

# Iranian Proxy Forces Across The Middle East- 'Axis of Resistance'



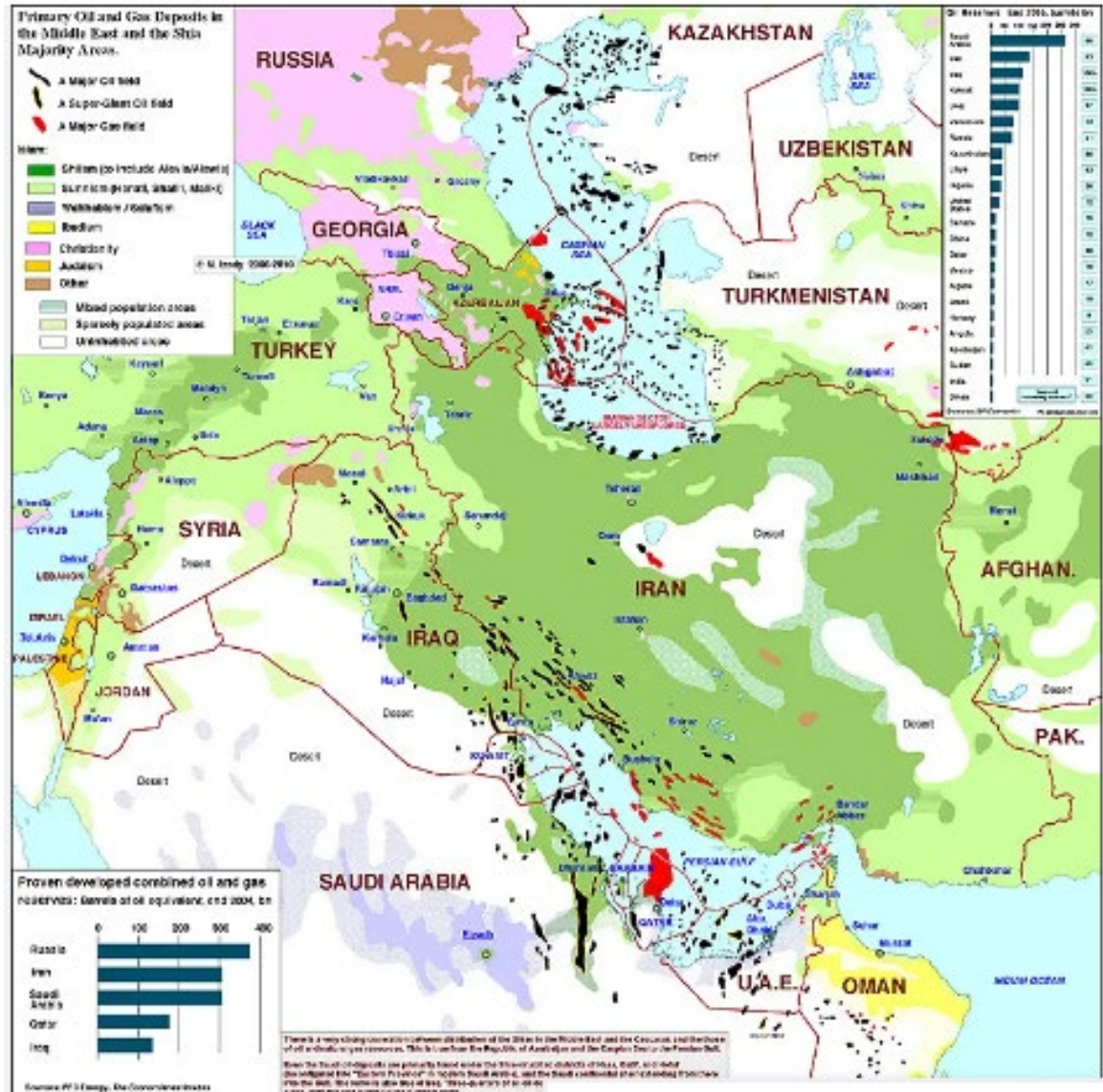
# Iran and the Gaza War: Strategy and Ambitions

# Dr. Yossi Mansharof





# Oil and Gas Resources in the Middle East



# The Imperial Heritage of Iran



1501-1722 ►

Ismail Shah ►



# The Iranian Aspiration to Destroy Israel



اگر مسلمین  
مجتمع بودند  
هر کدام یک سطل آب  
به اسرائیل  
می ریختند او را سیل می برد

۲۴ مرداد ۱۳۵۸

# The Roots of Iran's Responsibility for the October 7 Massacre



The establishment of the proxy network in the 1980s based on the infrastructure from the 1970s

Khomeini's oath to liberate Palestine, his call for an all-Islamic struggle for Palestine



# **The Establishment of Cooperation between Iran and the Islamic Jihad and Hamas**

**In 1988, Israel deported the leadership of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, including Fathi Shakaki, to Lebanon, following attacks carried out by the organization during the 1980s. The Islamic Jihad moved its headquarters to Lebanon and Syria. Thus, a fundamental turning point was created in his relations with Iran, at a time when direct financial and military ties were established between PIJ and the IRGC personnel in the Iranian embassies in Beirut and Damascus .**



**In 1991 there was another rapprochement between Iran and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, after Tehran initiated a conference to promote and coordinate the armed struggle against Israel, under the title "The International Conference in Support of the Palestinian Intifada", in response to the peace conference in Madrid that convened at that time**



In addition, the ties between Jihad and Hezbollah were established, and both sides carried out joint attacks against IDF forces in the security strip in southern Lebanon. Two years after the Oslo Accords, in 1993, Hamas also located its headquarters in Damascus, and the two organizations began to coordinate terrorist attacks against Israel





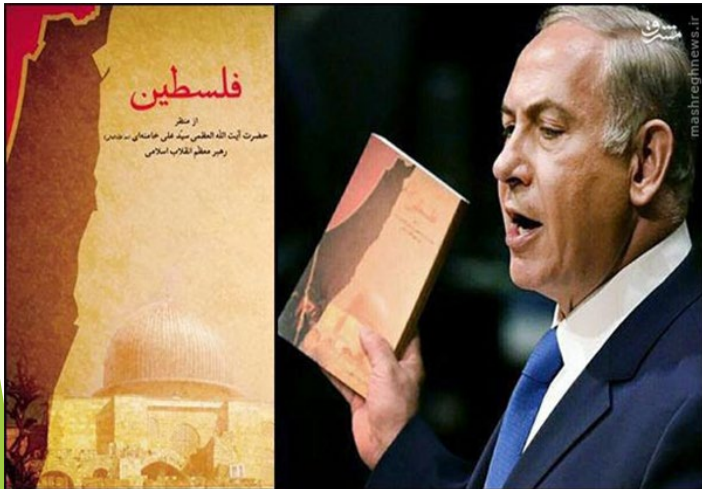
# The Nineties - Perfecting the Proxy Warfare

- ▶ **The launch of the Iran-Hamas terror sponsorship: it was agreed to formulate an action plan to destroy Israel**
- ▶ **Cooperation with al-Qaeda - in Sudan**
- ▶ **Continued terrorist attacks in Israel with Iranian assistance**



# 2000-2009: The Iraq War and the Second Intifada

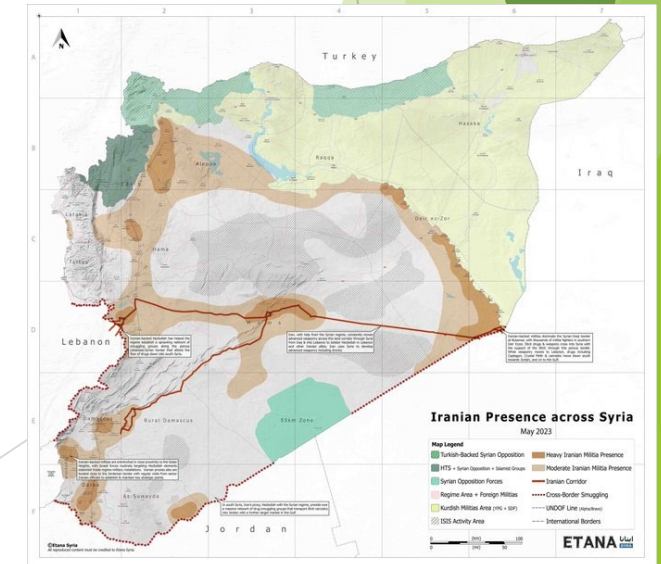
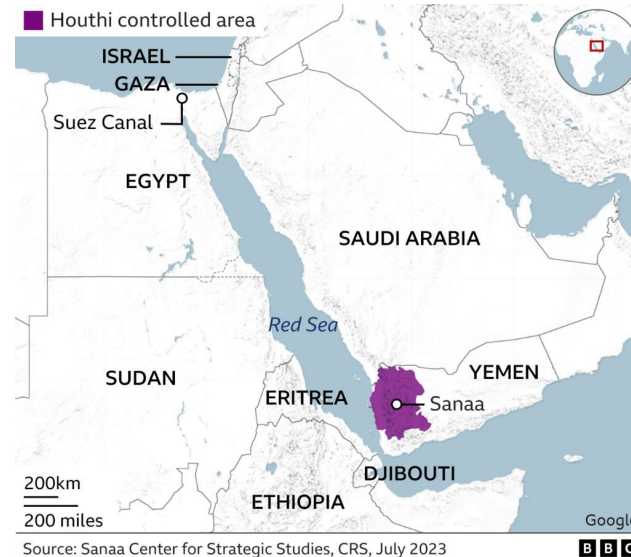
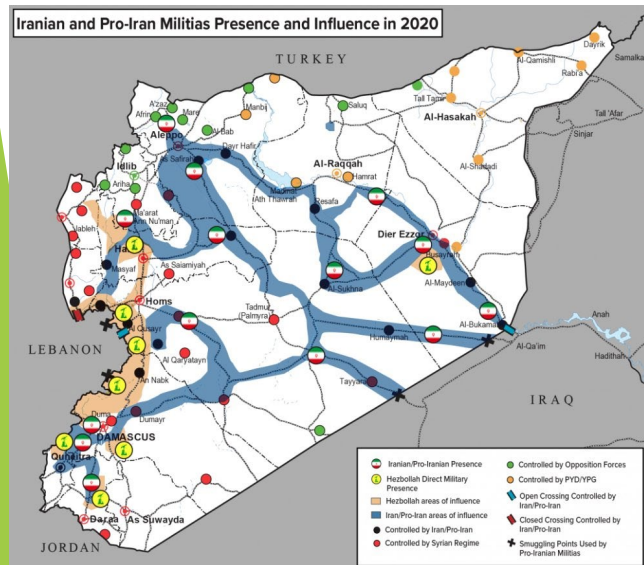
- ▶ Iran established a sophisticated proxy network in Iraq
- ▶ Iran is significantly involved in the attacks by Hamas and Islamic Jihad





# 2009 onwards: Leveraging the proxies network against the backdrop of the "Arab Spring" and ISIS Crises

- ▶ Operations of weapons smuggling into Gaza, and later smuggling of knowledge to circumvent the destruction of tunnels by Israel and Egypt
- ▶ Israel's encirclement strategy in the shadow of the "Arab Spring" - land corridor, alliance with the Houthis, arming Hezbollah with Precision-guided munitions
- ▶ The Israeli war “between the wars” - an important but partial success





# The Absence of the US from the 2009 Protest in Iran





# Smuggling Weapons and Funds under a Religious-Humanitarian Cover



# The Iranian Actions during the Gaza War

- ▶ Pushing Hezbollah the Iraqi and Yemenite proxies to target Israel in order to assist Hamas.
- ▶ Making an effort not to be drawn into the war, differentiating Iran from the attacks of its proxies.
- ▶ Promoting a terrorist attack against the Israeli embassy in Azerbaijan (thwarted at the end of Oct. 2023)
- ▶ Promoting the Jordanian option, against the background of the ambition to realize Khamenei's order from 2014 to arm the West Bank. Shipments of weapons were seized in recent months by Israel at the border with Jordan, an Iranian plan to dispatch Iraqi and Afghan militiamen to massacre Israeli settlements in the West Bank was revealed.



# The Recent Assassination in Damascus

- ▶ The recent elimination of Hassan Mahdavi (also known as Mohammad Reza Zahedi), the commander of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force in Syria and Lebanon, brings Israel's confrontation with Iran and Hezbollah to a new pinnacle.
- ▶ Mahdavi was an extremely powerful and experienced figure. He has been active in the arena for over two decades, and this was his third tour as commander of the Quds Force unit.

