

Hizbullah and Russia's Nascent Alliance

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Although much is still unknown about the full extent of their collaboration, U.S. sanctions designations have revealed a multifaceted and increasingly lucrative relationship that should not be ignored amid other crises.

The following is an excerpt from a paper originally published by the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies. To read the full text, download the PDF above or [visit the RUSI website \(https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/hizbullah-and-russias-nascent-alliance\)](https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/commentary/hizbullah-and-russias-nascent-alliance).

Over the last few years, Russia has quietly extended its reach into Lebanon, seeking to cultivate cultural, economic and military ties in Beirut as part of a strategy to expand Russian influence in the Middle East, while side-lining the US and elevating Moscow's role as a peacemaker. However, Russia's encroachment into Lebanon has been overshadowed by the conflict in Ukraine, and its growing alliance with Hizbullah has likewise received scant attention. And yet, a close read of US government designations related to Iranian and Hizbullah illicit financing schemes reveals a distinct trend in Russian cooperation with and support for such activities... ❖

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