

**Diablo Valley College – International Relations (POLSC 250-8583)
Research Project – Spring 2019**

The Conflict in Yemen

Question: An April 2018 United Nations report described the conflict in Yemen as the world’s worst humanitarian crisis with more than 22 million people – three quarters of the population – in desperate need of aid and protection. It has been called the “forgotten war” because of so much western media attention focused on Syria. Many commentators note that the war began in early 2015 when Houthi rebels – a minority Shia group from the north of the country – drove out the US-backed government and took control of the capital, Sanaa. However, little attention is paid to possible theories for explaining the conflict. Using the 9 theories discussed in class, explain *why* the conflict in Yemen is occurring and what this might mean for international relations.

Sample Outline

(But feel free to design your outline any way you wish)

I. Introduction / Thesis Statement – a brief statement outlining your position or something relevant about this issue.

II. Body – the bulk of the paper is here, in data taken from the readings and other evidence you have found in support of your position.

1. Historical background to the conflict

- a. Brief history of Yemen
- b. Religious differences? (Shia v. Sunni)
- c. Petro- and geopolitics?
- d. Iran and the Houthis
- e. The Saudi / American connection

2. Theoretical construct

- a. Levels of analysis
- b. (A) useful theory(ies) to explain the possible conflict

3. Data from the documentaries

III. Conclusion – based on the evidence you have gathered, your opinion on the ongoing conflict, and the implications for international relations.

Extras:

1. Again, make sure to include a citation *every time you use a statement or an idea from the readings that I have provided, or that you found in your own independent research.*

2. “A” papers will be:

- a. *fully* documented and cited in APA citation format
- b. a *minimum* of 13 pages (including title, abstract, and reference page, meaning 10 *full* pages of text analysis)
- c. research *beyond* authors provided
- d. turned in *on time* (March 27, 2019).