

Significant Cases of Global Arms Trade

US-Bombs for UAE-Leaders

Key Data:

Years: 2020

Involved Countries: USA; UAE

Weapon Systems: F-35; Laser Guided Missiles

Arms Producers:

Perpetrators/Involved Parties: Trump; UAE-Officials

Victims/Affected:

a brief summary of the \$23 billion arms deal following the Abraham Accords between the US and the UAE and its implications for the region:

The \$23 billion arms deal between the United States and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was signed in January, near the end of Donald Trump's presidency, following the Abraham Accords. The deal aimed to enhance the UAE's military capabilities and strengthen strategic alliances in the Middle East [2].

The arms deal included the sale of advanced military equipment, such as F-35 fighter jets, armed drones, and other weaponry [3]. It closely followed the normalization of diplomatic relations between the UAE and Israel, which was facilitated by the Abraham Accords [2]. The deal was part of former President Trump's efforts to arm US allies in the region and promote stability [2].

However, there were moments of uncertainty surrounding the arms deal. The Biden administration initially suspended the sale of F-35s to the UAE for review [5]. Concerns were raised by some US lawmakers and observers regarding the UAE's involvement in the Yemen conflict, which has been characterized as one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters [1]. The Biden administration conducted a comprehensive review of foreign arms sales made by the previous administration, including the \$23 billion deal with the UAE [3].

Despite the initial suspension, the Biden administration later decided to proceed with the arms sales, including the F-35 fighter jets [3]. Secretary of State Antony Blinken confirmed the US's willingness to sell F-35s to the UAE [6]. The arms deal between the US and the UAE had implications for the region, including potential advancements in the UAE's military capabilities and potential shifts in the balance of power.

The deal raised concerns among neighboring countries and regional actors about potential arms proliferation and an arms race. It also sparked debates regarding the impact on regional stability, military deterrence, and the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. The UAE's military modernization through the acquisition of advanced weaponry, including the F-35s, could potentially affect the dynamics of regional rivalries and alliances [8].

Furthermore, the arms deal highlighted the evolving geopolitical landscape in the Middle East and the changing dynamics of US engagement in the region. The UAE, as a key US ally, sought to strengthen its defense capabilities while deepening its strategic partnership with the United States. The deal was seen as a significant step toward cementing the UAE's position as a regional player and promoting stability in the region [2].

It is important to note that the \$23 billion arms deal and its implications are multifaceted and subject to varying interpretations and viewpoints. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the deal and its broader impact on the region, it is advisable to consult a variety of reliable news sources, scholarly analyses, and official statements from the involved parties.

Additional Information / Sources

[1] "Apr 13, 2021 · YEMEN CONFLICT Some U.S. lawmakers have criticized the UAE for its involvement in the war in Yemen, a conflict considered one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters, and worried that the..."

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[2] "Dec 16, 2021 · The \$23 billion deal The US and UAE signed the deal in January, right at the end of Donald Trump's tenure and was a part of the former president's efforts to arm strategic US allies in the middle east. The deal closely followed the "Abraham Accords", which marked the normalisation of relations between the UAE and Israel."

URL: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-uae-suspended-23-billion-arms-deal-with-us-7676235/>

[3] "Apr 14, 2021 · Biden to approve \$23 billion sale of F-35s to UAE that followed Abraham Accords New administration had been reviewing foreign arms sales made by Trump, including deal to supply advanced..."

URL: <https://www.timesofisrael.com/biden-to-approve-23-billion-sale-of-f-35s-to-uae-that-followed-abraham-accords/>

[4] "Dec 14, 2021 · The United Arab Emirates has suspended talks on a deal to purchase American-made F-35 jets, armed drones and other equipment, in a rare dispute between Washington and a key U.S. ally in the ..."

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[7] "Sep 10, 2021 · Much to the Emiratis' dismay, the Biden administration initially suspended a \$23 billion arms sale that accompanied the accords—with wares including F-35 stealth fighter jets and MQ-9B ..."

URL: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/09/10/biden-israel-uae-bahrain-abraham-peace-trump-kushner/>

[8] "Jan 2, 2022 · The US\$23.4 billion arms deal was approved in principle by former president Donald Trump's administration soon after the Gulf state signed the Abraham Accords with Israel in August 2020 to ..."

URL: <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3161395/was-there-china-factor-uaes-scuttling-f-35-jet-deal-us>

Author

Edited vom 04.05.2022 /
