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The Production of Panic

# What is Happening in Yemen?

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## Abstract

Despite the media's preoccupation with the terrorist threat emanating from Yemen, the sense of urgency underpinning the debate about the country's future stems from an economic tailspin forced by dwindling oil production. The debate is divided not between doves and hawks but between optimists and pessimists over what the current framework can achieve. Optimists say Yemen is entering a critical new phase, supported by unprecedented levels of international engagement. Pessimists argue that, beyond cosmetic measures, Yemen's track record on reform is dismal. A pragmatic third group argues that there is no point in continuing to deliver the same message but shouting

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