



Understanding Yemen: Geography, Conflict and Transformations

Amman – Jordan

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Understanding Modern Yemen: Introduction

North Yemen gained independence in 1918 at the end of the Ottoman rule, while the last British soldier left South Yemen in 1967. In 1962, a revolutionary movement, civil war and wide-scale regional intervention put an end to the rule of Imam Muhammad al-Badr bin Ahmad bin Yahya Hamidaddin. Until 1990, North Yemen was known as the Yemen Arab Republic, while South Yemen as the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The two sides fought bloody battles between 1972 and 1979. Unification was announced on 22 May 1990, but tensions prevailed and civil war erupted in 1994. Between 2004 and 2010, the Republic of Yemen witnessed six local wars. Protests erupted again in 2011 during the Arab Spring uprisings, which led to an agreement headed by the Gulf Cooperation Council in 2012 that attempted to set new grounds for managing the country, reinstating stability and dividing power. Instability returned in 2014 following the conflict between the government and the Ansar Allah movement known as the Houthis.

For decades Yemen has suffered from instability, denying the country development and modernization. Its human development indicators are considered among the worst in the world in various areas, while the civil strife, and specifically the current conflict, exacerbated the humanitarian suffering, specifically in terms of refugees and displaced persons, the spread of disease and the condition of children and women.



Symposium's Objectives

The symposium sought to provide JMI students, media professionals, researchers and opinion leaders in Jordan with a greater understanding of the situation in Yemen in an academic and objective manner.

Symposium's Themes

First: Maps of Yemen

Geography, history of the conflict and key players.

Second: The Media Scene in Yemen

How did the media shape the image of Yemen? What are the features of the media's coverage of the conflict in Yemen? What is the media's role in the conflict in Yemen?

Third: The Houthi Movement

Who are the Houthis? What are the political, cultural and economic factors behind them? What is their relationship with the other Yemeni political forces such as the General People's Congress, Islamic movements and regional forces?

Fourth: The Issue of South Yemen

How did the events in southern Yemen develop and turn into a crisis? Who are the main players? What are their main demands? How does separatism affect the future of the conflict and stability in Yemen? What are the regional and international interests in the Arabian Sea?

Fifth: Development and the Humanitarian Situation

What is the nature of the humanitarian situation and crisis in Yemen today? The prevalence of diseases; the situation of women and children; and the situation of asylum and homelessness. When can talks on development and reconstruction in Yemen be held?