-remake-the-middle-east>

Article 8 – Magazine Article

**Trump White House’s Plan to Reshape the Middle East**

* Trump, Jared Kushner, Steve Bannon
* Get rid of ISIS
* Diminish the power of Iran
* Stop the dissemination of radical Islam
* Change Obama’s more distant relationship with SA to one of more close friends
* Kushner and MBS became friendly (both young, tech savy and MBS says he wanted to modernize SA)

**Closeness of SA and UAE**

* MBZ = Crown prince of Abu Dhabi (Mohammed bin Zayed) became friends with MBS
* UAE a long-standing American ally
* Both very concerned over Arab Spring and potential end of their monarchies, especially wanted the Muslim Brotherhood out so they plotted to get them out in a military coup (only by offering money if El Sisi supported this)
* Both dislike Iran – going back to Safavid Empire (look up) that controlled the Arab world for a long time
* Both disliked Obama’s moves to negotiate with Iran
* Conflict was even stirred up with Qatr for being too friendly with Iran

**Yemen**

* Both UAE and SA felt the Iranians were supporting the Houthis
* SA (and UAE) apparently told the US in 2015 they were planning to get involved in Yemen in order to eradicate the Iranian influence (a big reach that would be very dirty)
* MBS used his influence in the war on Yemen to gain wider influence inside SA
* MBS got a pr team (financed by UAE) to “sell” him as de factor ruler in US circles

“Daggers drawn in Arabia: but don't blame democracy for the war in Yemen." *The Economist*, May 14, 1994, 18+. *Global Issues in Context*. <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A15449219/GIC?u=nort32991&sid=GIC&xid=4b42373b>.

Article 9 Magazine Article

**1994 Civil War**

* Not a surprise given the problems before it
* One reason for unity had been to face Saudi Arabia together (N and S populations combined were more than SA)
* Saleh in power in the north since 1978
* Ali Salem al-Baidh in the south, which was deteriorating because of the end of Soviet funding – he was supposed to be Saleh’s deputy in the unified gov’t
* The first election inside united Yemen showed that the south voted for Marxist parties (so old divisions remained)
* Baidh left the capital of unified Yemen and went south to his home region
* Saleh was very unhappy about this and it got violent when he sent troops after Baidh

**Saudi Arabia in all of this**

* In 1960s Saudis tried to save the northern Yemen monarchy
* They resented the radical (do they mean this in political or religious terms?) south
* Upset when Saleh sided with Saddam Hussein the Gulf War
  + Cut back aid to Yemen and forced 1 million Yemeni workers to leave SA
  + Discouraged oil companies from exploring Yemeni oil fields

Wenner, Manfred W. "Salih, Ali Abdullah [1942–]." In *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa*, 2nd ed., edited by Philip Mattar, 1976-1977. Vol. 3. New York, NY: Macmillan Reference USA, 2004. *Global Issues in Context* (accessed April 3, 2019). http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3424602363/GIC?u=nort32991&sid=GIC&xid=9e7942a1.

Article 10 - Reference

**Salih’s Rise**

* Was a northern military leader
* Came to power in 1978 after the assassination of multiple leaders
* He tried to grow the oil business in Yemen and gained some popularity for it

**Problems and Unification with South Yemen**

* N and S Yemen had two wars in 1970s (1972 and 1979)
* But other factors pushed toward unification: decline of Soviet influence in south and oil

**Unification**

* He was the unified Yemen’s first president
* His party is GPC, General People’s Congress
* Early civil war in 1994 – north won

**Consolidation of Salih’s Power**

* Demise of democracy after Southern parties boycotted 1997 election (gave room for him to consolidate his power)
* Move to a presidential system (yes, with direct elections for president)
  + 5 year term, then changed to a 7-year term
* His party also held vast vast majority of seats in parliament in 2003

**Critics**

* He is disliked by some secularist and by some Islamists for the corruption inherent in his regime

BBC. BBC Religions – Safavid Empire. 2009. Accessed April 7, 2019. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/islam/history/safavidempire_1.shtml>

Article 11 - News Overview

**Safavid Rule**

* 1501-1722
* Centered in Iran; rivals of Mughals in India and Ottomans in Asia/Europe
* Shia theocracy
* Fought Ottomans to gain power in the region
  + Ottomans had banned Shia in 1501

**Religious Conversions**

* Mostly Sunni people were converted to Shia
* Intolerant of other branches of Islam and of other variants of Shia
* Government controlled religion (complete overlap with it)

**East-West Trade Route**

* Prospered from trade
* Patrons of a lot of art (in the nationalist Iranian tradition), esp in large capital city Isfahan

**Decline**

* As the Ottomans declined in 17th century, so too did the Safavids because they didn’t have to defend themselves as much
* Became corrupt, Ulama gained power over gov’t

Saleh, Heba. “Sunni and Shia: Explaining the Divide.” *Financial Times.* Jan. 6, 2016*.* <https://www.ft.com/content/413ea2ea-b3df-11e5-8358-9a82b43f6b2f>

Article 12 – News Overview

**Sunni-Shia Rivalry Even Today**

* Zaydi Shia are 45% of Yemen’s population
* Houthis = Zaydis
* “Until today, hardline Saudis use the term “Safavid” as an insult to Iranian leaders, presumably to stigmatise them as wanting to convert all Sunni to Shia. They see the Safavids as having taken the Persians off the correct path of Sunni Islam.”
* Saudi Shias might make up 10% of the population
* Lebanon has a big chunk of Shia as well (links to important events re SA in which MBS held the Lebanese PM in SA)