

Allies of peace, war

Hezbollah, Iran from defense to offense



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OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

The ongoing conflict between Hezbollah and the Zionist entity marks a significant shift in the region's balance of power, reflecting a broader narrative of Resistance against occupation and imperialist agendas. Hezbollah, long regarded as a bulwark against aggression, has moved beyond merely defending its positions to actively reshaping the rules of engagement.

The recent escalation, involving ballistic missile strikes deep into Tel Aviv, demonstrates this evolution from defense to offense, shaking the foundations of the Zionist entity and its American backers. This shift not only underscores Hezbollah's enhanced military capabilities but also highlights Iran's indispensable role as a steadfast ally against Western and Zionist hegemony.



Hezbollah's steady progress in this conflict exemplifies its strategic evolution over the years. The movement has transitioned from traditional guerrilla tactics to incorporating advanced military technologies and strategies — a transformation made possible through Iran's unwavering support in both war and peace. The successful use of ballistic missiles to target Tel Aviv, which bypassed Israel's air defenses, reflects Hezbollah's growing sophistication and its ability to inflict significant costs on its adversaries.

This shift has destabilized the Zionist entity, compelling it to confront a new reality where it no longer enjoys a monopoly on force in the region. The United States and its allies, observing these developments, are scrambling to broker a cease-fire — not out of goodwill, but out of necessity. The Zionist entity's

defeats on the battlefield, compounded by the psychological, material, and human toll inflicted by deep strikes into its territory, have dismantled its carefully crafted image of invincibility. At the core of Hezbollah's resilience lies Iran's unwavering commitment to Lebanon and the broader Axis of Resistance. Iran's support extends beyond military aid, encompassing economic and humanitarian assistance, particularly during periods of Western-imposed sanctions and isolation. When the Lebanese economy was crippled by US-led sanctions and Arab states turned their backs, Iran stepped in with oil, gas, and gasoline, defying Western efforts to starve and subjugate the Lebanese people.

Iran's relationship with Hezbollah and Lebanon is not one of domination but solidarity. Iranian leaders, from Leader to Pres-

ident, have consistently affirmed Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. This partnership is based on mutual respect and shared objectives, rather than a hierarchical dynamic. The sacrifices made by Iranian citizens — offering their gold and savings for Lebanon's cause — speak volumes about the depth of this bond.

In stark contrast to this solidarity stands the Western agenda, driven by a desire to perpetuate instability in the region. The Zionist entity, as an agent of Western imperial interests, embodies this destabilizing force. Its indiscriminate bombing campaigns, violations of Lebanese sovereignty, and brutal aggression against Gaza are not isolated incidents but part of a broader strategy to undermine regional stability and development. History has shown that stability is the foundation of progress. A

stable Lebanon, supported by strong allies like Iran, threatens Western hegemony by challenging the narrative of perpetual dependency and backwardness. Western media distorts the reality of resistance, portraying it as destructive while ignoring the long history of occupation and exploitation, and denying that resistance is the only path to liberation and development. The Resistance led by Hezbollah is more than a military struggle; it is a cultural and ideological stance against erasure and subjugation. This resistance draws strength from a collective identity rooted in Arab, Eastern, and Islamic values. The West, in its relentless pursuit of dominance, seeks to erode these identities, replacing them with narratives of division and fragmentation. Yet the spirit of resistance endures, fueled by a profound sense of belonging, purpose, and



Smoke rises from a building hit in an Israeli airstrike in Tyre, southern Lebanon, on Nov. 16, 2024.
● MOHAMMED ZAATARI/AP

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connection to the land. This struggle is not only against external forces but also against internal betrayal. Certain individuals and entities within the region serve as tools of Western propaganda and manipulation, undermining collective efforts for liberation and self-determination. The people of the region must recognize and reject these internal threats, affirming their commitment to their shared heritage and aspirations. Iran's steadfast support for Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq is not merely a geopolitical strategy but a manifestation of its vision for a stable, independent region. Iran's cultural, historical, and religious ties to these nations form the foundation of this vision. For Iran, the stability of its neighbors is intrinsically linked to its own security and prosperity. This interconnectedness challenges Western narratives that portray Iran as a destabilizing force.

In reality, it is the West — with its wars, sanctions, and occupations — that has consistently disrupted peace and progress in the region. The chaos imposed by the West ensures that the region remains fragmented and dependent. Iran's role as a stabilizing force counters this agenda, offering a path toward self-reliance and dignity for the people of the region.

The Zionist entity, facing unprecedented resistance on multiple fronts, is grappling with a crisis of legitimacy. Its reliance on brute force and blatant disregard for international norms has alienated even its closest allies. The targeting of civilians, destruction of infrastructure, and violations of sovereignty have exposed the true nature of the occupation.

Hezbollah's resilience and Iran's support have not only chal-



Smoke rises after an Israeli airstrike on Dahiyeh, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, on Nov. 16, 2024.
● BILAL HUSSEIN/AP