

**THE HOUTHIS' MARITIME STRATEGY IN THE RED SEA AS A
COUNTER-HEGEMONY TO ZIONISM IN THE REGION**

THESIS

*Submitted to fulfill one of the requirements
to obtain a bachelor's degree in political science at
The Faculty of Social and Political Sciences,
Universitas Andalas*

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2025

ABSTRACT

This research examines the maritime strategy of the Houthis in the Red Sea during 2023-2024, focusing on how their actions challenge the established regional power structures linked to Israeli influence. The study applies a critical theoretical framework to explore the intersection of material power, ideological narratives, and institutional developments that shape the Houthis' approach. Using a qualitative, descriptive-analytical method, the research analyzes secondary data from academic articles, official reports, and media sources to trace the evolution of the Houthis' maritime operations and their impact on regional security and global trade. Findings reveal that the Houthis employ asymmetric tactics—such as missile strikes, drone attacks, and naval interdictions—to disrupt maritime traffic and assert counter-hegemonic resistance. Their campaign demonstrates a sophisticated blend of military innovation and ideological solidarity with Palestinian causes, significantly affecting shipping routes, regional stability, and international responses. The study concludes that the Houthis represent a complex non-state actor capable of challenging dominant regional hegemony through military means and ideological contestation, thereby reshaping security dynamics in a vital global maritime corridor.

Keywords:

Houthis; Maritime strategy; Regional hegemony; Red Sea security; Historical Structure Analysis



ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengkaji strategi maritim gerakan Houthi di Laut Merah selama periode 2023-2024, dengan fokus pada bagaimana tindakan mereka menantang struktur kekuasaan regional yang berafiliasi dengan pengaruh Israel. Studi ini menggunakan kerangka teori kritis untuk mengeksplorasi pertemuan antara kekuatan material, narasi ideologis, dan perkembangan institusional yang membentuk pendekatan Houthi. Dengan metode kualitatif deskriptif-analitis, penelitian ini menganalisis data sekunder dari artikel akademik, laporan resmi, dan sumber media untuk menelusuri evolusi operasi maritim Houthi serta dampaknya terhadap keamanan regional dan perdagangan global. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa Houthi menggunakan taktik asimetris seperti serangan misil, serangan drone, dan intersepsi kapal untuk mengganggu lalu lintas maritim dan menegaskan perlawanan kontra-hegemonik. Kampanye mereka mencerminkan perpaduan yang sofistikasi antara inovasi militer dan solidaritas ideologis dengan perjuangan Palestina, yang secara signifikan memengaruhi rute pelayaran, stabilitas kawasan, dan respons internasional. Studi ini menyimpulkan bahwa Houthi merupakan aktor non-negara yang kompleks dan mampu menantang hegemoni regional dominan melalui upaya militer dan kontestasi ideologis, sehingga merubah dinamika keamanan di koridor maritim global yang vital.

Kata kunci: *Houthi; Strategi maritim; Hegemoni regional; Keamanan Laut Merah; Analisis Struktur Sejarah*

