

# Countering Iran's Regional Strategy

## A Long-Term, Comprehensive Approach

by [Eyal Zamir \(/experts/eyal-zamir\)](/experts/eyal-zamir)

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### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

[Eyal Zamir \(/experts/eyal-zamir\)](/experts/eyal-zamir)

Maj. Gen. Eyal Zamir (IDF) has held many high-level roles during his distinguished career, including as deputy chief of the IDF General Staff, commander of Southern Command, and military secretary to the prime minister of Israel. In 2021–22, he was a Washington Institute visiting military fellow.



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## A coordinated response to Iran's aggression can preserve U.S. and Western interests, reinforce Israel and America's Arab allies, and promote regional stability.

**F**or decades, the Islamic Republic of Iran has sought to extend its influence throughout the Middle East, and the threat has only grown more serious amid the regime's enhanced conventional military capabilities and proximity to a nuclear breakout. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps has spearheaded Tehran's expansionist "four capitals" strategy, focused on Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut, and Sanaa. In Iraq, the IRGC works through elements of the government-funded Popular Mobilization Forces; in Syria, through the regime of Bashar al-Assad; in Lebanon, through Hezbollah—which can be regarded as Iran's "model" proxy; and in Yemen, through the Houthis, who hold territory and oppose the internationally recognized government. In all these places, the IRGC has exploited civil wars and interstate conflicts to spread its political, economic, and military influence.

In this Policy Focus, Maj. Gen. Eyal Zamir, IDF, draws on his deep experience in the Israeli military establishment to propose a detailed plan for undermining Iran's influence in the region—an approach that will preserve U.S. and Western interests, reinforce Israel and America's Arab allies, and promote regional stability.

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