

Russia leverages Hamas and the Houthis to advance its geopolitical agenda of weakening Western, particularly American, influence in the Middle East and globally. By providing diplomatic support, and according to reports, intelligence data and potential weaponry, Moscow utilizes these Iran-backed groups to create instability that distracts the US and its allies from the war in Ukraine.

Key connections include:

- **Houthis (Yemen):** Russia has engaged in growing cooperation with the Houthis (Ansar Allah), who have targeted international shipping, including hosting delegations and providing, as reported by the [Wall Street Journal](#), satellite data to enhance these attacks. Additionally, there are reports that Moscow has considered providing anti-ship missiles to the group, notes the [Jamestown Foundation](#).
- **Hamas:** Russia maintains relationships with Hamas, hosting their leaders in Moscow and providing diplomatic cover, while avoiding classifying them as a terrorist organization, according to [Wikipedia](#). This aligns with Russia's aim to present itself as a pro-Arab power.
- **Axis of Resistance:** These partnerships are facilitated by Russia's expanding military alliance with Iran, say [Atlantic Council](#) and the Jamestown Foundation, positioning Moscow as a key player in the "Axis of Resistance" against Western interests.
- **Strategic Distraction:** These ties allow Russia to drain Western resources in the Red Sea and Gaza, providing a diversion from the Ukraine conflict.

Essentially, the Houthis and Hamas serve as strategic tools for Russia to create "supply chains of instability" against the West