

The Outlook of Security, Military and Political Cooperation between Hezbollah and Hamas

Mohammad Javad Soltani Gishini* 

Political science lecturer, Faculty of Law and Theology, shahid bahonar University, Kerman, Iran.
soltanijavad@alumni.ut.ac.ir

Abstract

Objective: This article explores the cooperation between Hamas and Hezbollah and the outlook of this cooperation and attempts to answer the question, what elements will affect the outlook of cooperation between these two groups?

Method: In order to answer the purpose of this research, the explanatory analytical method has been used.

Results: As a result of the evolving of the relations of the Zionist regime with its surroundings, the triangle of the resistance, the conservative Arabs and the Zionists became into the Arab-Zionist axis. In addition to this trend, there has been an increase in the number of wars between Hamas and this regime over the past two decades, which has been the cause of a pragmatic approach in the cooperation between Hezbollah and Hamas. In addition, the normalizing of this regime around Iran created the conditions for the relations between the resistance groups that increased the security threat of this regime along with the assistance of Iran. The status of Hezbollah and Hamas is more prominent than that of other resistance groups. Geographically and militarily, they pose the greatest threat to this regime. The most recent development of this cooperation is the support and coordination in the military assault on the Zionist areas after the Al-Aqsa storm.

Conclusion: The results show that the cooperation outlook of these two groups is more influenced by the structural element of the international system (USA) and the regional element (patron state and the existence of a common enemy) than by the internal element. Along with the Zionist efforts to increase their regional influence, the possibility of joint efforts between Hezbollah and Hamas will be greater in the future than in the past.

Key Words: Hezbollah, Hamas, Patron state, Zionist regime, international element, outlook of cooperation

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Corresponding Author: Mohammad Javad Soltani Gishini (soltanijavad@alumni.ut.ac.ir)

Introduction

The purpose of this article is to sketch out a comprehensive vision of future cooperation between Hamas and Hezbollah. Iran as a state actor is at the center of this vision. This article explores the cooperation between Hamas and Hezbollah and the outlook of this cooperation and attempts to answer the question, what elements will affect the outlook of cooperation between these two groups? The hypothesis proposed in response to this question is that the existence of a common enemy and a common supporting state, as well as the structural role of the international system (the United States), have caused the differences between the groups, which are mainly internal (ideological), to diminish and cooperation between the two groups to increase. British sources in the field of research have emphasized the cooperation between the two groups as terrorist cooperation and Iran's support for these activities. These sources did not pay attention to the arrogant role of the West and Israel's crimes against Palestine. However, the focus of this article is on sources that have often dealt with the why and how of this cooperation in the past and in the future. These sources take into account the role of the domestic, regional, and international components. Given that the focus of the article is on two non-governmental groups, the use of rationalist (mainstream) theories, especially realism, was less desirable. While Iran is a significant element in this cooperation, the survey fails to consider this cooperation from a governmental standpoint. Therefore, in order to explain the reason and the depth of this collaboration, the theoretical model of the article (the Bapat and Bond model) was selected. Bapat and Bond argue that just as states cooperate to ensure their survival, enhance their stature, increase their mutual power and security, gain access to information and resources, and compete more effectively, so too do non-state actors and paramilitary groups. In the absence of pressure groups similar to those that exist in the society of states, the likelihood and continuity of cooperation between these actors is greater. The results of such collaboration are not long in coming.

Methodology

Following a theoretical framework on the role of structural components, common enemy, and sponsoring state, and ideology, Hamas-Hezbollah cooperation will be examined. Then, the three areas of military, political, and security cooperation between the two groups will be examined, and finally, the prospects for this cooperation, given the role Iran plays, will be discussed. It examines the cooperation between these two groups in three areas - political, military and security - after the Islamic Revolution and up to 2024, and provides a perspective on this cooperation. In order to answer the purpose of this research, the explanatory analytical method has been used. To collect data, research data is collected by referring to library resources, products of research institutions, academic research, documents, and using the latest statistics and Internet information. Given that the research issue is qualitative, the collected data also

has this feature. The documentary and library method is central to this research, given the issue. The information collected is consistent with the hypotheses and questions posed in the research.

Results

The results show that the cooperation outlook of these two groups is more influenced by the structural element of the international system (USA) and the regional element (patron state and the existence of a common enemy) than by the internal element. Along with the Zionist efforts to increase their regional influence, the possibility of joint efforts between Hezbollah and Hamas will be greater in the future than in the past. In light of Israel's efforts to expand its regional influence and normalization, the arena of confrontation between these groups and the regime will extend beyond the occupied territories. The susceptibility of these groups will be greatly reduced by expanding joint actions beyond the borders of occupied Palestine against the West and Israel. These measures will benefit to a great extent from the potential of artificial intelligence. As Israel's influence grows, Iran is going to confront this regime more intensely than before, and Iran is bound to support these groups more. Hence, ideological gaps will become more blurred than in the past, and there is even the possibility of the two groups merging and converging with other resistance groups. With the propping up these agents, Iran has both systematically increased the danger against the Zionist entity and shaped the balance of power in favor of these two groups in the vicinity of the occupied country. The ebb and flow of relations between these two actors over the past decades has shown that religious values and those of other Arab states cannot be relied upon as a unifying element. Such cooperation would be impossible to achieve without a powerful sponsoring State. As a result, these groups need to align themselves with the interests of the sponsor state. It seems that the future priority of these actors, in addition to strengthening military and security cooperation, will be joint intelligence operations such as covert actions to increase the enemy's vulnerability in the shortest possible time. Convergence among non-state groups the West does not recognize and opposes will be new. This cooperation will create a new type of military conflict, unlike traditional wars, challenging Western air superiority. The Western-Arab-Zionist axis will soon not be able to form such groups to counter Hamas-Hezbollah cooperation because these groups have their roots in Palestinian and Lebanese society. The aforementioned axis has often focused on terrorist groups such as ISIS for this fight. But the results of the actions taken by these terrorist groups have caused public opinion in the region to hate.

Conclusion

This research aims to determine how Hamas and Hezbollah will interact with Iran in the future. If this collaborative model succeeds in achieving its shared objectives, other governments in the region may also consider forming their own nongovernmental groups. Israel will be the first state to do so. This trend leads to

the emergence of a new system in West Asia. One in which non-state actors play a central role in orientating developments. Previous studies have only described Iran's cooperation with Hamas and Hezbollah on a separate basis and have not addressed the future prospects of this process. The emergence of a non-state order alongside the state order indicates the complexity of interactions in the region's future, which, combined with hegemonic competition and the presence of trans-regional actors, suggests a future completely different from the present. In fact, Iran, Hezbollah, and Hamas are being forced to intensify their cooperation with each other, because the rivals of these actors are not going to abandon a relationship based on competition and hostility. As the regional governments' relations with Israel and the West deepen, the various dimensions of the resistance are bound to converge. The prospect of this cooperation will continue to keep Israel trapped in a geopolitical prison.

Conflict of Interest: No

Acknowledgment: No