

Hezbollah, Europe, and the Iran Connection

by [Matthew Levitt \(/experts/matthew-levitt\)](#)

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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Matthew Levitt is the Fromer-Wexler Fellow and director of the Reinhard Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence at The Washington Institute.

What's behind Hezbollah's expansion of terror operations into Europe?

A new wave of violent plots within Europe have raised the question of whether the EU will designate Lebanon's Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. Why has the group re-opened the spigot of terrorist attacks inside Europe after years of exploiting the Continent for logistical and fundraising support? And why does a nominally Lebanese group, which is also that country's dominant political party, take such risks to serve purely Iranian interests?

Dr. Matthew Levitt, director of The Washington Institute's Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence and author of the forthcoming book *Hezbollah: The Global Footprint of Lebanon's Party of God* ([/policy-analysis/view/hezbollah-the-global-footprint-of-lebanons-party-of-god](#)), explains what's at stake for Europe and why Hezbollah puts Iran's interests ahead of Lebanon's or its own. ❖

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