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THE STRATEGY OF HEZBOLLAH (IRANIAN PROJECT) AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE SECURITY OF THE ARAB STATES

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Exercise Solo Flight

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The Strategy of Hezbollah (Iranian project) and their impact on the security of the Arab states

Introduction

Hezbollah emerged as an organization of political and military influence in Lebanon's political and military arena for over twenty five years. the party has roots dating back to the Shiite Amal movement, founded by Imam (Musa al-Sadr), and who was educated in the Shiite religious schools in (Najaf), Iraq.

The party has been linked to Iran, based on the fundamentals, intellectual and ideological concepts. that most of the party leaders belong to the Najaf Shiite school, The party secretariat is currently headed by Hassan Nasrallah since 1992. party strategy and presence were built on the military resistance to the Israeli occupation, especially after the invasion of Beirut in 1982, the party crowned its political and military work by forcing the Israeli army to withdraw from southern Lebanon in May 2000 and tackled them in the July 2006 war, which earned it applaud in the Lebanese street and increased his popularity in the Arab world.

The Mental vision of Hezbollah on the Arab street has dramatically changed in general and Lebanon's in particular, as a symbol of resistance. Its involvement in the ongoing fight in Syria and standing openly with its regional ally (the Syrian regime) and its involvement in Yemen and Iraq, as a result, the party is described as a terrorist organization and has earned numerous criticisms officially and publically in the two worlds (Arab and Muslim), especially among the Muslims (Sunnis).

This will be a research paper to study and analyze the emergence of Hezbollah and the strategies used by Hezbollah and its relationship with Iran, with the Iranian project in the region, which aims to export the principles of the Iranian revolution, and dominate the region, the statement of the Party's role in the ongoing in the region interactions and transformation of the party's strategy

of Hezbollah resistance to participate in the circuit of regional wars and serve different political agendas.

The party-originated and strategy / the Iranian project

Hezbollah flourished in the state of Lebanon, which has a unique character different from the world's most populous communities and that is the co-existence of 18 recognized religious sects and denominations.¹ Sources differ on the origins of the party, thus the party establishment can be divided into three phases: **The first phase** took place before 1982 (Islamic radicals)

The emergence of an active movement in the Lebanese Shiite community through Scholars and clerics who came from Najaf, Iraq or from Iran to Lebanon who attracted a number of young Shiite Muslims. The most prominent event was the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, when create (Support Committees for the Islamic Revolution) and began to communicate with the leadership of the revolution in Iran to create a unified Islamic framework which brings them together.²

The second phase (secret establishment phase in 1982) after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in June 1982, officials from the Islamic Movement of Amal Islamic committees decided to unite their forces to form a unified framework capable of facing the Israeli invasion which lead to the establishment of a new Islamic framework-called (Hezbollah “The Party of GOD”) which was not announced at the time.³ **The third phase** (officially announced the founding of the party) in

¹ General Command of the Jordanian armed forces, the intelligence school, bulletin Hezbollah, p. 16.

² Ibid, P 17.

³ General Command of the Jordanian armed forces, the intelligence school, bulletin Hezbollah, P 18.

* **Open Letter:** Letter Hezbollah and addressed to the oppressed in Lebanon and the world on February 16, 1985, Explaining the perceptions of the party and his approach and identified ideology the party's political objectives and principles on the occasion of the first anniversary of symbol of resistance Sheikh (Ragheb Harb) martyrdom, the day on which it is officially announced the formation of the party openly as an official party in Lebanon.

February of 1985, during a press conference at which the official spokesman of the party spoke and announced it (Party declaration charter), which was called the (open Letter)*.

As for the party's strategies, they can be summed up as follows: **The political strategy**, The formation of an effective political parliamentary pressure in the political Lebanese arena through the participation in the parliamentary elections. The party's active presence in the professional union elections and especially (Syndicates of Engineers, doctors, student unions and trades unions and municipalities) To achieve this, the party formed (special unit) for the union work.⁴

Social and psychological strategy: The party tackling of social and developmental issues enabled it to find a loyal and supportive environment.⁵ **Greater strategy** Party strategic Alliance with Iran and Syria which is a source of arming, training and funding⁶. **Economic strategy** Securing sources of funding for the party, whether internal or external. **Media strategy** Party recognized the importance of the media as a mean of mass communication to spread the ideology of the party and its principles and to express its political stands therefore it has established an extensive network of media written, audio and visual, (Al- Nour Radio) was founded in 1987, and (Al-Manar TV) was founded in the early nineties, which is characterized by broadcasting the resistance news of and it is a purposeful media institution.⁷ **Military strategy** the party has sought to build a trained and qualified military force with a purpose and on the basis of ideology (religious) and oriented to resist the Israeli occupation, Have access to the arsenal of a variety of

⁴ Elahi Massoud, Islamists in a pluralistic society, Consulting and Research Center, Lebanon 2004 first edition, p. 365.

⁵ The World Wide Web, (<http://www.mogowama.org>), 1900 hrs of April 21, 2016.

⁶ Zarour, Hadi, the balance of terror, Prints company for Distribution and Publishing, 2013, the first edition, p. 147.

⁷ Aljawahry, Osama, (Israel, Lebanon, Hezbollah), outstanding print publishing, Cairo in 2007, the first edition, p. 189.

missiles and extends different weapon of strategic deterrence, and adopting guerrilla warfare style.⁸

The Iranian project in the Middle East is no secret to anyone, characterized as savvy and sophisticated and is also characterized by its secrecy and confidentiality and playing on contradictions, disguised in the turban and robe of Islam, penetrating and influencing the ordinary people in the Arab world by playing on the chord of sectarianism. Subsequent to the Iranian revolution in 1979 of the last century, it became the goal of the Iranian policy to export the principles of the revolution to the neighboring countries and exploit the Shiite minorities in these countries in order to achieve the Iranian goal and that's Iran to become the Islamic center of the world, controlling their wealth, destiny and decisions. The occupation of Iraq (2003) and the destruction of all government institutions, contributed to Iran gaining control of the levels of government and influence the decision-making and the change political landscape in the Middle East, and since that time Iran has been a major player in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Palestine and Lebanon, tried and still making tremendous efforts to apply its influence on other states such as Gulf states, Egypt and Sudan.

Iran had a prominent role in the birth of the party in order to have a foothold in Lebanon, and linked it to the Palestinian cause, a sensitive chord that Iran plays to drum up Arab popular support and its subservience to Iran, this fact is not even denied by the party leaders. Hence, the Hezbollah in Lebanon has been a military and political arm to Iran and it is instrumental to influence the Arab countries.

On the question of the Shiite Crescent, previously mentioned by the Ayatollah Khomeini, As the first President of the Republic in Iran during the reign of Khomeini, Abolhassan Bani Sadr which

⁸ Ahmed, Rifaat Alsayed, Hassan Nasrallah – A rebel from the south, the Arab Book House, Damascus - Cairo in 2006, the first edition, p. 133.

was aired, in TV a program on Al-Jazeera , named "private visit" in the episode titled "The Iranian Revolution , the US and the Arabs", dated 01/17/2000, when he was asked by the show host, "Did Imam Khomeini tell you about his relationship with neighboring Arab states, and whether he had ambitions to expand in the military in order to export the revolution? He replied, "He did not talk to me about this subject, but there was another project, he wanted to establish a Shiite belt to dominate on both sides of the Islamic world, and the belt is composed of Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. Should he have become a master of this belt then he would have sought to control the rest of the Islamic world."⁹

In the political statement of the party, which came entitled "Who we are and what our identity is," in the February 16, 1985, party identified itself, saying: "We are the sons of the nation Hezbollah, which forefront win in Iran, and founded a new seed of the central state of Islam in the world, we are committed to the orders of the leadership of the one who is wise fair represented by the supreme cleric Faqih Khomeini, the initiator of the Islamic revolution and the reviver of its glorious renaissance."¹⁰ Ibrahim al-Amin, "a Hezbollah leader," said of this trend in 1987, "We do not say we are part of Iran, we are Iran in Lebanon, and Lebanon in Iran."¹¹ Hojatoleislam Fakhr Rohani, "Iran's ambassador to Lebanon," Said in an interview with the newspaper "Ettelaat" of Iran in 1984 about Lebanon, "Lebanon is a good hope to export of the Islamic revolution, when Lebanon comes to the embrace of the Islamic Republic the it will be followed by the rest."¹²

⁹ Ali Hassan al-Bakir, a researcher on international relations, "Hezbollah under the microscope, a holistic vision of a different relationship with Iran and Israel," 2012, pp. 16-17.

¹⁰ Founding statement of the party, February 16, 1985.

¹¹ Nahar newspaper], 5 March 1987, <http://newspaper.annahar.com>.

¹² Ali Hassan al-Bakir, a researcher on international relations, "Hezbollah under the microscope, a holistic vision of a different relationship with Iran and Israel," 2012, p. 31.

We conclude from the above mentioned that the current regulatory ideological presence of Hezbollah was preceded by the presence of intellectual streams belonging mostly to Iraq which bore traces of Shiite political and social thoughts, thus paved the environment in Lebanon to set up a party , Iran has made it possible to connect the bridges of communication with it and provide support in various aspects under the cover of the resistance and the Palestinian cause, and hid Iran's ambitions in the conveyance of the revolution principles and the domination of the Muslim world, which is shown through what is listed on the facts.

Party leaders and thinkers talking about the party as an Arab Lebanese party, which is involved in the Arab and the Lebanese issues and interests and the Palestinian cause, linking brotherly relations with Iran stem from the unity of religion and goals, common interests, based on the security of the region, and to stand against foreign interference and resistance to Israeli occupation. “The Party takes interest in the fate and future of Lebanon and it contributes with the rest of the Lebanese political forces in establishing a more just and free society, and aims to establish an Islamic state in Lebanon. And it is involved in the Arab and Islamic issues, particularly the Palestinian cause” Said Hassan Nasr Allah.¹³

The secretary general Hassan Nasrallah said, “in spite of the political and financial support that Hezbollah receives from Iran, that does not mean that

The Hezbollah is an Iranian party on the Lebanese soil, and illustrated his words by saying that the Secretary General of the party is, and all cadres of the party are Lebanese, and the party operates on Lebanese soil, defends and offers martyrs for the liberation of Lebanese territory, all of this set sufficient standards that Hezbollah is a Lebanese party and not an Iranian’.¹⁴

¹³ Interviews, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, Secretary General of Hezbollah, the "Party of God" episode, hotspot program, Al-Jazeera, 26/10/2001 m. <http://www.aljazeera.net>.

¹⁴ Mohamed Abdel Ati, Hezbollah's establishment and development, 3/10/2004, <http://www.aljazeera.net>.

The bottom line is that the party is linked to Iran politically and religiously, and Iran's support for the party comes to serve its goals and to achieve its interests and its expansion. It could be argued that Iran's goal of creating a party and support to it has two sides, one is the internal aspect to the nature of the party and its environment in Lebanon, and the other is the external relation with the Iranian project, whereas devoting overall efforts in support of the project whatever the circumstances are.

Hezbollah and the wars in the region and the security of the Arab countries

Hezbollah has for years devoted to its idea and strategy based on the resistance to the Israeli occupation and support of the Palestinian resistance and the attention to the Arab issues, to established a pattern of domestic and regional legitimacy. It managed to get the support and popular support. Over time, the mental image that was formed for the party is no longer ruling of the scene. It turned out that sectarian inheritance of the party is difficult to escape, since the internal conflict in Syria and Iraq has proved that Hezbollah equates more with itself and its sectarian interests, party's strategy changed to become part of the sectarian scene par excellence it has become the pivotal player in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and the region alike.

Quoted by Reuter's news agency, "officials of regional security," they were given an estimate of between 2,000 and 4,000 fighters in Syria, including the types of forces that were sent to Syria, "the elite troops and special forces" and "reserve forces".¹⁵ The Secretary General of Hezbollah said: "We are no longer present in a place without a place in Syria, we are located in many places today, and I say to you today we will be found everywhere in Syria required by this battle."¹⁶

¹⁵ Matthew Levitt, «Hezbollah» and "the Middle East after the nuclear deal with Iran". Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 2015 <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/ar/policy-analysis/view/the-middle-east-after-the-iran-nuclear-deal-hezbollah>.

¹⁶ Hassan Nasrallah: Hezbollah fighters are ready to spread all over Syria to support Bashar al-Assad. 25 May 2015 <http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast>.

The party involvement in Yemen and its support for Shiite militias Huthi has become known to all, where the Yemeni government directly confirmed the involvement of the Lebanese Hezbollah in the war between the legitimate government and coups of the Al-Huthi militia. The Yemeni government has made it clear that it has many of the documents and physical evidence showing the extent of the involvement of individuals belonging to Hezbollah in the war that the Huthi militias launched against the Yemeni people. In this documentary evidence cannot be refuted and the party cannot deny its role in the devastation that it participate in, whether by moral or logistical support.¹⁷

By analyzing the participation of Hezbollah in Syria, the reasons for the party intervention can be summarized: Hezbollah arsenal or arms is the motivation behind its involvement in the Syrian conflict, so this follows weapons from Iran running through Syria, a place where the party stores some of its weapons, as well as r being a place that trains the troops. Syrian uprising has threatened to overthrow the Assad regime, which would, with respect to Hezbollah, run the risk of losing an important lifeline.¹⁸ And maintaining the alliance with the Syrian regime on the one hand and the alliance between Syria and Iran on the other.

As for the implications of the participation of Hezbollah in the ongoing fighting in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, the mental image of the party which has dramatically changed after its involvement in the ongoing fighting, after it was considered a symbol of Arab resistance in the region.

The party is now regarded as an instrument of sectarian revenge in Lebanon, and a tool of oppression against the Syrian revolution, the party's participation lead to a growing potential for violence inside Lebanon and the consecration of sectarian binaries in a state with a history marked by sectarianism and civil war, in November 2013. The Abdullah Azzam Brigades,

¹⁷ Aljazeera Center for Media and Development, the Yemeni government: Hezbollah was involved in the war Yemen <http://training.aljazeera.net>.

¹⁸ Lina Khatib, the rise and decline of Hezbollah, the Carnegie Middle East Center.2015.

related to al-Qaeda carried out the bombing of the Iranian embassy, where 23 people were killed.¹⁹ The deterioration of the internal alliances with Hezbollah, and blaming the party on the outbreak of a new civil war.

As for the participation of the party in the conflict in Yemen conflict, its participation is no different from its involvement in the Syrian conflict, in principle, to support the Iranian influence and show the sectarian side in supporting Shiite rebels, however the participation is not declared as in Syria by party leaders, it only revealed via the means of various official media, and it is only limited to logistical and training support.

What the party says about its participation in Syria and Iraq? Only the words of the party leaders come to describe the participation in order to resist terrorism, to prevent ISIS from taking control over Syria and Iraq, to protect Shiite shrines in Syria, therefore achieve security and stability in the region and protect Lebanon. From the Hezbollah supporting thinkers' points of views, the military the mobilization on the ground and the attempt to defeat the regime militarily and enter Damascus and topple it , made it necessary to resist and the Islamic Republic has to assume its duty to protect the region and its peoples whom existence is being threatened "American imperialism" and the tsunami Takfiri movements that have become the most popular among Syrians militants and their supporters Arabs and international jihadists".²⁰ According to the statements of the Secretary-General of Hezbollah, during an interview with the channel "Al Mayadeen" of Lebanon, a week after Russian's forces withdraw from Syria, "the party will continue to fight alongside with President Syrian until the defeat of the militants, "ISIS" and "Al

¹⁹ Daniel Peyman and Bilal Saab, future paths of the Lebanese Hezbollah in the Middle East, View: Mohammed Bassiouni, a researcher in political science, Al-Ahram Foundation.2016.

²⁰ Khadr Awarkh, that's why Mr. Nasrallah decided to declare war on America and on the extremist groups in Syria, - 25/05/2013 <http://somod.shiaweb.org>.

Nusra" in Syria." He added, "We went to Syria to protect them from falling into the hands of ISIS and the Al Nusra, as long as responsibility requires us to be there, we'll be there."²¹

The bottom line to change the party's strategy is clear, especially with the participation in the wars in the region, and a shifting from its role as the party that claims to be the main resistance against Israel. It could be argued that he has become a key regional player in the region through its presence,

And its participation in more than one country and this confirms what was once said by one of the leaders of Hezbollah who told the Financial Times in May: "We should not call ourselves Hezbollah. We are not a party now, we are an international organization; we find ourselves in Syria, and in Palestine, Iraq, and Yemen. We have, wherever we find ourselves (the oppressed) need us ... Hezbollah is a school where every man wants to seek the freedom to learn it."²² This leads to the intervention of the party in the constituency in Syria, Iraq and Yemen conflicts which exacerbated the extent of the problem and reinforced sectarianism, and threatened the security and stability of these countries, which i leads to threaten the security and stability of the region as a whole and particularly the security and stability of Arab countries. As a result, the party has been classified by the Arab League as a terrorist party.

Conclusion

Hezbollah rose under the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and in the light of victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, which contributed to adopt the party's revolutionary slogans then turned into an ideological political party, has political and religious links to Iran, which strives to create a dominant role in the region, so Hezbollah was the first signs of Iranian policy success.

²¹ Nasrallah: staying in Syria to fight the organization of the Islamic state March 22 2016
<http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast/>

²² Links Centre for Research and Strategic Studies, Media Center, how to prevent regional intervention Hezbollah?, July 25 2015. <http://rawabetcenter.com/>.

Hezbollah built a strategy to resist the Israeli occupation and support the Palestinian resistance, which expanded its Arab popular base. But the change in the party's strategy and military intervention in the ongoing fighting in Syria and logistical support and training for the Huthi militias in Yemen, had an impact on his popularity in the Arab and Muslim world, the transformation to the party undertakes sectarian agendas in Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and other Arab countries, moreover the party was ranked among some Western capitals and the League of Arab States as a terrorist organization which actively threatens the peace in the Middle East security. Participation in Syria war and standing by the side of the Syrian regime as a result of being aware of the fact that the collapse of the regime will lead to losing a basic and important pillar of the pillars upon which it built its capacity .and therefore, it will affect its strategy and strength in the future . However, the involvement of Hezbollah in the Syria puts it in several strategic dilemmas, where it would damage its moral standard as party defending the oppressed, and its future strategy. It would find it difficult to convince the Lebanese and Arab public opinion, that the Islamic Liberation of the Palestinian people will be achieved through its support of the Syrian regime, which suppresses the Syrians. The party statement that its participation in the fighting outside Lebanon is to protect Shiite shrines and the fight against "extremist groups" and thus puts for itself a very wide range of targets that includes many nations, how can Hezbollah achieve these goals with limited resources and political legitimacy derived primarily from its presence within the Lebanese regime?

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