

Sources Arms Trade Part 2 **LOCK THE FILE - VIEWER**

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8:45

Americans broadly agree with this assertion:

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/471494/americans-continue-view-china-greatest-enemy.aspx>

12:07

SAUDI ARABIA

"From fiscal years 2015 through 2021, DOD administered military support worth at least \$54.6 billion to Saudi Arabia and UAE, primarily for defense articles and defense services, including training, transferred through FMS, as well as logistic support, supplies, and services exchanged under ACSAs and advisory services."

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-22-105988.pdf>

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The Obama administration has offered to sell \$115bn worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia over its eight years in office, more than any previous US administration.

However, the most recent deals - such as the offer to sell more than 150 M1A2 Abrams battle tanks for an estimated \$1.15bn - were principally intended to replenish the Saudi arsenal, depleted in the war in Yemen.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/sep/08/obama-administration-offered-115-billion-weapons-saudi-arabia-report>

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12:35

### **Obama's arms transfer policy**

The United States will not authorize any transfer if it has actual knowledge at the time of authorization that the transferred arms will be used to commit: genocide; crimes against humanity; grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions of 1949; serious violations of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions of 1949; attacks directed against civilian objects or civilians who are legally protected from attack or other war crimes as defined in 18 U.S.C. 2441.

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/01/15/presidential-policy-directive-united-states-conventional-arms-transfer-p>

### **Biden's arms transfer policy**

The legitimacy of and public support for arms transfers among the populations of both the United States and recipient nations depends on the protection of civilians from harm, and the United States distinguishes itself from other potential sources of arms transfers by elevating the importance of protecting civilians. Strong United States human rights and security sector governance standards for arms transfers - in addition to ensuring compliance with end-use requirements and providing human rights

and international humanitarian law training, as appropriate – encourage recipient governments to respect international law, human rights, and good governance, and help prevent violations of human rights or international humanitarian law.

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/02/23/memorandum-on-united-states-conventional-arms-transfer-policy/?\\_gl=1\\*1j7qd4s\\*\\_gcl\\_au\\*NDA2MTk0NTMuMTcwNDIzMjUwMw](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/02/23/memorandum-on-united-states-conventional-arms-transfer-policy/?_gl=1*1j7qd4s*_gcl_au*NDA2MTk0NTMuMTcwNDIzMjUwMw)

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12:40

The devastating air campaign – carried out by a Saudi-led coalition – has killed almost 24,000 people, a number that includes combatants and nearly 9,000 civilians, according to conservative estimates by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED), which monitors war zones around the world.

.. a substantial portion of the air raids were carried out by jets developed, maintained and sold by U.S. companies, and by pilots who were trained by the U.S. military.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/interactive/2022/saudi-war-crimes-yemen/>

"a CNN investigation found remnants of a US-made bomb at the scene of an airstrike that left dozens of schoolboys dead. Now, an independent Yemen-based human rights group called Mwatana has given CNN exclusive access to a trove of documents that show fragments of US-manufactured bombs at the scene of a string of other incidents since 2015, when the civil war began. In each of those cases, civilians were either killed or put at risk."

<https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2018/09/world/yemen-airstrikes-intl/>

The consequences of the war in Yemen have been disastrous. More than 24,000 people have died in indiscriminate air strikes, including nearly 9,000 civilians, tied to the bombing of targets like marketplaces, water treatment facilities, hospitals, a school bus, a wedding, and even a funeral.

<https://quincyst.org/research/promoting-stability-or-fueling-conflict-the-impact-of-u-s-arms-sales-on-national-and-global-security/#fn84-10103>

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13:00

Aug 2018, the Saudis dropped a US bomb in a busy market area in Dahyan, Yemen, inflicting mass civilian casualties. An open-source investigation (Bellingcat) traced the bomb's serial number back to...Lockheed Martin, to a sale approved by the US government in 2015.

<https://www.bellingcat.com/news/mena/2018/08/18/19432/>

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13:50

Shortly after his inauguration in 2021, the State Department paused offensive weapons sales, vowing to review military deals struck under President Donald J. Trump to ensure that they were in line with Mr. Biden's foreign-policy objectives. Among the

deals that were held up by the ban was a planned \$478 million sale of precision-guided munitions.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/21/us/politics/weapons-sales-saudi-arabia-yemen.html#:~:text=his%20administration%2C%20Mr.-,Biden%2C%20who%20once%20referred%20to%20Saudi%20Arabia%20as%20a%20%E2%80%9Cpariah, struck%20under%20President%20Donald%20J.>

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14:05

Over 100 members of the House of Representatives are supporting a Yemen War Powers Resolution (WPR) introduced by representatives Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Peter DeFazio (D-OR).<sup>19</sup> A companion measure has been introduced in the Senate by Senators Bernie Sanders (D-VT), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), and Elizabeth Warren (D-MA). The resolutions would stop U.S. military support for Saudi Arabia, including spare parts and maintenance that sustain the Saudi war machine.

<https://quincyst.org/research/promoting-stability-or-fueling-conflict-the-impact-of-u-s-arms-sales-on-national-and-global-security/#us-sales-to-nations-at-war-the-case-of-the-greater-middle-east>

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President Trump has vetoed a series of measures approved by bipartisan lawmakers that were aimed at blocking the sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia.

Trump said the three resolutions would "weaken America's global competitiveness and damage the important relationship we share with our allies and partners."

<https://www.npr.org/2019/07/25/745200244/trump-vetoes-bills-intended-to-block-arms-sales-to-saudi-arabia#:~:text=President%20Trump%20has%20vetoed%20a,with%20our%20allies%20and%20partners.%22>

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List of all arms sales to Saudi Arabia under the Biden administration:

<https://www.forumarmstrade.org/us-saudi-arms.html>

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15:01

The United States has warned Israel that it must fight more surgically and avoid further mass displacement of Palestinians in its war against Hamas to avoid a humanitarian crisis that overwhelms the world's ability to respond, according to senior Biden administration officials.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/11/28/us/politics/israel-gaza-war-military.html>

The United Nations on Tuesday demanded an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the Gaza Strip as U.S. President Joe Biden warned Israel it was losing international support because of its "indiscriminate" bombing of civilians in its war against Hamas militants.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/hunger-rises-gaza-un-prepares-vote-ceasefire-resolution-2023-12-12/>

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The United States Senate has rejected a resolution seeking to impose conditions on security assistance to Israel.

Senators overwhelmingly voted against the motion late on Tuesday. It would have demanded that security aid to Israel be frozen unless the Department of State produces a report within 30 days examining whether Israel has committed human rights violations in its campaign in Gaza.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/1/17/us-senate-overwhelmingly-rejects-measure-to-force-rights-report-on-israel>

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15:30

The United States supplied or offered billions of dollars worth of small arms, attack helicopters, and other weapons systems to the Duterte regime, a government notorious for murdering and imprisoning thousands of civilians and human rights and democracy activists under the guise of fighting a “war on drugs.” The sales were made as part of an anti-China containment strategy, despite the fact that the Philippines offers little value on that front.

<https://quincyst.org/research/promoting-stability-or-fueling-conflict-the-impact-of-u-s-arms-sales-on-national-and-global-security/#us-sales-to-nations-at-war-the-case-of-the-greater-middle-east>

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16:02

The US is investigating whether Turkey violated agreements with Washington about the use of US-provided weapons and equipment, including whether Ankara improperly transferred US-supplied weapons to its proxies in Syria, groups that some US officials say may have committed war crimes as part of the Turkish-led incursion targeting America’s Kurdish allies.

“Consistent with our end-use monitoring agreements, the United States always investigates credible allegations,” Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Col. Carla Gleason told CNN on Wednesday.

A US defense official told CNN that the US government currently believes the allegations that Turkey has violated end-use monitoring agreements are “credible,” prompting the review.

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/06/politics/us-turkey-weapon-misuse/index.html>

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In 2017, Turkish President Recep Erdogan brokered a deal reportedly worth \$2.5 billion with Russian President Vladimir Putin for the S-400 missile system.

The S-400, a mobile surface-to-air missile system, is said to pose a risk to the NATO alliance as well as the F-35, America's most expensive weapons platform.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/12/14/us-sanctions-turkey-over-russian-s400.html>

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Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan used his G20 tribune to repeat thinly veiled threats against Greece on Wednesday, telling reporters Turkey "can come suddenly one night" and that its neighbor should "mind its place" and "remember the history."

<https://www.politico.eu/article/recep-erdogan-turkey-threat-against-greece-g20/>

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16:45

In a recent study, we plot the illicit small arms and light weapons trafficking routes after Libya's 2011 collapse. Libya had one of the largest arsenals in Africa, and its looting led to a profound episode of proliferation.

We traced four major overland routes across 11 countries in the surrounding Sahara-Sahel and one air and maritime route into the Middle East.

<https://warontherocks.com/2022/07/weak-states-and-loose-arms-lessons-and-warnings-from-libya-to-ukraine/>

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16:35

[List of military equipment used by mujahideen during Soviet-Afghan War - Wikipedia](#)

The most expensive covert action was Operation Cyclone, the United States Central Intelligence Agency's program to arm and train Islamist insurgent groups (known as "mujahideen") fighting the Soviet Red Army in Afghanistan. Between 1979 and 1989, the CIA channeled more than \$2 billion in weapons, logistical support and training to the mujahideen.

[Most expensive covert action | Guinness World Records](#)

"The ten-year commitment of the CIA had turned a primitive army of tribesmen into highly armed warriors, imbued with the spirit of jihad and the belief that, having brought down one superpower, they could just as easily take on another.

It was some of these people or their successors who in 1996 killed 19 American airmen at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia; bombed the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998; blew a hole in the side of the USS Cole in Aden Harbour in 2000; and on September 11, 2001 flew hijacked planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon."

Andrew Feinstein, Shadow World

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18:02

[https://www.pgpf.org/chart-archive/0053\\_defense-comparison#:~:text=Defense%20spending%20accounts%20for%2012,of%20the%20annual%20federal%20budget.](https://www.pgpf.org/chart-archive/0053_defense-comparison#:~:text=Defense%20spending%20accounts%20for%2012,of%20the%20annual%20federal%20budget.)

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In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/president-dwight-d-eisenhowers-farewell-address>

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Export sales are important not only for geopolitical reasons but also to bring down the production costs of domestic weapons systems and to increase profitability. Overseas sales are more lucrative for weapons manufacturers because the R&D costs have already been paid for with taxpayer dollars and they can charge whatever the market will pay for follow on maintenance contracts and upgrades to the weapons sold.

Andrew Feinstein, Shadow World, p.262

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The federal government is effectively the only buyer for many defense contractors' products and services, leading some experts to characterize the industry as a monopsony market environment.

Because of the sector's unusually direct reliance on government spending, some contractors fund lobbying activities. Additionally, commercial defense firms employ tens of thousands of former DOD personnel, both military and civilian.

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R47751>

The defense sector spent over \$101 million on federal lobbying during the first three quarters of 2022; affiliates of these companies have contributed \$17.5 million to members of Congress during the 2022 midterm election cycle as of Oct. 19, a new OpenSecrets analysis found.

<https://www.opensecrets.org/news/2022/11/defense-sector-spent-101-million-lobbying-during-first-three-quarters-of-2022/>

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