



Model Arab League

Annotated Bibliography for Yemen

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This annotated bibliography was created to serve as a research resource for students taking part in the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Model Arab League Program. With the understanding that research can be intimidating and time consuming, an effort was made to find a set of scholarly articles that give a detailed background and thorough account of the current situation for this League of Arab States member. Included are annotations designed to give a description of the source with the intention of students completing the research on their own. There has been an attempt to focus on more contemporary scholarship, specifically post-9/11 and post-2011 (so-called "Arab Spring") where possible, as these are two phenomena that fundamentally changed politics in the Arab world. These sources should provide students with a solid basis for understanding the country they are representing in both regionally and globally significant issues as well as the interests of other countries within the League of Arab States.

1. Eltigani E. Eltigani, "Childbearing in Five Arab Countries," *Studies in Family Planning*, Volume 32, Number 1, March, 2001, pp. 17-24. •• This article compares the rates and frequency of childbearing among women of five Arab countries: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan, and Yemen. In doing so, the reader is given insight into these countries' population demographics, industries, rights for women, and levels of economic and social development. Algeria is a specifically interesting case because of its unique birthrates and frequencies relative to the other Arab states.
2. Mark Zeitoun, Tony Allan, Nasser al-Aulaqi, Amer Jabarin, and Hammou Laamrani, "Water Demand Management in Yemen and Jordan: Addressing Power and Interests," *The Geographical Journal*, Volume 178, Number 1, March 2012, pp. 54-66. •• Traditionally, water is only dealt with in a "supply side" manner, in which government policies only attempt to meet demands with an adequate supply. This way of approaching water policy comes at a high cost however as water is overdrawn and unevenly distributed. Water Demand Management (WDM) is the counter approach to supply side water policy, is seen as political suicide, yet it is the "single most effective way of ensuring environmentally sustainable water use." Even though WDM is a stated policy of both the government of Jordan and Yemen, it remains weak and/or unenforced. This article examines the reasons why WDM meets so many obstacles and may provide possible solutions.
3. Daniel Martin Varisco, "Dancing on the Heads of Snakes in Yemen," *Society*, Volume 48, Issue 4, 2011, pp. 301-303. •• After coming to power following the assassination of his two predecessors, Ali Abdullah Salih once described governing Yemen as "dancing on the heads of snakes". Given the problems Yemen faces as a country which include an extreme youth bulge (46% of the population is under 15 years of age), a dwindling water supply, and growing sectarian religious conflict, one can understand this sort of

sentiment. On top of all this, Yemen has been portrayed in Western media as a state harbor for al-Qaeda, something which this author disputes the legitimacy of. Despite being the poorest of the Arab countries experiencing uprisings associated with the Arab Spring, this author remains optimistic for Yemen and argues that the “snakes” Salih refers to are simply hungry citizens who want a better future for themselves as opposed to fostering terrorism and violence.

4. Jennifer Steil, “Yemen: Descending Into Despair,” *World Policy Journal*, Volume 28, Number 3, September 2011, pp. 62-72. •• Prior to Yemen’s own Arab Spring protests, there were obvious signs of societal discontent with the government. High rates of infant mortality, rapidly increasing food and fuel prices, and overdependence on oil revenues created a ticking bomb type situation in Yemen, ripe to explode when the Arab Spring finally came around. Beyond the immediate issues, various other problems like water shortage and monetary inflation represent looming issues that have the potential to create even worse strife in Yemen than that which already exists. This article describes some of the historical events that paved the way for the Arab Spring to take hold in Yemen along with the early developments following protests throughout the country. Finally, the author argues that the international community needs to have a greater interest in Yemen.
5. Leila Hudson, Colin S. Owens, David J. Callen, “Drone Warfare in Yemen: Fostering Emirates through Counterterrorism?” *Middle East Policy*, Volume 19, Number 3, Fall 2012, pp. 142-156. •• After the successful raid in Abbottabad, Pakistan that resulted in the death of Osama bin Laden, the U.S. made a shift in focus from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Yemen, the apparent refuge of “al-Qaeda 2.0”. Documents released on Wikileaks seem to show former president Ali Abdullah Saleh’s complicity with U.S. drone strikes on al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) to the extent that he would even take credit for them. Drone strikes are a politically contentious use of military force that has been argued to create more willing militants than they eliminate. In Yemen specifically, drone strikes are suspected of killing civilians not associated with AQAP and have led to anti-government sentiments, enough so that regions of the country have been declared as independent emirates. This article reviews the U.S.-Yemen relationship with specific regard to drone policies and the problems they create in terms of Yemeni governance.
6. Abdullah Al-Taiar, Allan Clark, Joseph C. Longenecker, and Christopher J.M. Whitty, “Research Physical Accessibility and Utilization of Health Services in Yemen,” *International Journal of Health Geographics*, Volume 9, Number 38, July 2010, pp. 1-8. •• Yemen is simultaneously the most populous and the poorest country on the Arabian Peninsula. On top of this, the population is spread widely among rural areas without developed road networks and/or public transportation. These factors can prove to be a

significant problem when it comes to healthcare provision. In fact, studies in other developing countries have shown a strong correlation between the physical proximity to healthcare facilities and the people's frequency of use. In a country like Yemen, the problem of distance is compounded because simply measuring the straight line distance from a person's home to a healthcare facility may not be reflective of the actual travel time it takes to reach the facility by road. These are important issues for Yemen to consider when planning for future development of healthcare provision.

7. Hichem Karoui, "Yemen: The Law of the Tribesmen... Is there a "Pilot" in the Cabin?" *Journal of Alternative Perspectives in the Social Sciences*, Volume 2, Number 2, December 2010, pp. 673-690. •• The union of North and South Yemen in 1990 created modern day Yemen, but the unification has been challenged by Yemeni tribal leaders up to the present day. As the tribal leaders still exert considerable power, state governance has been viewed as particularly weak. These fractures within Yemen enabled the country, and especially the rural areas, to become a veritable outpost for AQAP, one which was symbolically important as part of Osama bin Laden's heritage. This article traces Islamic jihadist ideology in Yemen beginning with the return of the "Arab Afghans", *Mujahideen* resistance fighters in Afghanistan. The author argues that Yemen's tribal culture, distinct from state governance, fostered AQAP's presence there.
8. Michael Knights, "The Military Role in Yemen's Protests: Civil-Military Relations in the Tribal Republic," *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, Volume 36, Number 2, February 2013, pp. 261-288. •• A product of Yemen's military apparatus himself, Ali Abdullah Saleh was a veteran of the domestic military politics of the state. In an attempt to solidify his power, Saleh appointed family members and loyalists to high level military positions, a move which may have proved to alienate key tribal leaders from him and ultimately led to his downfall. During Yemen's protests in line with the Arab Spring, the alienated military with other tribal alliances defected from the state military and lent their support to the protestors. This article illustrates Yemen's long history of seemingly perpetual regional/tribal insurgency and state military counter-insurgency. Later, it details the events that fostered fracturing of the military and eventual support of the opposition.
9. Samy Dorlian, "The Sa'da War in Yemen: Between Politics and Sectarianism," *The Muslim World*, Volume 101, Issue 2, April 2011, pp. 182-201. •• Within Yemen, religious groups are heavily regionalized. Specifically, the northwestern region was home to Zaydi Shi'a Muslims and Jews, and the rest of the country has been predominantly Sunni Muslim. In the early 2000's, a Zaydi man by the name of Hussein al-Houthi inspired a rebellion of the northwestern Yemenis. Although al-Houthi was assassinated early on in the rebellion, his rhetoric fueled historic religious tensions between Yemeni religious communities and was portrayed by the government as trying to recreate the old

Zaydi imamate in Yemen's northwestern region. This drew international regional actors in, specifically Saudi Arabia who had significant interests in the conflict. This article gives an in depth look into the religious politics that are present in Yemen and continue to be a source of conflict into the present day.

10. Mohamed Ba-Obaid and Catrien C.J.H. Bijleveld, "Violence Against Women in Yemen: Official Statistics and an Exploratory Survey," *International Review of Victimology*, Volume 9, Number 3, September 2002, pp. 331-347. •• All over the world, women are subjected to psychological, physical, sexual, and societal violence. Unknown to many is the fact that the majority of violence against women is perpetrated by people that the women know and not by strangers. In Yemen, the problem of violence against women is not necessarily worse than in any other country, the problem Yemeni women encounter is reporting their abuse. In many cases, they have been told that it is a bad thing to report their abusers, and even when they do, either nothing is done about it or they can be victimized twice over by losing custody of their children to an abusive husband. This article gives meaningful statistics surrounding violence against women in Yemen and explains correlations that arise from the data. The authors conclude with policy recommendations that may help alleviate this issue in Yemen.
11. Laurent Bonnefoy, "Violence in Contemporary Yemen: State, Society and Salafis," *The Muslim World*, Volume 101, Issue 2, April 2011, pp. 324-346. •• Despite being labeled a safe haven for terrorists like AQAP, the number of terrorist groups present in Yemen compared to other countries like Iraq and Pakistan are relatively low. The same can be said for the amount of terrorist activity taking place within Yemen, with a total of 66 deaths resulting from jihadist violence. Yemen became a focus of the Western media after it was discovered that the failed underwear bomber had spent time in Yemen, and this reputation seems to have stuck. These opinions however fail to account for the contemporary history of religious, tribal, and/or state violence that has taken place in Yemen that most likely fostered radical movements. This article covers contemporary Yemeni history in depth from the religious, tribal, and state perspectives and argues that violence in Yemen is more a product of context than ideology.
12. Mansour Haidera, Saif Ali Alhakimi, Abdulla Noaman, Alkhatib Al Keksi, Anwar Noaman, Amanda Fencl, Bill Dougherty, and Chris Swartz, "Water Scarcity and Climate Change Adaptation for Yemen's Vulnerable Communities," *Local Environment*, Volume 16, Number 5, May 2011, pp. 473-488. •• Among Arab Middle Eastern countries, Yemen appears to be in the worst situation when it comes to water. Unchecked population growth was followed by unregulated groundwater extraction, leading to the country's current dire condition. Qat (a narcotic plant) production has increased dramatically as well, taking up 15% of Yemen's agricultural land and 70% of the water. These factors

have led to the predicted full depletion of Yemen's groundwater before 2020. This article makes recommendations for reducing Yemen's groundwater depletion and illustrates their effectiveness with graphed models. However, in some areas of Yemen the problem is so bad that even implementation of all methods only offsets exhaustion by three years. Understanding Yemen's water problem will be crucial to understanding the country overall within the next few years.

13. Nora Ann Colton, "Yemen: A Collapsed Economy," *Middle East Journal*, Volume 64, Number 3, Summer 2010, pp. 410-26. •• Throughout the 70's and 80's many Yemenis traveled abroad to work in places like Saudi Arabia following the oil boom. During this time period, Yemen's economy became heavily reliant on these expatriate's remittances. When Iraq invaded Kuwait however, the Yemeni government made the mistake of supporting Iraq which proved to have severe consequences. Saudi Arabia kicked all Yemenis out, sending nearly one million people back into a place with a huge domestic unemployment problem. On top of this, foreign aid was cut off as well, leading to a massive foreign debt to GNP ratio. As lately as the "first half of 2010, unemployment [was] reported to be as high as 40% with over half the population living on less than \$2 a day." This article covers Yemen's economic history, a contemporary series of events plagued with many shortfalls and future issues.
14. Vincent Durac, "Yemen's Arab Spring – Democratic Opening or Regime Maintenance?" *Mediterranean Politics*, Volume 17, Number 2, July 2012, pp. 161-178. •• Yemen's protests associated with the Arab Spring resulted in a strange outcome that was both successful and unsuccessful at the same time. On the one hand, Yemeni protestors were able to generate enough momentum both domestically and internationally to cause the GCC to step in and facilitate a transfer of power. On the other hand, this transfer of power was to Ali Abdullah Saleh's Vice President, Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi, whom many of the protestors deem to be too close to Saleh and his regime. The fact that the Houthis in the north, the Hirak movement in the south, the majority of Yemen's youth, and the high level military defectors all participated in the uprisings showed the widespread sentiment of opposition to Saleh's government, yet for the youth especially (who make up almost half of the country themselves) the transfer of power is dissatisfactory. This article describes the post-2011 political dynamics of Yemen and familiarizes the reader with the domestic political parties as well as the international actors that have vested interests in the political outcomes of Yemen's change.