

## What Does Lebanon's Hezbollah War with Israel Tell us?

When Khomeini the original ideologue of Hezbollah victoriously returned to Tehran and founded the Islamic Republic with the help of naïve and unsuspecting well formed, shaped, and educated middle class; he turned his decade long dream into a reality which had began from chaotic political freedom after the invasion of Iran during World War II. Khomeini coined the word Hezbollah to differentiate his politically oriented Islamic religious followers from the communist and nationalist parties who were opposing Mohammad Reza Shah autocratic dictatorship. In 1964, in their first open challenge to the Shah's regime, Khomeini's followers in a day long rioting filled the Tehran's air with their screams of "Hezb faghat Hezbollah", "party only the party of god." In 1979, Khomeini demonstrated secularist Iranians (if it ever had been noticed) what Hezbollah meticulous plans and aims for Iran was; Hezbollah tirelessly worked hard until turned its government to a reality. As soon as Islamic Republic established in Iran, Hezbollah's foreign adventures began. Iraq and Lebanon for its Shi'i population became the target of propaganda and agitation. This caused the bloody long war with Iraq, while Islamic Republic activity in Lebanon took a different course matching the nature of politics in Lebanon.

In Lebanon, the Islamic Republic patient and hard work in last twenty seven years is producing its fruit in the form of Hezbollah war with Israel. What will be the imminent consequences of the Hezbollah war with Israel? The Shi'ism show of power will send the chill in the spine of Sunni dominated governments with minority population of Shi'i such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, and Persian Gulf states. These states are hesitant to choose the subject of their hatred Israel or Shi's Hezbollah. There could be no doubt they will choose Israel as an enemy to deal with and will be terrified from dealing with politically charged Hezbollah, for the obvious reason of historical blood letting among Sunnis and Shi'is.

The more consequential result of this war would be Hezbollah's imminent take over Lebanon. The real goal of Hezbollah in Lebanon is the creation of an Islamic Republic of Lebanon. This suggestion seems far fetched; nevertheless if we look at the Hezbollah's strategy and tactics closely we realize the similarities between the road map of domination of Hezbollah in Iran and Lebanon. In Iran, the whole political establishment opposing the Shah had realized the capability of Hezbollah organization to overthrow the Shah. Consequently, accepted mullah's leadership and supported whole hearted. There were two elements in this political paradigm: common enemy and offered leadership who had the best chance to win. The Hezbollah in Lebanon masterfully created the same elements of its take over of Lebanon as its teacher and guardian had done in Iran. The Hezbollah created the illusion that Israel is the enemy of Lebanon and created the reality of its strength and offered leadership to the people of Lebanon. Lebanon's Hezbollah intends to create the Islamic Republic of Lebanon the same way Khomeini acted in Iran. Hezbollah traditionally always used women and children as its fighters shield to achieve two goals: one is to safe guard his fighters and in the case of casualty of women and children drawing political propaganda against its enemy in pursue of military and psychological victory.

Hezbollah knows the way to dominate Lebanon is to control the countries political agenda; and what agenda is more important for the country than war and peace.

In addition instability created in Lebanon by Hezbollah accelerates emigration of none Shi'is from the country and this gives more weight to Shi'i population. Lebanon is in a cross road, the political leadership of Lebanon either sees the trap Hezbollah set up for Lebanon's politicians and realize the Hezbollah design for Lebanon and began to fight with Hezbollah in cooperation with Israel and work hard to support a new political leadership for Lebanon's Shi'i population or follows the Iranian model and surrender Lebanon to Hezbollah to create the Islamic Republic of Lebanon. What the short history of Hezbollah in Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon teach us is that Hezbollah is a political fighting force and nothing stops its advancement for domination less than absolute military defeat. Victory does not moderate Hezbollah instead increases its appetite for more aggression. Lebanon should look at the values shares with Hezbollah and Israel and compare them. It is obvious that there are no shared values of democracy, freedom of religion, political freedom, and private enterprise between Lebanon and Hezbollah, while the same values are shared with Israel. Lebanon's democracy and diversity will be saved by the alliance with Israel not Syria or Islamic Republic sponsored Hezbollah. This is a dangerous road for Lebanon's politicians to take but it is the right one which will strengthen democracy in Middle East and it is possible because it is in the interest of Israel and guaranties Israel help.

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