

The Economics of U.S. Arms Sales (Direct Commercial and/or Foreign Military)



Policy Debate – 2019-2020 Topic

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.

Note: Some slides include URL link to articles. If link doesn't work, copy and paste into browser rather than click on link.

POLICY DEBATE: Synopsis of the Problem Areas for 2019-2020

From the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

PROBLEM AREA I: ARMS SALES

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In the movie *Iron Man*, upon his triumphant return to the United States, arms dealer Tony Stark reflects upon the world his products helped shape:

"I saw young Americans killed by the very weapons I created to defend them and protect them. And I saw that I had become part of a system that is comfortable with zero-accountability. I had my eyes opened. I came to realize that I had more to offer this world than just making things that blow up. And that is why, effective immediately, I am shutting down the weapons manufacturing division of Stark Industries."

<https://www.speechanddebate.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-2020-Policy-Debate-Topic-Synopsis.pdf>

POLICY DEBATE: Synopsis of the Problem Areas for 2019-2020

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PROBLEM AREA I: ARMS SALES

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce Direct Commercial Sales and/or Foreign Military Sales of arms from the United States.

- *President Trump is actively increasing the number of arms contracts offered and authorized by the United States. ...*
- *[Do] arms sales make us safer and strengthen our economy, or create blowback which increases terrorism or fuels conflicts in a variety of regions across the globe[?]*
- *Aff: Restrict arms sales to authoritarian states, restrict sales to Taiwan (provokes China), to Qatar which may pass to terrorists...*
- *Neg.: hurt alliances, cut weapons interoperability, hurt economy. foreign firms gain arms sales.*

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HOW DID ISIS GET ITS WEAPONS? EUROPE WANTS TO LIMIT U.S. AND SAUDI ARABIA ARMS SALES BECAUSE GUNS WENT TO MILITANT GROUP



- *ISIS's rapid takeover...was assisted by U.S. weapons looted from government forces in Iraq and from Syrian fighters... a report...accused the U.S. and Saudi Arabia of intentionally violating EU rules by purchasing "large numbers" of European arms and ammunition and then quietly diverting them to nonstate actors in Syria without telling the suppliers.*
- *...sales ...through deals between Eastern European members of the EU, as well as the U.S. and Saudi Arabia... the 2017 report found.*

<https://www.newsweek.com/europe-limit-us-saudi-weapons-sales-went-isis-1215758>
