

Yemen's Urban–Rural Divide and the Ultra-Localisation of the Civil War

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#LSEYemen



In 2015, civil war broke out in Yemen, swiftly followed by military intervention by a Saudi-led coalition intended to restore to power the deposed but legitimate government. Yemen was already the poorest country in the Middle East before the start of the fighting, with high levels of food insecurity, infant mortality and child malnutrition, and during the past two years, macroeconomic conditions have severely deteriorated. The majority of Yemenis live in rural areas, yet policy-oriented research and media reporting on the current conflict tend to focus on the situation in major cities.

On 29 March 2017, the LSE Middle East Centre convened a workshop to explore the scale of need of Yemen's population, and to look at the extent to which rural and urban livelihoods were directly affected by the fighting as well as changing market conditions.



The workshop was split into four sessions. The first sought to provide an overview of macroeconomic conditions throughout the country. The second session explored the specific situation in Saada governorate, a predominantly Zaydi governorate in Yemen's northern highlands, bordering Saudi Arabia. The third session focused on Taiz governorate, Yemen's most populous governorate, located in the central highlands. The final session addressed micro-politics in Aden, Marib and Mukalla, three provincial capitals in governorates with majority Sunni populations.

Over the next week, we will publish short pieces by workshop participants on the different themes covered during the discussion. We will also be sharing a report and a short video highlighting the outcome of the discussion soon.

Ginny Hill

Contributions

- [Yemen's Rural Population: Ignored in an Already-Forgotten War](#), Helen Lackner
- Empire of Information: The War on Yemen and its Agricultural Sector, Martha Mundy
- The Battle to Control the 'Commanding Heights' of the Yemeni Economy, Rafat Al-Akhali
- Saada: Ground Zero, Gabriele vom Bruck
- From Protesters to Politicians: The Rise of the Houthis, Nawal Al-Maghafi
- Taiz Youth: Between Conflict and Political Participation, Maged Sultan
- Community Responses to Conflict in Taiz, Kate Nevens
- Yemen: Healthcare under Siege in Taiz, Sophie Désoulières
- Aden: Relief Challenges and Opportunities, Awssan Kamal
- Marib: Local Changes and the Impact on the Future of Yemeni Politics, Alkhatab Al-Rawhani
- Hadhramout from Federalism to Civil War: Demands and Realities, Baraa Shiban

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