



### [U.S. Airstrikes in Yemen Risk Further Escalations in the Middle East](#)

The United States has launched a fresh wave of airstrikes against the Houthis in Yemen under the new Trump administration, citing the group's attacks on shipping in the Red Sea as the proclaimed reason behind them. Regional experts have argued that the strikes are unlikely to deter the Houthis, and instead, the anticipated tit-for-tat retaliations elicit concern regarding possible further escalations in the Middle East. The U.S. airstrikes come after the Houthis stated that they would resume their Red Sea shipping attacks in response to Israel blocking aid from entering into Gaza. During the preceding months when the Gaza ceasefire agreement was in effect, the Houthis had halted their Red Sea attacks. The risk of the situation devolving even more is particularly worrying now in light of Israel's egregious recent assault on the Palestinian enclave. Following Israel's shattering of the nearly two-month ceasefire deal this week – which had been in limbo since March 1st when the six-week-long first phase expired without proceeding to the agreed-upon second phase – the Houthis have also resumed their missile attacks against Israel.

The United States' involvement threatens to heighten tensions and result in additional reprisal attacks that could spiral into wider-scale conflict. This is especially the case given that the American airstrikes are taking place during a time of great uncertainty and turmoil in the region. Between Israel's renewed hostilities in Gaza, regime change in Syria, and increased U.S. pressure on Iran, there are a lot of moving pieces that may lead to further escalations in violence stemming from expanded U.S. involvement. It is for this reason that Former President Biden faced bipartisan criticism after his administration launched attacks against the Houthis back in early 2024. Elected officials such as U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA), U.S. Senator Mike Lee (R-UT), U.S. Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT), and others all spoke out against Biden's decision to initiate attacks in Yemen. Now, with Trump doing the same, the response from some Republicans has been more muted, however, there have been notable GOP Congressmembers that have criticized Trump's latest actions in Yemen. U.S. Representative Thomas Massie (R-KY) [pointed out](#) that the United States' military activity there only serves to benefit other countries and non-American corporations – far from Trump's espoused "America First" policy that should instead be focused on actions which are favorable to the U.S. and do not risk our entanglement in foreign conflicts. U.S. Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA) also [expressed opposition](#) to potential U.S. involvement in another Middle East conflict and the idea of the United States going to war on behalf of other countries.

President Trump has spent a large portion of his 2024 election campaign and first two months in office posturing about pulling out of all global conflicts – often even to the possibility of alienating historic U.S. allies like the European Union (EU). He has contended that the United States puts far more money and resources into the Ukraine War than the EU themselves, and that he would not stand for it anymore. His administration's actions in Yemen however run counter to this claimed ideology, and on the contrary, risk embroiling the United States further in the Middle East and serve no benefit to our national interests. The lack of consistency is evident. On the one hand, Trump administration officials discuss the need for Europe to shoulder more of the burden for Ukraine's security, but when it comes to the Middle East, seem perfectly content engaging in direct and dangerous military activity on behalf of Israel – which has consistently shown itself to be a bellicose actor in the region keen on dragging the United States into its hostilities and conflicts. If the Trump administration continues to "do Israel's

bidding,” the likelihood of a larger-scale war that pulls in other regional entities like Iran in a more direct confrontation will only increase.

One of Trump’s purported reasons behind initiating attacks against the Houthis is to restore the United States’ navigational freedom. However, despite the actions of the Houthis in the Red Sea, American shipping has remained largely unaffected, as trade with Europe and Asia is carried through the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Instead, it is some of the European and Asian supply chains that have mostly seen disruptions, and they have opted for the longer but safer route going around the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa. If the Houthis’ attacks were fended off, there would certainly be savings in the global supply chain for Europe and Asia, but almost none of those savings would be felt by the United States, making Trump’s recent moves so confounding if he indeed wants to champion a true “America First” approach to foreign policy. Trump likes to stress his belief that the rest of the world is taking advantage of the United States and that we need to stop embroiling ourselves in the affairs of other nations, but his administration’s actions in Yemen are not aligned with this alleged philosophy.