



Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei (L) talks with General Qassem Soleimani at a religious ceremony in Tehran, Iran, on March 27, 2015.  
● leader.ir



Iranian General Qassem Soleimani (L) poses for a photo in Tikrit, Iraq, in 2015.  
● SIPA

effectively laid the cornerstone of these collaborations". Through field presence, familiarity with local languages and cultures, and the creation of operational mechanisms, he succeeded in bringing successful examples of such cooperation into reality. He remarked that victories such as the 33-day Lebanon war, "in which General Soleimani was among the principal designers and executors," played a significant role in strengthening the morale of Resistance forces and in instilling hope for confronting Daesh. "Each battlefield victory generated augmented energy for the continuation of the path." In conclusion, Qannadbashi emphasized that those who criticize Iran's regional presence, if acquainted with the logic of collective security pacts and reliance upon indigenous capabilities, would attain a clearer understanding of this strategy. According to him, "The military genius and prudence of General Soleimani enabled Iran to move past the Daesh threat with minimal cost and without entering direct war; an issue that lucidly demonstrates the divergence between the Islamic Republic's approach and that of certain regional countries."



Shadab Asgari

Shadab Asgari, writer and military affairs expert, referring to the role and position of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani in regional developments, stated that Martyr Soleimani was among the prominent and influential figures in the

struggle against terrorism, particularly the Daesh faction, who not only in the military arena, but also in the political domain, "fulfilled the role of a powerful operational commander and succeeded in exerting influence simultaneously in both arenas". He further noted that the charismatic personality of Gen. Soleimani on battlefields transformed him into a distinguished planner for confronting enemies. "Despite his extensive fame in Iran and global media, he never succumbed to arrogance or hubris and always appeared with humility among his brothers-in-arms and the populace. This attribute, accompanied by his faith, courage, intelligence, and perspicacity over 40 years of activity, made him a model that the Leader of Iran's Revolution referred to as the 'Soleimani School'; a school capable of nurturing youth into similar exemplars." Asgari added that the struggle against arrogance constituted the general's central ideology, an ideology that recognized no borders, "from the Sacred Defense period to the wars of Lebanon and Gaza". His presence neutralized conspiracies against the Islamic world and transformed threats such as Daesh into opportunities for the unity of the Islamic Ummah. "Through intelligent designs, he established the nucleus of Resistance in Syria and Iraq, trained forces, and infused the spirit of self-confidence into combatants," Asgari maintained. He further added that General Soleimani, through utilizing experiences from the Sacred Defense period (1980-1988) and security missions in the country's southeast, particularly in Sistan and Baluchestan, had arrived at the understanding that overcoming the enemy without reliance upon the people is impossible. "Similar to the approach of Imam

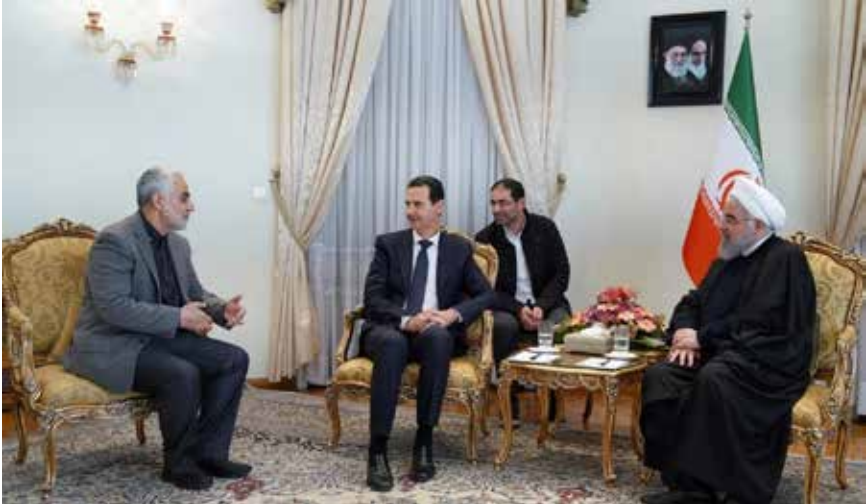
Khomeini (PBUH) in the victory of the Islamic Revolution, he invested in the principle of the people. Contrary to the United States, the Zionist regime, and certain administrations that concentrate upon elites and formal structures, he would penetrate the various layers of societies and, through his conduct and speech, secure the trust and companionship of its people." This military affairs expert asserted that the secret of Martyr Soleimani's success in confronting Daesh lay in reliance upon popular mobilization. In countries such as Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq, through "organization, unification, and assignment of responsibility to popular forces," including the Popular Mobilization Forces in Iraq, Resistance forces in Syria, and Hezbollah in Lebanon, he brought the real power of nations onto the stage because "without the will and desire of the people, no sustainable transformation takes shape". Asgari stated, "With the formation of Daesh and the efforts of this group to establish a self-proclaimed caliphate through violence and terror, the Islamic Republic of Iran undertook effective actions at political and military levels, across national, regional, and international dimensions. Martyr Soleimani, with a profound understanding of regional conditions, entered the field and, through the creation of popular and military coalitions, particularly in Syria and Iraq, played a decisive role in containing and defeating this group." He added that at a juncture when Daesh had dominated vast portions of Iraq and Syria and many political and military officials in the region and the world considered the fall of Damascus and Baghdad inevitable, Martyr Soleimani, with trust in God and reliance upon the people, brought the people onto the stage and, through steadfastness against Daesh and its sup-

porters, prevented the realization of that scenario. This occurred while years later, with the weakening of the bond between the Syrian government and its people, the groundwork for defeat against weaker groups was laid out. Maintaining that Martyr Soleimani was among the most influential political and military figures of the past four decades in the region, this Middle East affairs expert said that through "high political intelligence and field command power," both during the imposed war and in altering regional equations, he played a central role in confronting arrogant, takfiri, and terrorist groups. The general's active and field-based presence in Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon shifted the political and security equations of the region in favor of Islamic nations and the Resistance Axis, he stressed. Asgari continued that General Soleimani, through the application of precise and intelligent tactics, removed dozens of terrorist factions from the region's operational theater and redirected the focus of the Resistance Axis toward confronting takfiri groups. "His field movements perceptibly transformed the region's political atmosphere." Referring to the personal characteristics of Martyr Soleimani, he stated that the general was a mujahid who spent his entire life on the path of jihad "in the cause of God" and in support of the oppressed of the world. "From command during the eight-year war with Iraq, to combating armed groups and smugglers on the country's eastern borders, and subsequently to commanding the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, he consistently displayed a synthesis of military command, political prudence, Islamic ethics, humility, and responsibility." This expert said that his humane

and Islamic treatment even toward enemy captives, exemplary courage on the battlefield, precision in strategic planning, intelligent utilization of opportunities, and simple and humble lifestyle, fashioned Martyr Soleimani into a charismatic and influential personality at domestic and international levels. Emphasizing the role of Martyr Soleimani in the destruction of Daesh, Asgari noted that through coordination with local forces, the Syrian army, and the creation of joint security cooperation within the Resistance Axis, he prevented the expansion of terrorism, reduced the influence of the United States and the Zionist regime, and formed a unified front against external threats. "His role in the liberation of Mosul, the stabilization of security in Iraq and Syria, and support for resistance in Lebanon and Palestine is undeniable, the expert added. He also referred to the human and transregional dimensions of Martyr Soleimani's activities, stating that "Martyr Soleimani regarded the Islamic world and freedom-seeking nations as a single body" and believed that "lasting peace and security are realized only through transcending sectarian demarcations and expanding brotherhood among nations". In conclusion, this expert noted that some criticize the regional presence of Martyr Soleimani, but according to defensive doctrines, the provision of national security at times necessitates confronting threats beyond borders. Ultimately, Asgari added, the United States, through the assassination of Martyr Soleimani, sought to obstruct the continuation of a path whose infrastructures and strategies in the region had culminated to the detriment of that country's interests and those of its allies.

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Commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) General Qassem Soleimani (L) talks to former Syrian president Bashar Assad (C) and Iran's then president Hassan Rouhani in Tehran, Iran, on February 25, 2019.  
● AFP



Iranian Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani (C) meets with Akram al-Kaabi (L), founder of the Iraqi Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba (HNN) movement, in Aleppo, Syria, in November 2015.  
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