

# CIVIL WAR IN YEMEN

Unsuccessful story of the Arab spring



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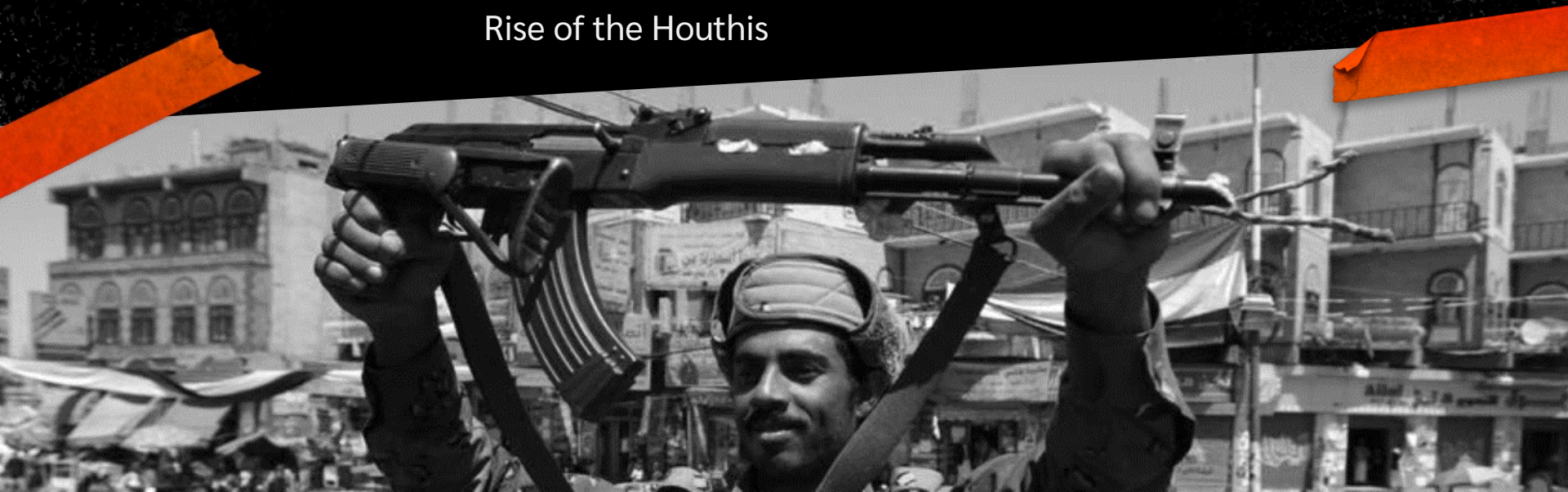


01.

# History of Yemen

From 1960's

History of north and south Yemen  
Unification  
Rise of the Houthis





# North

Mutawakkilite kingdom of Yemen

*End of the one-thousand-year Zaydi Imamate*  
(Descendants of Zayd bin Ali, great-great-grandson  
of the Islamic prophet Muhammad)

1962 – Arab nationalist revolution in armed forces  
Deposition of Zaidi imam Al Bader

1972 – border clashes

Support: Saudi-led coalition (Jordan, Egypt, Iran, UK, US)

Support: Soviet Union, Iraq, Libya, Czechoslovakia, Cuba

1978 – Saleh consolidated power

# South

People's Republic of Yemen

*End of the colonial era*

1939 – British protectorate formed

1967 – withdrawal of UK from Aden

1969 – communist coup

1986 – civil war caused by power struggle among  
the Yemeni Socialist Party

# History of Yemen

**1990**

Yemen united under Ali Saleh  
Deported workers + mujahideen – AQAP (1991)

**1994**

Civil war - Saleh's X al-Beidh's troops

**2004**

Rise of Houthis





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# Rise of Houtis

Founded in north (Sa'dah)  
Zaydi shia

## Hussein al-Houthi

1990 - The Believing Youth

1997 - withdrew from Parliament

2004 – death

11 years long conflict Saleh X Houthis  
(ceasefire 2011 befor arab Spring)

*“God is great! Death to America! Death to Israel!  
Curse the Jews! Victory to Islam!”*



**02.**

# Arab spring

From revolution to civil war 2011 - 2015



# Who is who in Yemen?

## Ali Abdullah Saleh

Former president from north  
Resignation in early 2012



## Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi

Failed to improve Yemeni situation  
2015 fled to Saudi Arabia

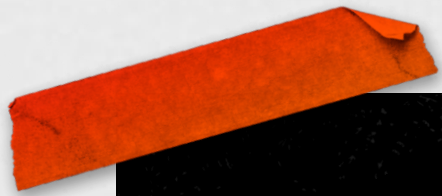


## The Houtis

Zaydi shia insurgent movement







## 2011 - 2015

After uprisings Ali Saleh step down and  
Abdrabbuh Hadi took over

2013 - Establishment of NDC (elites participated)

2014 – Houthis took over the capital city

Hadi signed resignation, but withdrawn it later



03.

2015

*„... the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia launched military operations in Yemen. The objective is to defend the legitimate government of President Hadi from the takeover attempts by the Houthi militias..“*



# The “players”

## Saudi Arabia

Support of 8 other countries  
3rd best equipped army – still losing?  
Supports Southern Transitional Council (STC)

## Houthi forces

## Iran

Supports the Houthis  
Proxy war with Saudi Arabia

## West

USA  
United Kingdom

## Al-Qaeda

## Republic of Yemen Government

Internationally recognized government (Hadi)  
Backed by the Saudi-led coalition since 2015





# The Houthi faction

Gain of political power (more autonomy)  
Access to Red sea and oil pipelines

## Ali Abdullah Saleh

*“I will lead the battle until the last Houthi is thrown out of Yemen”*

Money for fighters, tribal and political loyalist networks  
2017 – accusation of treason, death  
Ahmed Ali Saleh

## Iran

*“...conflict in Yemen has no cost for us and even has some benefits”*

Challenge of regional dominance  
Shia religion – proxy war with Saudi Arabia?



# The Hadi faction

Republic of Yemen Government – officialy recognized  
Dependent on external backing - no popular base in Yemen

## Saudi Arabia

Defence minister – crown prince Mohammed bin Salman  
Domestic political power – facesaving war exit? (mails)

Missile attack Riyadh airport – Qiam1?

## USA

Sells weapons to Saudi Arabia / Bab al – Mandeb – 4,7 mil barrels of oil/day  
Terrorism  
Trump veto - 2019



# Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

Dominant terrorist group – officially opens operations in Yemen in January 2009.

Intermarrying with the tribes of Yemen

Appeasement of locals - repairing roads/bridges, paying salaries to hospital workers

2015 – port of Mukalla (port taxes) - ousted 2016  
US drone strikes

## IS

Officially expanded into Yemen on 13 November 2014

2015 – first attack (Houthi mosques, 500 wounded)

2020 - limited cooperation with Houthis against Al-Qaeda

Failed to carry out AQAP-style community development projects



# Development



**2016**

UN – inspection mechanism (vessels)



**2017**

Saleh broke with the Houthis. Saleh was killed and his forces defeated within two days.



**2018**

UN – Stockholm agreement – ceasefire in Hudaydah



**2019**

ROYG X STC (Saudi Arabia X UEA) agreement in 2020



**2020**

Houtis X ROYG – Marib (oil fields)  
Hassan Eyrlo – Iranian ambassador  
STC joined a unity government with the ROYG



**2021**

Marib – Houtis gain 5 districts  
Peace Efforts – Saudi Arabia X Houtis





**04.**

# Humanitarian **crisis** Enviromental



# Humanitarian Crisis

## Food insecurity

'worst humanitarian crisis in the world'

More than 80% of the population – 24 million people dependent on humanitarian aid for basic needs

Hodeida - humanitarian lifeline (food, medical aid)

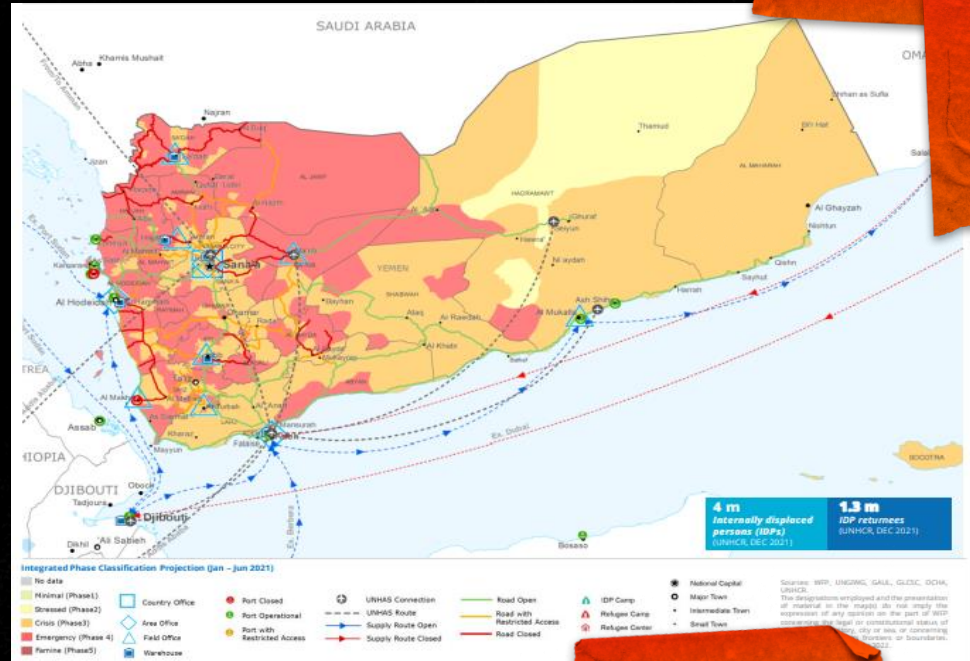
## Cholera outbreak

Started in 2016

Largest in recorded history (claimed nearly 1.5 million lives)

Caused by the ingestion of contaminated food or water

## COVID-19 Pandemic



# Enviromental problems

*“Nine million [people] losing access to clean water and seven million losing access to food supplies.”*

Failing Oil Tanker - 44-year-old floating storage and offloading (FSO) Vessel *Safer*.  
No maintenance since 2015

Climate change – cyclones (2015, 2018), floods (2020)  
rising sea levels - agricultural production on the coastal plains (best soil)  
*“...groundwater reserves would be depleted by about 2040 “*



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