

## THE YEMENI CIVIL WAR'S IMPACT ON THE SOCIO-CULTURAL CONDITIONS OF THE PEOPLE IN YEMEN

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### Abstract

This research is motivated by a civil war that began since the outbreak of the Arab Spring in Yemen in 2011 which until now has not shown perfect peace. This study has adopted descriptive qualitative research whose purpose of this study is to describe how the socio-cultural conditions of the Yemeni people are as a result of the protracted civil war. This research uses conflict theory proposed by Ralf Dahrendorf. The source of data in this study comes from books, journals and articles related to the object under study. Based on the research conducted, it can be concluded that the civil war that has occurred in Yemen since the Arab Spring in 2011 is due to differences in the interests of each group. In addition, the civil war in Yemen also has an impact on the socio-cultural conditions of Yemeni society. The impact caused during the civil conflict in Yemen greatly affects the socio-cultural conditions of the people in the Yemeni area, can be seen by the emergence of various kinds of changes that occur in society. Both in social, educational, cultural, and economic conditions. So it can be said that a conflict certainly creates a change and development. The conflict in Yemen has been going on for quite a long time and has occurred repeatedly because it has not reached a peace agreement, and also the conflict in Yemen has reached the stage of violence, namely war. So the changes that occur can be radical or structural changes to Yemeni society.

**Keywords:** Yemen, Civil war, Impact, Socio-cultural.

### Abstrak

Penelitian ini dilandasi perang saudara yang bermula sejak meletusnya Arab Spring di Yaman pada tahun 2011 yang sampai saat ini belum menunjukkan perdamaian yang sempurna. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif deskriptif yang bertujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menggambarkan bagaimana kondisi sosial budaya rakyat Yaman sebagai akibat dari perang saudara yang berkepanjangan. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori konflik yang dikemukakan oleh Ralf Dahrendorf. Metode pengumpulan data yang dilakukan dalam penelitian ini adalah studi pustaka. Untuk teknik membaca dilakukan dengan cara menelaah bagian-bagian yang sesuai dengan topik bahasan. Sumber data dalam penelitian ini berasal dari buku, jurnal dan artikel yang berkaitan dengan objek yang diteliti. Sumber data dalam penelitian ini berasal dari buku, jurnal dan artikel yang berkaitan dengan objek yang diteliti. Dampak yang ditimbulkan selama konflik sipil di Yaman sangat mempengaruhi kondisi sosial budaya masyarakat di wilayah Yaman, dapat dilihat dengan munculnya berbagai macam perubahan yang terjadi di masyarakat. Baik dalam kondisi sosial, pendidikan, budaya, maupun ekonomi. Sehingga dapat dikatakan bahwa konflik tentu menciptakan perubahan dan perkembangan. Konflik di Yaman sudah berlangsung cukup lama dan sudah berulang kali terjadi karena belum mencapai kesepakatan damai, dan juga konflik di Yaman sudah sampai pada tahap kekerasan yaitu perang. Sehingga perubahan yang terjadi bisa berupa perubahan radikal atau struktural terhadap masyarakat Yaman.

**Kata kunci:** Yaman, Perang saudara, Dampak, Sosial budaya.

## Introduction

The Republic of Yemen is a country in the Arabian Peninsula, Southwest Asia, a region part of the Middle East. Yemen is bordered by the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea to the west, the Arabian Sea to the south, Saudi Arabia to the north, and Oman to the east. The country, which covers an area of about 528 square kilometers, is home to 31 million people consisting of 15.8 million men, 15.6 million women, and 22.9 million children under the age of 15.<sup>1</sup>

Yemen has approximately 200 islands. Socotra Island, is about 415 kilometers off the coast of Somalia in the southern part of Yemen. Yemen is the only one that uses the republican system of government in the Arabian Peninsula. Yemen also has a variety of landscapes in the form of lowlands, deserts, and mountains (HADDEN 2012). Yemen has abundant produce in the form of gold, silver, nickel, copper, zinc, and cobalt. Yemen also has oil reserves of 12 billion barrels and gold estimated at around 40 million metric tons.<sup>2</sup>

Yemen has an important position in the world political geography. Yemen borders the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, which are two important seas for world trade. The 18-mile long Bab Al-Mandeb Strait is the fourth largest choke point in the world. Choke point is a narrow path that strategically connects two large areas. In maritime trade, these are mainly straits or canals, which are in optimal locations and therefore have heavy traffic (Maulana 2021). Yemen also has a strategic position because it is adjacent to Africa and directly borders Saudi Arabia (Susris, 2015).

Yemen had a long history of conflict before the outbreak of the Arab Spring in 2011. In the past, Yemen was divided into two parts, namely North Yemen and South Yemen, then in 1990 unified and appointed Ali Abdullah Saleh as the first President of Yemen (“History of Yemen” 2019).

The conflict in Yemen was heating up again, due to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and several other events that had a serious impact on Yemen's economy and political stability. Yemen in the late 1980-1990s was still dependent on remittances of migrant workers and external economic assistance from Saudi Arabia. In the fall of 1990, Yemen's desire to join the U.S.-Saudi military coalition against Iraq was rejected which led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Yemeni workers and the severance of Saudi Arabia's aid to Yemen.<sup>3</sup>

Economic weakness leads to conflicts, political power disputes, unemployment and inflation, bombings and assassinations. The Arab Spring began shaking up Yemen in 2011, destroying the government of Ali Abdullah Saleh. Yemen's Peace Revolution began on January 11, 2011 and was led by a younger generation affected by the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions. They demanded freedom and change in Yemen, and the resignation of Ali Abdullah Saleh's government. Hundreds killed and thousands injured in government defense efforts.<sup>4</sup>

The sheer number of actors interfering in the conflict in Yemen adds to the complexity of the situation. Starting with the Houthi group, *Al-Dawla Al-Islamiya Al-iraq Al-Saham (DAESH)* or commonly known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), Al-Qaeda in Arab Peninsula (AQAP), Southern Transnational Council (STC). Yemen's government is assisted by Saudi Arabia in several neighboring countries and several international organizations to resolve the conflict.<sup>5</sup>

Yemen's government is messing around with a very complex conflict, which degrades the legitimacy of the Yemeni government. In 2015 the Houthis seized control of the capital

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<sup>1</sup> Yaman, “Statistik, Demografi Dan Unjuran Penduduk,” *Ilmiah* 1 (2022).

<sup>2</sup> Setiawan, “Masyarakat Den Negara,” *Ilmiah*, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Yaman, “‘IF NOT IN SCHOOL The Paths Children Cross In Yemen.’” 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Yaman, “History of Yaman,” *Histori*, 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Marina. Petrova, “Too Many Actors Means Resolution in Yemen Far Off.” n.d.

Sana'a, the STC group wanted to secede from Yemen, and still had to confront AQAP and ISIS forces. The conflict worsened on January 23, 2015, when the Houthis seized control of the city of Sana'a and besieged Yemen's presidential office. This led to President Abdurrabu Mansyur Hadi resigning and going to Saudi Arabia to seek refuge. Abdurrabu Mansyur Hadi received support from Saudi Arabia to establish the capital in Aden on February 24, 2015. And at that time the Yemeni government led by Abdurrabu Mansyur Hadi declared fighting the Houthis.<sup>6</sup>

Because of this long conflict Yemen was experiencing one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world and millions of Yemeni refugees are experiencing a famine crisis. The ongoing conflict has left four million Yemenis homeless, health services and food supplies. making sixty-six percent of the population dependent on humanitarian aid.<sup>7</sup>

The collapse of public institutions providing health, water, sanitation and educational services made the situation even more dire. Yemen before the conflict, was already the poorest country in the Arab region due to, slow development, high population growth, frequent local conflicts, inadequate food security and an uncertain political situation.

The ongoing conflict aggravate the condition of Yemeni society. Resulting in heavy .<sup>8</sup> economy also faces tremendous challenges. Yemen has lost 90 billion USD and more than 600,000 people have lost their jobs. Fifty-eight percent of Yemenis live in extreme poverty

Research on the conflict in Yemen has been conducted before. Giulio Coppi 2018 has conducted a study entitled "The Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen: Beyond the Man-Made Disaster". The study describes the beginning of the Yemen crisis, beginning with a series of Arab Spring events that began in Tunisia and spread to Morocco and the Middle East. The study also touched on the impact of the conflict on Yemeni health facilities, which affects people having difficulty accessing care and medicines. The main focus of this study is the impact of the Yemeni civil war on the socio-cultural conditions of the Yemeni people which is a differentiator with Giulio Coppi's study.<sup>9</sup>

In addition, Frans Jediza 2017 has previously examined the triggering factors for internal conflicts in Yemen from structural, political, economic, and socio-cultural points of view. This research yielded two insights into the alignment and triggers that led to the internal conflict in Yemen. The first finding is that structural, political and economic conditions are the triggering factors for the internal conflict in Yemen. The second finding, the triggering conditions that prompted the escalation of the dispute to open conflict were influenced by the collapse of the legitimacy of the ruling regime at the time, the government's repressive actions to the public following the events of the Arab Spring, the defensive intervention of Saudi Arabia against the Houthis. The difference of this study lies in the object of study, which is more focused on uncovering the impact that occurs on the socio-cultural conditions of Yemeni society.<sup>10</sup>

Meanwhile, Tristan Dunning 2018 has conducted a study by taking the point of view of the humanitarian crisis that occurred in the Yemen conflict. This study resulted in conflict resolution as a peaceful effort by the parties to the conflict. This research focuses solely on resolving conflicts between warring factions, such as calls for a ceasefire and the presence of both sides in peace talks. Meanwhile, researchers are more focused on the impact experienced by society due to conflict<sup>11</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Tantimin., "INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST CONFLICT IN YEMEN." *Legal Spirit.* 1 (n.d.): 22–32., <http://publishing-widyagama.ac.id/ejournal-v2/index.php/jhls/>.

<sup>7</sup> Yemen, "Emergency," n.d., <https://www.unhcr.org/Yemen-Emergency.Html>. 2022.

<sup>8</sup> Yemen, "UNHCR Yemen Operational Update - 10 February," 2022.

<sup>9</sup> Giulio. Coppi, "The Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen: Beyond the Man-Made Disaster." *New York.*, n.d., [www.ipinst.org](http://www.ipinst.org).

<sup>10</sup> Frans. Jediza, *Kondisi Umum Dan Pemicu Yang Menyebabkan Terjadinya Konflik Internal Di Yaman.*, *Skripsi* (Bandung: Universitas Katolik Parahyangan ., 2017).

<sup>11</sup> Tristan. Dunning, "Yemen-the 'Worst Humanitarian Crisis in the World' Continues.," *Ilmiah*, n.d.

Based on the above background, it is seen that the casualties of the civil conflict in Yemen have taken a huge toll. Until now, the UN's efforts to bring about peace in Yemen have not been perfectly realized. Researchers feel that it is necessary to study the impact of the Yemeni civil war on the socio-cultural conditions of the Yemeni people.

### **Method**

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method and uses the conflict theory of Ralf Dahrendorf for its analysis. Dahrendorf said regarding the importance of the relationship of conflict and change, conflict serves to create change and development. If the conflict occurs continuously, then the change will be radical, but on the contrary, if the conflict is in the form of violence, there will be sudden changes in the structure.<sup>12</sup>

The method used in data collection is a literature method that uses reading and recording techniques. The literature method used in this study was carried out by tracing written sources about the Yemeni conflict and the impact of the conflict on society through primary and secondary data such as books, magazines, news and articles. For reading techniques, it is carried out by studying the parts that are in accordance with the topic of discussion then separating the parts that are far from the topic of discussion followed by recording all relevant data. The main data sources in this study include: (1) A book titled "Yemen in crisis" by Helen Lackner in 2017, (2) A book entitled "Historical Dictionary of Yemen" by Robert D Burrowes in 2010, (3) [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org) Unicef is an institution formed by the United Nations (United Nations) that aims to help children victims of wars in Europe, China, and the Middle East, (4) [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int). ReliefWeb is a humanitarian information service provided by the "United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)", (5) [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org) UNHCR is a global organization established by the United Nations to save lives, protect rights and build a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless people, (6) [www.yemen.un.org](http://www.yemen.un.org) this website is a UN page devoted to reporting on what is in Yemen. While the secondary data in this study was taken from various sources such as books, articles and references which of course are closely related to the context of the discussion of this research.

Data analysis in this study uses qualitative methods that use outline techniques. Qualitative methods are studies that are based on methodologies and comprehension processes that examine social phenomena and human problems. Research is conducted through observation or written review. This research is descriptive research and tends to use an inductive analytical approach. Process and meaning (subject perspective) are emphasized more in Qualitative Research.<sup>13</sup>

### **Results and Discussion**

Since the Arab Spring in Yemen in 2011, the conflict in Yemen has not found peace until 2022. This resulted in major changes to the lives of Yemeni civil society who were the main victims of the conflict. The impacts experienced by the Yemeni people as a result of conflict and war include social, educational, cultural, and economic impacts which will be described as follows:

#### **1. Social**

As a country with a population of 31 million.<sup>14</sup> of course, conflict in this country has a massive impact. Twenty million Yemenis need humanitarian assistance, both in terms of economy, food, health and education. The conflict that has occurred so far, has caused a lot of damage in the lives of Yemeni people, children have stopped going to school. Food prices are soaring, and poor families are struggling to feed their children. Refugees living in overcrowded conditions and unsanitary environments are the cause of disease.

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<sup>12</sup> Ralf. Dahrendorf, *Teori Sosiologi Modern. 6th Ed.* (jakarta: purnama media, n.d.).

<sup>13</sup> Zulki Zulkifli. Noor, *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif Dan Kuantitatif: Petunjuk Praktis Untuk Penyusunan Skripsi, Tesis Dan Disertasi.* (Sleman: Grup Penerbitan CV Budi Utama., 2015).

<sup>14</sup> Yaman, "Demografi Dan Unjuran Penduduk.," *Statistik*, 2022, <https://ms.zhujiworld.com/Ye/>. 2022.

These conflicts also have an indirect impact on development, potentially leaving permanent damage to human and social development and potentially outweighing direct impacts. For example, economic production stopped and agricultural land was abandoned. From the beginning of the conflict until the time the research was made, more than 10 million people died as a result of the war. Starting from war casualties such as bombs, gunfire and air attacks.<sup>15</sup>

### 1.1. Victims

The war directly inflicted casualties on the part of war soldiers and civilians, and indirectly there were casualties resulting from destroyed health infrastructure, agricultural systems and living conditions. At the beginning of the conflict, casualties from direct warfare accounted for the largest number of casualties.

Indirect casualties are caused by diseases that cannot be handled by health facilities, widespread hunger and poor environmental conditions. This is especially the case in less developed countries, where the basic level of the health system is already poor.<sup>16</sup> Indirect victims often occur to those most vulnerable, especially women and children. Some conflicts can even cause more overall casualties among women than men.

In Yemen, the ACLED Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project recorded 63,138 casualties related to war casualties and civilians from 2016 to the end of 2018. And the war seems to have caused more indirect casualties. Save the Children estimates that about 85,000 children have died of starvation since the start of the war. And the toddler toll increased from 53 victims per 1,000 live births in 2013 to 56.8 in 2016.<sup>17</sup>

### 1.2. Health

In addition to human casualties, the war also destroyed important health infrastructure and degraded living conditions. This resulted in a significant loss of healthy living, with the greatest loss experienced by children.<sup>18</sup> Conflicts destroy health facilities, reduce the number of health workers, divert health expenditures and reduce access to health services.<sup>19</sup> Critical interventions and vaccination programs can be disrupted, leading to the revival of the disease. Water and sanitation infrastructure often inadequate may be further damaged. And many displaced residents are forced to live in overcrowded conditions with low vaccination coverage, which encourages the spread of infectious diseases (Kouadio, Kamigaki, and Oshitani 2010).

Conflict is also closely linked to hunger and food insecurity. Most famines today are the result of armed conflict and are often exacerbated by natural disasters (Grebmer and Waal, n.d.). Conflicting parties can use food as a weapon, cut off food supplies, destroy food production and distribution systems, and take food aid. As agricultural production falls, it causes food availability to decrease and deprives farmers of livelihoods. And with higher poverty rates, many families can't afford the food they need, especially the ever-soaring prices of necessities.

In Yemen, the war has devastated an already weak health system, characterized by low levels of access and financial protection. Health services have historically been provided by fixed facilities that cannot reach the entire population. As a result, half of the population (two-thirds in rural areas) did not have access to health services even before the conflict. At least 278 health facilities have been damaged or destroyed and less than half of the health facilities

<sup>15</sup> and Mickey Rafa. Moyer, Jonathan D, David Bohl, Taylor Hanna, Brendan R Mapes, “ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF WAR on Development in Yemen.” n.d.

<sup>16</sup> and Jack S Levy. Barbieri, Katherine, “Sleeping with the Enemy: The Impact of War on Trade Journal of Peace Research.” *Of Peace Research*. 36. Sage P (1999), <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/psci/barbieri/>.

<sup>17</sup> BREAKING, “Yemen War Death Toll Now Exceeds 60,000 According to Latest ACLED Data.” 2018.

<sup>18</sup> and BRUCE RUSSETT. GHOBARAH, HAZEM ADAM, PAUL HUTH, “Civil Wars Kill and Maim People—Long After the Shooting Stops.” *American Political Science Review* 97 (02).” n.d., <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055403000613>.

<sup>19</sup> and Maire A. Connolly. Gayer, Michelle, Dominique Legros, Pierre Formenty, “Conflict and Emerging Infectious Diseases.” *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 13 (11):” n.d., 16–31, <https://doi.org/10.3201/eid1311.061093>.

in the country are functioning. They struggle with shortages of medicines, supplies and health workers, as well as shortages of resources, water, fuel, electricity, and safe havens.<sup>20</sup>

Food prices had already risen before 2015 and widespread hunger has left much of Yemen's population particularly vulnerable.<sup>21</sup> Between 2009–2011, the food inflation rate was more than 20% and in 2012, nine out of 10 households surveyed said they had difficulty obtaining food due to rising food prices.<sup>22</sup> The conflict has caused a food crisis for the country.

The system of production and distribution of food and food imports has not recovered since the end of 2017.<sup>23</sup> In 2017, food production fell by 20–30% compared to 2016 and in October 2018 retail food prices were 73–178% higher than before the crisis (“IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis Update” 2018). As a result, more than half of the population is in a poverty crisis, according to the Integrated Phase Classification. The “crisis” phase of the Hunger Early Warning System Network.<sup>24</sup> Malnutrition has soared higher than the previous year and has caused 45% of deaths in children under the age of five. An estimated 3.3 million children in the country are malnourished, with one million suffering from moderate acute malnutrition.<sup>25</sup>

Finally, poor living conditions have made outbreaks and the rapid spread of the disease. Water and sanitation conditions have been damaged by attacks on water infrastructure and overcrowding of displaced people. More than 19 million people lack adequate clean water. The condition has caused the largest cholera outbreak in epidemiologically recorded history, with more than 1.3 million suspected cases and more than 2,600 related deaths since the April 2017 outbreak

The impact of conflict on health is a sure thing to happen, be it a direct or indirect impact. In warfare hospitals must have been the main targets of attacks and a very important thing to maintain in the past during conflict.<sup>26</sup>

### 1.3. Fertility

Fertility is the average number of children a woman will give birth to during her reproductive period.<sup>27</sup> Compared with casualties and migration, the effect of conflict on fertility is not so obvious. It may act to lower fertility as is often the case with other economic shocks. Many conflicts have shown a temporary decline in fertility during the years of conflict followed by a birth boom after the battle ends or subsides. However, persistent conflict can also raise fertility and child birth rates due to eroding social security, rising infant victims, reduced knowledge and access to reproductive health services, and lower levels of women's education. Households may also try to replace children lost to the war. Conversely, some conflict situations may not have any impact on fertility at all.<sup>28</sup>

Besarnya dampak konflik terhadap *fertility* di Yaman, meskipun, menurut satu survei rumah tangga, sebagian besar rumah tangga melaporkan wanita hamil atau menyusui pada tahun 2016 (44%) dibandingkan sebelum krisis (23,4%).<sup>29</sup>

### 1.4. Refugees

<sup>20</sup> and Safaa El-Kogali. Miyajima, Tomomi, Amira Kazem, Khalid Moheydeen, Sepehr Fotovat, Walid Al-Najar, Lianqin Wang, “Input to The Yemen Policy Note No. 4 on Inclusive Services Delivery Yemen: Immediate Priorities for Post-Conflict Recovery of the Education Sector.” World Bank Group.,” n.d.

<sup>21</sup> Moyer, Jonathan D, David Bohl, Taylor Hanna, Brendan R Mapes, “ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF WAR on Development in Yemen.””

<sup>22</sup> Moyer, Jonathan D, David Bohl, Taylor Hanna, Brendan R Mapes.

<sup>23</sup> Yemen, “Commodity Tracker, December 7,” 2018.

<sup>24</sup> Natali, “IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis Update,,” 2018.

<sup>25</sup> Miyajima, Tomomi, Amira Kazem, Khalid Moheydeen, Sepehr Fotovat, Walid Al-Najar, Lianqin Wang, “Input to The Yemen Policy Note No. 4 on Inclusive Services Delivery Yemen: Immediate Priorities for Post-Conflict Recovery of the Education Sector.” World Bank Group.”

<sup>26</sup> Yemen, “Humanitarian Situation Report,,” n.d.

<sup>27</sup> RN. Rachel Gurevich, “What Is Fertility,,” n.d.

<sup>28</sup> and Roberto Nisticò. Kraehnert, Kati, Tilman Brück, Michele Di Maio, “The Effects of Conflict on Fertility: Evidence from the Genocide in Rwanda.”” n.d., [www.iza.org](http://www.iza.org).

<sup>29</sup> Wolfgang. Gressmann, “FROM THE GROUND UP: GENDER AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS IN YEMEN.”,” n.d.

Warfare is the biggest driver of forced migration, creating refugees who migrate to other countries and internally displaced persons (Internally Displaced Persons/IDPs). The number and purpose of forced migration depends on many factors including the type of conflict and the characteristics of neighboring countries.

The length of the conflict creates more refugees and civil war with foreign intervention is more likely to encourage mass migration abroad. This is the case in Syria where the war has created 5.6 million registered refugees and estimated unregistered refugees at 6.2 million.<sup>30</sup>

Yemen has become an asylum and transit country for refugees and migrants from the Horn of Africa (Baloch 2017). At the same time, others continued to immigrate to Yemen despite the war. More than 50,000 people migrated from the Horn of Africa to Yemen in the first half of 2018, most of whom were Somalis or Ethiopians and intend to continue to other Gulf states.<sup>31</sup>

Conflict in Yemen has created more refugees. The UNHCR Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees reported two million refugees in Yemen in December 2018 89% of whom had been displaced for more than a year. One million former refugees can return to their homes.<sup>32</sup> Most of the returning refugees have fled to safe areas during the period of large-scale conflict and returned home after it subsided. However, some migrants can return to their homes and a quarter cannot return to their original residences.

Differences in movement patterns in Syria and Yemen appear to be a matter of geography and policy. Syria borders Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Turkey, for example, hosts millions of people after implementing an "open door policy" for Syrian refugees in the early years of the conflict and many have recently sought to apply for asylum in Europe.<sup>33</sup> Yemeni refugees do not have many options to leave their country.

Yemen shares land borders only with Saudi Arabia and Oman. Some have fled across the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden to the Horn of Africa, but conditions are often poor in those countries. Saudi Arabia is the main destination for Yemeni refugees, but has reportedly driven migrants out of Yemen so the last resort is Oman on the eastern border by crossing a barren desert.<sup>34</sup>

## 2. Education

Conflict also has an impact on education in the form of; destroying school infrastructure, educators who were victims and students who were victims of war. However, broad evidence on the effects of conflict on public education is certainly mixed, with some studies showing little or no impact at all.<sup>35</sup> It is possible that local conflicts may negatively affect the education system in one region but remain unaffected elsewhere.<sup>36</sup> This is a loss suffered by a group of children in a conflicted area. At the individual and community level, exposure to violent conflict still tends to have a negative impact.

The conflict has been shown to reduce education spending through reducing education services and diverting funding from education to military goals for defense.<sup>37</sup> Wars often led to the destruction of school buildings or the conversion into refugee camps, making it difficult

<sup>30</sup> Ocha, "Northwest Syria Factsheet ReliefWeb.July 14," 2022.

<sup>31</sup> Titan, "Mixed Migration in the Horn of Africa and in the Arab Peninsula." n.d., n.d.

<sup>32</sup> Yemen, "UNHCR Yemen Operational Update - 10 February."

<sup>33</sup> and Deniz Genç. Şirin Öner, N. Aslı, "Vulnerability Leading to Mobility: Syrians' Exodus from Turkey." *Migration Letters* 12 (3), 3, n.d., 251–62, <https://doi.org/10.33182/ml.v12i3.278>.

<sup>34</sup> Stephanie. Nebehay, "U.N. Urges Saudi Arabia Not to Deport Yemeni Migrants to War Zone." May 9," n.d.

<sup>35</sup> and Michael Wang. Stewart, Frances, Cindy Huang, *Internal Wars In Developing Countries: An Empirical Overview of Economic and Social Consequences.* In *War and Underdevelopment*, . (Oxford University Press, 2000), <https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199241866.003.0004>.

<sup>36</sup> and Håvard Strand. Gates, Scott, Håvard Hegre, Håvard Mokleiv Nygård, "Development Consequences of Armed Conflict." *World Development* 40 (9), n.d., 17–22.

<sup>37</sup> and Mieke T.A. Lopes Cardozo. Novelli, Mario, "Conflict, Education and the Global South: New Critical Directions." *International Development* 28 (4): 473–88., *Of Educational*, n.d., <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijedudev.2008.01.004>.

for children to learn. Often abandoned children may not go to school due to lack of economy, the need to work or lack of educational services.<sup>38</sup> Children can also stop attending school because they are abducted into the army, for work or simply for leaving home. Exposure to war and conflict is also likely to impact children affected by stress and psychological trauma.<sup>39</sup>

Before the conflict, Yemen made progress in education. Enrollment for primary schools increased from 73% in 1999 to 101% in 2013, while girls' enrollment grew from 52% to 92% in the same period.<sup>40</sup> The conflict has made significant setbacks to the field of education. An estimated 2,500 schools were left unused because they were destroyed, closed or occupied by refugees or the armed forces, leading to a 20% reduction in children attending school since the beginning of the conflict.<sup>41</sup> The impact of conflict on the world of education is quite large, especially the impact of education on the country is very risky if the world of education is not immediately addressed. The most feared thing about the decline of education is the destruction of a country.

### 3. Culture

The culture of Yemeni society itself is no different from that of the people in the Middle East region. The religion of the majority of the population of Yemen 99% is Islam and in the social system of Yemeni society adheres to a patriarchal system.<sup>42</sup> Patriarchy is a form of organization whose greatest authority is possessed by men.<sup>43</sup>

Yemen's tribal-dominated social structure is based on the collective responsibility and accountability of tribal leaders to their tribes. The tribe has functioned as a state, providing stability, protection and economic support for its members. Chieftains have always had a considerable level of informal power, and this structure existed before conflicts even escalated during conflicts.<sup>44</sup>

The chief gains legitimacy through his ability to solve problems and safeguard the interests of the tribe. In this time of conflict the chiefs will gain more legitimacy when they are able to align themselves with the armed groups that control the local area.<sup>45</sup> Such a chieftain is considered to provide greater security for his tribe.

Yemeni society lives on a tribal basis, one's second alignment is with one's tribe, tribes in Yemen can be grouped based on ties to their ancestors. In Yemeni areas, state authorities are not very strong and disputes between tribes are usually resolved through violence, as feuds and weapons cannot escape the culture of their people. Almost every household has at least one weapon. Carrying firearms or sharp weapons in public has been normal there since there are often conflicts between tribes.<sup>46</sup>

In Yemen there is a term for people who are marginalized, excluded, subjected to discrimination, persecution and exclusion, namely *Al-Muhamasheen*. For example, in the event of a conflict or war the *Al-Muhamasheen* will live in tents or open ground, where the dwelling is at risk of eviction and violence. Meanwhile, people who are not *Al-Muhamasheen* will live in rented houses, relatives' houses, or public buildings. The work for the *Al-Muhamasheen* can

<sup>38</sup> Patricia. Justino, "Violent Conflict and Human Capital Accumulation." IDS Working Papers. Wiley., 2011, [https://doi.org/10.1111/j.2040-0209.2011.00379\\_2.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.2040-0209.2011.00379_2.x).

<sup>39</sup> and H Miaari. Brück, Tilman, Michele Di, Maio Sami, "Learning the Hard Way: The Effect of Violent Conflict on Student Academic Achievement.," n.d.

<sup>40</sup> Miyajima, Tomomi, Amira Kazem, Khalid Moheydeen, Sepehr Fotovat, Walid Al-Najar, Lianqin Wang, "Input to The Yemen Policy Note No. 4 on Inclusive Services Delivery Yemen: Immediate Priorities for Post-Conflict Recovery of the Education Sector.' World Bank Group."

<sup>41</sup> Yaman, "IF NOT IN SCHOOL The Paths Children Cross In Yemen."

<sup>42</sup> Manfred W. n.d. Wenner, "Yemen - Daily Life and Social Customs.' In Britannica., 2017.

<sup>43</sup> Kaku. Sechiyama, "What Is Patriarchy?" In Patriarchy in East Asia, BRILL., n.d., 5–26., [https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004247772\\_003](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004247772_003).

<sup>44</sup> Fitra, "Local Communities: First and Last Providers of Protection.," 2016, [www.fmreview.org/community-protection](http://www.fmreview.org/community-protection).

<sup>45</sup> Fitra.

<sup>46</sup> Wenner, "Yemen - Daily Life and Social Customs.' In Britannica."



only be to perform unwanted work such as cleaning up garbage, sweeping roads and cleaning waterways. During the conflict the *Al-Muhamasheen* had no job and only expected help from humanitarian agencies to make ends meet.<sup>47</sup>

The culture of marriage is always regulated by the head of the household, often carried out at a young age, and the practice of marrying someone from one's own relatives is commonplace. Even this practice during conflict increased significantly from 2019 data by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), more than 4 million Yemeni girls are child brides and 1.4 million of these brides are under the age of 15.<sup>48</sup>

Child marriage in Yemen is a violation of human rights for centuries. Parents, especially those living in poverty, force girls to marry men decades away from them for reasons such as reducing costs in parenting and protection for their daughters.<sup>49</sup>

#### 4. Economy

Wars often disrupt patterns of international trade and economic integration. Interstate conflicts generally reduce trade between hostile and neutral parties although some studies have failed to find significant effects.<sup>50</sup> Civil conflict can also reduce trade through increased political risks, higher transportation and communication costs, and by shrinking a country's consumption. and productive capacity.<sup>51</sup>

Conflicts are also likely to have an impact on investment. Political risks and insecurities can result in capital flight and lower levels of domestic investment. It can also lower the level of foreign direct investment (FDI) as it increases the risk of investing in a country. Although primary sector FDI (consisting mostly of natural resources) may be less affected than FDI in other sectors (Burger, n.d.). Before the conflict, Yemen was not deeply integrated in the global economy, with natural resources making up the lion's share of foreign trade and investment. Oil and natural gas accounted for 90% of Yemen's exports and 88% of FDI between 2005 and 2010.<sup>52</sup> The blurring of investors has been one of the biggest causes of Yemen's economic downturn.

The war has brought the country's economy to a standstill. Yemen's GDP has contracted every year since the conflict began, shrinking by nearly 28% in 2015, 9.8% in 2016, and -5.9% in 2017. More than a third of businesses have closed and more than half are still standing. Oil production has stalled and while gas extraction continues, this is mainly for the domestic market.<sup>53</sup>

Overall oil and gas production has fallen by 90% since 2014, reducing the country's foreign exchange and imports have been halved since 2014, and most of the Central Bank of Yemen cannot operate.<sup>54</sup>

##### 4.1. Poverty

Conflict leads to an increase in the number of poverty, and leads to inhibition of economic growth. Collier calculated that the conflicts that lasted until now reduced state income by 15% and increased poverty by 30%. In life, conflicts can lead to the loss of property, objects. Homes, land, livestock, and other productive assets can disappear due to a conflict.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Fitra, "Local Communities: First and Last Providers of Protection."

<sup>48</sup> Victor, "UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage,," 2021.

<sup>49</sup> Mooli Al-Zikri, "FALLING THROUGH THE CHILDREN OF YEMEN,," 2017.

<sup>50</sup> Barbieri, Katherine, "Sleeping with the Enemy: The Impact of War on Trade Journal of Peace Research."

<sup>51</sup> and Chuck C.Y. Kwok. Marano, Valentina, Alvaro Cuervo-Cazurra, "The Impact of Conflict Types and Location OnInternational Trade )," *Trade.* 27 (n.d.): 197–224., <https://doi.org/10.1080/08853908.2013.796835>.

<sup>52</sup> and et all. Rurangwa, Guido, "THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN the Potential for Economic Growth.," n.d.

<sup>53</sup> V. Varnavskii, "Drivers of Global Economy." *World Economy and International Relations,* 7, n.d., 5–16.

<sup>54</sup> Wilfried. Engelke, "Economic, Fiscal and Social Challenges in the Early Phase of a Post Conflict YemenYemen Policy Note 2.," n.d.

<sup>55</sup> and Ana M. Ibáñez. Moya, Andres, "Do Conflicts Create Poverty Traps? Asset Losses and Recovery for Displaced Households in Colombia." *SSRN Electronic Journal,* n.d., <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1356817>.

Deaths, injuries, disability, and trauma experienced by family members can also reduce sources of income. And also at a time when food prices are rising, causing many families to be unable to afford basic necessities.<sup>56</sup> This poverty or loss is an effect of conflict, and can also cause a person to leave the country to avoid poverty.

In Yemen, the conflict has led to a decline in poverty rates that were already high before the conflict. In the fall of 2015, 45% of Yemenis surveyed said they had lost their main source of income due to the conflict.<sup>57</sup> Public servants have not received salaries since the fall of 2016, ultimately reducing income and harming sectors such as health and education. In 2017, 48% of the population lived on less than US\$1.90 per day (up from 30% in 2015) and 78.5% lived on less than US\$3.20 (up from 65.6% in 2015).<sup>58</sup>

#### 4.2. Infrastructure

Infrastructure destruction is one of the most visible effects of conflict. Strategically, the parties can directly target transportation and telecommunications infrastructure or environmental infrastructure (water, energy, waste and sanitation).<sup>59</sup> Infrastructure damage causes problems in economic growth, human life and is likely to hamper the productivity of citizens. Reviewed further, if the damaged transport infrastructure will delay the movement of not only goods, but also very important food aid. And targeting attacks if it goes to water and sanitation infrastructure, will be very concerning because it can cause infectious diseases and disrupt food production.

Even before the conflict, poor transport and logistics infrastructure was a limiting factor in the competitiveness of Yemeni companies. For example, unreliable access to electricity makes companies dependent on expensive generators and fuel. In 2013 businesses in major cities suffered huge losses due to power outages for four hours a day.<sup>60</sup> This is compounded by the targeting of critical infrastructure, particularly water and sanitation infrastructure, in some attacks.<sup>61</sup>

A 2016 damage and needs assessment estimated the cost of overall infrastructure damage (including housing) to range from US\$4–US\$5 billion. These include: (a) US\$88–U.<sup>62</sup>\$108 million in transportation damage; (b) US\$125–US\$153 million for energy; and, (c) US\$79–US\$97 million for water, sanitation and hygiene. More than half of respondents to the 2018 survey said that local water and electricity infrastructure had been damaged, more than 40% mentioned health and education infrastructure and more than 30% mentioned roads were damaged.<sup>63</sup> Infrastructure is a support in the production and distribution system that can produce a product, damage to the infrastructure of a country will experience very slow economic growth.

#### 4.3. Agriculture

The conflict led to a reduction in agricultural output and food production. Many agricultural lands were damaged due to the war and also many farmers were moved, killed, or unable to farm. During periods of conflict, many farmers switched from crops that were easier

<sup>56</sup> Kieran. Oberman, “‘War and Poverty.’ Philosophical Studies 176 (1),” *Studies* 1, no. 197–217. (n.d.), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11098-017-1012-4>.

<sup>57</sup> Jihad. Fakhreddine, “‘Yemenis Divided Politically, United in Misery.’ Gallup Inc. January 29,” n.d.

<sup>58</sup> Yemen’s, “Economic Outlook,” 2018.

<sup>59</sup> and Neda Zawahri. Sowers, Jeannie L, Erika Weinthal, “Targeting Environmental Infrastructures, International Law, and Civilians in the New Middle Eastern Wars.” *Security Dialogue* 48 (5) 5 (n.d.): 410–30, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0967010617716615>.

<sup>60</sup> Rurangwa, Guido, “THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN the Potential for Economic Growth.””

<sup>61</sup> Sowers, Jeannie L, Erika Weinthal, “Targeting Environmental Infrastructures, International Law, and Civilians in the New Middle Eastern Wars.” *Security Dialogue* 48 (5).”

<sup>62</sup> and Tobias Kuemmerle. Baumann, Matthias, “The Impacts of Warfare and Armed Conflict on Land Systems.,” *Of Land Use Science* 11 (6), n.d., : 672–88.

<sup>63</sup> Tom & Afar Consulting. Lambert, “‘Yemen Multi-Sector Early Recovery Assessment Yemen Multi-Sector Early Recovery Assessment 2 Contents.’” 2018.

to plant and quick harvesting, crops with high yield percentages and short planting times.<sup>64</sup> Lack of labor in agriculture results from workers being displaced, injured or killed, and major causes such as seeds or fertilizers may become more expensive or more difficult to obtain.<sup>65</sup>

In Yemen, agricultural production has been significantly reduced. Land has been abandoned because farmers and agricultural workers have been affected by the conflicts, crops and fields are often looted, and fuel scarcity has increased production and transportation costs.<sup>66</sup>

Water scarcity is the most important factor limiting agricultural production and fuel scarcity has made irrigation more expensive. In 2016, the planted area decreased by an average of 38%.<sup>67</sup> In the agriculture-advanced Tihama region, all agriculture related to water and soil was stopped, cultivated areas dropped to 39% before the war and crop yields were reduced to 42% before the war.<sup>68</sup> The agricultural field is important enough to be a country's food granary, if the agricultural field cannot produce the resilience of a country, it will be chaotic. So it will have an impact on the outbreak of the hunger crisis.

## Conclusion

The Yemen conflict is a long one, from the beginning of the 1994 conflict to the research in 2022, this conflict has not been fully reconciled. Yemen's conflict began with an agreement with the incumbent government splitting into two camps of North Yemen and South Yemen, and the conflict in Yemen was the largest because it was affected during the Arab Spring phenomenon.

Efforts to make peace have been made until 2021 the conflict in Yemen is not over because the parties to the conflict have their own ideals, the Yemeni government is controlled by people who have interests for themselves, the Houthis who want to overthrow the government and the republican system according to the Yemeni government. But the Houthis' goal is only to defend his group from discrimination, government aggression and justice for the Yemeni people. Meanwhile, Al-Qaeda wants to spread extreme Islamic teachings in Yemen.

The impact caused during the civil conflict in Yemen greatly affects the socio-cultural conditions of the people in the Yemeni area, can be seen by the emergence of various kinds of changes that occur in society. Both in social, educational, cultural, and economic conditions. So it can be said that a conflict certainly creates a change and development. The conflict in Yemen has been going on for quite a long time and has occurred repeatedly because it has not reached a peace agreement, and also the conflict in Yemen has reached the stage of violence, namely war. So the changes that occur can be radical or structural changes to Yemeni society.

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