

The “Axis of Resistance” Strategy in the Israel-Hamas War

by [Ido Levy \(/experts/ido-levy\)](/experts/ido-levy)

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



[Ido Levy \(/experts/ido-levy\)](/experts/ido-levy)

Ido Levy is an associate fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy focusing on counterterrorism and military operations, particularly relating to jihadist groups.



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Tehran has faced few consequences for the wartime actions of its proxies, so the United States and its allies should step up their sanctions and gray-zone operations against the regime.

Besides the intense combat in Gaza, the war has featured an active periphery in Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank, and even Iraq and Yemen. Created and cultivated by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the “axis of resistance” is a collection of organizations across these territories whose goal is to expand Iranian influence and destroy Israel. Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and other Gaza-based groups represent one node of this axis; Lebanese Hezbollah, the Yemeni Houthis, and the Iraqi militias Badr, Kataib Hezbollah, Asaib Ahl al-Haq, Harakat al-Nujaba, and others comprise additional nodes. All of them back Hamas in the war and have taken different militant actions to support it. This article reviews their various approaches in each theater. Although Iran enables these groups, it has received the least attention...

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