

Abstract

With the slow, but steady, amelioration of relations between Israel and the Gulf monarchies, the Islamic Republic of Iran is becoming even more regionally ostracized and may currently present a potential threat to the stability in Middle East. This, coupled with an uncertain domestic stability, may incite a rash decision within Tehran's leadership in order to both alleviate its domestic issues and assert its position in the region. This frustration may be directed towards Israel, the Gulf, or any other potentially threatening presence. One of the tenets of Iranian external power is its support for various resistance movements in Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, Iraq and the Gulf. Iran's long-lasting relationship with two of these movements – Hezbollah and Hamas – is particularly interesting in the context of ever-changing dynamics in the region. Thus, the aim of this diploma thesis is to assess whether the relationship between a benefactor, in this case the Islamic Republic of Iran, and two proxies, Hezbollah and Hamas, is beneficial or detrimental to the latter. The assessment focuses on ideologies and goals of both sides of the relationship and how they may contradict each other at times.