

Rebuilding Yemen Capstone
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Yemen, the poorest country in the Arab world, has always been a fragile state. Buffeted by the Arab Spring, it did, however, look to be one of the few success stories with a negotiated transfer of power, a laudable National Dialogue Process, and strong support from the international community. But even this near-success had fundamental flaws. The Houthis, long in conflict with the pre-Arab Spring central government, swept into the capital in the autumn of 2014 with an aggressive reformist agenda and demands for governmental restructuring. The National Partnership Plan agreed to with the transitional Hadi government was in retrospect Yemen's last chance at a functioning government. By January 2015 the state and the government began to unravel. On March 25th, with Hadi in forced exile, Saudi Arabia launched a military campaign to force the Houthis out and bring Hadi back. Despite attempts at UN-brokered ceasefires and peace negotiations as of November 2016, that campaign continues, with untold destruction of the political, economic, social and physical infrastructure and a growing humanitarian catastrophe. The campaign has also unleashed AQAP and spawned the emergence of IS-affiliated groups.