

Glossary

This is an overview of key terminology as used within this book. Such identifications are not intended as objective and comprehensive definitions. These are words that may be unfamiliar to the Western reader, or words that need clarification on how they are used in this book.

Note that within direct quotes used in this book, the spelling and capitalisation of words remains consistent with the original source. Words in direct quotes may or may not coincide with the following meanings. Any discrepancy in connotation is noted within the text of the book.

Ahlul Bayt—the Arabic term for “of the household,” the term refers to the lineage following the Prophet Mohammed: Fatima az-Zahra (daughter; sometimes referred to as just ‘Zahra’), Ali (cousin and son-in-law), Hasan (grandson) and Hussein (grandson). The lineage of imams continues through the grandsons; however, the Prophet Mohammed’s granddaughter Zeinab is also a notable figure, particularly for her role in the Battle of Karbala.

Civil War—the Lebanese Civil War 1975—1990, understood to have been generally resolved by the ‘Taif Agreement’ (also called ‘Taif Accord’) ratified on 4 November 1989, but with acts of war continuing on into 1991.

Culture of Resistance—the visible and practical support of a society for the concept of resistance. See also Chapter 18, “Men of God.”

Dua—Islamic prayer that is an individual Muslim’s address to God; dua is both a communication and form of worship. Dua should not be confused with “salat” which is the Arabic term for the prayers in fixed form, at fixed intervals, five times a day.

God—a single, supreme entity propelling the world as we know it. Here used interchangeably with “Allah,” the Arabic term. It should be noted that when members of Hezbollah refer to “God” they will routinely say “Subhanahu wa-ta’ala,” or “سبحانه وتعالى” in Arabic. The phrase means “Praise Allah, he is exalted.” The phrase is used as a tag after saying “Allah”; so it is said “Allah, Subhanahu wa-ta’ala.” Although it follows rather than precedes the name, this convention is used in the same way we might refer to someone by his title, for instance “*Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II,*” or “*The Right Reverend Colin James.*” The description is also similar in spirit to the Western phrase “the Lord God Almighty.” By choosing to use the tag phrase, Hezbollah members consistently express reverence for God, as opposed to simply referencing the deity.

Greater Israel—a term that indicates many different boundaries to many people; here it is used to indicate the land described in the “Zionist Organization” statement “regarding Palestine” to the Paris Peace Conference, 3 February 1919.

Haj, Haji—a title for one who has made the pilgrimage to Mecca (Makkah), a fundamental act of worship within Islam. The form of address is used as a respectful acknowledgement for the individual's devotion to God.

Hezbollah—the organisation itself (in a singular sense) or its members (in a plural sense), both of which are defined by a specific set of principles. Terms such as “Hezbollah society” comprise both members and supporters. It should be noted that the spelling “Hizbullah” is the transliteration of choice by the members of Hezbollah when the name is written in a language other than Arabic. “Hizbullah” is considered closer to the Arabic pronunciation. Accuracy notwithstanding, “Hezbollah” has evolved into the Standard English spelling, and has thus become rooted in the reader's eye as representative of the organisation. As this book is on the outside looking in, the use of the spelling “Hezbollah” offers a parallel perspective.

Islam—abidance by the will of God, as expressed in the Quran. While distinctions between Shia, Sunni and Druze Muslims are not generally significant here, it should be noted that because Hezbollah members follow the Shia faith, references in this book to “Muslims” or “Islam” are from the Shia perspective. This ease of reference is in no way intended to comment on the relation of various practices of Islam.

Jihad—the endeavour to follow God's guidelines for man; see Chapter 11, “The Endeavour of Life.”

July War—the hostilities that occurred 12 July 2006—14 August 2006 in which the Western-Israeli Alliance aimed to destroy Hezbollah. The hostilities were contained by UN Security Council Resolution 1701, calling for a ceasefire. The air and naval blockades were lifted 7—8 September 2006; remaining Israeli troops vacated Lebanon 1 October 2006, with the exception of Shebaa Farms and Ghajar, which remain occupied.

Jurist-Theologian—in Arabic “al-wali al faqih,” is the role of caretaker of the implementation of Islam, as detailed in the Quran through the Prophet Mohammed, and delivered to the people through the prophets and the infallible imams. As understood within the Shia faith, the Jurist-Theologian embodies absolute piety and, in the absence of the infallible imam, is uniquely qualified to safeguard Islamic doctrine and serve as a guide for the Muslim community.

Karbala—the 680AD battle in which Imam Hussein (grandson of the Prophet Mohammed) was martyred along with seventy-two of his supporters and family. The young Islamic Republic had been divided on the question of leadership. Imam Hussein defended the lineage of the Prophet Mohammed, having been carried on by his father, Imam Ali, and his older brother, Imam Hasan. When the people had elected Imam Ali as their leader, however, a minority had rejected his leadership in favour of Muawiya, who had stood to rule Mecca before the city's conversion fifty years earlier to an Islamic Ummah under the Prophet Mohammed. Muawiya's son Yazid wished to usurp leadership and so commanded armed forces to confront Hussein. Though Hussein was outnumbered, he refused to concede what he believed would be the defeat of the pure Islam. Hussein and his men chose to fight in defence of their principles, despite the inevitability of their martyrdom. The event is commemorated in the holiday of “Ashura.”

Lahdists—see South Lebanon Army

Martyr—one who has chosen to abide by God’s guidelines so exclusively that he commits all degrees of his human life, without reservation, to align his soul with God’s will; see Chapter 11, “The Endeavour of Life.”

Media—the vehicles of communication to the general populace. Television, cinema, newspaper, magazine, internet, and political-governmental reports and releases as well as leaks of internal communications that influence public actions. Government proceedings made available to the public through official websites and through press releases are included here in the concept of “media.”

Moqawama—the Arabic term for the armed Islamic Resistance of Hezbollah.

Mujahideen—those who have committed themselves to abidance with God’s will, which in essence becomes their own will; hence Resistance fighters are “mujahideen.”

Muslim—a follower of Islam; distinctions between Shia, Sunni and Druze Muslims are not generally significant here. It should be noted that because Hezbollah members follow the Shia faith, references in this book to “Muslims” or “Islam” are from the Shia perspective. This ease of reference is in no way intended to comment on the relation of various practices of Islam.

Nabka—Arabic term for “catastrophe,” refers to the 1948 imposition of a Zionist state in Palestine, a military and political takeover that massacred countless Palestinians and forced the survivors to live as refugees outside of Palestine, or as a subjugated people within Occupied Palestine.

NGO—“non-governmental organisation,” an association of individuals who act together toward a common goal.

Propaganda—information both verbal and visual that is intended to persuade its audience to accept as objective and accurate that which is in reality a biased and distorted interpretation.

Quds Day—“Quds” is the Arabic term for “Jerusalem.” Quds Day is an expression of solidarity with people suffering subjugation and occupation, particularly the Palestinian people.

Quran—the holy book of Islam, revealed by God to the Prophet Mohammed.

Resistance—when not capitalised, the term here is used in its dictionary definition: generally, a show of opposition to something else. When capitalised, “Resistance” here refers to the armed Islamic Resistance of Hezbollah.

Sayyed, Sayyeda—a respectful title designating a descendant through the line of the Prophet Mohammed through his daughter Fatimah az-Zahra. Whereas status of sheik is indicated by a white-coloured turban, the status of Sayyed is indicated by a black-coloured one. The title “Sayyed” is used as a form of address and is often translated as “lord.” The “lord” in this instance should not be confused as

a synonym for God (there being but one); it is more akin to the sense held in the British title of nobility, or the sense of head of household in the phrase “lord of the manor.”

Sheik—an Islamic scholar; a title used for one who has completed a formal study of Islam.

Shia—the Islamic faith of the members of Hezbollah; hence references in this book to “Muslims” or “Islam” are from the Shia perspective.

South Lebanon Army—the “SLA” was a renegade off-shoot from the Lebanese Army under Saad Haddad from 1979—1984, and under Antoine Lahd 1984—2000. Dismissed from the true state Army, the SLA functioned as an Israeli proxy militia. The SLA received orders, money, uniforms and arms directly from Israel. The enemy-collaborators were commonly called “Lahdists” and used lethal force against those Lebanese who resisted the Israeli occupation. Also referred to as the “de facto forces,” or DFF.

South Lebanon—the phrases “Southern Lebanon,” “the South” or “al Janoub” refer to the geographical area of Lebanon roughly including the South and Nabatiye administrative districts, called “governorates” or “muhafazah.”

Umma—a conceptual community of Muslims, irrespective of political boundaries.

UNIFIL—the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon; a multi-national force deployed in Lebanon since 1978. A full description and history can be found at the UNIFIL websites below.

- <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unifil/>
- <http://unifil.unmissions.org/>
- http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/subsidiary_organ/peacekeeping_missions.shtml#reg35

Western—a wide spectrum of qualities that have in common parlance become associated with not only Western Europe (notably the British Isles), but also with the United States, Canada, and Australia. (see also Preface)

Western-Israeli Alliance—the entity which is united in purpose and action by political, economic and military bonds; the primary members are Israel, the United States and the United Kingdom. Secondary members include other Western nations who may fluctuate in commitment over the years, but who routinely support the Israeli position, for instance France and Germany.

Zionism—the quest to create and maintain the Greater State of Israel as an exclusive homeland for the Jewish people. See Chapter 7, “Illusions and the Roots of Hostility.”

Zionist Project—the implementation of Zionism.