



ARMS SALES TOPIC: NEGATIVE

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Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States. A look at negative arguments provided by Rich Edwards, Baylor University

NEGATIVE TOOLBOX

- ❖ Topicality
- ❖ Disadvantages
- ❖ Case
- ❖ Counterplans
- ❖ Kritiks



A brief look at Disadvantages and Case Arguments will be provided here; see other NFHS slide series for Topicality and Counterplans. Kritiks are not acceptable in all parts of the country and will not be discussed here.

DISADVANTAGE REQUIREMENTS

Every Disadvantage must have uniqueness, link and impact; some disadvantages will also have a brink argument as well as internal links.

- ❖ **Uniqueness:** If the status quo in arms sales is maintained, the disadvantage won't happen – all is well now.
- ❖ **Link:** What does the affirmative plan do that will cause this disadvantage?
- ❖ **Internal Link(s):** How does the link lead to the impact?
- ❖ **Brink:** While the present system is OK now, we are close to a breaking point – the plan will be the “straw that breaks the camels back” – Not every disadvantage will have a brink argument.
- ❖ **Impact:** Why would the disadvantage be bad? Especially, why would it be even worse than the affirmative advantages?





FILL-IN DISADVANTAGE (ESSENTIALLY U.S. HEGEMONY GOOD)

- ❖ **Uniqueness:** U.S. arms sales preserve strong ties of allegiance; U.S. dominates arms sales now.
- ❖ **Link:** The case reduces arms sales to key allies (in the Mideast, Asia, or Africa); this will lead to Russia or China “filling in” the gap and increasing their influence in these regions.
- ❖ **Impact:** Loss of support for U.S. leadership to Russia or China will result in war.

Brook Manville, (Staff), FORBES, Oct. 14, 2018. Retrieved June 17, 2019 from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brookmanville/2018/10/14/why-a-crumbling-world-order-urgently-needs-u-s-leadership/#61314a9e2e61>.

If U.S. global leadership slides, Kagan asserts, the invisible protective bubble we’ve enjoyed since 1945 won’t just deflate. It will explode. Good-bye rules-based trade, hello shortages of food and essential products. Dictators not just threatening but using nuclear weapons. More innocents repressed or killed in civilized countries.





U.S. MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL BASE DISADVANTAGE

- ❖ **Uniqueness:** U.S. arms sales are strong now, sustaining the U.S. military-industrial base.
- ❖ **Link:** The case undermines support for U.S. defense industries.
- ❖ **Impact:** U.S. military weakness resulting from a weakened military-industrial base results in war.

U.S. Department of Defense, 2017 National Security Strategy, quoted in Jeffery A. Green, (president of J.A. Green & Company), Jan. 24, 2019. Retrieved Apr. 24, 2019 from <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2019/1/24/viewpoint-industrial-base-gears-up-for-great-power-conflict>.

A healthy defense industrial base is a critical element of U.S. power and the national security innovation base. The ability of the military to surge in response to an emergency depends on our nation's ability to produce needed parts and systems, healthy and secure supply chains, and a skilled U.S. workforce.





ECONOMY DISADVANTAGE

- ❖ **Uniqueness:** The U.S. economy is OK now, but we are approaching a fragile time where any blow to the economy could tip us over into recession or worse.
- ❖ **Link:** Defense industries are critically important to the economy & arms sales are critical to defense industries. Economic shocks have multiplier effects, rippling through the economy.
- ❖ **Impact:** Economic decline leads to war

Qian Liu, (Economist based in China), Nov. 8, 2018. Retrieved Apr. 24, 2019 from <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/economic-crisis-military-conflict-or-structural-reform-by-qian-liu-2018-11>.

The next economic crisis is closer than you think. But what you should really worry about is what comes after: in the current social, political, and technological landscape, a prolonged economic crisis, combined with rising income inequality, could well escalate into a major global military conflict. The 2008-09 global financial crisis almost bankrupted governments and caused systemic collapse.





APPEASEMENT DISADVANTAGE

- ❖ **Uniqueness:** Continued arms sales provide a vital signal of U.S. support for Ukraine and/or Taiwan.
- ❖ **Link:** Reducing U.S. arms sales to Ukraine/Taiwan will be misperceived by Russia/China as a sign of weakness that they will exploit.
- ❖ **Impact:** Russia/Chinese military moves in the Ukraine/Taiwan Strait will draw the U.S. into war.

Peter Navarro, (Prof., Economics and Public Policy, U. California at Irvine), *CROUCHING TIGER: WHAT CHINA'S MILITARISM MEANS FOR THE WORLD*, 2015, 119-120.

To experts like Professor Yoshihara, however, such American "restraint"—along with a growing history of presidential vacillations—spell increasing danger. This is because these signals of American indecision and meekness may one day embolden a rapidly militarizing China to make its final invasion push. To Yoshihara, that would be a gross Chinese miscalculation of the actual firmness of America's resolve on the Taiwan question.





TERRORISM DISADVANTAGE

- ❖ **Uniqueness:** At present, U.S. arms sales support the global war on terror.
- ❖ **Link:** The plan reduces arms sales to key U.S. allies on the front lines of the war on terrorism.
- ❖ **Impact:** Failure in the war on terrorism leads to war.

Peter Hayes, (Professor at the Centre for International Security Studies at the University of Sydney), NON-STATE TERRORISM AND INADVERTENT NUCLEAR WAR, Jan. 18, 2018. Retrieved Apr. 23, 2019 from <https://nautilus.org/napsnet/napsnet-special-reports/non-state-terrorism-and-inadvertent-nuclear-war/>.

It is just possible that some sort of terrorist attack, and especially an act of nuclear terrorism, could precipitate a chain of events leading to a massive exchange of nuclear weapons between two or more of the states that possess them.





POLITICS DISADVANTAGE

- ❖ **Uniqueness:** At present, Congress will check the President's impulse to abandon arms control agreements.
- ❖ **Link:** Political capital gained from reducing arms sales to Saudi Arabia or other countries will be used to gain swing votes on arms control issues.
- ❖ **Impact:** Gutting key arms control agreements will result in nuclear war.

Zachary Cohen, (Journalist, CNN), TRUMP STRATEGY FUELS NUCLEAR ARMS RACE, Sept. 19, 2018. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/18/politics/trump-us-nuclear-weapons-warning/index.html>.

"The Trump administration's nuclear posture goes beyond legitimate goals of credible national security, and actually promotes a nuclear arms race and nuclear war fighting," [Dr. Bruce Blair, nuclear security expert at Princeton University] added. Blair said some of the Pentagon's nuclear strategies are "dangerous" and contain unnecessary redundancies that may increase the chances of a full-scale nuclear conflict.





HEGEMONY DISADVANTAGE

- ❖ **Uniqueness:** U.S. leadership now at a low ebb, given U.S. supply of arms to dictators.
- ❖ **Link:** The case claims to restore and reinvigorate U.S. leadership in global affairs.
- ❖ **Impact:** Restoring U.S. leadership results in war, environmental destruction, and economic disaster.

Liu Mingfu, (Prof., China's National Defense University), THE CHINA DREAM, 2015, 58.

American hegemony is the root cause of the current attempts at nuclear weapons proliferation. American war has not stopped since the Cold War concluded, and the reason is not nuclear weapons, but America's imposed hegemony. The first strategic task necessary to guarantee world peace is not denuclearization, it is the end of hegemony. Only if America halts its hegemonic campaigns can the world denuclearize.





CASE RESPONSE: SALES TO AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

The "democratic peace" is a myth; consider the number of times the U.S. and its allies have gone to war in the past few decades. Also, the effort to promote democracy in the Middle East known as the "Arab Spring" sowed chaos in Iraq, Egypt, Libya and elsewhere. Much more important to U.S. foreign policy is sustaining American influence and opposing the spread of terrorism. Arms sales to allied countries serve those purposes.

Mesued Mustefa, (Staff, Ethiopian News Agency), THE REPORTER, Apr. 4, 2015. Retrieved Feb. 8, 2016 from Nexis.

Democracy and human rights have lost its forward momentum in Arab nations. Unfortunately, the good intentioned "Arab spring" has turned into sectarian, religious and power seeking deadly wars across the region. Countries that were stable once have now become war fronts and battlefields. Peaceful and prosperous countries have become graveyards of people who struggled for democracy. The wave that demolished the status quo has become a curse for those who aspired to find a cure for their tyrannical and dictatorial political systems.





CASE RESPONSE: ARMS SALES TO SAUDI ARABIA

The Saudi regime has been brutal at times, but the Houthi rebels in Yemen are worse. Forcing the Saudis to withdraw from Yemen will not only expand Iranian and terrorist influence in the Middle East, but will abandon the Yemeni people to unspeakable horrors at the hands of the Houthis.

Evelyn Gordon, (Visiting Fellow, Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs), **BACKING THE SAUDIS IN YEMEN IS RIGHT, STRATEGICALLY AND MORALLY**, Feb. 4, 2019. Retrieved Apr. 23, 2019 from <http://evelyncgordon.com/backing-the-saudis-in-yemen-is-right-strategically-and-morally/>.

[The Houthis] kidnap children outright, coerce them to enlist in exchange for a relative's freedom from jail, or force poor parents to choose between "volunteering" their child and making an unaffordable cash contribution to the war effort. Parents who resist are shot. In short, bad as the Saudis' human-rights violations are, the Houthis' violations are far worse. And by ending support for the Saudi coalition, the Senate would consign Yemen to the barbarous rule of those very same Houthis.





CASE RESPONSE: ARMS SALES TO TAIWAN

The U.S. arms sales commitment to Taiwan provides stability in the Taiwan Strait; China will not rock the boat. Reducing arms sales signals weakness and causes Chinese miscalculation. The rise of China should be controlled, rather than embraced.

J. Michael Cole, (Sr. Fellow, China Policy Institute, U. of Nottingham, UK),
CONVERGENCE OR CONFLICT IN THE TAIWAN STRAIT, 2017, 195.

The impact of ceding Taiwan to an increasingly belligerent PRC in the Asia-Pacific region would also likely be substantial. Given Beijing's escalating territorial disputes with most of its neighbors, the abandonment of Taiwan would put U.S. security guarantees into serious doubt and make an arms race more rather than less likely, especially when Japan is concerned.





CASE RESPONSE: SALES OF ARMED DRONES

Armed drones do not increase the risk of war; in any case, if the U.S. doesn't sell them, China certainly will.

Avery Plaw, (Prof., Political Science, U. Massachusetts, Dartmouth), *THE DRONE DEBATE*, 2016, 297.

Drone proliferation, the authors continue, "could provide a means for monitoring and confidence building, making it less likely that disputes will escalate, and providing a way for countries to engage in disputes without putting their people at risk of death, decreasing public pressure for war if an incident does occur." Furthermore, as drones do not place the operating military personnel at risk, they have the potential to significantly improve the practice of humanitarian interventions.





CASE RESPONSE: SALES OF SMALL ARMS

Though small arms are proliferating, conflicts are neither more frequent nor more deadly than in earlier times; also hundreds of countries sell small arms. Also the assault weapon of choice is the Russian Kalashnikov, a weapon that Russia co-produces in dozens of countries.

Gregg Easterbrook, (Contributing Editor, The Atlantic), *IT'S BETTER THAN IT LOOKS: REASONS FOR OPTIMISM IN THE AGE OF FEAR*, 2018, xviii.

Since about 1990, a person's chance of dying because of violence has dropped to the lowest it has ever been, stretching back to the mists of pre-history. That statement holds even considering the 2016 wave of Islamist terror attacks in Europe and the mass shootings in America. Other than in Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, and Syria, in 2016 the chance of anyone in any nation dying by violence was at a historic low. Even under population pressure, the world grows steadily safer.





CASE RESPONSE: ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT)

The ATT is a flawed agreement undeserving of U.S. support; though hundreds of nations have ratified it, it has achieved nothing; it has no enforcement provision.

Jennifer Erickson, (Prof., Political Science, Boston College), DANGEROUS TRADE: ARMS EXPORTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION, 2015, 18.

These states' largely supportive response to the norm cascade is both instrumental and social. Yet although their policies are available for all to see, their arms trade practices are more easily hidden from international scrutiny. States can therefore reap the reputational rewards of adopting "responsible" policies without necessarily paying the costs of equally "responsible" implementation. Such a gap between commitment and compliance can easily go unpunished in international politics, where transparency is poor and agreements—such as the ATT—lack enforcement capabilities.





CASE RESPONSE: SALES OF BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEMS (BMD)

China is already engaged in a nuclear arms race, so the BMD impact on China is irrelevant. China could already overwhelm BMD. The real value of BMD is its capability to control the threat from rogue regimes such as North Korea and Iran. It can also guard against accidental launch.

Alan Dowd, (senior fellow with the Sagamore Institute), PROVIDENCE, Dec. 7, 2017. Retrieved Apr. 17, 2019 from <https://providencemag.com/2017/12/missile-defense-insurance-mistakes-miscalculation-madmen/>.

“We want potential adversaries to know that not only is there a price for attacking us or our friends,” Adm. James Winnefeld, former Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, explains, “but the attack may not succeed in the first place, resulting in pain, but no gain.” In other words, missile defense could change an adversary’s calculus. If the odds of a missile getting through are reduced by missile defenses, even an erratic adversary may resist the temptation to take a shot at the United States and its allies. There’s enormous value in something that causes the Kim Dynasty and Iran’s theocracy to second-guess and/or restrain themselves.





CASE RESPONSE: ARMS SALES TO MEXICO

Small arms sales to the government of Mexico is irrelevant, especially since their new president is ending the drug war through legalization. The cartels will always be able to buy small arms through the black market.

N.R. Jenzen-Jones, (Analyst, Small Arms Survey), PRODUCERS OF SMALL ARMS, LIGHT WEAPONS, AND THEIR AMMUNITION, July 2014. Retrieved May 20, 2019 from <https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/182840/SAS-Research-Note-43.pdf>.

Thousands of companies from some 100 countries produce small arms, light weapons, and their ammunition.

Madeleine Wattenbarger, (Staff, The Nation), MEXICO'S PRESIDENT SAYS THE WAR ON DRUGS IS OVER, Apr. 17, 2019. May 20, 2019 from <https://www.thenation.com/article/amlo-drugs-cartels-war/>.

Two weeks earlier, president Andrés Manuel López Obrador had announced that Mexico's war against narco-trafficking was over. "There is no war. We want peace, we're going to get peace," he'd told reporters in his daily morning press conference.





CASE RESPONSE: ARMS SALES TO INDIA

India has been a force for peace in South Asia; the U.S. acted properly in granting a CAATSA exemption. India is turning away from its reliance on Russia, despite the S-400 sale.

Antonio Guterres, (United Nations Secretary-General), INDIA TODAY, Oct. 15, 2018. Retrieved Mar. 1, 2019 from Nexis.

India is a country that has no direct interests in some areas of global conflict. It has very good relations with countries in conflict or countries facing difficult security situations, and I believe Indian diplomacy is very well received. India is a bridge-builder, an honest broker and a messenger of peace.





CASE RESPONSE: ARMS SALES TO EGYPT

Egypt offers a prototypical case in the futility of using arms sanctions to influence human rights policy. Cutting off arms sales will simply turn a friendly government to Russia and China. No human rights practices will be changed, but U.S. strategic interests will suffer and cooperation in the war on terrorism will be hindered.

Farid Farid, (Staff), SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, Dec. 14, 2017. Retrieved Apr. 22, 2019 from Nexis.

"The message Russia is sending to other Arab countries by supporting [Syrian President Bashar] Assad is that if you are facing domestic trouble we are going to stick by our allies," Karim Bitar, a Middle East expert at the Paris-based Institute for Strategic International Relations told Fairfax Media. "We are not like the US, we are not going to sell you weapons and then abandon you when you face problems. So when Sissi flirts with Russia, he's just sending a signal to the US that we might explore alternatives."

