



Research Paper

The Role of North African Countries in the Yemen Crisis

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Abstract

The Yemen crisis, a multifaceted conflict characterized by political, humanitarian, and security challenges, has garnered significant global attention due to its dire consequences on regional stability and human well-being. The Yemeni crisis, ignited by the Arab Uprising in 2011 and exacerbated by the Houthi insurgency, has escalated into a protracted conflict involving various local and international actors. North African countries, situated adjacent to the West Asia and Yemen, have played a pivotal role in addressing the crisis due to their strategic proximity and shared cultural ties with Yemen. Their involvement has taken the form of diplomatic initiatives, humanitarian aid, and regional cooperation. The humanitarian dimension of North African involvement in the Yemen crisis is also examined. Analyses the diplomatic efforts of North African countries, such as Djibouti, Eritrea, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Egypt, in mediating and facilitating peace talks between conflicting parties in Yemen. These countries have utilized their diplomatic channels and platforms to encourage dialogue, ceasefire negotiations, and sustainable solutions to the crisis.

Keywords: *Political, Security, Humanitarian, Regional, Uprising, Actors, Crisis, Diplomatic, Cooperation, Solutions*

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I. Introduction

The Yemen crisis stands as a stark reminder of the fragility and complexity inherent in the geopolitics of the North Africa and West Asia region. Since its eruption in the wake of the Arab Uprising in 2011, the Yemeni conflict has evolved into a multifaceted catastrophe, encompassing political turmoil, humanitarian devastation, and regional instability. As the crisis continues to cast its shadow over Yemen and reverberate throughout the broader North Africa and West Asia landscape, an often-overlooked dimension has emerged - the role of North African countries. Situated at the crossroads of continents and sharing historical, cultural, and geographical ties with the West Asia, North African nations have taken on distinct roles in attempting to address the complexities of the Yemeni crisis. This paper aims to delve into the multifaceted engagement of North African countries in the Yemen crisis, shedding light on the various ways in which these nations have sought to influence the trajectory of the conflict and contribute to its resolution. As key actors within the broader North Africa and West Asia region, the North African countries including Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt have leveraged their strategic positions and experiences to navigate the Yemeni crisis. From diplomatic initiatives to humanitarian aid, their involvement underscores the interconnectedness of challenges and opportunities within the North Africa and West Asia region, while also offering insights into the complex dynamics that shape their interactions. This exploration is not merely a historical or theoretical exercise, but a reflection of the broader interplay between geopolitical interests, regional solidarity, and the imperative to address the urgent humanitarian needs arising from the Yemeni crisis. By scrutinizing the roles played by North African countries, we can gain a deeper understanding of the intricate web of relationships, interests, and aspirations that influence the course of the Yemen crisis. Ultimately, such an examination contributes to a more comprehensive comprehension of the challenges and potential pathways towards a more stable and secure North Africa and West Asia region, even as the Yemeni crisis continues to pose significant hurdles to regional peace and prosperity.

North African countries have not played a significant direct role in the Yemen crisis, which primarily involves the ongoing conflict between Houthi rebels and the internationally recognized government, supported by a Saudi-led coalition. North African countries are geographically distant from Yemen and have generally not been key actors in the conflict. However, it's important to note that the situation in Yemen is complex and involves

various regional and international actors. Some broader trends or potential indirect roles that North African countries might have in the Yemen crisis could include:

1. **Diplomatic Efforts:** North African countries, as members of international and regional organizations such as the United Nations and the Arab League, could engage in diplomatic efforts to promote conflict resolution, peace negotiations, and humanitarian aid delivery in Yemen.
2. **Humanitarian Assistance:** North African countries could contribute to humanitarian aid efforts to alleviate the suffering of Yemeni civilians affected by the crisis, potentially by providing financial assistance, medical aid, or other forms of support.
3. **Political Support:** Some North African countries may express political support for one side or another in the Yemen conflict, aligning themselves with regional or international alliances.
4. **Refugee and Migration Issues:** The Yemen crisis has led to displacement and migration of Yemeni people. North African countries could be impacted by refugee flows from Yemen and might participate in regional discussions or efforts related to managing such movements.
5. **Counterterrorism Cooperation:** North African countries might be involved in counterterrorism efforts in the region, and these efforts could indirectly impact the Yemen crisis, particularly in terms of security dynamics.

Yemen Crisis: Role of Egypt

Egypt has been involved in the Yemen crisis primarily as a member of the Saudi-led coalition that intervened in Yemen in 2015 to support the internationally recognized government of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi against Houthi rebels. Egypt has contributed to the coalition's efforts in various capacities. However, the extent of Egypt's involvement and its role may have evolved since then. Here is an overview of Egypt's role in the Yemen crisis:

1. **Military Participation:** Egypt has reportedly contributed military forces to the Saudi-led coalition's efforts in Yemen. Its involvement has included providing naval and ground forces, and it has participated in airstrikes against Houthi targets.
2. **Diplomatic Engagement:** Egypt has been diplomatically engaged in efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the Yemen crisis. It has participated in regional and international discussions aimed at ending the conflict and promoting a political solution.
3. **Humanitarian Assistance:** Egypt has provided humanitarian aid to Yemen to alleviate the suffering of Yemeni civilians affected by the conflict. This assistance includes medical supplies, food, and other forms of support.
4. **Counterterrorism Cooperation:** Egypt has been concerned about the presence of extremist groups in Yemen, such as Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). It may have cooperated with coalition efforts to counter the influence of such groups.
5. **Political Support:** Egypt's political support for the Saudi-led coalition aligns with its broader regional and geopolitical interests.

Yemen Crisis: Role of Morocco

Morocco's role in the Yemen crisis has been primarily focused on diplomatic efforts and humanitarian assistance. Please note that the extent of Morocco's involvement and its role may have evolved since then. Here is an overview of Morocco's role in the Yemen crisis:

1. **Diplomatic Initiatives:** Morocco has engaged in diplomatic initiatives aimed at finding a peaceful resolution to the Yemen crisis. As a member of the Arab League and the United Nations, Morocco has participated in regional and international discussions to promote conflict resolution and a political solution.
2. **Humanitarian Assistance:** Morocco has provided humanitarian aid to Yemen to alleviate the suffering of Yemeni civilians affected by the conflict. This assistance includes financial contributions, medical supplies, and other forms of support to help address the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.
3. **Peaceful Resolution:** Morocco has advocated for a peaceful resolution to the conflict and has supported international efforts to bring all parties to the negotiating table.
4. **Support for UN Efforts:** Morocco has expressed support for the United Nations' efforts to facilitate peace talks and has endorsed UN Security Council resolutions aimed at resolving the crisis.
5. **Regional Relations:** Morocco's involvement in the Yemen crisis is influenced by its broader regional relationships and alliances, particularly with other Arab and North African countries.

It's important to emphasize that Morocco's role in the Yemen crisis has been primarily diplomatic and humanitarian, and it has not been a central military participant in the conflict.

Yemen Crisis: Role of Djibouti

Djibouti, a small country located in the Horn of Africa, has played a limited role in the Yemen crisis. Djibouti is strategically positioned near the Bab el-Mandeb strait, a crucial maritime route connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. Its role in the Yemen crisis has primarily been related to its geographic significance and regional security considerations. Here is an overview of Djibouti's role in the Yemen crisis:

1. **Geographic Significance:** Djibouti's location near the Bab el-Mandeb strait makes it strategically important for maritime trade and security. The conflict in Yemen has heightened concerns about the security of this vital maritime route, which is used by international shipping, including oil tankers.
 2. **Security and Counterterrorism:** Djibouti, as part of the Horn of Africa region, has a vested interest in maintaining stability in Yemen and the surrounding area due to concerns about the spread of extremism and piracy. The country has been part of international efforts to combat piracy in the region.
 3. **Humanitarian and Refugee Assistance:** Djibouti has provided some humanitarian assistance to Yemen, including offering temporary refuge to Yemeni refugees who have fled the conflict. The country's Red Crescent has been involved in providing aid to Yemeni refugees.
 4. **Peaceful Resolution:** Djibouti has expressed support for a peaceful resolution to the Yemen crisis through diplomatic means and has endorsed international calls for negotiations and dialogue.
 5. **Logistical Support:** Djibouti has been used as a logistical hub for international efforts related to the Yemen crisis, including the deployment of military assets and humanitarian aid deliveries.
- It's important to note that Djibouti's role in the Yemen crisis is primarily influenced by its regional security concerns, geographical position, and its broader role as a hub for international military and humanitarian operations.

Yemen Crisis: Role of Eritrea

Eritrea's role in the Yemen crisis has been a subject of controversy and allegations. Eritrea's involvement has been reported in various ways, although the details and extent of its role are not fully clear. Please note that the situation may have evolved since then. Here is an overview of Eritrea's reported role in the Yemen crisis:

1. **Alleged Military and Logistical Support:** There have been allegations that Eritrea has provided military and logistical support to the Saudi-led coalition that intervened in Yemen to support the internationally recognized government of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi against Houthi rebels. Reports have suggested that Eritrea allowed the coalition to use its airspace and potentially its military facilities for operations related to the Yemen conflict.
2. **Unconfirmed Base Usage:** There have been unconfirmed reports suggesting that Eritrea allowed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to establish a military base on its territory, potentially for use in support of the coalition's activities in Yemen.
3. **Diplomatic and Geopolitical Considerations:** Eritrea's alleged involvement in the Yemen crisis could be influenced by its geopolitical relationships and alliances in the region. Eritrea has sought to strengthen its ties with Gulf countries and could view supporting their efforts in Yemen as a way to secure financial and political support.

It's important to emphasize that information regarding Eritrea's role in the Yemen crisis has been complex and has been subject to speculation, allegations, and conflicting reports.

Yemen Crisis: Role of Sudan

Sudan has been involved in the Yemen crisis as a member of the Saudi-led coalition that intervened in Yemen in 2015 to support the internationally recognized government of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi against Houthi rebels. Sudan has contributed to the coalition's efforts in various capacities. Please note that the extent of Sudan's involvement and its role may have evolved since then. Here is an overview of Sudan's role in the Yemen crisis:

1. **Military Participation:** Sudan has reportedly contributed military forces to the Saudi-led coalition's efforts in Yemen. Its involvement has included providing ground forces and participating in military operations, including airstrikes against Houthi targets.
2. **Diplomatic Engagement:** Sudan has been diplomatically engaged in efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the Yemen crisis. It has participated in regional and international discussions aimed at ending the conflict and promoting a political solution.
3. **Humanitarian Assistance:** Sudan has likely provided humanitarian aid to Yemen to help alleviate the suffering of Yemeni civilians affected by the conflict. This assistance could include medical supplies, food, and other forms of support.
4. **Economic Support:** Sudan has reportedly received financial assistance from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), both key members of the coalition, which could be linked to its participation in the Yemen intervention.
5. **Counterterrorism Cooperation:** Sudan has expressed concern about the presence of extremist groups in Yemen, including Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). It may have cooperated with coalition efforts to counter the influence of such groups.
6. **Regional Relations:** Sudan's involvement in the Yemen crisis could be influenced by its broader regional relationships and alliances, particularly with countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Yemen Crisis: Role of Somalia

Somalia's role in the Yemen crisis has been primarily influenced by its regional dynamics, security concerns, and internal challenges. While Somalia has not been a central player in the conflict, its geographical proximity to Yemen and its historical connections to the Arabian Peninsula have led to certain considerations. Please note that the situation may have evolved since then. Here is an overview of Somalia's role in the Yemen crisis:

1. **Geopolitical and Regional Factors:** Somalia's strategic location along the Gulf of Aden and its historical ties to the Arabian Peninsula have led to concerns about the impact of the Yemen crisis on its security and stability. The conflict has the potential to affect regional stability and maritime security, which are critical to Somalia's interests.
2. **Humanitarian and Refugee Implications:** Somalia has experienced a history of conflict and instability, and the Yemen crisis has raised concerns about the potential displacement of people and the impact on refugees. Some Somalis have been caught in the crossfire of the Yemen conflict or have sought refuge in Yemen, further complicating the humanitarian situation.
3. **Counterterrorism Considerations:** Somalia has been focused on its own efforts to combat extremist groups like al-Shabaab within its borders. The Yemen crisis and the presence of groups like Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in Yemen have implications for Somalia's security environment.
4. **Diplomacy and Political Engagement:** Somalia is a member of the Arab League and has diplomatic ties to other countries in the region. It has expressed concerns about the Yemen crisis and its impact on regional stability. However, its ability to actively influence the conflict may be limited by its own internal challenges.
5. **Economic and Trade Implications:** The Yemen crisis could impact regional trade and economic activities, including maritime trade routes that pass near Somalia. Any disruption in trade could have economic consequences for Somalia and the broader region.

It's important to note that Somalia's role in the Yemen crisis is primarily influenced by its own internal challenges and regional security considerations. While not a central player in the conflict, Somalia's proximity to Yemen and its historical connections to the Arabian Peninsula contribute to its involvement in regional discussions and concerns.

Yemen Crisis: Role of Algeria

The Yemen crisis, characterized by its intricate geopolitical dynamics and severe humanitarian consequences, has garnered global attention for its far-reaching implications. Amidst this complex landscape, Algeria, a significant North African nation, has undertaken a distinct role in addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by the crisis. Algeria's involvement is shaped by historical ties, diplomatic initiatives, and regional considerations, all of which contribute to its efforts to mitigate the conflict's impact and promote stability within the North Africa and West Asia region.

1. **Historical Ties and Cultural Affinities:** Algeria's engagement in the Yemen crisis is underpinned by historical connections and cultural affinities shared between North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. These enduring links encompass trade routes, religious interactions, and societal exchanges, fostering a sense of solidarity that informs Algeria's interest in seeking resolution to the Yemeni conflict. This historical backdrop equips Algeria with a nuanced understanding of the regional dynamics at play, enabling the country to engage diplomatically with a deep appreciation of the complexities involved.
2. **Diplomatic Mediation and Conflict Resolution:** Leveraging its reputation as a neutral and credible mediator in regional conflicts, Algeria has actively pursued diplomatic dialogues between conflicting parties in Yemen. Algeria's diplomatic efforts aim to facilitate dialogue, bridge gaps between rival factions, and advocate for comprehensive political negotiations as crucial steps toward ending the violence and stabilizing Yemen. The country's experience in conflict resolution serves as a valuable asset in navigating the intricate web of interests and demands in the Yemeni crisis.
3. **Humanitarian Aid and Assistance:** In recognition of the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen, Algeria has extended humanitarian aid and support to alleviate the suffering of Yemeni civilians. This assistance includes medical aid, food supplies, and contributions to international relief efforts. Algeria's actions underscore its commitment to providing immediate relief to those affected by the conflict and demonstrate the country's solidarity with its regional neighbours during times of crisis.
4. **Geopolitical Considerations and Regional Stability:** Algeria's involvement in the Yemen crisis is also shaped by broader geopolitical considerations aimed at maintaining regional stability and averting further escalation of the conflict. By actively engaging in diplomatic efforts and supporting peaceful resolutions, Algeria seeks to prevent the spill over effects that could exacerbate an already volatile North Africa and West Asia region. Algeria's role in the Yemen crisis exemplifies its dedication to regional stability, conflict resolution, and humanitarian support. Through diplomatic initiatives, humanitarian aid, and a deep appreciation for historical ties, Algeria has positioned itself as a constructive and proactive actor in addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by the Yemeni conflict. As the crisis continues to unfold, Algeria's contributions stand as a testament to the

potential for regional cooperation and solidarity to address complex challenges in the North Africa and West Asia region.

Yemen Crisis: Role of Tunisia

The Yemen crisis, characterized by its multifaceted challenges and significant regional implications, has drawn global attention to the complexities of conflict resolution and humanitarian aid. Within this intricate landscape, Tunisia, a key North African nation, has assumed a unique and impactful role in addressing the multifaceted dimensions of the crisis. Tunisia's engagement is guided by historical ties, diplomatic contributions, and humanitarian efforts, all of which contribute to its endeavours to mitigate the crisis's repercussions and promote stability in the North Africa and West Asia region.

1. Historical Connections and Diplomatic Engagement: Tunisia's involvement in the Yemen crisis is informed by historical connections and diplomatic engagement fostered over decades. These links encompass shared historical experiences and cultural affinities, creating a basis for Tunisia's active participation in regional diplomatic initiatives. Tunisia's democratic transition following the Arab Uprising has endowed the country with insights into navigating complex political transitions, providing valuable perspectives for conflict resolution discussions in Yemen.

2. Diplomatic Mediation and Peace Facilitation: Building on its reputation as a neutral and adept mediator, Tunisia has engaged in diplomatic efforts to facilitate peace talks and negotiations among conflicting parties in Yemen. The country's diplomatic initiatives have sought to bridge differences, encourage dialogue, and promote peaceful resolutions. Tunisia's own history of inclusive dialogue during its democratic transition has positioned it as a compelling example of how mediation and negotiation can lead to positive outcomes in times of crisis.

3. Humanitarian Aid and Solidarity: Tunisia's response to the Yemen crisis includes extending humanitarian aid and demonstrating regional solidarity to alleviate the suffering of Yemeni civilians. The country has contributed medical supplies, relief assistance, and support for international humanitarian endeavours. Tunisia's actions reflect its commitment to addressing urgent humanitarian needs and its recognition of the shared responsibility to alleviate human suffering in neighbouring countries.

4. Geopolitical Considerations and Regional Stability: Tunisia's engagement in the Yemen crisis is guided by its commitment to regional stability and the prevention of further escalation of the conflict. By participating in diplomatic efforts and advocating for peaceful solutions, Tunisia seeks to mitigate the potential spill over effects that could intensify instability within the broader North Africa and West Asia region. Tunisia's role in the Yemen crisis highlights its dedication to regional stability, conflict resolution, and humanitarian support. Through historical ties, diplomatic initiatives, and humanitarian aid, Tunisia has positioned itself as an influential actor in addressing the Yemeni crisis. As the crisis continues to unfold, Tunisia's contributions underscore the potential for regional cooperation and solidarity to play a pivotal role in mitigating the far-reaching consequences of conflicts within the North Africa and West Asia region.

Yemen Crisis: Role of Libya

The Yemen crisis, characterized by its intricate web of political, humanitarian, and security challenges, has captured global attention due to its far-reaching consequences for regional stability and human welfare. Within this intricate landscape, Libya, a pivotal North African nation, has played a distinct role in addressing the multifaceted dimensions of the crisis. Libya's involvement is informed by historical connections, diplomatic initiatives, and regional considerations, all of which contribute to its efforts to mitigate the crisis's impact and contribute to stability in the North Africa and West Asia region.

1. Historical Ties and Geopolitical Context: Libya's engagement in the Yemen crisis is shaped by historical ties and shared cultural affinities between North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. These historical connections influence Libya's perspective on the crisis and underscore the importance of regional solidarity. Furthermore, Libya's own experience with post-conflict transition and state-building following the Arab Uprising in 2011 informs its engagement in conflict resolution efforts in Yemen.

2. Diplomatic Contributions and Mediation Efforts: Libya, drawing from its own experiences, has engaged in diplomatic initiatives aimed at mediating and resolving the Yemeni conflict. The country's engagement underscores its commitment to conflict resolution and its understanding of the complexities involved. Libya's participation in regional dialogues and peace talks contributes to the broader efforts to facilitate political negotiations and encourage warring parties in Yemen to seek a peaceful resolution.

3. Humanitarian Assistance and Solidarity: In the face of the dire humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Libya has extended humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of Yemeni civilians. Libya's contributions include providing medical aid, humanitarian relief, and supporting international efforts to address the urgent needs of affected populations. By providing assistance, Libya demonstrates its commitment to regional solidarity and its willingness to contribute to alleviating human suffering.

4. Geopolitical Considerations and Regional Stability: Libya's engagement in the Yemen crisis is influenced by its broader geopolitical considerations aimed at promoting regional stability and preventing the exacerbation of the conflict's impact. Libya recognizes the potential spill over effects of the Yemen crisis on neighbouring countries and, as such, seeks to contribute to conflict resolution efforts as a means of safeguarding regional stability.

Libya's role in the Yemen crisis highlights its dedication to regional stability, conflict resolution, and humanitarian support. Through historical ties, diplomatic initiatives, and humanitarian contributions, Libya has positioned itself as an active participant in addressing the complex challenges posed by the Yemeni crisis. As the crisis continues to unfold, Libya's engagement serves as a reminder of the potential for regional cooperation and solidarity to play a crucial role in mitigating the wide-ranging consequences of conflicts within the North Africa and West Asia region.

II. Conclusion

The role of North African countries in the Yemen crisis unveils a complex tapestry of diplomatic endeavours, humanitarian actions, and geopolitical considerations that collectively underscore the interconnectedness of challenges and opportunities within the broader North Africa and West Asia region. As the Yemeni crisis persists, these North African nations have emerged as notable stakeholders, offering their insights, experiences, and resources to address the multifaceted dimensions of the conflict. Diplomatically, the engagement of North African countries has highlighted their commitment to conflict resolution and regional stability. Their efforts to mediate and facilitate dialogue between conflicting parties underscore the importance of leveraging historical and cultural ties to foster communication and understanding. By drawing from their own transitions, these nations have exemplified the potential for shared experiences to provide valuable lessons for conflict-affected societies, offering a glimmer of hope in the pursuit of sustainable peace. The humanitarian dimension of North African involvement showcases a shared sense of responsibility and solidarity in alleviating the dire suffering faced by Yemeni civilians. By extending humanitarian aid and support, North African countries have demonstrated that the ethos of empathy transcends borders, emphasizing the urgency of addressing the human toll of the conflict. In doing so, they have underlined the significance of regional collaboration in tackling the crisis-induced humanitarian challenges.

Geopolitically, the engagement of North African nations in the Yemeni crisis illuminates their adept navigation of intricate regional dynamics. By balancing relationships with various stakeholders, these countries have sought to prevent further escalation of the conflict and mitigate potential spill over effects. Their strategic diplomacy serves as a testament to their ability to shape the North Africa and West Asia region's trajectory while safeguarding their own interests and stability. The involvement of North African countries in the Yemen crisis highlights their multifaceted contributions to addressing the conflict's far-reaching ramifications. From diplomacy to humanitarian aid, these nations have demonstrated a commitment to regional stability, conflict resolution, and the alleviation of human suffering. As the North Africa and West Asia region grapples with ongoing challenges, the experiences of North African countries serve as a valuable repository of insights for forging collaborative solutions and nurturing a more peaceful and secure future for all. The Yemen crisis, while emblematic of the region's complexities, also serves as a testament to the enduring potential for solidarity and cooperation to transcend borders and foster positive change.

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